

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2023)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Sat, Jul 1, 2023 at 10:51 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: "jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk" <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Saturday, 1 July 2023 at 10:32:50 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2023)

Dear friends,

The minutes seemed like hours. I was sitting on the edge of my seat as the big spacious minivan raced down the hillside. I bit my tongue and asked the driver only once when we would reach Chiangmai airport. Nevertheless, the driver probably sensed and saw the anxiety and worry plastered all over my face as he gamely sped, overtook a number of cars and even took a shortcut through a mall's carpark. I jumped out of the minivan and was about to charge into the airport when I saw the rainbow. I realized God was once again assuring me He is sovereign even when my life seemed to be careening out of control.



Exactly 2 weeks earlier, I accompanied my mom for her long overdue blood test. We just reached home when the doctor called hastening us to admit my mom to the hospital as her hemoglobin was dangerously low and potentially life-threatening. The next few hours were like a daze as we navigated the emergency department which resembled a war zone. Besides the palpable buzz as an endless stream of hospital beds were pushed this way and that, nurses and doctors were rushing from one distressed patient to another to offer momentary relief. I carried a buzzer and was allowed in the emergency ward for 15 minutes after which I had to leave and line up to obtain the next buzzer to go in for another 15 minutes. I was constantly standing and navigating to get out of someone's way and after a while, a nurse asked me to leave. My mom was eventually warded in the wee hours of the morning and scans later revealed she contracted colon cancer.

I give thanks that my 88-year-old father and 77-year-old mother took the news better than I anticipated. My mom seemed to forget after a while she had cancer as she did not experience any pain. I left Singapore and went to Chiangmai while my brother took over to care for my mother. My brother and I were praying mom could go for keyhole surgery and were immensely relieved when a MSI medical colleague who is a colorectal surgeon looked at my mom's report and confirmed our prayers. My thanks and appreciation to many of you who prayed for my mom as she was wheeled into the operating theatre. When I reached Chiangmai airport and had Internet access, I received the news that my mom's surgery was successful. She would be discharged next week and I would return to Singapore to take care of her and to assess my parents' long-term needs.

Please pray:

- 1) Thanksgiving for a very fruitful and blessed trip into mainland China in May. Please pray as I apply for another short-term work visa to go in August and September to visit frontline colleagues and local partners.
- 2) Thanksgiving that God has been faithfully providing for my needs. Please pray as I need to raise financial support for this year due to reduction from a key supporter.
- 3) Thanksgiving for my mom's successful surgery and discharge. Please pray for me to have love, wisdom and strength to care for my parents in this long road to recovery.

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Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2023)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 8:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: "jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk" <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, 24 April 2023 at 08:31:41 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2023)

Dear friends,

Everything everywhere all at once. This is an apt and succinct description of my life for the last 2 months. Deluged by meetings, conferences and trainings, facing an endless stream of emails from 4 official and 3 personal email accounts (7 is a complete number?), I sometimes wonder what awaits me when I open my office glass door as staff patiently wait to 'catch' me to discuss finance, personnel, publications, projects, mobilisation, office admin etc. Amidst all these juggling, I give thanks He has given me a few lifesavers. First, the resumption of in-person meetings which is often more productive and meaningful. Second, my ability to multi-task and to seamlessly switch from one topic to another. Third, my circle of friends and mentors who lovingly encourage and patiently listen without judgement while keeping me accountable. Last and most importantly, while I could skip my morning stretching exercises, I increasingly find I cannot survive without my morning quiet times. So many times the Spirit speaks to me through His Word and prayer. He is the only One who can really handle everything and everywhere all at once!

All Quiet on the Western Front. While the rest of the world roared ahead with mask-free living and test-free travels, we roused with a reluctant whimper. I and countless others waited with bated breath to walk mask-free on the streets of Hong Kong. This was not an easy decision. As of 2021, one in six persons in Hong Kong (15.7%) are aged 65 years or over. Hong Kong is also teeming with a rich history and time-honoured traditions. Thus, changes are sometimes greeted with cautious skepticism. I arrived in Hong Kong in June 2020 with the same attitude and was sometimes wistfully pining for the life I left behind while dreading the grim realities and surviving the scathing effects of the pandemic. It took me some time to see the hidden beauty and sense the pent-up energy of this cosmopolitan city. Amidst all the ongoing changes and disquiet in Hong Kong, I am starting to see glimmers of what He is doing here beyond the sensational headlines and ominous gossip. I confess I still oscillate between joyful expectancy and numb disillusionment as I learn to grasp and believe that He is in control of the Southern Front.

Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever. Women, including female leadership, prominently feature in this movie on Girl Power. I am no advocate of feminism but I have witnessed how He chooses both men and women and thrust them into the grilling flames of leadership. As a female leader, I find that one of my biggest personal challenge and area of growth is conducting difficult conversations. Hurting people hurt others. Amidst bitter criticisms, hurtful accusations and personal attacks, I give thanks that He assures me repeatedly of His unconditional love and eternal presence. This helps me to stop the vicious cycle and not pass the hurts to others. In January 2020, God gave me the picture of how God held me by the hand and we sat down together freely swinging our legs (some disapprove of this uncouth behaviour) with nary a care in the world. I pray that you like me, will find that these sweet times of communion with our Lord as we face our demons and enemies from within and without. Truly, Jesus died, He rose and He lives forever.

Please pray for the following:

- 1) We give thanks for all God has been doing in our organisation! Please click here to retrieve the electronic copy of **MSI Annual Report 2022**. This includes two short articles I wrote on "Reliant, not just Resilient" and "Running, not just Rushing". Thank you too for all your faithful prayers and generous support!
- 2) Please pray I could successful obtain my China visa to travel to visit officials, colleagues and friends in the mainland in early May.
- 3) Please pray as I return to Singapore in June for meetings and to spend time with family and friends.



MSI
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES
國際專業服務機構

Annual Report
2022 年報

Purpose & Core Values

宗旨與核心價值

PURPOSE 宗旨

MSI Professional Services is a non-profit organisation serving the holistic needs of the people in inland China. Committed Christians share Christ's love with their lives, promoting meaningful exchange, and cooperating with the Chinese government and other entities to equip local communities to serve China's vulnerable populations.

