



# SG CONNECT FEEDING GOD'S SHEEP

by Lim Sue Yien

A new small group has started up in TMC, so new it doesn't even have a name yet. Comprising a mix of old and young believers, it is led by married couple, Hsien Hui and Caroline. Shortly after getting married in 2013, the couple felt God prompting them to begin a small group. At that time, Hsien Hui had been serving in his ministry for more than 20 years, and he had been praying for a new way to serve God. Finally in 2014, they were asked if they would like to lead a small group made up of newly baptised members from the membership and ALPHA classes. Together with Shuwen from their existing small group, they formed this new small group.

## “FOR A CHRISTIAN, YOU’RE NOT BAD”.

These words had been said to Hsien Hui in the past. It saddens him because it shows that non-Christians have seen negative examples among those who profess to be Christian but do not practise the faith. Hence, Hsien Hui wants to build a solid Christian foundation in these new believers, just as mentors and mature believers have helped him to build strong foundations in the past. Difficult times will come, and a solid foundation helps to weather the storm.



Each meeting starts with worship and prayer.

## “WE ARE A SMALL GROUP ON A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY”

The group is working through the Navigator Bible Study series “Growing In Christ – a 13-week follow-up course for new and growing Christians”. While these sessions tend to be a sharing of experiences by older Christians to those younger in the faith, the older believers have learnt a lot from the child-like faith of the newer Christians. The most important thing to know is that the struggles are the same. They don't disappear once you become a Christian. It is how you respond to them that makes the difference between the new Christian way and the old secular way. In a sense, the older Christians are mentoring, or discipling the newer believers. There are unofficial discipler-disciple relationships which are developing within the group. The Christian journey, after all, is not to be taken alone but together with fellow believers.

“The purpose of a small group is to take care of its members”

For Caroline, who has had experience leading a small group, small groups exist to take care of each other. Tapping on God's love to love others, and not relying on one's own strength, is crucial for long-term relationships in a small group to work. Things get easier if you seek God along the way. Taking care also involves integrating these church members into the wider body of the church so that they feel like a member within God's larger community.

## “EQUIPPING LEADERS IS VERY IMPORTANT”

Hsien Hui, Caroline and Shuwen would consider themselves to be new at this. This is a learning experience for them as well. Currently they learn from one another. After each meeting, they sound each other out to seek feedback in order to improve themselves. In the end, they realise that God is teaching them through these new believers. Seeing them trust God in simple things is an amazing encouragement to these “old hands”.



Discussion time

“THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE; YET IT DID NOT FALL, BECAUSE IT HAD ITS FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK.” MATTHEW 27:25

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), or through the church office