



DEVELOP | EMPOWER | RELEASE

The Cathedral Young Adults' Ministry is created for adults in their 20s and early 30s, who are looking for a place to be supported and connected to their peers. Our Young Adult Ministry celebrates spiritual growth alongside fellowship and service, and Life Groups have been created for those of us in this rapidly transitioning stage of life.

#### Our Missions

1. Great Commission
2. Great Commandment

#### Our Culture of Growth

1. Faith to faith
2. Truth to truth
3. Grace to grace
4. Love to love

#### Our Guiding Principles

1. Christ-centered, Word-based, Spirit-empowered
2. Focus on people
3. Focus on mission
4. A vehicle to transform the world

#### Central Ministry Focus

1. Grow (develop)
2. Glow (empower)
3. Go (release)

# a tale of 4 friends

How four acquaintances found unexpected friendships on separate missions.



In YA...  
we do faith  
we do grace  
we do truth  
we do second chance  
we do love  
we do real  
we do mistakes  
we do sorry  
we do family  
we do hugs



As four individuals journeyed through mission work, they discovered that building relationships, of any kind, takes time and effort. Their walk with God and each other hadn't been easy but was well worth the effort because lives were changed.



Mission work isn't just about going overseas and doing voluntary work. As we discovered, mission work is about submitting to God and learning to become disciples. Our initial goal as friends was to grow in our relationship with Christ, and it may seem an insignificant starting point, but God revealed how He used small beginnings to stretch and mould us as well as to impact those around us.

At first, building relationships was difficult; after all, we were previously unknown to each other. Since we were keen on growing together, we arranged to meet outside of Young Adults (YA). However, after about a year of fellowship together, Hannah left for Bangkok in 2013. Vanessa moved in 2014 to Chiang Mai, Samantha started her journey in 2015 and Belinda in late 2015.

Being away from each other meant that we had to make efforts to keep connected with what God was doing and teaching us, and how we would continue to care for each other in prayer. Like any other relationships, we had to make time and effort to call, text and pray, as we share our stories.

Our motivation was friendship, and gradually, we began to see how God was using our individual experiences to sharpen and care for each other. Being alone helped us treasure our friendship. We also discovered that building each other up doesn't come naturally. However, when our hearts are submitted to God, He filled us with what we need, and instead of competing, we learned how to celebrate and cheer for each other.

### **What were the motivations of embarking on missions?**

*Samantha Ooi: I was already going to leave my job - it was just a question of what to do next. I had a vague sense of wanting to know Him more, to experience Him more. So, I asked, and the door opened.*

*Vanessa Kong: I was keen to go, but there were many doubts and worries. Over the year, God took care of the concerns and spoke to me so clearly that I felt it would be disobedience on my part if I continued to resist His call.*

*Hannah Chee: I had just quit my job and was quite certain the corporate world wasn't for me, though I had wanted 'the life', i.e. career, money, marriage, house, kids (in that order too!). I had always been open to missions, and I thought that would help me know God better, so I said yes.*

*Belinda Lim: I believe that God has called me to His kingdom's work, so when there was an opportunity to serve, I was ready to go. Seeing other YA friends serve God unreservedly was a great inspiration as well.*

### **What was hard to give up?**

*SO: Comforts of home and being around friends and family.*

*VK: I realised that I had so much pride in my independence during my old self. I hardly pray unless I was in a very dire situation. Being in Chiang Mai made me cling on desperately to God because He is the only constant in the midst of unfamiliarity.*

*HC: The comfort of being 'home' and the prospect of 'settling down', and the freedom, both temporal and financial, to travel.*

*BL: My desire for a life partner. I struggle very much to submit that to God.*

### **What was challenging for you while you were on missions?**

*SO: One of the most challenging things was becoming more self-aware. God showed me through different people and through unfamiliar situations, things about myself that needed changing. I had no choice but to bury my pride and accept instructions.*

*VK: It was challenging to deal with not being in control. I knew nothing about the language, the environment, the culture, the people. It's never about how much I can withstand or do. It is a partnership with God where His grace and power shines through my weaknesses. It was then that I understood the meaning of "my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".*



*HC: I used to be pretty independent and self-reliant, so living and working in the community has challenged me to be more others-focused. In relating with others, God was showing me areas of myself that needed changing and growing.*

*BL: The hardest thing for me was to stay close to Jesus. I tried to find my identity in doing many 'good' things, proving myself, comparing with others and so on. But I ended up empty and losing sight of the most important aspect, which is to be with Jesus. That was the biggest lesson.*

### **Share one memorable event during your time on the field.**

*VK: The most significant was witnessing how God's love transformed so many of the children. These kids from the Chiang Mai neighbourhood were mostly from broken families, and they had serious behavioural issues. It had seemed impossible that they would change, but there were little miracles that unfolded. They were so eager to learn about God and to pray to Him. Soon, their hangouts switched from gangs to church.*

*HC: On one of the sessions, we shared about God calling Samuel at night, and one of the older boys, aged 11, wrote his name instead of Samuel's on his craft: "Speak Lord, Tong is listening." On another occasion, instead of drawing Christmas decorations on the card, he drew Jesus on the cross, added light through the clouds, and a man kneeling before the cross. God was very real to these kids.*

*BL: One night, as we were chatting with a few young believers and volunteers, we realised that God had brought each of us strangers at Lad Krabang in His perfect timing and in unexpected ways. It was a time of shared gratitude and marvelling at the goodness and wisdom of God. The young believers also expressed their desire to share about God through the skills that God has given them, whether in the arts, business or translation.*



### **What have you learnt about God in that time?**

*SO: I've discovered how much God loves his people. His intention is to restore them to Himself. I don't have to be stressed about "succeeding" at the work because God loves the people to whom I was ministering, and He is the one who draws them to Him.*

*VK: I have known the gospel since I was young, but it is only now that I see the intensity of God's love. He loves His people so much that He sent Jesus to die for our sins.*

*HC: God's way is done with humility. I've learnt about my personal convictions about the gospel, and what it means for me to believe, receive and repent. And I'm glad the journey wasn't a personal one, but one taken with friends.*

*BL: I learnt that true friends are priceless gifts from Him. Irreplaceable!*