# THE ASPEDITION 2020

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Inspiring SPH alumni and students who are passionate about making change and impacting others

# I N S P I R E

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

### TO GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

### **SPH Lippo Village**

Agnes Kezia Arianto, Aimee Mihardja, Amanda Adrianne Teramihardja, Amanda Fedora Widjaja, Angelica Tamara Sutedjo, Annette Gisella, Anthony Christensen Rasilim, Audrey Marcella, Audrey Pamella, Aurelie Karenia Tanu, Beatrice Angelique, Benedicto Elpidius Krisno, Brian Edward, Brigitta Cavielle Legawa, Bryan Alexander, Celine Sidharta, Cherelle Angeline, Chery Natalie Susanto, Ciintha Helena Ponto, Clarissa Sutiiatma, Daniel Owen Lie. Dong Seong Kim, Dylan Matthew Soetopo, Egna Felicia Setiawan, Eleonora Elleandra Legawa, Emma Lynn Marie Huizenga, Eunice Artiola Anada, Evangeline Bianca Kinanthi Wahyu. Fidelia Evangelyn Abigail, Gemilang Janice Kurnia, Georgiana Ongko, Gerald Amadeo Helman, Gisella Roselyn Kontaria, Hector Lee, Hyun Ki Ahn, Hyunsu Kim, James William Marshall, Jeremiah Nathaniel Perwata, Jessica Tjandra, Jevonne Yenarda, Joseph Shalom Liu, Joshua Derek Cando Asuncion, Judah Christopher Purwanto, Justin Brawijaya Go, Kelly Vimala Tanim, Kenneth Purnama, Kenzie Evan, Kezia Nathaniel, Kimie Megan, Leon Satyawan, Margareth Felicia Gono, Mario Gabriel Budiman, Matthew Alexander Foo, Matthew Jason Alexander Rahardjo, Mia Isabelle Usman, Mingyu Lee, Miracle Aaron, Nadja Dimic, Natasya Grisella, Nathanael Nicholas Johnson, Nelson Kartika, Nikie Priscilla, Nisya Tiffany Salim, Pamela Emanuelle, Ray Theodore Santoso, Rhayna Putri Rijanto, Setefani Ciputra, SooMin Han, Sophie Andrea Gani, Stephen Geerald, Su Kyung Tae, Timothy Soetarto, Tristan Tjokrosapoetro, Valencia Iskandar, Valerie Chan, Vanessa Annabelle Shimon, Wilson Sugeng

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The Light is published two times a year by the Public Relations and Promotions Department at Sekolah Pelita Harapan to inform, equip and inspire our community and others who read this. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and they do not necessarily reflect the views of Sekolah Pelita Harapan or its administration.

Sekolah Pelita Harapan's vision is "True Knowledge, Faith in Christ, and Godly Character". Our mission is to proclaim the preeminence of Christ and engage in the redemptive restoration of all things in Him through holistic education.







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# Our Anchor in Stormy Seas

Sailors in stormy seas crave hope. Amid the buffeting winds, the lashing rain, and the threatening seas, they place their hope in their boat, in their sailing abilities, and in their anchor.

We too are sailors, and we sail in the great sea of life. Wouldn't you agree that our waters have rarely been stormier than this? Let me remind you that at SPH, we abound with hope! Our school is a boat, and it is well-built, secure, and reliable. Our teachers are sailors, and they navigate and set sails with skill. And most importantly, we place our hope in Christ, who is an anchor for our souls.

Over the past few months I have loved watching our teachers and students rising above the waves. They have accepted the hard realities of this storm and have embraced the opportunity to be stretched in new ways, learning and growing together.

This edition of The Light is a witness to the fact that SPH blesses students richly. As you read this magazine, you will see abundant evidence that our students flourish. Enriched by holistic education, they are active, productive, and gifted. They are saying "Yes" in answer to the call that they live their lives in service to others, to the glory of God.

I would encourage you to flip right away to our alumni and student testimonies. These are beautiful and inspiring reminders of the transformational power of an SPH education.

Looking ahead, I know that soon the stresses of this season will be distant memories, "water under the bridge." When you return to campus, you will see the signs of SPH's constant progress.

I am very excited to push forward with new initiatives next year as we work to make SPH increasingly excellent.

- 1. I look forward to sharing with you a strategic plan we are shaping in partnership with BBD Education, a management company that specializes in international education.
- 2. I'm excited for you to meet the group of fantastic new teachers who are joining our team. The Lord has answered our prayers and sent great people to come and work with our children.
- 3. I'm also eager for you to see the multiple new learning spaces we are renovating on all five of our campuses. The new libraries featured in this edition give a sense of the direction we are heading in with our facilities.

Until we meet again soon, I pray God's rich blessings on you and your families.





### **MATTHEW MANN**

**HEAD OF SCHOOL SPH LIPPO** VILLAGE AND COORDINATOR OF PELITA HARAPAN SCHOOLS

### SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

# One Decade of Standing Firm as the Beacon of Light & Hope in South Jakarta









"The LORD has done great things in us, and we are filled with joy." -Psalm 126:3

t the beginning of 2020, the SPH KV **1** community celebrated its 10th anniversary to commemorate God's goodness and blessings in the last decade. The founder of SPH, Dr. HC. James T. Riady, SPH leaders from all campuses, and the first Head of School of SPH KV, Mr. David Michel, attended the celebration. Some of the most prominent leaders of Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan (YPPH) also came to the event. Dr. (Hon) Jonathan Parapak, Chairman of YPPH, delivered an encouraging speech that described God's grace upon grace towards the school. He also reminded the community to stay true to the mission to provide a transformative, holistic, Christian education. The community also specially acknowledged the teachers, staff,

students, and parents who have been at SPH Kemang in the past 10 years.

As part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration event, SPH KV also held a Family Fun Day. Although this annual event has always been one of the most anticipated events in SPH KV, this year's Family Fun Day was even more special. This year, even more parents, students, and teachers participated in a variety of activities, including the iconic Bollywood dance performance by SPH KV moms, a fashion show by parents and teachers, and many fun games. We are grateful to God for the tight-knit and uplifting community at SPH KV. In describing the journey of the school, Mr. Mark Thiessen said, "SPH KV started 10 years ago on a high rise building with a 17,000 m2 facility across

multiple stories. In that time, God has entrusted us with the job of growing students and families in their knowledge of God, and in their love for God and for His people. We are completely aware that there is no such thing as a perfect school and SPH KV has had some ups and downs along the way. However, we know that God has sustained our school over the last 10 years, and we believe that God will enable us to continue to carry its vision and mission to this generation."

We hope that SPH KV will not only stand tall in a high-rise building, but that it will continue to stand firm as a beacon of light and hope for many more years to come. Happy 10th Anniversary, SPH KV!

### **TESTIMONIES & PRAYERS**

"SPH KV is very special for me because of the community. The interactions among the people are amazing and I'm very blessed that I have had the opportunity to work together with many wonderful people, from young people, students, staff, and leaders. It's a community of grace. It's a community where I can be myself. I know that this is a safe place for students to grow as it is also a forgiving community. It is the people that make this place so special." - Roselita Anggorosari, one of SPH KV pioneer teachers

"My hope is that Sekolah Pelita Harapan Kemang Village, like its name, becomes a beacon of light in the city. I hope that people in Jakarta will see that Sekolah Pelita Harapan is truly a beacon of light. I especially have this hope for our children here as they go out – as they graduate from this school or wherever they go – that they will also be a beacon of light wherever they go. My hope is that the students make a difference and that people will see the light that shines from Jesus' love inside of them."

- Arlene Simatupang, SPH KV Parent

"At the beginning of our journey, we started as the first building in this development and our founding principal Mr. Dave shared that he wanted the school to be a beacon of light and hope in this community. My vision for the future is exactly the same. I hope that even though the community has been built up and there are a lot more buildings around our school that we continue to strive to be a beacon of light and hope. After all, that vision is even in our name. Sekolah Pelita Harapan aims to be light and hope in our community. My vision is to do that more and to do it better. We want to improve our academic program. We also want to continue to improve our co-curricular programs, so that our students can be ambassadors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in Indonesia and around the world."

- Mark Thiessen, SPH KV Head of School











"We love because He first loved us. He showed us fully when He sent His Son. The greatest gift is ours to share. With anyone, anytime, anywhere."

 A Not So Terrible Parable Soundtrack



"A Not So Terrible Parable" centers on the parable of the Good Samaritan as told by Jesus Christ in the Bible. Yet, it is not the usual storyline that we are already familiar. Through the drama production, the parable was presented in a modern, thrilling, and mystery-solving, whodunit style. With a touch of humor, clever wit, and a 1940's-charm, the junior school students were able to bring the parable to life and make it interesting for all audiences, both young and old.

The story began with a mysterious man who showed up at an inn. This man was robbed, beaten, and left with bruises and wounds. The appearance of this man sparked the question, "Who has done such a terrible thing?" Soon, however, the question shifted as a detective came to the inn and they found a letter and some money in the man's pocket. The letter gave the hint that there was another person who helped him and dropped him off at the inn, shifting the mystery to a search for who was responsible for taking care of the man.

There were at least two suspects. One was a lawyer who has a textbook-knowledge of the law. The other was a Bible salesperson who sells luxurious, exclusively designed Bibles. As the lawyer and the Bible salesperson were interrogated by the detective, their hearts were exposed. It revealed that they did not feel the need to help this poor, ill-fated man when they saw him lying on the muddy street. Soon enough, the audience could identify the problem of these two characters: both the lawyer and the Bible salesperson did not have any compassion at all. Then, the detective rebuked them by saying:

"It seems that you spend a lot of time with the Bible, but maybe not enough time in the Bible. Or better yet, letting the truth of God's Word get from here (points at the Bible) into here!" (puts hand over

This line struck the audience and challenges us all as Christians: if we have the Bible, do we live out what is in it? Do we show love to our neighbors, whoever they may be?

We finally discovered that it was a humble pizza delivery girl who helped the mysterious man. In the end, the message of this drama remained consistent with the Good Samaritan parable told by Jesus. It's not about how many Bible verses we can memorize or how strict we are in preserving the laws. Rather, it is about loving God, loving our neighbors, and sharing the love of God to anyone, anytime, and anywhere.

We are grateful that through this drama performance, we could see the spirit of the Good Samaritan to life as we donated the ticket proceeds to the Refugee Medical Aid Fund. There are many refugees from various countries who are stranded in Indonesia. Every day, they face uncertainty and encounter many limitations. The medical aid fund for the refugees is just one of the ways we can help ease their difficulties, especially in their access to healthcare.

As the students sang: "Let us continue to share the love of Jesus, with anyone, anytime, anywhere!"

SPH PLUIT VILLAGE

# STEM Day: A One-day Event Dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

ast February, SPH Pluit Village held a whole-✓ day event dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related activities. We had different student-led projects, presentations, and experiment opportunities prepared for all grade levels to enjoy!

Senior School and third grade students participated in this event, showcasing each of their projects in different stations. They displayed a variety of topics, such as human senses, hydroponics, robotics, solar energy, natural disasters, environment, and psychology.

Through their projects, students connected their main ideas to serve better purposes and promote changes for human life in the future. Fabian Surya, a seventh-grader, made an engineering project called "Hot Trash: The

Revolutionary Item", an environment-friendly waste burning device. This was a metal can used for burning trash in the city, rather than burning it on the ground. He designed the device with a built-in fan and filter so that as the trash is burned, no particulate matter was released.

Another project, crafted by Kim Jung Hyun (Mary), from Grade 7, and Olivia Lim, from Grade 9, is the "Anti-Flood House". It is a floodproof house that is lifted by light underground material with sealed air pockets. When water fills the space around it, the house will rise above the floods. There are many moveable supports in place to keep the house sturdy as it changes position.

There was also a "Tower Building Challenge" for each homeroom class to see who can build

the best tower out of recyclable materials. One of the most used materials to build the "tower" were plastic bottles. This activity raised everyone's awareness of our heavy reliance on plastic bottles and how we should reduce plastic waste to save the environment.

STEM is highly important as the world relies on the advancement of science and technology. The development of STEM may lead to new discoveries that can tackle modern problems and bring a positive impact to the world. We pray that God prepares these young students who are passionate about STEM and uses them in the future to promote change in this country and beyond.









# The Importance of Cultural Celebration to Promote Open-mindedness & Inclusivity







od created humans with diversity. As Jcultural beings, we differ the most from animals. With God's common grace to all people, whether believer or non-believer, he granted us the capability to create a culture and to preserve cultural heritage and traditions.

Lunar New Year Celebration is one of the cultural celebrations preserved and celebrated in China and other Asian countries such as Korea and Vietnam. Lunar New Year is also called the Spring Festival; this festival celebrates the first new moon of the lunar calendar. While the western Gregorian calendar is based on Earth's orbit around the sun, China and most Asian countries use the lunar calendar based on the moon's orbit around the earth.

All SPH five campuses celebrated the Lunar New Year with the same spirit but different kinds of activities. SPH Lippo Village celebrated the festival by promoting both Chinese and Korean culture, as Chinese & Koreans both celebrate Lunar New Year on the same day. In the Junior School Assembly, the community had the opportunity to learn about Chinese and Korean cultures through the traditional Korean dance performance "Arirang" and traditional Chinese

music performance by Aveola Music Production, with Amanda Fedora from Grade 12 joining the performance.

In SPH Pluit Village, the Chinese New Year celebration is one of the most awaited days for the community. During the assembly, we welcomed some amazing guests. The Gu Zhēng performance (a traditional string instrument from China) was played by Gloriamus along with Chinese songs that they sang together. Followed by Tài Jí Fan Dance by the elders. It ended with a Hú Lú Sī/ cucurbit flute performance by our Chinese teacher, Fang Laoshi. The celebration continued as the students made dumplings together with teachers and parents.

