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TMCPJ Vision

Everyone a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28: 19 - 20

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Sunday	
Worship Service (Liturgical)	8.30am
Worship Service (Contemporary)	11.00am
Worship Service (Chinese)	11.00am
Worship Service (Liturgical)	5.00pm
MYF	8.30am
Sunday School	8.30am

Tuesday Methodist Seniors Fellowship (1st and 3rd Week)	10.30am
Wednesday Manna Small Group MPS Chapel Service Prayer Meeting	10.00am 1.00pm 7.30pm
Friday Prayer Meeting Live Wire	8.00pm 8.00pm

Saturday	
Prayer Watch	7.00am
Counselling (The Oasis)	2.30pm
Boys' Brigade	2.30pm
Girls' Brigade	2.30pm
Baptism/Membership Class	2.30pm
Methodist Women (3rd week monthly)	3.30pm
MAF (4th week monthly)	3.30pm

abiding I PASTORAL MESSAGE



John 1: 43 - 46 - "Come and See"

Evangelism does not come very natural to us. Why is this so?

By The Rev. Ting Moy Hong

How many people have we told about Jesus in our lives? What story do we bear about what Jesus has done in our lives? My personal experience and as a pastor when I listen to others is that we do not readily tell others about Jesus Christ. There are many reasons for such unreadiness. The reasons include: we do not know what to say (we aren't sure of the difference Jesus makes in our lives); if we know what to say, we are not sure of how to say it; for some, we know what and how to say, but we are scared of rejection - what if the person/s say no to us - kind of hard to take! Evangelism does not come very natural to us. Sometimes, we even find it hard to simply make friends with pre-Christians friends - strange! Why is this so?

Some pointers for evangelism from **John 1:43 - 46**:

1. State the facts

In **John 1: 40 - 42**, Andrew introduced Simon Peter to Jesus. Then in verse 45, Philip introduced Nathaniel to Jesus. How did they do it? They just stated the facts - Jesus is the Messiah prophesied. These two guys teach us a very important thing: Say the facts. We are to just speak the facts about Jesus. He loves the world so much that He died for the world. That through Him, we are reconciled to God. That we live no longer to the dictates of sins and their consequences. That through Jesus we are able to know God and live purposefully. The other set of facts would be the difference that Jesus has made in our lives. We simply state the facts. This is something we need to be faithful to and persistently do. Stating the facts about Jesus and the difference that He has made in our lives, presumably of course that He indeed had made a difference in our lives.

2. Come and see

This is an invitation we can make to our friends -"Come and See". Jesus first made the invitation to Andrew and John. The passage does not tell us very clearly what they saw when they spent the evening with Jesus, but we do know that the evening spent together was not just another evening. Andrew brought Simon Peter, his brother, to Jesus. Philip issued the same invitation to Nathaniel - "Come and see". Sometimes, we simply have to issue the invitation to our friends to "Come and see". We may not have the things our friends need, but Jesus does. When Andrew brought Simon Peter to Jesus, Simon Peter had a special encounter with Jesus - what was it? They were meeting for the first time and Jesus told him: "You are Simon son of John. You shall be called Cephas (that is, Peter, the Rock)". It is something like taking our friends to an evangelistic rally and way beyond our imagination, Jesus encounters our friends in a powerful way! "Come and See". Nathaniel responded to Philip by telling him about the Messiah in a suspicious way - Philip simply replied by saying "Come and see". Verse 47 tells us that when Jesus saw Nathaniel coming, he said, "Here is an Israelite worthy of the name; there is nothing false in him...verses 48-49. "Come and see" is an important invitation we could give to our friends. We issue such an invitation because we believe that Jesus will encounter our friends in ways they cannot but respond to.

However, unless we ask them to "Come and see", our friends would be deprived of the encounter with Jesus. So, do not give up issuing invitations. Lest we think that to issue the invitation "Come and see" refers only to coming to church, going for evangelistic meetings/rallies or healing rallies, it is good to know that the invitation could also be issued for them to come to our homes. To let them see Jesus in our homes; to open the Scripture to them; to give them good spiritual literature; to open our hearts to them. "Come and see" Jesus in many different ways and give them an opportunity to encounter Jesus. So, let us not be tired of issuing the invitation to "Come and see"

3. The convictions of faith are the work of the Holy Spirit, not ours

See John 16:8, which will free us from the fear of rejection. Our responsibility is to tell and speak the facts - the rest is the work of God.

4. "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" verse 46

Nazareth is a small town. Some biblical scholars said that Nathaniel spoke with a kind of superiority complex of a city dweller. Other scholars said that Nazareth did not have a very good reputation - it is a town known for brigands. Maybe we do not think much of Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya (TMC PJ) or its pastors or

preachers (I hope this is not the case!) but the Lord will open their eyes to see Him in the most unlikely of circumstances. There is something we can learn from this. For some of us, we perhaps have gone through a bad experience so much so that it has stopped us from speaking about Jesus to others. For some of us, we perhaps have made a bad mistake in life which has led us to feel that we are the most disqualified to speak about Jesus to others; that they would probably only laugh at us and think that we are joking! For some of us, we may feel that we are insignificant, with no standing in society, surely not much money in the bank to boast about - and that has caused us to think that we have nothing much really to tell about Jesus to others. Perhaps it could be our connections or family ties that cause us embarrassment if we talk about Jesus. "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" "Can any good come out of my past, my experiences, my connections that may make me worthy to tell others about Jesus?" Paul says: "In our weaknesses, God's power is perfected" (2 Cor 12:9b). Paul actually used his past (persecuting Christians) to proclaim the marvelous work Christ did in his life. God can and will make use of our "Nazareths". The question is: "Would we let Him?"

According to Christian author Stacy Rinehart, "The most defeated, stumbling person among us can become, by God's grace, a radiant, confident overcomer... In Christ, there is always hope".

5. Jesus knew each of them and died for them

Both Simon and Nathaniel did not realise that Jesus had already known them before they even met Him. Our friends are also known to Him. They are precious to Him. Inasmuch as God has a plan for us, God too has a plan for them. We need to show them to Jesus, then, we let Jesus speak and deal with them. Our friends need us to show them Jesus. They need to be given a chance to know Jesus and meet Him.

In summary these are the challenges before us:

- · Make it our habit to speak about Jesus to our neighbours, colleagues, relatives;
- Make friends and introduce them to Jesus;
- Come and see keep at it:
- Deal with our Nazareths; and
- Pray for our friends.

Imagine for a moment, John the Baptist had not pointed Andrew and friend to Jesus. Andrew would probably not have encountered Jesus for a day. He would not have been able to say to Peter: "We have found the Messiah". Peter would not have pointed to Jesus. Think for a moment - had Philip not said to Nathaniel: "Come and see". Nathaniel would have gone on with life without that encounter with Jesus. Surveys on how people come to know Christ have revealed that it is mainly through friends and acquaintances, rather than evangelistic rallies. TMC PJ is using Alpha as the opening for us to invite our friends to "Come and see". As people who have experienced Christ like Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathaniel, we invite our friends to "Come and see". We really do not know what Jesus has seen in them; what Jesus knows about them; what Jesus has in store for them but there is one thing we do know, based on the promise of God's word: "abundant life", "meaningful life".

John was saddled by the questions of the religious leaders. Philip was asked the question – a common question - "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" - common knowledge. These are doubts and distractions that hinder us from doing evangelism. Let's not let the distractions, doubts, questions or preoccupations stand in our way. Like Philip, say to our friends: "Come and see". We do that by faith doing our part, and letting Jesus do the rest.

So, would you? Go out? Meet your friends and issue the invitation? Invite them to: "Come and see?"

Faith

The Absolute Necessity Of Evangelism

By Lily Ch'ng

"We've drifted away from being fishers of men to being keepers of the aquarium." Paul Harvey

I would like to stress from the start that it's impossible to cover all aspects of evangelism in this short article. If you visit any Christian book store, you will invariably notice that there are many books written on this important topic. This is because evangelism is an important aspect of discipleship. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to tell unbelievers the Good News about Him so that they will come to faith in Him and experience eternal life.

In 1999, I had the opportunity to attend the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, South East Asia Regional Leadership Training Seminar held in Kuala Lumpur. The facilitators were H. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism for the World Methodist Council and George E. Morris, Director of the Institute of World Evangelism and Associate Professor in the Arthur J. Moore Chair of Evangelism at Candler School of Theology. They intimated that "evangelism" was a big word and they told the participants from Malaysia and Indonesia that they would rather use the words "faith-sharing" instead. I shall focus on personal evangelism, using the words "faithsharing", "evangelism" and "witnessing" for Christ interchangeably.

Every disciple is called upon to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, to save souls for the Kingdom and this is the only time we are given the opportunity to do so. When we get to heaven, evangelism will definitely cease while worship, fellowship and the Word of God will continue. Now is the time when we can lead unbelievers to come to faith in Jesus Christ for if they should die without knowing Jesus Christ and receiving Him as their personal Lord and Saviour, they will be condemned for all eternity to a life of separation from God. It is also not only about eternal life after we go through the door of death but also the promise of the "abundant life" while we are sojourners on this earth. As such, every true disciple of Jesus Christ believes that evangelism is important. Unfortunately, the reality is that very few Christians act on that belief consistently

What then is evangelism?

Tony Evans in his book What Matters Most states that: "Evangelism is the verbal and visible declaration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind, done with the intent of leading people to salvation."

Motives for sharing faith

1. Jesus himself came preaching and testifying. He issued the invitation "Repent and believe this good news of the reign of God."

God wants the "Ninevehs" all over the world to be saved. God desires that none should be lost.

