



## WHY CITIES MATTER TO THE CHURCH

BY DR CHEONG KOON HEAN

### SCGM'S 38TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATIONS

Dr Cheong Koon Hean was our special Guest Speaker at the SCGM 38th Anniversary celebration dinner, with the theme: Envisioning Asian Urbanism. Dr Cheong is the **CEO of HDB** and shared on this occasion a powerful and inspiring message integrating her professional life as an urban planner *par excellence* and her faith as a Christian who loves the city. Her address entitled "**Why Cities Matter to the Church**" pointed out that cities have enormous influence financially, culturally and spiritually. She listed **seven challenges** facing the cities today and listed ways we can respond.

**Firstly, the rapid urban growth** makes the city a fragile one, especially as migrants including refugees, descend on the cities. **Secondly the lack of affordable housing and the huge gap in services and infrastructure** can make urban life a miserable one. **The global climate change and environmental challenges** is the third challenge. **Ageing population** is the fourth as the elderly are vulnerable in the city if they do not have adequate retirement plan, access to health care and help in the face of loneliness and emotional stress. **The fifth is technology disruptions** which impact not only jobs but social interactions. The sixth challenge is that of **social inequity** with the rich-poor divide especially stark in the cities, The final challenge is the **lack of strong leadership and good governance** which makes for the implementation of good urban plans, which are otherwise worthless if they are only kept in the drawers.

Dr Cheong highlighted the opportunities for the Singapore church to meet the holistic needs of the city and ended with a personal challenge: **What Can I Do for My City?**



### SCGM Executive Council

**Chairman: Mr Daniel Jesudason**  
**Vice-Chairman: Pastor Neo Ban Hui**

**Secretary: Mr Eugene Lim**  
**Treasurer: Mr Wong Kron Joo**

**Members:**  
**Saw Seang Pin**  
**Rev Benjamin Lee**  
**Mr Chou Fang Soong**  
**Mr Bernard Chan**  
**Rev Eddie Chandra**  
**Rev Dr Timothy Chong**

**National Director:**  
**Mr Lawrence Ko (ex-officio)**

**Our Mission:**  
**Catalysing the National Missions**  
**Movement in Singapore**

**Our Vision:**  
**Serving the Local Church in**  
**Missions Mobilisation**

# SCGMWAVE AUG 2018



Guest of Honour, **Bishop Kuan Kim Seng**, Asst Bishop of the Diocese of Singapore appealed for financial support for SCGM's work



**Ng Zhiwen** was emcee for the **SCGM 38th Anniversary Dinner 2018**. The **Awaken Generation** team lead the worship singing at the beginning of the dinner to set the spiritual tone and also ended with a closing song. We are truly thankful for the team's availing themselves to serve and bless us with their wonderful music and vision of discipling young people through their music.

## SCGM 38th Anniversary Dinner 2018



Over 200 friends, members of SCGM and partners in missions gathered for the SCGM 38th Anniversary celebrations dinner held on 21 Aug 2018 at the Orchard Parade Hotel. We are grateful that the banquet was underwritten by the sponsorship of the Far East Organisation and the Diocese of Singapore mission board.

Our Guest of Honour was Bishop Kuan Kim Seng, who recently retired from active ministry and the role of Director of Missions for the Diocese. He gave a passionate plea for churches and Christians to fulfil the destiny of Singapore Church which is to fulfil the Great Commission and thus to support the work of SCGM. He encouraged individual giving to SCGM, advocacy on behalf of SCGM as well as encouraging friends to resource SCGM. He later led in a prayer of dedication for the SCGM Council members and also graciously presented a gift to the guest speaker of the evening, Dr Cheong Koon Hean.



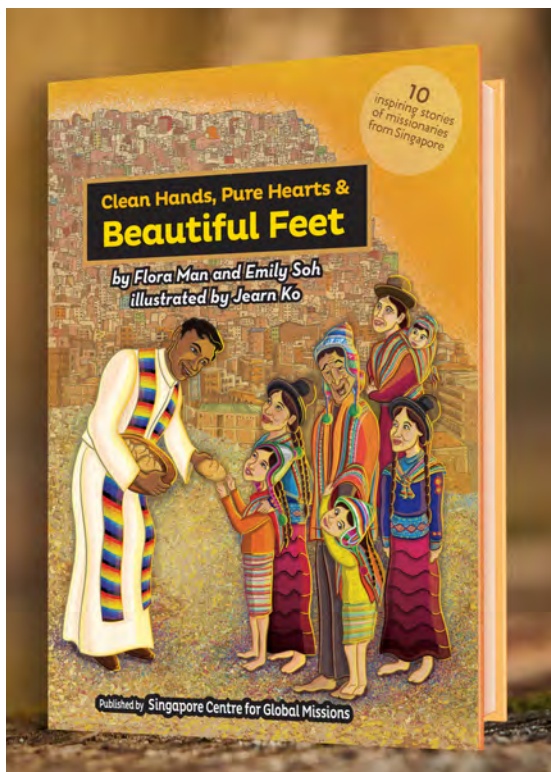
Bishop Kuan praying for SCGM Council (L-R: Pastor Neo Ban Hui, Daniel Jesudason, Saw Seang Pin, Lawrence Ko, Rev Benjamin Lee, Wong Kron Joo, Eugene Lim & Chou Fang Soong)

