



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Singapore Centre for Global Missions (SCGM) is a centre for world missions established in 1980 by a team of local pastors and missions leaders in Singapore. Previously known as SCEM, we have been serving to coordinate the efforts of our local churches in missions and promoting partnership in our missionary endeavours from Singapore.

VISION **SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH IN MISSIONS MOBILISATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

“It’s heartening to see SCGM continuing to be a driving force for Singapore churches to keep on the cutting edge of what God is doing in the 21st Century. May God’s hand continue to work powerfully as SCGM creates even greater opportunities for God’s Kingdom and empowers His people to be God’s light in our turbulent world. ”

Rev Dominic Yeo

General Superintendent, Assemblies of God, Singapore
Senior Pastor, Trinity Christian Centre, Singapore



MISSION

CATALYSING THE NATIONAL MISSIONS MOVEMENT IN SINGAPORE

“SCGM has been faithful to its mandate to serve the church in promoting missions and partnership in their missionary endeavours. Noteworthy is their contribution to the success of all the GoForth National Missions Conferences in Singapore. ”

Rev Terry Kee

Former Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore
Former President of National Council of Churches of Singapore
SCGM Advisor



HOPE OF A BETTER AGE

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY LAWRENCE KO

The year 2021 marked the beginning of a new chapter at the start of what is the fifth decade of SCGM's ministry in Singapore. At the SEANET Conference in January 2022, I shared a message "Hope of A Better Age" challenging mission leaders and workers to seek God for a fresh vision, a fresh mission and a fresh commitment to God alone. It is always with a vision of an eschatological hope founded on the faith in Christ that propels us and motivates us to serve God in history. As redeemed New Being, we strain towards the future promised to us in Christ.

We are thankful to God for His gracious guidance through 40 years from 1980 to 2020, which has seen SCGM being instrumental as a catalyst for promoting missions in churches in Singapore. From helping to develop missions-active churches, to creating missions structures such as mission committees and mission policies, to providing services in research and as a clearing house for the adopting unreached people groups (UPGs) movement in the 1990s, SCGM has provided consultancy and partnership platforms especially in the first 3 decades.

Since 1986, with the first World Heartbeat Conference followed by the second World Heartbeat Conference in 1989 then held at the World Trade Centre, SCGM has had the privilege to be involved in organising these national missions conferences for mobilising Christians for missions in partnership with local churches and agencies.

From 2002 to 2018, the GoForth national mission conferences were regular events in the church life in Singapore, targeting the young people. These intentions have resulted in missionaries being sent out through mission agencies as well as through direct sending by local churches.



Over the past ten years, we have been constantly reviewing and rebranding the mission and vision of SCGM. This is especially needed as the world has been changing and is indeed a changed reality. The information revolution, followed by the Digital revolution are the most stark and scary, especially with the global pandemic of the past 3 years.

What is coming which is most challenging and may still be invisible is the climate crisis and its impact on human civilisation, physical, mental and spiritual.

In 2012, the SCGM Council adopted the proposed vision of serving the local churches in the contexts of 21st century globalised world through Holistic Missions. SCGM's tagline of "GlobalMissions21" emphasises the need for fresh approaches with an unchanging message in a changing world, beyond mere evangelism to be more holistic in ministering the gospel towards the whole person and whole society.

The direction was summarised in SCGM's strategic thrust in providing **Strategic** Thought Leadership through national, regional and global networking and strategic thinking on missions; developing **Contextual** missiologies especially in the context of Asian cities which was rapidly expanding; applying **Glocal** perspectives and best practices in missions through inviting business leaders and professionals to speak into mission practice; and finally working with local churches to **Mobilise** every believer for missions. The strategic thrust was easily identifiable through the acronym SCGM!

In 2014, SCGM identified three focus areas in Asian missions viz., creation care, urban mission and missional business. The cities of Asia were to be the new harvest fields for missions, integrating environmental concerns and stewardship of earth's resources as Christian witness to the gospel; encouraging engagement in the design and shaping of the cities as liveable and resilient cities where urban churches would play key roles in transforming lives and lifestyles in community building; and finally equipping everyone in business and in the marketplace to see how they can play critical roles in providing jobs, services and products which can create job opportunities for the urban poor, build capacity and grow the urban vision in line with the vision of God's kingdom. In 2017, SCGM was glad to host the UN-Habitat Urban Thinkers Campus with WEA focusing on the "New Urban Agenda" as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2014 GoForth conference theme was built on these theological and missiological foundations, captured in the theme "The Whole Church in the Whole World". It was continued in the 2018 GoForth conference theme succinctly put as "Go Urban".

In 2020, SCGM's Council adopted a new vision which further sharpened the Asian Urban Transformation focus summarised in the 3 Ps, viz., mobilising **Prayers, Peacemakers** and **Practitioners** for God's mission, especially needed in the mushrooming growth of Asian cities.

WHAT IS COMING WHICH IS MOST CHALLENGING AND MAY STILL BE INVISIBLE IS THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN CIVILISATION, PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL.

FIRSTLY, in mobilising prayer, we recognised the need to encourage churches to **pray for the hundreds of cities in Asia**, beginning with the 48 countries and then 300 cities of Asia. We are praying for 300 Singaporean Christians who can stand up and be counted upon to lead and facilitate teams of believers from Singapore churches in providing research and prayer information

on these countries and cities on a regular basis. These prayer resources can then serve churches and agencies in raising prayer and intercession to the Lord of the Harvest. In this way we pray that churches can truly arise as God's houses of prayer... for missions.



SECONDLY, we believe that the gospel of Christ is a gospel not only for salvation of souls, but for the **vision of peace, the Shalom of God's Kingdom**, which is the ultimate concern expressed in the quest for meaning both personally and collectively. This quest for peace and wellness, or eternal bliss, expressed in hope can be found in the philosophical or spiritual vision articulated over the centuries by religious or atheistic thinkers. The peace of Christ, exemplified in the ministry of Christ and embodied by his life and death, and resurrection, is the peace needed not only in the after-life but in the life here in the present... in history.

The theology and missiology of peace is rich in implications and has been written and referenced by many theologians over the years. We have now the calling and privilege to unearth and dust up this vision of the gospel and to equip believers with the applications of the gospel of peace in our fractured and fragmented world in need of peacemakers. The Singapore church, with a history of living and negotiating in a multi-cultural and multi-religious social contexts, has a unique opportunity to contribute to global missions through developing this perspective and practice of mission as peacemakers.

The mission of sharing the gospel of Christ by **every Christian as a peacemaker** is thus a discipleship issue and not only the responsibility and calling of a selected few called to career missionary service (modelled by William Carey since 200 years ago). This is a return to the calling of **the whole church as an apostolic community** since the early church days in Jerusalem.

The call of Christ in the Beatitude for every Christian who to be a Peacemaker and reiterated in Paul's call to participate in the ministry of reconciliation as part of the New Creation in Christ, is thus our missionary calling. As Christ himself commissioned, "As the Father has sent me, so I SEND YOU! We are to go forth and participate in Christ's great commission in a holistic way and in every place He has placed us, from everyone to everyone and everywhere to everywhere.