國際專業服務機構（簡稱MSI）是一個非營利機構，旨在服務中國內地人民的全方位需求。各地基督徒奉獻愛心，促進有益的交流，與中國政府及相關單位合作，幫助當地社區發展，服務中國的困難人群。

CORE VALUES 核心價值

MSI provides professional services, seeking to do our work with excellence

MSI serves in inland China, addressing the holistic needs of the neglected frontiers

MSI seeks to equip local people through training, exchange, and the sharing of our lives

MSI serves through teams. Our long-term and short-term teams are international and multi-disciplinary

MSI strives to serve with the spirit of Christ

Professional
專業服務

Inland
內地取向

Equipping
培植賦能

Team
團隊合作

Servanthood
僕人態度

MSI提供專業服務，在工作上追求卓越

MSI在內地服務，關注發展滯後群體的全面需求

MSI透過培訓、交流及生命分享來栽培、扶持當地人民

MSI強調團隊精神。我們的長期、短期人員來自各方、各有所長，共同努力

MSI致力效法基督的精神來服務人民群眾

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YOUR LIFE IS THE MESSAGE

你的生命就是信息

堅信，不只是堅韌 Reliant not just Resilient

Joyce Lau

"I am sick of being resilient," a friend commented to me during a leadership meeting. During the last few years, we were encouraged even exhorted to hold our chins up and keep our spirits alive. As the pandemic recedes, we discovered that safe distancing, quarantines, vaccinations, and stoic human resilience cannot immunize us from the onslaught of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health issues that besiege us.

We are tempted to quickly dust off COVID from our bodies, minds and spirits and to continue running the race. Yet there is a time to pause and ruminate on what we, our families, friends and communities have experienced the last three years. We need to take time to grieve for those who died, pray for those who suffer, and comfort those whose hearts and spirits have been broken and crushed.

This rings true for us as an organisation. In this annual report, we give thanks we can continue to live out and impart holistic ministry in southwest China. This includes our mainstay of HIV projects in Daliangshan Prefecture and the school assistance project in Yiliang County started before the pandemic. We marvel how we were able to open a 'new' site in Jianshui County for hospice care and new projects in 'old' sites like vocational training for those with disabilities in Kunming City and integrating agricultural, community development and health work in Zhaojue County. Most of all, we rejoice to see local partners like Hope Clubhouse and Meng Ai Elderly Home are living out holistic ministry and giving hope to the weak and frail who have been living in darkness. Through it all, we give thanks that the divine is slowly but surely working through the labour of all our hands to bring healing, restoration and freedom to the body, mind and spirit.

Paraphrasing Psalm 124:1 and 8: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side - let us now say, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

We might not always be resilient but we constantly seek to be reliant on the maker of heaven and earth.



「談到保持韌性我覺得有點厭倦。」有位朋友在一次領導會議上對我說。在過去幾年中，我們被鼓勵甚至被勸勉要昂起頭來，維持充沛的活力。隨著疫情的消退，我們發現安全距離、隔離、疫苗接種和堅忍的人類韌性，都無法使我們免去身體、心理、情感和靈性健康的衝擊和困擾。

我們很想迅速地將新冠肺炎從我們的身體、思想和精神上除掉，並繼續向著標竿直跑。然而，這是該停下來時刻，反思一下自己、家人、朋友和社區在過去三年中所經歷的一切。我們需要花時間為去世的人哀悼，為受苦的人祈禱，並安慰那些心靈破碎的人。對我們機構來說也是如此。

在這份年度報告中，我們感恩能夠繼續在中國西南地區進行全人關懷事工。其中包括在大涼山州開展的愛滋病重點項目，以及在疫情前啟動的彝良縣助學項目。能夠在建水縣開設「新的」安寧療護點，在昆明市「舊的」服務點開設新項目例如殘疾人職業培訓，以及在昭覺縣結合農業、社區發展和衛生工作，這些都超乎我們的想象。更重要的是，我們很高興看到像希望之光會所和蒙愛護老院這樣的本地合作伙伴，正在體現全人關懷的精神，為一直生活在黑暗中的弱勢群體帶來希望。通過我們的手所做的工，神緩慢但堅定地為祂的子民在身心靈三方面帶來醫治、恢復和自由，我們獻上感謝。

若要重新詮釋詩篇124:1和8：願我們說：如果不是耶和華幫助我們，.....我們的幫助在於耶和華的名，他是造天地的主。(新譯本)

我們可能無法一直保持韌性，但我們會致力倚靠造天地的主。

昭覺愛滋病項目 Zhaojue HIV Project



HIV is a very serious problem in Zhaojue (ZJ) County, whereby approximately 10% of the general population has HIV. The HIV project started in 2012 at the invitation of the ZJ county hospital. With lifelong treatment, HIV patients can be restored to health and live normal lives.

6 local HIV peer counsellors joined our team and have taken over patient education, and they counsel every new patient one-on-one. Besides volunteering at the hospital, the peer counsellors go to local ZJ high schools to conduct HIV prevention workshops and also visit the homes of our clinic patients.

MSI works closely with a local like-minded NGO in this project. There are regular trainings and meetings with the peer counsellors on HIV treatment, communication skills and spiritual growth.

愛滋病在昭覺縣是一個非常嚴重的問題，大約百分之十的人口感染愛滋病。昭覺縣愛滋病項目於2012年應縣醫院的邀請啟動，通過終身治療，愛滋病患者可以恢復健康，並過上正常的生活。

現在已有6位本地愛滋病同伴教育者加入我們的團隊，並接手病患教育工作，他們為每一位新病人提供一對一諮詢。除了在醫院參與志願工作，他們還到當地高中教授愛滋病預防知識，並且前往病患家中探訪。

MSI與當地理念相同的公益組織在這個項目上密切合作，定期在線上與同伴教育者進行培訓和會面，提供愛滋病防治、溝通技巧和心靈成長等方面的培訓。

2022 work highlights

1. HIV medication compliance training was held 5 times a week, and a total of 733 patients and their families were trained in one year.
2. Subsidised the outpatient department of the Red Ribbon Antiviral Treatment Care Center to hire 5 nurses, and to train nurses to improve their communication skills between doctors and patients with HIV-related medical knowledge.
3. Visited 16 families of HIV patients to care for their family needs.
4. In order to protect medical personnel in the Department of Infectious Diseases during the pandemic, a total of 2,400 N95 masks and 50 love bags were donated.
5. Subsidised the medical expenses of 7 patients.

2022年工作概況：

1. 一周舉辦5次愛滋病服藥依從性培訓，全年共培訓733位病人及家屬。
2. 資助紅絲帶抗病毒治療關愛中心門診部聘請5位護士部分工資，培訓護士提高醫病溝通能力，以及愛滋病相關醫療知識。
3. 探訪16個愛滋病患家庭。
4. 疫情期間為保護傳染科醫療人員，共捐贈2400個N95口罩和50個愛心包。
5. 為7位經濟困難的病人資助醫藥費。



美姑兒童及青少年HIV項目 Meigu HIV Project

In Meigu, most HIV patients are infected because of vertical transmission from mother to child. Babies are born infected and need to take medicine for life.

In 2017, we started this project with the county hospital. It revolves around helping children take medicine regularly. To communicate more effectively with children and their families, the project subsidises our partnering hospital to hire two local medical staff to communicate with them in ethnic dialect and culture. Summer programs were organised to provide recreational activities for children, and to encourage them to read more books. Scholarships were set up to encourage them to study hard. Practical skills such as first aid were taught to encourage young people to be a help to others.