# SCGMWAVE AUG 2018

Full-colour illustrated SCGM Children Story Book on 10 missionaries from Singapore.

**Great Christmas Gift for children in your church, school and family... retailing at only \$20!**

To purchase, visit [www.scgm.org.sg](http://www.scgm.org.sg) or call 63398950



Bishop Raphael Samuel (featured on book cover) visiting the SCGM booth at GoForth 2018 with wife Michelle and former SCGM Chairman Loh Hoe Peng.



## Envisioning Asian Urbanism National Director's Address at SCGM Dinner

We thank Dr Cheong who has come to challenge us with her vision of "Why Cities Matter to the Church?" and pray that we will respond to reveal the Gospel of Christ to the cities of Asia. The future of Asia's Billions lies very much in the urban centres and mega cities which are here around us. **The cities are God's harvest fields of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** As we Envision Asia's Urbanism, we seek to Reveal God's Righteousness in the City, personified in the Christ of history. Kierkegaard calls Hope the "Passion for the Possible". The Passion for the Possible is made possible only because God in Christ has made it possible.

In **Luke 18: 8** Jesus told the parable of the unjust judge and the poor widow and asked the question: When the Son of Man returns will he find faith on earth? Will there be people in positions of power and influence in society, the people with wealth and resources in hand, who will stand up and be counted and seek to make a difference to help needy and defenceless poor widows in the city? We want to see more judges reach and address the plight of the poor widows. We want to see more people in positions of influence stand up to do good for the city and bring hope for the community.

This is our theology of Hope which inspires our missiology of action in the City. To reveal God's Grace and Righteousness in the city... in the very present. Our Christian faith in Christ calls us to have a holy discontent with the reality as it is now. It calls us (and hence becomes our calling) to participate from where God has placed us to battle the injustice of the present.

**What will this Urban Mission vision look like?** At SCGM, we have been praying and stewarding this vision of **an integrated urban missions strategy** which will allow the churches in the cities to be truly urban churches with an urban missions vision. We pray that we can integrate Creation Care, environmental stewardship promoting sustainable lifestyle, which will unleash the Whole Church on the Whole City with a Holistic Gospel. We seek to create a more humane community and a more spiritual culture also with Missional Business in the cities where policy makers, professionals and business leaders can transform businesses into redemptive enterprises (as Melissa Kwee calls it) helping the urban poor develop new mindsets and skillsets which can provide them with new jobs. We hope to see a more equitable economy, which will allow for human flourishing in the cities of Asia.

Isn't this a great way to unleash the local churches into urban missions? We can mobilise and unleash half the congregation, if not the whole congregation in God's mission, to be involved in the cities. **We will need not more Priests and Levites per se, but more Good Samaritans in the city, in every position God has placed us, as we strive for an Urban Shalom, and to reveal God's Righteousness in the City.**

## Partnership in Global Missions



Paya Lebar Methodist Church has adopted SCGM as a missions partner since 2017 and sent a team on Missional Business exploration to a city in Asia in April 2018.



SCGM in partnership with the Diocese of Singapore and Trinity Theological College, successfully completed the offering of a 8- module training programme for the Certificate in Missions Practice (CMP). A team of 11 participants joined the first CMP Eco-Mission Trip in July 2018 over 14 days. Canon Yee Ching Wah (left) and Lawrence Ko commenced the second round of CMP training for the next year-long cycle in July 2018.



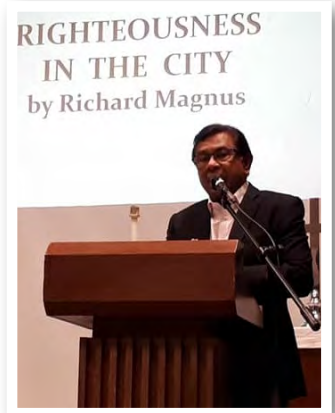
Dr Jeffrey Greenman, President of Regent College (left) met with ND during his visit in Singapore and discussed training in urban missions, especially in public theology.