2. Faith-sharing fulfils the Commission. (Matt.28:19) God has made it crystal clear in His Word that every Christian is to "Go and make disciples in all nations...and teach these new disciples in all nations... and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...." (Matt. 28:19-20)

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to the whole creation. Those who believe and are baptised will be saved. But those who refuse to believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)

The fulfilment of Christ's great command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" is the shared responsibility of every individual who calls Christ Saviour and Lord. Jesus Christ who called people to follow him in grace is the same Christ who turned around and taught people how to live with him responsibly and to share faith effectively. Without the announcement of God's love, one does not have the motivation or the ability to obey commands and commissions. Grace, not guilt, motivates people to share faith. It is when the love of God becomes the great compulsion that faith-sharing becomes the Great Commission.

3. People need the Lord. We are called to evangelise because of human need and human worth.

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The church is called to participate in God's mission for the sake of the world which God loves. Those of us who have experienced the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ cannot help but want to be involved in His mission, and share His love with others.

We live in a world mired in sin and confusion. As we watch the news and read the tabloids, as we refer to the overload of information or misinformation on the Internet, we ask ourselves: "What is the truth?" The hurting and wounded world longs for direction and truth, to hear the word of healing and wholeness. In Christ, we see the answer to these deep personal and societal needs. Jesus is the answer to people's quest for truth for Jesus is God incarnate and the ultimate revelation of truth.

Problems and struggles are everywhere as millions are forced to live unfulfilled lives, victims of poverty, hunger, oppression and racism. Many of our youths cannot find jobs after studying hard to get a degree and with the economic downturn, thousands have been retrenched. They have no where to turn - they are lost and desperate. Is it any wonder that many of them turn to drugs and alcohol to drown their pain, confusion and hurts? Is it any wonder they turn to extreme forms of religious teachings that promise certainty of paradise and rewards in the after-life?

Today, there is confusion even in the world's moral values. There doesn't seem to be any moral plumb-line. Gay marriages have been legalised in many countries. In the United States, Bruce Jenner, who changed his sex after living as a man for 60 years and is now called Caitlyn, was honoured for courage. Today, it is generally acceptable to live together outside of matrimony as well. Even Christian parents face this dilemma where their children are concerned. People are looking for a higher moral standard of living in a decadent society. Jesus provides the ethical teachings and if one believes in Him and receives Him as his personal Lord and Saviour, one can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life according to God's moral and ethical values and, in turn, experience a life that is abundant and free.

As Christians, we know that there are two basic forms of sin: sins of omission and sins of commission. However, there is a third form which is known as the sin of permission. The latter happens when we simply acquiesce to sin and evil and do not utter a word or lift a finger to stop it. Many of us would agree that some of today's parents have acquiesced to sin so

as to keep the peace in the home or they may have embraced the idea that they have to "keep up with the times" and accept the changing culture.

Many live in fear of death as well. The reality is that death is sure and it happens to everybody. We can truly live the abundant life today when we are able to entrust the future in God's hands. This is because only Jesus can offer eternal life to the world, "... that those who believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) The death and resurrection of Jesus offer hope of eternal life and heaven and because of that assurance John Wesley was able to say that "Methodists die well".

Bill Bright in the introduction to his book Witnessing without fear states that, "... in failing to share one's faith, a Christian misses out on one of the greatest blessings our Lord offers: the profound joy of helping a fellow human being find new, abundant life, as well as eternal life, in Jesus Christ".

Why many of us are not witnessing for Christ

Many of us are contented to be in our "holy huddles" and sharing faith or evangelism is never a priority. Without a doubt, it is often easier to do the deed of the Gospel than to name the name of Jesus Christ and share our faith. Several reasons have been put forward for the neglect in the important essential of evangelism in Christian discipleship. I am sure many of us can relate to some of them:

- Religion is such a sensitive issue. Besides, friendships can be severed as a result of disagreements regarding religious beliefs. Some people find it offensive if attempts are made to intrude in this private affair.
- Besides, I have the fear of being branded a fanatic or "the holy one". If people want to know about the Christian faith, they know where to find the church sanctuary and they are always welcome to walk in (like the departmental store)
- I really don't know enough to share the faith with others. I am not theologically trained and I am not sure about the doctrines of the church. How embarrassing it will be when I am asked difficult questions and I am not able to answer them. I am just a lay person. It is better to leave evangelism to the clergy.
- · Nowadays, my activities revolve around the

church and my friends are members of the church. I don't have friends outside the church circle.

The reasons, obstacles and excuses given above for not telling others about Jesus Christ can be summed up as fear and lack of know-how.

However, it is precisely people like us whom God has used from the beginning. In Acts 8:1-4, we read of the severe persecution against the church in Jerusalem. "Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word." (verse 4). Everyone except the Apostles went all over the countryside spreading the Good News of the Gospel. In the same way, each one of us has been called to take on the responsibility of sharing faith and fulfill the task of witnessing to the Good News.

We cannot afford to sit back and depend on the few full-time ministers to accomplish the task of sharing faith. Those who proclaimed the Kingdom after Pentecost were lay persons, merely amateurs. It was lay evangelism that carried the Good News in the first century. The laity are the people of God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and given the mandate to proclaim the triumphs of the One who has taken them out of darkness to light (1 Peter 2:9-10). The laity are called and responsible to live up to their high calling. Pastors and full-time ministers are not the only ones called.

Wesley was convinced that the responsibility for witnessing and testifying belonged to the whole church and he began utilising lay people to spread the Gospel. This contributed to the Methodist revival. He knew that for the Gospel to be taken to the whole world and all creation, he needed the passion and unstoppable witness of Christians recently set afire by the Holy Spirit. This decision, inspired by the Holy Spirit, made possible the tremendous expansion of the Wesleyan movement.

Help in witnessing

Spirit-filled evangelism. The story of Acts is the story of a Spirit-empowered church just as the story of Jesus is one of a Spirit-empowered ministry. Jesus began his ministry by announcing, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." (Luke 4:18)

If we want to be really effective in evangelism, we need to wait on God for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. We need to recognise that we cannot do this in our own strength, and to admit that many of our strategies, plans and concepts are not really working because they lack God's anointing upon them. Too much evangelism is done in the power of human personality and creativity, and not enough is done in the power of God. We need the Spirit's power if we are to communicate with those who are blinded by the "god of this age". Even more, we need His discernment and authority if we are to break down spiritual strongholds and set people free.

The Spirit comes to us not because of our goodness, but because of God's graciousness. We respond by opening our lives to the Spirit. The key is to continually yield our lives to the Spirit. Just as we must be committed to working out in order to develop physical fitness, we must be committed to developing spiritual fitness in order to grow as disciples of Jesus. As Leander Keck states: "Plowing does not make it rain but does make it possible for things to grow if it rains." There are appropriate ways to prepare for the indwelling Holy Spirit. Wesley refers to these ways as the means of grace. The diet or means of grace for spiritual fitness includes:

- 1. Private worship prayer and Bible study
- 2. Regular public worship
- 3. Frequent celebration of Holy Communion.

The life of prayer includes both solitude and solidarity with others. This is not an option if one desires to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. In Britain, Charles Haddon Spurgeon was not only teaching about prayer, he was modelling the truth that prayer is integral to evangelism. Wherever he went, he called the church to prayer, teaching that it was the springboard for all true mission and ministry. Whenever guests visited him at his church, the Metropolitan Tabernacle, he would show them the prayer room where church members continued a 24-hour unceasing vigil of prayer. Out of this renewed sense of commitment to prayer in the churches arose a great wave of evangelistic activity. Church historians estimate that there were around one million new converts to Christianity in Britain during 1860 alone. Out of this came new leaders such as Lord Shaffesbury, George Muller and William Booth.

A number of common factors can be found in great periods of growth in Christianity. Each seems to have been preceded by the raising up of groups to pray and intercede.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit in evangelism, the work is impossible. Without prayer, evangelism is

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a waste of time. This is God's work and it would be presumptuous and futile to imagine we can do it without Him.

We can only reach the whole world's population through the witness of every Christian wherever God has placed him or her. It is the personal witness of the family member in the home, or the colleague at work, or the neighbour or the friend at the place of leisure.

What the church can do

- 1. There was a time when small group meetings were given over to testimony. The early Methodist class meetings encouraged people to verbalise their relationship with God. Witnessing within the Christian community became a practice session which prepared the people of God to bear witness in their homes, at work, and in the market places. Today, unfortunately, some small groups fail to encourage members to verbalise their faith and tell of their own Christian pilgrimage.
- 2. Church programming has become so diversified that verbal witnessing tends to be squeezed out. Some churches provide programmes that vary all the way from basket-weaving to yoga.
- 3. Demands on the preacher's time make it increasingly difficult to adequately prepare. Unfortunately, when it seems that there are not enough hours in the day, that portion of the preacher's work which usually suffers most is his or her prayer and study time. That time must be guarded. Bishop Arthur J. Moore used to say: "Jonah was swallowed by a whale. The modern preacher is being nibbled to death by minnows!"
- 4. Today's busy lifestyle tends to consume the average lay person. As someone said: "Lay people are so busy making a living that they fail to make a life." Caught up in a whirlwind of endless activity, the lay person experiences great difficulty in finding room for study, prayer and reflection. One must seriously prepare in order to witness effectively. Lack of preparation leads to shallow and ineffective testimony.

Word and deed

The two primary means of spreading the Gospel are word and deed. In the evangelisation of Jesus there is no polarisation between proclamation and action, or salvation and history. His words ring true to his lifestyle and his life supports his words. Each illumines the other.

We discover this same wholeness of word and deed in the evangelisation of the early church. The Apostles' - proclamation and good works are inextricably tied. There is a fusion of preaching and serving. The ministry of kerygma (proclamation) must run concurrently with ministries of healing, serving, nurturing, liberating, reforming and empowering.

We do the compassionate deed from the best of motives, and we do that deed with skill and commitment. However, we are reluctant to name the Name in whom we do the deed (street feeding). This failure to "name the Name" leaves an ideological vacuum in the minds and hearts of the people. As a result, other sect-type churches and cults come right along behind us, and they fill the ideological vacuum left by our silence. Let us not forget that we are called to offer a cup of cold water in the Name of Jesus Christ. If we only name the Name we are dismissed as irrelevant, but if we only give the cup of cold water, we are quenching the physical thirst but leaving the spiritual thirst unsatisfied.