THIRDLY, with the wealth of experience and expertise in the local churches especially in Singapore, **the mobilisation of Christians as mission practitioners** is one of great possibility. It begins with a needed paradigm shift, to recognise that participation in God's mission does not require one to quit one's job to become a full-time religious worker.

In fact, the day is coming and may have arrived too soon, that full-time religious worker or missionary will not be welcomed in many countries. Access is only possible for those who are well-trained and competent to contribute to the host country truly as “foreign talents” with expertise who can add value to the economy and related arenas, as well as to the social and spiritual life in country.

Urban missions in the 21st century call for a new breed of missionaries who are able to contribute to the way of life in the cities, addressing the high levels of stress caused by social cleavages, chaos, conflicts and constant changes in technology leading to restructuring of economy, social life and impact on mental health. The mission practitioners of the future can be based at home and creating digital content (including blogs, videos, feature films and games) and providing platforms and services for the billions living in the cities who are consuming these content and products and services via digital platforms.

In 2020, we re-launched our website as well as a new SCGM app which we hoped will serve as a media resource hub on a shoe-string budget. After experimenting for a year, we have pulled the app and are now focused on increasing our web capability and capacity to launch missions training digitally.

The pandemic has opened a door for **missions working from home**, missions at the fingertips through zoom and other platforms. We hope to develop more **digital content that is missiological, Asian-centric and ministering to the urban communities**. We hope to work with churches and agencies, enterprises with the mutual aim of reaching the cities with the gospel through these technology.

Meanwhile the needy are always just around the street corner and the neighbours are always just next door or right in front of us in the city, at the street level. We can now be **missions practitioners from everyone to everyone, from everywhere to everywhere**.

An integrated perspective of faith and mission lived out vocationally at work is the new discipleship which the local church needs to direct attention to, as pastors begin to think and equip more missiologically. And to get everyone to engage with the other across the street or around the world.

We are living in times of **immense challenges and tremendous opportunities for the gospel**. This past year has been an interesting journey as we begin to think through these 3 Ps of mobilising prayer, peacemakers and practitioners, working with thought leaders and practitioners we have invited into our three sub-committees along with council members and staff. We were blessed to have Bishop Dr Gordon Wong to deliver our SCGM Annual Lecture 2021 which helped us launch the vision beyond 2020 on the Peacemakers as vital mission workers in a polarised and conflicted world in search of peace. It is process of discovery and deepening of the sense of vision of God's redemptive mission and the ministry implications.

The new year 2022 will see some staff transition including myself as national director, who will relinquish this role after 10 years of service. Pray with us for the Lord to raise up new servants of God who are equipped with new skillsets and drive, and poised to come aboard to serve God's mission in new and exciting ways, as we engage the changing dynamics and trends in Asia and beyond.

May we look to the **God of history with hope** as He alone will provide us with a fresh sense of vision, a fresh meaning to the mission and a fresh and renewed commitment to God alone, empowered by the explosive presence of the Holy Spirit.



Lawrence Ko

LAWRENCE KO
National Director, SCGM

SCGM VISION BEYOND 2020

ON FIRE FOR GOD'S MISSION

1. A House of Prayer for the Nations

"Even those I will bring to My holy mountain,
and make them joyful in My house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;
For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."
-- Isaiah 56:7

Are our churches the houses of prayer for the nations?

Jacques Ellul reminds us that, "A man who does not pray has no faith."

Prayer is thus a precious gift of God, an experience of faith as well as an expression of faith. Prayer is spiritual as well as social. Prayer is spiritual as it is a participation in the eternal Kingdom of God with Christ as our Saviour and King. Prayer is also social, allowing us as a community of faith to act in history when we pray. Through prayer, we participate in history as God's missional people in the world.

Prayer is a privilege of God's children, whose destiny is to be **God's royal priesthood and holy nation** (1 Peter 2:9). Prayer is indeed "the extreme case of God's grace" (Karl Barth) because in prayer, we can dwell in God's presence. We are created for communion with God, evident in our essence as Imago Dei. We are thus called towards a doxological vocation, to worship and to pray. It is a timely reminder for the church not only to dwell in His presence but also to bring all the nations into God's presence. This is our missional calling as a church, called to be a house of prayer for all the nations.

Prayer is therefore a powerful way to participate in God's mission as it brings the community of faith to serve the world in mission collectively by lifting up the concerns of the world before God and also proclaims God's agenda in the world.

Pray for us at SCGM as we partner with prayer coordinators all over Asia to provide timely field-centric prayer information so that we can serve local churches as God's houses of prayer for global missions.

Join us as we encourage every church to pray for rapidly urbanising Asia and to intercede for the cities of Asia. May God call and consecrate us to pray for the nations and act in history, as we reveal God's eternal Hope in history.



SCGM VISION BEYOND 2020

ON FIRE FOR GOD'S MISSION

2. Children of God as Peacemakers

"Blessed are the Peacemakers,
for they will be called Children of God."
-- Matthew 5:9

The Covid-19 pandemic since 2020 has grown into a global crisis, from medical to economic and humanitarian crises. It was indeed a defining moment in history marking us out as children of the 21st century with a shared experience. We saw a world of growing into chaos, confusion, confrontation and conflict.

We may be living in "a period of the consequences" as more cleavages and conflicts are evident and more crises will emerge which are truly global in impact, including the worsening economic and climate crises. How do we live in moments like these? How can we act in history to fulfil our God-given mission?

When Christ the King came, he proclaimed a Messianic message of hope for the hopeless and helpless world. The gospel of Christ is a message of redemption and healing, a gracious gift to participate in His Kingdom. Those who respond and receive the gift of New Life are promised reconciliation and transformation into a new community, a New Creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). This is the Peace (Shalom) of God's Kingdom now revealed to the disciples of Christ.

The new community in Christ is the new, redeemed and restored humanity. They live out a new way of life according to the radically new ethic of the Kingdom of God, distinguished as peacemakers, as the children of God. This new ethical imperative is carved not onto two tablets of stone but etched by the Holy Spirit in the human hearts, as taught by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

Peacemakers are relational people with the spirituality and skills to touch communities, calling them to relate faithfully to God, lovingly towards one another and responsibly towards God's creation.

As peacemakers, we dare to reach and relate rightly with others, to serve others with meekness, to turn the other cheek and go the second mile with courage and perseverance, as we sojourn in the world and point the world of harassed humanity towards the hope of the Kingdom, where there is peace.

Disciples of Christ are now needed more than ever as peacemakers. As disciples of Christ, called to make disciples of all the nations, we seek to develop the spirituality and skills as peacemakers. May the Lord make channels of peace within the church and without, especially in the nations.

SCGM VISION BEYOND 2020

ON FIRE FOR GOD'S MISSION

3. Mobilising Practitioners to participate in God's Mission

"But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your **conduct honourable** among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by **your good works** which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

-- 1 Peter 2: 9,11-12

Every sunrise is a call to embrace the gift of life with all its givenness. We praise God for the precious gift of life on earth each day. Despite the crises and challenges life presents, we know there is a hope in history because God is at work in history, as the Eternal has broken forth in time.

