

Name: Angela Kwon Mei Jun

University: University Teknologi Malaysia

Year Graduated: mid 2006

Occupation: Educator

Place of Work: Polytechnic Johor Bahru (Government-owned tertiary level institution that issues Certificates and Diplomas)

Location: Pasir Gudang, Johor.

Duration serving at your current place: about a year

Current Church: Calvary Charismatic Centre

Email: akmj01@yahoo.com

WSW: *Hi Angela. Thanks for agreeing to share your testimony with students for WSW. Let's begin with a brief introduction to yourself & the place you are working (eg local culture, food, economical / social development, spiritual conditions etc).*

AK: I see myself as a girl from the town of 'otak-otak' (Muar) who has a 'past', but HE picked up the broken pieces of this angel's wings and restored them. I graduated with a degree in TESL and vowed to myself (at the end of my studies) to not work in Johor (especially Johor Bahru) upon graduation.

However, obviously HE has other plans, and thus I am here in this place called 'Jalan Kong Kong, Pasir Gudang'.

Having no transport, I stay just opposite the polytechnic. 'Jalan Kong Kong' is neither in Pasir Gudang town, nor is it in Masai town; though it only takes about 15-20 minutes to both these towns. This particular area is only about to develop, mainly thanks to the existence of an educational institution (the polytechnic). In terms of churches, I would dare say there are only a few churches in Pasir Gudang and Masai (as compared to other parts of Johor Bahru).

WSW: *Masai? That sounds more like an African tribe than a small town! Well, what or who or how did you decide on embarking on working in a smaller town compared to the bigger cities?*

AK: Err... Actually I didn't decide because it's the Government's choice to post us educators to wherever they want us to go. Or more like the BOSS up there whom we serve sends us to where HE wants us to serve (at least I would like to believe).

WSW: *How has your decision impacted you thus far?*

AK: Umm...

WSW: *Looks like that's not easy to answer right now. (laughs) Hmm...perhaps you could share*

how are your involvements presently like in relation to Christian work?

AK. Well, a colleague and I sort of pioneered a student ministry about half a year ago. Umm... Before you start thinking "Wow, so cool", I would like to give all glory to God for it is HE alone who engineered each and every detailed 'co-incidence', and it is by HIS grace alone that we are able to say, "Yes Sir!" to the Commander. Right now this ministry is still at its infant stage, and we're gradually and slowly developing / growing / taking shape. So I would really appreciate your intercession for us. At church I am beginning to play the keyboard. It's a totally new experience as I used to play the piano (keyboards are so light and easily 'shake' or 'vibrate'!)

WSW: *Hey, I'd say "Wow, so cool" to the way you're trusting God and taking up all these new challenges. Let's talk a bit more about what the small town experience is like. What would you say are the significant lessons learnt & the struggles you battle with working in smaller towns?*

AK. I guess the very first thing was my reluctance to commit to staying here at least for the next few years. To be very honest, I did consider going to 'greener pastures' instead of staying in this 'ulu' place. But time and time again, I would get this nudge in my heart that this is where HE wants me to be.

Okay, to cut a longgg story short, the past one year in this new place has been a great year. Obedience and submission were some of the main lessons I was struggling with, and am still learning. And God has been throwing surprise after surprise to me; in many areas of my life I had to do new things that I've never done and would never do (many many long stories... not to be told here).

Well, though where I am definitely is not as 'ulu' as the places of posting of many of my fellow educators-in-Christ, I had a few friends wondering how I ever survive here. But you know what? It is in this place that I really had to learn to depend on HIM, to completely trust in the Master. The past one year has been really great as I had no other choice but to run to my Heavenly Papa for comfort in times of loneliness, assurance in times of doubt, love in times of insecurity, faith and confidence in times of hesitance.

And I have discovered for myself that when God sends us somewhere, HE will go ahead and prepare the way for us. I am very grateful for the nice, warm and friendly colleagues in my department whose hospitality and openness really helped me in adjusting to a brand new place. Also, the very first time I attended the church (the current one), I felt AT HOME. It was a strange feeling that I could never explain. Plus amazingly, three of my former uni church seniors are actually staying somewhere in Masai. I really believe (from this experience) that God really prepares the way for us. I see His hand in so many things; colleagues, open (though strict) seniors that you can discuss things with, three seniors who took the trouble to occasionally take me out, a church where I really feel at home, church members who are there for me, and even a comfy and

reasonably priced furnished house for rent with a nice landlord.

Oh and one last thing that I learnt from my own journey. It is not about how great or good we are. Having the right qualifications is not the main thing that God requires from us in order to serve HIM (not just in church, in all aspects), and to be testimony. For HE will provide the strength and the wisdom, and HE will grant us HIS grace. All HE looks for is a willing vessel.

WSW: *What do you do in those tough and lonely times? What kept you going or what is your source of motivation & focus despite the odds?*

AK: All credits go to Him because as much as I know that we should fix our eyes on Jesus, I have been distracted dozens of times. Each time, HE never fails to extend HIS grace and stir the heart to return to HIM. Besides that, bearing in mind that having being consecrated for the LORD (NC'05) and that God never makes mistakes in HIS plans helps a lot.

I must also thank the many friends (you know who you are) who have been my listening ears, who have been encouraging me, who willingly share both my physical and spiritual journey here in Jalan Kong Kong, who have been praying for me and whose lives spur me on to live for Jesus. Without these friends, the journey would be so much tougher, so much more lonely and difficult.

WSW: *Thanks for sharing that. Glad God has provided you with such wonderful friends. As you know, we'll be sharing your story with students as part of WSW. Is there anything you'd like to share with the students to spur them on? (eg personal favourite verses, quotes, thoughts, books etc)*

AK: Which students? You mean those who read this?

I challenge each and every one of you reading this to 'throw' all of you onto God, and surrender all of your life to God, giving Him permission to be the LORD and MASTER.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" – Proverbs 3:5-6

And whenever we're in doubt, or going through a rough journey, we have this assurance.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9-

And to those of you who are venturing into a brand new unknown world / place / location / field / etc, we can always remember that in the Old Testament, God never failed His people. Whenever HE led them to a new frontier, HE was there with them and for them. If we're doing it for God, we

can be sure that HE will never fail to be all that HE is.

WSW: *I'm sure that God's going to use those words to stir up some hearts. Thanks for your time, your sharing, your life.*