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Marriage in a Time of Covid



"You can make plans, but ultimately, everything works in God's timing."

For doctors Melvyn Leong and Rebecca Tan, both 32, Covid-19 had put a slight kink in their plans to get married, but in the end "everything worked out".

"We were engaged in 2018. Melvyn had proposed after a hike up Mount Cook when we were travelling in New Zealand. "We had originally planned to be married at the end of last year (2020), but looking at how things were going with the pandemic, we decided to postpone it to February this year," Rebecca said in an online interview.

Both Melvyn and Rebecca have also been front-liners in the









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pandemic, and have had a very hectic year.

The couple had hoped they could be married on 12 Feb 2021, a palindrome date, but it was not meant to be. With the Movement Control Order (MCO) 2.0 in place in February, their wedding had to be postponed yet again.

Melvyn said that their wedding date was an impromptu decision.

"During the lockdown, JPN (Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara/ National Registration Department) did not accept any marriage registrations, so nobody could get married.

"When they reopened, we decided to go for it. We discussed it on a Tuesday, and decided to be married that Saturday," he explained.

On 13 March, they finally tied the knot in FBC.

"In the end, it worked out for us, actually. We had always wanted a small and simple wedding. For our registration of marriage (ROM), we had eight people there - my parents, Rebecca's parents, Rebecca's brother and wife, and our pastor.

"All the people who mattered were there, that was all that was important to us. We just had to work around the circumstances," Melvyn said.

Rebecca added that both their parents also had very small weddings - Melvyn's parents were married at a mass wedding with eight friends in attendance, while her parents eloped and got married in Hawaii, with two friends as witnesses.



"We are planning to have a lunch reception as well, but I think we will wait until the situation is a lot safer. Let's not start our own cluster," Melvyn said with a chuckle.

For other couples who are planning to be married during the pandemic, Melvyn and Rebecca have this advice:

"You can plan, but wait on God's time, and make the best of your circumstances. Be a bit patient, be flexible... there's really no point rushing. You don't get superpowers the day after you get married.

"If the relationship is strong enough, it can weather through anything."



Planning to get married?

You can register to conduct ROM and your wedding ceremony at FBC! Please call the Church Office at 03-56212623 to find out more.



Our Sunday School Baby Zoomers



By Sheila Teh Sheila is in-charge of the admin/ editorial for FBC's Sunday School Ministry.

World War II spawned a generation of Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, in a post-war spike in birth rate. Today, we are in the midst of a war with a spike in Covid-19 cases. But instead of fleeing from the "war zones", we have retreated into the "foxholes" of our homes, with the "stay home, stay safe" siren call bombarding our senses.

With the Covid-19 restrictions in place, our homes have now turned into virtual offices and Sunday School (SS) classes. We are now seeing a generation of *SS Baby Zoomers* who are well-versed with terms like ZOOM ID, Passcode, Waiting Room, Breakout Room, and other tech lingo.

The upside of virtual classes is that parents are able to participate fully in the spiritual formation of their children. By learning together, Zoom lessons provide parents with the opportunity to journey along in the faith with their children.

As wonderful and cool as Zoom is, it can by no means be a replacement for SS physical class when it comes to understanding in-depth lesson concepts, and face-to-face interactions with the teacher and other students.



For SS teachers, Zoom lessons require more time-consuming preparations in visual presentation, which is more effective and engaging than verbal communication on a screen.

It is also hard to get a captive audience in a Zoom class. Teachers have no idea what the children are doing, especially if their video is turned off; there could be Netflix playing on another screen or other distractions in the background. Technical and internet glitches disrupt lessons further.

The older children who are more familiar with online platforms have adapted easily to Zoom, but the 3 and 4-year-olds have a shorter attention span, and are more likely to wriggle than sit and focus on the screen for more than 30 minutes. Pre-school teachers have to pitch language and content at the level that these younger children can relate to.

Despite these challenges, we have about 100 to 120 students (Nursery to Standard 6) for both Gospel Kids (1st service) and Kingdom Kids (2nd service) logging in each week. This is just slightly less than the average attendance of about 140 students when we had physical classes.

Some of our students have expressed their longing for physical classes to resume. They miss the Group Praise and Worship session, the fellowship, and the fun of



moving about in physical games. Some even miss the car rides to church!

Until SS physical classes are allowed to resume again, it is important to ensure our students stay connected with their church friends and teachers, even if it is via a computer screen.

At the end of the day, what will not change is our SS Vision and Mission, which is to strengthen God's Word in our *Baby Zoomers*, our future disciples who will go out and *Unleash the Gospel* to another generation.

Find out how to pray for our Sunday School Ministry in the Prayer Spotlight section on Page 6



FBC NEEDS YOU

Are You Wondering How You Can Serve God In Church? **Find Your Opportunity Here:**



2. AV Team

the FBC family.

We are looking for sound engineers. You will be involved in mixing audio for recorded content to help make Sunday services happen!



3. Sunday School

We are looking for teachers. (Men, especially!) You will be involved in facilitating Sunday School classes and building relationships with the children of FBC.



5. When The Word Comes Alive

We are looking for moderators. You will be involved in facilitating lively and enriching discussion sessions about Christian living. (Questions will be provided.)



CLICK to register or call the church office to sign up today!

03-5621 2623

| Pulpit Program

April 18, 2021

The Christian & Relationships (Matthew 5:27-32; Matthew 19:1-11)



PREACHERDr Peter Ng

April 25, 2021

Integrity & Transforming Love (Matthew 5:33-48)



PREACHER Alex Tan

May 2, 2021

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-15)



PREACHERJohn Lee

May 9, 2021

Struggling with Doubt in Church

(Mark 9:14-29)

PREACHERArnold Lim

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

|ZOOM|

Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |

Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs | ZOOM | Sundays



Call office to know more: 03-5621 2623



- 1. Pray for the team of teachers who have been faithfully serving in Sunday School (SS) Ministry. Give thanks for their dedication to serve every week.
- 2. Pray for more people to serve as teachers/ helpers in SS. Pray for the need for more men teachers to mentor pre-teen boys before they move on to Youth.

- 3. Pray that the online training sessions organized by the SS Ministry will better equip SS teachers to ensure that lessons are Christ-centered, interactive, and interesting for the children.
- **4.** Pray for parents to partner SS teachers in the spiritual development of their children by reviewing the Bible lessons taught each week and spending time in prayer together.
- **5.** Pray for the children's enthusiasm and willingness to continue attending and inviting their friends to join the weekly Zoom SS class.

| Upcoming Events



The Lotus & The Cross With I'Ching Thomas

8 May (Saturday) 2:00pm to 3:30pm Zoom ID:

955 9652 6733Password : **FBCMission**



Is There More to Life Than This?

22 July to 7 October 2021 (Every Thursday) 8:00pm to 9:30pm

CLICK HERE to register



Insights For The Persevering Disciple Study on The Book of Revelation

Gamma 16 has ended View past lessons here:

Link: https://fbc.com.my/gamma

Stay tuned for more information



Daily Prayer Meeting Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm Zoom ID: 929 735 694 Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting

24 April (Saturday) 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Zoom ID: **869 8003 5137** Password: **pray**

More Information on Upcoming Events