We believe that our reluctance comes from our fear of vulnerability. Sometimes, it is far easier to settle with simply doing a good for a poor person. But this is not sufficient. People not only hunger for bread for their stomachs; they also hunger for the bread of life.

Your story matters

Each disciple is called to be a witness. Each has a unique story to share. There is a Gospel according to you. Your story matters.

Person-to-person faith-sharing must be the highest priority, and we must train our people in this ministry. Christians must be equipped not only with a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, but also knowledge of the Gospel.

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Alpha Leads To New Beginnings

Be empowered to evangelize and serve in this ministry

By Rick So

Evangelism is a verb form of the Greek word "euangelion", and is the "act of delivering the Good News" by "euangelistes" (or evangelists), who are the "proclaimers of the good news".

What is this "good news"? Pastor Rick Warren probably said it best when he described it as what we receive "when we trust God's grace to save us through the work of Jesus Christ". For what comes from this trust is forgiveness of our sins, finding of our purpose for living and the promise of a future home in heaven.

To bring this message to those who do not know our Lord Jesus Christ is the work of evangelists who are ... no, not just our pastors ... but every one of us who say we are His followers.

As Jesus said in Matthew 28: 19-20,

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And

surely I am with you always, to the very end of the

But how can we proclaim the good news to others? Where do we start?

No need to look too far: It can begin up-close and personal by looking at our family members, relatives, close friends and co-workers who have yet to accept Jesus Christ into their lives.



The most important thing we can do is **pray for them**: Pray that God will change their hearts and open their eyes to the truth of the Gospel (see 2 Corinthians 4:4). Pray that God will convince them of His love for them and their need for salvation through Jesus Christ (John 3:16). And pray that God will give us the wisdom as to how best we can minister to them (James 1:5). Alpha is a proven course used by Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya (TMC PJ) for many years to bring the good news of God's salvation plan through a series of interactive sessions in a friendly, open and informal environment.

On a personal note, I never thought that I would be involved in evangelism because to me, I was of the view that one has to be a very mature Christian in order to evangelise. And to me, maturity meant one had to be a Christian for a very long time, very knowledgeable in the Bible and very

actively serving in Church.

In the early days, the mere mention of evangelism quickly led me to think that it's not for me but more for my mature brothers and sisters in Christ. Evangelism was the last thing I wanted to do to serve in the Church!

Alpha so changed my perspective

In 2014, my wife and I attended an Alpha course and we were amazed by how it was organised.







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First. the High-tea session was fun and food, superb! the The wisdom of table fellowship (involving food) is at the heart of our human condition, and it opens the door to genuine avenues of fellowship (making friends). During this session, we could talk







about anything and everything under the sun!

Secondly, I was touched by the video presentations featuring The Rev. Nicky Gumbel.

If you didn't know, The Rev. Gumbel revised and expanded the Alpha course in 1990 to touch pre-believers while he was a curate at the Holy Trinity Brompton church in London, England. He is now the church's vicar.

His first three sessions, "Is there more to life than this?", "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did Jesus Die?" helped me reinforce my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ while to prebelievers, these talks helped them come to know God's Way, Truth and Life!

Thirdly, the small group (SG) discussions held during the Alpha course gave me great insight, and reflecting back, is the most important part of the Alpha programme as this is when everyone can discuss the topic (video talk) of that week.

Through the SG discussions, we also got to connect with the other participants, learn their likes and dislikes and develop friendships resulting from their opening up and sharing of experiences.

At the Alpha weekend away, I felt the Holy Spirit come upon me. It was a very empowering experience for both my wife and me, more so because in the run-up to it, I must confess that I was rather skeptical about how I would tackle the four topics that would be shared:

I was struggling with these thoughts ... until the verse from Psalm 46:10 came to me: "Be still, and know that I am God ...".

This verse helped to calm my mind and when it was time for the Alpha participants to come forward to be prayed for (during altar call / ministry time,) my wife and I willingly went forward.

I remember that as our pastor, The Rev. Ting Moy Hong, prayed for my wife, her eyes began filling with tears while I was trembling slightly and close to tears too. At that moment, I believed and felt the Holy Spirit convicting us ... at that moment, I was still and knew that He is God!

The remaining video talks after the weekend away continued to be equally enthralling.

Last but not the least, Alpha Celebration was another touching experience - it was celebration time for the new converts and for Christians renewing their faith.

The strong bonding within the SGs, the time of worship and the sharing of testimonies to invited family members and friends made it a memorable time for the participants and the Alpha team members alike.

Suddenly it was like, "Hey! You mean we have come to the end of the Alpha course?" Certainly, the 13 weeks (including the weekend away) seemed to pass all too quickly.

Topic	My thoughts
How does God guide us?	Okay, this topic "can do!"
Who is the Holy Spirit?	Manageable!
What does the Holy Spirit do?	Hmm not sure about this!
How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?	Wow! This topic seems very "deep"; not sure if I can handle God's Holy Spirit! What if I don't experience the filling of the Holy Spirit? And what if I'm filled with the Holy Spirit? What will happen to me?











Our Evangelism committee chairman, brother Tan Hock Wah, testified that over his years in serving in Alpha, he has seen the lives of many prebelievers and Christians change and become refreshed. Gamblers have given up gambling. Alcoholics have become sober. Addicts have repented and broken families have been reunited!

Sister Lai Yen Choo testified that she personally saw the lives of Alpha graduates being touched and transformed as they received the saving knowledge of Christ and some were spiritually touched (both visibly and invisibly) during the weekend away. This encouraged her to persevere and give her best to this outreach ministry.

The other inspiring aspect of Alpha as an evangelism tool is that it gives members of TMC PJ the opportunity to come together and serve in unity for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - each one of us has different talents and gifts that when combined as a church, can be powerfully put to use.

While there are many roles one can assume in Alpha - be it a facilitator, co-facilitator, emcee, greeter and registrar, prayer minister, worship member or helper in areas such as audio/video, food & beverage and

publicity materials - no one role is more important than the other.

To instill the spirit of unity, all Alpha team members must go through a training session so every individual can be equipped, personal differences can be put aside and so all can come together in love to fulfill the goal of glorifying Jesus Christ.

Of course, before allowing themselves to be used as instruments by God, the team members must have a vibrant relationship with Christ and a deep prayer life so that there will be passion behind the serving.

But while members can do their part to prepare themselves for their roles, it is the Holy Spirit working within them that makes Alpha a meaningful and lifechanging course for the participants.

Reflecting on my experience in Alpha, evangelism isn't intimidating anymore. With our willingness to share the Good News with all people whom we come in contact with and the Holy Spirit empowering us, there is nothing to fear.

To Him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.







Evangelism Through Streetfeeding

By Pastor Aaron Ng

Jesus enjoyed table fellowship with those in the margins of Jewish society. In eating with these "outcasts", Jesus made a positive statement about the Kingdom: sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes, the poor and sick, though religious outcasts to some, were not barred from the Messiah's Kingdom banquet. Jesus also sent His disciples out to pursue the same Kingdom mission that He Himself was involved in (Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-9).

For the disciple community, to be in communion with Jesus means taking an active part in His mission. It is for this reason that we are undertaking the streetfeeding ministry at the following locations:

- i. the YMCA, every Saturday at 1pm;
- ii. the River Side, every Thursday at 7pm; and
- iii. the Trinity Drop-in Centre, every Sunday at 5.30pm.

Brothers and sisters, you are welcome to join us as volunteers or support us financially in this ministry.





































Life And Ministries Of Our Church In 2016

TMCPJ is a church with a mission. Here's a look at what it is, and the plans that have been put in place to achieve it

In 2016, Trinity Methodist Church PJ (TMC PJ) will continue with her vision of making "Everyone a Disciple of Jesus Christ", which was first cast two years earlier.

To live out this vision and to allow it to mature and become a distinctive character of the Church, four main thrusts have been adopted, namely:

- 1. Life-long discipleship;
- 2. Building wholesome families (which includes the youth ministry);
- 3. Being a Voice to the nation (in the area of outreach via Social Concerns); and
- 4. Being a Vision for the world (with the Evangelistic arm being the Missions ministry).

Life-long discipleship

TMC PJ's members and regular worshippers are encouraged and challenged to live out Jesus Christ's calling for them to be His disciples and thereafter, to make disciples for Him.

This is the message carried to all age groups within the Church, from children to youths, young adults to seniors

The means by which it is conveyed are:

- · Pulpit ministry which is anchored upon sermons on being disciples for Christ;
- · Seminars and Disciple courses that have a highregard for the Word of God, the Bible;
- · Small groups (SG) and Home fellowships (HF),

which are the main infrastructure for a life of care and accountability towards maturity in Christ;

- · Sunday School ministry, which uses the "Discipleland" curriculum;
- · Youth ministry, which uses a modified Navigators 2:7 series; and
- The Chinese ministry, which is into its 7th year and continues to grow (see accompany story ion page 17).

Building wholesome families

The Rev. Dr T. Jeyakumar, president of the Trinity Regional Annual Conference (TRAC), said in his address at the 40th session of TRAC held in December 2015 that churches must place emphasis on the need for family ministries in the church.

He said that "the family is the backbone of the Christian church and society as a whole" and that "history has shown that if any society is to continue to survive, it must uphold, strengthen and continue to build upon the biblical institutions of marriage and family".

At TMC PJ, the family unit is recognized as the most basic yet most important platforms for discipleship, and this needs to be strengthened.

This will be done in the following ways:

Making Christ-centred couples

It begins at the stage when marriage is still just an idea: Here, the Pastors will assign marriagementors to walk with couples planning marriage in order to help prepare them.

Once the wedding celebrations have ended, TMC PJ will encourage married couples to take up post-marriage courses, among them the Alpha Marriage Course, which is a wonderful programme to keep marriages fresh and flourishing.