High-quality chickens were sent to particularly poor families not only to serve as a source of nutritional supplement but also to increase family income. We hope to bless and encourage children with HIV from birth through practical actions, and to accompany them on their difficult life journeys.

在美姑縣，大部分愛滋病患者是由於母嬰垂直傳播(vertical transmission)，嬰兒出生即感染病毒，需要終身服藥。

此項目於2017年開展，主要是幫助孩子定期服藥。為了能更有效地與孩子和家屬溝通，我們資助合作醫院聘請2位當地醫護人員，用民族方言和文化與孩子交流。我們舉辦暑期營會，為孩子們提供康樂活動，鼓勵他們多閱讀；並且設立獎學金，鼓勵他們努力學習。同時我們教導一些實用技能如急救，鼓勵青少年成為別人的幫助。

項目同工針對特別貧困的家庭，提供品質優良的雞隻，既能補充營養，也增加家庭收入。對於這群從出生就不幸感染愛滋病病毒的孩子，我們希望通過實際行動祝福和鼓勵他們，陪伴他們走在困難的人生道路上。

2022 work highlights

1. Subsidised the salaries of two local Yi doctors and nurses.
2. Provided outpatient follow-up for HIV-infected children, a total of 124 patient visits throughout the year, and subsidised hospital visits transportation fees.
3. Provided scholarships for 106 HIV children and youth
4. Summer activities were organised for children and teenagers.
5. Chickens were donated to 14 families with difficulties.
6. Provided hospitalisation subsidies and nutritional support for 4 families.

2022年工作概況：

1. 資助2位本地醫護人員薪金。
2. 提供門診跟進愛滋病感染兒童，全年就診124人次，並資助就醫交通費。
3. 為106位兒童及青少年感染者提供獎學金。
4. 為兒童及青少年舉辦6次暑期活動。
5. 贈送雞隻予14戶特別困難的家庭。
6. 對4個家庭提供住院補貼和營養支援。

彝良助學項目 Yiliang School Assistance Project

MSI signed a 4-year cooperation agreement with the Education and Sports Bureau of Yiliang County in 2020, whereby the Bureau provides MSI with 10 students to sponsor every year.

We conduct home visits to get to know students and their families. We not only financially support students, our greater hope is to befriend, encourage and build relationships with them and their families.

In the past year under the epidemic, students could not leave the school at will. We maintained interactions with students through regular online activities, including helping them to better understand and accept themselves using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and to appreciate people with different personalities. The theme of "Together in Love" helped students grow in self-confidence, build healthy attitudes towards friendships and love, and join charitable activities. Many sponsored students study in Kunming and we invited some who can leave the school for group meals or individual chats. Student summer activities were held in 2021 and 2022 whereby students were encouraged to positively and meaningfully plan for their lives, love themselves, others and society.

MSI和彝良縣教育體育局在2020年簽訂4年合作協定，教育體育局每年向MSI提供10個資助學生名單。

同工們通過家訪認識學生及其家人，不僅以金錢資助學生，更盼望成為學生及其家人的朋友，鼓勵他們，與他們建立關係。

過去一年在疫情影響下，學生不能隨意離開學校，我們通過定期線上活動維持與學生的互動交流，包括使用MBTI幫助學生更認識和接納自己，欣賞不同性格的人。我們以「愛在一起」為主題，幫助學生建立自信，樹立健康的友情和愛情觀，並且參與公益活動。許多受資助學生在昆明讀大學，我們邀請了一些能夠離校外出的學生面對面聚餐和交流。2021年舉辦第一次學生暑期活動，2022年順利續辦，通過活動鼓勵學生以正面態度規劃人生，愛惜自己、他人及社會。



蒙愛敬老院 合作計劃



Partnering with Meng Ai Elderly home

MSI signed a two-year cooperation plan with Kunming Meng Ai Nursing Home in March 2022 to improve the home's ability to respond to service safety risks through training, thereby enhancing their in-house health consultative and educational services. The nursing home's person-in-charge shared this:

"I am grateful to MSI for cooperating with our nursing home, starting with the fall prevention project, helping us to comprehensively improve our concepts, awareness and skills in services, and assisting us in repositioning our services and seeking the direction ahead, so that we can work towards our mission. In particular, our gains include the enhancement of service concepts, skills, awareness, and learning how to position our services. We are very grateful to have received your practical support and help in this challenging environment. We strongly sense that we are not fighting alone and we have hidden and mighty companions standing together with us."

2022 work highlights

1. Conducted bi-weekly medical consultations and wellness activities.
2. Organised online diet and nutrition classes to strengthen health education.
3. Held a monthly fall prevention course for the elderly.
4. Conducted basic courses and rehabilitative training for those with cognitive impairment, including speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

MSI在2022年3月份與昆明市西山蒙愛敬老院簽訂兩年合作計畫，通過培訓提升院內員工對服務安全風險的應對能力，並改善院內醫療健康諮詢及教育服務。以下是敬老院馬院長的分享：

「感恩MSI能與我院合作，從預防跌倒項目的合作入手，幫助我院全面提升服務理念、服務意識、服務技能，協助我們重新定位我們的服務，尋求前面的方向，從而使我們完成敬老院的使命。具體來說，我們的收穫包括服務理念、技能、意識的提升，並服務定位的形成。我們非常感恩在大環境變得更具挑戰，而我們又倍感彷徨無助的時候，得到了你們實際的支援和幫助，深深感受到我們不是單兵作戰，我們還有許多被隱藏的大能精兵與我們一同站立。」

2022年工作概況：

1. 每兩週一次開展醫療諮詢和健康活動。
2. 舉辦線上飲食營養課，加強健康教育。
3. 每月一次舉辦預防長者跌倒課程。
4. 開展認知障礙基礎課程和康復訓練，包括言語治療、物理治療和職業治療。

安寧療護事建 工水

Jianshui Hospice Care Ministry

MSI has always hoped to develop in the direction of palliative care ministry. I am very grateful that this ministry will finally be implemented in August 2022. We see His mighty hand reigning amidst a process that was full of twists and turns.

At the beginning of 2020, we were supposed to cooperate with the Provincial Cancer Hospital but everything was brought to a standstill due to the pandemic. In 2021, the Cancer hospital again invited us to cooperate. After evaluation and discussions, we had even decided on a detailed plan but all these were scuttled because the Cancer hospital was a teaching hospital and their supervising unit did not agree! However, God's heart for us did not change. Through the referral of another international organisation, He

allowed us to reconnect with Jianshui County Hospital whom we had previously partnered. Based on the foundation of mutual trust and the support of our supervising authority, we signed a collaboration agreement. This project aims to help the medical staff in the rehabilitation department of Jianshui County Hospital improve their professional and technical capabilities, assists village health centers to provide rehabilitation services for more patients, and assists Chenguan Nursing Home to establish a "palliative care" service team.

