

True Knowledge | Faith in Christ | Godly Character

THE LIGHT

34th Edition/February/2016

GODLY *Character*



NOW FOR THIS VERY REASON ALSO, APPLYING ALL **DILIGENCE**, IN YOUR FAITH SUPPLY MORAL **EXCELLENCE**,
AND IN YOUR MORAL EXCELLENCE, **KNOWLEDGE**; AND IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE, **SELF-CONTROL**, AND IN YOUR
SELF-CONTROL, **PERSEVERANCE**, AND IN YOUR PERSEVERANCE, **GODLINESS**; AND IN YOUR GODLINESS,
BROTHERLY KINDNESS, AND IN YOUR BROTHERLY KINDNESS, **LOVE**.

THE LIGHT

Editorial Team

PUBLISHER

Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan

ADVISOR

Phillip Nash

MANAGING EDITOR

Hana Herawati

EDITORS

Maureen Cox, Elizabeth Santosa, William Jeffrey Hiendarto,
Kho Sin Lo

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Iwan Werlin

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Hariyanto, Clifford, Melissa

Address

2500 Bulevar Palem Raya, Lippo Village

Tangerang 15811, Banten

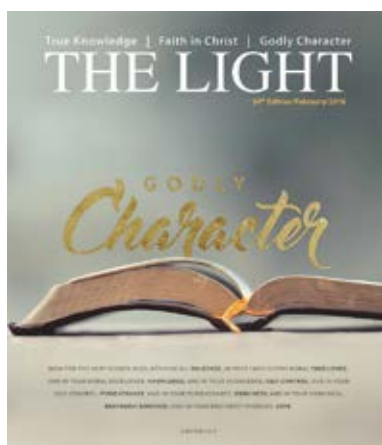
Phone: (021) 546 0233-34, Fax: (021) 546 9663

www.sph.edu

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JAAC Rugby
23 January 2016

From the Desk of Head of School

Welcome to 2016 and to another edition of *The Light*. As we leave Christmas behind and move into the new year it is easy to also leave behind the good things we may have heard or been challenged about during the Christmas celebration.

AT our School Christmas celebration in Lippo Village, Mr. Don our Senior School Academic Principal, reminded us that at Christmas we must not only look back to the birth of Jesus but also look forward to the future he has opened up for us by his coming. In this edition of the *Light*, we do of course look back at what our students, teachers, staff and parents have been doing but I hope that you also get a sense of how these things help our community to look forward to the future.

Education at SPH is not just about preparing students for academic success when they leave school but about equipping them for a life that involves far more than just academic ability. Intellectual success alone will never ensure a person lives a flourishing and fulfilling life. As we continue to think about godly character this year, we are recognising the importance of being a whole person: mind, body, spirit/soul, and how growing in all areas is important for us.

In the activities recorded in these pages, I trust you will see much more than just a re-telling of an event or experience but you will see lives being shaped in a particular direction. To have godly character is to

exhibit the character of God himself—to be loving, holy, just, purposeful, redemptive, committed, sacrificial etc. As you read these articles, look to see how the experience has contributed to shaping the people involved in these ways.

I was particularly impressed by the story of Bennett Krisno and his model aeroplane. Bennett is a lovely boy who does have a kind smile and who is always friendly towards others. It is obvious from his project that this goes far beyond just smiling at people he passes in the hallway but stems from deep within a heart of compassion. To have real compassion is so much more than just feeling sorry for others. It means taking action to do something to change peoples' circumstances. Bennett's model plane may not actually help a sick or dying person yet but it is clear his motivation is to work towards the day when he can invent something to do just that. This captures the very result we are wanting to see in our student's lives.

Another thing I hope you notice is that not all our students succeed in their activities. They have to learn to suffer loss or defeat or a failure to get placed in a competition. What is important to us is not the winning

but the lessons learnt from life forming activities. None of us can be certain we are always going to 'win' in life. We will all at some time suffer loss and failure. But we can learn to deal with those situations and grow through them to learn to be resilient, strong, determined and courageous.

I am proud of the efforts of our students and I trust you can rejoice with me in the character shaping activities that these pages reveal.

By **Phillip Nash**

Head of School SPH Lippo Village and Coordinator of Pelita Harapan Schools



Shaped through History Lesson and Competition

*"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."*

-MICHAEL CRICHTON

Simply put, history is an imperative element in our studies. It teaches us how to understand our present and what forces shaped the society we have today? It teaches us how to define our future and how we can learn from our mistakes in the past. History makes us a better, more understanding and more perceptive person, capable of creating a better world. Without understanding history, we are doomed to repeat it.

HISTORY has always been a favorite subject of mine, maybe because it's filled with outrageous yet actually true stories, or maybe because it's interesting to discover the reason why we act the way we do. There has always been something about history that has constantly gripped my attention.

This year was actually our groups second time of joining the National History Day (NHD) competition. Last year, when we were in 9th grade, our Humanities teacher, Mr Jon Steely, introduced us to the competition. It's been almost a tradition started by Mr Jon for the 9th graders in SPH to join the competition. However, last year, we were in different groups and in different classes. The topic was different and not all of us made it to the finals in America—and those who did make it into

the finals didn't place at all. Despite that, we were still satisfied with our achievements in the South East Asian leg of the competition. Interestingly enough, the decision for us tenth graders to join NHD this year stemmed from a spur of the moment idea—unexpected and unusual yes, but not one we regret making. The five of us—Fiona, Nathan, Stephanie, Vallerie, and I—banded together to make a group.

It was quite unorthodox for us 10th graders to be joining the competition (fun fact: only 9th graders have joined the competition in all of SPH history), but when we told Mr Jon, he was more than happy to support us. Being 10th graders, we weren't given the privilege to work on our projects during certain school hours made available for the 9th graders (since it was part of their curriculum and a lot of them were joining). We also had less guidance than the 9th graders and had a Personal Project to deal with at the same time. We knew it wasn't going to be easy, but because we were passionate about it and had high hopes, we pushed through with the idea.

My group ended up choosing to do an exhibit on Karl Marx. We spent hours and hours on research, planning, and even labor work. We delegated tasks—for example some would be in charge of the research and some would be in charge of the designing—to make things more manageable and efficient. We had to meet on certain days to put together a 6 feet high, 30 inch wide, and 30 inch deep rotating exhibit that would please the judges

both informatively and aesthetically. We had to condense literally multiple textbooks worth of information under 500 words. We had to print and cut pictures, text, and titles; paste them on Styrofoam; and cut them out again. We also had to compile more than 25 pages of annotations and bibliography. Most importantly we had to be meticulous and smart, because one violation of the rulebook meant an immediate disqualification and one mistake could literally cost us a chance at winning in the South East Asian finals, and especially the American finals.

Fortunately, our hard work paid off, and we were able to place first in the Senior Division, Exhibit category in the South East Asian (SEA) finals. Many other SPH students also placed either first, second, or third in the multifarious categories in the NHD SEA finals. It was a very proud moment for us SPH students.

Our journey wasn't over yet. Thanks to our win, we were allowed to enter the American finals. The American finals were apparently a hundred times more difficult and challenging than the SEA finals. It was already extremely rare for non-American to place first, second, or even third in any of the categories in the American finals of NHD, but there has actually never been an Indonesian to place at all. Though it may have seemed implausible, we refused to give up and kept our dream of winning alive.

