

The Mandarin Service Small Groups

It may surprise you to know that the Mandarin Service at TMC did not originate at TMC! In 2003, during our church's redevelopment phase, a small fellowship group started meeting in the canteen of Paya Lebar Methodist Primary School. This original group has today grown to an average of 85 attendees who attend Sunday services regularly.

The founders of the Mandarin Service decided that cultivating a sense of belonging was important for a young congregation like theirs, hence they adopted a system where by all members would be assigned to a small group.

There are currently 6 small groups, organized into 2 ladies groups, 1 mens group, 1 young adult group, 1 couples group and 1 mixed group. All the groups meet in church fortnightly. The young adult group and mixed group (men and women) meet on alternate Thursdays. The remaining four groups meet on Sundays after the fellowship lunch. This arrangement seems to have worked quite well in accommodating elderly members who may have difficulties traveling to and from night meetings.

Kindness, the Young Adults group

The young adults group is headed by James and Amy Loke and consists of 11 members who meet fortnightly, with a fellowship outing every 4th week.

Each meeting begins with praise and worship, bible study, personal sharing and ends with prayer.

God has been good to grant these young people the desire to make room in their busy schedules to come for small group. Weekly attendance is often an important prayer item for James and Amy, but also a chance to see God work in small and big ways to enable members to show up. They have found that simple gestures like sending SMS reminders do help.



James and Amy saw the need to instill a sense of commitment in members and are constantly renewing this commitment.

While it is not easy to read the bible and act on what it says, members have found encouragement in time spent learning God's word and sharing about each other's spiritual life.



DESMOND, LAWRENCE AND WENDY

Every 4th week, the group does an outing such as going to a café like Tea Chapter, trekking, doing sports together, or just enjoying each others company. They recently had a wonderful time at the Mind Café, a café with a large selection of board games. Losers had to do forfeits, like parading down the aisle like models. Thankfully everyone was a good sport, resulting in fun filled memories for all.

When asked what he wishes for the group, James says, "My wish is that each member grows spiritually in the knowledge of Him who can and will supply all our needs. May they also grow in their commitment to the work of God, to know the Great Commission, and have a burden for lost souls."

Joycelyn Tan, the Mandarin Service LCEC chairperson, had some general reflections on the small groups under their care, "Some members are not attending small group meetings even though they belong to one. It's a challenge to encourage them to be involved and helping them to understand the importance of fellowship and support for one another in church."

Do remember them in your prayers.

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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*IF YOU WOULD LIKE
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