During the pandemic, there was a manpower shortage yet God had already prepared long-term co-workers with medical backgrounds for us! Yes, there is a time for everything and He will bring to completion what pleases Him.

安寧療護事工一直是MSI期待發展的方向，非常感恩的是，2022年8月這個事工終於落實。整個過程很曲折，我們看到神大能的手在當中掌權。

2020年初，原本已預定和雲南省腫瘤醫院合作，卻因疫情導致一切停擺。2021年腫瘤醫院主動提出合作邀請，團隊經過評估和討論，甚至確定計劃內容，不過最終由於該醫院為教學醫院，主管單位不同意而作罷！然而，上帝對我們的心意並沒有改變，通過另一個國際機構的引薦，讓我們和過去的合作夥伴建水縣醫院再次連結，基於彼此已有的信任基礎，以及主管單位的支持，我們很快就簽訂合作協定。目標為幫助建水縣醫院康復科醫療人員提高專業技術能力，支援鄉鎮衛生院為更多患者提供康復服務，並協助陳官護理院建立「安寧療護」服務團隊。

疫情期間人力特別缺乏，神卻早已為我們預備有醫療背景的長期同工！是的，凡事都有定時，祂喜悅的，祂必成就。

Zhaojue Agriculture and Community Health Development Project 昭覺農業與社區健康發展項目

MSI planned to cooperate with Zhaojue County Education, Sports, Science and Technology Bureau (Education and Science Bureau) in 2023 to provide skills training for rural industries.

According to Zhaojue's agricultural training needs, MSI sent long-term agricultural experts to conduct agricultural trainings and production planning, nurture agricultural talents from the countryside, improve agricultural production, and develop health-related projects according to the actual needs of local farmers.

In addition, this project will help patients with HIV improve their skills in agricultural production, increase their income, thereby improving their living standards and providing financial support for their children's education.

At the same time, this project will include an experiment to rear dairy goats in Zhaojue County to understand the economic and developmental potential of the local goat milk industry.

MSI團隊在2023年與昭覺縣教育和體育、科技局（教科局）農村產業技術服務中心合作，依照本縣農業方面的培訓需求，派遣長期農業專家舉辦農業培訓和生產規劃，培訓農村農業人才，以及改善農業生產情況；並配合項目農戶的實際需要，開展相關健康教育培訓。

此外，項目將幫助愛滋病患者提高農業生產技術，增加經濟收入改善生活，以及資助其子女讀書。

此項目同時計畫在昭覺縣進行乳用山羊飼養試驗，以了解羊乳產業在昭覺縣發展的經濟潛力。



Persons with Disabilities Vocational Rebuilding Project in Kunming 昆明身心障礙者職業重建項目

In 2008, MSI began providing family services for children with autism. More than a decade later, it is an inevitable trend to assist this group of children and even other people with mentally disabilities to find employment. However, this is difficult in mainland China.

A leader of the Disabled Persons' Federation once said that they recommend mainly those with physical and sensory disabilities for employment while those with mental disabilities are unable to work. Even most parents doubt that their children are capable of working, what more finding employers who would hire them!

In the past few years, we have had the opportunity to cooperate with local adult service agencies for the disabled. They experienced many failures in facilitating employment because they have no professional counseling knowledge and lack employers with a high degree of acceptance. In 2022, God prepared for us people who are willing to participate in employment services and receive training, while also providing us with employers who are willing to provide job opportunities. Perhaps now is the time for God to accomplish this good work!

We are thankful the career reconstruction project for those with physical and mental disabilities has passed muster and was launched in March 2023 to assist those with disabilities to find employment and to establish a localized employment service system. May the grace of God continue to be with us.

自2008年起MSI開始為自閉症兒童的家庭提供服務，十多年後，協助這群孩子，也包括其他心智障礙者就業乃是必然的趨勢。但是，在內地這並不容易。

曾經有位殘聯的領導表示，他們推介就業的服務對象主要是肢體和感官功能障礙者，心智障礙者是無法工作的；就連大多數的家長也不相信自己的孩子有工作能力，更遑論企業雇主的接納了！

這幾年，我們有機會和本地身心障礙者成人服務機構合作，他們有許多協助就業失敗的經驗，原因是沒有專業輔導知識，也缺乏接納度高的雇主。2022年，神為我們預備了願意參與就業服務並接受培訓的學員，也供應我們樂意提供工作機會的雇主；或許現在，就是神要成就美事的時候！

感恩的是，身心障礙者職業重建項目通過審核，將於2023年3月開展，旨在協助有工作意願的障礙者就業，和建立在地化的就業服務系統。願神的恩典繼續與我們同在。



Professional and Expertise

Almond So

As a mobiliser, from my experience, when asked, most brothers and sisters did not regard themselves as "professionals". Perhaps according to their understanding, only highly educated personnel, such as lawyers, doctors and engineers, are recognised as "professionals". However, many jobs that do not require a high degree of education but do require quick thinking, sharp eyesight, and a lot of experience and trainings are also very professional. For example: chefs, painters, carpenters, maintenance workers etc.

Our organisation uses "professional" as a medium to serve, but the word "professional" has created a sense of distance for many brothers and sisters that prevents them from participating in our services. The story below

might help to broaden our horizons and understanding on professional services:

"A young passionate football player spent more than 10 summers in the mountains to provide coaching in football. The children loved playing football very much and every summer, they longed for the arrival of this coach. The coach not only imparted football skills, but also got to know the children and shared his life stories with them."

Viewing profession in terms of our various expertise can expand and diversify our service opportunities. Dear readers, I hope you can find your own position to serve!

專業與專長

作為動員工作的負責同工，我的經驗是，每當問及弟兄姊妹是否為「專業」人士時，大部份的人都不會承認自己屬於專業人士。或許按他們的理解，擁有高學歷的職業，例如律師、醫生、工程師等類的工作，才被認為「專業」。然而，很多不需要高學歷的工作，卻需要思考靈敏，眼明手快，受過訓練，擁有很多經驗，這些同樣也是非常專業的，例如廚師、畫家、工匠、維修師傅等。

當我們機構以「專業」作為服事媒介，有不少弟兄姊妹因這二字產生距離感，阻礙了他們參與服事的可能性。他們可能覺得自己沒有什麼可貢獻的，也沒有能參與的空間。盼望以下的故事能擴展我們對專業服事的視野：

有一位喜愛踢足球的年輕人，願意發揮自己的技能，他利用10年以上的暑假時間，前往山區提供足球訓練。每年暑假，山區的孩子都在等待這位教練來臨，他們都很喜歡踢足球。教練不但在足球技術上與孩子交流，在活動期間他們彼此有更深入的認識，甚至分享生命故事。

從專長的角度看專業，能夠增加服事機會並讓它更多元化。親愛的讀者們，希望你能找到屬於自己的服事位置！



希望之光會所十周年紀念冊《拾光》電子版



希望之光 Hope Clubhouse

Hope Clubhouse was established in 2012 to provide comprehensive community mental rehabilitative services for people with mental illness, and we celebrate our 10th anniversary this year. Counting our blessings, I am grateful to the clubhouse members and their families for their courage in publicly sharing their recovery experiences.

