

Saltshaker

A Trinity Methodist Church Publication



TRINITY
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Image Credit: Wikipedia
Photo of HDB flats with event flags edited

Is Singapore still a place for strangers and sojourners?

Celebration of Hope
Committee

For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. (1 Chronicles 29:15)

As we celebrate our bicentennial, we should be reminded of Singapore's early beginnings as a place of hope for *strangers and sojourners*.

Our forefathers originated from many places near and far. They came in search of a new beginning and a better life. Many of them did not have high aspirations beyond the hope of a decent job and a safe place to raise a family.

We salute the early *strangers and sojourners*. They toiled to build *Singapura* on their backs, *literally*. For example, some of our city's historical buildings were the hard work of convict labourers from India.

Today, *strangers and sojourners* are still streaming into Singapore from all directions. Like those before them, they contribute to our nation-building efforts in significant ways. As you go about Singapore, take note of how many sojourners are hard at work building and beautifying our city, keeping it clean and green.

These are the unsung heroes of Singapore's on-going development. We owe them a tribute of gratitude.

While sojourners do not share all the citizenship rights and privileges of Singaporeans, they have the same spiritual rights as everyone.

Remember, each sojourner is a person of intrinsic worth, created in the image of God.

Each one has the right to encounter Jesus and become a born-again child of God.

We owe them the Good News of God's love.

The local church should be their first port of call. In fact, according to God's Word, we are to treat them lovingly as equals, as family, as one of us:

• *Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. Treat them as you would an Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners ...* (Leviticus 19:33-34 GNT)

• *You must see that justice is done, and must show kindness and mercy to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners who live among you, or anyone else in need.* (Zechariah 7:9 GNT)

• *I am the Lord, and I consider all people the same, whether they are Israelites or foreigners living among you.* (Numbers 15:16 GNT)

Indeed, may our local churches reflect the big heart of God for all peoples. May we be havens of shalom for sojourners representing diverse creeds and cultures.

A vast majority have never heard the Gospel, not even once! May we welcome them warmly into the House of God and into our homes.

*From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. **He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him.*** (Acts 17:26-27 GNT)

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Celebration of Hope is about Christians in Singapore rallying together and reaching out to share Jesus Christ with friends and relatives. The message they are proclaiming is that Jesus Christ is the one name in which everyone can have solid hope. Celebration of Hope rallies (17-19 May, National Stadium) have ended but personal evangelism continues. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"

Best Brother Ever



Rev Sng Chong Hui

Theo van Gogh was the younger brother of Vincent van Gogh, the famous Post-Impressionist painter.

I am certain Vincent owed much to his brother Theo. If not for Theo van Gogh, no one today would remember Vincent van Gogh.

In his early life, Vincent van Gogh was a lousy painter. He had no talent. He showed no promise. He failed in his attempt as an art dealer. He failed even more miserably as a missionary in southern Belgium. For most of his life, he was ill and alone, coping with severe mental, emotional, social and financial problems.

Many things went against Vincent. There was only one thing going for him. He had the best brother ever. If not for Theo, his life would have been even harder and certainly much shorter.

Theo loved his brother and supported him financially. Every month, he sent money that he himself could barely afford, to Vincent who would otherwise have starved to death.

He held up Vincent emotionally by writing and keeping up a very long correspondence with him during those terrible years of misery, depression and insanity.

Theo supported Vincent to do the only thing he was passionate about - painting.

Theo literally invested his time, money, patience and loving support in his brother, even though no one thought Vincent had any promise, potential or possibility of producing anything of significance.

The world needs a Theo.

Whenever you feel like you have wasted your time, effort and counsel on someone who keeps failing over and over, think of Theo van Gogh.

Without Theo van Gogh, no one would know Vincent van Gogh. Vincent had the best brother ever.

Without Barnabas, no one would know Saul or Paul (Acts 9:26-27). Paul had the best brother ever.

Without Barnabas, we would not have the Gospel by Mark (Acts 15:36-41). John Mark had the best brother ever.

The church needs brothers like Theo and Barnabas.

Are you the best brother ever to someone?

You can be that best brother / sister to someone by being in a Discipleship Group, accountable to, and accountable for, another.