In Christ, we have a Saviour and a King and a Kingdom which never ends. In Christ God has completed His redemption plan for the world He so loves. Missions is revealing God's grace and love in the world, through both word and deed. It is not just a spiritual redemption but a holistic one, as Christ has come to redeem and restore harassed and helpless humanity. The message of the gospel is a message of hope in history.

As David Bosch states, "Redemption is never salvation out of this world but always salvation of this world. Salvation in Christ is salvation in the context of human society *en route* to a whole and healed world." That is why God has called and commissioned the Church to be in the world, to be involved in global missions. It is a call to participate in *Missio Dei*, the mission of God, as He acts in the world from the time of Creation to the New Creation.

Every church is called to missions regardless of size or resource capacity. The mark of a church's faithfulness in obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20) is not measured by the number of career missionaries sent out or the size of the missions budget, but perhaps by the number of members engaging in God's mission.

As the Church has been commissioned as God's Royal Priesthood, we have this great privilege of serving God and man. As such, every local church needs to share with the members this vision of the universal priesthood of believers, beyond the sacred-secular divide. Every Christian is thus called to serve as a priest of God, as a disciple who is also a disciple-maker.

God has called every disciple of Christ to disciple the nations for Christ. Although not every disciple will be called and sent as a full-time religious worker, every disciple can be mobilised and equipped to participate effectively as a mission practitioner. Every believer can be strategically called and effectively placed to serve in global missions. Mission participation is revealing the presence, power and purpose of God wherever God has called and placed the disciple vocationally in the world.

We are privileged to be God's co-workers in His bountiful harvest. May God empower and equip His children as His Royal Priesthood to participate in His mission, to reveal God's hope in history, whether it is across the street in the city or around the world.

SCGM CALENDAR 2021

- JAN**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Perspectives on Missions in Asia"** featuring Bishop Hwa Yung and Dr Patrick Fung, hosted by Kenneth Heng
 - **SEANET** online Conference 2021: ND Lawrence Ko was one of keynote speakers along with Dr Todd Johnson
 - ND led a workshop at a global online conference reaching tribal communities in the Himalayan range using **creation care as a mission strategy**
- FEB**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Perspectives on Missions in Asia"** featuring Dr Melba Maggay, Dr Finny Phillip and David Ro
- MAR**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Theologising Within Asian Worldview"** featuring Dr Kimson Nguyen, Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok, Rev Dr Jerry Hwang & Dr Samuel Law
 - Asian Missiological Forum on **"Biblical Practices on Contextualisation"**
 - **TTC Equip** course on **Church Mission Programme** by Lawrence Ko (7 sessions from March-May)
- APR**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Undivided Witness"** featuring David Greenlee & Cameron Willet, moderated by Claire Chong
 - Bandung Theological Seminary course on **"Theological Perspectives on Creation Care"** by Lawrence Ko
- MAY**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Prophetic Mobilisation: Imparting A Vision of Joy and Hope"** by Ailene Grandey, moderated by Claire Chong
 - **SCGM Annual General Meeting (20 May 2021)**
 - **SCGM Vision Beyond 2020 Micro-Dinners (15-22 MAY)**
- JULY**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "God's House of Prayer for All Nations"** featuring Rev Benjamin Lee (Vice-Chairman of SCGM), Daniel and Stephanie Ong (Founders of Interseed App), moderated by Kenneth Heng
 - **ND Lawrence Ko's speaking engagements during churches' Mission Month:**
 - Queenstown Lutheran Church's English and Chinese services (4 & 11 July)
 - Church of Singapore Chinese service (18 July)
 - Ang Mo Kio Presbyterian Church's Mission Sunday (25 July)
 - Zion Bishan BP Church's Urban Mission Forum (31 July)

SCGM CALENDAR 2021

- AUG**
- **SCGM monthly missions webinar on “O Lord, Teach Us to Pray”** with Gregory Vijayendran and Shanti Merry-Tan as speakers, moderated by Eugene Lim
 - **SCGM’s 40-hour Practicum** for participants in TTC Certificate in Mission Practice culminating in Green Desert Kids Club programme for children from churches (Aug 7- 19 Sep)
 - ND was speaker for Eagles Communications webinar on **Creation Care** held on Aug 18
- SEPT**
- **SCGM monthly missions webinar on “Prayer as Listening & The Art of Unceasing Prayer”** on Sep 3 with retired Bishop Rennis Ponniah (Anglican Diocese of Singapore) and Christy Lim as speakers, moderated by Pastor Neo Ban Hui
 - **Eagles Leadership Conference 2021** Roundtable Forum on Sep 6 focusing on Creation Care, featured Lawrence Ko and Dr Nigel Goh as speakers on “Why should the Church be concerned about our Environment”
 - **SCGM Annual Lecture 2021** on “Blessed are the Peacemakers” by Bishop Dr Gordon Wong (The Methodist Church in Singapore) on 16 Sep 2021 at Toa Payoh Methodist Church
 - SCGM online workshops on “**Appreciative Inquiry**” led by **Sally Ababa**
 - TTC Equip course on “**Issues in Christian Missions**” by Canon Yee Ching Wah and Lawrence Ko (7 sessions from Sep-Nov)
- OCT**
- **SCGM monthly missions webinar on “The Other 6 Days: Meaning and Mission in Our Work”** on Oct 2 with speakers Dr Jeremy Gwee and Thu Ha Chow, moderated by Wong Kron Joo
 - ND was class instructor on the Kingdom of God for **Perspectives Singapore’s** Oct-Jan course on 30 Oct
 - ND was panelist for **InterServe Singapore’s** mobilisation forum on 30 Oct
- NOV**
- SCGM Peacemakers Forum I in the morning of Nov 5 on “**Seeking Peace in the City: The Courage to be a Peacemaker**” with Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok, Dr William Wan and Canon Yee Ching Wah as speakers, and moderated by ND
 - SCGM Peacemakers Forum II in the afternoon of Nov 5 on “**Faith, Ethnicity and Identity: Engaging Social Cleavages and Identity Politics**” with speakers Dr Mathew Mathews, Dr Daniel Low, Dr Chan Yew Ming and Rev Terry Kee, with Claire Chong as moderator
 - SCGM organised a closed-door Myanmar Consultation on 25 Nov held at Church of Singapore with a foreign affairs expert as our guest speaker along with Bishop Kuan Kim Seng and Rev Saw Augustus.
- DEC**
- **SCGM Council Planning Retreat** on Dec 2 at Salem Chapel led by Council Chairman Pastor Neo Ban Hui

SCGM ANNUAL LECTURE 2021

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

Speaker: Bishop Dr Gordon Wong
16 September 2021 | Toa Payoh Methodist Church

We were privileged and honoured to have Bishop Dr Gordon Wong of the Methodist Church in Singapore deliver the SCGM Annual Lecture 2021. It was the 10th in a series of annual lectures started since 2012 also, with a bishop delivering the inaugural annual lecture, viz., Bishop Terry Kee of the Lutheran Church in Singapore then. Fifty invited guests were in attendance along with the team of leaders and staff of SCGM whilst a hundred online participants attended the event which was live-streamed. Rev Benjamin Lee, our SCGM Council's Vice-Chairman, was the emcee for the event. Lawrence Ko, SCGM's National Director, shared the new vision of SCGM's ministry in serving churches in mobilising Prayers, Peacemakers and Practitioners to participate in God's mission in Asian urban transformation.



