



# From the Midst of COVID to God's Beyond

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



International  
Baptist Church  
Singapore

# Table of Contents

01

From our  
Senior Pastor

06

IBC 2021  
Highlights

10

Ministry  
Reports



From our  
Senior Pastor

# Our story so far

**IBC entered 2021 with high hopes and low expectations in regard to ministry and mission as the entire world battled COVID.** After seeing our proposed 34 international mission trips for 2020 completely grounded, we approached 2021 with a strong sense of caution. In light of this, God expanded our 2020 theme of *The Year of Kingdom Come* to the 2021 theme of *The Year of Kingdom Community*.

This new focus on the church's community of believers would definitely provide the much-needed biblical foundation and vision for the beginning of what Isaiah prophesied, *"Behold I will do something new"* (Isaiah 43:19). This Old Testament's prophecy points to a season when Israel would come out of the 70-year exile completely different than the way they entered. Prior to the Babylonian captivity, Israel relied on the physical structure of the Temple, the physical safety of being a nation ruled by their own king, and the false assurance that they were God's people who were protected from any and all disasters. Just like the Israelites, we are experiencing multiple setbacks and realignments of our physical worship services and gatherings.

We are also facing a new danger to our physical safety, and perhaps holding onto the false assurance that God will always protect us physically because we are His people.

In our COVID exile, we are discovering that our spiritual connection with God and each other is the highest priority. Personal connections and relationships within the family of God went from optional to mandatory. What we once took for granted now has become our spiritual lifeline. Formerly our understanding of church connection and community was often limited to our building, a program, an activity, and a ministry task with a few people in charge. Yet in this season, all of those tangible, physical, traditional expressions were challenged to find new forms and outlets. As a result of this new spiritual season, we began to explore the possibility that God is doing something new in our IBC family.

*In our COVID exile, we are discovering that our spiritual connection with God and each other is the highest priority.*

*– Dr. Rodney Woo*



# Laying the foundation

## Our Priorities

Earlier in the year, the pastors and elders went on a 3-day retreat to pray where God wanted to lead us in the midst of this mid-COVID season. What God revealed to us was the spiritual foundation and path through COVID and beyond. After several months of saturated prayer and dialogue, we then included the staff on this exciting journey to jointly discern how to continue to move forward with His vision for IBC. As we connected over 4 days on an off-site staff retreat, we collectively discovered that we are His church with these never-changing priorities in the face of our constant changing circumstances:

- **Worship God:** personal and corporate worship, on-site and off-site
- **Be equipped with God's Word:** read, hear, study, do and teach God's Word with a unified focus (Ezra 7:10; James 1:22)
- **Connect with God's Family:** higher priority on relationship and journeying together
- **Serve the Church, Community, and World:** be on mission together

With these 4 foundational priorities, we are calling each IBC believer to respond to our Master's invitation to become His disciple and learner (Luke 9:23).

In obedience to the Great Commission, we cannot stop at the point of simply becoming a disciple. In Matthew 28:19, He also invites us to join Him on the journey of becoming disciple-makers of all nations (global). This is a very bold challenge and command from Christ, but one in which He will equip and empower us to do through the Holy Spirit.

In order to properly prepare for the Master's call for IBC to join Him in this Global Disciple Making path, we will need to lay the spiritual foundation.

As we move from the midst of COVID to post-COVID, we will be intentionally moving forward with these clear priorities in our journey. Yet there are so many unknowns, so we will seek God's will to prioritize our next spiritual steps.

# 2022: Free to Serve



## Our Focus

Next year's theme will be more focused on action: *Free to Serve*. There will be three primary movements:

1. **Free from sin**, self, world, religion, performance, attendance, isolation;
2. **Free in Christ** – a personal, intimate, and growing relationship with Christ that is measurable;
3. **Free to serve** Christ, the church, community, and the world.

These focus areas will prepare us for 2023 and beyond as IBC moves toward Global Disciple-Making.

## Our Goals

First and foremost, we are called to prayer as the essential spiritual preparation for the journey ahead. Secondly, IBC and our congregants must be fully engaged in “*Free to Serve*,” which is the spiritual foundation that will move us towards Global Disciple-Making in 2023.

To drive and be able to sustain this spiritual journey, IBC looks to call three (3) new pastors, a worship leader, a Digital Ministry leader, and 3 assistants to support Youth, Communications and church administration. Moreover, our pastoral team continues to invest in cultivating servant leaders for future elders, deacons, and ministry leaders.