The Church also has something for couples who have been married for a long time, in the form of a Service of Renewal of Marriage Vows, which will coincide with the Watchnight Covenant Renewal Service at the end of the year. Preceding this will be a Marriage Enrichment Seminar.

Forging families

For family units (parents and children), TMCPJ encourages them to come and worship together on the third Sunday of every month (called Intergenerational Sunday) as well as serve together as worship enablers during these services.

They are also encouraged to set up family altars in their homes, where they can come together and set their minds to focus on God by reading the Bible, singing songs of praise and praying for a few minutes every week.

TMC PJ also organises Church Family Camps once every two years (on every even year) with the intention of making it a time when families can break from their daily routine and bond together through sharing, learning God's Word and playing together for a few days.

It is also a time when family units can be connected with the larger family of the Church and foster deeper relationships.

Of course, Camp is also when family members as well as friends who have yet to know Jesus Christ can be drawn into His presence.

This year, the TMC PJ Family Camp will be held in

the newly refurbished Genting View Resort from 30 April to 2 May 2016.

Empowering youths and young adults

How can children and young adults continue to live out their faith and build robust Christ-centred lives?

One way is by enrolling them in the Boys' or Girls' Brigades, which meet every Saturday in Church.

However, these Brigades are not just confined to within the walls of TMC PJ, but have expanded into schools in the area in order to reach out to others.

To reach out to the young adults aged between 28 and 42, many who are caught up in the world's rat-race at the expense and have neglected their spiritual growth, TMCPJ has set up the Young Adults Ministry (YAM) task force to seek them out and return them to God and His Church.

The Church, like many others within the TRAC family, sees this ministry as a crucial one that requires commitment from the members of the task force and continual prayers. In spite of the challenges that come with the ministry, the team is still soldiering on and this year, has planned a series of Wisdom Talks, based on topics that are relevant to the young adults, such as "Migration: Is the grass greener on the other side", which was recently held on 18 March.

In 2015, the talks were on how to navigate through economically trying times and included how to deal with debt, what to do when faced with retrenchment and whether there is opportunity during crises.

For 2016, the YAM task force plans to intentionally engage the young adults after the talks and is currently in the midst of planning two events.

Giving thanks to God for our seniors

The seniors in our midst are TMC PJ's joy and

connect LLCFC REPORT

blessings - they were the ones who chartered the waters and their perseverance has helped to define the Church today.

To give thanks for their lives, the Church is conducting a monthly birthday celebration for those aged 80 and above who were born in that month.

A voice to the nation

TMC PJ has been blessed with the mission of reaching out to the less fortunate by undertaking social concerns endeavours.

These include:

- The Samaritan Ministry, which is involved in street feeding, minor medical assistance and ministry work to the under-privileged;
- Pusat Dialisis Kurnia, which helps those with failing kidney function but without the financial ability to afford the typical cost of dialysis, by providing the treatment at a lower fee and for some, even at no cost:
- The Church has adopted the Methodist Primary School across the road and is working keenly with the Headmistress, the Parent-Teachers Association and the Board of Governors to identify ways and means the Church can meaningfully contribute to the needs and welfare of the students; and
- Prayer ministries of the Church continue to inform and encourage the Church to pray for her nation.

A vision for the world

To spread the Good News and fulfill the Great Commission, TMC PJ is working on two fronts.

Outside of Church grounds, Jesus Christ is guiding us to the unreached peoples by supporting two missionaries working in the field, as well as by providing English tuition to the children of the orang asli in Jelebu, Negeri Sembilan every Saturday.

Within the Church, the Alpha ministry continues to be adopted as the main tool for TMC PJ's evangelistic thrust, as has been the case for the past many years.

Also, the Church's kindergarten, which was set up as an outreach ministry, has embraced her refreshed vision of being a "Christ-centred kindergarten" with studies and activities designed specifically to point the children and their parents to Jesus Christ.

Church Redevelopment Project

The long-awaited redevelopment of the former kindergarten portion of the Church grounds is finally underway after remaining on the drawing board for over a decade.

As at the first quarter of this year, earthworks and piling have been completed, but the road ahead is still a long and challenging one.

As the Church Redevelopment Project Committee (or CRPC) which is tasked with overseeing the construction on behalf of TMC PJ, continues to utilise their God-given talents and gifts for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and depend on Him for strength and guidance, we ask all Church members to lift up your voices in prayer, to ask God for His guiding hands on the construction tasks ahead and for the safety of all those working in the site.

In closing, we also ask for TMC PJ's vision of making "Everyone a Disciple of Jesus Christ" may be fulfilled so that we will truly become a God-fearing Disciplemaking church.

This article was based on our Pastor-in-charge The Rev. Ting Moy Hong's report to the first TRAC Central District 2 Conference of 2016 (TRAC is the acronym for the Trinity Regional Annual Conference, which is the connectional gathering of all the Englishspeaking Methodist churches in Peninsula Malaysia).

Plans Of The Chinese Ministry

After years of growth and expansion, Trinity Methodist Church PJ's (TMC PJ) Chinese-speaking ministry this year will strive towards consolidation in order to forge closer relationship among members and to focus on disciple-making.

Under the leadership of assistant pastor, Pastor Aaron Ng, the areas it will concentrate on are:

- Small Group (SG) ministry;
- Christian Education;
- Evangelism/Renewal/Mission;
- Prayer & spiritual formation; and
- Youth & Young Adult ministry.

SG Ministry

The Chinese ministry currently has formed six SGs and one more is on the way.

It held its SG Sunday on 13 March 2016, during which a special presentation was given by each SG. To create more bonding opportunities, a combined SG outing and Mid-Autumn celebration has been planned.

Christian Education

Recognising the importance of Christian Education to facilitate the spiritual growth and discipleship of believers into Christ-likeness, the Chinese Ministry has planned the following:

- · Organising a Bible Quiz;
- Conducting a three-month long Bible Study class on Biblical Theology: God's Big picture that will be facilitated by Pastor Aaron Ng and the Church's ministry worker, Lewis Loke; and
- Arranging a Theology Sunday, during which there will be a session entitled Bible Talk conducted by Dr Elaine Goh from Seminiari Theologi Malaysia.

Evangelism / Renewal / Mission

Programmes planned in this area include:

· Evangelism training with a special talk on Evangelism by Pastor Leong Weng Cheong;

- Talk on "Renewal and healing" by The Rev. Koo Tiong Ling;
- · Conducting a Mission Sunday and Social Concerns Sunday;
- Having a Parents Day Evangelistic meeting led by Pastor Hew Jun Er;
- · Organising a Worship Sunday led by Pastor Dr Yap; and
- Arranging a short-term mission trip by the youth.

Prayer and spiritual formation

With the objective of grooming the congregation to lead prayerful lives and grow in spiritual maturity which can be translated into works, the following are the main focus:

- · Training on prayer and spiritual discipline;
- · Forming a network of prayer intercessors;
- Conducting a Prayer and Spiritual Formation Sunday with a one session Prayer seminar;
- Emphasising on prayer through the pulpit ministry; and
- Implementing a monthly Prayer Theme.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Some of the initiatives that will be able to minister to the youth and young adults include:

- · A monthly meeting of the College Small Group and monthly meeting of Young Adults Small Group, coupled with monthly combined meetings so special programmes such as wisdom talks, and outreach/mission activities can be conducted:
- Quarterly outings, seminar etc; and
- A talk on Youth Spirituality by Pastor Tan Pei Ting.

LCEC Members For 2016





Juan Morgan (Sunday School Superintendent)



Lee Siew Hong (Membership Chairperson)



Paul David (Social Concerns Chairman)



Debbie David (Worship & Music Chairperson)



Tan Giok Hui (Boys' Brigade Captain)



Surendran Thuraisingham (Elective Steward)



Christopher Sam (Elective Steward)



- 1 Tan Ean Chye (Stewardship & Finance Chairman)
- 2 · Hong Hee Leong (Treasurer)
- 3 Ong Chong Lai (Associate Layleader & PPRC Chairman)
- 4 Woo Soon Ming (Missions Chairman & MAF President)
- 5 Tan Hock Wah (Evangelism Chairman)
- 6 Roy Goh (Property Chairman)
- 7 The Rev. Buell Abraham (Associate Pastor)
- 8 Patrick Dutton (Elective Steward)
- 9 Patrick Chen (MSF President)
- 10 · Paul Lai Chu (CRPC Chairman)
- 11 Jason Wee (Elective Steward)
- 12 · Lewis Loke (Ministry Staff)
- 13 · Mary Bien (Kindergarten & CRFRC Chairperson)
- 14 Roslind Tay (Fellowship Chairperson)
- 15 The Rev. Ting Moy Hong (Pastor-in-charge)
- 16 Theresa Yip (MW President)
- 17 Andrew Wong (Layleader & Communications Chairman)
- 18 Pastor Aaron Ng (Assistant Pastor & Chinese Ministry Pastor)
- 19 · Leong Sow Yoke (LCEC Chairperson)
- 20 Adele Chow (Girls' Brigade Captain)
- 21 · Susan Tan (Music Director)
- 22 · Sarah Chen (MYF President)
- 23 Grace Choong (Christian Education Chairperson)





The Rev. Ting Moy Hong was born into a Christian home of eight. She is the third of six children. She grew up in the Trinity Methodist (CAC) Church, schooled in ACS (Anglo Chinese (Methodist) School) & Methodist High School, Sitiawan. She read law at University of Malaya, did her Master of Divinity at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM) and her Master of Theology (Social Ethics) in Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey.

The Rev. Ting was taught to serve the Lord in the church from young, having served as Sunday School Teacher, MIF leader and MYF leader. She came to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and His saving grace at 16 years of age. During her working life, she served as Youth counselor, Care Group leader, Disciple Course facilitator, BM Bible Study facilitator and was actively and passionately involved in the aboriginal people's ministry. The Rev. Ting has pastored Wesley Methodist Church, Johor Bahru; Wesley Methodist Church, Melaka; Emmanuel Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya; and Grace Methodist Church, Sentul.