A lot of sacrifices came with competing in America. It was very costly and time for our studies were major concerns. We were in 10th grade MYP, and we had to juggle a lot of school work in addition to this all. Thankfully, all our parents were supportive and allowed us to go and compete. If it wasn't for them, we probably wouldn't be able to go.

We had to change a lot of things in order to have a chance at winning the American finals. We studied the winner's exhibit from the previous years in order to make the quality of our exhibit better. We ended up making a new exhibit. We added new features like lights, a diorama of communism, a hall of fame of communist leaders, a newly edited animation on the Communist Manifesto, a variety of books written by Karl Marx, and many other features that we felt would upgrade the value of our exhibit. The level of the competition in America is intense and we worked our hardest to ensure that our exhibit would be on par with the level that the Americans were competing at. Mr Jon and our Grade 10 Humanities teacher, Mr Terence, also aided in critiquing our exhibit so we could improve it. We literally had to make our SEA finals exhibit ten times better for the American finals.

Since we chose to do an exhibit, we had to divide the burden and we were each in charge of bringing a segment of the exhibit to America, by plane. We also had to go earlier in order to reconstruct our exhibit in the venue and paste all the necessary visuals and text on the boards. It was so much more arduous than what I had to do last year, which was to bring a USB that contained my documentary. The set up time that we had in America was very limited. We also had a crisis right on the night before the judging when we realized that our exhibit's width exceeded the size limits (our exhibit was a rotating one and had smaller width dimension restrictions). After a

moment's time of deliberating and worrying, we finally found a solution.

Our judging didn't happen right away. Every group was given a judging time in which they must be present in order to have their project judged. We were given some last hours of set up in the morning. The ballroom was off limits to anyone but those who were being judged. When our judging time came, we felt nervous but excited. It went by really fast, and although we felt that we talked a little bit too much, we were proud of each other's hard work and the exhibit we created. Nothing came out perfect, but we tried our best and that is truly what matters, no matter how cliché it sounds.

We were able to see many works from students all around the world and were able to converse with them too. The works that the contenders produced for the competition were amazing. We had the privilege to learn numerous things about history through their works.

Sadly, our group didn't go to finals, our group was recognized for the best project in all of the Senior Division of the NHD South East Asian finals. It was extremely proud moment for all of us.

It was an exciting and enriching experience. Since the competition took place in Washington D.C., my group and other SPH students who competed were brought around the city by Mr Jon to see all the wonderful historical

monuments and museums. I genuinely learned a lot of history from the museums we visited. My favorite museum is the Holocaust Museum, because everything in the museum was so brilliantly laid out and designed. It was a wonderful trip that allowed us to both learn and showcase our knowledge of history.

There is great value that comes with competing outside of Indonesia. It is easy for us to be content with current expectations. It is easy for us to be ignorant. But, how are we supposed to make our country better if we choose to remain oblivious? Competing outside Indonesia has really pulled me out of my comfort zone and burst my "Indonesian" bubble. It has made me a hardworking person who realizes that we to be on par with the expectations of the international community. If we truly love Indonesia and want to better our country, we must first seek to learn from the outside.

With the combination of history lessons and the experience of intense competition levels of the international community, NHD has shaped me into a better person. It has really challenged my boundaries and taught me valuable lessons for the future. Winning may not have come out of it, but the experience and knowledge that I have received from the competition was definitely worth it.

By **Natasha Simadibrata**

Grade 11 Student

SPH Lippo Village



(left-right) Vallerie Xu, Stephanie Purwanto, Natasha Simadibrata, Fiona Asokacitta, Nathanael Jo:
"We were presented with our recognition for having the best entry in all of the Senior Division of South East Asia".



The Bradley and Herdman families attend the same church and have to work together to produce a good Christmas Pageant. When Christmas Eve arrives, everyone is anxious to see what happens. The unconventional Herdmans add a unique quality to the program that brings the Christmas story alive.



Drama The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Sekolah Pelita Harapan, Kemang Village, performed a piece by Barbara Robinson based on her classic book published in 1971, by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. For the two days of the drama performance, the theatre at SPH Kemang Village was packed. The audience was fascinated by the flawless performance of the students in this fun, yet meaningful, drama.

Rebekah Edith Schmidt, director of this drama performance, told us about the preparation behind this drama.

"The school drama club invited students from fifth to twelfth grade to join the auditions and after that we chose who suited which parts. There were twenty-seven students involved. We auditioned in September and started





rehearsals in October. We had two or three practices per week. We chose this piece from Barbara Robinson because it is a classic piece taken originally from a book and then a movie. It is very funny and shows the real meaning of the Christmas story which is the birth of Jesus Christ." Rebekah explained.

"This play was very challenging and the students had to be fully committed," she added.

"The goal was to make students better actors, be able to develop their God given talent and to share the love of God."

We are proud of all that our students accomplished in preparing and presenting this play. Participating in a theatre production is a wonderful experience for students at every level and we hope Sekolah Pelita Harapan Kemang Village can produce many more good performances like this in the future.

By **PRP SPH Lippo Village**



Jesus is Coming Again

Wise Men, Shepherds, Kings and Unseemly Persons are Invited to Respond

We have recently come back from our Christmas holidays and Christmas celebrations are still fresh in our minds. Christmas reminds us of the first coming of God to earth, as Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Communion Services remind us of the second coming of Jesus. He is coming again soon! As we continue with this year's theme on 'Character Development', we reflect on the fact that it is only through God being with us, doing a good work in us, recreating us, that we can be transformed so that we can present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, holy and acceptable to Him. (Romans 12:1-3).



WHEN we lit the advent candles in church we were preparing for the coming of Jesus. 'Advent' means 'the coming'. Christmas is a wondrous time for us as Christians because Jesus' coming as a baby in Bethlehem was foretold in the Old Testament and every detail was orchestrated by God since the beginning of time. All history converged at the point in Bethlehem, where each of the prophecies came true, including a child from the tribe of Judah, also in the line of King David, was born as Saviour, Jesus, who would save us from our sins.

There is beauty in the Lord's handiwork, whether it be in the billions of stars in the sky, or the complexity of the mitochondria in our cells. There is beauty in His ways, whether in His choosing King David or the sinful Rahab to be in the lineage of Jesus. In spite of their huge disparity in status, they were both sinners and were both ultimately considered people of great faith. Neither of their characters would be considered 'holy' or as good role models for humanity, except for the fact that God did a good work in each of them as He can with us.

Wise men came to visit Jesus after the family had moved from the temporary stable birthing place into a house in Bethlehem where the family possibly stayed for more than a year. Although we can't know this for certain from scripture, the Wise Men may have been astrologers, from Babylon, who studied the stars, and who generations before had been influenced in Hebrew scriptures during Daniel's captivity, where Daniel was being trained by the wise men of that time.

I think Daniel trained them in return and they were ready to listen, because if it wasn't for Daniel they would have all been killed because they had told the King Nebuchadnezzar that only the gods could interpret his dream. When Daniel's God, the triune God being Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

was able to interpret the dream, the King determined that indeed Daniel's God was the one true God, and not only were Daniel and his three friends saved, but so were all the astrologers (Daniel 2:48).