“Wisdom from above ... is pure, peace-loving, gentle, reasonable and full of mercy, characterised by the traits of being serene, soft-spoken, sensible and sympathetic.”

Bishop Wong addressed the theme of “Blessed are the Peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9) in a world full of conflicts and increasing polarisation. He began his speech calling for wisdom from above, based on James 3: 13-18 which is pure, peace-loving, gentle, reasonable and full of mercy, characterised by what he noted are the traits of being serene, soft-spoken, sensible and sympathetic. In contrast, the earthly wisdom may be full of zeal but smacks of selfish ambition, jealousy and bitterness, leading to untruth and disorder as it is demonic. He warns against the pursuit of truth focusing merely on the content and emphasised the importance of the conduct in the process and the character of truth and hence the person seeking truth.

As disciples of Christ, we need to have the Christlike character of peacemakers, profiled in the Beatitudes, as meek, merciful pure in heart, mournful for God's righteousness and are prepared to be persecuted for it. Peacemakers are called the "sons of God", closely associated and identified with God Himself. Compassion rather than condemnation should fill our speech as we seek the way of righteousness and peace in God (Isaiah 59:8) and indeed sow seeds of peace to reap a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18).

In conclusion, he referenced James 1:19-20 to remind us that peacemakers should learn to tame our tongues so that we are quick to listen and slow to speak as human anger and angry warfare language does not lead to the righteousness of God. He warned that in the world of Internet, our hateful and hurtful words can continue to offend for a long time as these words are etched in cyberspace.

In the Q&A and discussion moderated by the national director, Bishop Wong reiterated that being peacemakers is not a compromise to the truth, but a commitment to speak the truth in love. It is not avoidance of difficult relationships or conflicts through social withdrawal for the sake of personal tranquility. Indeed peacemakers need to face conflicts and learn to speak gently. Quoting McLuhan, he reminded us that the medium is the message and thus the character and conduct of the mission worker is important in communicating the gospel of Christ. He also agreed that the advocacy for peace is tied to the vision of shalom, a vision of wholeness and wellness of the society.



Pastor Neo Ban Hui, SCGM's Council chairman, rounded up the lecture with a word of thanks and was glad to have our advisor, Bishop Kuan Kim Seng to present a book gift to Bishop Gordon Wong. We are truly thankful for Bishop Wong's annual lecture which helped us launch the vision of the gospel as peace and every Christian as peacemakers.

We pray that mission workers and indeed every disciple of Christ will learn to develop the spirituality and skills to sow the mission of God in peace in the hope of reaping the harvest of righteousness. We were certainly inspired by Bishop Wong's parting shot in his lecture, when he challenged us **"not to be Polarisers but to be Peacemakers!"**

“Peacemakers should learn to tame our tongues so that we are quick to listen and slow to speak as human anger and angry warfare language does not lead to the righteousness of God.”



SCGM PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHT 2021

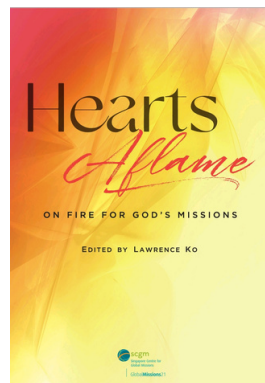
SCGM FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

In commemorating the SCGM's 40th anniversary in 2020, we organised four 40-day campaigns in lieu of the initial anniversary and fundraising dinner. They include Rev Benjamin Lee's 10-km daily walk and jog for 40 days; daily 40-km cycling trips undertaken by Shanti Merry-Tan and Ng Zhi-Wen and their friends in turn for 40 days; 40 younger Christians sharing their dreams over 40 days; and also 40 Christian pastors and mission practitioners sharing their devotional articles over 40 days.

The 40-day devotionals were published online and finally edited into a devotional book which was published as a hardcopy in April 2021. This book, which is entitled **Hearts Aflame**, contained devotional reflections themed along the Fire of God's Presence, God's Power and God's Promise and God's Providence.

We are thankful for all the friends who participated and donors who have contributed to our 40-day campaigns as the Covid-19 pandemic had caused our anniversary fundraising efforts to be disrupted. The 40-day devotional, **Hearts Aflame**, is available at \$20 per copy and will be a

great encouragement for mission workers and generally Christians at large as we reflect on God's faithfulness and power for living out our lives of faith as witnesses to His grace and glorious gospel.



Our Council member and Treasurer, Wong Kron Joo, was one of the initiators of the 40-day devotional campaign along with ND Lawrence Ko



MISSION TABLE TALK FUNDRAISING DINNER



Kenneth Heng, one of our youngest Council members, initiated the idea of a decentralised fundraising dinner efforts, where 5 persons can be invited to a meal and have a staff or Council member meet and facilitate discussions related to missions. This was to encourage participation in God's mission wherever God has called or placed us, in line with SCGM's Vision beyond 2020, viz. to mobilise Prayers, Peacemakers and Practitioners for God's mission. Participants are also invited to contribute to the ministry of SCGM as we serve the local churches and agencies.

Unfortunately, after a humble beginning of 2 lunches hosted by Council member Wong Kron Joo, as well as a Zoom session hosted by Gloria Ng, a member of our Practitioner's sub-committee, the new restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic was announced and the effort was stalled. Nevertheless, we were appreciative of new friends and contacts made where the wider vision of mission beyond career missionary calling could be shared and more can be invited to serve in God's mission wherever they were placed. We pray that this initiative can be restarted again in better times in the future.



EAGLES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2021

Why Should the Church Be Concerned about our Environment?

6-10 SEPT 2021

**REFRAME
RECOVER
REINVENT**
THE HINGES OF LEADERSHIP

HAS THE CHURCH NEGLECTED CREATION IN THE QUEST FOR SOULS?

**Round-Table Critical
Conversation 3 -Why should
the Church be Concerned
about Our Environment?**

**Happening Virtually
THURSDAY, SEPT 6TH
2.30PM -4.30PM**

Sign up at www.elc2021.com

MR LAWRENCE KO
Founder and
National Director
Asia Journeys LTD

DR NIGEL GOH
Public Sector
Practitioner
Singapore

SCGM ND, Lawrence Ko, was an invited speaker at the Eagles Leadership Conference (ELC) 2021 Roundtable session on "Why Should the Church Be Concerned about our Environment?" As the event chairan, Dr John Ng noted, this was the first time that the environmental issue was surfaced as an agenda in the ELC programme over the past 20 years. Along with Lawrence on the panel was Dr Nigel Goh, a marine biologist who served in the public service. As author of the book "From the Desert To the City: Christians in Creation Care", Lawrence shared the theological basis for Christians to care for God's created world as environmental stewards as well as our ontological calling as God's royal priesthood, and specifically as priesthood of God's creation. Consequently, this has implications on our discipleship and the spirituality as caring Christians.