Xiao Yang, a 24-year-old member who completed a college degree with the support of Hope Clubhouse, said: "I learned about the pros and cons of being open about my illness from the peer

希望之光會所自2012年成立，為精神疾病人士提供全面的社區精神康復服務。今年喜迎十周年慶，數算恩典，欣見會員和家屬勇敢地公開分享康復經歷。

24歲會員小楊在希望之光精神康復服務的支援下，完成了大學課程。她說：「我從朋輩支持的課程理解到公開自己疾病的利弊，但是我很願意用自己的親身經歷，去幫

support course, but I am willing to use my own experiences to help and encourage people who have similar experiences to also help others. I am willing to be trained to be a peer support mentor!" She successfully passed the training and internship in 2022 and now often helps people around her.

Lin gained confidence via an employment introduced by the clubhouse, and returned to his hometown to find a full-time job for several years. He exclaimed and shared: "Although we are constantly fighting against illness, yet God has

助和鼓勵有類似疾病經歷的人，這是助人也是自助。我願意接受朋輩支持導師的培訓！」她在2022年順利通過培訓和實習，現在常常幫助身邊的人。

阿林通過會所的就業服務重獲信心，回到家找到了全職工作已有幾年的時間，他感歎分享：「雖然我們不斷地和病魔鬥爭，但是上天讓我們遇見了希望之光，上帝關上

given us the light of hope, when God closes a door, yet He opens a window for us!"

Taihe's parent shared: "Whenever we as parents are anxious and confused, recounting the support and helps from the Clubhouse family gives us courage in our hearts."

Mental illnesses require long-term recovery. I am grateful that I can fight with these warriors on this road and bring them the light of hope!

一道門，卻為我們開了一扇窗！」

泰和的母親分享：「每當我們家長感到焦慮困惑時，一想到有希望之光會所這個溫暖的大家庭的支持幫助，心裡就會升起勇氣。」

精神疾病需要長期的康復，感恩在這道路上可以和這些勇士一起奮鬥，帶給他們希望之光！



疾跑，卻不急躁

Joyce Lau Running not just Rushing

“What’s next?” Many people ask this question as we read the news, listen to experts, and attempt to decipher order in a world gone topsy-turvy in the past few years. As I delve deeper, I often discover we not only desire to know the next step, but would like a clear roadmap so we can quickly reach our goals and satisfactorily tick off our to-do lists. As the pandemic reveals, we discovered that bio-medical advances, artificial intelligence, and stellar human vision cannot protect us from the assault of the vicissitudes of daily living and the frailties of human suffering.

We are tempted to speedily seize back control of our schedules and to continue rushing forward to fulfil our vision. Yet MSI’s practice of holistic ministry cannot be rushed. Time is needed to slowly cultivate relationships, build trust, and nurture partnerships. We might need years to learn to listen well, ask good questions, cross cultures, and walk in the other’s shoes in order to journey well with different individuals and organisations.

This learning process could be even longer for an organisation. Fluctuating changes and transitions continue unabated both in our internal community (like personnel, processes, policies, structures etc.) and in our external environment (like social, economic, local and international affairs etc.). Nevertheless, we discern three immutable things we cherish and uphold. First, the importance of local partners who live out holistic ministry. Second, the essentiality of teams who work out diversity in unity. Third, the centrality of faith to surrender ourselves and our work to divine hands and timetable.

Quoting Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 11a (English Standard Version): For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man’s heart.

We are called to run the race but we constantly need to remind one another not to rush ahead but to keep in step with the maker of heaven and earth.

「下一步是什麼？」當我們閱讀新聞、聽取專家意見，並試圖破解過去幾年天翻地覆的世界秩序時，許多人都會問這個問題。當我深入思考時，經常發現我們不僅希望知道下一步，還希望有一個清晰的路線圖，以便我們可以快速實現目標，並圓滿地完成我們的工作清單。正如疫情所揭示的，我們發現生物醫學的進步、人工智能和卓越的人類視野，皆無法保護我們免受日常生活突變的衝擊，和面對苦難的脆弱。

我們很想迅速奪回對日程安排的控制權，並繼續向前衝刺以實現我們的願景。然而，MSI全人事工的實踐不能操之過急，需要時間來建立關係和信任，以及培養伙伴關係。我們可能需要幾年的時間學習聆聽、提出好問題、跨越文化以及換位思考，以便與不同的人和组织同行。

對於一個組織來說，這個學習過程可能比個人要長。在我們的內部群體（如人員、進程、政策、結構等）和外環境中（如社會、經濟、本地和國際事件等），動盪和轉變有增無減。然而，我們覺察應當看重和堅持的三件事情，那是不可改變的：第一，本地伙伴的重要性——他們能實踐全人事工。第二，團隊的本質——多元但合一。第三，信仰為中心——我們將自己和工作交託於神的手和時間表。

