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Year Graduated: 2003
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Place of Work: Unisem (M) Berhad, Ipoh, Perak
Duration serving at your current place: 2 years plus
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To start off with, Ipoh is not exactly a small town. I am born and bred in this town, and only left it for 3 years for studies. I felt God challenging me to go back to Ipoh at EARC 2005. And at the same time, my youngest sister was about to go outstation to study, leaving my mom alone at home. So the thought of my mom being home alone also helps me to make the decision to go back to Ipoh.

Challenges at home:

a) My mother:

Coming home was not easy because I was not very close to my mother. It was not easy re-learning how to communicate and live with her. Last time, my sisters were around and I don't need to communicate so much with my mother. But being alone with her now, forces me adapt to it. There was also the freedom factor that you usually experience while studying, and having to tell her where I am and what time will I be home that takes getting used to as well.

b) Church:

I struggled to adapt myself to the church that I went to before uni, due to the teaching there. I also struggled with the issue of leaving a small church who probably needs more help and that I can serve in. At the end of last year, I decided to change to another church which I feel is more wholistic. Now I can serve and be more involved.

c) Career:

Job opportunities in Ipoh are quite small scoped. There are a few big factories here, but most industries are family based, and thus initially it was not easy trying to get a job which I can find satisfaction in. But God did provide and I was never out of job, just needed to go through 2 other jobs before I settled in this current place. But the working world brings a new challenge to me as I struggle to learn how to work with different people who do not share the same priorities and values as I do. Because the working condition can be very fast paced at times, there was no room for patience, for understanding, for showing concern to others. So, this is still a learning process for me.

d) Friends:

It was a major difference to have no one around when I had quite a lot of good friends when I was studying. I had to build new friendships and this definitely takes time and lots of effort. But God blessed me with 1 or 2 good friends in Ipoh whom I can share & talk with.

After spending 3 years in Ipoh, the greatest lesson that I learnt was that God has never left me alone. I went through some rough emotional cycles and really felt abandoned by God at one point. When I looked back at these 3 years, I can see how God has also changed my relationship with my mom and sisters for the better. God has also blessed me with a chance to serve Him in a church, with friends to share with and pray with, with a job that I find satisfaction with, with good friends who supports me from afar. I am grateful to God as I look back and discover these gifts from God.