I am sure that the astrologers must have passed on their amazement of this God, to each of the following generations, right up to the time of the Wise Men who came to see Jesus. These Wise Men may have studied the Hebrew scriptures and studied the stars according to their traditions. Their part in the Christmas story was being prepared hundreds of years before their journey!

Whether the Wise Men had the spiritual insight to understand and accept the redemption offered by Jesus through a confession of their sins, is not told to us in scripture. We do know, however, that many people, regardless of their natural intelligence, whether Kings or shepherds, have been drawn by God to Himself so that their desire has been to serve only Jesus Christ their Lord.

Every time we celebrate communion, eating the bread to represent Christ's broken body, or drinking the wine, representing his blood shed for us, Christians state that they are celebrating His death until He comes again. He is coming again soon, so let us celebrate the first advent of Jesus as we begin this New Year, at the same time as preparing ourselves, not being wise in our own eyes, but through God's power touch a world that needs Christ's healing, touch even before He returns again. The development of our characters, as pleasing to God, depends on it!



By **Gregg Faddegon**
JS Academic Principal
SPH Lippo Village

HARVARD MODEL CONGRESS ASIA

In January, while their peers were still on Christmas holidays, nine students from SPH Lippo Village traveled to Seoul, Korea, to participate in **Harvard Model Congress Asia**. HMCA is a premier government simulation activity that brings together hundreds of high school students to analyze and explore solutions to issues facing governments and the international community.

Five delegates from SPH Lippo Village received:

- **Honorable Mention Certificates:**
Hugo Leo and Hubert Leo (Grade 10)
Natasha M. Simadibrata and Fiona Asikacitta (Grade 11)
- **Best Delegate (in his committee) Award:**
Gregory Jany (Grade 11)

Below are the reflections of two of this year's participants.

DEBATING about the merits of a nationalized healthcare system, lobbying delegates from other nations, discussing the best method to eradicate MERS; sounds like the work of international diplomats at the WHO. In a way, it is. But, it is also what I did for three days at Seoul National University.

Back in January, I participated in Harvard Model Congress Asia, a global conference organized by Harvard students that enabled high school students to experience first-hand how the US government and international organizations work. For three days, I acted as a diplomat hailing from Ecuador. I represented my nation's interest in the WHO by promoting universal healthcare and the eradication of infectious diseases. I drafted resolutions detailing on how the WHO would develop a sustainable medical workforce in the Middle East. I also advocated for important issues in front of other delegates in a mock International Summit. In the end, I was given the honor of a "Best Delegate" award along with many other SPH delegates that were also commended for their performance.

In the words of Bill Clinton, this conference has truly provided me "invaluable lessons in statecraft." It helped me gain insights on the behind-the-scenes lobbying in major international conferences and it also made me aware of pressing global health issues. This conference is also an exciting social experience. I was able to make friends from all across Asia, exchanging stories and laughter with those from Korea, Japan, and Singapore. HMCA has been a great experience that helped me to not only gain a deeper understanding of the world, but also of others and myself.

By **Gregory Jany**
Grade 11 Student
SPH Lippo Village

IN this year's HMCA, I was given the role of a Republican congressman named Steve King from Iowa, USA. I was placed in the House Judiciary committee, a subcommittee under The United States House of Representatives. The point of the conference was to discuss two problems that have been assigned to our committees, to construct bills to solve the problems, and to debate upon the bills with the views of our assigned congressmen in hopes of the bills turning into legislation.

My committee focused on creating bills to combat corruption at the border and patent trolls. I was proud to have authored most of the components of the two bills, which was extremely gratifying because one of the two bills became 'law' in the simulated American government. Of the many bills created at the conference, our bill was one of only two that made it through all the steps to become legislation. Basically, our bill had to pass through the committee, the whole House of Representatives, the Senate, and lastly, the Presidential Cabinet. After passing in the last stage, we even had a mock 'signing into legislation', in which the bill was signed by the four authors and the President and Vice President.

I was also blessed to have received an "honorable mention" in my committee. HMCA indubitably widened my horizons and exposed me to people from all around the world. I was able to make new friends and acquaintances, and spend three whole days debating intellectually with them. I can undoubtedly say that I learned a lot from the conference and developed considerably as a speaker, writer and critical thinker.

By **Natasha Simadibrata**
Grade 11 Student
SPH Lippo Village





SPH

Professional Development Day

Last October, there were about 30 classes in Sekolah Pelita Harapan Personal Development session. Below are the details of what teachers and staff are learning in each class.



Rod Thompson

Keynote Speaker for Professional Development Day

Rod Thompson was the Principal of Laidlaw College in 2010. Rod's areas of particular interest are biblical theology and worldview studies.

Presenter (s):



Gavin Neale

App Showcase: Digital Portfolios, Scratch

Demonstration of how SPH Lippo Cikarang are using Digital Portfolios in their classrooms.

Presenter (s):



Tom Jones

Digital Citizen

In this class discuss and share strategies to examine for use in the classroom that focus on the Digital Citizen concept (Blogs, Social Media).

Presenter (s):



Roma Rampen

Finding the Right Information at SPH

This session show how to organize the information and how to find it in SharePoint.

Presenter (s):



Andrew Rominger

Augmented Reality, Quizlet, Padlet

Explore the world of Augmented Reality which allows educators and students to create layers of digital information on top of the physical world that can be viewed through an Android or iOS device.

Presenter (s):



Harris Tungawidjaja

Digital Notebook

This session show that notetaking can be done together and minutes of meeting can also be arranged and accessible by all participants using OneNote.

Presenter (s):



HMH Booksellers

HMH E-textbooks

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) is a major textbook supplier who develops e-textbooks which allow teachers to insert their own content.

Presenter (s):



Marc Bergen

Building a Professional Learning Network (PLN)

This session focus on helping to develop professionally through the use of Twitter (and other social media), enabling to connect with educators and resources from around the world.

Presenter (s):



Michael Cosgrove

Enhance Your Mathematical Classroom

This session introduce and demonstrate web-based programs that can be utilized to enhance teaching practices and be more developmentally responsive to students' needs. Begin with a review of mathematical pedagogy and why manipulatives are so helpful to develop students' understanding of mathematical principles.

Presenter (s):



Sarah Dotulong

How to Get Everyone to Participate in Class using Kahoot and Padlet

Get Everyone to Participate in Class using Kahoot and Padlet.

Presenter (s):



Sarah Dotulong

Classroom Organization using Edmodo and Office 365

Classroom Organization using Edmodo and Office 365.

Presenter (s):



Gavin Neale

Explain Everything and Aurasma

Enhance student engagement using Augmented Reality and encourage deep learning through video and screen casting.

Presenter (s):



Caleb Stultz

Instant Integration: Classroom Technologies You Can Use Today

In this session teacher choose one or two tools and begin account/tool setup process. Idea storm session to write instances where this could be useful in classrooms, share out ideas, screen recording demonstrating Plickers and Kahoot account setup.

Presenter (s):



Glenn Crane

Collaborative Technology in the Classroom

This workshop discuss best practices in Office 365 as well as how google maps could be used within any classroom as a collaborative tool.

