

# FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Article:

Redeeming the Time  
Because the Days Are Evil 01 - 02

Life Group Splash:  
H2O LG 03 - 04

Pulpit Program 05

Prayer Spotlight :  
FBC Leaders 05

Upcoming Events 05

# REDEEMING THE TIME

## Because the Days Are Evil



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Most of us are familiar with the idiom "Time and tide wait for no man". It describes the incessant passage of time, measured by the incremental ticking of the clock. Time is a precious commodity that we can neither store nor turn back once it is past. Each of us are allotted the same amount each day. A lot of efforts are being made by man to prolong life. Yet in reality, only God knows how long we would live, for the Bible tells us in Job 14:5 that

"A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed." The question is: How should we live our lives or spend the time that God has given to us?

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians in Chapter 5:16, exhorted them to "redeem the time because the days are evil" (King James Version). To redeem something means to buy it back or to regain possession of it.

## NEW?

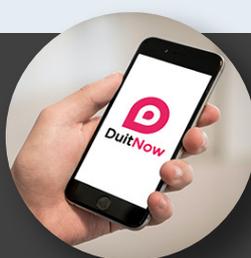
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**+6011 5788 4805**



**In reality, we cannot buy back time! In fact, the Greek word translated as "time" here is actually "Kairos", which means opportunities rather than "Chronos" from which we get the word "chronology" or "time". In the New International Version translation, the same verse reads, "making the most of every opportunity". Every opportunity to do what? This is found in the preceding verse, "to live, not as unwise but wise".**

An illustration may be helpful here. Suppose someone is in need of cash and decided to use something precious as collateral to borrow money in a pawn shop. It could be an heirloom or a wedding ring or some other object of worth. The exchange is meant to be temporary with every intention of redeeming the object at a later time by repaying the money with interest. In such a transaction, there's typically a window of opportunity for the redemption to take place. When that window closes, the opportunity is gone forever and the precious object may never be recovered, leading to a sense of great loss and regret! How many times have we told ourselves, "If only I could turn back time, I would...?"

In reality, we cannot buy back time! In fact, the Greek word translated as "time" here is actually "Kairos", which means opportunities rather than "Chronos" from which we get the word "chronology" or "time". In the New International Version translation, the same verse reads, "making the most of every opportunity". Every opportunity to do what? This is found in the preceding verse, "to live, not as unwise but wise". In other words, we are to seize every opportunity to live wisely, to do what is right by God and for the good of others. Redeeming the time is to live a life in a way that matters to God. By contrast, we are NOT to live foolishly or in a frivolous way by squandering our time and opportunities away, as many in the world do in the pursuit of selfish gains and pleasures.

Why is Paul's exhortation important or relevant? The same verse tells us it's because the days are evil. Paul was writing from a prison in Rome and nearing the end of his life. He had no idea when his life would come to an end and so he warned the Ephesian Christians to respond to every opportunity to do God's will before it's taken away forever.

As it was in Paul's days, these are evil days. Just last month, the world once again re-lived, through a series of documentaries on television, the dramatic events of September 11 that happened twenty years ago. That day was indelibly forged into everybody's minds when terrorists hijacked two planes and flew them into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City, decimating the buildings and killing thousands.

Cast your mind back to 1 January 2020. When you woke up that morning to the New Year, did you ever imagine that by March you would be in a complete lockdown in the face of a global pandemic which is still with us today? Some of us may know or have someone close who had suddenly lost their lives to the virus. We live in a fallen, sinful and broken world. Life is uncertain! None of us know how long we still have on this earth. As James puts it, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14)

Jesus embraced the value of redeeming the time: "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4). Jesus was single-minded in carrying out the work of His Father. Kingdom work was never far from His mind. Now, this is not to say that there's no place for rest and recreation which can be beneficial and even essential. But too often, we allow ourselves to be distracted by a myriad of activities that are not conducive to personal spiritual formation or to the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

Seeing that we live in perilous times where the prevailing culture is to gravitate towards a life of ease and comfort and worldly ambition, let us challenge ourselves by asking "How are we prioritizing our time?" Are we wisely investing our time and energies in what would matter for eternity or are we drifting into complacency, content with laying up treasures here on earth? May God help us all to redeem our time because the days are evil! 🙏



**By Leong Yew Lum**

*Yew Lum is an elder and the Chairman of FBC.*

## Life Group Splash Featuring

# H2O LG

### Tell us about the history of H2O.

H2O was formed in 2011. We were the first young adults Life Group in FBC! We have since gone through many phases of changes in leadership and membership. The name 'H2O' is the brainchild of Algene, who was one of the founders of this LG. It is the abbreviation for "His 2 Own".

### Who is H2O today?

We are mostly young working adults around the ages of 20-35. Our LG members are mostly singles, with a young family and two couples who will be getting married soon. In total, there are about 12 of us. As a group, we share minimal common interests, from music preferences to hobbies to lifestyles. Many would think we are an odd combination of average joes, logical folks, otakus, and sporty people. Yet, we do get along as we have learned to respect and appreciate each other's individuality.

We used to meet at our Life Group leader's place at SS1. However, we now meet online on Saturday nights on a bi-weekly basis.