For Chinese, Chinese descent, and Korean students, the celebration reminded them of their cultural roots. For other students, this event exposed them to new cultures and taught them about appreciating our multicultural environment. Culture reflects people's art, music, and traditions. It fosters open-mindedness, inclusivity, and tolerance for different cultures and nations.

We are called to be a good neighbor to understand people who may be different and to love them better as God's creation. In a world full of prejudices, hatred, and racial sentiments, it is important for our children to learn about cultural diversity and inclusivity. In the Bible, we learn how Jesus promoted respect and love for all people in the Gospel. In the Great Commandment, Jesus instructed his disciples to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:19). Let us cultivate a heart that loves other people, no matter what their culture and nationalities are.

"In a world full of prejudices, hatred, and racial sentiments, it is important for our children to learn about cultural diversity and inclusivity. In the Bible, we learn how Jesus promoted respect and love for all people in the Gospel."

# COVID-19 Relief & Donation Initiatives

uring the COVID-19 pandemic, medical workers at hospitals are one of the high-risk groups to contract this disease as they must deal with the virus firsthand and treat the COVID-19 patients daily. Many news reports share the shortage of medical equipment and how our medical workers have insufficient time to even take care of themselves.

The Sekolah Pelita Harapan community is seeking to help with this problem through fundraising opportunities to support medical workers at various hospitals. There are at least four different groups from SPH that have initiated fundraising for COVID-19: our Parents Advisory Group (PAG), our emerging Alumni Association, the "Anak Indonesia Bersatu" movement, and "Harapan Anak Indonesia".

The PAG from SPH Lippo Village & Kemang Village have initiated a donation to support medical workers at different hospitals by sending medical equipment, meals, vitamins, and supplements for them. SPH Kemang Village PAG, for instance, has sent at least 1,000 hazmat (hazardous material) suits to COVID-19 centers. On the other hand, PAG Lippo Village also sent meals and supplement packages for medical workers.

Our Alumni Association Committee has opened a fundraising opportunity to buy medical equipment as well as instant food packages for medical workers at Siloam COVID-19 Centers. Their donations have been well received by the doctors, nurses, and medical personnel at the different Siloam hospitals. By April 7, 2020, the fundraising campaign has raised IDR 275,000,000, along with 120 boxes of milk, 500 portions of Lahaap instant food, 85 face shields, 100 hazmat suits, and many more. The committee has also sent a banner expressing our students' gratitude for the medical workers.

The "Anak Indonesia Bersatu" movement was co-founded by Nathania Zhong (SPH LV Class of 2019), along with Grade 10 students (James, Nathan, Kayla, and Justin), and two students from JIS and BSJ (Brenda and Keeren). Their fundraising campaign through KitaBisa.com called "Anak Indonesia Bersatu" (translated to Indonesian Children United), raises funds to donate medical equipment such as masks, head covers, and hazmat (hazardous material) suits to different hospitals across Indonesia. During the first two weeks, the campaign raised almost IDR 300,000,000 from 488 donors.















The funds allowed the medical equipment packages to be sent to various hospitals, both in Jakarta as well as those outside the city such as RS Sulianti Saroso, RSUD Fatmawati, RSPAD Gatot Soebroto, RS Sumber Waras, RS St. Carolus, and many more.

Since the end of April, Anak Indonesia Bersatu has switched its focus from supporting the medical workers at hospitals to supporting underprivileged families. The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a health crisis, but an economic crisis as well, and underprivileged families are the most affected. Many have lost their jobs and many have also gone through significant pay cuts. Therefore, Anak Indonesia Bersatu started a new campaign to raise donations for this particular group of people. At the beginning of May, the group distributed their donations of free masks and meals to families who lives in Rusunawa Pinus Elok, Cakung, East Jakarta.

Lastly, there is "Harapan Anak Indonesia" (translated to The Hope of Indonesian Children). Founded by a group of SPH LV Grade 10 students (Brian, Emily, Frederick, Hagen, Keshia, Shania, and Sean), the group's aim is to give donations to underprivileged families who are economically affected by the pandemic.

Harapan Anak Indonesia received cash donations of 200 million IDR in 10 days, as well as daily food packages, vitamins, biscuits, milk, cooking

oil, rice bowls, and instant noodles. The donations are then distributed to schools for underprivileged children called "Sekolah Bersama Kita Sejahtera" in Tanah Merah Koja and "Rumah Singgah Pengharapan Baru" in Sukapura. They also bought the items from small shops to support small scale enterprises. The donations were sent through the school to make sure they are distributed directly to the students' families, all the while practicing proper social distancing measures.

Many individuals, public figures, philanthropists, private companies and community organizations have rallied together to fight the COVID-19 outbreak in Indonesia. This is not just a health issue, but also a humanity issue that has affected millions worldwide. The whole world is fighting against this virus, and small acts of kindness and support are highly valuable in times like this. We are grateful that God has moved the hearts of many generous people in our community to act and do their part for the glory of the kingdom of God.





### SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

# Grade 6 Exhibition: "Powering Our Lives"

This year's SPH-LC Gr. 6 Exhibition theme was taken from the Global Perspectives' topic of "Powering Our Lives". It was about promoting wise energy consumption and increasing the awareness of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, hydropower, wind power, and waste-to-energy power that can be used to support lives and keep the environment safe.

This exhibition was an integrated work of interdisciplinary subject areas, incorporating Social Science, Science, Math, English, Information Technology, and Art. Students combined their knowledge of electricity, geometry, digital advertising design, and report

writing.

Teachers divided the students into different groups and assigned each group to make a display from what they have learned. They built a model of a power plant, utilizing their mathematical skills to design their 'Geometrocity'. Their electronic skills were used to assemble components of electric circuits, while their communication skills were used to demonstrate their conceptual understanding.

They also created an advertisement that involves the use of persuasive strategies, technical video-making skills, cinematic effects, and entertainment points-of-view. In the end, each

group worked collaboratively to compose a group report. In the report, they had to write several important things, such as the knowledge they had learned and the problems that they tried to solve. Their actions, skills used, and personal reflections of their entire work were also included.

At such young age, these students developed their analytical skills by interpreting data on energy use, as well as making suggestions on how energy consumption can be reduced. In the end, they learned that many still rely on non-renewable energy sources. We praise God for our Grade 6 students: for their level of creativity, critical thinking, and passion for saving the environment.



# Exceptional Achievements in the National History Day South Asia Contest 2020



In March 2020, a total of 10 students from SPH participated in the National History Day South Asia Contest. These Grade 8-9 students have achieved well in the South Asia round, showing their remarkable knowledge and understanding of historical events around the world.

National History Day (NHD) is a year-long academic program that focuses on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for Grade 6-12 students. It is an annual competition for international students from all over the world in which students submit their projects to the board of judges.

NHD South Asia is an affiliate of NHD that took place on March 6-7, 2020 at the American International School of Chennai, India. While the students were supposed to go to India, due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, they joined the competition online through Zoom teleconference. The South Asia NHD consisted of the Individual Junior/Senior Division and Group Junior/Senior Division. The categories were Documentary, Exhibit, Paper, Performance, and Website. All of these can be done individually or as a team.

SPH Lippo Village sent three teams which consisted of nine Grade 9 students. The first team was Phoebe Bintoro and Han Ah Song who won first place in the Group Exhibit category. The second team consisted of Reuben Santoso, Jason Chen, and Darren Kusnowo, who also managed to get the first place in the Group Documentary category. The last team included Nicole Utomo,

Kimi Salimin, Kim Hidan, and Darren Manua. They successfully came out as the third place winner in the Group Documentary category. In addition to that, Edward Franklin, an 8th grader from SPH Pluit Village, earned third place in the Junior Individual Category. We are very grateful to God for the amazing achievements of these students.

Through their projects, students have shown their deep understanding of historical themes. They presented the results of their historical research which included much critical thought, inquiry and creativity. This year's theme of NHD was "Breaking the Barriers", it centered on how historical figures broke the barriers and left a significant legacy. Whether it was an innovative invention or a great achievement, the theme was about those who had made a major impact in history.

Phoebe Bintoro and Han Ah Song created an exhibit titled "By Breaking the Barriers of Illiteracy and Dependence on China, Hangul Established the Korean Nation". It was about how the Korean language and culture was established from its beginnings. Through the exhibit, we could see how Phoebe and Han Ah crafted it with intricate, artistic detail as well as their deep understanding of the Korean culture.

On the other hand, Reuben, Jason, and Darren Kusnowo created a video documentary entitled "Tu Youyou, Project 523 and Artemisinin: Finding the Cure to Malaria" which critically expounds

Tu's breakthrough to eradicate malaria and the way it impacted the world's history. The third team which consisted of Nicole, Kimi, Kim Hidan, and Darren, also created an exceptional Group Documentary project titled "Sigmund Freud: The Transition from Psychoanalysis".

Lastly, Edward from SPH Pluit Village presented his project on "The Struggles of Clara Sumarwati & Her Fight for Recognition" which highlighted Ms. Clara Sumarwati who was the first woman from South East Asia, and also the first person from Indonesia, to summit Mt. Everest. Franklin's documentary tells a story about her struggles and the discrimination she faced as a woman

As the first place finalist in Group Exhibit Category and Group Documentary Category, Phoebe Santoso, Han Ah Song, Reuben Santoso, Jason Chen, and Darren Kusnowo also received an invitation letter to the National Contest in Washington, DC which was planned to be held on June 14-18, 2020.

Congratulations to the ten SPH students who had worked hard to achieve with such success in this international competition. May this achievement be an inspiration to other students despite this current condition.

Glory be to God and God only!

SPH SENTUL CITY

# 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the "Idea & Solution Competition"

Three of SPH Sentul City students, Sairam, Amrita, and Patrick, from the Grade 11, won 1st place in the "Ideas & Solution Competition" hosted by Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH) on January 16, 2020. In this competition, the participants were given a specific topic of a problem and they had to come up with a possible solution to address the problem. The topic that Sairam, Amrita, and Patrick were challenged with the problems of traffic in the modern world. Before the competition day, they were informed of this problem and worked together to propose a strategic idea to tackle the challenge. During the competition they presented their ideas to the judges.

They chose to evaluate air traffic – a topic that many people are not of aware of, despite its devastating impacts. The judges liked their ideas to address air congestion based on their thorough use of data and statistics in their presentation. Amrita shares about her experience below:

"On January 16, Sairam, Patrick, and I went to represent SPHSC to partake in the final round of the "Idea & Solution Competition" at Universitas Pelita Harapan Jakarta, a competition that we learned about via Instagram. The "Idea & Solution Competition" was an eye-opener to the many different issues present in our world. We were assigned a major global problem and, as a group, we were tasked to come up with a variety of solutions to address it. Sharing the passion in discussing and solving major global issues, this competition served as the perfect medium for us to explore the issue deeper and challenge ourselves further. With the help of our supervisor, Pak Okem, we felt confident throughout the entire event, despite the pressures we faced throughout the competition."



SPH SENTUL CITY

# Achievement at the Asian English Olympics 2020





The Asian English Olympics (AEO) is an international English competition that was held by Bina Nusantara Anggrek Campus in Jakarta from February 10-14, 2020. SPH Sentul participated in a variety of fields such as storytelling, newscasting, short story writing, and radio drama. SPH Sentul won second place for the Radio Drama competition, represented by a team of five students (Adrian, Deedee, Riri, Trudy, and Axel). Kyleen won second place for SPH Sentul in the Newscasting stream.

Our students gained many unforgettable experiences from this competition. Besides making friends with other students from all over Indonesia and Asia, they also got the opportunity and privilege to hear comments and feedback from internationally-known judges. They not only learned from their achievements but from the mistakes that they made as well. Thanks to the supportive community and spirit upheld by AEO, our students are encouraged to compete again in the future.

SPH SC has been sending different teams to the AEO competition since 2018. For two consecutive years, SPH SC student participants have won many achievements and demonstrated great mastery in English and public speaking.

SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

# 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in an International English Competition

SPH Lippo Cikarang sent three seventh-grade students, Abigail Boen, Jose Manuel Wijaya, and Sung Yu Jin, to compete in the KGL Contest of 2020. In the event, they joined the English Literature competition. We are grateful that Sung Yu Jin and Abigail Boen have come out as the 2nd and 3rd place winners respectively. They were announced as the winners of Stage 2, the second round of the contest, which takes place at the national level.

This year's KGL was held at the Singapore International School, located in Pantai Indah Kapuk, North Jakarta. This was the first time Indonesia hosted this international competition. The first round was held on February 8, 2020, followed by the second round, which takes place on March 7, 2020. The contest should have proceeded to the KGL Global Event which was due to take place on June 4 to June 6 in Amiens, France. Unfortunately, due to the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the KGL Global Event has been postponed.

Despite the circumstances, we are still proud of what our students have achieved. It was good news to receive amid these difficult times. Besides KGL, students from SPH LC participated in various national and international competitions, and we thank God for giving them outstanding knowledge, skills, and competence.