Presenter (s):



David Sommers

Managebac for 'Program Administrators'

Managebac for 'Program Administrators' those that are setting up Managebac and managing it for the school.

Presenter (s):



David Sommers

Managebac for School Administrators (and Counselors)

Arrange Managebac for school administrators and counselors.

Presenter (s):



David Sommers

Managebac for Teachers

Arrange Managebac for Teachers.

Presenter (s):



Gavin Neale



Andrew van Schmitt

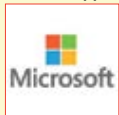


Myungok Lee

Mathematics Teachers Forum

Forum for teachers of Mathematics to share resources and ideas. The math teachers at SPH Lippo Cikarang showcase a couple of tools they use to teach mathematics.

Presenter (s):



Microsoft Indonesia

Maximizing the Use of PowerPoint with the Integration of Office Mix

Through this course, educators are able to get exposure about how to embed Office Mix in PowerPoint presentation. Microsoft as the partner in learning has established Office Mix, an add-on feature in PowerPoint which enables educators to create, share, and find online interactive lessons and presentations.

Presenter (s):



Yohanes Tampubolon



Christian Novanto

Meeting Can Be Anywhere

This session show how we can be still productive when our counterpart is not in the same location with us. Learning to engage meeting online using Skype for Business.

Presenter (s):



Joceline Jadisastra



Angeline Ang

Naviance

This season, Naviance introduce as an interactive, web-based program designed to facilitate

the college admission process and provide the school web-based resource that supports course, career and college planning with comprehensive records.

Presenter (s):



Melanie Terpstra

Plickers and Instant Feedback Technology

A technology round-table where the Android and iOS app 'Plickers' is showcased. Share successes (and failures) of other feedback and assessment tools. Target: Grade 3–Grade 9 classrooms.

Presenter (s):

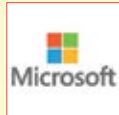


Arief Pratama

Sharing Your Ideas

This session show that using a social media can be very productive with Yammer.

Presenter (s):



Microsoft Indonesia

Switching the paradigm: Utilizing OneNote in Flipped Classroom

In this course, educators are expose to the new concept of teaching and learning, namely Flipped Classroom.

Presenter (s):



Katie Glass



Katherine Schmitt

Technology in the Classroom (K1–Grade 2)

A round-table discussion on how technology can be used in the younger classrooms (K1–G2). A demonstration of technologies focused on English language learning and classroom management.

Presenter (s):



Brenda Williamson

Technology Strategies for Leaders of Meetings: Lessons Learned

This class discuss about flipped meetings and Office 365 Mix as potential intensifiers for the effectiveness of our meeting times.

Presenter (s):



Trevor Jones

Think of the Possibilities: Technology Usage in the 21st Century Science Classroom

An active discussion type forum, explore teaching in the 21st century.

Presenter (s):



Alissa Pasaribu

Using a Smartboard with Microsoft OneNote

Combining a conventional whiteboard with an LCD and a PC, pictures and movies projected on the board then comment or label the pictures. OneNote can also be endless digital binders with so many different functions such scrape book (picture, audio and video), organizer, and many more!

Presenter (s):



Tom Jones

Virtually Speaking

This session share and discuss ways to further the learning experience in a virtual environment (Google Cardboard) as well as ways to extend our teaching outside of the classroom and still reach and hold the students accountable (Zaption).

Presenter (s):



Agus Supriyono

Your Files Can Follow You

This session show how to manage files and sync with the devices and what files should be on what device if needed by using the capability of OneDrive for Business.



AMBON 2015

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

By The HOPE's Team (SPH Lippo Village)

After months of preparation, the HOPE mission trip finally sets off to Ambon in the beginning of summer. Along with ten doctors and three dentists from Project Indonesia, as well as two supervising teachers and preachers, the team arrived safely to Ambon.

"And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, 'If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.'" (Mark 9:35)

WHEN you serve other people, you put your heart, mind and soul for them. You are out of the focus; it is no longer about you, but is about the person you are taking care of, doing things for and spending time with. I have a confession to make, my motivation to join the HOPE mission trip was to complete Community Action Service (CAS) requirements. People join a service program

with some expectations to get something in return—sense of pride, accomplishment or experience—in this case, it was about completing schoolwork.

A week spent in Ambon gave me new perspective. On the first day, I was surprised to see the numbers of local people who came. They were all so keen to meet the team of doctors and to receive their medical treatment. Students and doctors were able to work cooperatively. We ended up serving a total of 1381 patients during the periods of three days. It was a great accomplishment and experience. However, that number is somewhat incomparable to the number

of many people in Indonesia who still need medical help. From this experience, I realize service should not be something you do just because you signed up for it, not a momentary guilt feeling you try to recompense for doing nothing, or something you do for school requirements.

God call us to serve others, we are just a small part of his master plan. If there is one thing I want to take from this trip, it is to set the right intentions before doing yourself or someone else a favor.

By **Gabrielle Aquilla**
Grade 12 Student, SPH Lippo Village



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

As someone who aspires to be a surgeon, I wish to give back to the community and making positive changes in the lives of others through healthcare services. Throughout my high school years, I have been participating in medical social services to gain more experience on medicine, with one of them being Ambon medical mission trip. Getting to serve hundreds of underprivileged people in Ambon in a course of three days, not only I get to learn more of the medical world, but I also have a wider view on the acts of service in God.

Having the opportunity to serve the underprivileged in Ambon at the beginning of last summer has definitely opened my eyes into realizing that even a small help from a

group of high school students like us can have a big impact on people's lives. Reflecting back on the medical mission trip, I realized that to give a good impact on others, one does not have to be a professional first, nor do they have to hold a big role. What matters the most is as long as you have the heart to serve, you'll somehow make an impact on people, no matter how small your role is. Who knew when I first volunteered, a student-led organization with an initiative to provide a free medication could have this big of an impact to the Ambonese people that we served.

At the end of the day, it is clear to me how important the act of service is to the ones we served, and also to us who served. I, as one of the students who got the chance to serve in this medical mission trip last summer realized that serving has brought this feeling of happiness that no other things could cause.

By **Winnie Theresa**
Grade 12 Student, SPH Lippo Village



Testimonials

In my opinion this was the most successful MSL trip independently organized by the students themselves. It was three days of sustained service. Tiring, but the gratitude shown by the community was enough to make it all worth it. The students worked hard, took initiative, never complained, and made the best of every situation, focusing for example on the incredible beauty of the sea rather than the lack of cleanliness of the rooms. It was hard, but it was fun. And the chance to experience Indonesia outside of Jakarta, and to work with the doctors, is something that will forever be valuable.

By **Eric Henry**
Teacher of SPH Lippo Village

THE HOPE's first medical mission trip to Ambon inspires me to one day become a humble doctor. I learn that being a doctor is not something that will bring me to great heights, yet it is a very selfless profession that requires sacrifices. It was a very memorable and priceless experience for both volunteers and the people of Ambon.

