



2016 | Issue 2

# Larion

Private Circulation Only

## PENTECOST

### The Gifts of The Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2 : 1-4

connect | grow | serve



**Food:**  
**Fun:**  
**Fellowship**

**BIG BREAKFAST**

Organised by MYF 17 Jul • 18 Sept • 16 Oct

**ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**

Organised by MSF 28 Aug

**FUNFAIR** 22 Oct

Organised by TMC PJ &  
METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

What's Next....  
CLARION ISSUE 3  
Wholesome Family



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Everyone  
a Disciple of  
Jesus Christ  
*Matthew 28: 19 - 20*

### Editorial Board

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### Editorial Note

- The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all articles submitted. It does not guarantee that all articles submitted will be published.
- Deadline for articles to be sent in for 2016 Issue 3:  
**30 August 2016**  
and email to:  
**clarion@trinitypj.com**
- Articles should be confined to two printed pages or not more than 1,200 words.



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### AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor-In-Charge  
Associate Pastor  
Assistant Pastor  
Music Director  
Ministry Staff

**The Rev. Ting Moy Hong**  
**The Rev. Buell Abraham**  
**Pastor Aaron Ng**  
**Susan Tan**  
**Lewis Loke**

### Services and Activities

#### 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 (English)	8.30am
Sunday School (Chinese)	11.00am

#### Tuesday

Methodist Seniors Fellowship (1st and 3rd Week)	10.30am
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#### Wednesday

MPS Chapel Service	1.00pm
Prayer Meeting	7.30pm

#### Friday

Prayer Meeting	8.00pm
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#### 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



## Live By The Holy Spirit

Whatever we do, say, or decide, we must always base it on the Word of God

***By The Rev. Buell Abraham***

Are we refreshed in the Holy Spirit?  
Are we awakened in Christ?  
Are we obeying God?  
Are we praying?  
Have we received God in our hearts through the Holy Spirit?

Why do I say these things?

This is because of Scripture. Remember, whatever we do, say, or decide, we must always base them on the Word of God, that is the Bible. God has made our mouth very powerful and we must use it wisely.

**The Holy Spirit is empowered in our lives when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.**

When God gave birth to His church, He poured out His Holy Spirit into the church. The church is where God's children – that is, you and I – reside.

As members of the church, we are baptised in the Holy Spirit and we all acknowledge the presence of God Almighty.

But does the church today show evidence of the presence of God?  
Is our church moving in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Likewise, how about our lives – are we living and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

In Acts 2 of the Holy Bible, there is a scene depicting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those in the Upper Room.

The chapter shows the power of the Holy Spirit, and relates it to the prophecies of Joel (see Joel 2) and promises of Jesus in Acts 1:8.



Here, we can distinctively see how the **Holy Spirit empowers the people of God to witness for Jesus Christ.**

So, are we witnesses to the people as to who Christ is?

Let us remember our baptism and recall what Jesus told the Pharisee named Nicodemus in **John 3:3-5** – that: *"... no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again" and that "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God".*

John the Baptist earlier foretold of baptism not only of water but also of the Spirit when he said in **Luke 3:16**, *"I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come ... He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Jesus repeated this to His disciples in the Upper Room shortly before His ascension, and this was recorded in **Acts 1:5** when He said, *"... wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."*

### **So, are we baptised in the Holy Spirit?**

For the disciples, their baptism, which took place a few days later, placed them in the body of believers and marked the beginning of the church.

Ever since that day, every believer in the Lord Jesus

Christ is placed into the body of Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

*"For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*  
**(1 Cor. 12:13)**

We all can experience the Holy Spirit upon us, but if we do not submit to His leading, we might suffer dryness of the spirit. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit resides in us when we accept Christ as Lord and Saviour and we submit to God through the Spirit in our worship, in our Small Groups and in our life-giving ministries.

Once was a church that held an Alpha course attended by some pre-believers who had yet to experience Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. However, from among them, one sister was so moved that a year later, she prayed to Jesus to show Himself to her, so that she might believe.

And Jesus answered, by revealing Himself in the form of Light that overcame the darkness in her life and she experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. A few months later, she was baptised by immersion.

Now, when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, His work is to cleanse us from everything that hinders the flow of the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit also brings the peace of Christ, and reminds us that we can have no peace without

righteousness."

As it is written in **Isaiah 32: 17-18**, "*The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.*"

*"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."*

We now have to continue our reflection of the Holy Spirit and be increasingly aware of the presence of God in our lives.

God makes Himself available to us through the Holy Spirit and when we make ourselves available to Him to refine and renew us, we will find a deep and continuous sense of His presence in our hearts.

But we need to be aware of the fact that wrong attitudes and unresolved hurts can suppress the presence of God within our souls. Furthermore, when we have accepted Jesus and come into the Christian faith, we need to be disciplined and live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This will enable the Holy Spirit to remove sin by convicting us to repent of our sins. Having done so, God will grant forgiveness through the blood of Jesus and we will be renewed and refined in the Holy Spirit.

Cleansing God's temple in our body is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He will stir our soul and draw us into the secret closet of prayer (**Matthew 6:6**), where there is no hurried prayer ... just the discipline to wait on God; where we can cry out and not to give up until we are filled to the brim; where we can receive the promise of peace of mind and be supplied with God's quiet rest and assurance.

**Isaiah bestows us with the Good News:** "*Hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen. Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your*

*offspring; They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses'."* (**Isaiah 44:1-4**)

**Jude reassures us:** "*But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: How they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.*"

*"These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

*"And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

*"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."*

**(Jude 1:17-25)**

**Finally, in 1 Peter 3: 18-22:** "*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine long suffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*

**"There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ**, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

To God Be The Glory.

## Experiencing God's Love ...

*"And may you have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."* **Ephesians 3:18-20**

**The Clarion is privileged to get up close and personal with two daughters who are willing to share their experience of God's love.**

### Theresa Yip shares ...

What kind of gift is most precious to you? I am moved by gifts that involve love and sacrifice of time, effort and money or a gift that costs the giver something that expresses immeasurable love.

As Christians we know the greatest gift of all is the Lord Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God, who became our Saviour by bearing on our behalf the consequence of sins – death.

I learned about this gift as a child as I went to a mission school for my primary and secondary education. Chapel has been part and parcel of my Christian formation. As I grew in my faith, I looked deeply into my Saviour's death and I wanted to give this message to my loved ones and others who need the peace and hope it provides.

*"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*  
**1 Thessalonians 5:9**

My mum, Madam Leong Loh Thai, gentleness, kindness, humility and tenacity are some of her characteristics. She is much loved by her friends and neighbours. She is utterly protective and committed to her family. She was born on September 1939 into a family of farmers. Hence, the privilege of education did not come easily to her more so being a girl in a Chinese family. Despite this, she managed to learn some Mandarin on her own. My mum, like her family, was into ancestral worship. She became a widow in February 2008. And four years ago, she suffered a stroke that affected her mobility. But she is now able to walk slowly, supported by walking aids.

On many occasions, I shared with her the Gospel but without the boldness and eagerness. But a

year after her stroke I had a burden in my heart that I need to pray for my mum's salvation.

Since then, I have been praying unceasingly, both privately and in groups, when we meet for Bible Study.

At every opportunity when I visited my mum, I would never fail to throw questions at her:

- Do you know where you are going when you die?
- Do you believe in heaven and hell?
- What will happen to you if you do not receive Christ?
- Do you want eternal life?

It was my way of prompting her towards Christianity.

For the first few times, she would show interest by giving me eye contact and nodding her head but always without verbal response. Eventually, though her patience ran out. The moment I wanted to talk to her, she would snub me by turning her head away and quickly talking to the person next to her! Nevertheless, I continued to pray for her.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus".* **Philippians 4: 6-7**



Madam Leong Loh Thai



Water Baptism



Prayer

God who is so full of mercy and grace, so kind to the undeserving, sent a Christian family to live three doors away from my mum's house.

Linda, her husband and children are people who love the Lord deeply. As soon as Linda and family settled in her their new environment, they invited the neighbours to join them in church. Faithfully, Linda would fetch my mum to church every Sunday. My mum is actually enjoying herself and looking forward to Sunday as an outing rather than attending church service because she enjoys interacting with other women her age and having a meal at nearby restaurants after the church service. This has gone on for close to three years.

*"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy."* **Micah 7:18**

Some time in May last year, I received a call from my mum telling me she was to be baptised on 28th June 2015. I was so happy and thankful that our God hears and responds to our prayer and more importantly, that the seal of God is on my mum's forehead!

The day came and all her children and grandchildren attended this triumphant occasion and witnessed her baptism at Grace Church Tanjong Malim, Perak.

My mum was full of joy on that day and it seemed like her face was glowing.

We celebrated this occasion by inviting the whole church for lunch at a restaurant in town after the service.

