

FAMILY ASPIRATIONS



by Lim Sue Yien

To
“Family Aspirations”,
commitment is more
than just talk.



Family Aspirations

Three years ago, they decided to formalise the idea of a covenant for their small group, leading to each member to commit to observe a code of conduct that would guide their daily walk with God.

A piece of paper signed by each member seals a personal agreement: “In response to the love, mercy and grace of our Holy Father, we pledge to strive toward growth in spiritual maturity and to walk in obedience to our loving God.”

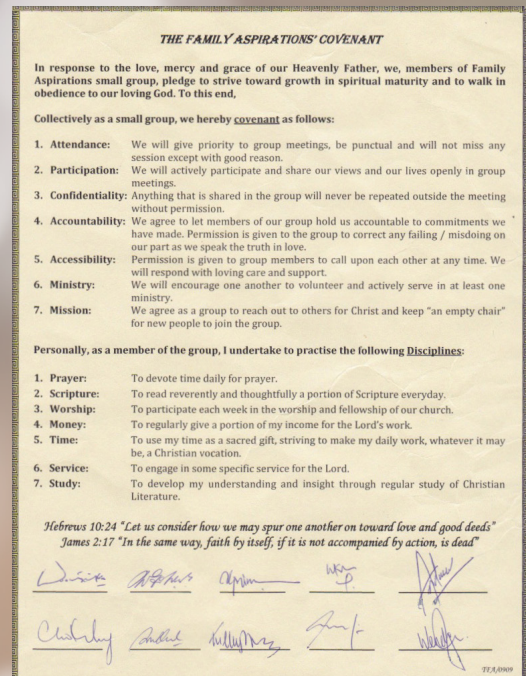
Yet, it is also a collective agreement, signed as a group, to keep each other accountable to the contents of that covenant.

The group has its roots back in their varsity days at NUS, where a band of seven young Christian brothers, mentored by Ivan Tan, met regularly to share their faith, experiences and struggles. This gradually formalised into a small group, however, still without a name. As the passage of time brought about marriage, wives started to join from 1990 onwards, and then, Family Aspirations formed.

Today, this group of families consists of 17 members. In addition, there are also six provisional members who come regularly, but have yet to sign the covenant. These brothers and sisters in Christ are under no immediate pressure to join although they are encouraged to do so as soon as they are ready. Just as God gives us freedom to choose Him and His way, it is an individual decision that each provisional member will make, according to God’s perfect timing.

Becoming true disciples of Christ is a journey that involves understanding God’s Word and living it out. The group meets fortnightly at members’ homes for bible study. Service springs naturally from this group as well, in keeping with their aim to be obedient to God’s calling. Family Aspirations has organised a church camp, raised funds for the church rebuilding effort, gone on two mission trips to Cambodia, and most recently helmed the mooncake festival celebrations with guest speaker Li Nanxing.

Being always on the move for God and His church allows the group to overcome challenges such as spiritual stagnation. It was out of concern that members may become so comfortable with life, family and distractions of work that the idea of a group covenant was born. Drafted by the members themselves, it was the most visible way for them to make the conscious effort to “walk right”, no matter life’s situation. May the Lord grant them their desire to become spiritually mature disciples of Christ.



The covenant

More about small groups at TMC can be found at
www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html.
You may also contact Park Ming at parkming@tmc.org.sg
or through the church office to find out more.