

Saltshaker

A Trinity Methodist Church Publication



TRINITY
Methodist Church
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The Unwrapped Gift



Rev Sng Chong Hui

There are some people who do not open the gifts given to them.

They may not know what is inside the gift. Nevertheless, they imagine that it is something they don't like or will not need.

So they leave their gifts unwrapped or recycle them as presents to give away.

A story was told of a lady who gave a Christmas present to her neighbour.

The gift was wrapped in such a way to look like a candle. Inside the candle was a very pretty tablecloth.

One day long after Christmas, the neighbour went to visit the lady.

She saw a beautiful tablecloth on the lady's table.

"Oh," she said, "what a beautiful tablecloth you have. Did you make it yourself?"

The lady answered, "But, my dear, I gave the exact same tablecloth to you!"

The neighbour denied ever receiving anything like that for a gift.

The lady said, "Don't you remember? On Christmas Eve, I gave you a present wrapped as a candle? Inside the candle was that tablecloth."

"Oh, I am sorry", confessed the embarrassed neighbour, "I did not know there was anything inside. I thought it was merely a decoration. I threw it away after Christmas!"

At the first Christmas, God gave us a very precious gift.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Would you BLESS someone by helping him unwrap this Christmas gift?

Would you BLESS someone by helping her uncover this wonderful truth of Christmas?

Would you BLESS someone by pointing to the Christmas Babe being *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*?

Don't let anyone leave this precious Christmas present unwrapped.



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

B.L.E.S.S CHRISTMAS 2019

The B.L.E.S.S Initiative was started in 2015 to provide simple steps on how we may be a witness for Christ amongst our family, friends, colleagues and the community.

The acronym stands for Begin in prayer, Listen to a friend, Eat with a friend, Serve (with) a friend, Share your story.

Please direct general enquiries, feedback and even your post-event testimonies to Kim (91903998) or Wai Cheng (87978113).

7 Tips to Share Your faith:
tiny.cc/7tips

A Simple Carolling Guide: tiny.cc/simplecarols

**A Simple Christmas Party Guide:
tiny.cc/simpleparty**

Calendar of B.L.E.S.S. events and more information at
www.tmc.org.sg/witness.html#bless. Prayerfully consider attending
one of the B.L.E.S.S. events.



OUT OF SMOKY RUINS



Stephen Yeo

The killing fields of Cambodia evidenced a heart of evil.

The Khmer Rouge's genocidal regime systematically tortured and killed millions of their own fellow human beings.

As I walked through the Toul Sleng Museum, I seemed to hear the agonising screams from the black and white photographs lining the walls of the torture chambers. Men, women and children had lingered in slow and painful death. Their skulls on public display reminded me of the depths of human cruelty, untold suffering and despair. Oh God, why?

Yet, Cambodian churches have emerged from the smoking ruins of the killing fields, brimming with faith, hope and overflowing with love.

At Setbo church, 65 children of varying ages clapped, sang and danced with pure hearts.

Someone remarked that they are too young to understand what's going on, but I am reminded of Jesus' invitation, "Let the children come to me, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

The worship service at Glory Trinity Methodist Church was an experience which many of us will not forget.

The Spirit gave us a glimpse of how hearts can literally pour out with joy, radiance and freedom as our Cambodian brothers and sisters worshipped the Almighty God. There was no need to understand the lyrics of the songs nor the prayers uttered with sincere hearts.

The nascent Cambodian church, I pray, will blossom to blaze a trail for the Khmer people; a trail that leads to God. I claim Romans 8:35-39 for the church; that nothing can separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, nothing!

FROM KILLING FIELDS TO HARVEST FIELDS



Evelyn Tan

At a prayer meeting this year, I saw a vision.

It started with a flower, then many flowers, then a whole field of white flowers.

"People are like grass; their beauty is like flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades."
(1 Pet 1:24)

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

When the call came to go on the Missions Exposure trip, there was no reason for me to ignore it.

I went to Cambodia with an open heart, willing to see what God had decided to show me.