He also highlighted the 10 specific points in the Lausanne Call to Action where Christians in the church can begin to participate in combating the climate crisis beyond recycling, which is often the only thing associated with environmental care. There are indeed many practical approaches which Christians can participate in caring for the environment both within the church and without, from our homes to the community. As Christians in creation care, we can demonstrate our care as part of our worship of our Creator God, and as witnesses to the providence and sustenance as well as redemption of the created world by God in Christ.

Lawrence was also invited to speak on this topic of Creation Care at an Eagles webinar on 18 Aug 2021 and at City Missions Church worship service on 19 Dec 2021.

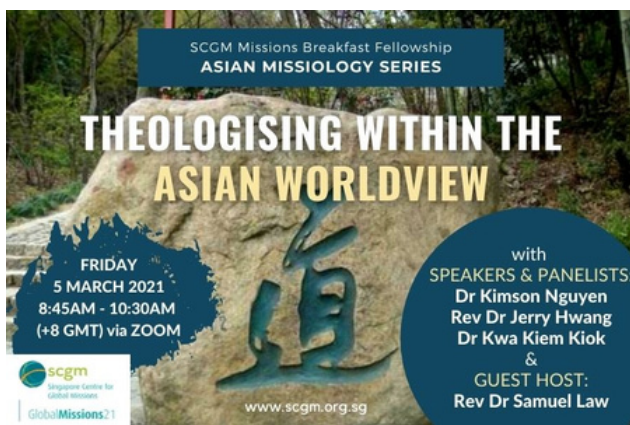


SUMMARY OF MISSIONAL BREAKFAST WEBINARS

JANUARY - MAY 2021



JAN & FEB: What is God doing in Asia? How can the Singapore Church contribute to missions in Asia? Some key suggestions raised by Asian Christian thought leaders included: developing Asian theology, focusing on community transformation, empowering local mission partners, encouraging innovative mission among young leaders, re-thinking evangelistic and discipleship approaches. (See article at <https://weamc.global/covid-asia/>)



MARCH: Why do we need to have an 'Asian theology'? Isn't what we already have fixed and sufficient? The guest speaker Dr Peter KimSon Nguyen, together with three theologians/missiologists from Singapore seminaries, helped us to see the need to think about Scripture through Asian lenses. In his talk, Dr Nguyen proposed an evangelical theology of God as "Dao" (way/道), the centrality of the Vietnamese home as the "house of the Lord," and a biblical perspective of ancestor veneration.



APR: The book, Undivided Witness, presents ten key principles linking community development and the emergence of vibrant communities of Jesus-followers among the 'least reached'. David Greenlee (editor of this book) and Cameron Willett shared about mission as community transformation and the importance to engage local people in any endeavour; the local people should not merely be passive recipients of charity.



MAY: When we think of the word "missions mobilisation", it is easy to think of mobilising people towards a specific work or project. However, there is also a need for "prophetic mobilisation", a term coined by Kairos founder Max Chismon to describe mobilisation that "awakens, calls people forward, disciples, and equips people in the biblical-missional message of God's purposes and how they might participate."

SUMMARY OF MISSIONAL BREAKFAST WEBINARS

JULY - NOVEMBER 2021



JULY: Rev Benjamin Lee, Daniel Ong and Stephanie Ong were the speakers at the July MBF 2021 on the topic, "Vision for Prayer: House of Prayer for All Nations". This was to share the new vision of SCGM beyond 2020 of mobilising prayers for mission. Pastor Ben shared the biblical emphasis on the Church's call to pray for the nations, and recovering the vocation of prayer by the Church as God's House of Prayer, taught in Isaiah 56:7 and Luke 19:46. The importance of praying for the nations was a critical way we can participate in God's global mission thrust. Daniel and Stephanie Ong shared their vision of a digital house of prayer via the Interseed app, a digital platform where believers can participate in prayer from all around the globe and sharing prayer concerns. SCGM announced that we will launch our prayer emphasis by partnering and using the Interseed app platform.



AUG: In the 2nd webinar on Aug 6, we continued the call on mobilising prayer for missions. Our guest speaker, Gregory Vijayendran, serving then as President of the Law Society till end of 2021, shared from his conviction and experience in prayer and intercession. He highlighted his passion for prayer, especially as a leader of the Advocates Asia community, a ministry which collaborates with lawyers around the world to intervene as advocates and litigators in religious persecution issues, as he mobilises people to work and intercede for religious liberty. Shanti Merry-Tan, a staff of SCGM for over the past 6 years, shared of the challenges faced by missionaries serving overseas, and how prayer was vital for her own experiences in going through the difficulties. It was an important call for churches and sending agencies to undergird mission workers with prayer and intercession and through timely information and understanding.





SEPT: SCGM's third webinar in this series of prayer emphasis based on the vision of mobilising prayers for the nations of Asia was held on Sep 3 morning. Retired Anglican Bishop Rennis Ponniah was our invited guest and he taught on Prayer as Listening and the Art of Unceasing Prayer. Referencing numerous biblical texts, he called mission workers to take time to rebuild or fortify our time of prayer and adoration of God as mission stems from transformational friendship with God which grows "the hunger for God's Glory" The mission motivation must be the desire to see God's glory revealed in the world. Christy Lim, the director of Interserve in Singapore, appealed to the need for believers to participate in prayer for missions as "we need to stand in the gap and pray like crazy for the pain in the world and dare to bear the grief of God for His hurting world." Pastor Neo Ban Hui, SCGM's Council chairman appealed in closing, "May we raise up prayer houses for the nations." Pray with SCGM as we raise up prayer coordinators and research teams residing in cities of Asia with a burden to pray and serve local churches and prayer houses in growing the prayer vision for the nations.



OCT: SCGM Webinar on "The Other 6 Days: Meaning and Mission in Our Work" was held on Oct 1 with speakers Dr Jeremy Gwee, Thu Ha Chow and moderated by Wong Kron Joo. Thu Ha Chow is an investment banker with over 20 years of experience and shared about her passion for mission with a desire to equip herself for work in the rural village only to discover through her studies and in particular journey with SCGM, that mission can be in the urban contexts and through the vocational calling in her workplace. She now engages in channeling resources to develop sustainability and seeks to integrate her faith and work with her passion for theology and economics towards' God's mission in related fields of environment and economics. Jeremy is a retired banker who is now a corporate trainer and vice-president of Bakke Graduate University in Asia seeking to equip business leaders to find meaning at work and using business as mission. Sharing his passion and discovery of a meaning of work, he references the resources available to help develop a theology of work and unleashing believers to serve God in the other 6 days in the world beyond being merely a Sunday Christian. Kron Joo, a finance director in an institution of higher learning, chairs the SCGM Prayer sub-committee of which both Jeremy and Thu Ha have been invited to join as members to serve together in mobilising and equipping practitioners in the marketplace for God's mission.



NOV: PEACEMAKERS FORUM

In a rapidly urbanising and changing world, there is an increasing rise of social cleavages and conflicts, catalysed undoubtedly with the digital revolution. The news agencies are able to disseminate breaking news on media platforms including videos which can go viral, aided by the proliferation of social media with information and misinformation.

The challenges of identity politics with ethnic and religious nationalism call for responses, which the church in our mission can and must be able to meet. The arena for mission in the 21st century is urban and digital. We need mission workers as well as every believer to engage in witnessing to the gospel of Christ and modelling the life of reconciling fractured community and broken relationships as peacemakers.

