



**CAN HE BE SHE?**

Gender dysphoria recently came under public scrutiny when a transgender male-to-female 18-year old student alleged in a website that the Ministry of Education (MOE) blocked his hormone treatment as well as 'misgendering' him. Transgender individuals identify with a gender that does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender dysphoria refers to the psychological distress that results from this mismatch between one's sense of self and body.

Gatekeepers Singapore organized a webinar recently to help equip the body of Christ in reaching out to those who are struggling with homosexuality. The speakers, Ps Ian Toh of 3:16 and a founder of TrueLove.is and lawyer, Darius Lee shared their biblical views on homosexuality and how to respond pastorally towards them.

Those who are struggling with gender dysphoria generally have problem with their own identity. They are looking for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman:

*Genesis 1:27-28 "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds.'" The practice of homosexuality is a sin and violates God's commandments.*

Yet according to a recent IPS Survey, almost 1 in 4 young Christians in Singapore age 18-35 say that homosexual sex is acceptable.

Today, there are Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction and others who take on alternate world views to identity, sexuality and integrity. We also

*Welcome!*

*During this unusual time when we cannot all come together for worship, we can still be part of a worshipping community. We invite you to join us at our live worship service by pre-registration at the church's website <https://www.cplink.org.sg/>. You may join our live-streaming services online*

Worship Time	
English Services	10.30am
Chinese Service	9.00am
Sri Lankan Service	2.00pm

*via our website. We hope you can also connect with our Life Groups. Please contact one of our Pastoral Staff if you like to join a Life Group. We are still meeting and connecting through various digital platforms.*

*We want to grow in Christlikeness through devotion and delight in God, nurturing devotion and delight in God, nurturing relationships and intentionally multiplying disciplemakers.*

pushing of the pro-LGBTQ agencies in schools and in the marketplace.

#### **4 ways to relate to a friend with a different view on homosexuality by TrueLove.is :**

##### **1. A sincere and humble attitude**

This is a prerequisite to any discussion that you might have about your opposing views. Your friend may be experiencing same-sex attraction, and he or she may have tried to “change” his or her same-sex desires in the past, but those attractions persisted. Or your friend may be heterosexual and he or she witnessed homophobia and discrimination happening. Extend understanding towards their circumstances.

##### **2. Willingly listen to their point of view**

Ask questions in a calm and gentle manner. Avoid being hostile and defensive, or aggressively arguing your beliefs. Your role or responsibility towards them is not to change their mind or ways. Don’t “win” the argument at the expense of losing the relationship. It is possible to maintain your stand against homosexuality without losing a “pro-gay” or gay/ lesbian friend.

##### **3. Acknowledge that neither party has all the answers**

Prepare to respond to revisionist interpretation of key bible verses that refer to homosexuality. Stay flexible when discussing theories (e.g., biological basis of homosexuality or ability to change sexual orientation), yet firm when discussing your convictions. Be aware of the complex issues within the discussion.

##### **4. Offer genuine friendship**

Instead of focusing your energies on arguing that they are morally or Ideologically wrong, show them love by demonstrating acceptance and grace. They may expect you to dismiss or betray them at some point because of your differing stand. Show them unwavering love in such a way that even when you disagree with them on certain issues, they are still assured of your love toward them.

The Bible reminds us that the Lord has entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to us so that we can reach out to them in a loving way. Let us not be too quick to judge but ready to embrace them and share the truth of God’s Word with them. All people, regardless of their story, are deeply and unconditionally loved by God, each created with profound dignity and worth, not one more than another. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Our sin demands our repentance and needs forgiveness, and we can find both in God’s love and grace.

*~ ~ Ps Christina Ong ~ ~*

# To Vaccinate or not to Vaccinate?

## COVID-19 National Vaccination

Singapore injected its first batch of healthcare workers with the COVID-19 vaccine as 2020 drew to a close. Gradually, in the coming weeks and days, COVID-19 vaccines will be progressively rolled out – to cover the majority of the population in phases, starting with the elderly and so forth. This is to achieve “herd immunity” as strongly advised by our government, which will help mitigate the pandemic situation, but may not necessarily eliminate it as we all know. However, safety measures and precautions, wearing of masks, including practice of social distancing are still to be ever mindful of.

To be sure, some of us may have mixed reactions to this vaccination call. Perhaps, you yourself may be struggling over the decision as well, for whatever reasons. So how do we as God’s people decide on such matters and on what basis?

Plagues and pandemic are not new. We can learn from the Reformer, **Martin Luther**, on how he responded during a deadly plague of his time. What he wrote can still resonate with us even today. In fact, his words sounded very much like an advisory coming from Ministry of Culture, community and Youth (MCCY).

*“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.”*

What is important about Luther’s insightful and wise advice is that it is grounded, rooted in the Word of God.