SPH LIPPO CIKARANG

# Sharing God's Love through Blood Donation



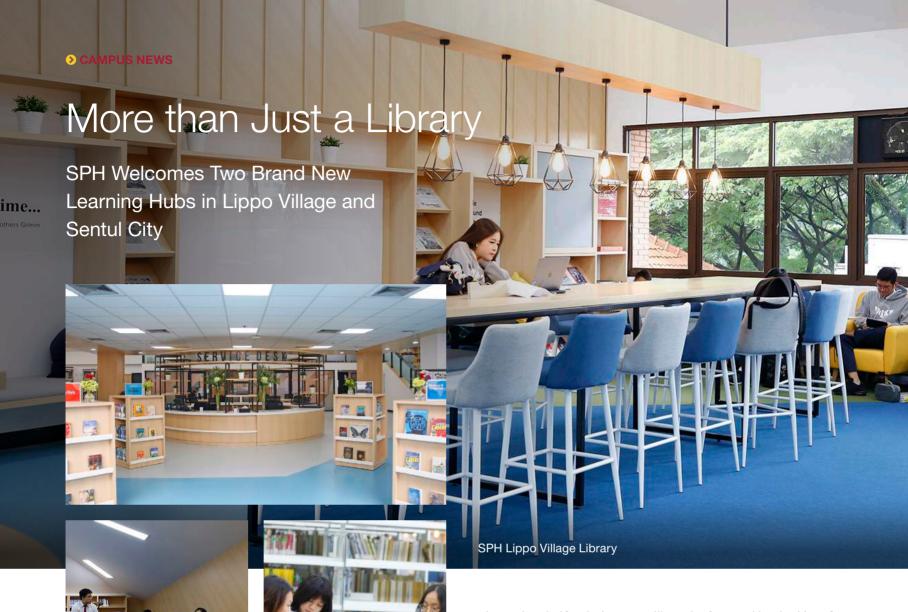


s a part of SPH Lippo Cikarang's 25th Anniversary, SPH LC A collaborated with Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) or the Indonesian Red Cross and organized a blood donor session on February 14, 2020, titled "Blood for Life". The event was supported by parents, teachers, and staff. It was sponsored by Siloam Hospital, Matahari, Meikarta, Grand Megumi, Waterboom Lippo Cikarang, PT. Konimex, Warta EJIP, and PT. Yamazaki Indonesia

Among those who donated their blood were senior students, teachers, and also people from outside SPH LC community. Additionally, a doctor from Siloam Hospital gave a talk about what blood donation is to the Junior School students. The Junior School students may not donate their blood yet, but they have learned about the importance of blood donation and its process by observing it firsthand.

Tempo, one of Indonesia's leading media sources, reported that the Indonesian health unit struggles to meet the demand for blood donation. Each year, our country needs more than 5 million blood bags. Therefore, the Indonesian Red Cross continues to extend blood donation opportunities as widely as possible to the public.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the SPH LC community seeks to engage in the sharing and spreading of God's love to anyone who is in need. There are numerous ways we can share God's love to meet the needs of others, and blood donation is surely one of them.





In the era that glorifies the internet, a library is often considered a thing of the past. Upon the mention of a library, one would normally imagine an ill-lit place with endless lines of dusty shelves that house huge tomes. Don't be disheartened just yet, for there is plenty to get excited about with the two new senior school libraries of Sekolah Pelita Harapan (SPH) Lippo Village and Sentul City. Both libraries are certainly unmistakable opposites of the dreary version one would usually imagine.

The senior school libraries of SPH Lippo Village and Sentul City have officially opened with brand-new designs for students and teachers to delight in. The remodel of each facility was carried out in accordance with the vision of SPH to support the student's holistic education and has been proven to be a delightful surprise for students of both campuses.

"We envisioned having a warm and welcoming dynamic learning center for students, a place where students could come together with teachers in the broader community, create knowledge, collaborate and learn," said Mrs. Sheryl S. Taylor, Library Coordinator of Pelita Harapan Education Foundation.

The presence of a school library plays a crucial role in supporting the whole process of teaching and learning. The need for a school library is more pressing today than ever before, especially in this day and age where digital tools govern our day-to-day life. Acquiring all sorts of information has never been easier than today. While this is positive to a certain extent, we're putting ourselves at risk with the threat of information and digital overload; children

and teenagers being the most susceptible to this looming threat.

Aside from providing students with access to books, school libraries play an important part to improve their level of literacy. The habit of reading books will train them to identify trustworthy sources of information and further enhance their critical thinking ability upon receiving as well as processing new information. Additionally, the library is the ideal place to discover what students are interested in and helps them to cultivate it.

More than just being the bastion of literature, the new school library is a dynamic hub of learning and the ingenious design administers exactly that. For starters, the various learning zones provide students with various options according to their needs; from private group study in the social learning zone to class presentation in the amphitheater area. The spacious area is also blessed with a variety of seats from which to choose.

A well-resourced library serves a bigger purpose than just supporting the school's infrastructure. It's a blessing that not a lot of schools and students in the country have the opportunity to enjoy. With that said, let's pick up a book, choose a comfortable nook, and dive right into the world of knowledge.





## In Memoriam



Joyce Lin (1979-2020):
A Passionate Pilot with a Mission

A skilled pilot, an MIT and seminary graduate, as well as living as devoted Christian, Joyce Lin was a blessing to the Mission Aviation Fellowship and the people they serve in the remote areas of Papua. On a flight to bring COVID-19 testing kits and school supplies to a village, Joyce's plane went down two minutes after take-off, ending her faithful and inspiring journey here on earth, and returning her to her Savior.

After graduating from MIT with two degrees and completing a pilot's license, Joyce worked for a decade in the U.S. Air Force and the cybersecurity sector. While working in this area, Joyce felt called to missionary work and began studying at Gordon-Conwell Theology Seminary. There, she learned of the Mission Aviation Fellowship and completed a summer internship with MAF in Papua, leaving convinced that she should pursue mission aviation.

Upon arriving in Papua as an MAF pilot and IT specialist, Joyce began her service and became an essential member of the team. Brock Larson, regional director of MAF Indonesia, said "Anyone who knew Joyce recognized that she was extremely dedicated. That showed upmost in her commitment to being used by God and sharing His love with others, especially those less fortunate. She was extremely generous, giving of herself and her treasures selflessly". Joyce was living her dream, combining her talents with her love for God and others, whether she was serving local communities or tackling IT work at her desk. For Joyce, even her office desk was "the place where God has been working on my sanctification, one day at a time."

Joyce witnessed the impact that the hope of the gospel had on local communities, transforming their relationships and lives. "The presence of God has given [the Papuan] people hope, a real hope that I share." This excitement in sharing the hope of the gospel is what drove Joyce, "While I will always be excited to fly planes and work on computers, I am most excited to share the love of Jesus Christ by helping to transform other people's deep discouragement and mourning into dancing and joy." Therefore, while we mourn for Joyce, we can also share in her celebration of the transformative love of Christ.

For the source of information and to learn more, check out: <a href="https://hub.maf.org/memorial/joyce-lin-memorial">https://hub.maf.org/memorial/joyce-lin-memorial</a>



Michael Bastiaans (1979-2020): A Teacher who Touches the Heart

Michael Bastiaans was a gifted teacher, an amazing colleague, and a faithful Christian. After completing his teaching service in a remote island of Siberut, 150 kilometers west of Sumatra, Michael taught Bahasa Indonesia at Sekolah Pelita Harapan, beginning in 2013, working on and off until last year. All of those attending or working at SPH can attest that Michael was always ready to share his contagious smile and laughter wherever he went, brightening up classrooms, meetings, and even the basketball courts.

Michael was also a valued teacher supervisor and mentor in the student-led service group, Sayap Ilmu, an organization that aims to "broaden the horizons of Indonesian children in remote areas" through programs that aims to develop written and oral communication skills. Michael brought enthusiasm and energy to his lessons, engaging the children he taught. Debora Sibarani, a fellow Sayap Ilmu supervisor, shared "It was pure joy to work together with a big brother, a responsible colleague and an amazing supervisor like Michael. He was a great example of being kind-hearted and compassionate, not only for the students but also for the other supervisors."

When he was not teaching in far-flung regions of Indonesia, he was teaching at SPH, leaving students with memories, jokes, and life lessons. Many students fondly recall the regular ordering of McDonald's in Pak Mike's classroom. With a little convincing, namely calling it an end-of-themonth celebration or promising to work harder on the next assignment, his students were often allowed to order food. His growing collection of free McDonald's cups piling up on his desk or being given away to students would never fail to make those around him smile. And while ordering McDonald's may seem trivial, it was a testament to Pak Mike and his laid-back teaching style that made everyone feel so comfortable and at home in his classroom. He taught those around him that it was okay to take a break from academics, to enjoy a meal together, and simply live in the small moments of life; lessons which will never be forgotten.

Michael lived his life as a faithful servant to God, loving others, and modeling the joy and peace of one walking in the light of Christ. As we remember Michael, let us value the moments and laughter that we have shared and look forward to being together once again, in our heavenly home.













### **OBIG PICTURE**

















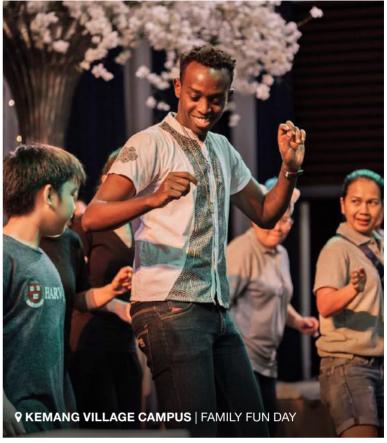




### **O BIG PICTURE**

















### **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES**









# thrive

They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 92:13

# Children of Light in Dark Times

**Embracing Grief and Thriving in Times of Hardships** 

In the early morning of the first day of 2020, many of the Greater Jakarta area's citizens, including some of SPH's staff, woke up to see that their houses and neighborhoods were flooded. The flood water even caused some to lose their cars as they were swept away by the raging waters and thousands of people needed to be evacuated.

In the same month, nobody would have thought that a flulike virus outbreak started in Wuhan, China would become a global pandemic that has changed the course of our history. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 crisis as a Public Health Emergency.

Less than 2 months after WHO's declaration, the number of cases continued to spike, leading to physical and social distancing practices. However, while most of us can stay safe at home, some are not able to. Medical personnel and key workers who provide essential services had to remain on the frontline, risking their lives. And sadly, we all have experienced loss as a result, whether it be with family members, colleagues and friends or learning of the passing of frontline workers on the news.

This pandemic has also led to an economic crisis with many sectors being affected by it. People have lost their jobs, businesses have closed, and underprivileged people have suffered the most.

Moreover, while we are still struggling with the pandemic, another problem arises with the murder of George Floyd that has led to protests in the USA and around the world. This case has resulted in a resurgence in the fight against the long-standing issue of racism in our world. It has triggered people to demand justice.

During this tumultuous and unpredictable time, it seems as if we have been experiencing the pain that Horatio Spafford (1828-1888) has written about in the famous hymn "It Is Well":

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

Like Spafford, we have been experiencing rolling sea billows of sorrow. Sorrow after sorrow have become a part of our story for the past few months, but we can rest on the promises of Christ as his "children of the light".

Reflecting back on our school theme, "Children of Light", we may think that we as children of light must act. We have this eagerness and enthusiasm to initiate change and are encouraged to stand firm as Christ's witnesses and bring positive hope to this hopeless world. While all of these are true, let us not overlook the perspectives on the other side of the coin.

### **O THINKING THEMELY**

As children of light, we realize that we still live in a dark, broken world. God doesn't call us to be "positive-thinking motivators" who always bring "sunshine in the rain". It is safe to say that we, as children of light, are not only called to shine the light of Jesus Christ, but also to weep, to mourn, and to lament on the remaining darkness that still lingers our world.

Christians are encouraged to see the world as it is, in the most realistic way possible. The Bible has uncovered the gruesome reality of the sinful world and teaches us that "there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9). This reality should not lead us into a deep, hopeless depression, but equip us with the right principles on how we should respond.

One thing we must remember is that the Bible does not only teach us to lament towards our personal suffering, but also to communal suffering. We are not called solely as individuals, but as a community that is interconnected with each other. When our community or the world suffers, it should become our suffering as well. To live ignorantly towards the sufferings around us and to close our eyes towards reality do not reflect our identity as true Christians.

Several important passages in the Bible teach us how to respond to the reality of suffering. The book of Psalms is a great place to start. Psalm 137 shows us how the Israelites mourned while they were in exile in Babylon. We may not experience the same physical exile as the Israelites did, however, if we look into this passage, we too are in "exile".

We live in conflict between the ideas of "this is my Father's world" and "this world is not our home". We should live as pilgrims who are not fixated towards this fleeting world but are longing for the "new heaven and earth" where God will "wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more" where there will be neither "mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:1-4).

In the same spirit, the Apostle Paul wrote in the Book of Romans:

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:18, 22-23, 26)

What a great consolation! When we are overwhelmed by all the suffering around us, when we are too weak to yield a prayer, the Spirit helps us and intercedes for us.

To close this reflection, we can go back to the Old Testament to Lamentations which was written when the Israelites were experiencing exile in Babylon. This book was written by the Prophet Jeremiah who is known as the "Weeping Prophet", and based on its name, this book represents how Christians should weep and lament.

Leslie Allen, the senior Old Testament professor in Fuller Theological Seminary, has written a book titled "A Liturgy of Grief" as a commentary of Lamentations. In his book, Allen proposed the slogan of "3T" when we are facing suffering and distress: **Tears, Talk, and Time**.

**Tears:** In the face of suffering, it is okay to weep. When our weeping is in line with what God weeps about, our tears are pleasing before Him.

**Talk:** Take this moment to talk to God in genuine, earnest prayer. After we pray to God, we can talk to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to share the burden. Apostle Paul said, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2).

**Time:** God's typical way of working in our lives oftentimes does not include a shortcut. His mode of molding us is not instant, it takes time. And He usually uses suffering to shape us. Time is not in our hands; God is the one who controls the time. We cannot say to ourselves that this suffering will end soon. Let us be patient and wait for God's appointed time.

At the end of the day, our true hope lies in the unfailing compassion and faithfulness of God. His unwavering promise is our only anchor, our stronghold in difficult times, and our source of strength needed to persevere until the end.

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness." (Lamentation 3:22-23)

# Our prayer is that we do not merely survive during this hard season, but thrive in it.

This introduces us to our next school theme: Made to Thrive. God made us to thrive and to flourish in all aspect of our lives. When we are planted in him, we can grow, flourish, and finally bear fruits.