There has been concerns expressed on the decrease in giving in 2021. As we prepare for 2022, as always, we trust God to provide the necessary resources and finances, to support the tasks that He has called us to do. COVID has directly impacted giving. By the same token, our physical activities were also severely curtailed that led to lower expenses. We praise God that our tithes and offering received this year exceeded our operational expenses. We did not draw on our reserves. Instead, we achieved a positive surplus through the first nine (9) months of 2021. Our spiritual history provides a reassuring picture of God's goodness and provision for IBC. Our focus is not on financials, but on the spiritual health of our congregation and the vision God gave us to be *God's home for the nations, that seeks to unite all people to Christ in love by making disciples for the glory of God.*

While the future picture may be uncertain in the realm of COVID and its restrictions, we are certain that God has called us to be His church in Singapore in this season. We will continue to meet physically as much as we possibly can. As we transit from the midst of COVID into God's Beyond, we will need to integrate both physical and virtual connections in the body. This emerging hybrid expression will also enable us to reach beyond anything that we could have ever thought or imagined. IBC, our faith in our God enables us to smile at the future.

**Dr. Rodney Woo**  
Senior Pastor, IBC Singapore

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# IBC 2021 Highlights



# IBC is God's home for the nations



## We take part in God's mission.

This year, we supported twenty-eight (28) mission organizations and nineteen (19) individuals in twelve (12) different countries across the world.

## that seeks to unite all people to Christ in love



## We are united in and through Christ.

Through evangelism and discipleship, we share and live out the Gospel together. Sixty-nine (69) Connection Groups have been faithfully meeting and coming alongside each other.

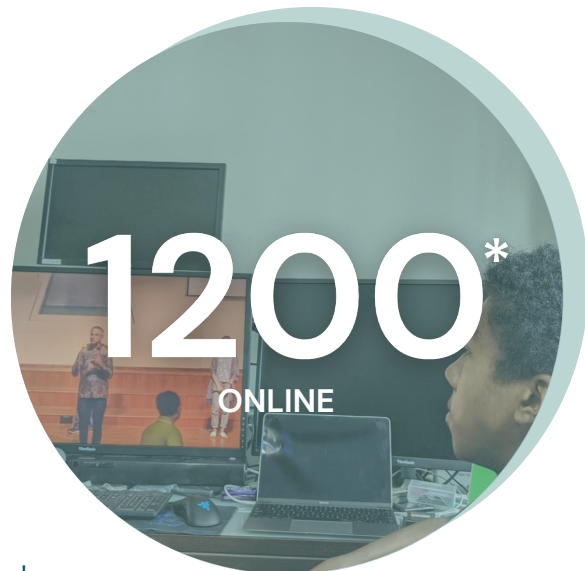
## by making disciples for the glory of God.

# not abandoning our own meeting together...



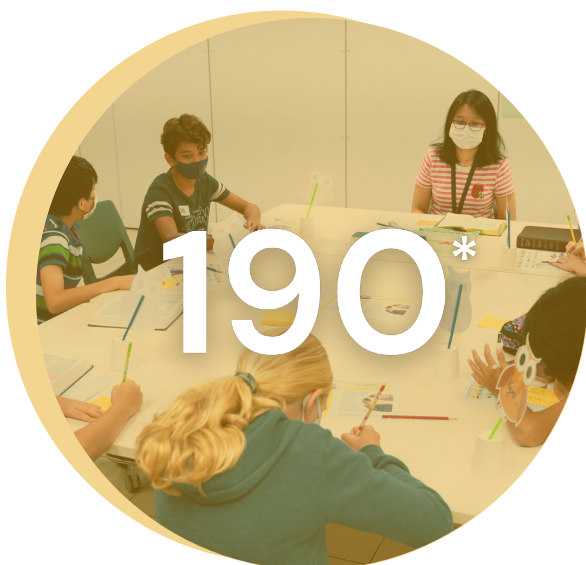
## WEEKEND WORSHIP

Since the reopening of the Sanctuary, we've had about 250 worshippers join us on-site. Our online services average about 1,200 views per week.



## YOUTH SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDY

Due to current restrictions, all youth programs are now online. On the average, about 50 students join the weekly activities.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our CSS attendance averages 120 kids for the online classes at 9:00am, and 70 kids for on-site classes at 11:30am. Virtual AWANA, which runs on Sunday afternoons, averages at 60 students.



