

# SMALL GROUP CONNECT



**G.I.E.D**

*by Edward Leong*

Gloria In Excelsis Deo, or GIED for short, is what we have named our small group. We meet every Tuesday evening for bible study, worship, prayer and fellowship -- over supper -- from 8:30pm till past 11pm!

Formed in the late 1990s, the small group has been regularly meeting at Marlene Avenue, a stone's throw from TMC. GIED's original members are mostly still with the group and we have been blessed with the addition of new brothers and sisters from TMC.

GIED is an inclusive small group. We constantly seek to invite others – both new and older church members, especially those without a small group, to join us. We welcomed a South African lady, Lea Kloppers, to join our group during the year she spent in Singapore worshipping at TMC. Over the years, the group has grown to 12, and in recent weeks by another four, making us not so 'small' any more.

With the inclusion of recent and younger members, the average age of members has dropped from its previous average of about 50. We thank God for leading, sustaining and growing the group!

GIED has also been blessed with individuals from different walks of life and with unique giftings. All are actively involved in their individual capacities in a church ministry which includes the choir, missions, outreach and social concerns, children's ministry and hospitality.

While varied experiences and backgrounds have enabled us to share different perspectives and learn from one another about how God has worked in our lives, our combined giftings have enabled us to also work well together to bless others. Looking down memory lane, GIED has had the opportunity to organise various activities like church camps, Contact 123 activities, visiting the homebound during Christmas, and church anniversaries. We find that this is a tangible way to glorify God and bless others when we serve together in this manner.

We take the study of God's word seriously. Each bible study is intensive. We each take turns to lead and those who are not leading will still prepare for our weekly meetings, readily share, and encourage one another in the application of the Word of God in our lives. Often, we remind one another to pray more. As we pray for our needs and those of our respective church ministries, we learn to care more for the church and are encouraged by how God is working in other ministries.

May the Lord continue to lead and strengthen us, and use us as individuals and as a small group for His Glory!

**More about small groups at TMC can be found at [www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html). Or contact Park Ming at [Parkming@tmc.org.sg](mailto:Parkming@tmc.org.sg), Tel:96717100**