

## My Treasured Experience

My participation in the small group of Heartbeat of God over the years has deepened my knowledge and understanding of the wisdom of God's written word and prayer. Jesus says that there is power when 2 or 3 agree about anything in prayer with an all encompassing promise that *"it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven"* (Matthew 18:19-20). The small group is an integral part of the body of Christ that represents the church. The small group is a dynamic arm of the church that extends the work of the Great Commission of sharing the good news.

The group meets fortnightly in TMC. We begin the meeting by singing worship hymns. Although some of us don't sing well, the bible reassures us that we still can *"Shout with joy to God"* (Psalm 66:1). With a view to evening out our singing skills, the group has compiled a select number of worship hymns for our own use so that we can use it to sing to God anytime and anywhere!

To enrich our bible study, we use the scripture passage from the prior Sunday's service, allowing members comfortable time to prepare before coming to the meeting.

Members share with the group how they interpret and apply the passage to their lives. After a time of quiet reflection, we share personal testimonies, thanksgivings, conferences attended, retreats participated, and books or papers read. We end our meeting with a closing hymn.

One of my most humbling experiences was a chance to connect with IMH inmates in an outreach event in February. Originally I was hesitant as these inmates require specialist care and counselling and I was least qualified to do so. But 2 disarmingly kind, generous and compassionate ladies shared their touching stories, and I decided to give my whole hearted support.



*"SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER WITH PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS." EPHESIANS 5:19*

*EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE IS LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK. MATTHEW 7:24*

My IMH connection has opened my eyes to the deeper understanding of the wisdom of God's Word in two biblical passages.

First, in Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, "*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.*" The small acts of kindness done to the least important of Christ's brethren are done to Him, and vice versa. These small things have not been remembered as meritorious by the righteous and have been neglected or ignored by the others.



*THE GROUP OCCASIONALLY MEETS FOR A FREE-AND-EASY GET TOGETHER IN THE RESIDENCE OF MARY AND FU DUNYI.*

Second, God is deeply grieved by our thanklessness and ungratefulness for blessings received. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one came back to praise Him and give Him thanks. He asked, "*Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?*" (Luke 17:17-18). While Jesus commented on the ungratefulness of the others, He confirmed that the Samaritan's faith and gratefulness had made him well and whole.

To sum up, my experience in the Heartbeat of God small group has been enriching and edifying. It embraces worshipping and loving God, fellowshiping with my brethren in Christ, coming into the presence of God by learning to listen to His voice, serving other people unselfishly, and sharing the good news. In the process, we learn to enjoy our families, our friends, our health and every area in our spiritual life.

Finally, perhaps the essence of the small group can be encapsulated in a Chinese aphorism: 同心协力，献出关怀。

*Reflections by Dr. Fu Dunyi, Heartbeat of God small group*

### ***ABOUT SMALL GROUP CONNECT...***

THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE SMALL GROUP COMMITTEE AT TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH. IT SEEKS TO BRING AND INTEGRATE SMALL GROUPS INTO THE CHURCH LIFE OF TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH. IT FEATURES ONE SMALL GROUP PER MONTH.

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