This is her fifth year in TMC PJ.

Her passion is:

To know the Lord and be known by Him;

To inspire/encourage others to know the Lord and His Word;

To grow as His disciple and encourage others to be one too; and To see Malaysia as a better place for all to live.

During her free time, Rev. Ting enjoys reading, bird-watching, travelling (if possible) and yam-char with friends.

The Rev. Buell Abraham

Associate Pastor



The Rev. Buell, Joel and Jacqueline Abraham

The Rev. Buell Abraham comes from a long and impressive lineage of pastors and church leaders. His great-grandfather, The Rev. Samuel T Abraham was the pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur in 1900 and subsequently the pastor of the Methodist Tamil Church, Kuala Lumpur from 1900 to 1918. During the period of 1913 till 1917, The Rev. Samuel T Abraham was the first Asian District Superintendent covering the areas of upper Taiping and Malacca.

The Rev. Buell's grandfather, The Rev. William H T Abraham was a local preacher in Bentong, Kuala Lumpur and Klang while his maternal grandfather was a lay leader and local preacher of the Tamil Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur and one of the founder members of the Methodist English School in Tanjung Malim.

The Rev. Buell was born on 13 November 1965 and is the second son of Charles and Mildred Abraham. He has an elder brother, Lim Hock Bee and a younger brother Dr. Samuel P T Abraham. Brother Lim Hock Bee was called home to the Lord last year on 17 June 2015.

The Rev. Buell is married to Jacqueline Megam whom he met during his trip to Jerusalem; during which he received his calling. They have a son named Joel Prassanth Abraham and he is 14 years old.

The Rev. Buell is an avid photographer and actually worked as a photographer from age 17 until age 25 before going to the Britain to study accountancy. Upon his return, he worked as an auditor for two years before resuming his photography until he joined the Seminary Theology Malaysia in 2003. His first posting was to Bentong-Mentakab-Raub during which period he discovered his gifting in visitation.

Since then he served KL Wesley as Pastor (2010 - 2011), Christ Methodist Church Ampang (2011), Grace Methodist Church Sentul & Faith Methodist Church Cheras (2012 - 2015). He have also served TMC Sg Buloh in 2006 - 2007 while serving at TMC PJ during those years. Currently he is serving at Faith Cheras and TMC PJ.

The Rev. Buell was brought up by Madam Cheah Yong You, a Chinese from China. As a result, he enjoys Chinese food and not Indian food and his favourite food is *char kway teow*.

The Rev. Buell is happy and excited to join us and looks forward to bringing as many people as possible to Christ and the Church is equally happy to have him.

Pastor Aaron Ng Kok Loong

Assistant Pastor



Pastor Aaron Ng Kok Loong is the assistant pastor of TMC PJ, with special commitment to the Chinese Congregation. He is also the Pastor In-charge of Living Stone Methodist Church, Kota Damansara.

He graduated from the Seminari Theoloji Malaysia with Master of Divinity (2012). He also holds a bachelor (2000) and a master degree (2002) from the National University of Singapore, majoring in Economics and Analytic Philosophy.

He has many years working experience in sales and marketing of pharmaceutical products before he entered the full-time ministry. He is married to Lily Chow Lai Lai and they have two teenage sons.

He has special research interest in Biblical Studies, Biblical Theology, Preaching and Praise and Worship. He welcomes anyone to meet him to talk about faith, music, history and food.

grow I CHINESE MINISTRY



Vineyard Of Radical Grace Matthew 20:1-16

By Pastor Aaron Ng

Workers in the Vineyard

During the time of Jesus, many workers faced the problem of unemployment. Their lives had no basic security, and there were no labour unions and social security to protect workers' welfare. During harvest time, the vineyard owners would use temporary workers to work the harvesting.

The "harvest time" here signifies the spreading of God's kingdom in end-times where many more workers are needed and lost souls are saved into the Kingdom. God the Father will personally come through the Son incarnated, to look for people to work in the vineyard, and give them enough grace to operate.

The workers normally work 12 hours a day, from 6am to 6pm. In this Bible passage, we see the vineyard owner himself, five times in a row (early morning, 9am, 12noon, 3pm, 5pm) going out to look for workers and hiring them to work in his field (verses 1-6). This owner was very compassionate for he could not bear to see people hanging outside wanting to be employed but find no work. The vineyard owner promised to pay a denarius to the first group of workers. One denarius is equivalent to a day's wage. These workers were feeling very fortunate to find employment and were very happy to start work in the morning. As more workers were needed, the vineyard owner went out to hire other batches of workers at different times. He promised to pay them 'what is right'. These workers might not expect to get a full denarius, but they trusted the owner to pay them proportionately. When evening came, the owner said to his foreman, "Call in the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first" (verse 8). This fulfilled the Old Testament law which stipulated that the owner cannot withhold the wages of workers overnight (Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24: 14-15).

Those hired at the 11th hour received a denarius. When those hired earlier came forward, they expected to receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. They grumbled unceasingly at the vineyard owner, saying, "These last workers worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and under scorching heat" (verse 12).

The vineyard owner replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to these last workers as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious at my generosity?" (verses 13-15).

Consider: Why did those who came to work later also get a denarius? And if you are among those who are first to work, will you also grumble for being treated unfairly?

God's grace is sufficient for everyone

The vineyard master resembles God the Father, and the vineyard pictures Israel or the people of God. God the Father calls the workers into his Kingdom to receive salvation and serve. By this, the grace of God is expounded even before the question of fairness arose. Anyway, God is just and fair! He promised the first batch of workers a denarius, and He gave them a denarius. God is also gracious! For those who performed less than a day's of work, God also gave them a denarius which is beyond what they deserved. The workers who came late to work represent those socially marginalised people who are sinners, tax collectors, the sick and lame. They are weak, miserable and insecure. If they only received a fraction of one denarius, the amount would be insufficient to cover the needs of their family for a day.

The secular logic is to "earn as you produce", but this is not the Kingdom logic. God wants to hire all, so that no person will be left idle. God wants to bless everyone so that everyone will have enough. God's grace is sufficient for everyone, no one will be neglected!

Today, are you among the "late starters, uncompetitive or in desperate need"? You do not have to worry, because God's grace is sufficient for you to overcome your difficulties. We must stop making excuses for our own weaknesses of refusing to take responsibility, leaving the comfort zone, upgrading ourselves, and participating in the ministries of the church. God will give us enough grace to complete the mission.

We note that the first group of workers grumbled because they were "red eye; evil eye". This means they envied those who received better treatment/ reward. They did not share the same compassion of God. Although they worked longer than the other workers, they ought to be more thankful, as they got hired first and did not need to worry for the rest of the day. Without the grace of God in the first place, they would still be hanging around unemployed. Thus, they would not have been able to produce anything and of course, there will be no question of reward. If we see it this way, the first batch of workers had also gained and not lost anything.

If we do more or give more, we need not complain. When we start counting the blessings of God, we will find that God never short-changes us! God also does not want us to compare with what others are getting. Let us simply serve the Lord faithfully, and trust that God will take care of our needs. The fact is that no matter what the needs of these different batches of workers were, that "one denarius" was the sufficient grace of God.

We often want to commensurate rewards with our efforts. We want "fairness" in the light of what we earn or are worth. However in this parable, Jesus shifts our focus from reward to God's grace and generosity. We can only be a recipient of the grace and generosity of God. Without the sacrificial life of Christ, we all would continue to be in bondage of sin - remaining unemployed and heading for destruction. Christ first loved us. He sacrificed His life for the remission of our sins while we were yet sinners. We can do nothing to earn His grace. Whether we are early or late, strong or weak, in abundance or in need, the grace of God the "one denarius" is sufficient for us.

To make up for the members who are lacking

In fact, all of us are the 11th hour workers who do not deserve the generosity of God in the first place. We are all accepted, loved and saved by God, not because of our efforts, but purely by God's own grace. It is by this radical grace of God that we are able to work in the vineyard of God.

For this reason, we are to share God's compassionate heart to bless those who are in need. We are to identify with those under-privileged, those needing food and those looking for a roof over their heads. We not only reach out to people for the salvation of their souls, we also help in providing basic facilities to them so that their overall well-being is enhanced, and finally a community of "shared abundance" can be established after God's heart.

What happened to the workers who complained and whose eyes were evil? How would they respond to the reproach by the vineyard owner? The answer lies in how you and I respond to this parable today.

在神的面前富足 路加福音十二13-21 --- 伍国伦传道

耶稣向着群众说了一个'愚蠢的财主'的比喻(16-21节)。

有一个财主的田地丰收,他自己心里说:『我没有地方积存 我的农作物了,我该怎么办呢?哦,我要这样做!把我那些 仓库拆掉,再盖一些更大的。我要把我所有的谷物和货物都 积存在那里, 然后, 我要对我的灵魂说, 灵魂啊, 你拥有许 多好东西,足够享用多年,你可以轻松吃喝庆祝吧!』

可是,神对他说: 『愚蠢的人啊,今天晚上,我就要收回你 的灵魂了。你所预备的,将要归给谁呢?』

那为自己积聚财富, 在神面前却不富足的人, 也是这样。

比喻中的财主的田地丰收,他想拆掉已有的仓房,建立更大 的来储存收成。他是要囤货,以便在往后货品价格飙升时卖 出去,获得更多盈利。到时他就能够『轻轻松松,吃喝庆 祝』。

这个比喻揭示财主幽暗的一面。他说了一连串自我中心话: 『我要这么办……我那些仓库……我要把我所有的谷物…… 我要对我的灵魂说……』他只知道,他的一切是属于他的; 『我的农作物, 我的那些仓库, 我的谷物和我的货物』。财 主是一位孤独自私的人。

突然,神打断了财主的思路,对他说:『愚蠢的人啊!』『 愚蠢』是一个强烈的斥责字眼。诗篇十四1这么说: 『愚蠢 的人心里说,没有神。他们都是败坏,行了可憎的事,没有 一个行善的。』一个愚蠢的人不认为自己需要依赖神。他不 相信神的存在。他认为是靠自己成功的,不需要神的介入。

『今天晚上,我就要收回你的灵魂了』的『收回』,有偿还 贷款的意思。这财主忽略了他的生命不是他自己的。乃是神 借给他的, 他必须好好管理生命, 要向神交账。

这强调财主只是财产管家,不是财富的真正主人。如果不是 神所命定, 他无法多存活一秒钟。神是创造主, 生命的本源 与基础。主耶稣基督以他的宝血将我们从罪中赎回, 叫我们 免于灭亡, 反得永生。因此我们的生命是神给予我们的礼 物。神是我们生命的主。我们是没有权力自己决定如何生活 与使用资源财富。

神给财主最后一句话是: 『你所预备的,将要归给谁呢?』 (20节) 财主为自己积存财富的计划就此受挫!