In line with the SCGM's vision of mobilising prayers, peacemakers and practitioners as the new incarnational model of mission in Asian cities and communities, SCGM organised a Peacemakers Forum on Friday 5 November 2021.

The Forum was divided into 2 sessions, one in the morning and another in late afternoon. The morning panelists comprised a theologian, a civil society leader and a missionary, and sought to highlight the issues which divide communities in the city and what it takes to develop courage and conviction to engage as peacemakers in the city. The afternoon panelists, seeking to explore the themes linking faith, ethnicity and identity and the growing identity politics, included an academic researcher, a biblical scholar, a scholar in Buddhist faith in Singapore and the former bishop of the Lutheran Church who often represented the Christian community in dialogue with leaders of the other religious faiths in Singapore.

PEACEMAKERS FORUM (I)

"SEEKING PEACE IN THE CITY"

Speakers: Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok, Dr William Wan, Canon Yee Ching Wah

Moderator: Lawrence Ko

5 November 2021 | 9AM-10:30AM

The poster is for the 'PEACEMAKERS FORUM (I) "SEEKING PEACE IN THE CITY"'. It is presented by the Singapore Centre for Global Missions (SCGM) on Friday, 5 November 2021, from 9:00AM to 10:30AM SGT. The theme is 'Seeking Peace in the City' with the subtitle 'Find the courage to be a Peacemaker in an urbanised and conflicted world'. The event is moderated by Lawrence Ko, National Director of SCGM. The speakers are Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok (Lecturer, Biblical Graduate School of Theology), Rev Dr William Wan (General Secretary of the Singapore Kindness Movement), and Rev Canon Yee Ching Wah (Director of Missions for the Anglican Diocese of Singapore). The registration link is www.scgm.org.sg.

The city is the new harvest field for missions and the urban church can reveal the presence of God in the city through sharing the vision of God's Shalom in the city. **Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok**, a lecturer at Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST) began the discussion by noting that cities are dense and diverse with identity markers and cultural barriers to cross in order to become a community. Christians as followers of Christ must imitate Him who is called the Prince of Peace and calls us to a ministry of reconciliation.

Indeed Christ is a peacemaker, and as our role model, exemplified one who broke down barriers, especially socioeconomic ones and embodied justice. Peacemaking must seek to build community or degenerate to mere individual heroism. Seeking peace calls us to be active as peacemakers and it can begin with a sense of gratitude to appreciate one another as gifts to one another.

Dr William Wan, secretary-general of the Singapore Kindness Movement, challenged us to be peacemakers as individuals within the community who would dare to engage with one another, as the Good Samaritan did. He was not only active but pro-active even though he was an outsider, motivated by the care and concern for the well-being of the other. We can be neighbours by chance but friends by choice, and Dr Wan encouraged us to dare reach out and serve those around us with the love of Christ.

Canon Yee Ching Wah, missions director of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore and a missionary who served in Thailand, cited examples of differences and divisions within the Thai church, which made it difficult for new believers of different social backgrounds to be the same cell group. The Red Shirt-Yellow Shirt political inclinations also made the church polarised. He urged a return to the role as a holy apostolic and catholic (united) church as a united community of faith which can then play the role to help sanctify society as a reconciling agent. He proposed that the church can begin by repentance and starting from leaders of the church to recognise that the spiritual mission of the church is not just evangelism per se, but to be a reconciling ministry and act on behalf of the powerless and voiceless.

In the discussion which followed moderated by Lawrence Ko, the panelists affirmed the important role of the church, and therefore Christians, as agents of reconciliation, bridging differences to help build community in the city. To do so, we need to first affirm our identity in Christ and repent, changing our own church culture which is stratified with cultural barriers and to learn to be inclusive. We would need to teach, model and engage the world in a positive, passionate and purposeful way with a vision of seeking God's shalom in the city.

PEACEMAKERS FORUM (II)

"FAITH, ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY"

Engaging in social cleavages and identity politics

Speakers: Dr Mathew Mathews, Dr Daniel Low, Dr Chan Yew Ming, Rev Terry Kee

Moderator: Claire Chong

5 November 2021 | 3PM-5PM

Dr Mathew Mathews, a researcher on public policies in the university, began the forum by exploring the formation of personal identity based on race and religion and salient social features. He highlighted the tension between national identity and ethnic identity which is based on race. Identities can be activators. Identity claims along tribal or ethnic lines and other invisible fault lines, can be made sometimes too strongly in order to seek recognition or recover a sense of dignity and respect when

threatened. The recent polarisation along racial differences in the world was a case in point with the All Lives Matter movement vis-à-vis Black Lives Matter. He urged Christian missions to be aware of the issues related to the threat on local identities in our seeking to convert people and the social rifts created when we make them dependent on the church.

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Singapore Centre for Global Missions
GlobalMissions21

Singapore Centre for Global Missions Presents
PEACEMAKERS FORUM
5 NOVEMBER 2021 FRIDAY @ 3PM SGT

3:00PM - 5:00PM

FAITH, ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY

How Christians can engage in a tense and volatile world increasingly marked by social cleavages & identity politics

Moderated by Claire Chong, Research Associate at SCGM

TO REGISTER VISIT www.scgm.org.sg

Dr Mathew Mathews
Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Daniel Low
Vice-President of Academic Affairs at William Carey International University

Dr Chan Yew Ming
Old Testament Scholar & Lecturer, Trinity Theological College

Rev Terry Kee
Former President of the National Council of Churches of Singapore

Dr Chang Yew Ming, a lecturer in Trinity Theological College, referenced his biblical scholarship in the Old Testament to help understand the journey of Israel as a nation and a people of God as they grappled with their changing identity in God in history, through experiences of the exodus, desert wandering, conquest, kingdom formation and later exile and return from exile. Their sense of identity changed with different historical encounters and challenges, including the gift of God's Law and the Promised Land. The challenge for the church is to recover the sense of being envoys of peace to establish God's shalom, which was fulfilled only by Christ the Peacemaker, in the New Testament.

Dr Daniel Low, a researcher in Buddhist and Taoist religious communities, pointed out the importance of learning from and with communities of other faiths. The church can benefit from learning to live with followers of different faiths in a covenantal pluralism standpoint, rather than mere tolerance of religious differences. He urged the church to understand what sustains the religious identity of other faiths, including recognising and appreciating the religious followers' aspirations. Obligations and adherence to the spiritual realities of their faith. This approach can help the church to recover the prophetic and engaged Christianity as we grow as a community of faith in our Asian contexts.


Rev Terry Kee, former bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore over a decade and former president of the National Council of Churches in Singapore, has extensive experiences of meeting and engaging with leaders of the other faiths in Singapore. Recounting his personal journey of faith and encounter as a Christian who has to negotiate family rites and funeral rituals, he reminded us of the importance of recognising our familial and social responsibilities in life. He also urged Christians to love and recognise that even though many are not Christians, all are God's people and no less human. It is important to love the others as we have been called to love our neighbours as ourselves. He also cautioned against evangelistic communication which is offensive and urged respect even though they are not Christians. We need to learn more about each other's cultures and effective ways of communication so that we can share our faith in appropriate Asian cultural contexts.