It was during this time that my mum alerted me of her

concern of the idols in her house. Arrangements were immediately made with Pastor Matthew Chung to have them all removed the following week.

My mum has an elder sister that lives next to her and my aunt would never fail to chide my mum every time they met for being so silly in converting at her old age and that "nobody will pray for you when you pass on and you will only have flowers to eat".

Her response to these remarks is always with love and patience. My mum's gentle respond would be, "I am here not to argue or fight with you and because I am a Christian, I will not love you less – you will always be my sister".

Whenever I have time, I would go back to visit her and it is so heartwarming talking to her. Every word that comes out from her mouth is praising and glorifying God! She is hopeful that God will heal her restrictive movement in His time, not hers. What faith!

*"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands"*. **Psalms 63:3-4**

I am so grateful to Linda and her family for not giving up on my mum, and faithfully carrying her to church each Sunday even now, thus leading to her baptism. This is perseverance at work!

Currently, my mum is actively involved in the Senior Bible Study which meets every Thursday morning and she continues to faithfully attend church every Sunday.

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* **Romans 8:38-39**



Children & grandchildren in celebration



## Carrie Khong shares ...

My mother-in-law, Madam Shak Tai, is currently 86 years old and she has journeyed through life with much punch and zest. She came from China to then Malaya when she was three years old. She married her husband, a devote Buddhist, at the age of 21. She was an atheist until her 60's. Among her four children, two are Christians while the remaining two are pre-believers.

We started praying for her about four years ago as she was adamant that she was a Buddhist and did not want to disobey/disrespect her husband who was sort of a lay leader in a temple. Attempts to bring her to church or home fellowship meetings were met with the usual excuses of her husband's religious inclinations and that she couldn't read or understand English nor Mandarin.

Each time during our Home Fellowship or prayer meetings, a brother or sister in Christ would talk to her in Cantonese (if she hadn't fallen asleep yet!), asking about her well-being or offering to pray for her, particularly in February 2015, after she was diagnosed with nose cancer and was physically weakened. During those times, she did not resist when we offer pray for her though she reiterated each time that she had bought a "place next to her husband in the temple." At the same time, a cousin, a strong Buddhist, was constantly in touch with her and ministered Buddhist beliefs to her. This cousin also brought a monk to our home to perform some rites and prayers on her in May 2016 while I was at work. I was not informed of this, although my mother-in-law had given her approval.

This cousin was very persistent to propose a Buddhist funeral package for my mother-in-law. She phoned me on 19th June saying that she would like to meet up to show the funeral package she had chosen as she did not want any misunderstandings, knowing that both my husband and I are Christians.

I replied that we could meet on 22nd June as my husband would be back from abroad and it would be better that he be kept informed.

This is the awesome wonder and power of our Mighty God. On three occasions, this cousin was supposed to come at an appointed date, but it kept being postponed by the cousin for one reason or



Madam Shak Tai and her sister

another. For all the years that we've known her, she has never failed to turn up for an appointment.

During our hosting of a Home Fellowship on 25th June 2016, our sister in Christ, Mrs Tan Yen Choo, talked to my mother-in-law about her salvation. Before leaving, Yen Choo told me she was open to receiving Christ. I was delighted to hear this, but told Yen Choo she could waiver as she had done so before. The next day, I woke up with an urgency in my heart. It was like the prompting of the Holy Spirit that my mother-in-law was waiting for her son (my husband) to seriously ask her where she would be going after her death and whether the family would remain together if she believed in Christ. After my husband spoke to her, I asked my mother-in-law if we could invite a church ministry staff to explain about our Lord Jesus Christ and clear her doubts/questions. When the church ministry staff, Lewis Loke, came and spoke to her for more than an hour, she was comforted but did not want to recite the sinner's prayer. She was unsure and wasn't ready. We continued praying for her, knowing that any time the Buddhist cousin could pop by. On 2nd July, my mother-in-law told me she wanted to be a Christian. In fact, she was eager and wanted to accept Christ as soon as possible. Praise God! She went through baptism conducted by the Rev. Ting Moy Hong on 8th July in our home.

In conclusion, our testimony is that God works in miraculous ways. So much changed in just a matter of two weeks. To God be the Glory!

# Quest To Spur The Growth Of A Christ-Centric Kindergarten

*Our Methodist Kindergarten advocates a foundation in  
faith for early childhood education*

**By Angeline Tong**



In a pre-primary education landscape filled with more choices than ever before – be it Christian, secular or franchised kindergartens – making the right decision is crucial as parents are aware that a good early education is the foundation for transition from childhood to former schooling.

As a christian, It is important that children have a quality learning experience while developing a positive relationship with God, friends and their teachers in order to succeed in later years. As parents, we have the responsibility to provide the best possible foundation and most suitable platform to enable our children to achieve their full potential.

In a Christian kindergarten, Christian values expounded in our home and church are reinforced to help our children confidently overcome the overt effects of violence and immorality common in today's troubled secular world.

## **History of the Methodist Kindergarten**

Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya's (TMC PJ) Methodist Kindergarten was established in 1960 as an outreach ministry. It is a non-profit, church-based preschool that provides quality, affordable and inclusive kindergarten programmes for the children of church members and families in the PJ community.

The Methodist Kindergarten offers seven classes from Nursery to Pre-Primary and is helmed by a teaching staff of 15, a Principal and a nursery helper. Today, construction works for the church expansion which includes the kindergarten has adversely impacted student enrolment, which has fallen to 115 students, versus 300 in the prime years.

However key initiatives to be rollout by the TMC PJ Kindergarten Task Force will ensure that once the new building is ready in time for the second term of

2017, student enrolment will be more robust and in sync with the increased capacity of the new classrooms.

## **Preferred Christian kindergarten**

The Methodist Kindergarten aspires to be a preferred Christ-centred kindergarten where every child under its care is nurtured in an environment that expresses faithfulness to the Great Commission.

As Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18-20**, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

According to the kindergarten committee chairman Dr Mary Bien, "We are adopting the Ministry of Education Curriculum for our Kindergarten. What is different is that we are trying is to infuse Christian values into the teaching of Moral Education, which is twice a week, and into Chapel services, which is once a week."

She added "our Methodist Kindergarten teachers are able to deliver the lessons with the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in mind. He/She should be able to reinforce the Commandment of loving others as much as the Lord has loved us not only in the stories told but in the values that are being shared on a daily basis."

## **Facilities and resources**

Methodist Kindergarten takes pride in providing a safe and conducive learning environment. Teachers ensure that students are only released to their parents/guardians after school dismissal. Further more, parents can comfortably send their children to kindergarten and fetch them up later without



encountering parking or security problems.

All the new classrooms in the future building will also be spacious and air-conditioned, complete with resources to inculcate an interest in reading. There will be a well-stocked library with teaching resources (video CDs, story boards, toys and learning materials), children's books and newer editions of children's Bible story books to augment the teaching of Christian values.

Other facilities will include an art and craft room, science lab and computer lab equipped with 12 computers pre-loaded with learning software to facilitate compulsory computer classes as part of the Science and Technology strand.

The Methodist Kindergarten operates five days a week from 8.00 am to 12.30 pm, complemented with enrichment programmes from 12.30 pm to 6.00 pm. Extra-curricular activities include special reading classes for slow learners, Mandarin class, rhymes and story telling, music and dance, art and craft, as well as speech and drama, for a wholesome learning experience.

Equipped with basic playgroup equipment enjoyed by the students and appreciated by parents, the playground has been an attractive feature of the Methodist Kindergarten. Students also participate in events such as excursions, sports day, annual concerts and graduation day.

Last October, the Methodist Kindergarten children

sang two songs, including the Lord's Prayer, at the Church's morning service. This reflects its connection to our Church's Christian Education Ministry.

### Parting thoughts

The Methodist Kindergarten strives to offer concrete experiences for students to be knowledgeable in Christian values and biblical principles, building virtuous characters that will transform them into citizens of the Kingdom of God and responsive disciples of Jesus Christ. Above all, The Methodist Kindergarten prioritises a Christ-centric environment where students' needs are placed at the heart of its education philosophy.

Parents must prayerfully seek to understand God's will for the education of their children, bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord and impressing God's Word in their hearts. It is such a joy to watch children grow academically and mature in the Lord, reaping the benefits of a sound Christian education.

Suffice to conclude, The Methodist Kindergarten is poised to become the preferred Christian kindergarten where every child is valued and given access to learning experiences that will propel them towards academic excellence and holistic development.