A background image showing two women in a hallway. The woman in the foreground is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and light blue shorts, using a wooden cane. She is wearing a red face mask. The woman behind her is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and black leggings, also wearing a face mask. They are walking on a light-colored tiled floor. In the background, there is a bulletin board with various papers pinned to it.

**\$870,000**  
**GIVEN TOWARDS**  
**MISSIONS**

Despite a decrease in giving this year, we have been consistent in sending help as COVID relief for families, churches and hospitals in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Malaysia and Mongolia, to name a few.

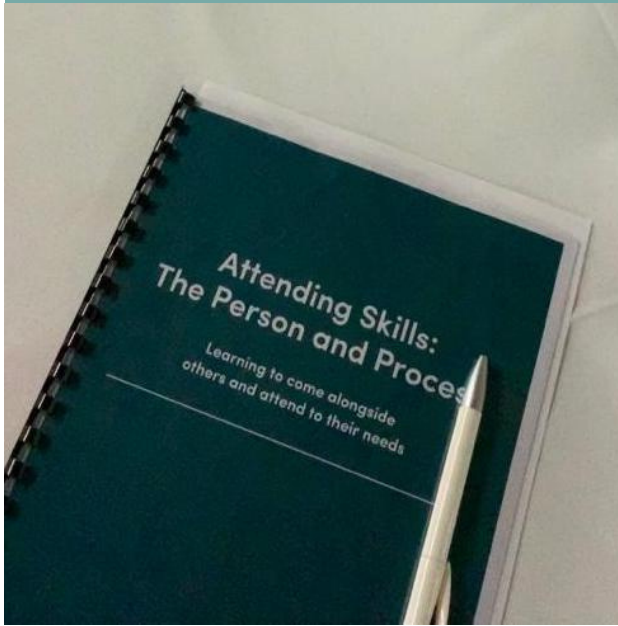
**\$32,400**  
**GIVEN AS**  
**BENEVOLENCE**  
**ASSISTANCE**

Since it was conceived at the start of 2021, the Benevolence Fund has provided stop-gap assistance to a number of families needing emergency help, such as for medical costs and funeral expenses.

# Ministry Reports



# CARE & PRAYER



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- The Equipping Team, which provided counselling informed training and workshops
- The Benevolence Fund, providing stop-gap assistance to IBCers in need
- The continued expansion of the Couples Mentoring Programme
- The continued growth of Celebrate Recovery
- Care Talk: Depression in the Elderly
- The monthly Church-wide Prayer Meeting
- The IBC Prayer Team

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

In addition to continuing existing areas of ministry, Care Ministry looks forward to:

- Expanded workshops from the Equipping Team focusing on lay counselling/attending skills
- Establishment of a Parenting Programme, which will provide:
  - a) mentors for parents
  - b) presentations and workshops for parents of children of different age groups, from toddlers to young adults

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Parenting Programme: Mentors and Workshops

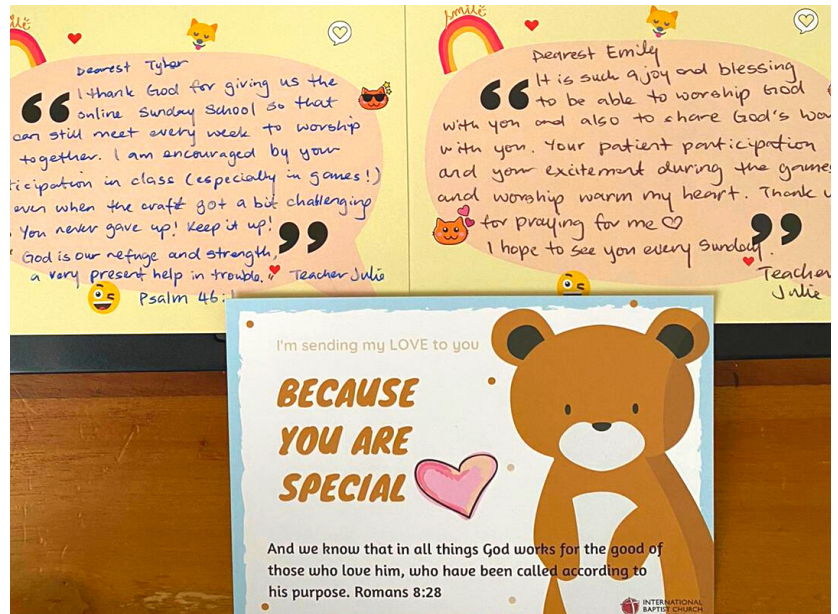
## PRAY WITH US

- that the Lord works in and through this ministry as an instrument of His grace and mercy