Touch Int'l's leaders Eugene Seow, Shaun Lim and Joy Ong met with ND to explore creation care projects in Asia.

## SCGM Annual Lecture 2018 Righteousness in the City by Mr Richard Magnus Former Chief District Judge

Mr Richard Magnus, a former Chief District Judge and Chancellor of the Singapore Anglican Diocese, delivered the SCGM Annual Lecture 2018 on Righteousness in the City. The adjunct professor gave a broad sweep of the issues and challenges facing life in the city, including a studied definition of the ideological as well as lived reality of urban living. He alluded also to the New Urban Agenda which seeks to build better cities for the future. **He then addressed biblical perspectives of righteousness and God's concept of Shalom seen in the triad of hesed, sedeqah and mispat.** He also pointed to Jeremiah 29: 7 and the 2 epistles of Peter which exhort Christians to engage in good works in community solidarity for the common good as part of our pursuit of Christian social ethics while holding onto an eschatological view.



Our respondent Dr Philip Satterthwaite, principal of Biblical Graduate School of Theology, affirmed the position and underscored the teachings of the Old Testament in particular to demonstrate **the mission of God's chosen people to pursue God's agenda for shalom.**





Above: Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung, Chairman of GoForth National Missions Conference 2018 organising committee. Above right: Rev Philip Lim with GoForth 2018 keynote speakers, Dr Mark Beliles & Bishop Efraim Tendero, with wife, Sierry; & Rev Dianna Khoo

The sixth edition of **GoForth National Missions Conference 2018**, held once every three to four years, drew to a close last Saturday night, 23 June, with participants from close to 200 churches and Christian groups. More than 2,330 participants – including children, youth and adults attended this Conference across the English and Chinese tracks at ACS Barker Road Campus. Among the participants were 400 children, aged seven to 12, who attended a very engaging two days of activities in the Children’s Programme as well as more than 500 invited guests at the Leaders’ Programmes organized respectively by the two language tracks. In addition – each of the three free Public Night Rallies saw an exuberant crowd of 1,300 persons as believers from all over convene for an uplifting time of worship, honoring of previous generations, drama presentations and inspiring sharing by keynote



Right: Ng Zhwen, SCGM Project Coordinator, headed the Mobilisation Team of GoForth 2018 linking up with pastors and younger leaders. Below Right: SCGM ND Lawrence Ko met with leaders of missions agencies at GoForth missions booths. Pictured with Lam Kok Hiang (Cru). Below: SCGM Administrator Shanti Merry and project executive Joan Alikazin served as the Secretariat team with the GoForth Registration led by Noel Tham, supported by Terence Goh who headed the Operations Team and Christina Stanley of the Publicity team



Above: Some of Singapore’s veteran and long serving missionaries were honoured at the GoForth 2018 conference, including Bishop Raphael Samuel and wife Michelle who have been serving in Bolivia sent by the Diocese of Singapore for over 25 years Dr Andrew Ng and wife Belinda GoForth were the first medical missionaries who served in Niger with SIM 30 years ago.

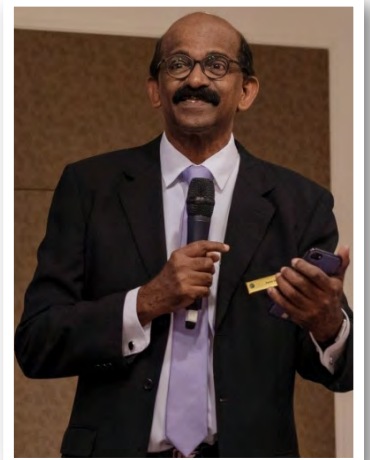


# SCGM'S 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

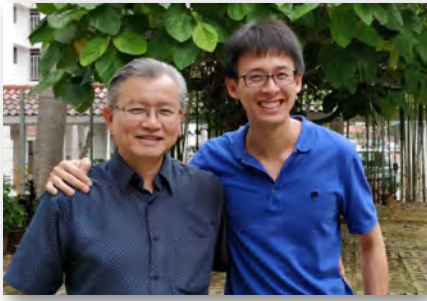
21 Aug 2018. Orchard Parade Hotel

Theme: **Envisioning Asian  
Urbanism**

Guest of Honour:  
**Bishop Kuan Kim Seng.**  
Special Guest Speaker:  
**Dr Cheong Koon Hean**



# SCGMWAVE AUG 2018



**Ng Zhiwen** has been appointed to be the new **Coordinator for Lausanne Singapore**. He takes over the role at the end Aug 2018 from Lawrence Ko at who has served in this role since 2011.