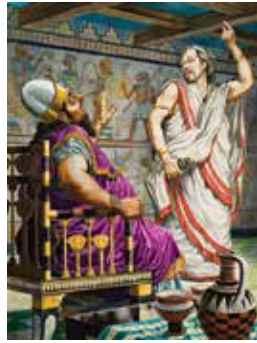
For registration enquiries, parents are encouraged to contact the Principal at **603-79314548/ 603-79566350** or **email [methodistk@gmail.com](mailto:methodistk@gmail.com)**





# 以笏-刺客传说

## 引言



以笏 (Ehud) 智勇双全的故事，发生在大约三千年前，记载在《士师记》。这故事反映以色列人初期定居在迦南地与摩押人之间的冲突。当时摩押人和亚捫人在约旦河东定居。在以色列人大举进入迦南地时，免不了与他们产生冲突。这次冲突地点却是发生在约旦河西，因为故事中提到的棕树城和吉甲都在约旦河西面。

故事的起头这样说：『以色列人又行耶和华眼中看为恶的事。』耶和华就使摩押王伊矶伦强盛，攻击以色列人。伊矶伦又召集亚捫人和亚玛力人攻击以色列人，占据棕树城，肆意压迫该区一带的以色列人。于是以色列人服侍摩押王伊矶伦18年（士3:12-14）。

『伊矶伦』是小肥牛的意思。这里强调他是极其肥胖。他的肥胖反映了他的财富丰厚和贪得无厌。有差不多18年时间，他向以色列人暴敛横征。以色列人饱受耻辱，生活苦不堪言（士3:17）。

### 人呼求神，神就兴起拯救者

以色列人接着就是呼求耶和华。耶和华就为他们兴起一位拯救者。他就是便雅悯人基拉的儿子以笏。他是左手便利的，或成为“一个惯用左手的人”。耶和华使以笏受到以色列人委托把贡品送给摩押王（士3:15）。圣经没有透露以笏曾否担任过相同的任务，但从以笏为晋见伊矶伦所作的小心部署和所采取的策略显示，他对摩押王宫有一定的认识，而且估计到可能会发的事。

首先，以笏被介绍为一个便雅悯人，即右手之子的意思。但是他是右手有限制，只能用左手。在整个行动上，以笏惯用左手显然值得注意。他是残疾人，还是战士？

这个身体上的缺陷正好叫别人无需防范，让他可以避开伊矶伦的守卫，甚至可以被王单独接见。我们必须承认神的手是在其中带领着的。以色列人选了以笏去给伊矶伦王进贡，并无意要他去刺杀伊矶伦。这给以笏带来了大好机会，因为可以掩盖见摩押王的真正动机。

### 暗藏杀机—『两刃的剑』

为暗杀摩押王，以笏作了伪装。他行动的第一步是特别打造了一把两刃的剑。这剑长一肘（大约35cm），恰好可以藏在右腿衣服里面。别人万万没有想到，左手便利的以笏竟会把刀藏在右腿里：一个不容易被人留意的地方。一般来说，惯用右手的人会把武器佩戴在身体左边，以便能够及时拔出武器来。以笏惯用左手，所以把剑“缚住右腿上，藏在衣服底下”。这样武器就不会轻易被王的护卫发现。结果，事情很顺利，以笏得以把贡品献给摩押王伊矶伦（士3:16-17）。

以笏献完贡品后，带着抬贡品的人离开王宫，走了一段路，然后在一处安全的地方停下来。以笏在吉甲的凿石处折回王宫（士3:18-19）。他在那里把同伴遣走，自己折返王宫。他为什么把这些人打发走呢？

以笏要刺杀摩押王是一项个人的秘密行动。他没有预先告诉任何人，甚至那随他去送礼的人也不知道。他准备单独行事。经文没有透露怎样得以再次进入王宫。护卫或许没有起疑心，认为一个以色列人不会对他们的主人有所威胁。

### 无中生有的“秘密”

以笏折回来汇报说：『王啊，我有一件机密事奏告你。』机密是指重要又秘密，不可泄露出去。伊矶伦王就命令左右侍立的人都退去。伊矶伦是个精明的人，但他对以笏的‘机密’完全没有洞察，反而被该‘机密’引诱，先打发臣仆离开，使以笏有下手机会（19节）。

以笏对王说：『我奉神的命报告你一件事。』王就从座位上站起来。这方便以笏刺杀他（20-21节）。他完全顺从以笏的意思做了。当我们被‘机密’诱惑时，我们的洞察力是否被蒙蔽了？这时的场景，只有伊矶伦和以笏，两人又是那么靠近。

以笏在迅雷不及掩耳间，从右腿拔出剑来，刺入王的肚腹，



连剑柄，剑身一起刺进去了。剑被肥肉夹住。剑又穿通了王的身体（士3:21-23）。他没有从王的肚腹把剑拔出来。小肥牛被宰割了！

肥胖使到王行动不便。王对以笏的攻击，完全失去应变能力，有的只是他的肥肉夹住以笏的剑。肥肉被刺开，死时的粪便也流出体外。这情景既可怖又可笑，表示他的财富和帝国梦被刺开，更显示他为王的卑贱和污秽。经文似乎要告诉我们，一个欺压别人的君王是没有尊贵可言。

### 兵法一绝：暗渡陈仓

以笏没有把剑拔出，他出到游廊，从容的把楼门全都关好锁上。这是他进一步瞒骗摩押人的行为，好叫他的‘机密’不那么快泄露出去，让他有足够时间逃出危险地区。他如何逃出王宫？以笏是不是在凉楼内把门锁上，再从另一处逃？还是他从伊矶伦身上找到锁匙，把他反锁在屋内，然后装作若无其事地离开护卫，逃走去了？实情究竟怎么样，圣经没有透露。以笏出来之后，王的仆人到了，看见楼门关锁，就说：『他必是在楼上大解。』（24节）。当王的仆人还在耽搁时，以笏早已逃之夭夭。他们等烦了，见仍不开楼门，就拿钥匙开了。不料，他们的主人已死，倒在地上（25节）。

### 把握先机，全数歼灭敌军

以笏经过凿石之地，逃到西伊拉，随即在以法莲山地吹角，号召以色列人去攻击摩押人（27节）。以色列人随着他下了山。他在前头引路。对他们说：『你们随我来，因为耶和华已经把你们的仇敌摩押人交在你们手中。』

以笏趁着摩押军队失去领袖，还未重建指挥体制，突然袭击他们最佳时机。于是以色列人跟着以笏下去，占据了约旦河的渡口。他们在这重要据点拦截敌人，不容摩押一人过去。这个战略证明非常成功，因为在约旦河西的摩押人群龙无首，都纷纷仓皇逃命，争着要过约旦河，回到摩押地去。以色列人却不容他们逃回摩押家乡。

『那时击杀了摩押人约有一万，是强壮的勇士，没有一人逃脱。』（29节）

结论：

以笏以其身体缺陷，加上周详的计划，每一个细节，瞒骗了王和护卫，令刺杀行动成功。他颠覆了一般人以为好和正确的价值，因为他以欺骗和暴力来成就公义。

当人看用左手和残障的人为次等时，他却让我们看到左手的威力胜过强悍，残障胜过健全。当士师记中的士师都是以争战向敌人取得胜利的时候，以笏却以机密的手法取得了决定性的胜利。

纵使 we 不同意他使用欺骗，他却在告诉我们，暴政就是这样被推翻。其实，以笏的兴起也是神的“机密”。神在第15节已经应允以色列人的呼求，给了他们一位拯救者，但以色列人要到第27节以后才渐渐知道以笏是他们的拯救者。

神兴起以笏，要他讨伐暴君，他也做到了，但这不代表他用的方法正确。可能有人会质疑，甚至反对以笏这样的鲁莽行动。他们会批评他激进颠覆的行为。或许，有时神就是容让这些特别，例外的方法在历史中发生，以施行审判，进行颠覆。

以笏日子所经历的事提醒我们，人如果行耶和華眼中看为恶事，必招致悲惨的后果。神不单审判以色列人，也审判世界其他人。这里特别显明了神对摩押王伊矶伦的审判或裁判。伊矶伦代表了世界上一切专横，压制人民的政权。以笏能够大功告成，不是因为他才智过人，更不是因为敌人不堪一击。

人为的因素不会影响上帝旨意的实现。耶和華的旨意是要他的子民脱离敌人的奴役。以笏的行事跟上帝的旨意一致，所以得到上帝的支持，这才是以笏成功的主要原因。人若衷誠悔改，尋求耶和華的幫助，上帝必伸出援手。