# CHILDREN



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- The return of on-site Sunday School in April
- Providing faithful Sunday School workers who serve with us both online and onsite
- Supportive parents who partner with us, and encourage their children to attend Sunday School
- Leading us to compile testimonies and drawings of IBC families in the book, "God Is Not Locked Down!"
- Opening doors to future missions in our Jerusalem

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Outreach to the local community
- Building towards disability inclusivity

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- To reach out to children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds through life skills classes (e.g. ukulele, pottery), in partnership with a local children's charity
- To reach out to students and their families, in partnership with St. Andrew's Mission School, through the provision of respite care programmes on the first week of each month
- To partner with KIN to equip volunteers, as we build towards a disability inclusive church
- To collaborate with other ministries in planning church-wide events for the IBC community

## PRAY WITH US

- for willing hearts to serve alongside us in the future missions in our Jerusalem
- for collaborations among ministries to reach out to our Jerusalem





# COMMUNICATIONS



L-R: (1) picture taken by IBC Photo Team, signage designed in-house; (2) social media posts; (3) Community News

## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- Providing an **amazing team** of Comms staff and volunteers who've kept our community connected and informed through our **Virtual / Online** (ie, *ibcs.org*, *Online.Church*, *Youtube*, *Facebook*, *Instagram*, *email* & *SMS blast*), and **On-site** channels (ie, *Community News*, *banners*, *signages*)
- The approval and implementation of **IBC's logo and visual refresh**. In line with the church's goals of strengthening unity in the body, and being current and relevant to various age groups, the Comms Team proposed an update to our church's visual identity, which encourages consistency across ministries and a friendlier overall look, with the *main goal of winning more and saving some* (1 Cor 9:22-23). The proposed updates were approved by the Board of Elders in August, and will be implemented in phases.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- A strengthened comms and digital strategy that would enable a more effective and efficient two-way communication between church leaders and members
- Foster a sense of community and belonging by sharing more IBC stories.

"I have become  
*all things to all men*,  
so that I may by *all means* save some. I  
do all things for the sake of the gospel,  
so that I may become  
a fellow partaker of it."

– 1 Cor 9:22b-23

## PRAY WITH US

- for God's wisdom as we continue to optimize the blessing of technology to keep our community connected and engaged



# EVANGELISM



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- The Evangelism Team who faithfully proclaims the gospel.
- Thank God for 25 people who heard the gospel because of our Online Evangelism Blitz.
- The transition of leadership with Ps Andy Esguerra leaving to start a seminary in the Philippines
- Evangelism Training where the team watched "The End of the Spear".
- Monthly Zoom Meetings of Evangelism Core Team.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- Evangelism Blitz on January, May, July, and October.
- Online/Onsite Evangelism Training
- Collaboration with other ministries and local missions.
- Meals with the Unchurched to intentionally meet them for casual and spiritual conversations
- Members' video testimony will be posted on our social media.

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Online Evangelism Training
- Video Testimony