耶稣为这比喻作出终极的判断说: 『那为自己积聚财富, 在 神面却不富足的人,也是这样。』(21节)

比喻中的财主是很代表性人物。他作出筹划、采取行动、储 存和寻求方法去保障本身的财富。他筹算怎么享用目前的财 富,以及保障未来的生活。他这样的去筹划人生和为生活打 拼,是没有错的。

然而,他是错在把整个生命消耗在积存财富的事上。财主喃 喃自语许多的『我、我的』。他的生命的意义和价值,只决



于所拥有的财富。这是贪婪,圣经称之为偶像崇拜。该名财 主的存在与财富紧贴一起。

耶稣讲这比喻,是在警告我们不要效法这个财主。如果一个 人的身份仅仅取决于他的财富、地位、成就、并且贪得无厌 的要求更多, 那么他就会无视于神的呼召, 以及周围的人的

另一种生活态度的选择就是『在神面前富足』,意思是被神 看为富足的人。这人将自己拥有的丰富资源投资在神的国。 这包括出钱出力参与建设地方堂会的事工、宣教以及慈惠事 工: 留意社区贫苦百姓的需要, 慷慨解囊帮助他们。

贪婪几乎是一种无形的罪恶。我们渴求提升生活质素,拥有 更大的房子, 更大的汽车, 最新的智能手机和奢华的旅行。

贪婪推动我们建设『许多更大的仓库』。在建设提升当儿, 我们迷失了什么才是『真正的需要』。我们疏远了我们真正 需要的神,没有去关怀那些比我们更加有需要的人,而且很 糟糕的是,我们终日活在焦虑和惶恐当中……恐怕计算错 误,失去更多……。

耶稣透过讲这比喻, 呼召无论是富人或贫穷的人, 当重新定 位生命的价值观。我们的保障是在于神, 不是在于穿什么, 吃什么或喝什么(27-31)。如果你认为自己是贫穷,好比 耶稣时代的一般农民, 耶稣警告你, 不要效法财主那样的态 度。财主很快就发现, 他是无法掌控和保障自己的生命和财 富。不要误以为财主拥有了一切、不要受愚弄去渴求他们的 财富,也不要受愚弄去渴望像他们那样生活。

比喻里的财主好像也出现在今天的社会。再看多一眼,我们 发现这财主的刻画也潜伏在我们个人里面。耶稣在一个古远 巴勒斯坦的小村庄宣讲的信息,也是适切于我们今天处于的 地球村。我们的生命和财产仅仅是从神而获的贷款。如果我 们不遏制贪得无厌的心, 财富和产业可以摧毁我们。

相反的,我们当使将拥有生命和财富使用在扩张神的国度。 最基要的做法就是资助地方堂会的事工, 以致福音可以广 传,有需要的人群得到资助,生命获得转化。最终更多的人 可以归向耶稣基督,而神的名得荣耀!

耶稣在31-34节奉劝我们:

『你们要追求他的国,这些东西都要借给你们了。你们这小 群啊,不要怕,因为你们的父乐意把国赐给你们。要变卖你 们的财物,施舍给人;要为自己预备永不破损的钱袋和用不 尽的财宝在天上; 那里贼人不能走近, 也没有虫蛀蚀。因为 你们的财报在哪里,你们的心也在哪里。』

比喻里的财主已经没有机会扭转自己的命运, 因为他的生命 结束在遗憾中。但是今天神的话向我们敞开, 我们还有机会 为自己的生命结局作出美满的编写。愿神怜悯,帮助我们做 -个在神面前富足的人!

The Chinese Congregation Celebrated Chinese New Year And 6th Anniversary On 21 February 2016



Chap Goh Mei 2016 Celebration In Living Stone Methodist Church Kota Damansara

By Peter Khor Teik Hooi

Chap Goh Mei.... Oh! What a celebration we had in Living Stone Methodist Church (LSMC)! Last year, the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) decided that 2016 would be an Evangelistic Year for the church and her members.

We didn't have to look far to evangelise ... in fact, the opportunity was literally right at our doorstep as LSMC is blessed by being near two educational institutions, namely Segi University and the Giochi Multimedia School. As such, we could share God's

love with their students and their friends there.

And what better way of doing this than through ancient Chinese culture and auspicious festivals?

special occasions were identified for this purpose: Chap Goh Mei and the Mooncake Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, the latter which will be held



later in the year.

On 24 February at 7pm, members of LSMC's Small Groups gathered to host Chap Goh Mei in the church premise.

pastor-in-charge, **Pastor** Aaron Ng, began by leading the congregation comprising about 60 members, friends and 28 students in a time of Praise and Worship. It was indeed a joyful union and also a new experience for some of the students as they worshipped!

Making the occasion even more memorable was a sermon by brother Steven Ooi who skillfully managed to weave the meaning of Chap Goh Mei with God's unconditional love for us.

He began by vividly explaining what usually takes place during this occasion and even showed a short video clip of a Chap Goh Mei celebration held in Penang. He then told the gathering that this day is the Chinese equivalent of Valentine's Day and that it is all about love.

Delving deeper, he went on to point out that there are generally three kinds of love in our midst. The first two often come with conditions or justifications such











as "if" and "because" and are the ways of the world, he said. But the love from God, called "agape", is unconditional.



Steven went on to quote John 3:16 and how sin separated us from God.

To reconnect us, he said God sent His son Jesus Christ, and that when we accept Him as our personal Lord and Saviour, our sins will be forgiven and we will be able to enter into a relationship with God.

Steven concluded the sermon by leading the congregation in the sinners' prayer.

After the service ended, all were invited to the corridor outside the church to partake in an abundance of delicious home-cooked food brought by church members.

The variety of food was in keeping with the spirit of Chinese New Year revelry and ranged from heavy to light: Cakes and cookies; fruits and drinks and catering for all tastes. Everybody ate until there was nothing left to tapao and the only thing they took home were broad smiles and memories of the sermon.

Thank you, LSMC. We now look forward to the coming Moon Cake Festival!

Photographs courtesy of Jennie Lee, Steven Ooi and others.















A Godly Church (Ephesians 3:20-21) Living Stone Methodist Church Family Camp

By Patricia Chaw



Living Stone Methodist Church (LSMC) held its first Family Camp from 25 - 27 November, 2015. We had a wonderful time, learning and engaging with each other, through the various sessions including prayer time, recreation and meal times. We praise the Lord for this!

We share our experiences and take-home lessons below.

... from Kudakwashe Chimunya (Tertiary Student)



The letter of Paul to the Ephesians in Chapter 3 verses 20-21, tells us about the Godly church and how the glory of God is with us forever. Our theme was "The Livingstone Godly Church." Thanks be to God, the church camp was a success. My experience at the church camp was one of the greatest moments of my life. I got to know some of the church members better through fellowship and activities that we did. I got to talk to some of the people who I used to only see and greet at church. It was a good thing to know each other better. Most importantly, it was getting to know God even more through games and different activities. It was not just fun or body exercises, but we were taught how important it was to recognise what God has done, is doing and will do in our lives. Some of the things that once were seen as silly and simple were interpreted to us and we now view them differently.

Furthermore, the lessons that we learnt concerning our lives in Christ Jesus were life-changing. We learnt how to forgive others, ask God for anything, pray without ceasing not only in bad times but also in good times, and to grow in spirit. The list is endless but most of all (the greatest gift of all) is love. As children of God, that's what we should practice more than anything whole-heartedly. Also, as Christians we should maintain the body of

Christ Jesus through different works by serving God in any possible way that we can. It's all about doing things spontaneously and God will reward us in His own way. We should focus on letting our faith grow, maturing in Christ Jesus, as well as meditating on the Word day and night. We need to remember to thank God for what He has done in our lives and not to only ask Him to increase what we already have but to be content and thankful. As a Godly church "who was chosen to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people who was called out of the darkness by receiving his mercy", we are obliged to obey His Word by serving Him, spreading the Good News to everyone like He told us.

Being in a different place away from the usual was also good for us. The air in Port Dickson was nice and cool, not as polluted as in Kuala Lumpur. The different environment was good for sight-seeing. Some of us (the Youth) managed to go to the beach to enjoy the sea breeze and the nice view. We took Grandma Lee with us, and she walked down the slope and up again with us. We enjoyed spending time with her as she told us many stories. We laughed a lot until our lungs almost burst. The camp should be held again, at least once a year or once every two years, as it helps us grow both spiritually and physically as well as learn new things in life.







.....spiritual projects in progress, age doesn't matter!

....from Nalini Devi (a grandmother who brought her three grandchildren to the camp)

My grandchildren were the most excited when they heard about the church camp. They kept asking me whether all of them could go. Their parents were not able to, so I decided to drive all of us to Port Dickson. We prayed for journey mercy and protection before we started our journey. It was a relaxed trip and we arrived on time. My grandchildren attended all the sessions in the camp with me. They had a wonderful time swimming during rest hours. They had a good time at the talent time and fashion show. We enjoyed ourselves during all the activities.