### 领导学的提示与应用

1. 为神工作，要有所准备（3:16）：以笏刺杀摩押王的过，给我们看到，以笏是作了准备。对我们来说要侍奉神，就要准备属灵的利剑（来4:12），来为主争战，那就是要将神的话存在心中（西3:16），并要应用一拿起圣灵的宝剑（弗6:17）。机会总是留给有所准备的人。当以色列人要以笏送礼物给摩押王伊矶伦的时候，以笏就知道机会来了，于是他把握这一次机会，来完成拯救以色列百姓的工作。身为领导者，必须有锐利的眼光，如同以笏能看清时事及所处的环境，当机会来临时，要立即把握並完成神所托付的工作。
2. 为神工作，要行在前头（3:27）：以笏争战时，是他在前引路。主耶稣所说的好牧人，也是行在前头（约10:4）。只有僮工，看见危险就逃走（约10:12-13）。以笏杀死伊矶伦只算是小胜利。而他没被这小胜利冲昏头脑。以笏真正的任务，是要解除以色列人被摩押人的压制。他善用情势，趁着摩押人因王被杀而一片慌乱之际，就召集以色列人去攻击他们。他施展谋略，吩咐人把守约旦河口，结果一举将摩押人完全击溃。从这里，我们看到以笏对人力整合的智慧，他召集、整合以及运用以色列人击杀摩押人。领导者必须是好牧人，除了善用本身的恩赐外，也须能整合整体的力量，如此才能达到事半功倍的效果。一个领导者很有能力，但凡是亲力亲为去完成，就不可能成为一个好的领导者。
3. 为神工作，要有神同在（3:30）：我们看见以笏所行之事觉得凡是顺利，而且国中太平了八十年，这是有神的同在。神创造并救赎人类的目的就是要我们事奉祂，事奉神是信徒最尊荣的使命。事奉神不是一件简单的事，更不要视为随便的事。照神所喜悦，用虔诚敬畏的心事奉，用心寻求并体会神的心意。要天天读经，思想生命真理；时时祷告，信仰中与神交谈。常常亲近神，安静在祂面前，享受祂的同在。在一切所行之事上，都要認定祂，祂必指引我们的路。

谢志良

# Godly Friendships At Gopeng Rainforest Resort, Perak 3rd - 5th June 2016

*By Ng Juin Lerg*



From 3rd to 5th June 2016, the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) of Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya (TMC PJ) together with the 1st Petaling Jaya Company of the Boys' Brigade (BB) and 1st Petaling Jaya of the Girl's Brigade Company (GB) organised a combined Youth Camp at Gopeng Rainforest Resort, Perak. This event was led by Grace Choong (MYF), Captain Tan Giok Hui (BB), and Captain Adele Chow (GB) with the assistance of other advisors and helpers. Themed "Godly Friendships", the camp provided a series of exciting events and talks to create bonds with God, leaders and peers.

It began with dry caving at Gua Kandu – certainly an entirely new experience for some of us. Climbing, crawling, being bumped by rocks, only one word could describe them all – Thrilling! Led by experienced guides, we hastened to venture into the belly of the mountain and observed with our own eyes the beauty crafted by the hands of God. We touched, walked, climbed in the very cave occupied by the Japanese and Communists. We saw the very words inscribed by their hands, the opening on which their tanks sat, and the tiny shooting holes from which snipers aimed ... that was just so amazing! Out from the cave, we

rushed into gushing water of the Kampar River. Swirling, swimming, shouting, screaming, dripping wet, that was just great! (All the while gripping the raft dead tight, of course!) A memory cherished by me was the sight of Uncle Wong Choong Meng chasing us with a branch in his hands, swimming and splashing all the way! And if you thought that these activities exhausted our youthful energy, you are wrong! At night, we had a BBQ dinner and campfire. Playing ice breakers games, the unfamiliarity and awkwardness certainly melted by the blazing heat of the campfire. No doubt, everyone enjoyed themselves (if not, please see Madam Tan for counselling). I can safely conclude that we came as strangers, but returned as friends.

Besides the games and activities, we were nourished spiritually by the talk given by our church ministry staff, Lewis Loke. From his simple yet concise talk, we learned the 3Ls and 3Cs of a healthy and Godly friendship – love, loyalty, lose; commitment, comfort and covenant, demonstrated by the life of David and Jonathan. Nonetheless, Lewis stressed the point that we are indeed friends of Jesus Himself and it is vital that we maintain a close relationship with our Lord



and Saviour. One thing that must be mentioned is the activity conducted by Lewis – the writing of a letter to our friend and to Jesus, to give thanks or to apologise.

As you can imagine, this sent us scratching our heads and nibbling our pen tops. When I did present my letter to a non-believer friend of mine, I could tell he was just plain astonished and touched by this simple act of appreciation. Thank you Lewis!

Furthermore, we were fortunate to have Dr Eugene Pek, lecturer at the University of Nottingham, to deliver a talk entitled “Design Thinking”. His method encouraged everyone to contribute and voice their opinions. I believe this would definitely help the youths greatly in their studies in future. Once again we extend our thanks to you, Dr Eugene. To top it all, The Rev. Ting Moy Hong, our Pastor-in-

Charge, graced our Sunday service and delivered a sermon entitled “Open the Eyes of Our Heart.” We were urged by our beloved Pastor to pray so that our eyes will be opened by God to see the needs of our friends and to bring them to Christ. Guess what? This was illustrated by a simple RM10 note! Without any doubt, that left a strong impression in our minds.

Once again, I thank all the counsellors and helpers for making this camp a successful one. I also wish to acknowledge all the campers who were so willing to participate in the activities and had voluntarily assisted me with all the arrangements. Last but certainly not least, thanks to Jesus Christ our Saviour, Counsellor and Friend, who is with us, always. All Glory be to Him. Amen!

~Christ Above All~



## Indeed, It Was A Great Camp

*By Marc Choong*

On 3rd June, all participants of the Youth Camp had arrived at the TMC PJ by 7am and completed their registration. I was eagerly waiting to leave for Gopeng Rainforest Resort as I had not been to a camp where the participants were members of the MYF, BB and GB.

This Camp also brought me closer to my friends as we spent time bonding and having fellowship during the activities that took place.

What really made an impact on me was the theme talks. I found out what it was to have a Godly friendships and what I must do to achieve such relationships.

I found out that Godly friendships had appeared during Biblical times. One such example was the friendship between Jonathan and David. They loved one another as much as they loved themselves.

In general, I had learnt a great deal and enjoyed my time at the Camp. If given a chance, I would attend a youth camp again.





## And I Second That

*By Jeremy Tuan*

We gathered at TMC PJ early in the morning, after which we got on the busses and left for the camp. As we neared our destination, we had to change our transport to lorries as the roads were too narrow for the busses to go through.

The ride on the lorry was really fun as it was the first time for many of us to ride on the back of a lorry through the jungle. After about 15 minutes, we arrived at the Gopeng Rainforest Resort.

Like every other camp, we had to listen to the ground rules and unpack our things. However, what brought us excitement was the first activity, which was caving. We had our lunch, listened to a few safety tips, then left for the cave. The cave was unlike any other I have been to. This cave, known as Gua Kandu, had an interesting history with the Japanese and the Communist as it was a base for their small tanks. Furthermore, the key charm of this cave was the abseiling, climbing and crawling we had to do in tight spaces. Soon after the activity, we returned to the Resort to wash up and have our dinner.

After our dinner, we had a worship session and listened to a talk which gave us something to reflect. After the talk we played a few games in groups. The games were tricky but we managed to pull it off as teams in groups. Later, we had supper and then it was light out.

The next day we woke up, did our daily devotion and then prayed for each other. After that, we did some morning exercises and had our breakfast. We had another talk after breakfast and did some group projects. Soon after the projects were completed, it was time for lunch. We ate, then got ready for the next activity, which was white water-rafting. We got out the oars and life jackets and listened to the safety tips. The tips were given in a childish way such as "boom



boom", "jump jump" and so on. Although they were childish, it was really straight forward and easy to remember. After that, we got on the raft and started rowing. The sceneries we saw there were breathtaking, especially the adrenaline-rushing rapids. The activity was something I will never forget. Later on, we prepared for a camp fire and a barbeque. We ate a few barbequed chicken and then played games by the camp fire. However, the other activities had to be cancelled as it was about to rain. So we decided to get an early night's rest.

The following day, we had a service at the Resort and our Pastor-in-Charge The Rev. Ting Moy Hong gave a sermon. After the service we packed up and returned home. There was not a single moment at the camp that was uneventful.







## Bigger And Better ... Awesome Camp

*By Caleb Goh*

I think this year's Youth Camp was awesome! We got to meet new friends and also got closer with people that we were earlier not so close with.

To me, the Youth Camp is a great way to share Jesus Christ with non-believers. It teaches us how to treat our friends. I'm sure everyone that participated in the Camp had a good time, especially during white water-rafting and during the campfire games.

I had actually been to the camp site when I was 10 years old and in the Boys' Brigade. Since then, I noticed a lot of differences at the site. There are more dorms and a bigger field. There is also a punching bag, which wasn't there before. There's a hall which we used for worship sessions and for playing games.

One of the reasons why it was fun was because I had my good friends with me. It wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for them. The most important lesson that I will never forget is that we should always cherish our friends and that we shouldn't betray them but help them when they need support.

I am happy that I participated in the Youth Camp this year. As part of the committee, the planning for the Camp went on quite smoothly. Even though we did not meet the number expected, I am still glad that many were willing to join us for Camp this year.