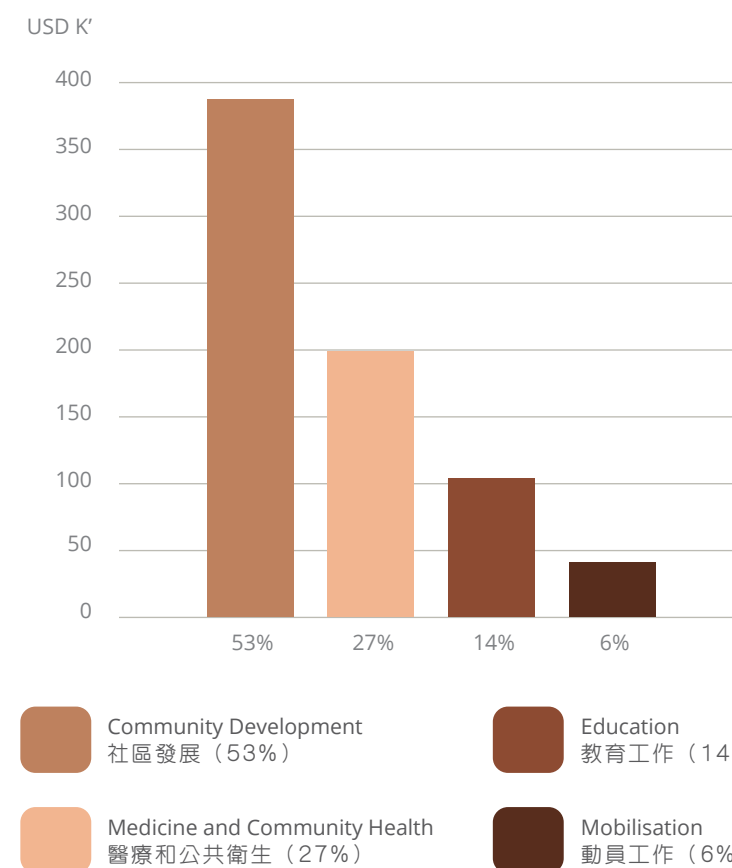
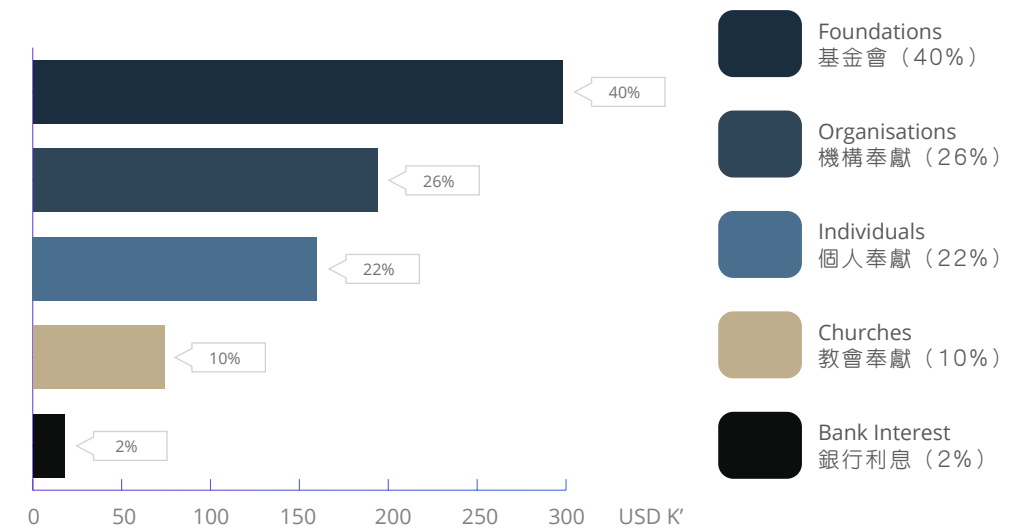
容我引用傳道書3:1和11前：凡事都有定期，天下萬務都有定時。神造萬物，各按其時成為美好，又將永生安置在世人心中。

我們被呼召去賽跑，但我們需要不斷提醒彼此，不要急躁地向前衝刺，要與造天地的主同步。

財務 Finance

Total Income 總收入

Total Income of USD744K excludes Wage Subsidy of USD31K provided by HKSAR’s Employment Support Scheme.
總收入美金744,000元 不包括由香港特別行政區保就業計劃所提供之工資補貼（美金31,000元）。



總支出 Total Spending

Total Spending of USD738K excludes Headquarters’ overhead of USD26K.
總支出（美金738,000元） 不包括總部間接費用（美金26,000元）。

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Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (1/2023)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 12:47 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: 'Joyce Lau' <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Sunday, 12 February 2023 at 08:59:41 GMT-5
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (1/2023)

Dear friends,

How has the year of 2023 been for you? Thank you for partnering me in my cross-cultural life and ministry. My email updates are a written record of a road less travelled and is a precious reminder of my ups and downs, challenges and joys for the past 22 years. As I look back, I see His hand in leading, providing and disciplining me. Most of all, I give thanks and celebrate His faithfulness, grace and love. As we step out in 2023, I would like to share with you two incredible celebrations of life I was privileged to be part of.

In early January, many colleagues and I met in Singapore. It was our first in-person conference for three years and the first time we gathered in Singapore. There were so much laughter, many hugs and some tears as we greeted one another, opened and poured out our hearts to one another in small groups and in one-to-one conversations. We marveled as we learn of what He has been doing in and through various colleagues for the past year. While the pandemic caused anxieties, uncertainties, delays, closures and deaths, we also witnessed how He never left or abandoned us in the darkest, loneliest and depressing of times. Our conference speakers were veteran cross-cultural workers and their lives and sharing from the book of Philippians brought alive our theme of "Joys in Adversities". We celebrated and cherished the invaluable chance to be together and also celebrated and praised Him for His work and presence.

After the conference, I was looking forward to meet my long-time friend and prayer and accountability partner Boon Swee for dinner. However, Boon Swee woke up breathless and was hospitalized. In less than 5 days, she went home to the Lord. Boon Swee and I shared a passion for seeing others love and learn Mandarin, a subject which is the bane and nightmare for many Singaporean students. We talked about how education was not about entering good schools, acquiring academic qualifications, and becoming a famous speaker or influencer. She believed that people are not defined by their schools, achievements, social and economic status but their values and character. We often discussed how our values and goals in life were often counter-cultural and encouraged each other as we struggled to live them out, she in Singapore and me overseas. For 2023, Boon Swee shared her 3 goals were to succeed in things that truly matter in life, have and commit white spaces in her life to God to lead and guide how these could be used (James 4:13-17), and intentional and deliberate living, especially to build meaningful relationships with those God sends her way. We celebrated her life in the wake services over 2 nights and many also accompanied her for the last leg of her earthly journey to the crematorium. I learnt how Boon Swee had reached out and helped not only her family but also many others. She lived out His divine love as she expended the time and effort to see, listen and reach out to others, so different from the self-centered love that prevails and dominates. I experienced this love first-hand. Boon Swee wrote snail mail to me for the first four years of my cross-cultural journey. I was always so thrilled and overjoyed to receive her every letter as it was a concrete reminder that someone in Singapore loved and remembered me. Boon Swee also sacrificially supported my financial needs. While I celebrate her life and am comforted that she has entered divine rest, I also grieve as I lose a very dear and precious soul-mate, friend and partner in ministry. Till we meet again!

Please pray for:

- 1) Colleagues who return to their sites after Chinese New Year. Pray that they and those they lead and journey with would continue to experience Him more and more.
- 2) Boon Swee's husband and three sons to continue to experience His presence and comfort in their time of grieving and loss.



Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2022)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>
Cc: MissionaryCare MCBC Mission <mission.missionarycare@mcbc.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 12:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: 'Joyce Lau' <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022, 12:04:37 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2022)

Dear friends,

Man does not live on bread alone. I wonder if those who grabbed bread off the shelves in the supermarkets in Hong Kong agreed with that. For more than a week, no bread was to be found in the bakeries around my home. I was delighted when I caught the sight of freshly baked bread in an outlying island of Cheung Chau. I hugged these two precious loaves in a journey of 2.5 hours over sea and land before giving one loaf to my neighbour. I empathise with those who succumbed to panic buying and hoarding. Vegetables were the first to disappear, followed by canned food, fresh pork, bread, eggs... However, I was upset when I saw people taking photos of the empty shelves and sharing these on social media. Yes, there were empty shelves but there were also shelves still stocked with food. However, they chose to focus on the empty shelves and stoking the fuels of anxieties, fears and rumour-mongering to gather more views and likes. I was reminded once again the importance of what we focus on and how we influence others. Yet it is a constant challenge to live on the invisible especially when others around you are grabbing bread...