MY FIRST MISSION TRIP



Helen Lim

I used to feel apprehensive at the mention of mission trips.

However, my first mission trip to Cambodia was an enriching, eye-opening and enjoyable one.

This trip was about building relationship, touching lives, doing his good works and bringing God's love and joy to the people.

I experienced the warmth of the Cambodians. I observed children who, despite having so little, were full of energy, eager to learn, and most importantly, were happy.

We had the opportunity to meet a few Christian brothers and sisters who had gone to serve in Cambodia, in obedience to God's calling. (I am reminded of what Jesus said in Lk 8:21 – "Jesus replied, 'My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God's word and obey it.'").

They shared about the challenges they faced and how God provided for them and paved ways for good works to be carried out, each time with a better outcome for his glory.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and He will help you." (Ps 37:5)

Lunch at Glory Trinity Methodist Church was simple. Each had a lunch box. Our interaction was heart-warming. One sister from our group had the chance to share the gospel with a couple of pre-believers. Praise God!

Throughout the trip, working together to minister to the youth, children, men and women, we enjoyed great fellowship with one another.

Friendships were forged between those of us who did not know one another before. What a blessing!

So to all who have never been on a mission trip, I strongly encourage you to embark on the next exposure trip, to bless and be blessed.

At Glory Trinity Methodist Church, we experienced a strong moving of the Spirit.

During a time of intercessory prayer, the music and the sincere hearts of the people moved me.

With tears streaming down my face, I asked God, "What are you showing me?"

God said, "My heart cries out for the nation."

Throughout the trip, the word "field" rang in my mind.

God is turning the "Killing Fields" to "Harvest Fields". For His kingdom and His glory!

Trusting and Serving God



Ng Yao Loong

Six years ago, someone told me to "let go and let God".

On the surface, I was doing well.

Hidden beneath the veneer, the reality was different. I was exhausted and desperately searching for purpose in life. I was also scared and clinging onto whatever I had.

That was when I decided to journey with God, to discover his goodness and promises.

What was there to lose anyway?

Our sovereign God was the one who knew then that my heart was ready. He wants a close relationship with us but he will not force us if we are not ready or our hearts are hardened. He will wait patiently for us.

God sent other Christians to journey with me. Somehow, they always appeared at the right time to encourage and guide me.

An ex-colleague of 15 years invited me to attend Alpha, a course for pre-believers.

My wife, a Christian, brought me to TMC and encouraged me to attend weekly services.

Christians in the marketplace started talking to me about the faith.

The journey wasn't always smooth.

I was sceptical and often fearful.

As the head of the household, I always believed that I had to rely on my own two hands to earn a living for the family. How could I then let go of this responsibility?

Can God really take care of our daily needs?

Can God make sure my family is healthy?

The irony was that the more I wanted to be a responsible father and husband by doing well at work and providing for the family, the more I was pushing my family away with my short temper and irritable nature. There was certainly very little peace in the household or inside of me.


As I struggled, the only thing I could do was to pray to God. Step by step, I began to give up trying to figure everything out myself so that I could trust God with all my heart; in other words, exercise faith in him.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1, ESV)

I also started having a more thankful heart, whatever the circumstances. It taught me to accept and embrace God's will, to be at peace with myself, be content with his divine timing and ways for me.

I was encouraged that my family saw and testified of this gradual change in me. This strengthened my faith and gave me the strength to persevere.

Given my constant complaints to God about how work was taking a toll on my energy and time, he challenged me to leave my job and take some time off to spend with him and the family. So recently, I did. I "owed" God for giving Him so little of my time in the past.



I still worry about what I am to do next. I cannot afford not to work.

But as I seek the Lord, He has started to show me opportunities. I am learning to trust him to open the doors. You have to let go of your earthly treasures, desires and man-made plans so that God can show you the plans He has for you.

"'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope'" (Jer 29:11, ESV)

The journey with God is not lonely. The wider community supports one another in the journey.

Therefore, it is important to serve, and extend a helping hand to others. Jesus gave the best example of serving others. If we want to imitate Christ, we cannot not serve.