The best moment for me was during the white water-rafting. It was a fun experience. Although I had done white water rafting before, the experience this year was way better. I hope that the next Youth Camp will be even better and with more youths will participating in it.



## What Are The Appropriate Reasons For Missing Church?

*(extracted from e.Bible.com)*

Many people have an improper and/or unbiblical understanding of church attendance. Some people feel that they must attend church legalistically, being at church virtually every time there is any kind of service or meeting. Some people experience a feeling of guilt whenever they miss a Sunday morning service. Sadly, some churches encourage this guilt by putting excessive pressure on people to attend regularly. In the matter of church attendance, the most crucial thing to understand is that the quality of a person's relationship with God is not determined by how often he/she is in church. Similarly, God's love for His children is not based on the number of times they attend formal services.

There is no doubt that Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, should attend church. It should be the desire of each and every Christian to worship corporately (**Ephesians 5:19-20**), to fellowship with and encourage other Christians (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**), and to be taught God's Word (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). Attending church should be a joy, not a dreaded and dreary assignment. Just as God loves a cheerful giver (**2 Corinthians 9:7**), so He is pleased with a genuinely cheerful church attendee (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

What then are appropriate reasons for missing church?

- Is it acceptable to miss church to attend a sporting event? Yes.
- Is it acceptable to miss church while on vacation? Yes.
- Is it acceptable to miss church when you are sick/ill? Yes.
- Is it acceptable to miss church because you are tired from a difficult week? Yes.

Like so many other issues in the Christian life, church attendance can become legalistic instead of a matter of grace. A person does not have to attend church to be saved, to be a good Christian, to grow spiritually, etc. ***Rather, a Christian should attend church to learn about the greatness of God's gift of salvation, to learn how to become more like Christ, and to have opportunities to minister to others.***

Why do you attend church?

- Is it to make yourself appear spiritual? Is it to interact with possible business contacts?
- Is it out of legalistic thinking that says the more frequently you walk through the doors of a church, the more God is pleased with you?

- Is your Sunday morning filled with family strife, arguing, and screaming, followed by attending church with pasted-on smiling, happy faces? In such an instance, it would be better to stay home and work on biblically resolving the conflict in your family, instead of making a token appearance at church.

It all comes down to perspective and priorities. The busyness of many people's lives makes church attendance more of a chore than a blessing. If attending church is not important enough, or valuable enough, to make it a priority, either something is wrong with your church or something is wrong with your attitude about church. Is your church attendance nothing more than arriving one minute before the service starts, sitting bored and inattentively through the worship and sermon, and then leaving immediately after the service ends? If so, you might as well have missed church, as you did not take anything from it, and you contributed nothing to it.

We should want to attend church so we can fellowship with others who have also experienced the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. We should avoid missing church, whenever possible, because we recognize the importance of hearing God's Word, applying it to our lives, and sharing it with others. We should attend church, not to collect spiritual bonus points, but because we love God and recognize what His Word says about the importance of corporate fellowship and worship (**Hebrews 10:24-25**). Every Christian should attend church regularly. At the same time, missing church for a good reason is in no sense a sin or something that should cause feelings of guilt.

When you miss (do not attend) church, do you miss (have a longing for) church? If so, that is a sign you have a good and biblical connection with church. If not, that is a sign you need to re-evaluate yourself or your choice of church and/or participation in church.

God knows our hearts. God is not impressed by a person attending every Sunday morning service, Sunday evening service, mid-week service, and Bible study opportunity a church offers. God's desire is that we utilize the local church for our own spiritual edification and the use of our spiritual gifts to minister to others.

## Called Home To Eternal Rest

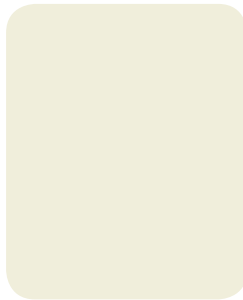
"Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die yet shall they live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold 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 were called home to eternal rest. Our condolences to their family members.



**STEVEN YAP** CHENG SIM

Called home in  
April, 2016



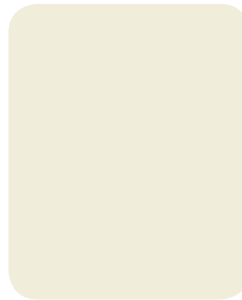
**DIONG** CHIN SIOK

Called home in  
April, 2016



**GAN** KIAN HOCK

Called home in  
May, 2016



ROSIE **SIAU** SOO TING

Called home in  
May, 2016



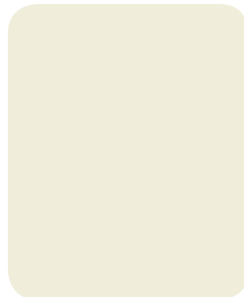
**YONG** CHEE SENG

Called home in  
May, 2016



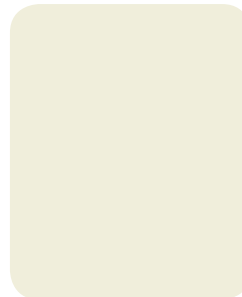
**RAYMOND WONG**  
HOONG KWAN

Called home in  
May, 2016



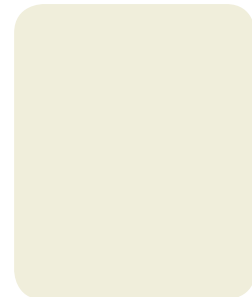
**KOH** SIEW CHOO

Called home in  
June, 2016



**ANDREA FLEMMING**  
(MRS CHONG)

Called home in  
July, 2016



**JAMES VANNIASINGAM**

Called home in  
July, 2016

### MEMBERS WHO TRANSFERRED TO OTHER CHURCHES

- Margaret Chuah Suan Onn - *Gereja Methodist Subang Jaya*
- Patricia Lim Gek Chin - *Gereja Methodist Subang Jaya*
- Samantha Leong Sue Ern - *Wesley Methodist Church KL*
- Dorcas Loh Yoke Leng (Mrs Timothy Ong) - *Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh*
- Jason Wee Heng Loong - *Wesley Methodist Church Singapore (Fort Canning)*
- Audrey Wong Teck Ying - *Glad Tidings Petaling Jaya*
- Beatrice Wong Teck Hua - *Glad Tidings Petaling Jaya*

### MEMBERS WHO WITHDREW FROM TMCPJ

- Patricia Hoh Chee Kwong
- Christine Tan Ai Ping

## Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya Welcomes

### New and Transferred Members

#### Members Who Transferred From Other Methodist Churches



Theresa See @ Mui



Hooi Hang Yong

Chan Kam Peng

#### Infant Baptism



Kory Jaylon Foong  
(Son of Kurt and Clarissa Foong)

#### Adults Baptised and Received into Membership



**CHOO KENG LUN:** "I love the feel of the church. There is peace of mind and a feeling of serenity and peace. Members are kind, friendly and thoughtful to others. I have a sense of belonging."

It's a public declaration of my admission in the Christian Church. I feel God's love and care for me as my prayers were met with favourable response. I want to become part of the huge family and have a home in Heaven – meeting my daughter when life is over. God will guide us through His wWord. I like to be called 'KL Choo'. My hobbies are reading, stamp-collecting, gardening and travel."

**CHOI MOOI (MRS CHOO):** "TMC PJ warms my heart. The members are friendly and helpful. The Small Group (SG) Members inspired me, especially the SG leaders Roy and Gillian Goh. They encouraged and guided me to study the Bible, pray and put God's Word into practice."

My hobbies are gardening and travelling."

*Mr & Mrs Choo are attending Bangsar (now Damansara Heights) SG led by Gillian and Roy Goh.*





## Adults Baptised and Received into Membership



**NG KENG FAI:** "A Good community and friendly brothers and sisters in Christ. This are why TMC PJ made me feel accepted as a whole. And I must express my thanks to Rachel Wong, who brought me into this awesome community.

I felt a series of God's calling one month before the actual baptism day. I felt Him asking me to change to be a new being. That's when I made a commitment to be baptised.

I am a digital marketing consultant and my hobbies are martial arts and reading books."

*Keng Fai is attending Desa Parkcity SG led by Lim Say Thean and Chew Lee Fuang*

### **ALBERT KHOO and MARGARET LEONG MEE GAN:**

"I want to be a part of the Body of Christ, and be a member of God's family, where I can be strengthened and built up; and be part of a community of believers loving one another."