By **Jocelyn Luveta**
Grade 12 Student, SPH Lippo Village

THE HOPE's medical mission trip to Ambon was a one of a lifetime experience for me. It was great to be able to go there to serve the people on Ambon and it was great working with the doctors from Project Indonesia. The whole trip was so well organized (thanks to Jocelyn) and it was great having all the members cooperate so well. It was amazing how well the Ambonese people accepted us and I was proud to be part of the team who gave their all in the short time we served there. All in all it was an amazing experience for me and I hope that we will have future events that will be as eye-opening and meaningful as this one.

By **Young Mi**
Grade 12 Student, SPH Lippo Village

Lost in a Book, Found in the Truth

Sekolah Pelita Harapan Junior School Book Week is an annual event of Sekolah Pelita Harapan all campus. Every year a certain theme is chosen which links with the whole School Theme. This year SPH Lippo Village Junior School Book Week's theme was "Lost in a Book, Found in the Truth" to emphasize the school theme of Just Believe encouraging a strong and firm foundation in Jesus Christ.

In this event there were so many activities for students for example **Book Fair** – SPH Lippo Village invited book vendors so that students can bought their favorite books; **Move to Read** – where students moved around different classes and listened to certain teachers read their favorite books; **Buddy Reading** – when older students read stories to junior students; **Book Character Costume Day** – when students and teachers dressed up like their favorite book character; **Teachers Drama** – when teachers performed a drama based on the selected books, and **Mystery Reader** – when students were able to guess who was reading certain parts of a book.

In Kindergarten **Read with Dad** was a popular and fun activity. Dads came to school, read their favorite books and also interacted with students in the Kindy classrooms and pods! We thank God that in their busy lives Dads still want to come and read to our students.

Students always have fun in Book Week and everyone enjoyed all the activities! We hope that in the next Junior School Book Week, Sekolah Pelita Harapan will produce even more fresh ideas to enhance this annual event.





Handbells-Piano-Vocal Concert 2015 (4 December 2015)



Students Serving Teachers in "Serving with Smile" (11 December 2015)



Kindy Christmas Celebration with Nannies (14 December 2015)



Christmas Celebration with Sang Timur School (15 December 2015)



Mission Service Learning with Lilin Terang School (16 December 2015)





Open House (27 October 2015)



Spirit Weeks (9-11 November 2015)



Community Action Service Project in Lampung (25-26 November 2015)



Grade 2 Assembly (4 December 2015)



Christmas Celebration (17 December 2015)





Grade 5 Retreat (8-9 October 2015)



Bulan Bahasa (29 October 2015)



Senior School Cinta Indonesia (31 October 2015)



Choir Trip to Tomohon (12-14 November 2015)



Pelita Harapan House Visitation to Kampus Diakonia Modern (12 December 2015)



Christmas Celebration (14 December 2015)





Grade 4 Lead Junior School Chapel (25 November 2015)



Christmas Concerts (4 December 2015)



Pastor Mike Rody



Christmas Carol Medley

Angels we have on heard high
Sweetly singing o're the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Thanks be to God for His
incredible gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Whole School Christmas Assembly

Shiny and full of love - shining and shining

Christmas Celebration (11 December 2015)



Kindy Christmas Concert (15 December 2015)





Grade 3 and 4 Field Trip to Ragunan (28 October 2015)



Parents Teacher Conference (28 October 2015)



Grade 1 Field Trip to EcoPark, Ancol (24 November 2015)



Kindy Christmas Celebration (17 December 2015)



Christmas Concert (17 December 2015)



Grade 8, 9 and 10 Retreat

GROW DEEPER IN HIM



"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

THIS year's annual retreat was held at Villa Renata Puncak and Agape Conference Center Bogor City. For three days Grade 8, 9 and 10 students are challenged to grow deeper in Him, rooted in His word and experienced the divine change in their heart. During this retreat, we explore 3 connecting themes for each individual grades. Grade 8 students are challenged to "Embrace the Change" while the Grade 9 students are encouraged to live their faith "Inside Out". Grade 10 students are embracing their personal struggle as they explore their life as a "Work in Progress".



Grade 8 Retreat

EMBRACE THE CHANGE

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26

"Spiritual retreat was a great opportunity for me to grow deeper in my relationship with Christ. One of the main things that I picked up from the retreat is to be still in times of transition and let God be God. It is so easy for me to fear change and remind myself of how things were better before, but from this retreat, I have learned that no matter where we are in the mist of change, we need to give it up to God and let him do the work."



"Another thing that really impacted me was when Gavin talked about a change of heart and how it starts with a search. This really challenged me to think about what my purpose and how I can leave an impact on my friends that are searching for the truth."

Susanna Joy Talbot
Grade 8 Student, SPH Lippo Village



"This retreat was probably the best retreat I've ever attend. It is a wakeup call for me to be more aware of God's will. Teach me to listen, witness and pray together as a family. It has been an amazing retreat."



Nisya Tifanny Salim
Grade 8 Student, SPH Lippo Village



Grade 9 Retreat

INSIDE OUT

It is well known that "Inside Out" is the title for one of 2015's most popular movies. Perhaps a lesser known fact is that this was also the theme of SPH Lippo Village's Grade 9 retreat, held at Agape Conference Centre in November 2015.

Pastor Steve Dixon, the State Director of the Baptist Church in New South Wales' Youth ministry, led us through four thought provoking sessions which explored how we can live our faith out in everyday life. Our students were particularly good at identifying Pastor Steve's exegetical skills as they have been studying this at a basic level in Grade 9 Biblical Studies. Pastor Steve also hosted a challenging Q&A session on our final morning. The students did not disappoint, engaging passionately with a range of questions surrounding themes such as: marriage, suffering, relationships and several others. Some students continued the discussion in their small groups or individually with Steve.

In addition, the students enjoyed a range of other community building activities like sports, hiking, games and a bonfire. A highlight from this retreat was a 'one on one' meeting that each student had with a teacher. This event gave a chance for everyone to relate deeper or simply to get to know each other better.

All in all, our Grade 9 spiritual retreat is an essential part of our yearly program. We, as teachers, appreciate the commitment that SPH has to these events. We believe that through God's grace, this commitment will bear much fruit as our students continue to learn how to live their faith from the "Inside Out".



By **Craig McGlone**
Grade 9 Lead Teacher
SPH Lippo Village



WORK IN PROGRESS

"For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1: 6)

WHEN we first believe, God works in us through the good work of the Holy Spirit. God separates his people from the rest of the world. He intends to make us holy before him. However, it doesn't mean that we are immediately perfected in all facets of our lives. We still struggle with our sinful nature. But, we move from "unable to resist sin" to "powerful to reject sin". So, it is about *progressive sanctification* that God works in every Christian's life. A process that goes from our state after we believe towards the day when God makes us perfect. It is indeed the *progressive perfection*. The *good work is in progress*!

This year, Brenton Killeen came to speak to 10th grade students for the third time. He

managed to create an excellent series of contemplation upon God's words. Some teachers even testified that their personal struggles are relevant to our theme: *work in progress*. Then, a group of students also did skits that acted out one's personal struggle after believing in God. It was full of tears of laughter as well as a meaningful message. Most of the students reported that the games were also awesome.

Praise be to God for the opportunity to grow closer to Him and for the bonding among students and teachers during the retreat itself. Read two testimonies from our students about their experience with God and then they share it to their friends.