Each year SPH schools are united by a theme that derives from our Vision and Mission. Themes direct our community into biblical thinking and learning so that we will more effectively teach Christianly and live out our faith maturely.



RENÉ SOMPIE BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS COORDINATOR



Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, which allows a lot of opportunities for missional ministry. This year, Grade 7-10 students and teachers from SPH went all across Indonesia as part of their Mission Service Learning (MSL) trips. They went to various locations from Nias, an island on the east coast of Sumatra, to Daboto and Sentani in Papua.



MSL is an integral part of our curriculum and we value these missional trips. Mission and service are both at the heart of Christian education. Christian education is fundamentally missional as it emphasizes that we learn not only just for ourselves and our benefit, but also to share our knowledge, serve, and be a blessing to others.

MSL trips allow students to have a firsthand experience of serving others in a context completely different than their own. They stepped out of their comfort zones, experienced the locals' daily lives, and learned to bless others. In the end, many students felt that they were the ones who were blessed. We can see their lives being changed and transformed through both student and teacher testimonies.





Friendships come in all shapes and sizes. When James wrote a letter to the believers, he wrote, "True religion is this, looking after the widows and orphans in their distress" (James 1:27). SPH Pluit Village students are doing just this through building friendships. Some of our junior school students have built beautiful friendships with the elderly at a nursing home, visiting them multiple times throughout the year to sing, play games, and talk together.

The Grade 7 students are just beginning their friendship-building with children at the Karena Kasih Orphanage, who range from young children to older teens. It is always difficult to make new friends, yet a worthwhile challenge. What starts as timid greetings can turn into laughter and hugs after just a couple hours. On our first visit, we played "Get to Know You" games, chatted about video games, and challenged each other to card games. We also played "Two Rooms and a Boom" and traded Instagram account information.

Although the recent health crisis has prevented us from taking another trip this school year, we will head there just as soon as we are able to. We are looking forward to going back! It is our hope and prayer that by building relationships with these kids, our hearts will be more like Christ. We are challenged to love people who are different than us through building intentional friendships over time.

(Rachel Elizabeth Feather, SPH Pluit Village Teacher)





The 6-day MSL trip has taught me to serve others and how to grow spiritually. For two days, Pak Rene, the speaker, shared with us how we can get closer to God and how we should focus more on Him. Listening to his sessions challenges me to have a better connection with God and spend more time with Him.

For three days, we went to Gunung Agung and stayed with locals in their houses. When I arrived at the homestay, I had to get accustomed to their everyday lives, such as showering with a bucket and waking up to the sound of a rooster. Despite their living conditions, the hosts have never forgotten to put a smile on their faces. We would walk a far distance to SLH (Sekolah Lentera Harapan) with little to see as fog covered up the sky. This was all worth it because interacting with the students there was a very pleasant experience. We did many activities, such as painting their basketball court and getting the experience to become a teacher. Despite the scorching hot weather, seeing the smiles on their faces made this less challenging. This experience made me realize the reality of the lives of many Indonesians and placing myself in their shoes. Although this MSL was full of challenges, I wouldn't trade this experience for anything else.

(Amanda Lesmana, SPH LV, Grade 9)

The week away from the school allowed everyone in Grade 9 to reflect on their lives. Over the five days in Lampung, most students' perspectives on their lives changed. Being in the villages and staying in the houses influenced how I viewed the life and privilege I have. It taught me that life is about more than money, success, and materialistic objects. It's about building strong relationships, working together, committing, and being thankful to God for what you have been given. So often, SPH students get whatever we want. We ask our parents for the newest iPhone or the new trend in the fashion world and get it right away. We have more than what we need and get everything we want.

Spending three days in the school and those houses opens your eyes and lets you see the reality of life. Nothing in life can be easily done alone. We always need help from someone: a teacher, a friend, or a family member. As we painted the walls of the school in Banjar Agung, I began to see the beauty of working together. God gave us people for the exact reason of helping and giving company to each other. In the Garden of Eden, no animal was compatible to help and love Adam the way Eve could. Unknowingly, friends and teachers become a big part of your journey as a teenager. They are the ones who helped you become who you are today. That painting task could not have been completed without everyone's cooperation. As 1 Corinthians 12:14 says, "For the body is not one member, but many." (KJV).

(Joan Eliana Lie, SPH LV, Grade 9)

# SPH LV GRADE 10 MSL TO NIAS

During the MSL trip this year, I had the incredible opportunity to visit Nias, an island off the coast of Sumatra. It was an absolute blessing. When we landed, I was certainly shocked when I heard that they did not have Gojek. I was devastated! However, this trip was the single most memorable experience that I have gained in my life. I did things I didn't know I could and was stretched in ways that I did not expect.

In Nias, we served a small SLH school and a center for kids from broken homes. I left my hectic schedule and comfort zone for a week to learn things I will cherish for the rest of my life. I witnessed the irreplaceable and warm smiles of the happiest and most precious kids in the world with the most beautiful hearts.

Even though I was the one teaching them and supposedly giving, on the contrary, I was the one receiving and learning much more about true joy and love. It was a really big deal for me on an internal and personal level.

I experienced God's love so powerfully in the kids I met. They sang beside me, held my hand,





and were eager to get to know me. From them, I learned that the things that matter most do not lie in the materialistic value of possessions we might have.

I got a glimpse of what servant leadership looked like and what being like Jesus means. I felt blessed in those moments, despite being lost in a swarm of kids, sweating a lot, and being tired. Their happy faces have stayed, and will stay with me, for the rest of my life.

That joy is a kind of joy that is unexplainable. This joy is only felt when we stop thinking about ourselves and find the joy that is derived from serving others. It is a sense of fulfillment that can only come from experiencing the love of God that radiates in people's lives and by being with people who are so different from me yet are so rich in spirit. The service opportunity I received there is worth more than everything and anything I could pay with money.

(Chae Yeon Hwang, SPH LV Grade 10)





## PH LV MSL TO NEW HOPE **LEARNING CENTER (NHLC)**

Hi, my name is David, and my wife and I have been in Indonesia for about six years now. When we first came in 2014, we started attending a church in Jakarta that had an ongoing ministry to refugees. We live in Karawaci and there are several refugees in Serpong, so we started to reach out to them. We realized that there are certain needs that the refugee community has that we needed to address. Primarily, they wanted help with the education of their children. Secondly, adults have no formal way to work. The third problem is that they live in a very small area and are cooped up in small rooms 24 hours a day. Those were the three primary needs that they expressed to us, and slowly, by the Grace of God, we started to address these primary needs.

My wife and I do not formally belong to any ministry agency or a specific church. We're just two people that felt called to get involved when we saw the needs here and, as we continue to work to try to reach out to these people, many others come along who also feel a similar call. We started small with only a few people. Once a week, we would cook a meal for them and then study the Word together. Now, after six years, things have changed dramatically. The ministry has grown from such a small beginning to a large enterprise.

We also have partnerships with many different entities, especially with SPH. We are very thankful for the many groups that have been interacting with us and are truly grateful to people like Rebecca Metcalfe, Matthew Mann, and so many others who work with the refugee children.

(David Paul, Founder of NHLC)





We really appreciate the opportunity to bring SPH kids to our learning center and conducting different activities for a couple of days. By the end of the day, both sides warmed up to each other and were learning together, which was a blessing to see.

This experience was beneficial to both groups. For the SPH students, I think it has helped the students to realize that the refugee crisis is real, especially after meeting the refugees and hearing their stories. I think it helps SPH students see that there's a world out there where kids their age are struggling and not getting to go to school, while they are blessed with SPH's huge facilities. I hope that this experience would help them to understand the world beyond their world.

For the refugees' side, they were able to connect with the outside world. Parents have often told me that they do not know any Indonesians at all and that no one reaches out to them. So again, it is a huge blessing to connect the refugees with SPH kids so that friendships can blossom into something more. My wish is that they will give hope to the refugee kids and that someday, they would get to go to school and have hope for the future.

We were also able to have four refugee families host SPH students for lunch, and the time that they had was just precious. The students got to know the families, what their struggles are like and what it is like to sit around all day long, having nothing to do because they cannot work or go to school. I think that this is something that SPH students can take home, share, and brainstorm ways to bless these families. So overall, I truly believe that this program has helped both sides, and David and I are very thankful to SPH.

(Sor Bee Leow Paul, Founder of NHLC)





The group of us who went to Daboto did a lot of things while we were there, but I think what stood out for all of us was just the experiences that we had with the community members. Some of those experiences included being at the school itself. We had a morning where we each took a class and we rotated through cycles and taught the students different subjects.

After the first day at school, we played a lot of games at the gym that they have out there. We also gave out some hygiene packs that included mainly toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and things that they could take home, as in school they had toothbrushes, but at home they didn't.

Other than that, we did a couple of different things divided by gender. For the girls, we went to a ladies' Bible study that happens every Wednesday in different

groups of houses around the village. The experience impacted us as we saw that the women were able to lead the whole Bible study. The ladies were reading the Bible, extracting messages, and sharing with the other women about what they were learning in the Gospel.

As we left from Papua, I began to reflect on this memorable journey. Before leaving for Papua, Ibu Aileen Riady gave us a message, and I think it was stuck in all of our hearts the whole time we were there. We don't know why the six of us were chosen to go to Papua, but God chose us not because we are the wealthiest, the smartest, or have the best experiences and opportunities in life.

I was personally impacted by being able to witness the work of Christ in their hearts, which was so visible in the way they acted, how they talked, and the smiles they had on their faces. We couldn't understand their language, but it didn't matter because we could still see the love of God and how it impacted their lives.

(Leila Asma Mann, SPH LV, Grade 10)

The Papua MSL was a blessing in every way. This was a vision that Ibu Aileen Riady had three years ago when the timing was right. God's timing is always perfect and it was a beautiful blessing to be able to offer this experience in the 2020 MSL year. We had six students who took up this invitation: Leila, Nadelin, James, Jason, Bara, and Eli. Pak Recky and I accompanied this group of students.

When we met for the last time before coming back to Jakarta, Pak Recky and I knew that our students' lives would never be the same again. They spoke about being changed for the better and we could see how our students' lives developed. Shy students increased in confidence as they testified to God's goodness. I was thrilled to see those members become so confident in sharing and being blessed in that way. Our students also spoke to being blessed by seeing missionaries at work and that they wanted to be more like them. That's something that may have influenced their vocation and they reflected much on how they wanted to live their lives. It was thrilling to hear how they want to share and declare their faith.

There is nothing more satisfying than seeing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity being used to further God's kingdom. We talked about being a blessing to the communities, learning, growing and developing skills in all sorts of areas, but our students spoke to be blessed as well by the members of Daboto community, by the Crocketts, by the SLH teachers, by our clinic workers, by the Sentani missionaries, and by Pak Wally. There were so many people involved and it was a tapestry of God's goodness and His love. We were blessed and it was something God has woven from the beginning. We know that God was at work and will continue to be at work. This was a historic MSL and I do pray that it will continue in years to come.

(Eseta McIntyre, SPH Lippo Village Teacher)











"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

- Matthew 5:16



As Children of Light, we are called to shine Christ's love through our words, actions, and deeds. Doing good work that blesses others and being good role models in our communities are visible indicators of His light to the world. To put it simply, to be Children of Light, we are called to make an impact and initiate change – whether it be small or big, seen or unseen.

In this edition, we feature some of SPH's most prominent alumni who have made positive societal changes and have shown the qualities of Children of Light through what they do in their careers or projects. We also feature a current student who has initiated a project a few years ago, showing us that we do not have to wait until adulthood to make an impact.

In regards to the current crisis, we pray that their stories may inspire you to have hope in this broken world. By God's grace and strength, we can continue to take action for the glory of God's kingdom because the Light of the World who came down to earth, Jesus Christ, has enabled us to become Children of Light.

Our lives may be fleeting, the world will soon pass, but God calls us to keep abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, our labor is not vain (1 Cor. 15:58).

Karina Negara and Lukas Limanjaya are SPH Lippo Village alumni who cofounded KALM, a mental health and counseling company that is making a progressive impact in Indonesia. Karina was a student at SPH LV since she was in Grade 5 until she graduated from high school in 2009. Lukas started at SPH LV in Grade 4 and graduated in 2004.

# Hi, Karina and Lukas! So, tell us a bit about your educational background since you graduated from SPH.

Karina: After I graduated high school, I studied Psychology at the University of Indonesia (UI). I took the international program, spending 2 years at UI and 2 years at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. I graduated with two undergrad degrees, a B. A in Psychology and Sarjana Psikologi (S. Psi.). Then I worked as a school counselor for a year. After that I continued my studies in clinical child psychology at the University of Indonesia, where I graduated in 2017. I've been a licensed psychologist ever since.

Lukas: I went to UBC (University of British Colombia) for commerce. I took my Bachelor of Commerce there in marketing and transportation logistics and then worked for my parents in the energy industry for 3 years. I also worked as a school counselor at SPH LV for 2 years before I took my Master of Arts in Counseling at Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS), Philadelphia. After I graduated from WTS, I started KALM with two of my fellow SPH alumni, Karina and Angela.

# How did you start KALM?

Karina: The initial idea was actually started by our friend, Angela Widjaja, who is a fellow SPH Lippo Village alumnus (Class of 2007). In July 2017, Angela invited Lukas and I to meet so that she could share her vision. She brought us

"For me as a psychologist, being a Child of Light means loving people who feel unloved with what I have: my time, my attention, my expertise. What I do is help people realize and truly believe that there is indeed a light at the end of their tunnel"

- Karina Negara

along because she had wanted to make an online counseling app for years but had never really found the right people to collaborate with. We met for the first time and talked. Angela shared her vision and we thought it was a good idea. We officially established the company and signed the papers as an official "PT" (company) on July 7. We then launched the first app on September 7 and the user app for mobile on October 7, with the name of "KALM". We also launched the app's profile on different social media sites (Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube).