*Albert & Margaret Khoo are attending TTDI SG led by Betty Hor and Ho Chee Keong*



## Youths Baptised and Received into Membership

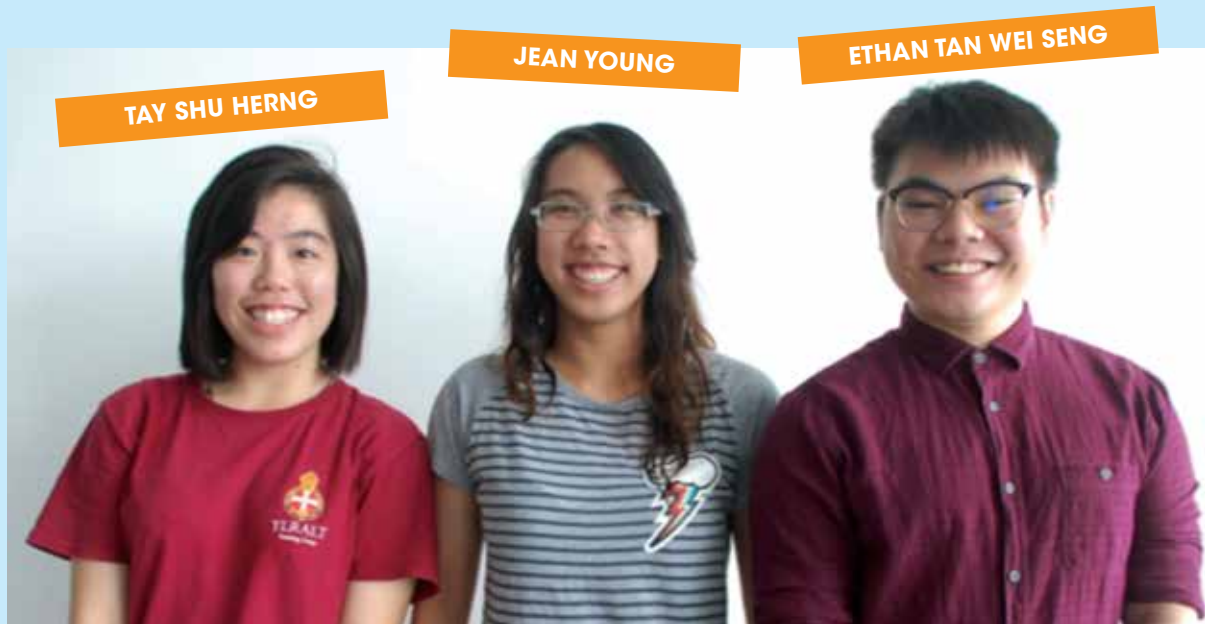


**KATELYN YEOH XUE FEN**  
(daughter of Karen Kaur Bal & Yeoh Cho Kheong)



**LOKE YAN HIN**  
(son of Mr & Mrs Loke Kah Meng)

## Youths Baptised by Immersion and Received into Membership



**TAY SHU HERNG** – daughter of Anthony and Justine Tay, attends GB, MYF, 11am Chinese service with her parents. Shu Herng is helping with worship services and Sunday school at the 11am Chinese Service.

**JEAN YOUNG** – attends the MYF and the 11am Contemporary Service with her parents (Peter and Quinee Young) and sister (Joey)

"I would like to be a member of TMC PJ because I love how loving and friendly the community is, as well as their great desire to serve God and imitate Christ.

I sought baptism because I want to formally be a follower of Christ and commit my life to Jesus Christ as a member in this Church.

I am interested in new and various ways to help others and serve the Lord. I am willing to try my best to fulfill my purpose."

**ETHAN TAN WEI SENG**

"I want to be a member of TMC PJ - to learn, grow, and renew in Christ through the Gospel together with my brothers and sisters in TMC PJ.

I want to be baptised as it is a public announcement and also acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

I am currently pursuing my Bachelors in Marketing. Photographer and enjoy playing soccer."

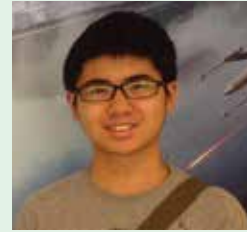
Ethan is a member of the Livewire SG.

## Confirmation and Received into Membership



**MARC CHOONG CHEE YOUNG** - son of Mr and Mrs Choong Chun Yew; brother of Amanda Choong and grandson of Mrs Yip.

I wanted to be a member of the congregation of God's church. I wanted to reaffirm my faith and make the decision independently of being a member of God's people."



**CHONG JINN LIK**

(son of Mr & Mrs Chong Kah Yung)



**JONATHAN CHONG JOR YUE**

(son of Angeline Tong & Chong Chuan Wai)

**JEREMY TUAN** - son of Mr and Mrs Vincent and Adeline Tuan and brother of Timothy.

At first I joined the baptism class because my parents asked me to. As the class progressed, I learned the real purpose of the class and subsequently I joined it willingly. It was also fun to meet the other people at the class.



**RACHEL WONG PUI EE** - daughter of Palita Kwan and Wong Kah Seng. "I had decided to attend confirmation classes as I felt a sense of uncertainty and distance towards Christ. However, throughout these few weeks of confirmation classes, I am delighted to say that I was able to widen my Biblical knowledge as well as strengthen my faith towards getting to know Jesus Christ even more. For that, I am entirely grateful to the amazing people who have gone through this exciting journey with me."



**BRYAN JOSHUA CHEN TI-LOONG**

(son of Mr & Mrs Bernard & Jasmine Chen; grandson of Mr & Mrs Patrick & Vera Chen)

**CALEB GOH HSIEN JUN** - son of Mr and Mrs Terry and Jeanifer Goh

Hmm maybe I guess why I choose to go confirmation class to know what it means to be a member of the Church."



**REBECCA WAN EN-YI** - daughter of Mr and Mrs Moses & Poice Wan

I am Rebecca Wan and I have been in TMC PJ since I was 2 years old. I am currently 15 and have recently gone through the confirmation class. I hope to bring my non-Christian friends to Church and spread the Good News to them. I also hope to do my part in the Church in sharing God's message. I am proud to be a Christian and through confirmation, I hope to make a public proclamation of my love for Jesus Christ."



## My Memorable Tour In Ireland

*More than just the wonderful visit,  
it was here I saw God answering a prayer*

**By Sheila Ramayah**



Spectacular Cliffs of Moher



St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

In May 1996, a group of Malaysian friends joined a 17-day Grand Tour of Britain and Ireland.

The visit to Ireland in particular, was very special to me in more ways than one.

In 1956, when I was in Standard 6, I had a best friend, an Irish classmate named Monica. To my dismay, she and her family returned to Dublin the following year. Hence, I had a strong desire to one day meet up with her in Ireland.

Before setting off on our tour, I said a prayer and wrote to the manager of the Regency Hotel in Dublin where we would be staying, requesting for help in locating my friend and furnished him with some of her particulars.

However, after three weeks of anxious waiting, there was no response and my mission seemed fruitless – like the proverbial “looking for a needle in a haystack”.

Nonetheless, we enjoyed ourselves on that tour. After touring England and Wales, our multinational group crossed St. George's Channel and arrived at Rosslare in Ireland. The next stop was Waterford, a place famed for its exquisite crystals and glassware. Enroute to our hotel that faced the Celtic Sea, we feasted our eyes on the picturesque farms, churches, lush greenery and charming cottages.

The next morning, we enjoyed an exhilarating drive along the southern coast, via Cork, the country's second largest city, on our way to Blarney, which is famous for the Stone of Eloquence.

To kiss it, one has to bend over backwards from the parapet walk of the battlements. None of us wanted to be conferred the power of eloquence; instead we explored the Blarney Castle and shopped for affordable crafts and hand-made crystals.

Ireland, which is also called the “Emerald Isle”, truly proved its fame during our delightful drive to Killarney. The enthralling scenery of crystal-clear lakes, rivers, cascades, islands, farms, castles, abbeys and luxuriant woods in the hills and valleys was amazing.

Another exciting shopping spree at Quill's Woollen Market ended with lots of satisfying purchases of exquisite crocheted, cross-stitched, laced and knitted finery, which we showed off to each other excitedly upon our arrival at Tralee.

Every visitor to Ireland should tour the “Ring of Kerry”, which is a panoramic 170km road surrounding the Iveragh Peninsula.

The loop road follows a spectacular, almost mystical landscape and offers sparkling seascapes and magnificent views of beautiful beaches, the Atlantic



Ocean on one side as well as lakes, rivers, winding lanes and majestic mountainsides dotted with brightly coloured farms.

We also managed to admire the awesome beauty of some small towns along this Ring.

Although it was biting cold when we stopped at Dingle Bay to relax, savouring authentic Irish home-cooked meals in a warm cosy cafe was most satisfying.

After making the full "ring", we arrived at pretty Adare, well-known for its quaint thatched cottages and lichen-covered medieval churches. Prior to our arrival at Limerick, we were regaled by our guide's humorous limericks.

Our visit to Bunratty commenced with a typical sumptuous Irish dinner. We were then entertained to a "Traditional Irish Ceili" excellently performed by a flutist, violinist, accordionist, bag-piper, two dancers and a singer.

The next day's highlight was crossing the Burren to the 200m Cliffs of Moher located on the Clare coast of the Atlantic.