Male and female he created them. I am new to Hong Kong, having arrived in June 2020 amidst a pandemic. I am always observing things around me as part of my learning process. The Hong Kong subway is now running a series of advertisements advocating for tolerance towards LGBT. A shopkeeper opined how a Mr. Chan who used to be a Ms. Chan was still as friendly, polite and nice as before after her gender change. A TV advertisement shows how a man torn between his two boyfriends used a new ride-hailing application as he two-times them. A number of popular prime-time variety shows are showcasing the loving relationships of gays and lesbians. All these bombardment in the mass media mushroomed within the last 2 months when Hong Kong was fighting her hardest battle against skyrocketing COVID cases and deaths. I am reminded one again we are not fighting a physical battle against flesh and blood as man is now challenging our Master's creation and design of the genders. Yet it is a constant challenge to stand for the truth especially when others around you preach tolerance in the name of love...

I was introduced to Alan and Bill around the same time. While Alan was a confident young leader, Bill was a happy follower who was unsure of himself. Bill's father left his mother and him for another woman when he was a young child. Starved of a father's love, Bill was constantly craving

for affirmation and approval from others. Deprived of a male model, Bill looked to older men and sought to emulate them to become friendly, popular, nice and helpful. He found himself struggling with love for other men and these struggles continued even after he knew our Master. A major breakthrough happened when Bill finally sought out his father to forgive him. This was but the first step in an ongoing journey of his healing and deliverance. Bill had built his whole sense of self-worth based on the approval of others. Opposites attract. His easy-going and submissive nature attracted his wife when they were dating. He was won over by her capable and confident ways. However, what used to sparkle has now lost its luster as they now complain of the others' inadequacies and deficiencies as they try to keep up with the Joneses. Both constantly threaten divorce and the only thin thread holding them together is their son. Their faith evaporates into thin air as they focus on what they feel and the cold harsh reality before them which proclaims it is easier, better and even right to separate when the love in their marriage has died. During these times, old skeletons in the closet fall out and Bill struggles again with same-sex attractions. I can only give thanks he has not succumbed to these temptations. I try my best to remind him once again that only our Master's love and not the love of others can complete us. Yet it is a constant daily challenge for Bill to not give up on his marriage, himself or the faith especially when everything within him screams he would be happy and free if he just ups and walks away...

Please remember the following:

1) In a sudden about-turn, Hong Kong authorities announced today they are suspending the earlier touted universal testing which was driving the panic buying. Ask that those who hoarded would not waste food. I rejoice I could once again pick up bargains in my wet market this evening (see picture).



2) Divorce rates are rising even among believers. Ask that Bill and his wife and other struggling couples would first come before Him in repentance and allow divine love to heal, reconcile and restore themselves and their marriages.

3) I give thanks for His healing on my family members who contracted COVID in Singapore, especially for my father whose health is improving slowly but surely. My dad met an angel who helped him hail a Grab taxi when he was caught in the rain while going to church. May we all grow in the faith which is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



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Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (5/2021)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>

Sun, Nov 21, 2021 at 2:56 PM

To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Cc: MissionaryCare MCBC Mission <mission.missionarycare@mcbc.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>**To:** Joyce.Lau.ExternalMail <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>**Sent:** Sunday, 21 November 2021, 00:41:17 GMT-5**Subject:** In-Touch with Joyce (5/2021)

Dear friends,

I do not wish to leave. I thoroughly enjoy my 22m² abode/quarantine hotel room. Three balanced meals provided with supplements of fruits and desserts from colleagues, minimal cleaning and laundry, days brimming with work and meetings and nights filled with TV and chats. I feel even more comfortable as I snuggle in this cozy little quarantine bubble vis-à-vis my first quarantine stay in Singapore in end-July which had marked the start of one of a fruitful albeit busy home assignment.

I do wish to meet. August till October was a time of gathering restrictions in Singapore where we could meet in groups of two. A cloud of doom and gloom hovered as the media bombarded and fixated us with numbers. Numbers of daily COVID cases and deaths, ICU bed utilization rate, weekly infection growth rate etc. Our moods even seemed to rise and fall with these numbers. I often felt conflicted as well-meaning friends asked if we should still meet. I paused and prayed for Him to show me who He wanted me to meet and I asked that they too would have the peace and joy to do so. What rich times of deep sharing they were! One friend encouraged me to meet while we still could. Another friend was blessed we met as she just recovered from COVID. I told her it was the Lord as I had no idea of what had happened to her. A number of supporters and friends and I exchanged our hearts as we openly shared our joys and struggles. We relaxed as we listened to one another, we naturally reached out to hold hands as we prayed, we embraced as we joyfully greeted and reluctantly said our goodbyes. There is a price for meeting as we took adequate safety precautions, but we did not stop meeting face-to-face due to fear and anxieties. This pandemic has shown me that God created us for relationships and how an abundant life is to be lived out in community.

I do wish to spend time with family. Well-meaning friends asked if it was safe for elderly parents to go out amidst rising cases. I answered they felt safe and they actually wanted to go out. This pandemic has been isolating for everyone but I suspect none more so than the elderly. Out of love and safety concerns, their families often served them stay-at-home notices. The pandemic has robbed the elderly of face-to-face interactions and reduced them to a shrinking world of their homes and the monotony of life. They could watch news or have conference calls but found these

hard to follow (losing their focus, hearing and sight), cold and distant (not interactive or they struggled with technology), and uninteresting or irrelevant (very few topics or materials for virtual meetings are designed for the elderly). It was easy for the elderly to become withdrawn as their days stretched endlessly and aches and pains became their daily relentless companion. This is not the life my parents wanted. So we embarked on expeditions with various friends to Sentosa Aquarium, Gardens by the Bay, ArtScience Museum and attended church. They was delighted to see the fish and flowers and we all rejoiced to see and feel God's creation and to talk with others. Even though we could not sing in church, on-site worship and simple greetings ministered more to them than online services. We also enjoyed family dinners with my brother and sister-in-law who lovingly hosted and cooked for us, and played mahjong together while my dad shared his tales of growing up and the war with my nephew and niece. My parents and I would then savour all these outings for days. This pandemic has shown me that spending time with family is not just about living together (we could be under one roof but lead very separate lives) but to focus on and spend time with each other.