# What was the problem you wanted to tackle by starting KALM?

Lukas: From the beginning, all of us recognized a huge problem in mental health in Asian culture



in general, especially in Indonesia. To some extent, mental health is still considered a taboo topic and not many people are willing to talk about it or pay attention to it, despite the many people affected by it. I worked as a school counselor at SPH Lippo Village and from that experience I realized that there were a lot of people who needed counseling. but they do not know where to go. Some students for instance, had problems such as suicidal thoughts and acts, panic attacks, anxiety disorders, and many other mental health issues. A lot of times, parents even came to us and talked about their emotional and mental problems.

Mental health is difficult to talk about in an Asian culture but it is also often considered a taboo topic in a religious context as well. Sometimes, churches are unwilling to recognize the many mental health issues that believers may face. As much as people want to help, sometimes the simple advice, "Just pray about it" is just not enough. This is why I ended up pursuing a degree in Christian Counseling at the Westminster Theological Seminary. As Christians, we know that Jesus has the title of "Wonderful Counselor", why then are we sometimes not willing to counsel God's people?

Karina: Because of this taboo there is a lack of information, resources and knowledge about mental health. They do not know where to look for help or they may not even be aware that they need help. Oftentimes, when they seek help from counselors or psychologists, they would be considered "crazy" or abnormal, or at least, think of themselves that way. To add to the weight of the problem, there is a lack of counseling places in Jakarta and it is a hassle to get to a counselor. Either because it is too far away or because of the traffic. Also, good clinics are often full and you might be on a waiting list for weeks or even months.

**Lukas:** This problem is rooted in the tendency of the church and other religions to separate science and faith. A lot of religious people are highly





suspicious of psychology. When we deal with our emotions, most people connect them right away with faith, "If you are stressed, it means you don't trust God enough", "Why are you depressed? Don't you have a close relationship with God? Maybe you don't pray enough". Instead of helping people with mental health issues, people are so ready to judge them. Sometimes they try to help them by just offering a prayer and giving some Bible verses. I don't mean to undermine the power of prayer and the word of God, but we have to acknowledge that mental health needs proper, professional help, just as physical health does.

Karina: I completely agree with that. People are simply not treating mental health like physical health. When we have the flu for example, we immediately buy medicine or if it gets worse, we go to the doctor. But what if we experience a broken heart or depression? I guess the problem is people don't yet understand that mental health is just as important as physical health. This means that when you have mental health difficulties, you also need to get actual, concrete help. God can use counselors to heal us too. Let's make it clear: you can have a wonderful relationship with God and still experience depression, anxiety or any other mental health issue. That doesn't mean you are not close enough to God.

# So, what is your goal?

Karina: From the business side, of course we want more people to use our app and we want to run a business. However, on top of that, we simply want to reach people who need mental health support. We want to reach as many as people as possible, because we know that many people are not getting the help they need due to the problems we have mentioned before. According to one of research articles that I've read, only 8 out of 100 people actually reach out for help in terms of finding a counselor or other mental health

support. Through KALM, we want to act as a bridge between people and professional counselors. We want to meet that goal by raising people's awareness about mental health issues. In order to achieve this, we not only sell the app but we also do other public services such as seminars, talk shows, and posting mental health content through our social media.

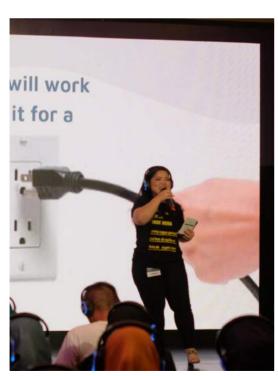
Lukas: Our vision for the company is pretty simple: "A world with no more broken people", and our mission is "To help people get the help they need, one significant conversation at a time". I think that's what we are trying to do. We are targeting millennials, since we as the founders, are also millennials. We want to help the people that we know and can relate to best. This was also the main consideration when we started with a mobile app, since millennials usually spend so much of their time on their smartphones. We also provide an online counseling service.

### How has KALM been progressing so far?

Lukas: We started with the mobile app, which is a B2C (Business-to-Consumer) platform. Then we expanded our services to B2B (Business-to-Business) in which we come to offices and assign our counselors to help the employees there. As I mentioned before, we also hold seminars, coaching, workshops, and anything related to mental health support or psychology. There are a variety of topics for these sessions such as; "burn-out" or workplace stress, self-confidence, communication skills, and many more.

*Karina:* Right now, we are actively looking for investors for our projects. We are currently developing several projects such as producing a series of books for children. Right now, we are working on four children's books and hopefully they will be published this year. The four books will be in Bahasa and each book talks about a different emotion or feeling. We will cover four





basic emotions: happiness, sadness, anger and fear/anxiety. We hope that these books can reach as many homes as possible. We want to educate Indonesian parents and their children, since we know that emotions or feelings may not be discussed much.

### How has KALM impacted society?

Karina: We see the greatest impact of our work by receiving individual testimonies. I am also a psychologist (both online and offline) and it is always extra rewarding to get a sincere "thank you" from our clients. Some of our clients shared that they used to be suicidal but after they tried KALM for a while, they felt much better, despite the long process they had to undergo. We also get Direct Messages on Instagram from our followers and they tell us how much they have benefited from our content. I am invited to many big events and get to talk in front of hundreds of people, but at the end of the day, individual testimonies help us know that what we are doing is truly worth it and that all our hard work has paid off.

## What does being "children of light" mean to you?

Karina: Being "children of light" means showing who and what God is, showing light to where there is little to no light. He is Love. Concretely, for me as a psychologist, being a Child of Light means loving people who feel unloved with what I have: my time, my attention, my expertise. At least by letting them know that I am here for them, whenever they are ready to talk or cry. These people could be my clients, potential clients, friends, or family. You know the saying, "There is light at the end of the tunnel"? Well, some tunnels are really long. Darkness can go on for days, months, or even years. I don't blame people for thinking the tunnel is probably a dead end. What I do, as a Child of Light, is help people realize and truly believe that there is indeed a light at the end of their tunnel.

To learn more about KALM, visit:

https://get-kalm.com/en/



Tricia Sada is an SPH Lippo Village alumna who has recently graduated from ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California. She is a product designer who uses her talent and skill to design face shields for hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# When did you graduate from SPH and would you tell us a bit about your educational background since you graduated high school?

I graduated from SPH in 2015 and recently graduated with a B.S. in Product Design at ArtCenter College of Design. I was able to have two Industrial Design internships, one where I designed laptops at HP in Houston, and the other where I designed sustainable razors at P&G Gillette in Boston. I have also done various sponsored projects, from designing shoes for UnderArmour, an architectural model for First Republic Bank, future mobility strategy for DiDi Chuxing, and an EEG brain scanner and brain research platform for UCLA CNSI doctors.

# Tell us a bit also about your projects as a product designer.

Product design is like architecture but instead of designing buildings, you design products. Product design is about understanding what the real problem is and conducting in-depth research on who you are designing for. As a product designer, I use my profession to constantly look for ways to help those around me. I find great fascination in envisioning the future, and I aspire to play a role in shaping it.

My process as a product designer involves a deep understanding of people, from empathizing with their pain points, and to seeing what excites them so that I can truly design for their needs. I translate these needs into designs by iterating and prototyping to create something tangible. I want to build a future that combines business, technology, and design in a way that best connects to the

human experience.

# How did you start making face shields? What problem drove you to start it?

I'm leading two separate COVID-19 efforts. I cofounded Shield Makers to fabricate over 3,000 face shields. I also became a Lead UX/UI Designer for Open COVID Pledge and built a website for them in less than 2 weeks.

This face shield project started so spontaneously. It started through a casual conversation where Andy Lin reached out to my friends and me about the need for designing face shields. This is where Shield Makers began and how our collaboration with Andy Lin and the team from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Hospital (RLANRC) started. My fellow product design friends Hon Li, James Gildea, and I started working on face shield designs, 3D printing designs, and trying other fabrication methods like laser-cutting and silicone casting to see what would be the most effective method. The project grew rapidly, and I began taking on a project coordinator role, managing the growing 30+ volunteers of students and faculty as well as communicating with local corporations that were interested in collaborating with us. It was amazing to see how students, faculty, hospital workers, and corporations were coming together and collaborating to create these face shields. Local fabrication companies like Supplyframe and 3DAntPrinting started helping us make shields and a 3D printing company called Monoprice even donated a total of 25 3D printers to help us scale up our efforts.

I knew Andy Lin beforehand because I was looking to introduce my younger brother to him. After all, they share a mutual field and interest in creating prosthetics to help disabled people. Andy and I developed a great professional relationship before COVID started because of our mutual faith in Christ and passion for how design and

engineering can help other people. It was amazing to see how we could be connected and it was truly by God's amazing plan that we crossed paths.

# How has your face shield project been progressing so far?

We've made more than 3,000 shields in Los Angeles for hospital workers, and I inspired my family in Jakarta to also create 2,000 for local hospitals. So more than 5,000 have been made worldwide!

# According to your belief as a Christian, how do you see the importance of making an impact as a believer through what you do?

I believe it is highly crucial to make an impact as a believer, and that is why I studied product design in the first place. One of the best things about being a product designer is that you create tangible products to solve problems and ultimately help others.

One concept that is compelling to me is the idea of Social Entrepreneurship. If you don't know what this is I highly encourage you to research more about it It's the idea of creating a business that is mission-driven and focused on creating change. My goal is to use the design skills that I have learned to create an innovative social enterprise that truly helps people.

As a designer, I see that I'm reflecting the Creator by creating products. We are beautifully and wonderfully made in God's likeness. Because God is the True Creator, we are driven to create like Him.

Find out more about the Shield Makers & Tricia's other design projects:

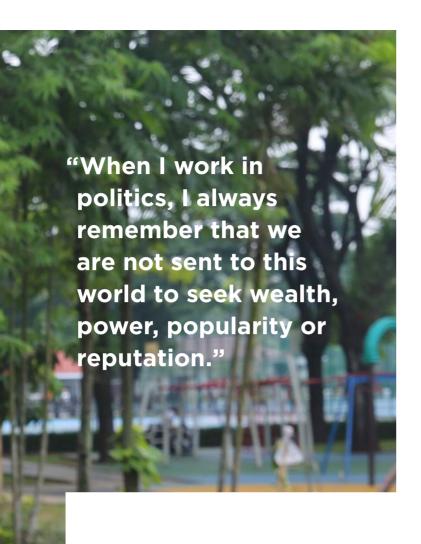
www.shieldmakers.org www.opencovidpledge.org www.triciasada.com "My goal is to use my design skills that I have learned to create an innovative social enterprise that truly helps people."











Being a politician is notorious for dirty tricks, manipulation, and corruption scandals. However, Michael Sianipar is proving that being a politician can also be an amazing opportunity to do good. Michael Victor Sianipar is an alumnus of SPH Lippo Village, Class of 2007. Upon graduating from SPH, he pursued his studies in Political Sciences at Yonsei University, South Korea. He then went back to Jakarta in late 2011 and started his career in politics in early 2012. Let us hear his testimony as a politician in Indonesia.

# How did your experience at SPH shape the way you see your life now?

During my time at SPH, I was a very quiet kid. I liked to read books by myself and one of my favorite subjects was history. My favorite part of reading about history was to learn about the histories of nations. When I was in school, I learned that most of the time the leaders of the nation are the ones who determine whether society will prosper or collapse. This interest inspired me to want to contribute to the workings of the government. Therefore, I chose to take Political Science and it turned out to be the starting point of everything.

One important value that I learned when I was in SPH LV is that life should not be measured by worldly success. What the world values as success is not the most important thing since we only get to live for 70 years or 80 if our strength endures. So, what should be our standard of success? It is when we faithfully do what God calls us to do in this world. In my case, I know my calling is to do politics.

As I work in politics, I always remember that we are not sent to this world to seek wealth, power, popularity, or even reputation. We are not seeking for our names to be written in history. However, when we try to model God's love, we can see the world and even learn to love the world. Put simply, we don't seek for what the world offers but we learn to serve the people in it. This is one principle of the Christian faith that I learned while in SPH.

# What made you decide to go into politics?

One of the main reasons I got into politics was a growing sense of empathy with Indonesians living in Jakarta. Once, I did an impromptu visit to people who live in the riverbank area of Jakarta. I saw little children swimming in the polluted riverbank and the people of Jakarta whose life didn't seem to change even with the passing of many years. Ten years ago, I started my studies in South Korea. Four years later, when I got back to Jakarta, nothing much had changed. I found out that many children were still dropping out of school. I feel all of us have a call to contribute.

By the time I entered the political world, I realized that it is indeed harsh and filled with political turbulence and different crises each year. However, when those times come, I always try to remind myself of the reason I got here in the first place.

My political vision is not anything special. My hope is that no child will drop out of school, everyone will have access to education, there will be enough teachers to teach in schools, and that children will have proper school buildings and uniforms. I also hope that in Indonesia, no child or adult is left without access to healthcare from trained health workers in their area. Those are my main reasons for being in politics.

# During your career in politics, what projects have you done?

In 2014, I ran for Jakarta City Council (Dewan Kota Jakarta). Although I was not elected at that time, I did not consider that as a loss since I was the only candidate with a pure fundraising campaign. As a new and relatively young candidate I still received 3000 votes. I felt it was another form of success because I left the campaign with a clear conscience.

In 2017, my team worked to assist five governor candidates. Four of the five candidates were successfully elected as governors: in West Java, South Sulawesi, South Sumatra, and West Nusa Tenggara. I was also responsible for the strategy and recruitment of party candidates in the preparation of legislative elections in 2019.

My team and I do political consultation. Our role is to identify, empower, and support potential local leaders. My goal is to change the political and civic culture in Indonesia by promoting public participation and increasing the government's accountability.