These majestic cliffs extend a distance of 8km from Hag's Head to beyond O'Brien's Tower. The view from the magnificent cliffs is truly stunning.

The next stop was the beautiful Galway, famed for the infamous Lynch Stone that commemorates the day Mayor James Lynch Fitzstephen hanged his son for murder!

Enroute to Dublin, we passed by Tipperary, which is popular for its wartime marching song, and the Rock of Cashel. On arrival in bustling Dublin, the "Fair City", we spent the rest of the afternoon exploring Nassau Road and its vicinity and shopped to our hearts' content.

After checking into the Regency Hotel and while getting ready for dinner, I had an unexpected phone-call: It was Monica, my childhood classmate!

Apparently, the obliging hotel manager who had received my mail had written to all Dublin residents with the same surname as Monica's, and her brother had received his.

Monica and her family had been waiting with great anticipation for our arrival.

They graciously invited my husband and me for dinner the following evening, our last night in Ireland.

With humility and gratitude, I thanked Almighty God for answering my prayer in such a surprising way: *"Ask and it will be given to you."* (Mathew 7:7)

Our last day in Dublin started with a drive/walk-about along statue-lined O'Connell Street, the elegant Georgian Square with its attractive historical and colourful door designs, Phoenix Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral (the largest church in Ireland), River Liffey, Trinity College, the Guinness Brewery, the museum of modern art and Fitzwilliam Square.

The much awaited meeting with my long-lost friend, Monica, became a reality at her home that evening. What a wonderful, joyful and heart-warming reunion we had.

After being introduced to her mother and brother, we chatted nostalgically, filling in the gaps of the 40 years gone by.

After a sumptuous dinner, we continued to update each other over coffee. Time flew by so fast that soon we had to part ... but it was the most exciting climax to our memorable tour of Ireland.

Since that incredible reunion, Monica and I have been keeping in touch for 20 years.

I am truly glad that finally, I did manage to find my needle in the haystack in Ireland!

All praise and glory goes to our amazing God who answers our prayers, no matter how big or small.



Sheila and Monica, reunited after forty years

## Directing My Steps

**By Jessie Chew**

Before I knew God, I only knew how to RUN! I was running crazy, participating in fun runs, competing seriously in 10km, 20km and even 42km. I was running mad! Whenever a working colleague got into my hair, I would go straight out to 'hit the road' and sadistically picked hills to run, the steeper the better. In that vein, I came to know the hills of Bukit Tunku like the back of my hand.

In the runners' lingo, we were always told to 'listen to the body'. The part of my body which cried out most was my knees.

They came through to tell me in no uncertain terms that they had covered too many miles for a lifetime! They were, therefore, opting for early retirement whether I was ready or not. Today, though every part of me yearns to run, my knees have stopped listening to me ...

For more than half a century, I had known one way of life, mainly centred around me. Though I had not known Him, God, my benevolent Creator, had not relinquished His hold on me. My knees calling it a day was like a 'Selah' moment in my life, an essential 'Pause to Reflect' phase essential to my well-being.

Through His overflowing grace, God took me in hand to show me a different way of life through His Son, Christ Jesus. Redirecting my gaze to focus on Him alone, Jesus taught me to embrace what is most important each day. It helped me to fully grasp and understand the message in Jeremiah 9:23-24 that our main focus in life is to know God. Nothing else comes close.

Having shaken and awakened in me a ravenous hunger to know Him, God continued to impress upon me that He would continue to reveal through His Spirit, more great and unsearchable truths that I did not know. God's Spirit in me enables me to hear and recognise His voice, talking to me, guiding me and



leading me through each day of my rekindled life.

Blessed with this one life to live, there is no way we can live it on our own without succumbing to daily temptations and the continuous pressure around us. Our utmost blessing comes from knowing God, seeking His wisdom and living by it. He is the vine. We are the branches. Cut off from Him, we wither away and perish. All God's paths, though rough and rugged, are filled with His love and faithfulness. We can trust God to lead us along the straight and narrow path. God has His purpose and plan for each of

us as summed up succinctly by Andrew Murray in these lines: "I am here – by God's appointment – in His keeping – under His training – for His time."

To live a life pleasing to God and for His glory, we are to obey God's commandment - to love Him with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength. Our human hearts are devious in nature. Living in this world calls for us to continuously work on the renovation of our heart to make it a fitting abode for God to reside within.

Living in this world and not being drawn into the flow of it, we need to fight an ongoing battle with the help of God who is the stronghold of our lives. We can turn to God to create in us a pure heart and to renew a steadfast spirit within us. The heart is the control centre of our lives. As Jesus said, nothing that comes out of the mouth is unclean except what comes from the heart. We allow God to take full control when we keep the heart clean for Him to reside within. God is strong when I am weak. He is my source of strength and I can rely on His strength alone. In full control, God suffuses all my innermost being with joy. His peace reigns within me. He keeps my heart steadfast that I may sing and make music to Him. I can be one with God and live for Him when I keep the heart pure. Loving God with all my soul means connecting with Him and coveting His continuous presence in my life

so that I can move away from self-centeredness to God-centeredness. Focusing on God alone leads me to turn down the volume of life to enable me to hear Him in the everyday moments and through the wondrous works of His hands that surround me. I begin to understand that my soul finds rest when I rest in Him alone.

To love God with all my mind is to be mindful of who I am and whose I am. It calls on me to have the right attitude and sense of gratitude for every blessing that comes from God. I am to live each day mindful that "this is the day that the Lord has made – let me rejoice and be glad in it". I do not have to focus on the disappointments of yesterday or the uncertainties of tomorrow. Fullness of life to me is to live in the present and in God's presence. Turning to God looking always to Him alone will allow Him to renew our minds so that His will can unfold in our lives. Loving God with all my strength is to allow God to grow stronger in my life. This is to have more of God in my life and less of me. His grace is sufficient for me. I can lean on God's grace to grow stronger in His Spirit. God is my source of being, my source of endless love. His commands are love-based and do-able because of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in me.

On hindsight, crippling my knees was akin to a "divine interruption" in my life. Attending a retreat in the newness of my walk, a message from **Isaiah 30:15** "*In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength*" was planted in my mind. Maturing in my walk has enabled me to understand that rest comes before renewal in God's scheme of things. Forced to take a break from running prompted me to open my Bible and dive deep into the wonders and awesomeness of my Creator and Benefactor. If not for my afflictions, I would not have known God. He came to rebuild me from the rubbles of my brokenness.

God has become my 'thermostat' in my new and reawakened life. He makes me slow to anger, quick to forgive. He guides me to be quick to listen and slow to speak. God is also my ultimate 'detox element'. He removes life-destroying toxins within me – wrath, anger, unforgiveness, hatred, the endless list which I can lay at His feet. God brings light into my life and a lightness to my step. He has blessed me with a new equilibrium which enables me to stay unshaken in unfamiliar and challenging territory. Embraced with God's nearness and astounding love has taught

me to understand that I am a unique expression of His loving design, made in His image and created to bring glory to His name. God has remoulded me, reshaped me and filled me to the full with His Spirit and I have His reassurance that He will see to completion the good work He has begun in me.

It has been said that when one door closes, another opens. My running mantle seemed to have been handed down to my daughter who is a much upgraded version of her mother. She has been walking with God who saw her through all the challenges of her young life, long before she started running. She writes:

*"Why do I run, it ain't no mystery, I wanna have a good medical history ... it tightens the tummy and shrinks the caboose. Why do I run, maybe I'm crazy."*

*"The race does not always go to the swift but to those who keep running ..."*

I have these running sayings seared in my head, thanks to my mum. She would have posters with running sayings hanging up on her wall at work and I spent countless hours staring at them. Not because I loved running like she did (in fact, I loathed running as a child) but because my mom was not the most punctual of persons and I spent a lot of my childhood waiting for her.

As time races me towards my 39th year of life (too fast, in my opinion), I am thankful to my parents who instilled in me a life-view that exercise is not a luxury but a necessity. I am thankful for my husband who holds the same life-view and who often leaves me in the dust with his unquenchable energy. And I am incredibly thankful for these running sayings that have held so true in my life. Running does tighten the tummy and shrink the caboose! I have yet to win a race, but I have grown to love running and am thankful for every day I get to keep running.

***Let me give praise to the Almighty God  
for He is good.  
His love endures forever.***



## MSF Activities

### 5th January 2016 – Worship And Birthday Celebrations

Worship Leader: Sheila Ramayah      Attendance: 63

The celebration began with everyone singing "Happy Birthday" and extending wishes to the seven members who celebrated their birthdays in January. The MSF Presiden, Patrick Chen, welcomed The Rev. Buell Abraham, Associate Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya to the meeting and presented a MSF mug and towel to him.