I could not wish for more. There was numerous online conferences, trainings and meetings. Added to the heady mix were the completed renovation of my new flat (another testimony of His grace), the making of a new pair of spectacles, visiting the dentist (I love dental visits!), too many visits to doctors and hospitals for medical tests and immunizations, purchasing needed items, weekly household cleaning chores etc. Somehow I also managed to squeeze in a two-night personal retreat. I give thanks as this pandemic has shown me that God is the best event planner when I release my times to Him. There is a time to rest in a cozy quarantine bubble. There is also a time to step out with Him into a daunting world of uncertainties, conflicts and dangers. Paul depicts us as running the race of faith together with others surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. A journey of faith does not immunize us from falls, pit stops, twists and turns, but we can move towards our destination as He leads and holds our hands.

Please remember the following:

- 1) My dad personally thanks you for all your prayers. He is recovering well and has discovered a new drug that is aiding his recovery, the humble commonplace Panadol or paracetamol. His grace never ceases to amazes me!
- 2) Thanksgiving for a very enjoyable 14-day hotel quarantine in Hong Kong which ends on 23 November (Tuesday). I would then work from home for another 7 days before returning to the office on 1 December which is our day of prayer. Please remember our Hong Kong office team for wisdom and unity as we discern His will together amidst changes and challenges.
- 3) My sincere apologies to those whom I could not meet during last three months in Singapore. I welcome you to write to me to help me know how I could better remember you as well.



Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2021)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Thu, Jul 1, 2021 at 8:55 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: Joyce.Lau.ExternalMail <jlmsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021, 06:30:40 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2021)

Dear friends,

It is often said we walk by faith not by sight. Yet this is easier said than done, especially when everything before, behind and blanketing you tells you otherwise. I had originally planned to return to Singapore today for a 3 month home assignment. However, I needed to delay my return by 19 days. These last few years have been challenging and difficult for our Hong Kong headquarters. Today marks the return of Hong Kong to the mainland with muted celebrations in front of us and uneasy times enveloping us. The pandemic compounds these vagaries. There is an increasing sense of distance and a decreasing camaraderie and shared destiny as society gets more divided. As an extrovert who enjoys the company of others, I often feel bewildered sad and hapless as I witness lines drawn up due to vaccination and non-vaccination, economic, social and political differences. My heart grows heavy as I learn of coworkers and their family members who are plagued by cancer and other debilitating diseases. These realities are right in our faces and we cannot ignore them.

How do we walk by faith not by sight? Only if we have the eyes of faith. And eyes of faith are not created or conjured by powerful effort, positive thinking or patient waiting. We have them when our eyes are focused on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith (Heb 12:2). I know of no other way. In these last two months, many things happened which made me lose my focus on Him and I often chose to walk by sight not by faith. I am grateful for friends and co-workers who love me and endeavoured in various ways to lift my heavy spirit. I appreciate reflections and quiet times which gave me much needed rest and respite. Through all these, He gently reminds me to fix my eyes on Him and not on people, strategies, finances, circumstances and everything my eyes could see. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1). Once again, I realise nothing I could do or not do would ever change His love for me. Once again, I learn I need to let go and let Him take charge. Once again, I discover freedom and joy when I live for the audience of One.

It is not easy for me, an innate people-pleaser who craves human approval and delights in intimate connections. It is difficult for me to disappoint and not meet people's expectations of me as a leader. It is very difficult for me to see and accept there are problems I cannot fix, conflicts I cannot mend, and diseases I cannot heal. Yet I am very, very, very slowly gaining endurance when I look to Him. At the same time, we are all running this race of faith and He has given us companions to spur us on. We do not and should not run this race alone! I look forward to listening and cheering you on your journey of faith...

Please remember the following:

1. MSI's HQ team in Hong Kong are undergoing changes in personnel, processes and work. Pray for His peace, provision and presence to be with us all. Please remember Cedric C and Hui Kheng who deputise for me during these 3 months.
2. Please pray for His presence and healing on David Leung, a dear brother and previous MSI President, who was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.
3. I plan to return to Singapore on 19 July 2021 for 3 months. Please pray for suitable flights and quarantine arrangements. Pray also for good times of catching up with family and friends and to complete simple renovation for my new home. My thanks and appreciation to all the generous supporters of Joyce's House Warming Fund which is now officially closed as I received all I needed! 😊



Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2021)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 12:08 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: Joyce.Lau.ExternalMail <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021, 11:34:06 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2021)

Dear friends,

Have you missed me? My letter is a little late and so much has happened since I last wrote to you in mid-March...

My last email update stated I would be at the end of the vaccination queue in Hong Kong as I was a not-so-old foreigner. I need to eat my words! The Hong Kong Government generously opened up vaccination to all of us aged 30 years old and above in mid-March. I signed up the very morning it was available and completed my 2 jabs of BioNTech Pfizer vaccine on 9 April. I was blessed not to be affected when the vaccines were paused for a week due to packaging defects. I had a low grade fever and some fatigue after the second jab but this quickly dissipated with a Panadol and some rest. It helped I scheduled my vaccinations on Friday so I could recuperate over the weekend. The free vaccination is sufficient for me now.

I was elated and overjoyed when I first found out I could get vaccinated. I felt vaccinations were the best way to help me travel. So I was willing to take the risks as I was dying to travel to mainland China or Singapore. However, two days before my first jab, I heard that a former colleague who served in China had passed away, leaving behind her husband and two teenage daughters. Tears flowed down my face as I sat in the train enroute to the hospital. I could not fathom the reasons for her death. As I took a long walk that weekend by myself, I felt God was grieving with us. God did not answer my "Why" questions and I probably would never know the answers on this side of eternity. But I knew God grieved along with us. Knowing this is sufficient for me now.

Two dear sisters accompanied my parents to collect the keys to my one-bedroom HDB built-to-order flat on 29 March. The HDB officer was very friendly and helpful but my mom would struggle with all the electronic documents if my friend was not present. My other friend kept my dad company during the long wait. They then drove my parents and we all got a viewing of the flat, me via WhatsApp. 😊 Another couple later drove my mom to handle the flat's minor defects. I give thanks and appreciate all of you! I would connect the utilities and do simple renovation when I return to Singapore. As renovation costs and the costs of set-up are not covered in my annual support, all love gifts to Joyce's Housing Warming Fund are greatly appreciated! His provision is sufficient for me now.

Please remember me for the following:

1. June is a busy period as I need to attend to important work matters and ensure a good handover to two colleagues who deputise for me as I return to Singapore for three months in July. Pray for strength, wisdom and perseverance.
2. For Hong Kong to remain COVID-19 free or have very few COVID-19 cases so I only need 7 days of quarantine in a hotel when I return on 1 July. If not I would need to spend S\$2000 for 14-days quarantine in a randomly assigned dedicated facility, aka "boh pian" (Singlish for no choice).
3. For Singapore's COVID-19 cases to decrease so we could meet up when I return. Please write to me as I would love to meet up with you in Singapore!