

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Jesus Went Throughout All the Cities and Villages...

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.” - Matthew 9:35

Whenever I read this verse, I always pause at a phrase in particular: *“Jesus went throughout all the towns and villages...”* Though just a few short words, it led me to reflect again and again on the kind of Master we follow. Jesus in the gospels never stayed stationary waiting for the world to seek Him. He took the initiative to go to the people. He actively walked into different towns, different villages, and different lives. He drew near to those in pain, those who were lost, those who were overlooked, and those who longed for hope. He did not merely visit places, but moved towards hearts that needed the Saviour.

Over the past two weekends, our church held the Leaders' Silent Retreat, followed by SAMS Family Day Outing. At first, I did not make the connection between these two events. It was only after reading this verse again that I realised, although the two events were entirely different in form, they illustrated the same spiritual direction.

A silent retreat is not about taking a break from ministry. Rather, it is about returning to the Lord's presence and making space to be still before Him, to listen for His voice and to allow Him to renew our hearts once more. For unless we continue to draw near to God, it is easy for our ministry to become a hollow obligation and for busyness to replace our first love for Him.

SAMS Family Day Outing, on the other hand, gave our church an opportunity to reach out to the school and the families, and to build authentic relationships with the children and their parents. We hope to bring them not just an enjoyable event, but also to let them feel the care of the church and experience the tangible love of Christ.

As I placed these two events side by side, I realised that this is precisely the rhythm of Jesus' life on earth. He often withdrew to quiet places to pray, while also continually stepping into the crowd to serve. He drew near to the Heavenly Father, and He also drew near to the people. These are not competing directions, but are two parts of the same life. Those who truly draw near to the Lord will find their hearts growing ever closer to the community He loves; and a life of pouring out into ministry requires us to continually return to Him to be refuelled.

We may not all be called to “go throughout all the cities and villages” globally, but the Lord has placed each one of us in different families, schools, workplaces and communities, and has brought different people into our midst. When we are willing first to draw near to the Lord and then to reach out to those around us with His love, a caring greeting, a moment of sincere companionship, or a willing act of service can all become an outpouring of the Lord's grace.

May we continue to follow the Lord who *‘went through every town and village’*. When we are willing to draw near to Him and also to reach out to others, trust that God will continue to use us to bring the gospel and hope into the lives of many more people.

Pastor May Yee

**The above is a translated version of the letter written in Chinese by Pastor Chan May Yee and posted on [JACM's bulletin](#) on 2 August 2026.*