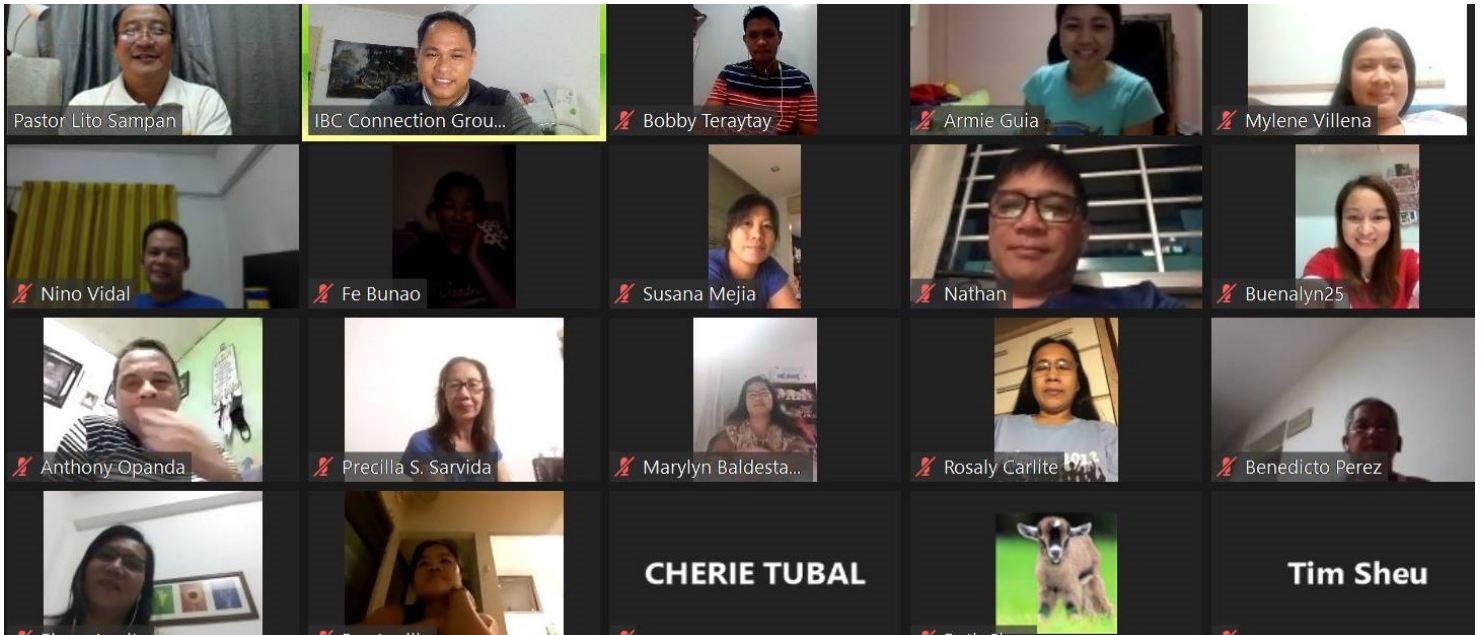
## PRAY WITH US

- for more IBCers to join the Evangelism activities
- for wisdom and strength for the Evangelism Core Team





# FILIPINO



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- Strengthened connection and encouragement among the Filipino community despite challenges in our current situation.
- The smooth transition of Filipinos who have returned to the Philippines but remained connected to IBC.
- Leaders who faithfully minister to Filipino groups.
- Strong support for mission involvement in the Philippines.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- To provide support for Filipinos who are severely affected by COVID in the Philippines.
- To offer seminars in partnership with the Philippine Embassy on the Social Security System, Pag-ibig, OWWA and Labor Department. This will give OFWs awareness about their rights and responsibilities while staying in Singapore.
- To brief to Filipinos who are preparing to transition back home
- To conduct Financial Literacy and Livelihood seminars

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Financial Literacy and Livelihood Seminar
- Form a team who will assist those who are going back to PH

## PRAY WITH US

- for strength as many are mourning over the death of a family member and are unable to go back home





## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- the successful transition from being fully online to hybrid church services
- Media Ministry team members who have been able to support both on-site and online services
  - Saturday and Sunday worship services
  - Youth Services

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- Tech refresh for media equipments in the Sanctuary, including: Digital Audio Mixer, Speakers, Display Projectors, and Projector Screen.
- Training for members to operate the new equipment and improve current operations.

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Upgrading existing media equipment
- New opportunities to serve in Media

## PRAY WITH US

- that the Lord will raise up church members to serve here
- for smooth transitions to new equipment and processes



# MEN



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- Regular, Consistent, Loving: Prayer and Praise
- Know The Flock: Connecting the Unconnected
- Local Mission & Evangelism: The Helping Hand
- Acts 2:42-45 meeting at homes, as brothers, couples
- Discipleship & Equipping: Band of Brothers
- Evangelism & Fellowship: Sports, Baking
- Evangelism & Discipleship: Studies Wed, Thur, Sat
- Fathering: Raising a Modern Day Knight
- Collaboration with other ministries:
  - Youth Support
  - Young Adults Connection
  - Women's Ministry Ayu project
  - Men/Women: Freedom in Christ Marriage Retreat
  - Evangelism@Work: Work As Worship

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- IBC men coming together to do God's work
- Men to step forward to lead in all areas
- Pre-believers to accept Jesus Christ as Savior
- Strengthening the faith and family foundation
- Celebrating Life Changes with Prayer & Anointing