### **The First lesson is Humble Trust in God’s protection. (Proverbs 3: 5-6)**

This speaks for those who may subtly place their total trust in the “vaccination”, and forget that our lives are ultimately in God’s hand This deep trust comes out in the last line, “If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me ...” We need to look beyond the vaccine, even beyond scientists and politicians, to God the Giver and Sustainer of life for protection (Psalm 91:14-15).

### **The Second lesson is about loving our Neighbours as ourselves. (Matthew 22:38-39)**

We are to observe all responsible safe measurements put in place so that we will not do anything that would endanger, directly or indirectly, the health and life of people around us. This is our loving responsibility. Taking the vaccination is one way we protect and safeguard ourselves and our neighbours as well..

### **The Third lesson is Submission to ruling Authorities. (Romans 13:1-5)**

Another helpful principle.. This should guide us in our decision, heeding the exhortation to submit ourselves to the ruling authorities, especially when we believe they have governed justly and act in our best interests.

You will invariably find, in conversations with different people, various concerns raised about the frenetic race to develop COVID-19 vaccines and its seemingly fast-tracked development which may have unintended side effects. How do we know a vaccine is safe?

It is paramount importance for each one of us to find out the accuracy in trusting and having confidence as to whether these vaccine shots meet necessary scientific, regulatory rigour despite its speedy development and why such outcome is possible, without the inherent dangers of cutting corners and compromising in validating production process of such vaccines, trials and testing etc. The reason why most vaccines take many years to develop is due to the high cost involved. With the Covid-19 crisis and emergency, countries and companies are willing to pour in more resources and funds so as to expedite the process for life to return to normal as much as possible, economies and businesses to get back on their feet as more people need to become immune to the virus. However, despite the genuine need for urgency, the old saying applies: measure twice, cut once.

Nonetheless, at the end of the day, there will be some who choose not to be vaccinated for whatever reasons - valid or otherwise. But we have to respect their decision ultimately and without judgement. So, whatever our decision, let's continue to put our trust in God, Our Protector and Sustainer, persevere in prayer for one another in these crucial times, and not forgetting our Government in keeping up with the good work and administration of watching and keeping and the whole pandemic situation under reasonable control, thus far.

***Here are some useful and pertinent questions which we can reflect as we consider our decision about the whole vaccination issue:***

- Do we see the vaccination as God's gracious provision?
- Do we take the vaccination as an act of faith in God?
- Is taking the vaccination an act of loving ourselves and others?
- Am I submitting to good governmental advice and its provisions?

May the Lord grant us strength and protection, supporting us through all manners of dangers and frailties of health - as we all take refuge in Him during these crucial times. To care for one another, even as He cared for each one of us so, unconditionally and intimately.

Amen.

***Rev Keith Lai***

# Chicken farms Project to Solve Malnutrition in Hera, Timor-Leste

by Ps Mui Fong, Country IC for Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste has the highest level of malnutrition among countries in the Asia-Pacific region and according to the national government, has shown inadequate levels of improvement in the years since independence was restored. Malnutrition – particularly maternal and child under-nutrition – is the single greatest contributor to premature death and disability in Timor-Leste. Child malnutrition in particular remains very high, with 46 percent stunting in children aged 0-59 months.



Recent Local News reported that the Pandemic has only worsened the malnutrition situation. It is not Covid-19 that killed the children but malnutrition.

## POULTRY MEAT, EGGS AND NUTRITION

A recently published longitudinal study provides important evidence of the impact of egg consumption as complementary food on reducing malnutrition of children under two years old. Children aged 6 to 9 months from the Cotopaxi Province in Ecuador showed improved anthropometric growth measures after consuming one egg per day as complementary food during 6 months.

Eggs also provide greater than 50% of adequate intake for critical nutrients in breastfeeding infants; may offer immune protection; are more affordable than other animal-source foods; and are relatively simple to store and prepare.

## TIMOR-LESTE IS CPC'S GOD-GIVEN MISSION FIELD

CPC adopted Timor-Leste as our mission field about 10 years ago. We have made yearly mission trips to preach the gospel to the villagers, taught English, prayed for the land, healed the sick, fed them, loved them and even started a CPC-sponsored BBGB Company in our adopted village, Hera. To see Timor-Leste transformed, we need to have in place:

1. Village Adoption
2. Spiritual Alliance
3. Holistic Advance – making disciples AND meeting the **HUMAN NEED**

So here is what has happened since Nov 2020 - some Covenantors sponsored a pilot project where Brazilian missionary, Branca, built a chicken coop at her own compound and bought several chicken. We wanted to see, record, test run the risks and success rate of raising chicken in a home. It was a discouraging start – all 8 chickens bought from Dili died due to sickness. Nevertheless, Branca received 2 more and bought 6 more. God gave wisdom to Branca to breed the remaining with roosters and since then, there has only been success in producing chicks and eggs until now. Branca's plan changed from buying local hens to raising her own healthy chicks, enough to start with 10 families in Sidara (part of Hera village) by end April.