Often, we detour from the path that God has designed. But as long as we are anchored in Christ, he will bring us back to the path in accordance with his will.

All of us have limited time on earth. When I see my heavenly Father, I would like to hear: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? (Jam 2:14, ESV)

It is hard to help others in times of our own suffering. Pain causes us to turn inwards. In such times, we just long to feel God's embrace. But serving others in the strength of Christ can help us overcome our inner pain and be less self-centred.

I've always given the excuse that I will be more involved in church and outreach activities when I am less busy at work or retired. The truth is that there is never a right time. You can start small which is what I did by becoming a lector at services and befriending the less fortunate.

It is important for me to obey and finish well. As we mature in our journey with God, the fruit of the Spirit should also start to "ripen".



In & About TMC

63rd Anniversary



The Local Church Executive Committee 2019/20



Front row (L-R): P Sathiasingam (Honorary Steward); Emily Wilfred (Chairperson, Pastoral CareNet Ministry); Jill Koh (Assistant Secretary) Nerine Seng (Chairperson, Glowing Years Ministry; 2nd Lay Delegate); Judy Yip (Honorary Steward); Tan Sue Ann (Associate Lay Leader); Tan Sin Guek (Church Archivist); Guo Xiao Rong (Secretary); Carol Lie (Chairperson, Mandarin Service)

Second row (L-R): Dexter Chia (Chairperson, Finance; 1st Reserve Lay Delegate); Cheryl Sim (Chairperson, Young Adults Ministry); Christian Choo (Chairperson, Church Governance); Wee Eng Hock (Honorary Steward); Hum Sin Hoon (Chairperson, LCEC; 1st Lay Delegate); Robert Yeo (Associate Lay Leader, Chairperson, PPRSC; 3rd Lay Delegate); Pamela Lim (Chairperson, Prayer & Intercession); Choy Wai Cheng (Lay Executive Staff (Witness & Evangelism)*); Rev Alvin Chan (Pastor-in-charge); Christabel David (Chairperson, Communications)

Third row (L-R): George Sathiasingam (Associate Lay Leader); Wong Ting Ling (Lay Executive Staff (Outreach & Social Concerns)*); Rev Sng Chong Hui (Pastor);

Back row (L-R): Ian Cheah (Church Administrator*); Tan Kim Lam (Lay Ministry Staff (Discipleship & Nurture)*; Local Preacher[^]); Rev Paul Nga (Pastor); Tan Seng Hee (Chairperson, Small Groups); Richard Seng (Lay Leader; 2nd Lay Delegate); Edwin Koh (Chairperson, Property Management); Bryan Chong (Church Treasurer); Koh Eu Beng (Captain, Boys' Brigade 47th Coy); Jacob Cheng (Chairperson, Discipleship & Nurture; Local Preacher[^]); Rev Byron Teo (Pastor)

Not in photo: Ang Poh Kit (Associate Lay Leader), Kelvin Tan (Associate Lay Leader); Ho Sau Lan (Assistant Secretary); Grace Chacko (Chairperson, Children's Ministry); Jestyn Koh (Chairperson, Missions); Peter Lim and Jillian Goh (Chairpersons, Outreach and Social Concerns); Chew Kim Ling (Chairperson, Witness & Evangelism); Daryl Ong (Chairperson, Worship & Music); Nicole Gan and Jeremiah David (Chairpersons, Youth Ministry); Mary Foo (Chairperson, Women's Society of Christian Service); Lee Hui Ling (Captain, Girls' Brigade 55th Coy); Khor Tong Hong (Honorary Steward); Ang Hern Shung (3rd Reserve Lay Delegate).

* Members of staff, but not members of the LCEC.

[^] Local preachers are not members of the LCEC. They are part of the Local Conference.

Local preachers not in photo: Ang Hern Shung, Eddie Goh, Violet Khor; Kwa Kiem Kiok; Kevin Lowe; Philip Khoo



TRINITY
Methodist Church

5 important things you should know about the new service timings

1. It takes effect on 1st Dec 2019.



The new service timings will take effect from 1st December 2019 onwards! Make sure you note it down in your calendar... or you might find yourself walking in halfway through the service.