### Describe H2O in 3 words.

Misfits coming together!

### Share how H2O has been making a difference as a Life Group.

We used to have a few members of our LG from the African continent who were studying here. We had Brenda from Rwanda, David from Congo, and Abraham from Senegal. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of their journey in Christ while they were here in Malaysia.

As an LG, we helped to prepare the backdrop for VBS two years in a row, and this effort drew us closer to one another. Even though we worked behind-the-scenes and not many knew of our contributions, it was our joy to be a part of VBS- which is a wonderful event for kids- and serve the church.

H2O, alongside other LGs, was also part of the Talk2Us initiative. We supported a family from the Tamil congregation. We took part in grocery runs, reached out to connect with the family, and supported them where we could.





Another way our LG is trying to make a difference is by journeying with one another. One of our LG members was a non-believer when we first knew her. The leaders of our church led her to Christ and we came alongside her as an LG to journey with her. It has been such a blessing and joy to see her grow in the Lord. Today, she is an active member of H2O and serves with various ministries within our larger FBC community. Praise God!

### **What are some H2O events and highlights?**

Board games night, watching movies together, Captain's Ball, backdrop painting for VBS in 2018 and 2019, outings such as Bon Odori, makan sessions, and sharing our testimonies about how God is working in our lives.

### **How has being part of a Life Group impacted members' lives?**

Rebecca: As a lukewarm backbencher and a serial ghost in church, and due to personal commitments, socializing with fellow brothers and sisters in church was never my key intention during my first 5 years at FBC. Then, I realized that growing up in a Buddhist family and working in a highly secular corporate culture have deprived me of opportunities to relate my faith and Christian experiences with others. There were only 3 persons in my social circle with whom I could do so openly.

H2O has been a good community where I can be at ease with sharing all the uncanny coincidences I have experienced, as well as the frustrations of



adulting and the burning questions I have about the Bible without prejudice and judgment. It is indeed satisfying and wholesome to be able to share with others about how God works mysteriously in my life through good times and tough times. Joining an LG has definitely affirmed my faith in Christ through fellowship and Bible study. Being part of an LG also satisfies my desire to share my testimony and encourage fellow brothers and sisters in their walk with God.

### **Describe H2O using a movie.**

Guardians of the Galaxy! This is because our LG is a place where people of diverse interests, especially those who may have found difficulty fitting in elsewhere, can come together in Christ.

### **What would H2O say to someone who's on the fence about joining a Life Group?**

Rebecca: If you have ever felt hindered talking about God and your experience with Him in your social circle, perhaps it is time to join an LG and grow your faith in Him with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. 🌟

[Join A Life Group Today!](#)

## | Pulpit Program

October 17, 2021  
**When God Speaks**  
(1 Kings 22:1-39)



**PREACHER**  
Dr. Hew Fen Lee

October 24, 2021  
**Parable of the Sower**  
(Matthew 13:1-23)



**PREACHER**  
Leong Yew Lum

October 31, 2021  
**The Church Within the Veil**  
(Exodus 26:3-37, Matthew 27:50-53)



**PREACHER**  
Arnold Lim

November 7, 2021  
**Parable of the Weeds**  
(Matthew 13:24-43)



**PREACHER**  
Alex Tan

## | 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**

## PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

FBC Leaders



1. Pray that FBC leaders will be given wisdom and discernment to follow the path that God sets forth. Pray that they will be instructed by God on how to carry out their duties in a godly manner, with wisdom and confidence. (1 Kings 3:7-9)
2. Pray for FBC leaders to be taken deeper in their walk with God, and that they will be leaders who pray and wait upon the Lord in the darkest times. Pray that they will lead others into this same trust through the examples of their lives. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. Pray that FBC leaders will practise balance between their families and ministries in ways that please and honour God. Pray for their families to grow in love and unity as they pursue the Lord together. (Psalm 128:3-4)
4. Pray that God will give FBC worshippers creativity to encourage our leaders in prayer, words and deeds. Pray that our FBC leaders and congregation will be united in love, friendship and respect. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
5. Pray that FBC leaders will be vigilant and on guard against temptations. Pray that they will be humble and look to God for help. Pray that they will form godly friendships that will sharpen and help them grow. (Luke 22:39-40)

## | Upcoming Events



### VBS Registration Is Open

Our very first Online VBS is happening on Zoom from 13 to 17 December 2021!

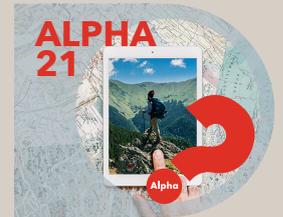
For children aged 4 to 12 years.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.  
For enquiries, please email [vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com](mailto:vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com)



### Romans From Wretchedness To Righteousness Every Wednesday

For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



### Is There More to Life Than This? Alpha 21 will begin on 6 January 2022.

Every Thursday 8:00pm  
[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the next Alpha program.



### Daily Prayer Meeting

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



### Monthly Prayer Meeting

30 October 2021 (Saturday)  
2:00pm to 3:30pm  
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137  
Password: pray

[More Information on Upcoming Events](#)