The sessions with Pastor Tan Sing Guan and his wife were very good especially his testimony and stories. It was a most enjoyable time for me and my grandchildren. We look forward to the next family camp. Thank you.

....from Patricia Khaw

I used to enjoy and benefit from attending church camps when I was young. However, having not been to one



for some time, I was hesitant to go for our church camp. But, God knows more. He surprised me with my decision to attend.

The theme reinforcement by our guest speaker, Pastor Tan Sing Guan on *Ephesians 3:20-21* was a timely reminder to all to continue to be an active part of His Godly Church (LSMC). The camaraderie was very good with lots of sharing. We had fun as well as thought-provoking sessions. One such session was when we

grow I LSMC

put together our lifetime line (that required us to mark on paper life events as Happy Memories or Sad Events) as well as an exercise to review our life going forward as Christ's disciples – to live a life worthy of and to be part of a Godly Church. These sessions were humbling as I reviewed my life in this way, acknowledging God's hands in every single event of my life; whether good or sad and acknowledging once again His continual cover over me going forward. His role as beautifully put together in **Psalm 139** resonated within me then (at the camp) and as always before.

For me, it was a good decision to go for the camp. There were meaningful learning points to take home for the New Year so as to serve more effectively. Every church member must make it to a church camp. He/she will surprise himself/herself with a wonderful experience.







LSMC models

and the judges looking professional!

.... from "Grandma" Lee Pek Lin

Eddy Ding offered to drive the three of us ladies to Port Dickson. The weather was bad with torrential rain for a great part of our journey. Eddy was cheerful and chatty. Soon, we forgot about the rain and we reached the venue safely. God blessed Eddy with extra energy and concentration.

The Methodist Centre is a beautiful sprawling property with landscaped gardens and a swimming pool. The beach is just a short walk away.

For me, it was a joy to meet and dine together with all the participants like a family. We had praise and worship, and discussions on the Book of Ephesians led by Pastor Tan. The discussion and sharing were relevant to our new LSMC. As believers of Jesus Christ, we are to remember our role as Godly people. The challenge to us is to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. We are to be humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love and make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Did you notice this lovely bloom... a tree with two flowers? God's wonderful creation!



Called Home To Eternal Rest

"Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die yet shall they live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the key of hell and death. Because I live, you shall live also." - The Word of Grace - (UMH pg. 871)

The following members of TMC PJ have been called home to eternal rest. Our condolences to their family members.



CHONG SIP NGOH Called home on December, 2015



ELLEN LIM CHUI LIAN Called home on January, 2016



CHANG HA SOO @ **CHONG SHAW YONG** Called home on February, 2016



JOHN DESMOND LEE Called home on March. 2016

CANNOT PRAY

(Author Unknown) From CCM News Bulletin

I cannot pray "OUR", if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray "FATHER". if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray "WHO ART IN HEAVEN", if all of my interest and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray "HALLOWED BE THY NAME", if I am not striving for God's help to be holy.

I cannot pray "THY KINGDOM COME" if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray "THY WILL BE DONE" if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray "ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN", unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD", without expending honest effort for it or if I would

withhold from my neighbor the bread I receive,

I cannot pray "FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US", if I continue to harbor a grudge against people.

I cannot pray "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray "DELIVER US FROM EVIL", if I am not prepared to fight with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray "THINE IS THE KINGDOM", if I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray "THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY" if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray "FOREVER AND EVER", if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray "AMEN", unless I honestly say "Not MY will, but THY will be done", so let it be.

The Power Of Love

By Jessie Chew



My mother had three daughters, one was a "Spokesman" (she was the first of the six children), one was a "Doer" (she excelled in everything she did!) while the third was a "Dreamer". I had a knack of picking the most difficult things to do – whether in studies or in life. Fortunately, my mum had a strong heart. She described me as *tik-kih* (literally steel teeth, in Hokkien) one who foolhardily bangs her head against the wall time and again.

On learning that I was going to run the marathon after becoming a mother of two, she knew that any dissuasion on her part would only fall on deaf ears. She found it hard to believe that her daughter who could not run 50 metres while at school, and later even at university, was foolishly going to run all of 26

miles! My mother's heart made her spend the time praying while I was hitting the road. As a daughter who perpetually tested and tried her mother's patience, I came to the realisation only much later in life, that I cannot hold a candle to her in terms of mothering. Both my parents also prayed in earnest for the daughter who could not shy away from playing with fire.

Truly, the Good Lord knows what we need even before we ask Him. He brought into my life someone who was directly the opposite of me. He was serious, logical and down-to-earth – just the right element to tether down a dreamy "inflated-balloon" in danger of being blown away by the wind. Beside him, I appear vertically-challenged which made my children

lament that they could have been taller if not for me. They had hoped to aim for the clouds with the help of their father's genes!

Coincidentally, both Eddie and I were born in the same year and the same month - one at 11.30am and the other at 11.30pm. We have been on a long journey together - bringing up the children, enjoying their company to the fullest and seeing them leave home to start their own families. The empty-nest stage has drawn us closer to each other while turning us into chronic drivers at times. I "drive" him up the wall while he "drives" me round the bend!

A life-long dance for sure cannot be a continuous dance of cheek-to-cheek. We can perhaps put it down to advancing age and declining balance which contributed to the misstep. Our recent fallout a week before last Christmas (an auspicious date as it was my first grandchild's birthday) gave me an epiphany moment. While waiting for Eddie to get ready, I was nursing grudges in response to his earlier chiding ... lo and behold, a message flashed before my eyes. A friend who had just completed her work out in the gym had her back turned towards me. Right on her T-shirt was a perfectly-shaped heart formed by her sweat!

Attending "Experiencing God" had taught me that God is always at work around us and He speaks to us in many ways - befitting the occasion. The Spirit came to let me know that those whom the Lord put together let nothing pull asunder. Making up sure is divine! The Christmas hymn I first learnt as an eight year old in the nativity play also flashed into my mind.

> Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine: Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

When we abide in Christ and He in us, His gentle reminders come through to tell us of His unfailing love and overflowing grace. Keeping our eyes on Him and our ears and heart open to what He has to say, His help never fails to come through when we most need

it. Knowing that we are only His frail children of dust, our Heavenly Father continues to stand by to enable us to reach out to Him for endless help. Left on my own, my life had been a chaotic mess. Life in Christ is a journey through change for me as I open myself to His renewing grace.

The radio has been a useful prop when I run through the chores in the house. But I no longer play the radio to stay awake while driving on my own. Instead, with a singing voice pleasing only to God, I sing and hum hymns or songs of praise, picked up from the contemporary worship sessions. To me, this feels like worship-on-the-go while invoking God's presence to be with me on the treacherous road. My favourite and perpetual prayer while driving is:

> Lord I come to you, Let my heart be changed, renewed Flowing from the grace That I found in you. And Lord, I have come to know The weaknesses I see in me Will be stripped away By the power of Your love.

I have learnt that God's perfect love binds everything and everyone together. His love satisfies our every need. Always at work around us, God comes to us in unexpected ways to create calm with His love, to rejoice over us and to claim us as His own, to live in ways pleasing to Him.

Aspiring to age like wine, Eddie and I continue to partner each other to work out - physically and spiritually, calling out to the Divine to keep us on the straight and narrow path and to learn to love Him the way He loves us.

We know that our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let our foot slip. He will watch over us and keep us from all harm.

All Glory be to Him, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

Our God Rocks!

The Good Lord removes the bondage of spirits and demons from Clarissa Leong

By James Chong



How has God changed your life?

Our path to finding Jesus Christ is varied and many. For some, it comes easy, especially if one is born into a Christian family. For others, even though not from Christian backgrounds, they were allowed to choose their allegiance with the Savior of Man after reading the Good News. And for many more, they are not even allowed to choose, and it is a long, hard road with many obstacles for them.

Take the case of Clarissa Leong, 37. Her family is made up of the staunchest of Taoists/Buddhists. Her late maternal grandfather was a witch doctor/

medium, and a first cousin of her late father is also in the same trade.

"All my siblings were conditioned to believe that every achievement and 'blessing' came from Taoist gods such as Kuan Yin," said Leong. "Every major life event that has to be made, mum would consult these gods via mediums."

Christians and their faith were seen as an enemy of sorts. "I have an auntie, Betty, in Singapore who is a Christian. Since I was young, she always tried to share the Gospel with us. But my mum would minimise contact with her as she feared her children would

be influenced by Christian teachings or become a Christian. In Taoism, if you convert to Christianity, it is like a betrayal. If you are not loyal to Taoist gods, and turn to Christianity, all your wealth and blessings will be taken away!"

But that is not all. Leong was also plagued by a "giff" she did not quite like.

"I have been told that I was born with a 'third eye' to see things of the 'spiritual world' and that has scared me for most of my life before I knew Christ. I had a sleeping disturbance (Sleep Paralysis) since young where you can't move and talk when asleep, but you are conscious of being attacked by spirits, at other times, you feel or see their presence in the room."

This condition continued to trouble her even as an adult. "For my work, when I have to travel extensively and stay in hotels, I have had so many 'encounters' that I lost count." She even tried to avoid being booked into corner rooms as they seem to hold more "spirits".

In an attempt to solve her problem, her mother would consult her uncle and other mediums. This would be followed by a prescription of amulets and a list taboos such as not going to graveyards, visit the sick in hospitals or not allowed to swim. But the spiritual attacks never ceased and visits to the mediums continued.

But things started to change after a trip to Tibet in August 2013 as part of her religious pilgrimage. "It was an eye-opening trip as I saw many things that challenged my family's spiritual beliefs such as meat-eating monks, statues of Taoist gods in sexual positions, head monks breaking celibacy to produce heirs and so on".