2. You have 5 new service timings to choose from.

Saturday	4.30PM	The Saturday Service	Emmanuel Hall
Sunday	8.00AM	Traditional Service 1	Sanctuary
Sunday	9.45AM	Traditional Service 2	Sanctuary
Sunday	9.45AM	Contemporary Service	Emmanuel Hall
Sunday	11.30AM	Mandarin Service	Sanctuary



3. Holy Communion will vary for each service.



Holy Communion will now be served over different weekends at the various services, and now including our Children's Ministry too.

The Saturday Service
Traditional Service 1 & 2
Contemporary Service
Mandarin Service
Children's Ministry

3rd Saturday of the month
1st Sunday of the month
3rd Sunday of the month
1st Sunday of the month
2nd Sunday of the month

4. Revised carpark arrangements to better facilitate traffic flow.

With the new service timings, we have made some arrangements to better facilitate traffic flow. Worshippers attending the 8.00am service are requested to fill up B2 first, followed by B1. Worshippers attending the 9.45am services are requested to try to fill up B3 first. Double parking is permitted ONLY in B3. Please refrain from double parking in B1 and B2, and please only park in MARKED parking lots..



We have deployed Safety Marshals to help regulate and facilitate this, so do listen to the instructions of the marshals..

5. Revised Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry will now be held at a single fixed session starting at 9.45am, and ending at 11.15am. Do take note that the children will no longer be released until they are picked up by a parent or caregiver.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!
Do continue to pray with us that we can grow to be a Church
where disciples make disciples.



NOT AN **INTELLECTUAL** FAITH

Margaret Tan

I grew up in a big family with eight siblings. My parents believed in praying to Taoist gods. Every first and fifteenth of the month, we would be required to pray to Taoist gods in the belief that the family would be blessed with good health and safety, children would be well-behaved and would pass examinations.

I was good at my studies. That made my mum feel that it was the outcome of the Taoist gods' blessings. Getting good grades was my goal in life as I wanted to make my mum happy.

When I was introduced to the Christian faith by a classmate in Secondary 4, I realised that studying was not everything in life, and there was a spiritual aspect of life that I had neglected and needed to think about. When my father found out that I had visited a church, he threatened to disown me. So I stopped going to church and kept the Christian God in my heart.

During my university days, I wanted to explore the various religions to find out who the real God was. Where did we come from? Evolution? Cave men? Aliens? I used to go to the library in the National University of Singapore to read up about Christianity and Buddhism but I never arrived at any conclusion.

The Navigators gave me scripture memory cards which I memorised on the bus everyday. John 14:27, in particular, helped me through my Economics examination. As a result of the panic of being late for the examination, I forgot all I had studied. It was only the peace and calm that John 14:27 brought which enabled me to recall the content I had studied. That was when I started thinking that a simple faith in God was something that cannot be figured out intellectually.

PRAYER IS POWERFUL



Mary June Wayong

Our eldest son, Joshua, had attended TMC Kindergarten. That's how we started to attend TMC's Sunday services.

2017 was a very challenging year for me.

I suffered depression. I felt hopeless, useless and hurt most of the time. I was always crying and feeling worthless and unloved. I suffered a lot of pain mentally, emotionally and physically. I couldn't sleep well, and went to different clinics for check-ups.

I was very blessed to have a patient husband who showed me understanding in that situation. He looked after me, and reminded me to be strong.

He prayed for me, especially when I could not sleep at night. I always slept better after he prayed. Prayer is really powerful.

We encountered much hardship as a family, but my husband remained strong and always told me to have faith in Jesus.

I have become more positive and happier. I trust in the promises of our dear God. I have recovered and am back to a normal life.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jer 29:11)

After graduation, my goal was to do well in my job and earn a high income. It was a great accomplishment to be able to give my mum half of my monthly salary. I felt heartened to see my mum happy as she had worked hard to bring us up, and I was the only child who could go to University. Now I know it was by God's grace that I was blessed with a good mind to do well in my studies.