In the discussion which followed moderated by Claire Chong, the panelists agreed that in view of the modernisation and urbanisation trends in the world, there are ways for outreach. But we need to be aware of the dislocation experienced in religious conversion. How we can help new converts retain their sense of belongingness to their cultural and ethnic communities is important. The need to build trust and genuine relationships beyond merely the transactional (with the aim to win adherents to our faith) is important as faith, ethnicity is always closely tied to one's identity.

Ask a question at slides.app.goo.gl/vwYq7

Dr Wan's introduction is interesting: Don't say I am a Christian, from this church and that denomination. But say I'm a fellow human being, a fellow Singaporean and neighbour. But this isn't how we (Christians) have been taught to identify ourselves.

Anonymous



Ask a question at slides.app.goo.gl/3fkJH

As Christians, we embrace the God of a globalised world, not a tribal or national God. We should therefore be gracious and patient in sharing this revelation of God to the world in humility and grace. Is it a matter of methodology or a new method of communication?

Anonymous

REFLECTION ON UNDIVIDED WITNESS

BY ANGIE NG (SCGM INTERN 2021)



David Greenlee (editor of Undivided Witness) was speaker at SCGM's April Missional Breakfast Webinar in April 2021 along with Cameron Willett. They shared about mission as community transformation and the importance to engage local people in any endeavour, as the local people should not merely be passive recipients of charity. They presented the ten principles listed in the book, linking community development and the emergence of vibrant communities of Jesus-followers among the 'least reached'.

These were the lingering thoughts in my mind after the insightful sharing from all the speakers on missional community development: *How long would I be willing to invest time, energy, and resources into a community without seeing anyone come to know Jesus? Maybe 5 years, or grudgingly stretch it to 10 or 15 years. How have we defined the so-called "success" of missions? What does it mean for us to bring the gospel to those who have never heard?*

Everyone is made in the image of God, with intrinsic worth and value. Both us, the Christians going to foreign lands to bring the gospel to the nations, and they, the locals who have never heard of Jesus. The locals' needs go far beyond the physical needs that we tend to identify. Poverty is not merely a lack of money; it is an inherent despair and bleak view of themselves and their future. Thus, we have the role to guide them to discover the image of God in themselves, restore their dignity and worth and give them hope.

While we think we have the best gift of the gospel message, often together with financial resources and professional skills, the locals too have as much to offer. We have to take time to discover the assets and resources they already have, empower them to create their own solutions, and build their future. We come alongside the locals in love and patience, be part of their community. Any action is collective as we discover and build solutions together with them. We listen and not impose, recognising that they know their own situation, culture and community best. We guide the locals to be self-sustainable, bearing in mind that eventually they must be able to continue the efforts without the help of us foreigners. This is how we can demonstrate and live out the gospel.

Missional community development requires long-term commitment, investing not in projects and measurable outcomes with fixed timelines, but in the local lives and communities. With this in mind, short-term mission trips can then be integrated into this long-term purpose. Changes will take time. We have to be prepared that there may be no successful results, in the usual ways we define by counting conversions or churches planted.

To encourage us with what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 **"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth"** – we too plant seeds of the gospel by restoring the locals' lives and community with dignity and hope, and water these seeds by committing to walk along with them in love and patience. And God will give the growth in his time.

RENEWING MISSION MINDSETS

A LEARNING JOURNEY BASED ON 'HELPING WITHOUT HURTING'

BY JOAN ALIKAZIN

"Disruption" has been the buzz word in the recent 2 years since the COVID-19 pandemic shut international borders and caused global immobility. The pandemic has broken the conventions of our church missions and surfaced some blind spots in the ways we have been so used to doing missions. No longer can the affluent partner churches (like those from Singapore) continue with the all-too-familiar activities in our outreach and evangelism programmes, whether through short-term mission trips, or through providing material and human resources constantly to conduct missions activities for the local churches and/or communities. As we anticipate the easing of social restrictions and reopening of international borders, how should we consider doing missions (both locally and cross-culturally) in the new post-pandemic world?

The Learning Journey based on Helping Without Hurting challenges this status quo of our missions approach towards a more sustainable efforts. This 4-week missions course is adapted from the original [Helping without Hurting](#) by [The Chalmers Centre](#), which invites learners to critically reflect on our current mission practices, renew our mindsets and transform our missions approaches so that we can learn to walk with others in humble relationships and see God's restorative work of the *Imago Dei* in the societies in Asia.

In 2021, SCGM conducted three pilot-runs, with participants from various work sectors and missions involvements both within and without church – that include church missions leaders, long-term missionaries, missional business leaders, social and healthcare personnels. We addressed paradigm issues and looked into contextualised case studies which were relevant to their respective mission fields. Through the 4 sessions the participants learnt to redefine their missions objectives and their roles as foreign missions partners: from providing quick-fix solutions to building the local people's long-term capacity; from being project-oriented to people-oriented; from being programme-focused to being process-focused.

A follow-up introductory course on *Appreciative Inquiry* was conducted with one of the groups by Sally Ababa from OM Philippines. Participants picked up this practical handle to help empower the locals create a sustainable future for themselves: as we shift our focus towards processes and the people, and by learning how to ask good and right questions, we will be able to identify existing assets and recognise strengths among the local communities we work with.

As churches are forced to rethink and re-strategise their missions approach today, we could well remember that at the very heart of every God-created person lies strength, resilience and capacity to overcome. We saw that there are better ways to help a community without creating a dependency. To find out how you can conduct this Learning Journey in your own church or small group, contact admin@scgm.org.sg.



REFLECTION ON ASIA 2021 CONFERENCE

BY NG ZHI-WEN

The Centre of the Church is shifting to the Majority World. The Centre of the Church is coming to Asia. These strategic observations form the backdrop for the Asia 2021 online conference held from 11 – 14 October 2021 and hosted by Lausanne Asia (<https://asia2020congress.org/>). Over 50 Singaporeans participated as delegates.

With “Mega-trends in the Asian Church” as its theme, Asia 2021 brought together Christian leaders representing the Church, NGOs and the Marketplace from every region of Asia to discuss matters of strategic import: Unity in the Asian Church; The Shape of the Asian Church in the 21st Century; Reaching the Next Generation in Asia; and the Shift of the Centre of Gravity from the West to Majority World. Each of these trends (or issues) merits much more reflection, but an important objective of Asia 2021 was to accelerate discussion of these mega-trends within each region and nation in Asia. All of this serves to build momentum and prepare the Church for the 4th Lausanne Global Congress in 2024.

Three things struck me as I participated in Asia 2021:

1. The mega-diversity that is Asia. How much similarity is there between Sri Lanka and, let’s say, Taiwan? How much diversity is there even within one nation (think China, India or even Indonesia). And how much common history do we have anyway? Realising these realities was an important insight for me, as it highlighted both how little I knew, how much more there remains to understand about Asia, and what a massive challenge lies ahead of us. I have become more convinced of the need to learn more, and to foster unity and the ability for contextually-nuanced exchange of ideas within the Asian Church. This will take time, but it is necessary.