This 1887 portrait by Vincent van Gogh, long thought to be a self-portrait, was reassessed in 2011 to be his brother, Theo van Gogh (Credit: Wikipedia)



那流泪撒种的



李彩韵
Li Cai Yun

81.2公里的距离。将近6个月的筹备。弟兄姐妹们不分昼夜的祷告。同心合意，只为一个心愿，将上帝的爱与福音带给笨珍这片土地上更多的居民。

早在去年12月的退修会上，华语崇拜委员们经商议决定在今年6月份，于笨珍举办一次小型的布道晚会。在笨珍的短宣工作已有数年，这期间，感谢上帝一步步的带领，让我们能共同参与到播种与收割的事工中，到访玫瑰安老院与绿园养生园，与那里的住客分享福音。在新的一年里，我们相信上帝要做新事，让福音广传到笨珍的其他角落。

这次布道晚会，受邀者大都为笨珍 Corner House附近的摊主。过去，我们曾无数次光顾他们的商店，也利用各样机会与他们建立关系，分享我们的信心与盼望之源。然而，碍于摊主们需要为工作忙碌，我们难以与他们更深入地交谈。故此，我们真心希望借着布道会，正式与他们往来，并将真理与福音传达给他们。

自年初，伍传道夫妇与弟兄姐妹们便定期前往笨珍，诚意邀请摊主们出席这个布道晚会。不少摊主们都十分热情，不假思索地便接受了邀请，更有不少许诺定会前来。截至今年5月份，共有17人回复将出席晚会。

6月19日，我们一行17位弟兄姐妹们带着期待与兴奋的心情，前往笨珍。这会是怎样的一个夜晚？受邀者都会如约而至吗？我们无从知晓，但我们深信上帝的旨意定会成就，祂的名将得荣耀。

等待我们的，却不是令人振奋的好消息。早晨，当我们出现在商店，再次提醒摊主们赴宴时，我们收获的回答却如同一盆盆的冰水，企图浇灭我们的热心。“再看看”、“有空会去”、顾左右而言他……

傍晚6时，我们来到宴会地点。一切准备就绪，就等着宾客莅临。6时30分，场地内外依然只有我们。我们的心开始不安起来：摊主们会来吗？万一无一人前来，怎么办？弟兄姐妹们一面等待，一面在心里祷告、呼求。时间一分一秒的过去了，有的弟兄姐妹开始在场外徘徊；有的更决定跨过马路再度去邀请、提醒摊主们前来……

终于，在7时15分，第一位宾客携着朋友出现在餐厅。随后，第三位、第四位、第五位宾客纷纷到来……布道晚会如期举行，伍传道以汉字导入，见证了宇宙中有一位又真又活的神；丽仪姐妹则以自己的生活为例述说了祂的信实与伟大。

小型的布道晚会圆满落幕了。虽然这次晚会没有我们预想的那样浩大，更没有人啼哭着认罪归主，但是正如弟兄姐妹们在反思会议上所说，“我们并非全无收获。”布道会上的相对冷清，让我们谦卑自己，寻求主的旨意。宣教之路布满荆棘，我们的确还有很多需要改进的空间。愿主帮助我们，相信“流泪撒种的，必欢呼收割。”（诗篇126：5）



Sowing with Tears

An 81.2km journey. Six months of preparation. Unceasing prayers.

All for one purpose – to bring God's love and His Good News to the people of Pontian, Johor.

At a retreat in December 2018, the Mandarin Service committee decided to hold an evangelistic evening in Pontian. This was to be on a small scale. Over the years that we have reached out to the people in Pontian, we have been thankful to God for his guidance, and for involving us in His sowing and harvest work. We have shared the Gospel with people at Rose Old Age Home and Green Garden Care Centre. This year, we believed that God wanted to do something new, so that the Good News would reach every corner of Pontian.

We invited the stall-holders of the Corner House in Pontian to this evangelistic evening. We had patronised their stalls numerous times, and built up a relationship with them. We had shared with them the Source of our faith and hope. However, in the past, we could only converse with the stall-holders superficially. They were always busy. Therefore, we hoped to cement our friendships through the evangelistic evening, and share God's truth and Gospel with them.

Since the beginning of this year, Lay Ministry Staff Eddie and his wife, Rebekah, and other brothers and sisters in Christ have been visiting Pontian regularly to invite the stall-holders to the evangelistic evening. The reception had been warm. The stall-holders accepted the invitation without hesitation, and promised that they would attend. We had 17 positive responses to the event in May.

On 19 Jun, 17 brothers and sisters from the Mandarin Service headed to Pontian in expectation and excitement. What kind of evening would it be? Would the guests turn up?

We didn't know, but we believed that God's will would be done, and His name would be glorified.



We were to be disappointed. On the morning of the event, we reminded the stall-holders of the event that evening. "I'll see about that." "I'll attend if I'm free." Such were the responses which made our hearts grow cold.

At 6pm that evening, everything was ready for the guests' arrival. At 6.30pm, we, the organisers, were the only people at the restaurant.

We began to be uneasy. Would the stall-holders turn up? What if no one turned up?

As we waited, we prayed.