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES:

- More collaboration with: Women, Young Adults, Youth & Children
- Support Men in: Career Marriage & Family

## PRAY WITH US:

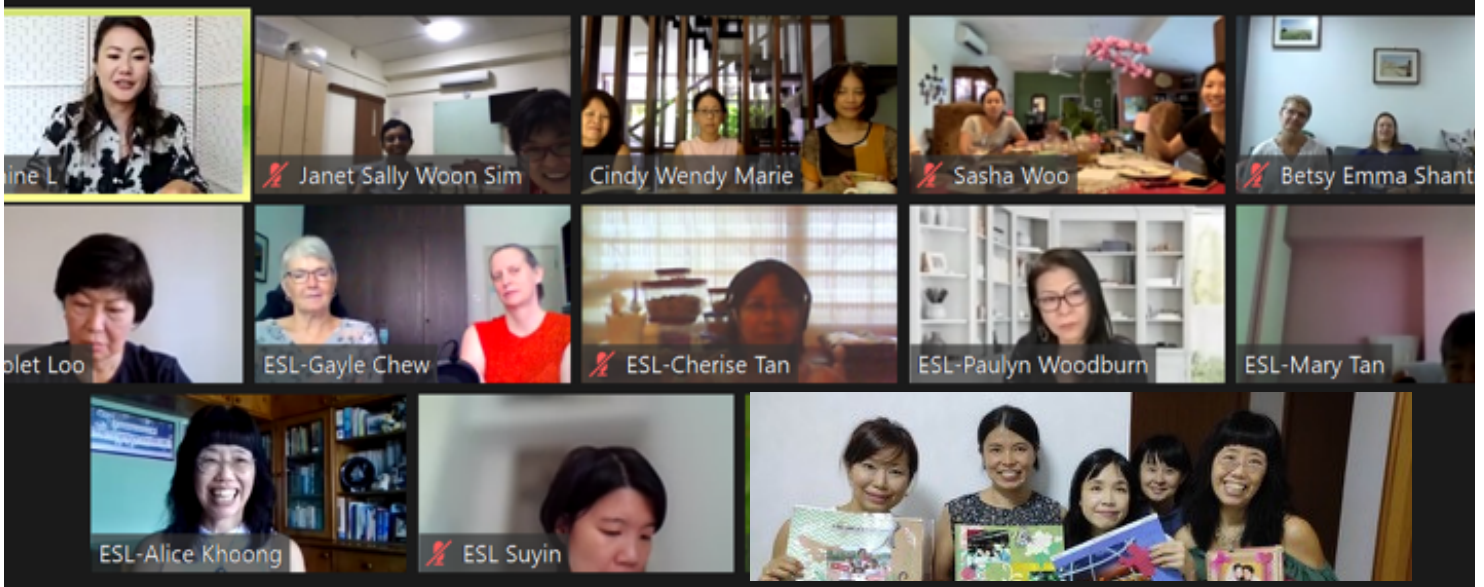
- For God's wisdom on our leaders: Keith, Sim, Freddy, Richard, Andrew, Jacques, Koh, Oniel, Sam, Kwang Meng, Yo-Hahn, Caleb, Phil
- To see needs of our brothers
- To make us "Fishers of Men"
- To Pray, be Patient and Praise

CONNECT WITH US! EMAIL KEITH CARTER AT [MEN@IBCS.ORG](mailto:men@ibcs.org).





# WOMEN



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- Opportunities to connect in-person, albeit in smaller groups, during our virtual/in-home facilitators' training
- 95 ladies (leaders and members) who've consistently joined our Bible studies; some joined us from overseas!
- The salvation of two ESL students; we had a total of 230 students, and 42 volunteers who faithfully served in the virtual classes
- The blessing of continuing to partner with the AYU Sewing Project, which enables Indonesian mothers to rise above poverty from the safety of their own home
- The "Refresh" virtual event via Zoom, hosted by Stephanie McDermott from Moms in Prayer International
- Regular prayer meetings, where women can continue to pray with and for each other

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- Transitioning from virtual to physical programs and activities, as the SMMs allow
- New volunteers to serve in various needs and leadership roles
- Women's Retreat planned for the first quarter
- Possible Prayer Retreat (*Awakening*) by Moms in Prayer / Wives in Touch
- Church-wide projects in collaboration with other ministries

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Women's Retreat
- Awakening: A Prayer Retreat for Women
- IBC Family Day – a church-wide event