By **Junaedy Aries Wijaya**
Grade 10 Lead Teacher
SPH Lippo Village



"Retreats have always been special. They always bring you closer to God. There is one thing that I indirectly develop in every retreat—stronger bonds with friends. The fact that ideas and experiences with God are being shared three times a day, we reflect on them even during casual conversations."

Geordie Benito
Grade 10 Student, SPH Lippo Village

"I've always been a big fan of spiritual retreats. They bring you closer to God in every possible way. The past spiritual retreats were great because you take time to drift away from your daily routine and focus on what's most important—God."

Many people believe the best way to score a great future is to get perfect SATs or get involved in many extracurricular activities. Although these things are great, truly, what has kept me in the right mind are opportunities like this retreat, where I get to take the time to calm down, focus, listen and refresh my soul."

Nick Tjandra
Grade 10 Student, SPH Lippo Village





SHARING JOY WITH ISDI FRIENDS

SPH students and ISDI students were busy with their coloring activities. They were so happy, talking and helping each other. Big tables were set up in the center of F2 Chapel. Both SPH students and ISDI students sat in groups and did some activities together.

SPH LIPPO VILLAGE Grade 8 had a Friendship Day with friends from ISDI (*Ikatan Sindroma Down Indonesia*). Approximately 15–20 friends from ISDI along with their instructors visited the school.

"ISDI is a training center which specializes in serving people with Down Syndrome and helps adults with their studies. In ISDI, their motoric, communication and life skills are being trained," said Dewi Wardani, ISDI teacher.

During this one day event, SPH students had an experience to communicate, care and share with friends from ISDI. They had several activities together like coloring, paper bag making, playing basketball or hanging around together in the playground. Through this Friendship Day, SPH students learned how to be compassionate, respectful and loving towards each other.

"The goal of this event is so that students can learn to serve others and also to know that service is not just a word but actually something that we do. Students also learned about patience and acceptance of people who have a disability and yet are made in the image of God," explained Nedra Widjaja, SPH teacher and also the coordinator of this event.

"Two activities in this event were simulations where the SPH students demonstrated and explained to their ISDI friends how to make crafts. I have a daughter with Down Syndrome so I can relate well. I gave an explanation to our SPH

students about what the children can and cannot do. SPH students were quite open minded and quite knowledgeable before doing this event. Hopefully they now have a good understanding and were able to put themselves in their shoes, gain more experience and share with other people," said Fregie Calimlim Sion, co-coordinator of this event.

SPH students enjoyed this event and learned a lot from this such meaningful experience.

"Hi! I am Valerie from Grade 8. I was so excited because I have never experienced this kind of event before. We had two groups: coloring and making paper bags. I learned that although there are people who are not completely the same as us, we should accept each other. We also learned patience."

"This is the second time of having this activity with SPH and our students feel so enthusiastic and enjoyed this field trip because they can meet with friends. We are happy for the invitation and also feel proud of our students because they can blend in with others, socialize, communicate with people they do not know well. We hope through this event, their motoric skills can improve even more. We thank SPH for inviting ISDI. Through this Friendship Day, we can gain more knowledge, skill and friends. We hope that this program will continue." Dewi explained.

By PRP SPH Lippo Village



Nurturing Godly Character through Community

As we jump into a new semester, we are proud to reflect upon this past year. The Student Council's (SC) vision for our student body this year has been "a community defined by belonging, growth, godliness and service, built upon greater student experiences."

ULTIMATELY, this is a vision for both the community as a whole and for individuals. In order to develop the kind of godly character that SPH envisions for each of its students; developing an authentic community in which each student can thrive is of vital importance. Whilst an organisation's vision is meant to be an ideal that must constantly be strived for, this has been no pipe dream. Through hard work and passion, our nine Student Council Committees have brought over forty community-building events and programs so far to the student body, with the four points of our vision in mind: belonging, growth, godliness and service.

As our school environment should reflect our belonging in Christ, the SC has aimed to facilitate a community where each student feels like they belong. When SPH truly feels like a second home, students are free to seek mentorship and friendship, facilitating the growth of godly character. Event highlights from the SC have included support lunches, gathering friends together to play games during lunchtimes, personalized birthday cards for each student and, at the beginning of the year, a welcoming orientation for new students.

Committees have also worked to foster belonging by creating events where students can showcase their talents. Middle School and High School athletes have enjoyed friendly lunchtime tournaments of kickball and futsal, with many more of these sports events being planned for the new year.

Artistic talent has been showcased through various Instagram competitions with

#spheaglespride, #bulanbahasa2k15 and #sphchristmas2015. Moreover, a smorgasbord of school spirit-boosting days have been initiated to create a fun-loving 7 to 12 community. Movie nights, dress up days and Christmas decorating competitions plus an online eStore of Eagles merchandise all increase



the community bond of our school, making SPH *a place to belong*.

Our next aim—growth—has been focused on through a melange of talent competitions, such as Sing-Off and Battle of the Bands. Students have been able to grow in and showcase their musical abilities and the rest of the student body has loved watching. Additionally, an event that encouraged intellectual growth this year was Deep Speak, in which the Student Council teamed up with our debate club SpeakUp! to host a panel discussion regarding the Christian response to the refugee crisis. Events like this also work to foster spiritual growth.

As a Christian community, we truly want our student body to be defined by godliness. Thus, we have enjoyed Friday night Worship Nights, Bible studies, and a special Christmas



celebration with dance, movies and fellowship. You may have also noticed Bible verses and quotes posted around school: this is a poster campaign to encourage our community in Christ. The SC has also been involved in leading various chapels, with students encouraging their peers.

Hand-in-hand with godliness is service. In fact, service is a key component of godly character. Both our school and local community have been blessed by the student response to SC service projects throughout the year. A group of student volunteers frequent Rumah Sakit Umum Siloam weekly to encourage underprivileged patients through conversation and companionship in the Hospital Visits program.

Another service-related activity that has been valuable to our community has been our annual Support Staff Appreciation Day, in which students bond with our very own SPH housekeeping staff, security guards and janitors through games and food. A Seaworld Visit helped a group of student volunteers to share a special day with underprivileged children by exploring marine exhibits. Our most recent service project was in partnership with Sekolah Lentera Harapan students and our PE department, in a court-building project at SLH.

This has undoubtedly been a full semester. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to continued growth of community in 2016 as we continue to work towards all of our goals: belonging, growth, godliness and service. Keep your eyes open for upcoming Student Council events!

By **Abigail White** (SPH Lippo Village Student Council President) and **Vincent Tandaw** (SPH Lippo Village Student Council Vice-President)



SPH CUP TOURNAMENT SERIES 2015-2016



At SPH, we have designed a school program that operates in all areas so that each child can develop fully in the way they were designed. Each part is strong and the child develops in a balanced way. It is called holistic education. One of those areas is improvement through physical education.

A NNUALLY, SPH Lippo Village is the host of a series of sports tournaments called SPH Cups. These are big sporting events which involve the whole school community.

Every year, SPH Lippo Village invites, not only the SPH community of schools to participate, but also other schools around Tangerang and greater Jakarta, both from public and private schools.