# What is your special message for our current students?

I always encourage my friends and juniors in SPH to know Indonesia better. I always tell them that we can achieve a lot if we are prepared to get out of our comfort zone, instead of just staying in our "bubble". If we go to Jakarta and other remote areas around Indonesia, we can see that we are born and grown in Indonesia for a reason. We are here to share, to help and to love one another.







Abigail Limuria & Grace Kadiman attended Biola University several years ago and had never thought that they would write a book together that sold thousands of copies. Abigail graduated from SPH Sentul City in 2013 and went to Biola University where she studied Media Management at the School of Cinema & Media Arts. Grace is an SPH Lippo Village alumna (Class of 2015) and studied Journalism at Biola University. We had the chance to talk with Abigail about starting the Lalita Project, writing the book, and how it has developed into a social movement.

# How did you start the Lalita Project? What problem did you see & what are the goals that you want to achieve?

Grace and I grew up without any Indonesian woman role models. When we asked our friends, they also did not have any. It made us think, "Is there no modern Indonesian woman worthy of being called a role model?" This realization sparked our curiosity, made us eager to do some research. I asked Grace to come up with the craziest profession that is very unlikely for an Indonesian woman to take up. She said "Astronaut!" I typed in "Indonesia's first astronaut" on Google and the name Pratiwi Sudarmono popped up. As it turns out, Indonesia's first astronaut was a woman. Not only that, she was also one of Asia's first female astronauts. Ibu Pratiwi Sudarmono still teaches at Universitas Indonesia and collaborates with NASA. We thought, if there are women such as Ibu Pratiwi, who is amazing but is unheard of, there must be more. We started to dig more into it and found a lot more. Then, we realized that this information is all scattered. Nobody has ever compiled and presented it in a modern and interesting manner. I told Grace that somebody should make a book about these women, and in the end, we decided, "Why not us?" That is the beginning of the Lalita book. We wanted to write a book to show that

there are a lot of amazing Indonesian women who are still alive today and are worthy to be called role models.

### How has the Lalita Project been progressing so far?

So far, the Lalita book has sold over 4,000 copies. Considering that this is an independently published book, and also considering that this is our very first time writing, it's quite an amazing accomplishment. The Lalita Project Instagram community has reached over 13.5k in one year also. Through our social media, we get to push our core value which is Empowerment through Storytelling. We have donated the Lalita book to many different parts of Indonesia, from orphanages, schools in rural areas, and even a women's prison. We've been invited to speak at various events including Festival Relawan, Universitas Indonesia, Festival Pemuda in Semarang, Jakarta's Social Media Week, and even SPH Sentul City.

As of now, Lalita Project is developing its next product (which is still a secret). We are focusing on expanding the Lalita Project brand and community as well through a podcast, YouTube, Twitter, and community meet-ups.

### What does being "children of light" mean to you?

I think being children of light means to choose hope even when it is controversial, unpopular, or difficult. It is how you live your life as you strive towards meaning, goodness, and truth instead of striving towards what is easy. I don't think anybody does it perfectly, and no one ever will, but we all should strive for it anyway.

# What is your special message for our current students?

Because of an idea God put in our head three years ago, we went on a fantastic adventure. Because of an idea, I had the opportunity to enter Sri Mulyani's office, have tea with Susi Pudjiastuti,

go to Najwa Shihab's place, and chat with Martha Tilaar. Because of an idea, I managed to open doors and stand on stages that shouldn't be available to me.

I know that God created each one of us with unique dreams and passions so that we can uniquely bless this world. Perhaps God has put a solution to some of today's problems in your heart; all you have to do is go after it. If our idea has brought me to so many places and adventures, who knows what doors your ideas will open and lead you to. A good idea is indeed your all-access pass to the world.

To learn more about the LALITA Project, visit: https://www.instagram.com/lalitaproject/













Nathania Zhong graduated from SPH Lippo Village in 2019. During the pandemic, she initiated the Anak Indonesia Bersatu movement that sends medical equipment to various hospitals to help protect medical workers against COVID-19. We recently had the opportunity to discuss how she started the movement

### How did Anak Indonesia Bersatu start?

It honestly started quite unexpectedly. I was already thinking of doing something when I first heard that most hospitals in Indonesia weren't getting enough medical supplies. While I was still thinking about that, one of my mom's friends reached out to me. She invited me to create and organize this group with a number of my underclassmen and friends from other schools.

We wanted to raise funds and distribute medical supplies to medical workers. After a few days of organizing and planning with all the students, parents, and individuals involved, the project took off.

# How is the progress as of today, and what is your plan after all the funds have been raised?

As of April 3, we have distributed supplies to twenty hospitals—four in Kupang and sixteen in the Greater Jakarta Area. We have raised over 500 million (IDR) from donations to our KitaBisa page, as well as immediate transfers to our accounts. We're simultaneously raising funds, buying supplies, and distributing them to the different hospitals, so our future plans are underway. However, we do have a long-term goal of making this organization multi-functional and not just a "pop-up" group that helped out during this pandemic.

Can you share parts of your spiritual journey that have caused you to care so much about the sufferings (especially to those impacted by

### COVID-19)?

I'm not going to lie and say that I care about the suffering more than I care about myself most of the time because it's not true. Helping people isn't second-nature to me. If someone were to ask me to give up half of the materials in my life to those who need it, although I know the correct answer to that, I don't know whether I would do it or not. However, I've come to understand that even if helping others doesn't come easily, that doesn't mean that it isn't part of God's calling for me.

If I'm being completely honest, these past few years, I've been quite distant from God. I've been putting off my [spiritual] journey, and at one point, I even convinced myself that I didn't need Him. After months of reflecting on what to write on college essays, I got to thinking about what I wanted to do for my future. I never actually gave it much thought, but now that adulthood is just a couple years away, it'll be an understatement to say that it has caused me a lot of anxious nights. One of the questions I asked myself was what I liked to do. It should be a simple question, but I couldn't even find a concrete answer to it.

During this time, I was reading The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything by James Martin, S.J. It made me reflect a lot about my relationship with God and what He wants me to do. After many prayers that often resulted from moments of reflection, I realized that part of my calling was to help others. I realized that I found joy in serving others, even if it's hard to do, and the book made me relate that joy to God. After reading this book, I truly felt like I had just discovered Christ. I know that sounds strange because I grew up in a religious household; though maybe it makes sense because most people who are overexposed to religious teachings tend to grow numb to the excitement and joy that should come with religion. Nevertheless, it was truly eye-opening. This reconnected me to God, thus reconnecting me to the suffering of others.

# How do you think this experience with AIB is impacting yourself as an individual (values, dreams, and goals) in the future?

On the practical side, this experience with Anak Indonesia Bersatu has given me a good understanding of how to properly run an organization. On the more personal side, I'm learning to be more disciplined and conscientious. It's undeniable that we're affecting thousands of lives with what we do, and of course, we want this to continuously be a positive impact.

My goals and dreams have gone through a change, but for the better. I know for certain now that I want to continue helping people in need. Although I don't have an exact vision of how I'm going to do that in the future, I'll leave that problem for my future self and take things one step at a time. What I've come to understand and accept is that whatever I do, if I'm constantly consulting God about it and following what I believe He has in mind, I'll be okay.

# Could you give words of encouragement to other students and young Indonesians in general?

"The young are the future."

Growing up, this phrase has always been the motivation handed to us by grownups to encourage us to do good deeds, such as helping our planet and the people around us. However, after hearing it over and over again throughout the years, we start to get desensitized to the actual importance of that statement.

Right now, there are a surprising number of individuals, organizations, and even companies raising funds to support medical workers, Gojek/Grab drivers, and others in need. However, we do have to acknowledge that many people are willing to help out because of the direct impact of the coronavirus in everyone's daily lives. This sense of urgency is the drive that compels people, including Anak Indonesia Bersatu, to take immediate action. However, this urgency isn't always acknowledged when we have other distractions that distances us away from the feeling of obligation to help those in need.

So, my words of encouragement to all young people and even adults, is to look around you. I mean, look at those who are suffering even if it makes you uncomfortable. Discomfort breeds the desire for change and the potential to grow. If we are all in our comfortable bubbles, ignorant of many of the horrible things going on outside our field of vision, then there won't be that sense of urgency to help.

The coronavirus is disrupting everyone's day-today lives so the urgency to minimize the casualties is very high. But when the coronavirus is no longer an apparent threat, what then? Will there still be people willing to help those who are suffering? Or will they continue to suffer where our eyes don't want to see?

To learn more about Anak Indonesia Bersatu, visit: https://www.instagram.com/ anakindonesiabersatu/







Carys Mihardia, a 10th-grade student from SPH Lippo Village, is proof that young people can take initiative and create change. She is the founder of Carys Cares, a social movement that aims to raise awareness about individuals with Down Syndrome. Along with this movement, she has also designed merchandise to raise funds for children with Down Syndrome.

Ever since she was young, Carys' mother, Lisa Mihardia - CEO of Alleira Batik, celebrated her children's birthdays with charity events. Through these activities, she instilled a spirit of empathy among her children.

"My mother often took me to charity activities at foundations and orphanages, especially during my birthday. I started teaching English for my friends who are underprivileged since I was in 4th-grade," Carvs explained. She feels thankful because she has the capacity to help her friends who do not have the same privilege as she does.

Initially, she thought that her actions still had no real impact. Thus, she started to focus on a plan for a bigger project that was more sustainable; a project that would create a significant social impact.

"I have always asked myself, 'what can I do to create a bigger impact for others?" she stated.

Her answer turned out to be an unexpected one. It came during a Car Free Day event in Jakarta in 2016, where her mother asked Carys to replace her in a racewalking event. It turns out, most of the participants were Down Syndrome children from POTADS (Persatuan Orangtua Dengan Anak Down Syndrome), a community for parents with Down Syndrome children.

Carys believes that in Indonesia, there is still not enough awareness about the issues surrounding children with Down Syndrome. There is still a negative stigma. Often times, people underestimate the capabilities, emotions and intelligence of those with Down Syndrome.









# "If a 15-year-old can do it, then anyone can, and we should start now because it's never too late!"

"I want to tackle the stigma for Down Syndrome individuals because these children with Down Syndrome are not dangerous, our negligence is," Carys stated.

During a visit to Rumah Ceria Down Syndrome by POTADS with her mother, Carys thought of all the activities these children are capable of. "If we give them the proper direction, they can show us so many talents such as painting, dancing, and singing. They were doing all these with great joy," Carys explained.

Since then, Carys wanted to do something that can change and empower the lives of these children. "We want to empower them in aspects of youth and creativity, so we made a line of merchandise and share it with a lot of people just to raise awareness," Carys explained.

Carys decided that she will sell the merchandise she designed and donate all the sales to POTADS. Among all the designs she chose for the merchandise, there is one design painted by one of POTADS' children, Ratri. Carys chose Ratri's orange painting because she thinks that it has striking colors and her painting is very neat. She then printed Ratri's painting into different lines of merchandise including t-shirts, fans, dolls, pouches, goodie bags, umbrellas, and scented candles.

"I want this merchandise to be useful for every age and gender. That's why I created a lot of variations. These products will be sold through Carys Cares' Instagram and the exhibitions that will be held by POTADS," Carys stated. She also displayed the merchandise during her Personal Project Exhibition in February at SPH LV.

Carys has no sales target for her products because her current priority is building awareness. She continues to spread this awareness as she shares Carys Cares merchandise with influential people, including Madame Mei Chou, wife of the Ambassador of the United States.

Carys believes that she can leave a significant impact on society and other people can too. "We want to show the world that if a 15-year-old can do it, then anyone can, and we should start now because it's never too late!"

# Four Things We Can Learn FROM HOME LEARNING PERIOD

Drastic times call for drastic measures. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, governments have called their citizens to take drastic actions with social distancing, which include working or studying from home. Schools and some of the workplaces are temporarily closed to minimize human to human contact and virus transmission.

All SPH campuses are surely affected by this policy, and our school leaders have decided to implement home-based learning for students from mid-March. Teachers and some of the staff also work from home. This is not something that we took lightly, as it was a very difficult decision, but in the end, we feel that it is the appropriate thing for all.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. Even in times like this, we still can see God's providence for us and our school. What can we learn from this experience?

# 1. God's Providence through Technology

First, we see God's providence through the advanced technology that we have, and in times like this, we need to maximize its potential. Mr. Matthew Mann stated:

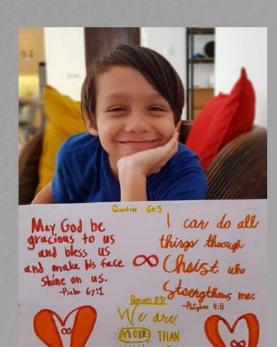
"We as a group of schools have been investing very heavily in technology for many years, it is a large part of our budget and we have intended for years to be in a position where we could do this and really, we can. We have already software and internet infrastructure here in our school. Network, software, capabilities that enable a transition within really just a matter of days or hours from classroom experience to home experience."

At SPH, we have been utilizing technology that makes this home-based learning possible. We have an official license of Microsoft Office that allows our teachers, staff, and students to connect. Other than that, we have been using Edmodo and SeeSaw for the Junior School and Managebac for the Senior School. Through those apps, they can communicate with each other, share lesson materials, complete homework, and make announcements. Teachers and students can also connect face to face using Zoom teleconferences.

However, we are completely aware that technology cannot completely replace teachers and real teaching in the physical classroom. Remote learning has always had its limitations. Nevertheless, we still can be grateful for the advancement of technology and other online educational resources that are available to us. The key here is SPH wants to ensure the continuity of learning.

# 2. Dedicated, **Hardworking Teachers**

Second, we come to realize that we have a lot of great dedicated teachers! This situation has brought out the best of our teachers' abilities. We can also see their hard work in preparing the teaching materials with a thorough lesson plan, video recordings, and many more. They just do not stop giving their best even in times like this. From them, we learn how to be resilient and flexible to adapt during hard times.

