As the seconds ticked away, some of us began pacing up and down. Others decided to cross the road to remind the stall-holders of the event once again.

Finally, at 7.15pm, our first guest arrived. Then the second. And the third. The fourth and fifth strode into the restaurant. The evangelistic event went on. Eddie used Chinese characters to illustrate that a real and living God exists. Sister Lai Yee gave a personal testimony of God's faithfulness and greatness.

Our little evangelistic event was over. Although it was not the big event that we envisaged, and no one cried tears of repentance to receive Jesus into their lives, we did receive a harvest of sorts. The lacklustre event has prompted us to humble ourselves as we seek the Lord's will even more. The road of evangelism is fraught with obstacles and we have our work cut out for us. May the Lord help us.

For "those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy" (Ps 126:5)

The Road to and after DEEPER 2019



Jason Chia and Sarah Ang
Camp Commandants

Preparations for the "Deeper" church camp began a year in advance.

It was a long and arduous process, but we have learnt and grown immensely.

The burden was not the committee's alone to carry. Throughout the journey, God sent people of all ages to come alongside us, offering practical help as well as supporting us through prayer.

As Paul described in 1 Corinthians 12, the church is one united body of Christ. This was a church camp where everyone came together to make it work.

And we caught a glimpse of what an inter-generational church means.

We faced challenges along the way.

We discovered that spiritual attacks are real. The devil often does all he can to mess up God's work or prevent us from drawing near to God.

Some of our committee members struggled with challenges in their family or workplaces. Others battled sickness in the weeks leading up to camp.

We learnt to cling onto the truth that God has *already* emerged victorious, and that He is sovereign over each and every obstacle.

Above all, we recognised the importance of choosing to put Him first in all that we do, seeking first His will in all that we did.

Admittedly, when preparations became more intense nearing the camp, we sometimes lost sight of what was most important.

Seeing God Move

There were many decisions that needed to be made during the camp itself, especially when things did not go according to plan.

What was the best way to manage the delayed distribution of keycards in a gracious yet organised manner?

How should we ensure that there was sufficient time for ministry and group discussion, without compromising other aspects of the programme?

In these moments, we had to lean in on what God was trying to do. James 4:15 reminded us: "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that". If God said we needed to linger in His presence, then that was what we had to do.

Ultimately, it was about trusting that God was present at the camp, and that He would move and do His work.

Although we were the ones planning the camp, we could not really engineer any moments. *That was God's territory.* We needed to believe that He would breathe life into the camp, that He would touch hearts during the worship and speaker sessions, and that all of us would experience the warmth of fellowship and community.



Going Deeper Everyday

The day after we returned to Singapore, we chanced upon an Instagram post by Isaac Ong, youth director of Emmanuel Assembly of God.

Writing about church camps, he said: "... it's the rare time in the Singaporean life for people to set days away just to sit with God. *It's not that He decides to speak more, but we finally listen more.*"

Many people appreciate church camps and retreats because we experience God more strongly and intimately during these events, than in our day-to-day lives. It is often in these moments that we find true rest, that we properly wrestle with God, that we are spiritually re-fuelled for the months ahead.

But what if we did this not just at camps, but each and every day?

If God was present at church camp, surely He is also present with us back home, if only we chose to linger and listen.

This is our prayer for TMC - that we will all choose to go deeper not just at camp, but every single day.



Camper's Testimonies



I last went to a family camp 10 years ago.

As my family and I are very new to TMC, I wondered how we would fit in.

God drew us deeper on so many levels. God gave me a "breakthrough revelation" about faith during the soaking session. I am putting my faith in God for progressive healing for a physical condition.

I encountered many genuine and lovely people at the camp and I pray that these encounters will develop into deeper friendships.

Most of all I have fallen deeper in love with God and this church. I hope to see my family becoming more deeply rooted in God and in the fellowship of the church community.

Interestingly, the Lord confirmed this for me on the last day of camp. I saw this on Ben's name tag: "They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green." (Psalm 92 :13 -14)

- Serene Lee

"While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them." (Luke 24:15, ESV)

So often, we are blessed and encounter God, but do not realise it.

Blessings – personal and corporate - were bountiful at this camp. There were testimonies of healing and spiritual encounters shared by fellow campers.

The presence of God and His blessings started months earlier. My personal trip to Hatten Hotel coincided with the camp committee's recce of the hotel. We got to know our young, empowered and capable friends.

We prayed as a community for the camp proceedings, the healing of the committee members, for campers who felt unwell before the camp, the provision of transport for our friends with walking difficulties, and above all, the sharing of the Word. The healing and soaking sessions, in particular, provided a sense of God's grace as we prayed for one another, and relaxed as we spent quiet time feeling His presence.