Students from Junior School (SD), Middle School (SMP), and High School (SMA) compete in various sports including badminton, basketball, soccer, rugby, and volleyball. This year, there are over 100

schools participating with more than 1,000 athletes coming onto the SPH campus.

The winners of SPH Cups receive generous prizes that includes sports equipment to support their school's physical education program. Throughout this tournament series, student athletes get the opportunity to demonstrate a sporting spirit and practice their sporting skills in a friendly and fun environment.

Students work very hard when they compete in these events. Many hours are spent practicing after school. No wonder when some of them do not make it into the final round, they feel so sad and disappointed. This

is an important lesson and coaches and PE teachers need to keep supporting students. SPH Cup tournament series are not just about winning or losing, but how to encourage when they have some weak members in their teams. Besides that, students also learn to love each other and prioritize fair play.

Hopefully, in next year's SPH Cup, SPH Lippo Village can encourage many more schools to join in these great sporting events. We hope to see many more talented and skillful young athletes not just from Sekolah Pelita Harapan community but also from many other schools. See you in the next SPH Cup!

By **PE & PRP SPH Lippo Village**



Eyes for Everyone

Through our eyes we see this world, God's creation and all things in it. How do you feel when you experience something wrong with your eyes. You read a book but the words blur and it is difficult to recognize or see small or far way things.

THE Parents Advisory Group Community Service Project (CSP) felt called to action, especially in the Sekolah Lentera Harapan (SLH) community, to support students who have eyesight problems. PAG has held this event at least five times over the last five years. This time the CSP took place at SLH Koja.

The Eye Clinic team provided eye checking, eye screening, eye refraction and glasses. On the day of the CSP, registered students were directed to seats in the waiting section for eye screening. After eye screening volunteers directed students to the tonometry station if they had an eye problem. For those with normal eye results they were directed to the bread station.

Students often had a long wait at the tonometry station since there were

limited checking devices. After that students were sent to the eye refraction section. In this station their eyes were checked thoroughly using machines and then they waited at the last station, the eye glasses station, for glasses.

"The goal of the Eye Clinic was to help raise awareness in the community of how important our eyesight is. Most parents and students lack the resources to gain better vision in their daily life therefore we as the PAG Community hope to provide these students with glasses so that they may also perform better in school.

"I observed that the students became very excited with the results of the day. Not only has it given them the chance to literally see the world in a new light, but also opened their eyes to the possibilities of gaining new

vision to do things in a much better way," said Siusan, one of the members of the PAG CSP.

"The PAG team has truly touched and honored to be able to serve in this way. The number of volunteers on the Eye Clinic activity has increased therefore providing more opportunities and resources to serve more people and places. We hope that this activity will be held every year at different SLH schools and communities in and out of Jakarta," she added.

Of course SLH Koja students felt great joy when they received their the glasses. "Students were so happy and parents felt grateful because of this eye clinic event. Our children could experience eye checkups and we could be more aware of any impairments and then they received glasses," said Realita, SLH Koja Head of of School.

HE
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KOREAN PARENTS CLUB

'Heaven' is a support group for people with Hansen's disease. **KPC (Korean Parents Club)** has helped 'Heaven' by donating used clothes, toys, food and by teaching their children Maths and English since 2013. In the beginning, ten years ago, there were only several Korean ladies who distributed rice and noodles to Hansen's town every Saturday. The group has been constantly growing, now fifty ladies regularly donate for their food and hospital costs and teaching materials. Korean moms and children from SPH are learning and feeling the joy of sharing.

Sharing is not as big of a deal than it seems; donating is not about giving a large amount of money but it is about sharing your heart and connecting to those who you give to; it doesn't necessarily have to be out of sympathy; give because you love. If you want to help someone we must clothe ourselves in humility because the reality is that we are all equal in Jesus Christ.

By **Lee Jung Hyun** (Parent of Min Chan – Grade 6, SPH Lippo Village)



Inspiring Student

Bennett Krisno, now a Grade 11 student from SPH Lippo Village, seems just like any ordinary student. He is kind, shy, yet has a ready smile and is a friendly student. His father, Ruslan, works as a businessman and his mother, Indriati, is a full-time housewife. Bennett has two siblings, Benitta (Grade 10) and Benedicto (Grade 8) who are also currently studying at SPH Lippo Village. Bennett, a young man who is really fond of planes, decided to pour out his heart's interest on his Personal Project when he was in Grade 10 in the Middle Years Program. He made a mobile hospital, a pilotless plane, which carried medicines.

WORKING with graduated students from ITB (Institut Teknologi Bandung), Bennet took nearly six months to finish this prototype, from brainstorming to designing. He also put a small high resolution camera in the plane to record everything.

He got the basic concept when he heard that so many people lost their lives because they cannot get proper medication from a doctor or

a hospital. "I remember when I saw the news or read in the newspaper that someone had bad injuries caused by an accident had died at the scene because they could not receive a quick response from paramedics or a hospital. I felt so bad every time I thought about that. I do hope that in the near future, this kind of plane could quickly deliver medicine to those who need it before doctors or paramedics come."

The Personal Project is very important for

students in Grade 10. Bennett said that he had to focus hard on this project, he had to stay up late, work harder on other homework, give up his leisure time and prayed to God so that this project could be a blessing for others in the future. The challenges began from the process of brainstorming ideas to designing, material research, production and post production including test flying it.

He admitted that his family really gave huge support and prayed for him. "I do really want to thank my parents. I appreciate my mentor, Ibu Elizabeth, as well as my teachers, who were supportive in helping me to build this project. Also to ITB graduated students who helped me bring this project into reality and helped me to understand the science of aircraft and how to build it. Also to my friends who were supportive too and they were so happy when they saw that this aircraft flew. I also want to thank to God for helping me even in the times of difficulties. I am so thankful. I hope in the future, I can continue my studies at a good university so that I can learn more and build real aircraft to help other people. That's my expectation and dream."

By PRP SPH Lippo Village



Bennett and his mother





From PAST to PRESENT to FUTURE

Reflecting on Godly Character

RELECTING on who we are, what we've done, what we hope to achieve, is something we all do. For some, it is a yearly chore when revising lists of New Year's resolutions. For the more contemplative, it is a daily activity done on the commute to work or on a lazy afternoon at home.

Saint Augustine's quote particularly aids the framing of such reflection. He implied the importance of time's relativity. The past and the present need not determine the future, and the present might not reflect the past. Past, present and future can be completely different situations for the same person. This quote pithily inspires hope for those in despair but also chides those who prejudice others.

When we reflect on our lives, we may be tempted to compare it with others' lives, as if the achievements or shortcomings others commit, we wrongly assume, are comparable to our distinctive personal circumstances and conditions. We might be intimidated by others who are "holier", or we might judge those we relatively deem "ungodly".

The Call to Holiness

All sin is sin. Sin harms our relationship with God and with others. To dare to judge as if we knew what others are going through is a prideful act that stands in stark contrast to God's infinite love and mercy. So in our reflections, we must refrain from judging, condemning and assuming.