Upon her arrival back home from Tibet, she encountered severe breathing difficulties akin to her spiritual attacks while sleeping... but this time, it was worse. "It was really serious. My then boyfriend and now husband, Kurt, sent me to hospital. Kurt was a born Christian so out of desperation I asked him to say a prayer for me – at that time we had an understanding that if we got married we will not try to influence each other's religious beliefs."

Leong felt some immediate relief after Kurt's prayers and the doctor diagnosed it as an anxiety attack, but Leong knew it was more than that. When the attacks recurred at home, prayers from Kurt provided relief again. That prompted her to explore a better solution to her problems than just visiting the usual Taoist mediums. "That was when I thought about opening up myself to Christ and seek salvation."

One week after these latest attacks, Leong met up with her aunt Betty in Singapore. "I told her about my condition and she asked if she could pray for me. It was the first time I allowed her to pray for me with an open heart. When I went back, I felt some relief and I slept well."

After this, she started to ask a lot of questions about Christianity. A bit later, she told Kurt that she will give "God a chance". She also asked her Christian friends to pray for her, something she never did. And their prayers were answered...

"One night, while chilling at the balcony, I experienced a miracle... I felt and saw a presence and I started crying uncontrollably. I could not stop sobbing for three days. I called my Christian friends and they explained to me that it was a special thing I experienced and now all it took was for me to accept Christ. Also, I never felt so calm before in my life. I think I cried because I felt guilty about rejecting Christ for so long. I am so lucky to be surrounded by Christian friends." And Leong started to learn how to pray...

As she progressed in her understanding of God,

connect I TESTIMONY

she also learnt how her faith can be tested, and it happened during arguably the biggest day of her life - her wedding.

"There was a power outage during the wedding dinner. I doubted God and I was very upset. One of my Christian friends calmed me down and said a prayer. She told me the devil was testing her and I have to be strong and trust God. I proceeded with the dinner with a smile even though I am an impatient person. And the TNB people could not solve the problem and I started to say a prayer for the first time on my own. Right after that, the lights came back on. Even though it was already quite late, everybody stayed back and had a good time. Anyway, the photos did not show any evidence of a blackout." She decided to officially accept Jesus Christ after her honeymoon and signed up for baptisms classes. And more good things happened.

"When I went to baptism class, I found that the Bible was 'talking' to me. I used to be confused about things even when I went to church but when I opened the Bible, it was like just 'talking' to me. I downloaded a Bible app called Bible Gateway - the quote of the day is always something that answered my questions about God. So, basically when I opened up to God, He came into my life and He continued to show me His presence through his words."

And the spiritual attacks? "Whenever I travel and say a prayer, I feel so calm, I don't fear anymore. I don't have to bring any amulets or drink amulet water. I no longer get attacks or feel the presence of 'spirits'."

As expected, Leong's mother and family were not happy that she has chosen to be a Christian. Leong's

mother warned her that "you will lose everything" if she became a Christian. But Leong managed to get them to accept her decision by stating the plain truth. "I told them very honestly that even though they have tried to help me all my life with mediums, they failed, but I am now 'cured'. Isn't that enough to tell you that Christ is the greatest God? If this person who has helped you out time and again, shouldn't you trust this person? Don't you owe this person who has been helping you something? To be officially known as God's child?" Leong was baptised on May 17, 2014.

Leong believes that instead of "losing everything", she continues to be blessed by the Good Lord after becoming a Christian. She is succeeding spectacularly at work: "That year, I achieved the highest revenue in my entire IT Sales career." And an even greater gift came in the shape of a baby boy. "Immediately after we got married, we tried for a baby. I was stressed after five unsuccessful months, yes, it was just a short time but it seems like forever for someone with a ticking biological clock. I doubted and questioned God but lessons learned in baptism class at that time helped me regain my faith towards God, learning to trust God's plans. Then, I started noticing images of Jesus holding a lamb being projected in church worships and I thought to myself my child is going to be born in the Year of the Goat so I should be patient. A month after my baptism, I conceived and my baby was indeed born at the start of the Year of the Goat."

Jesus Christ can INDEED transform lives! Leong continues to worship at TMC PJ.

My Wonderful Experience At The Jeremiah School

Bv Deborah Goh





Attending Jeremiah School is a wonderful experience. I have learnt and grown a lot in six weeks. The reason why I signed up for Jeremiah School was because I love going to camps and I wanted a deeper relationship with God. In Jeremiah School, we had quiet retreats every Wednesday which helped me to get closer to God and listen to Him. Quiet retreat is conducted throughout the whole day, whereby we were not allowed to talk to anyone nor make eye contact. It was really hard at first but when you are in that mood of wanting to know God, it becomes less tiring. During quiet retreat, God told me why I was put in a very difficult situation. He was building me. He was teaching me to be humble but I did not realise it until now. Being able to hear God is amazing. My relationship with God grew deeper and stronger. I had also been hiding a lot of things which were disturbing me, but I slowly learnt how to let it go and trust my mentors and friends. My mentors in Jeremiah School advised me not to hide anything. I used to have lots of conflicts in high school. I learnt how to deal with these conflicts and to resolve them.

Mission week was a great adventure, even though it was not easy. Mission week was for a period of two weeks and, to me it was fun. Well, the first week did not start off so great. I could sense that our Missions week, which was in Kampar, was very scary at first. I had some spiritual attacks which were fearful and had bad dreams. I hated feeling scared because I was unable to do many things. Luckily it only lasted for four nights. God told me that Taoism has a stronghold in Kampar. He showed me twice through the clouds. During the second week, we organised an event for non-believers. The purpose of the event was to bring people to Christ. On the day of the event, a few people came. I prayed and I asked God to send more people in two more cars and promised that I would do my devotion and my journaling daily. A few minutes later my prayers were answered - He sent the two cars and a few more people.

My commitment after Jeremiah School is to do my devotion and journaling daily as I had promised God. I also decided never to hide anything but to at least tell someone whom I can trust and rely on. I also promised to resolve conflicts so that I would not have to worry.

I am really glad that I attended Jeremiah School. I have learnt so many things in a different way from some of the things I learnt while at the Girls' Brigade. Through Jeremiah School, I was able to build my confidence. I grew a lot emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally. I feel like a new person after attending Jeremiah School and I have even developed a new skill.



Trinity Methodist Church, PJ Birthday Celebration



JANUARY

Viola Gong (Member)

Lim Chin Lian (Regular Worshipper)

Nga Nguk Su (Member)

Khoo Kin Tee (Member)





FERUARY

- Andrew Chong (Member)
- Amy Ooi Choo Meng (Member)
- Ruth Jayasekara (Member)
- Patsy Oorjitham (Member)
- Pansy Ponnudurai (Member)



MARCH

- Wong Yong Moi (Member)
- Wong Chau Yin (Member)
- Yap Moy Kin (Member)
- Hope Thavaraj (Member)
- Susan Yong (Member)
- P. Rajasingam (Member)

Conversation With One Of Malaysia's Few Female Boys' Brigade Leaders

How do you stay committed to the same cause after 10 years? Tan Giok Hui, Captain of the 1st Petaling Jaya Company shares her experience





Hi Giok Hui, share with the story on how you became one of the country's female leaders in The **Brigade**

My journey with the Boys' Brigade (BB) started in 1996 when I volunteered to serve as an officer in the 1st Petaling Jaya

Company (1st PJBB). I have remained with 1st PJBB ever since and was appointed as its Captain in 2006 when my predecessor retired.

Besides serving in the 1st PJBB, I held several other positions. I was elected into the Brigade Executive Committee of the BB Malaysia as the National Training Chairperson for 2013 - 2015 and was also the 4th Selangor State Commissioner in 2015. The State Commissioner appointment is significant as I am the first female to hold this post in the history of BB Malaysia.

Did you face any challenges as a female leader and how did you overcome them?

The greatest challenge for all of us in the BB ministry is to ensure that BB remains relevant and attractive to our youths.

As they say, change is the only constant in today's world. The challenge for us as BB leaders is to be sensitive and keep ourselves updated with the latest trends, while anchoring ourselves to Christian values. This will allow us to leverage on our knowledge, make adjustments to remain attractive to young people and continue to be at the forefront of our ministry amongst the youth.

As a female leader, I have received nothing but support from our boys, officers, parents, church leadership and the congregation since being appointed as the Captain some 10 years ago.

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What's your most memorable moment as The Boys' Brigade leader?

My most memorable moment was when the 1st PJBB Drill Team emerged among the top five at the National Drill Competition during the 18th National Pesta and Convention back in 2008.

This was the first time the 1st PJBB participated in this national event which is organised by BB Malaysia. It consists of events such as national band competition, foot drill competition and other activities.

Over my many years of service, I have seen first-hand how lives have changed through the friendship, encouragement, challenges and Christian commitment that are a part of being in the BB.

Seeing young lives changing for the better is one of the biggest motivations that keeps me committed.

Any advice to those who are thinking of devoting their time to a cause outside of work?

Find a cause and volunteer as not only will you be helping others, you will also be helping yourself.

Volunteering presents the opportunity for you to try something new, gain experience, develop skills, improve your career prospects, build confidence and meet new people.

The 1st PJBB is a part of TMC PJ and meets every Saturday afternoon.







Home cooking made easy RECIPE BOOK

Trinity Methodist Church Home Cooking Made Easy - a compilation of recipes generously contributed by our fellow sisters in Christ.

All recipes have been joyously tested, resulting in a labour of love now available for all who love to cook, eat and share in fellowship.

All proceeds will go towards the Trinity Methodist Church Redevelopment Fund - an initiative that will allow the church to enhance our place of worship and enable us to grow, learn and fellowship with all who follow Christ.

Very simple to understand and even ingredients are shown! A good recipe book for beginers.

Mrs M Wong

Excellent!
Easy cooking dishes and taste awesome.
I have given to my relatives in Australia and they asked for more to be shared with their friends in Australia.

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