# 3. Family Bonding

Third, we have seen families become closer as they need to spend an entire day at home. Parents get to understand more about what their children are learning at school. Parents of younger children have also become more creative in providing fun yet beneficial activities for their children. Families are engaging more in prayers and the meditation of God's word. It turns out that staying at home for a long time has opened up a new opportunity that families did not have before.

# 4. The Precious SPH Community

Lastly, this less ideal situation provides us a realization of how precious our school is, especially the community and the people. We may have taken SPH for granted before, but now, we deeply realize how much we miss our school. Students are longing to be in the classroom and to meet their teachers and friends. To put it simply, our students just miss school life. Teachers truly miss their students and their colleagues. We now know how much God has blessed our school with a community where love and grace are cherished.

Home learning was not an easy situation for all. Students could not meet each other for three months or even more. Some parents were struggling at home to keep their children occupied and entertained, not to mention the uncertain global economy that caused worry. Some of our expatriate teachers had to pack their bags at short notice and flew back to their home countries. Our Grade 12 IB DP students have been impacted significantly as IB Exam was canceled worldwide, and they did not get the chance to have a proper farewell ceremony.

We acknowledge all these emotions and the problems that we face in this difficult time. But God gives us His word so that we can see beyond what our bare eyes are capable of seeing.

Although we might not get all the answers, we know everything happens for a reason in God's hand. We know everything works for the good of those who love Him, (Rom. 8:28) whether we're learning from home or the classroom.

We know everything works for the good of those who love Him, (Rom. 8:28) whether we're learning from home or the classroom.

# My Journey of Becoming a Baseball Athlete

Ray Santoso is a Grade 12 students who is graduating this year. He is passionate about baseball and has proved himself as a young, aspiring baseball athlete in Indonesia. Read his journey as a student-athlete.

My first memories in life are of baseball. I remember my older brother and sister throwing and catching the small, white ball with such enthusiasm and enjoyment. I admired their bravery, since to my 5-yearold self, it seemed so scary to play. The first time I picked up the ball, I couldn't imagine the bruises and pains that I would get if this small but hard ball hit me. However, the first time my arm threw that ball to my brother, I knew that I was born to be on a diamond field. As I kept practicing baseball, my coach said that I had a natural instinct and a talent for baseball. Since my parents were very supportive of my siblings' and my baseball interests, they also invested a lot of their time and effort into helping us grow to be better athletes. Now, we've become a family that works together to celebrate the victories, and we support each other through the losses.

Baseball has also brought me to many different tournaments, both nationally and internationally. The domestic tournaments have helped me to connect with many other Indonesian baseball players and coaches. Similarly, playing at an international level has taken me to places with different approaches to baseball. Teams from countries like the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, and Korea have so much skill and talent.

tridonesz 78 I have been impressed with the way they played, and watching them has helped me improve my own technique. During many tournaments I have often been lucky enough to be noticed. I have been awarded individual honors such as best pitcher, best hitter, player of the match, and MVP. Recently, I was blessed enough to be chosen to represent the Indonesian baseball team in the Southeast Asian games (30th SEA GAMES). Through all the achievements that I never thought I could have attained, it has become my primary motivation to keep getting better.

Furthermore, as a student in SPH Lippo Village, the facilities and the education provided has helped me to become a wellrounded student athlete. With the variety of sports that SPH has, such as badminton, volleyball, basketball, rugby, soccer, swimming, and track and field. I feel that I have been encouraged to become a better athlete in many areas. By participating in different sports at school, it has also taught me a variety of character attributes, such as sportsmanship, never giving up, working together, humility, and leadership skills. Therefore, I am very thankful to SPH and all my fellow teammates and classmates. They have certainly helped me to become the athlete I am today.



RAY SANTOSO
SPH LIPPO VILLAGE,
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020
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Have you ever felt that a school changed you so much? Well, this school has changed me from not knowing Jesus to a believer. First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Brandon. I was born in Seattle, United States, and I have a brother named Logan. I am a 12-year-old in grade 6. This will be my last year at SPH since I will move back to the US due to my father's job relocation.

When I first came to this school, I was anxious about leaving my previous school and moving to a new one in Indonesia.

Everything was so new to me and was very different than I thought. I was scared, but moving here changed me into a better person. I was in Grade 3 when I moved here and around that time, I began to grow closer to God. In just a couple of months, I started to believe in Him. This is crazy! I used to think that it would take years for someone who never met God to finally believe in Him.

SPH has these amazing ways that help let your faith in Him flourish. Elementary students have chapel every Thursday and every Friday for Middle School students. We have teachers, students, and people from other countries share their testimony about their personal relationship with God. These talks inspired me to understand that everything is centered around Him.

My time at SPH Sentul City has not always been easy. Once, I was bullied by a kid in my class. He teased me and hurt me. I will always remember this verse that changed me, 1 Corinthians 3:23 which says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not human masters." This verse has helped me to overcome bullying by remembering that I am not serving people. I live not to please others but to please and to serve God alone. Now, after some time, my former bully and I are great friends.

Through my three and a half years here I have learned that even when life is hard, you need to keep striving because God is always with you; he will not forsake you. My experience here taught me to forgive and love people, especially my enemies, even when we know it is hard. God would want us to think positively and not avenge our enemies.

Lastly, I will remember SPH's kind and helpful community. The community is very welcoming, from the students who have been here since kindergarten to the newcomers. I will surely remember all these memories of SPH, especially my memories of receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This school has really enriched my journey of being shaped closer to Christ. I hope that whoever reads this can also grow closer to Him every day.



BRANDON RUSSELL TEH SPH SENTUL CITY, GRADE 6 STUDENT



# Promoting Indonesia on the Global Stage

SPH Lippo Village Alumni alongside other Indonesian Students Host the Penn Indonesia Conference: "Indonesia on the Global Stage"





Many of our alumni are spread throughout the world, attending some of the most reputable universities, including the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Two 2018 alumni from SPH LV, Hugo Leo & Janice K. Utomo, are currently in their sophomore year at the University of Pennsylvania (U-Penn). They both joined the Indonesian student association at U-Penn, called Penncasila. Penncasila was founded in 2017 as a tight-knit community of Indonesian students, whose mission is to share and to promote Indonesian culture to the community.

Last year, Penncasila held the Penn Indonesia Conference (PIC), "Indonesia on the Global Stage," to educate Penn students and the surrounding communities about Indonesia's rich culture and potential. They had around 150 attend, with a nice mix of Indonesian and American students. The participants came from different universities across the US, including Harvard, Brown University, Cornell University, Northwestern University, Boston University, John Hopkins University, and even Claremont McKenna College in LA. Some of the participants were SPH alumni as well.

The conference consisted of three panels: (1) Indonesia's Rising Start-up Ecosystem, (2) Indonesia's Pathway to Sustainable Development, and (3) Women in Leadership and Social Impact. Each panel had prominent speakers, such as Dian Triansyah Djani (Chair of UN Security Council and Ambassador of Indonesia to the UN), Robert Blake (Former US Ambassador to Indonesia), Eddy Chan (Founding

Partner of Intudo Ventures), Veronica Colondam (Founder of YCAB), and many more.

We are proud that Janice and Hugo had essential roles in this conference and share their stories below.

# As Indonesian students at Penn, how do you see the importance of PIC?

Janice: Throughout my freshman year, I realized that there was a general lack of awareness of Indonesia. It was quite shocking to have people ask me if I rode elephants to school, or if I lived in huts. Having spent the last 17 years of my life in Indonesia, I know for a fact that Indonesia is more than a tourist destination with good instant noodles. Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and the hub of startups and innovation. It truly troubles me to see how Indonesia's economic, environmental, and technological potential is sealed in a bubble hidden from the Penn community. I love my country, I value its great potential, and I want people outside of the bubble to gain exposure to it. Indonesia holds a special place in my heart, and being able to share and educate others about it through PIC proudly was such an incredible experience.

**Hugo:** Penn Indonesia Conference was a project that Janice and I, along with other Indonesian students at Penn, planned for around six

### **O SPH FILES**

months. I think PIC did a great job of exposing the Penn community to Indonesia while attracting Indonesian students studying all around the East coast (coming from cities such as Boston, New York, and Chicago), to go and be inspired about Indonesia's future potential. In the US, Indonesian students are the minority among minorities; our culture is often stereotyped, and not a lot of students/faculty members understand Indonesia, let alone have heard about it before. It was great to see the conference so well received at Penn; we were funded by the school and were also covered by our school's newspaper, the Daily Pennsylvanian.

# What are your impressions of this year's PIC?

Janice: This is the first time we have hosted Penn Indonesia Conference and overall it was a great experience. Essentially, we wanted to achieve two goals. Firstly, we wanted to share and educate the US community about Indonesia's potential on the Global Stage. Secondly, we wanted to create an avenue where Indonesian students in the US can network and meet one another. I think that we were able to achieve both goals successfully, given the high attendance of both Indonesian and non-Indonesian students from Penn and other US universities.

The highlight of the event for me was Ambassador Djani's closing keynote speech. He talked about how his passion for creating impact led him to pursue a career in the public sector. It was truly inspiring seeing how genuine Mr. Djani was in humanity and it inspired me to bring about change in the world as well.

**Hugo:** After months of organizing, it was great to see the event finally play out during the day. It was great seeing many familiar faces, as lots of our SPH friends attended the event and supported us. It was also really inspiring hearing from all the different speakers who came, including Permanent Representative to the UN Pak Dian Triansyah Djani, Former US Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., and CEO & Founder of YCAB Ibu Veronica Colondam.

# In the future, in what area/field do you hope to be involved in bringing change for Indonesia?

**Janice:** In the long term, I aspire to contribute to Indonesia's startup ecosystem. Whether it be joining a startup or starting my own, I want to utilize my passion for entrepreneurship to make an impact in Indonesia.

Hugo: My dream still lies in serving in public policy in some context for Indonesia. I've been thinking about how to help low-income households in Jakarta and even Indonesia, whether it is through the private or the development sector. In the development sector, I can be a policymaker with a more direct approach to this issue. Nevertheless, the potential of the private sector in Indonesia is also very promising. For instance, think of Go-Jek and Tokopedia as the two biggest startups in Indonesia and how they have supported millions of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) to grow rapidly. So basically I will try my best to find the balance between doing something that I'm passionate about and making sure that it helps to impact a lot of people.







HUGO LEO & JANICE K. UTOMO (SPH LIPPO VILLAGE ALUMNI, CLASS OF 2018)



# Our Father's Love





**ANDREW BAKASHABA** JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER. SPH KEMANG VILLAGE

I never get tired of sharing my testimony because, whenever I share it, I am reminded of God's faithfulness in my life. I am the firstborn of three, now 24 years old. I was born and raised in the Eastern part of Africa in a country called Uganda. I lost my Dad when I was nine years old. My siblings and I lived with my mom, who didn't have much school experience but always tried her best to provide for us.

A year later my mom became ill, and after a few months of illness while my siblings and I were at school together, a call came from the head of school informing us to go home. As we reached home, I saw my mom laying on her death bed. When she saw us, she cried. The last words I remember from her were, "Will my children ever reach high-level classes in their education?". After asking this question my mom passed away. Together with my siblings, we started staying with our grandmother, who could not provide tuition for us to go to school. Therefore, she made a request for us to go to a government school. In my country, these are the schools where students of the low-income earners can go to get an education.

After a year at home without going to school, we were allowed to go to the government school. I remember walking a long distance to school each morning. We had only spent a year at this school when an orphanage organization, which is part of a big church, came to our village looking for parentless children. They ended up taking us into their organization. This was the beginning of the new chapter in my life and the lives of my sister and brother; the orphanage took us into their orphanage homes where we lived with other parentless children. While here we were provided with all of our basic needs, like school, a new family, love, and care.

The most beautiful thing they did was introduce us to God. When I received Christ as my personal Lord and Savior, he gave my orphan heart a name. The orphanage organization allowed us to travel around the world telling our faith stories of how God redeemed us and tell the world about the many orphan kids that are suffering. At the many churches we visited, we sang in a choir and told our testimonies. We kept up with our studies while we traveled as the adults

helped us with our school work so we weren't behind in our schooling.

When I look back at my life and where I am today, I can see that God has been truly faithful. After traveling with the organization, I returned to Uganda and finished orphanage's high school. When I graduated, I primarily wanted to do business administration and had education as my second option; however, One Hope, a Christian Organization who collaborates with the Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan (YPPH), offered an opportunity to study education. That's how I ended up coming to UPH's International Teacher's College. I was able to earn a degree in Education from both Corban University and UPH. My sister is in her final year at the university, and my brother is at the university in his second year in Uganda. The Scripture that comes to my mind whenever I think about my story is Isaiah 43:2

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."







# God's provision & guidance through His promised presence



CHRIS SOODSMA PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, SPH SENTUL CITY

od's faithfulness is usually brought to Glight through memories. Months after the Ebola virus brought about immeasurable suffering on the African country of Liberia, I found myself in a Liberian church waiting for the New Year's Eve service to begin. The pastor began the service by marching to the front and looking out at his family of believers. With a look of joy that still expressed the pain they had been through he proclaimed, "We did not die!" Without any prompting, a loud cheer erupted and the whole church began worshiping, dancing, and praising God for hours. My eyes were opened to see how people praised God for His faithfulness in their lives even though they had suffered.

My dad is always good for a cliché' and one of his most used ones is, "hindsight is always 20-20". The Lord used my time in Liberia to open my eyes to see the faithfulness of God in my own past; be it the death of my brother, medical issues, or leaving my home and country for university. I was reassured that the same God who is faithful to the Liberians is my faithful Father through the past, present, and the future.