Neither should we fear to strive for holiness. The call to holiness is directed to each and

every one of us. We are called to be "a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9), "perfect, therefore, as [our] heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). This is certainly a challenging call, but by the help of God's grace, one we should aspire to achieve. This is our vocation as Christians—to witness to the Gospel and make present on earth the Kingdom of Heaven. To follow His will is to partake in the redemptive restoration of this world.

What is Godly Character?

Godly character is hence not an item on a checklist we can tick off at a certain point in our lives. Our reflections of who we are and what we have done at a certain point in time are inevitably static assessments. These are hardly adequate for the dynamic nature of our characters and identities. Nor is godly character a defined set of characteristics. Conforming to Christ does not necessarily mean we become identical replicas of each other, for we are all blessed with different gifts and talents.

God's glory shines through us in different ways. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote, "*grace does not destroy nature but perfects it*". Just as light is what gives stained glass windows its beauty, God's grace is what we reflect and channel to others in different "colours".

Godly character can hence manifest itself in different ways. Displaying one's "milestones" in a personal journey of faith may be inspiring, but is it really beneficial? "True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice", writes Saint Francis of Assisi.

In my personal journey of faith, I simply strive to be who God created me to be. I have been

Whenever I encounter an inspiring or thought-provoking quote, I write it down in a small black book that I keep in the corner of my desk. One of my personal favourites is attributed to Saint Augustine. "*There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future.*"

blessed with a wonderful and loving family, who has taught me to love and to serve my God and my community. Having grown up in Paris, Madrid, Singapore and Jakarta, their presence is what I would consider "home". My family has helped me tremendously in the formation of my faith and character in ways that I cannot possibly elaborate on here.

I have experienced shortcomings, but I have never allowed one moment in my life to completely define who I am. Instead, I allow God to continuously form me as a person by never despairing in face of obstacles and by never resting on my "laurels". Strive for holiness, and allow God to mold you from past, to present, to future.

By **Marcel Satria Manur**
SPH Lippo Village Year of 2015





By **Soekarmini**
Parenting Center – SPH Lippo Village

What is the First and Foremost?

People worry. Parents worry about their children—health, food, money, school, future, etc. It seems that worry is part of our human nature. However, it is a sin from God's point of view as the Lord Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life." (Matthew 6:25). There are 365 times, according to research, that the Bible mentions not to worry. Thus every day in a year there is God's command to not worry or be afraid? This command comes from God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of our lives; it is not just some friendly advice. However, God understands that we tend to worry in all things.

WHY do we worry? It is due to seeing things just with our physical eyes whereas faith opens up another dimension for believers that is the presence of God who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. Would such a God not know, get involved in and be unable to handle everything in our lives?

Unbelief in God is a humiliation to Him (Numbers 20:12). We are doubtful and distrusting of His power and providence over our lives. Thus we more often act by ourselves rather than patiently waiting for His guidance. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness

The command of the Lord Jesus to seek first His kingdom and righteousness is not merely a suggestion or option. This is a command with a demand on His followers to intentionally turn away from any other life's focus and gods, to the only one Person, Christ Jesus, who loves, redeems and rules the lives

of His children. Looking to Christ means to own Christ's perspective on life.

"But seek first **his kingdom and his righteousness**, and **all these things** will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33) In bringing up our children, what is our first and foremost consideration? Is it His kingdom and righteousness or "all these things"—clothes, food (Matthew 6:25–32), or any others? The verse, started with the word 'but,' states the turning of focus—from "all these things" (v.32) to His kingdom and righteousness (v.33).

Verse 33 explicitly states what Christians should pursue in life, including in the parenting of our children, it is the kingdom of God and its righteousness. How about the matter of 'all these things'? The preeminence of Christ—His kingdom and righteousness affects all our perspectives on 'all these things' that life is more important than clothes and food, and that our Father in heaven knows all that we need.

His kingdom and righteousness then should be our first priority in parenting our children, not 'all these things.' Do the children know the top priority of their mom and dad? What are their mom and dad occupied with all the time? What are mom and dad's highest principles in making a decision? Why do mom and dad care about others? On what do mom and dad spend most of their money? Why do mom and dad keep on encouraging the children to read their Bible and speak often to God? Why do mom and dad care so much for the church?

May the Lord help us, parents, to keep our hearts always focussed on Him only and be obedient in living in His truth. Let our children one day say in their hearts, "My mom and dad are not perfect parents, but they have fought so hard for the kingdom of God and its righteousness."

Soli Deo Gloria!

Growing in His Grace

FIRSTLY, I am so grateful that we, the parents of new students, were invited to Parents Night at the Riady's residence as it was so encouraging. How grateful I am for sending my daughter, Nadya, to SPH. She has only been in SPH for four months but I can see the great improvement she has made. Let me highlight some points:

- She received Jesus as her personal Savior during last retreat. She now has a better understanding about Christianity. She told me that she understands that she is a work in progress and will never be alone because she has Jesus in her heart.
- Going through the process of her Personal Project she learnt that she must try her very best to show to herself what she can do.
- From Physical Education she learnt to face her fears. She didn't like sport because she felt incapable. It made her avoid exercise in the previous school to protect herself from being "not good enough".

Plus, I see many more examples of her good behaviour, mental and spiritual improvement. I thank God for making this happen. I pray that God will continue to use all those connected with SPH more and more.

God bless you,

Tju Wei Wei

Parent of Nadya Evangeline Tan – Grade 10, SPH Lippo Village



A Talk with Parents

The Tio and Hakim families are two of SPH Pluit Village parents who are willing to share their feelings and thoughts about the school. They see that school plays an important role in their children's lives.

Why do you choose SPH for your children?

It is because SPH applies Christian faith in educating their students, so that they will be encouraged to have a strong foundation in Christ. We hope in the future they will be able to do good things. SPH has a very close community and the SPH teachers are very positive in teaching students. The basic concept of the teaching method is not just based on the text book which is sometimes limited.



This is the difference between SPH and other schools. I feel the family atmosphere throughout this school. Parents also gain more opportunities to grow through parent seminars.

Hary Tio and Pamela

Parents of Cherish Tio (K3) & Millie Tio (K1)

Now that your children are enrolled. What do you think about SPH?

Every morning when we take our children to school, they look so happy and excited. It is very different from the previous school. We finally understand that as parents we cannot force our children to like their school or to feel excited, it should come from them. We have encouragement from the teachers. SPH teachers always involve parents in their children's education.



Why do you choose SPH for your children?

The educational foundation in SPH is based on the Christian faith. Before we decided to enroll our children in SPH, we wanted to compare it first with the other schools. One of the reasons we chose SPH is because of the balance of academics. Other schools usually focus on certain subjects like Science and Math, but lack in Arts and creative subjects. We wanted a holistic education.

Now that your children are enrolled. What do you think about SPH?

We see the joy in our children when they study in class. We always gain positive value when they share their experience at school. Overall, they look forward to go to school, not because of their friends, but the whole experience. They really like going to school because of the teachers' creativity in teaching. SPH is a unique place and different from other schools.

Our friends and family can see how happy our children are, because of this, one member of my family will enroll their child to SPH next academic year. We don't have to share about SPH, others already interested after seeing the joy in our children.

Damon Hakim and Fanny Hakim

Parents of Kenneth Hakim (Grade 4), Aaron Hakim (K3), Owen Hakim (K2)



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