## PRAY WITH US

- for more ladies to take part in Bible studies and to step up and serve in the various areas
- for God to raise up more women leaders
- as we get ready to resume physical meetings and activities once safety measures ease





# WORSHIP ARTS



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- The addition of new lay leaders to lead the worship teams
- The ongoing commitment of the worship team members to lead worship each week
- Two jam sessions with the worship team members to facilitate growth and unity for the glory of God
- Handbell and String ensembles meeting again

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- To continue leading the church in worship that points people towards God with discernment and encouragement from His word through song, prayer and scripture reading
- To progressively start up various ensembles again to lead in worship throughout the year
- To empower and equip the worship teams and ensembles to lead in spirit and truth through training, coaching, and mentorships
- To start up Churchwide Worship and Prayer Nights in conjunction with the Care Ministry
- To bring new people in to serve in the worship teams and various ensembles

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

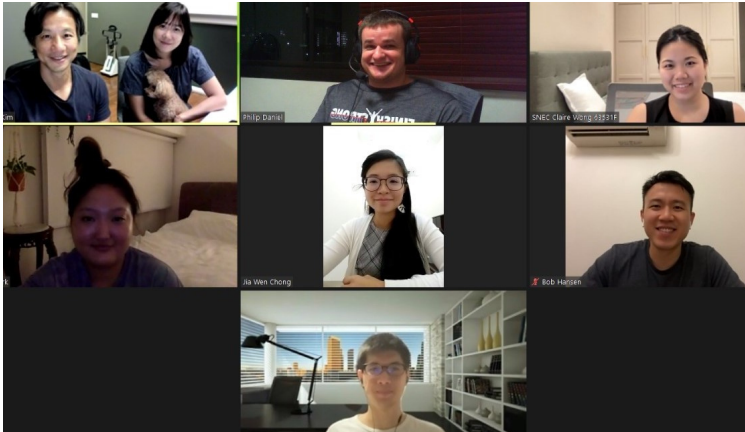
- Churchwide Worship and Prayer Nights
- Progressively start up various ensembles again

## PRAY WITH US

- As we create and facilitate environments where people feel free to worship whether on-site or online
- That God would call a new Worship Leader to IBC



# YOUNG ADULTS



## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- the many groups who actively meet every week: Tiny Adults, UNItE, Kingdom Chicks, Clementi Group, Eden Group, and Sheepfold CG
- the On-site Fellowship in March which gathered 38 Young Adults.
- Newcomers who reached out and have been connected with our groups
- YA Leaders and facilitators who sacrificially serve in this ministry
- the growth in the Tiny Adults who are now meeting in two separate groups to accommodate more newcomers

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- To open more YA Connection Groups
- To organize integrated fellowships for all nationalities and backgrounds
- To provide mentoring and discipleship in collaboration with other ministries
- To give opportunities to be involved in local and foreign missions
- To provide talks for Young Adult parents and journey with them on parenting
- To serve together in worship, discipleship, missions, youth, children, and evangelism

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- More involvement in church ministries
- Local mission involvement

## PRAY WITH US

- for those who are greatly affected by COVID.
- for older members to minister to our Young Adults
- for God's wisdom lead the next generation





## THIS YEAR, WE THANK GOD FOR

- The establishment of our **Youth Executive Committee** comprising of **Jinan, Caleb, Janziel, Alice and Tessa** who have helped us in planning and executing our youth initiatives.
- **Youth mentorship**: A rising number of youths have been incepted into mentoring relationships to further their spiritual development.
- **Parent volunteers**: Their involvement has helped facilitate the smooth running of our ministry programs.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 GOALS

- Foster connections through **Connection Week**: 1st Saturday of every month will be dedicated to helping youths connect and interact. To encourage evangelism, youths will be urged to invite their friends to join.
- **Grooming of youth facilitators**: Raising up youth facilitators who will be integral in the lives of the youths through accountability, lifestyle mentoring and discussion of youth messages.
- **Youths for Youths**: Raising up youth leaders by allowing them to take on planning/organizational roles to build leadership skills and cultivate a sense of belonging.

## NEW UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Interest groups: where youths of similar interests can mingle together

## PRAY WITH US

- for the Lord of the Harvest to bring forth volunteers to this field that is now white for harvest!



**Thank you for journeying with us  
from the midst of COVID  
to God's Beyond!**



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