



REDEMPTIVE PAIN FOR KINGDOM PURPOSE

STEWARDSHIP
REPORT 2024/25



Empowering Marriages, Strengthening Families

YEAR IN REVIEW FOUNDERS' THANKSGIVING

Dear Marriage Mentors,

Week after week, you show up - for struggling couples in the middle of their battles, and for pre-married couples just starting out. You give your evenings, your energy, and most importantly, your hearts.

You do this not because life has been easy for you, but because you've chosen to let God redeem your own struggles and turn them into hope for others.

Paul writes: *"God comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"* (2 Corinthians 1:4).

That's exactly what you are doing. Whether it's helping a young couple prepare for challenges they don't yet see, or sitting with a husband and wife who wonder if they can make it to their next anniversary, you bring the comfort you've received and pass it on.

The truth is, your greatest ministry often comes out of your hardest moments.

- Who better to prepare a couple for marriage than those who know marriage isn't always easy - but that God is faithful?
- Who better to encourage a couple in crisis than those who have known pain themselves and found healing in Christ?

Every prayer, every late-night talk, every tear you share - it matters. It plants seeds of hope and resilience in the lives you touch. As Scripture says, *"When we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation"* (2 Corinthians 1:6).

Today, Bridging Hearts is blessed by **50 mentor couples from 25 different churches** who have said "yes" to this calling. Each of you represents not just your own marriage, but the richness of God's love and grace. Together, we form a community of hope - a reminder that no couple walks alone, and that the Body of Christ is at its strongest when it bears one another's burdens.

Thank you for letting God use your story. Thank you for **redeeming your pain**. Through you, couples are finding hope, faith, and the courage to press on.

With deep gratitude,
Founders of Bridging Hearts



KEY METRICS & FINANCIALS

Number of Bridging Hearts' MM Couples

50 +19% YOY

Number of Partner-Churches

34 +21% YOY

Number of Marriage-Mentor Trained

442 +19% YOY

*YOY = Year-on-Year

Income (SGD '000)

- 55% Donations
- 45% Programme fees

67.7

Expenses (SGD '000)

- 56% Prog costs
- 41% Admin & Trg
- 3% Others

(57.0)

Surplus (SGD '000)

10.7

*Pre-audited

OUR PARTNER-CHURCHES

Bridging Hearts delivers its core business of training, equipping and certifying Marriage Mentors through partnerships with the local churches. Our current **34 partner-churches** enable BH to:

- **Meet needs where they are** – both internal (congregation) and external (community)
- **Extend our reach** – churches are entrenched in the community
- **Mobilize potential MMs** – churches have immediate access to members



REDEMPTIVE PAIN: A JOURNEY FROM GRIEF TO GIFT

By God's grace, we have been married for 13.5 years and it's our privilege to share our story.

We first met in CG. As a young couple zealous to follow Jesus, we resolved to build a strong marriage by cultivating healthy habits and disciplines: regular prayer time, maintaining friendship with marriage mentors, observing gadget-free areas at home, and creating our own couple traditions.

Crisis hit when we realized we were unable to have our own biological children. It was the death of many dreams; a cruel curveball that tested our faith and marriage. We went through a very dry season when we started to grow and grieve apart, unconsciously erecting walls in our marriage (even while serving as CG leaders!). Our love banks were depleted, and we communicated only pain and blame.

Help came through our marriage mentors – one linked us with a marital counsellor, and another sent us cash and advised us to have a staycation.

Reaching this point was most humbling, especially after building what we thought was a strong marriage. Many issues came to the fore, and we had to pick up the pieces and deal with them. It felt like a regression, of learning rudimentary Marriage 101 all over again. It was not an overnight recovery, but we were prodded to take steps towards the right direction.

Surprisingly, Covid-19 lockdown became an oasis for us. It was a time of taking stock, healing, and re-building. We also discovered the possibility of fostering children and explored further.

Fast forward to today, we are recipients of God's marvellous gift – our eight-year-old foster son. While the blessing was not in the form we initially envisaged, God's redemptive handiwork continues not just in our marriage, but ever tangibly so, in this young child's life.

Similarly, as we engage and mentor younger married couples, this thread of redemption continues. We embrace them with humility and empathy, knowing full well that wilderness, brokenness, and affliction have a beautiful place in God's plan. Every pain, every chiseling, is as an invitation to consecration and maturity – to bring about a holy and radiant bride, pliant in His hands, ready to do as He so bids.

May the Lord ever be praised!



Anthony & Katherine with their foster son (face covered as per MSF guidelines)

REDEPTIVE PAIN: A CALL TO MARRIAGE MENTORING

The theme redemptive pain for kingdom purpose resonates with us and aptly describes the journey we've been on as a married couple and as marriage mentors.

The early years of our marriage were challenging. During those years, we longed for the wisdom and encouragement from older couples who have journeyed through the valley seasons and emerged stronger. Back then, there was no one we could turn to, but by God's grace, we experienced healing and many breakthroughs in our marriage.

We knew God was calling us to serve as marriage mentors as we experienced firsthand the despair of feeling alone when we were struggling in our marriage. We were convicted of the need for authentic conversations across generations where younger couples can glean from the wisdom of the older couples and learn from our mistakes and experiences.

As we journey with couples to build strong marriages, God recaptured our hearts for discipleship.

It is wonderful when couples learn how to communicate more effectively or become adept in conflict resolution but what brings us even more joy is to see hearts turned towards God, couples resolving to put God first in their lives and marriages. Choosing to love unconditionally, laying down their rights, simply because they desire to obey God. God honors their obedience and we rejoice with them to see healing, growth and transformation!

We are grateful to God for redeeming the pain of the early years and our failings, for giving us the privilege of partnering with Him in discipling the next generation to walk in increasing intimacy with God and each other. Together, we will reflect the unconditional love of God in our marriages and be a beacon of hope and light to those who need it.





**“Your greatest ministry will come out
of your deepest pain.”**

Rev Rick Warren

Jesus went through enormous suffering and pain for our benefit. His pain provided salvation for the whole world; it was not wasted.

Similarly God can use the pain we have gone through in the past or going through today or in the future for our own benefits and to use it to help and benefit others. Let it not be wasted; allow God to redeem it!

For the coming year, we will continue to direct our efforts on 3 fronts, as we continue to trust God to lead, guide and provide:

1

Enlarge BH's and BH MM's Capacity

- Grow the pool of BH MM's - so that we can scale.
- Deepen the competency of BH MM's.

2

Deepen Our Partnerships with Existing Partner-Churches

- Help enlarge and equip their teams of marriage mentors,
- Introduce other BH's marriage-and family-related programmes.

3

Develop New Partnerships with:

- Churches in SG - to help train a team of MM's to support their members
- Overseas - partnership with locals with strategic access and support

Bridging Hearts Limited

W - www.bridginghearts.com.sg

E - bridginghearts.co@gmail.com

M - 9785-8467

Bridging Hearts is a faith-based, non-profit organization



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