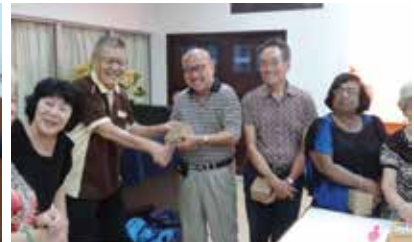
Members whose birthdays fall in January



Sheila Ramayah



Patrick Chen presents MSF Mug and towel to The Rev. Buell Abraham



Patrick Chen presenting gifts to the birthday boys and girls

### 7th to 11th January 2016 – Trip to Hadyai

Twenty-two members went on a trip to Hadyai, Thailand to have fellowship, shopping and enjoy delicious Thai food. They discovered a shop with the acronym MSF. They had a jolly fun time.



### 19th January 2016 – Worship

Worship Leader: Sheila Vadiveloo      Attendance: 62  
 Speaker: The Rev. Ting Moy Hong  
 Title of Homily: A Ministry of Encouragement and Mentoring  
 Scripture Text: Joshua 24:14 -15



Working hard on the assignment given by Rev. Ting.



Members sharing their thoughts on the assignment



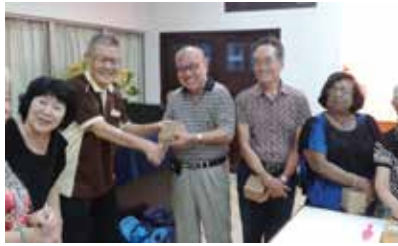
Rev. Ting giving instructions



Datin Ng Sook Ming presenting a token of appreciation to Rev. Ting

## 2nd February 2016 – Worship And Birthday Celebrations

Worship Leader: Datin Ng Sook Ming      Attendance: 66



Members had the usual worship and sing-along of songs of yesteryears followed by lunch.

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## 16th February 2016 – Worship

Worship Leader: Sheila Vadiveloo      Attendance: 40

Speaker: Lila Raman Chelliah

Topic: The Changing Seasons, the Prevailing Christian

Scripture: Titus 2: 1-8

Lila Raman Chelliah graduated with a Masters in Ministry from Malaysia Bible Seminary in 2011. She has worked tirelessly among refugees, the urban poor, in squatter areas and went on mission trips to poorer countries in the ASEAN region. She said that seniors in the autumn of their lives, having gone through the seasons of life, have much to contribute to society, in ministries of caring, sharing and mentoring. She testifies to God's miraculous healing of her husband through an article entitled *Once Dead Now Alive* in a booklet *A Testimony Of God's Miracle*.



Lila Raman Chelliah



Rev. Buell Abraham gave Lila a token of appreciation

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## 21st February 2016 – Chinese New Year Lunch at Pantai Seafood Restaurant

We were pleased to have MAF members joining us for this celebration. Out of the 22 tables, the MAF members occupied two. Lucky draws were held and members went home happy with their prizes.

### 1st March 2016 – Worship And Birthday Celebrations

Worship Leader: Sheila Ramayah

Attendance: 56



### 7th March 2016 – Sit Down Exercises (SDE)

We started Sit Down Exercises (SDE) with guidance from Chan Yoke Heng and his team from Evangelical Free Church. Eventually our own MSFers Sheila Vadiveloo, Loh Yoon Heng and Anne Wong will work as a team to lead in these exercises. Thirty three persons registered.



### 15th March 2016 – Worship

Worship Leader: Sheila Vadiveloo

Attendance: 45

Speaker: Ding Cho Hee, President of Persatuan Dailisi Kurnia Petaling Jaya.



Ding Cho Hee



Ding Cho Hee and  
The Rev. Buell Abraham



Ding Cho Hee receiving a token of  
appreciation from  
MSF President Patrick Chen

### 5th April 2016 – Worship And Birthday Celebrations

Worship Leader: Wong Kim Seong

Attendance: 67



Wong Kim Seong, Jolie,  
Doris Lee and Betty



Datin Ng Sook Ming  
presenting birthday gift to  
Doris Lee



Datin Ng Sook Ming  
presenting birthday gift  
to Betty



Wong Kim Seong and Chew Paik  
Yeng leading the singing with  
Jackie Tong on drums



## 12th April 2016 – Visitation

Our visiting team MSFers Loh Yoon Heng, Peggy Yeo, Lee Choon Har together with Tan Hock Wah and wife Joslyn Yong were driven for the visitation by Alex. Fruits and egg tarts were presented on behalf of MSF to the following:

1. Catherine Tan at Green Pastures Home. She was happy to receive the visiting team who were equally happy to hear that she is happy and her health had improved.
2. Mary Kam at her home in Paramount Garden PJ. Our visiting team thanked Magdeline Kam (Kam's daughter) for her hospitality.
3. Wong Poh Sim at the Nursing Home 'The Manor'

## 19th April 2016 – Worship

Worship Leader: Sheila Vadiveloo

Attendance: 25

Winners of Bible Quiz were Lim Tong Juan, Lee Hong Lian and Susan San. Winners of Bible Word Search Game were Lee Hong Lian, Betty Lee and Michael Ang. Winners of Bible Trivia were Yap Yoon Kin, Carol Yoong and Lee Hong Lian. All present thoroughly enjoyed the games.

## 24th April 2016 – Visit To Living Stone Methodist Church (LSMC)

Nineteen MSF members worshipped and had fellowship with the LSMC congregation. Our MSF members presented two musical offerings, after which our President gave an MSF cash offering of RM500 to LSMC. We greatly appreciated the warm reception and hospitality the LSMC congregation extended to us. Also thanks to Loo Kar Fa for coming all the way to TMC PJ to lead us to LSMC.



MSFers singing



TMCPJ President Patrick Chen presented a love gift to Loo Kau Foo of LSMC

## 3rd May 2016 – Worship And Birthday Celebrations

Sixty five members attended this meeting. As usual, we started with worship followed by celebration for members whose birthdays fall in May followed by sing-a-long songs of yester years and lunch. Dr. Ng Kam Yoon and wife Sue gave a talk on acupuncture.



May's Birthday Ladies & Gentlemen



Patrick Chen wishing Datin May Lian 'Happy Birthday'



Lim Tong Juan receiving his Birthday gift



Shirley Kok receiving her Birthday gift



Dr. Ng Kam Yoon and wife Sue. Giving a talk on acupuncture.



Members actively listening to the talk on acupuncture



Practice locating acupoint



Datin Ng Sook Ming presenting a token of appreciation



Lee Pak Kong giving a testimony about the successful treatment provided by Dr. Ng Kam Yoon.

### 10th May 2016 – Visitations

Our visiting team comprising Loh Yoon Heng, Peggy Yeo, Mary Moey, Doris Lee and Patrick Chang together with Tan Hock Wah visited (with gifts of fruits) Cheong Yoong Hoi and Sally Wan. A collection was made among the team for Raymond Wong who was residing in a Nursing Home in SS2 Petaling Jaya. A word of appreciation and thanks to Tan Hock Wah who drove them for these visitations.

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### 17th May 2016 – Worship

Speaker: Tong Soo Tim, a lawyer.

Topic: The Law And Its Wisdom (with reference to the Family Law and Mediation).

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### 31st May 2016 – One Day Spiritual Retreat 9a.m. – 4.00 p.m. in the Church Hall

Speaker: The Rev. Victor Vethamani Attendance :36

Topic: Make Your Life Count

Scripture: Romans 12: 1 -8

Session 1: Living Sacrifice For God

Session 2: New Thinking

Session 3: Humility – Counting Others Better

Session 4: Serve With Your God-Given Gifts

The Rev. Victor Vethamani gave us clear and concise notes to take us through these 12 verses in detail. Participants were divided into three groups:

1. Haman: Esther 6:6

2. Herod : Acts 12: 21-23

3. Paul : 2 Corinthians 11:11-29

Each group had to portray in a short skit what lessons we learnt from each scripture passage.

Each participant left with the question “How do I make my life count?”



The Rev, Victor Vethamani starting the session



King Herod



Paul



Patrick Chen presenting a token of appreciation to The Rev. Victor Vethamani



## Girls' Brigade Enrolment Sunday

24th April 2016





# Boys' Brigade Enrolment Sunday

26th June 2016



**Come join us for**



**TRINITY  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
PETALING JAYA

# **57th Anniversary Lunch**

**Venue: Restoran Oversea**

Lot G, Unit 28, Armada Hotel  
Lorong Utara C, Sec. 52,  
46200 Petaling Jaya

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**Date: 28 August 2016 (Sunday)**

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**Time: 1.00pm**

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Tickets available from Fundraising Committee at a contribution  
of RM 100 per seat (RM 1,000 per table).

**FOR ENQUIRIES,  
PLEASE CALL**

Hock Wah @ 016. 221. 8323  
Shirley Lau @ 012. 376. 1683





Everyone a Disciple of Jesus Christ

*Matthew 28 : 19-20*