## Proposal for Sidara Chicken Farm

### Objectives

1. To counter the malnutrition problems amongst the people of Timor-Leste
2. To enable families to be self-sustaining in terms of food and money
3. To provide nutritious food for children and adults at Arca Infantil and the Disability Centre respectively.
4. To involve children with disabilities in the farming process as a form of therapy (Centro Rehabilitasaun Liman Hamutuk)
5. To involve children from Arca Infantil and BB/GB in the farming process as a form of developing essential life skills

### Background

I started a pilot project of a chicken farm from my home in November 2020. After an initial failed start with 8 sick chicken bought from Dili, the subsequent success came with 2 roosters and 8 hens housed in a small shed that I built in my yard. These roosters and hens have spawned 24 chicks of which 14 (7 roosters and 7 hens) have now grown to their full size. I have been using these 14 full grown birds for the breeding of more chickens at my house. Alongside these chickens I am also rearing 2 red hens for the sole purpose of producing eggs as food. The success of my home project has led to the idea of starting a chicken farm in Sidara for the benefit of 10 different families as a start.

### Steps to cultivating a chicken farm at Sidara

- \* Train 3 families in the rearing of chickens at my home in Hera
- \* Use the 3 families as guides for another 7 families who are to be part of the Project
- \* Prepare the ground at Sidara by building the chicken coops needed to house the birds
- \* Once chickens have been purchased and housed, hire an overall supervisor for the project in Sidara

### Closing remarks

I believe that through this project the families will grow to be self-sustaining through the rearing and selling of chickens and eggs. The families will also learn what it means to be a community that serves each other through the sharing of the results of what they have reared and grown to the people around them at Kid's Ark and the Disability Centre.

To God be the glory.

Submitted by:  
Branca, Missionary in Hera, Timor-Leste

The mission collection for March 2021 we are collecting for **East Timor Chicken Farm**. Closing date is 14 March 2021. Please refer to the bank details below for Mission giving.

~ Target is to raise at least USD10,000 for this ~

# MISSION COLLECTION

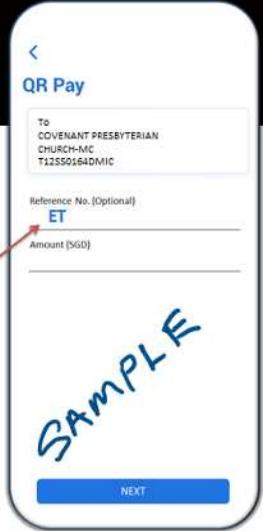
## Mar 2021 for East Timor Chicken Farm

Cheque issue to : **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-MC**  
UEN No for mission : **T12SS0164DMIC**  
Mission Bank Account: **025-905374-0**



Please indicate ONLY the Mission Collection Code as shown here:

**ET**



# GIVING

Kindly take note of the separate bank accounts for Tithe and Offering.

## TITHE



*Please key in your tithing number at the reference section. If you are unsure of or do not a tithing number, you may drop us an email at the church website. under “Request” tab and we will get back to you.*

### INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: **025-905375-8**

Cheque issue to: **Covenant Presbyterian Church - Tith**

UEN no. **T12SS0164DTTH**

## OFFERING



*Please key in only the alphabet at the reference section as follows :*

*“E” for English Service*

*“C” for Chinese Service*

*“SL” for Sri Lankan Service*

### INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: **033-016873-0**

Cheque issue to : **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

UEN no. **T12SS0164D**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

✝ **CPC Prayer Meeting (Fresh Fire) on 12 Mar (Fri) @ 8pm** via Zoom, the details as follow:  
Meeting ID : 891 4511 0163, Password: 572980



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## Pastoral Staff

Rev Keith Lai  
Rev Abel Lee  
Rev Dr Henry Wong  
Rev Christina Ong  
Ps Lai Mui Fong  
Pr Chin Yoke Fen  
Pr Lionel Neo  
Ps Susantha

## Sri Lankan Service

Rev Christina Ong / Ps Susantha

## Chinese Service

Rev Abel Lee / Pr Chin Yoke Fen

## CareWorks Community Services

Rev Dr Henry Wong

## Gladiolus Place

Michelle Tan

## Ministry Team Leaders

### *Creche*

Kong Soh Lian

### *Children*

Pr Lionel Neo

### *Youth and Young Adult (YaYA)*

Ps Michael Low  
Aruneeporn Ng, Jasmine Tan  
Audrey Wong

### *Young Working Adult & Young Married*

Rev Dr Henry Wong

### *Adults & Seniors*

Rev Keith Lai/ Ps Lai Mui Fong

### *Hospitality*

Jenny Ho

### *Worship*

Arthur Lim

### *Missions*

Ps Lai Mui Fong

### *Prayer*

Rev Dr Henry Wong

### *Freedom & Wholeness*

Alfred & Jenny Koay

### *GB / BB*

Pr Lionel Neo

### *Chinese Seniors Alpha Course*

Pr Chin Yoke Fen

### *Day Alone with the Lord*

Ps Lai Mui Fong