2. The Conference agenda was set and driven by Asian church leaders. One of the steering committee members is Claire Chong, SCGM’s Research and Associate. This speaks to the ownership of the Asian Church by the Asian Church. Some of the issues highlighted had been surfaced for decades already (I think of the oft-repeated call to ‘liberate’ the Asian Church from the limitations of Western Christianity). The difference now is that it is clearly falling upon the Asian Church to decisively do something about this.

At the same time, I also learned much from the Western speakers (Todd Johnson and Lindsay Brown) and how they spoke with much grace and insight. This was very good modelling of how the East and the West can relate in mutuality; that the Church in Asia needs to appreciate its theological and cultural heritages from the West; and while she must chart her own path of contextualised theology and practice, there remains much to learn from the West. We are in this together.

3. The Space for the Next Generation. One full day of Asia 2021 was dedicated to engaging the next generation. The program was almost entirely planned and executed by a group of younger leaders from across Asia, so in truth it was about the next generation engaging and educating the older ones! Two Singaporeans (Angie Ng and Heidi Tan) were part of the planning team. Many Conference participants felt that this was a significant part of Asia 2021, signalling a commitment to empower the young through a healthy inter-generational approach. I look forward to seeing more of this in subsequent Asia Lausanne gatherings.

After Asia 2021 will come the Asia 2022 Congress and various regional gatherings. But for now, we may contemplate what are the implications of the Asian Church mega-trends for the Church in Singapore.

I ask myself: *Where do we fit in as an Antioch of Asia? Do we need a new paradigm for understanding our role in the context of the Asian Church?*

From what I see, some sections of the Church in Singapore have been active in sending missions workers to serve frontier peoples, and in training indigenous pastors and teachers. These should continue and be expanded. But beyond that, I see a role for the Church in Singapore to raise and empower the next generation of Asian Christian thought leaders – individuals who can serve beyond their countries to help build the Asian Church. The challenge is twofold: The first is built on the premise that there already are such voices – solid Christian thinkers and leaders. The task is to expose them to the wider vistas of Asia and sharpen them further, and to give them the platform to speak to the rest of the Asian Church.

The second is to invest in the next generation of Asian Christian thought leaders and influencers. People with the potential to go deep, yet with the perspective to see-wide. People with a sound grasp of the Scriptures, a hearty engagement with the world, and an enduring love for the Lord. These too will also need platforms that span nations and region; But alongside that, they need to be continually invested in and nurtured.

Finally, Singapore can be a gateway to help bridge the West and ‘the Rest’. We straddle both worlds and ought to be adept at appreciating multiple perspectives and contexts. We can also serve as an ‘honest broker’, able to bring together diverse parties to dialogue and become equal partners. These are exciting times indeed. But for the above to happen, we must put on a servant posture, and learn first to listen. As mentioned, Asia contains a vast multitude of people, and we dare not presume that we know all that much. All the more do we need to get plugged into the conversations that the Lausanne Asia movement is generating.



Angie Ng, SCGM Intern (TOP LEFT) and **Claire Chong**, Research Associate at SCGM (BOTTOM RIGHT) were part of the planning team for the #NOWGENERATION segment of Asia 2021 Conference, the space dedicated for engaging the next generation younger leaders.

SCGM CALENDAR 2022

- JAN**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Understanding Ethnic Identities Amidst Social Change in Asia: Implications for Christian Mission"** by Claire Chong and Phoebe Yee
 - **Reaching Myanmar UPG** featuring Rev Saw Augustus of Judson Baptist Church
 - **SEANET** online Conference 2022: ND Lawrence Ko was one of the plenary speakers on Day 3 presenting on **"Hope of a Better Age"** (11-13 Jan)
 - ND Lawrence Ko's speaking engagement at Bedok Lutheran Church worship service (23 Jan)
- FEB**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Holistic Peace: Reconciling All Things"** featuring Rev Dr Danny Goh, hosted and moderated by Rev Benjamin Lee
 - ND Lawrence Ko's speaking engagements at:
 - Salem Chapel Chinese New Year worship service (6 Feb)
 - Bethesda Frankel Estate Church Seniors Chinese New Year Outreach (7 Feb)
- MAR**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Insights from Acts 15 & 'Crucial Conversations'"** by Rev Benjamin Lee
 - ND Lawrence Ko's speaking engagements at:
 - Yale-NUS Christian Fellowship (3 March)
 - Kampong Kapur Methodist Church on Chinese Religion (24 March)
- APR**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Mediating Peace in Missions"** featuring Gregory Vijayendran, hosted and moderated by ND Lawrence Ko
- MAY**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Understanding Buddhism, Befriending Buddhists"** featuring Dr Chris Kang and Dr Daniel Low, moderated by Claire Chong
 - **SCGM Annual Lecture 2022** on "The Calling of the Laity: The Whole Church of God for His Mission" by Mr Kua Wee Seng on 26 May 2022 at DigitalMission@360
- JULY**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "The Future of Faith, Work and Mission"** featuring Ronald JJ Wong, hosted and moderated by Angie Ng and Joan Alikazin
- AUG**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Educating Children Without School: Beyond Orphanage and Delousing at Slums"**
- SEPT**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Trauma and Mental Health: Beyond STM Medical Clinics"**
- OCT**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Employment in Pandemic and BaM: Beyond Evangelistic Events and Passports to Heaven"**
- NOV**
- **SCGM Monthly Missions Webinar: "Building Capacity: Beyond Conducting Training Programmes"**

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SCGM BUDGET 2022

SINGAPORE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS					
BUDGET 2022					
Description	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	ACTUAL 2021	BUDGET 2022
RECEIPTS					
Donations	60,000.00	96,363.00	100,000.00	74,895.00	110,000.00
Staff Support	102,000.00	121,342.00	50,000.00	64,735.00	35,000.00
Project Income/Grants	13,000.00	12,371.00	30,000.00	33,025.00	16,000.00
Fundraising	220,000.00	74,727.00	200,000.00	34,021.00	150,000.00
Event Management	1,000.00	-	10,500.00	-	
Books sale	10,000.00	3,048.00	3,000.00	6,968.05	5,000.00
Government Grant (Covid)		63,061.00	30,000.00	22,065.00	10,000.00
Other Income	41,300.00	1,256.00	1,000.00	3,688.46	9,300.00
Total Receipts	447,300.00	372,168.00	424,500.00	239,397.51	335,300.00
EXPENSES					
Staff Cost	330,260.00	302,153.00	334,832.00	259,047.00	263,585.00
Operating Cost	33,000.00	35,000.00	27,400.00	27,061.00	27,000.00
Project Cost	16,700.00	1,536.00	9,500.00	2,136.58	15,500.00
Fundraising	5,000.00	4,796.00	17,000.00	9,467.00	5,000.00
Other Expenses	7,600.00	436.00	5,100.00	6,381.00	4,700.00
Total Expenses	392,560.00	343,921.00	393,832.00	304,092.58	315,785.00
Surplus/Deficit	54,740.00	28,247.00	30,668.00	(64,695.00)	19,515.00

PLEASE CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH US IN RESOURCING FOR OUR MINISTRY

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