We encounter God in so many ways when we open our hearts and souls. This camp has definitely witnessed a church growing deeper in Christ and deeper in community.

- James Tang



I love to go for church camp. I get to meet new church members and the youth. When I heard that the church camp was ready for registration, I signed up without hesitation.

As we drew nearer towards the camp, I wondered if I would enjoy the sessions. Pastor Edmund D'Souza proved to be a very entertaining speaker.

One of my main takeaways from the camp was during the session when we soaked in God's presence. I confessed my weaknesses and sins to God. My tears kept flowing till I heard God telling me that I should not feel guilty as long as I repent. I also sought God's strength. Another takeaway was to do with the word "love". God reminded me that love transforms, builds up one another, has the power to bring healing and is fundamental to our faith. Love never fails.

- Susan Tang



James and Susan Tang



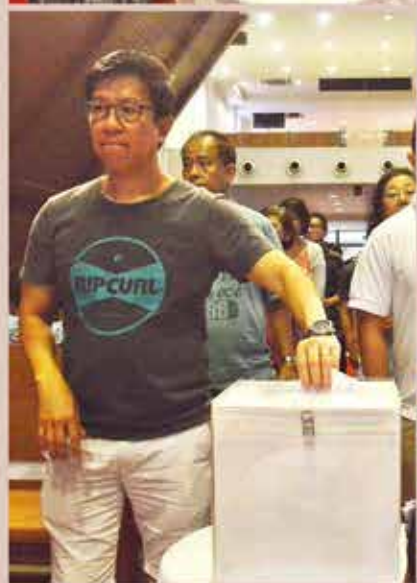
I enjoyed playing games with my friends. I am scared of the dark. I learnt about not being afraid and I prayed that I would not be scared of the dark. Jesus hears my prayers. I want to go for the next camp!

- Gabriel Ong



In & About TMC

WELCOME PASTOR BYRON



PLEDGE SUNDAY



In & About TMC



YOUTH SUNDAY



EVENTS

Sat 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct

10.00am

Youth Avenue Leaders

Captains' Development I

www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123

Sat 10 Aug, 14 Sep, 12 Oct

10.00am

Youth Ave Leaders

Captains' Development II

Sat 17 Aug

12.30pm

New Members' Fellowship Lunch with Church Leaders

Sat 17 Aug, 21 Sep, 19 Oct

11.00am

Youth Ave Leaders

Captains' Development III

Sat 24 Aug, 28 Sep

1.00pm

Youth Avenue Leaders

Captains' Development IV

Sat 24 Aug

6.00pm

Young Adults' Trivia and

Game Night

Sun 25 Aug

10.30am

Get-together lunch for visitors / newcomers

Fri 6 Sep

Mandarin Service mission trip

Pontian

Sun 8 Sep

TMC's 63rd Anniversary

Wed 11 Sep

2.00pm

Youth Avenue movie outing

Sat 21 Sep

8.00am

Last Local Conference

Thurs 10 Oct - Mon 14 Oct

Missions exposure trip to Cambodia

Fri 11 Oct – Tues 15 Oct

WSCS Medical Missions to Cambodia

Every Sun

9.30am

Mandarin Service Prayer Meeting

Last Sun of the month

9.00am

Visit to Institute of Mental Health by Outreach & Social Concerns.

Contact Yvonne Tan at 9091 8589 /

yvonnatangb@gmail.com

www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh

Every Wed (not 1 May, 5 Jun)

8.00pm

Church Prayer Meeting

www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every 1st Wed

10.00am-12.00pm

Yum Cha@10 is an opportunity for people to come together for fellowship, and serves as a platform for TMCers to meet one another as well as non-Christians in the community mid-week. Contact the church office /

churchoffice@tmc.org.sg

www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym

1.00-3.00pm

Rummikub

Every Thurs

9.00am

A Tot-ful Morning

A time for caregivers and children under 3 years of age to enjoy songs, stories and other activity

www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm;

www.facebook.com/atotfulmorning

Last Thurs of the month

10.00am-12.00pm

St Luke's Eldercare Centre Devotions at Blk 217 Serangoon Ave 4. TMC's ministry to SLEC brings hope, help and the love of Christ to many needy elderly. If you wish to join in, contact Eddie from the church office /

eddie@tmc.org.sg.

www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#slec

Every Fri (not 9 Aug)

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

Every 1st Fri

9.15am

WSCS Bible Study (Acts)

2nd and 4th Sat

9.30am

Fellowship of Ukulelians

www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele

Monthly

WSCS Visitation to Homebound. Those interested to bring the church into the homes of the homebound, please contact Emily Wilfred. Group leaves TMC at 10am.

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