

FEATURE

CUR: Prepare our hearts to receive Jesus



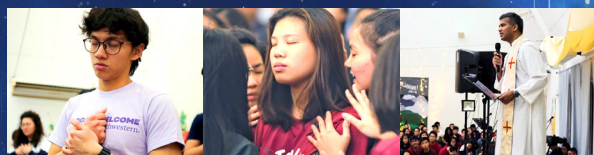
"My relationship with Jesus was one solely based on transactions, as if Jesus were an ATM. A large part of my identity was built on my academic achievements and my faith was confined to mass and my uni community FIDES' formation sessions. I enrolled in a uni course that I did not quite understand and I felt myself grasping at straws to maintain that identity I built for myself. Resigned to this struggle as what being a student meant, I thought that there was nothing God could do. Hence I was convinced that I did not need to go for the Combined University Retreat (CUR) since I had nothing to offer Jesus and there was nothing Jesus could give me. How wrong I was!

Just like in the story of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, Jesus greatly multiplied my simple yes to attending CUR. While I was still skeptical during the retreat,



during the prayer times, I experienced the powerful assurance of the Lord that even when I felt that the world was against me and when I could not love myself, He was beside me the whole time, loving me unconditionally. God gently brought to light those parts of myself that I hid because I thought they made me less perfect, less worthy of love. I was convicted that His boundless, non-transactional love for me is not contingent on the material merits I tied myself to, including my academic achievements because He was there for me even when I felt like I had nothing to show. Jesus took the scars that I thought were evidence of my inadequacy and through His love, transformed them into evidence of His glory.

Through divine appointments, Jesus also sent people my way to affirm my small and timid 'yeses' throughout the retreat. Even though they didn't know what I was going through, the things God said through them spoke directly to the struggles I faced in university. Through them, Jesus dispelled many



lies and assured me that I am where He wants me to be, and that I am not what my earthly father says I am but rather who my heavenly Father says I am. Jesus took off the plaster to a wound I thought I was done nursing and properly healed it for me, allowing me to once again feel the unshakable joy that that comes from Him alone.

CUR was a time of healing while being held in the safety of Jesus' hands and coming to know what a relationship with Him is really like. It is an experience so freeing and made me feel so whole. CUR

showed me how God's will is so much better than my own and all I need to do is just to be open and let the Holy Spirit lead. Learning to love the One who loved me first made it so easy to prioritise God in my schedule now. Seeing my day with Jesus in the centre enabled me to see my time in university as a vocation rather than mandatory suffering. I have found more joy in the Lord each day than all the happiness that the world offered for the past 19 years. The truths and healing I received from CUR carried me through the even more demanding second semester as I found peace in knowing that I was secure in my identity as a child of God.



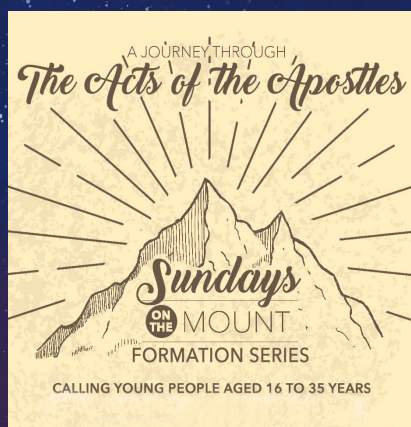
I encourage you to respond to God's personal invitation for you to attend CUR, whether you feel a lot of inertia or you feel that you are at the peak of your faith. There is still more that the Lord wants to work with us and for us. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday together, and let Him speak to you, transform your heart, and show you what great plans He has in store for you. See you at CUR 2020! - Elizabeth Tan, SMU



Elizabeth Tan, second from right

CUR retreat is on 15 Dec, 9am to 18 Dec, 6pm (including night times) and it's open to all university students, both local and overseas. There will be both online and face-to-face elements (degree depending on COVID regulations. We will keep you updated!). For more info and sign up, visit <http://tiny.cc/CUR20participant>

SOTM: Journey through the Acts of the Apostles



On 4th October 2020, we ran our 3rd Sundays on the Mount (SOTM) Formation Series. In this 3rd series, participants were invited to spend 10 Sundays with us as we journey through the Acts of the Apostles.

"SOTM has also allowed me to grow in knowledge and challenges me to think about how I can be a better missionary disciple, especially in my new workplace and

when I meet new people. I thank God for the time and space each week to reflect on how He continues to work and lead me in life."

- Amanda Jane Lim, Genesis Community

"I thank God for reaching out to me through the sessions at each SOTM, giving me the opportunity to spend time pondering on His Word, praying, and growing deeper in my relationship with the Lord. It is truly inspiring seeing so many people turn up every week, dedicating their precious time on Sunday to the Lord. Truly 'faith stirs faith'. My heart bursts with joy just hearing how God has worked in the lives of others during the sharing. God has definitely not abandoned us and continues to desire us regardless of what stage our life." - Elliot Wong, Singapore Institute of Technology

"Sundays on the Mount has given me an enriching start to the week throughout its whole run! Beyond

just a study of Acts, which helped me understand the deeper meaning behind its passages and terms, SOTM has always reminded me of many truths every session."

- Danelle Seah, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

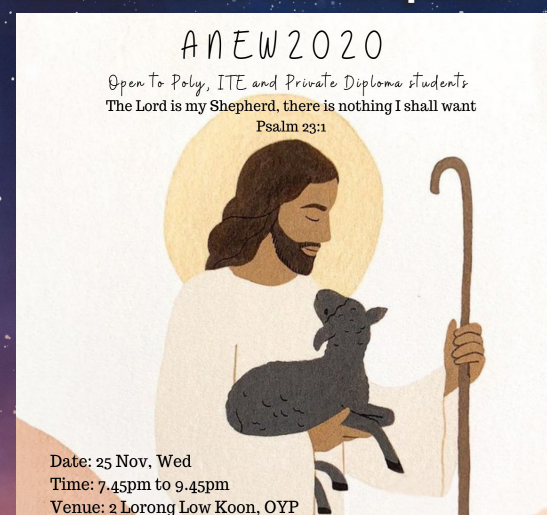
"Attending SOTM has reminded me that my faith is a beautiful gift handed down to me from the time of the Apostles. It has helped me to uncover the deeper truths in the stories from the bible and how it applies to my life today."

- Jeff Espehana, Jacob's Well Community

Sign up today at tinyurl.com/sotm20 and join us for the second half of our third SOTM Formation Series!

After a break on 8th November, the 3rd SOTM Formation Series begins again from 15th November 2020 to 13th December 2020. Sessions are held at 1030am to 0100pm on zoom each Sunday, sign at the above link to receive the zoom link. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS ANEW: Jesus our Shepherd



Calling all Diploma/ITE students! Join us for a time of worship, prayer and preaching. Come and let Jesus be the Shepherd of your life! You are encouraged to join us physically at OYP, subject to parental consent. If you/ your parents are uncomfortable due to the COVID situation, please feel free to join us on zoom. Do indicate accordingly in the sign-up form: tinyurl.com/ANEWNov2020