## SCGM Missions Breakfast Jul-Nov 2018

6 Jul Daniel Jesudason on  
**Ethical Distress in Cross-Cultural Missions**

3 Aug Dr Tan Ngoh Tiong on  
**Social Integration: Strangers within Our Gates**

7 Sep Walter McConnell on  
**The Gospel in a Changing City**

6 Oct Kuw Wee Seng on  
**China Bible Missions Today: Opportunities and Challenges**

2 Nov Rev Paul Kim on  
**The Church Incarnate:**



ND spoke at the wedding of Flora Man, a former staff of SCGM at Bedok Lutheran Church on 18 Aug 2018. She weds Hiroshi and will be relocated to Tokyo. Congratulations! We wish God's blessings on their new journey of life together.

## A Word from Chairman, SCGM Council

Daniel Jesudason

SCGM Council members and staff would like to convey God's richest blessing upon you, your family and your ministry. We give thanks for the many ways God has used us through this year and brought new things to bloom among us in the various Creation Care, Missional Business and Urban Missions initiatives as well as the GoForth 2018 which sees a renewed emphasis on reaching out to children and bringing God's heart and vision for the world to these little ones.

The Lord's faithfulness and provision have seen us through this year. Financially, it has been challenging and yet HIS provision has kept us continuing the ministry with your help. Please consider supporting SCGM through a love gift or donation. Please send a cheque, crossed and made payable to "Singapore Centre for Global Missions" and mail to:

**Singapore Centre for Global Missions,  
Raffles City P.O. Box 1052, Singapore 911736**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We Praise & Thank God for the Sponsors for our recent SCGM 38th Anniversary Dinner:**

**Banquet Dinner Sponsors :**

1. Far East Organisation
2. Diocese of Singapore



**Table Sponsors for \$10,000**  
Bethesda Bedok-Tampines Church  
Dr Muni Winslow  
Faith Methodist Church  
St Andrew's Cathedral  
Zion Bishan Bible-Presbyterian Church



We truly appreciate our Friends, Members and Council leaders of SCGM for your generous gifts and donation to the work of SCGM through this fundraiser. It has been another challenging year among 38 years of raising funds to pay salaries. We pray that God will resource SCGM so that we can raise our level of ministry for His Glory.



# SCGM 38th Anniversary Dinner SNAPSHOTS









**SAT 7 Update** by Kurt Johannson  
**1 Sep 2018. 7pm. St James Church**  
 to register, please email : [admin@scgm.org.sg](mailto:admin@scgm.org.sg)




Over 300 participants attended the Seminar in March 2018 on **Christian Perspectives on Qing Ming** organised TRAC Board of Witness and Evangelism. The speakers include Rev Dr Simon Chan, Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun and Lawrence Ko. Above: Lawrence Ko with Rev Zhihui, Rev Wendy Tay and Rev Ho Chee Sin.



Lawrence Ko attended an AEA/WEA leaders conference in Seoul Korea in his new role as Commissioner of AEA Mission Commission. Pray for the opportunities to partner 17 countries of the Asia Evangelical Alliance in global missions

**ETHOS Institute™ for Public Christianity**



**SHALOM IN THE CITY**

An ETHOS Engagement Series Lecture

Join **Dr Kwa Kiem-Kiok** and **Lawrence Ko** as they explore what Shalom in the city could look like in Singapore, and how overseas missions can contribute to Shalom in cities around Asia.

**ETHOS Engagement Series Public Lecture**  
**Date: 5 Sep 2018. Time: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm**  
**Venue: Bible House, Singapore**

### Urban Shalom Forum

**SCGM is part of the Urban Shalom Project** and helped organised the **Urban Shalom Forum** in Nov 2017 in Singapore. MR LIM SIONG GUAN was our keynote speaker. Over 50 participants from Australia, Europe, Africa and Asia attended the Forum along with local participants from Singapore.

### New Urban Agenda

**SCGM organised the first ever Faith-Based Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC)** of the World Urban Campaign in Nov 2017, in partnership with WEA Creation Care Task Force headed by Dr Chris Elisara. This UTC was for communities and organizations of different faiths to make a significant contribution to the **New Urban Agenda**, a roadmap for urban development for the next twenty years developed by UN-Habitat. The UTC inputs were shared at the World Urban Forum in KL in 2018. **We pray that more churches and agencies will be familiar with the New Urban Agenda** which seeks to help guide governments, inter-governmental organizations, business, and civil society to respond to the challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world; specifically to develop cities, towns, and neighbourhoods that are “just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable . . . [and] foster prosperity and quality of life for all. (NUA pg. 3)” **More simply stated from a Christian perspective: places that are commensurate with God’s shalom for flourishing.**