Two months after our wedding, my wife and I set off to Indonesia to spend ourselves for our Heavenly Father and to proclaim His Glory through work as teachers at SPH Sentul. Our call to Indonesia was clear; however, we seemed to be uneasy at times heading into the unknown. Like always, God was good. Upon moving here God has provided us with enough struggles to keep us close to Him, however we have not needed hindsight to be fully aware of God's presence and faithfulness.

From the first moments at SPH, we have experienced the warmth of a churchlike community. In a matter of three years, strangers have become family. We live on campus which allows us to be connected to the dormitory and build relationships with the dorm children. They have begun to feel more like nieces and nephews than our students. Our daughter, who was born in Indonesia, is

surrounded by so many who love and care for her, and she will be able to join us as we share the Gospel of Christ here. SPH Sentul is our home and where we want to be.

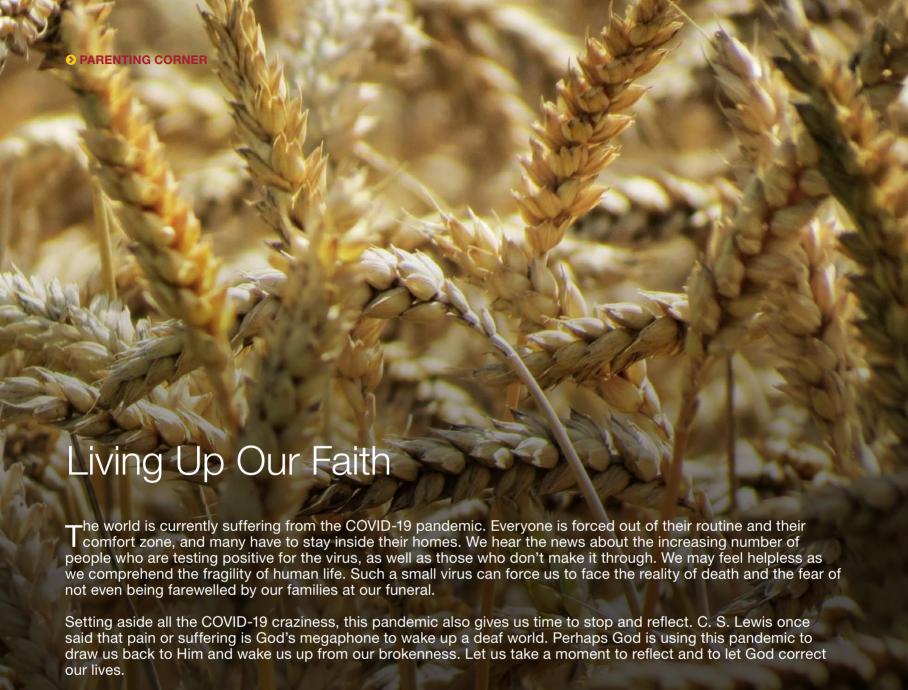
Psalm 139 describes the presence of God with His children, which is true for my family and yours:

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." (Psalm 139: 7-10)

God has been good in His calling us, in His sustaining us, and He will be good in the





Why Are Families Problem-laden?

Paul portrays the human condition at the end of time in 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Whether we sense it or not, the human condition described in Timothy has become a vivid reality. Many people are drowning in their worldly, self-centered lives. Many people are straying further from God's purpose for creating us in the first place. Undoubtedly, many people have become selfish and greedy, living for themselves instead of for God. Christians, who are God's people living in the world, are not immune to this downward spiral. God's people might start to feel more suited to

living in the world's way of thinking. Our worldview, perspectives, values, and decisions can quickly stray from what God intended them to be. We can start to define the realities in our lives according to our ideas, not God's truth and will.

Such a condition has a great impact on Christians entering God's pre-ordained "mega-project," namely marriage, family life, and parenting. Christians might be very familiar with the biblical principles surrounding family, yet the self-centeredness stemming from a worldly framework might start to shape their perspective and lead them toward an essentially godless life. No wonder marriage and family life can so

### PARENTING CORNER

easily slip into a similar format as the rest of the world, embracing the way, purposes, and desires of this world.

The ideas and practices of egalitarianism and emancipation are so strong that there becomes no place for order, leadership, and teaching in the family. There is role confusion between father and mother, and between parents and children. Parents become more and more obedient to their children. Children become more and more the leaders and decision-makers in the family. Almost everything in the family starts to become set and planned according to the desires and needs of the children.

When parents do not exercise their God-given authority to lead and guide their children, they become powerless. They cannot teach and live out the values taught by our forefathers in the Bible. They are powerless to become an example of how to live a life pleasing to God. They start to worry about "surface" issues rather than "in-depth" issues with their children. Living out the values of humanity and the world becomes more acceptable and seems to result in less conflict than following God's ways. From this perspective, it doesn't matter what is inside the mind of the children as long as they do good outwardly and achieve academically.

In reality, unless the 'mega-project' is done according to the Initiator's instruction, it can actually result in horrible destruction. Perhaps this might be a reason why there is a rise in the need for counselors, psychologists, or psychiatrists nowadays? Sometimes a lack of understanding of the Biblical perspective of family life leads to tragic brokenness. As some parents grow old, they have to bear the burden of indescribable regrets and grief. Some children grow up with empty, bitter, and broken souls. As these broken souls grow into adulthood, they can bring even more brokenness to their own families.

### Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

In the Old Testament, when God disciplined His people Israel, He allowed them to experience great hardship under the oppression of other nations. The pain and suffering softened the people's hearts and turned them back to God. In the example of Job, God allowed His righteous one to experience pain and suffering in order to purify him. Job is said to come forth as pure gold from the furnace. After experiencing and learning in his suffering. Job was able to better acknowledge God.

Now many parents must stay at home with their children every day. This circumstance may continue for many months or even the whole year. Some parents may be feeling confused and restless

because they don't know how to spend each hour with their children around them. Looking back before the outbreak, they might have shared the burden of childcare with the housemaids, nannies, teachers, or grandparents. Parents might not have been spending this much time with their children for a long while before now.

We do not know why God has allowed the COVID-19 pandemic. But as His people, we can learn from the Israelites and Job. Looking up to Christ, our Lord and Savior, let us see this hard time as a "great corrector" instead of a "great disaster." May He search our hearts in how we have loved Him, served Him, and lived only for Him. May he see how we have cared for our families, done our job as parents, and offered our families for His sake, and His glory.

### How Should We See It?

In a WhatsApp group, one of my friends wrote something like this, "Borrowing a computer-related term, God is currently re-setting human life." This is surely an insight! Something has been revealed within our hearts. It doesn't take a brilliant person to comprehend it, but it takes a contemplating heart to understand God's "hidden agenda" behind this dire situation.

May the Lord grant us the wisdom and the eyes of faith to understand His plan within our lives as parents. Just as God chastised the Israelites to turn to Him and put Job into hardship to purify his faith, may you use this opportunity to look up to God. There might be things He wants to reveal to us. Is God asking for our repentance as parents who have ignored His calling to teach our children in His ways? Should we 're-set' our priorities and direction as a family? Is He asking us to set an example for our kids so they learn how to love and prioritize Him? Should we rebuild our family altar and our devotion habits? Is He calling us to go back to church? Is the Lord telling us to apologize to our children for our carelessness and misunderstandings towards them or for us to apologize and start anew with our partner?

The current situation seems so dreadful, tense, gloomy, and hopeless. Yet our faith in Christ is our very foundation on which our hope, strength, and wisdom are hooked. Expect God to speak to us through reading His Word and praying as a family. Expect Him to reveal His guidance through our interaction with each family member. Good things are reserved for His people.

The Parenting Program equips and empowers parents with a holistic view of educating and training a child in the way of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). Parents learn new knowledge, beliefs, strategies and skills to make good and healthy choices in raising their children in the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7).





SOEKARMINI PARENTING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# **Parents' Testimony**

y name is Marlene Sunotoredjo. Alongside my husband, Bhakti Salim, we are parents of Bara Anugrah Salim (Grade 10 at SPH LV). Bara is the youngest of our three children. Our eldest, Brea, enrolled at SPH in 2008 at the start of her middle school education, and she spent three years in SPH LV before moving to the United States. Our second daughter, Brenda, started at SPH LV when she was in fifth grade, spending 7.5 years before going to Amsterdam for university. Meanwhile, Bara has attended SPH since he was in Grade 1, so we have seen him grow up in SPH LV.

We've just realized that we have now been a part of the SPH family for 12 years. My husband always reminds me, "Don't worry too much about having smart children, worry that our children won't have a strong character." Bara just came back from an 8-day trip to Daboto in Papua for his Mission Service Learning (MSL) program. We value this opportunity that SPH has provided for our children. In the MSL program, Bara experienced sharing his knowledge and serving others in a remote place. We believe that this experience will significantly shape our child as a person. Not only has he learned that he is so fortunate to have everything in life, but Bara also came back with a renewed zeal and purpose to serve others.

With this in mind, I knew that we chose SPH not just for the strong academics and the great facilities with international standards but also for the opportunity to partner in raising our children as men and women of great character.

We also have a tight-knit parent association, (the PAG) which allows us to contribute our ideas to the school. I appreciate that

SPH treats us as equal partners and truly values our thoughts in the education of our children. They are always considering the opinions of parents in every school decision and policy. I am thankful for the chance to connect with and support other parents through PAG. I met Ibu Tika Gunawan and Ibu Santy Tukiman back in 2008 when our children were just starting Grade 7. We are still good friends today and meet now and then to encourage each other in raising our children well. I value a strong relationship like this — it was not built overnight but through years of supporting and cheering each other on through the journey of raising our children.

Most importantly, SPH has also invested in us as parents. Since the first day when we enrolled Brea in 2008, I experienced how the school developed and trained us. Ibu Aileen Riady always reminds us that there is no school for parents, and parenting becomes a great challenge especially in this 'crazy' digital era. SPH has always been investing time and resources to educate us by holding parenting workshops and seminars. One day, I invited an old friend to attend one of the parenting seminars at SPH. She was so thankful and found it very beneficial, thus inspiring her to host similar events at her daughter's school in Jakarta.

Sometimes we take SPH for granted. We don't appreciate the community that this school has provided enough. With this, I'd like to personally thank SPH for supporting us in raising our children to be great men and women of God. Let's continue this partnership in the vears ahead.



# **Parents' Testimony**

am David Sondakh and I am married to Listiana Kwang. My wife and I decided to enroll Aldon in SPH's Pluit Village K1 program in 2018. We chose SPH Pluit Village for at least three reasons: the location, the teaching method, and the emphasis of the Christian faith.

In regards to location, the school campus is conveniently located very close to our home, about 7 minutes' drive in the morning.

As for teaching methods, we love how SPH Pluit Kindergarten emphasizes a play-based method of learing. School should instill a lifelong passion for learning and we've seen play-based learning develop this passion in Aldon and his classmates. Play-based learning has fostered creativity and imagination, traits that are vital in this modern world.

My wife and I both went to a national school in Indonesia. We went through the typical Asian educational program where academics emphasized on memorization, rather than inquiry and exploration. While those methods may have worked well during that time, we believe that traditional education may not as suitable due to the changes and development that have happened through this past decade alone.

Lastly, which is the most crucial one, is the Christian faith. We want a school that can partner with us in introducing Christ in our son's life.

want our son to be surrounded by a godly, Christian community.

We've observed tremendous growth in Aldon's confidence. During the first few weeks of school, we had to carry our son into the classroom. But now, he confidently goes to class by himself, loudly greeting his friends and teachers.

We can also see Aldon developing various interests, including art (drawing), sports (basketball and tennis), music (Suzuki class) and literature (story books). We believe that this is a good start as Aldon is becoming a well-rounded individual that is not only intelligent, healthy, and active, but one who appreciates life through art, music and literature, as well.

We have seen the benefits of the play-based learning in Aldon's curiosity, critical thinking and his desire to solve problems. Aldon also cares about his surroundings and loves to help us with household chores such as watering the plants and reminding us to save water. Aldon also knows some Bible stories that he didn't learn from us or Sunday school. He can lead prayers and recently told us that the Bible is his favorite book.

Overall, we have seen much holistic growth in our son, especially in his spiritual gowth, his confidence, and his character. For this, we are thankful for SPH Pluit Village.





# Why Suffering: The Question

How does one endure grief and pain? How does one manage it in life? Where do we go for answers when we suffer ourselves or when we see those we love suffering?

It is safe to say that both skeptic and believer alike share one opinion in common: The question of pain and suffering provides the greatest challenge to belief in God. One more distinction should be emphasized from the outset. At least as important as the question of why there is suffering is the question of how we will face the pain.

This is where the Christian message stands tall above any other teaching on pain and suffering and goes beyond any other answers to our problem. The intellectual answers are important but intellect alone cannot help us navigate the minefield of pain and suffering. Other worldviews also offer intellectual answers.

But Christianity alone offers a person. Ideas cannot bring lasting meaning, comfort, or hope. Only a person can. What Christianity offers is relationship with God—the freedom to enter into that relationship and the empowerment to live in the fullness of life that only that relationship provides.



Ravi Zacharias (1946-2020) is a prominent, internationally-acclaimed Christian apologist who founded Ravi Zacharias Ministry International (RZIM). For more than 40 years, he has faithfully preached the Gospel, defended the Christian faith, and answered the toughest questions about Christianity to many people around the world. He is also an author of more than 30 books. Ravi is married to Margaret "Margie" Reynolds and has three children: Sarah, Nathan, and Naomi.

Ravi has visited Indonesia several times and has spoken at The Missions Retreat and several UPH events, one of which was the UPH Fest in 2018. On May 19, 2020, he passed away after battling Sarcoma, a rare type of cancer. His body may not be present today, but the legacy and impact he has on the world will surely last.





# WE TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO BE:















TRUE KNOWLEDGE FAITH IN CHRIST GODLY CHARACTER





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