The Lord also provided me with good opportunities to work in well-known multi-national companies, and gave me success in my 34-year career. He provided me with lovely parents-in-law who took good care of my four daughters during my long office hours and frequent business trips. He gave me faithful protection during my overseas business trips.

During a trip to New Zealand in Nov 18, my husband and I decided to blaze a jungle trail to see the river rapids. We lost our way, and realized that we needed to walk down a deep valley off the beaten track. We were worried about the convoluted long-distance walk back to the main entrance which would take us up and down wooden steps, pebbles and mountain footpaths. With the sky darkening, my husband and I held hands tightly as we walked sideways down the valley like crabs. We went very slowly as any slip could be treacherous.

I started praying loudly for God to send someone to guide us. Suddenly, against the dimming blue skyline, we saw a local couple walking in our direction. They promised to guide us out to the main road through a shorter route after they had a quick glimpse of the rapids. True to their word, they returned quickly and even offered to drive us down the mountain, saving us an hour's walk back to town.

I told my husband and daughters that we had met two guardian angels that day, and it was a testimony of God's grace and love. We were saved and helped in our time of need.

Because of God's goodness, I feel that it is time for me to be baptised and walk closer with him.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Eph 2:8-9)



EXPERIENCING GOD FOR MYSELF



Joshua Lim

I was baptised as an infant. As a child, I attended church with my parents.

During one of the youth camps, I felt the presence of God. It wasn't something I could experience just by following my parents to church on Sunday.

It changed how I felt about believing in God.

I started serving in the audio-visual ministry. Eventually I joined the Youth Ministry, and helped out at youth camps and other events.

As I continued to serve in church, I became surer that I wanted God to have a permanent influence on my life.

**Margaret and Mary will be baptised at TMC on Christmas Day 19
while Joshua will be confirmed at TMC on Christmas Day 19**

A Conversation with God - The Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting



Lim Sue Yien

Dear God

Today they invited me to attend the church prayer meeting again.

TMC has had this mid-week prayer meeting for as long as I can remember. It's so good that it exists.

As you know God, we're all gifted in different ways, so it's such a comfort to know that these prayer warriors with the gift of intercession are praying for us all.

As for me, my ministry is in teaching/serving communion/evangelism/missions/comforting souls, and so I should do what I do best. As you taught us in the Bible, each of us can contribute in our own ways using our unique gifts to build up the body of Christ.

Of course, prayer is so important to our spiritual journey with you, God. How many times have I experienced your presence, both comforting and uplifting to my soul, through praying and being prayed for. And the times my faith has been strengthened by seeing you answer prayers, both big and small, in my life and in others around me.

But I don't need to go to the church prayer meeting to pray.

I can do it at home, following my own schedule, in my own way, because frankly, they use a lot of strange language in these meetings and they pray so loudly.

Thank you for understanding God, as you always do, why I'll be staying at home this Wednesday night.

With much love,
Worshipper at TMC

Dear Worshipper at TMC

Yes, I do understand that everyone is pressed for time. No hard feelings as usual.

My good and faithful servant, I have heard the prayers that you utter in solitude. I see the sacrifices you have made for me and for this church which I love.

Personal prayer is vital to your relationship with me. Jesus often retreated by himself, spending his most intense intercessory time with me alone.

However, there is an important place for corporate prayer too.

When asked how you should pray, Jesus did begin with "OUR Father in heaven", and there's "Give US this day OUR daily bread" too. A part of your prayer life is meant to be experienced together.

Many great miracles happened only after Israel had prayed and fasted together – you see, in the Book of Joel, I destroyed the locusts and ended the famine after Israel gathered together and repented from their sin.

And what about Nineveh?

I sent Jonah there using ... let's call it unconventional transport, and he made them see their folly. "But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God." They prayed and fasted. And I did relent.

Then there was the amazing defeat of the enemies of Judah with Jehoshaphat's prayer prelude in 2 Chronicles 20, after "Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord."

Do you need a more recent example? Go read the book "Fresh Wind Fresh Fire" by Jim Cymbala. In the book, Jim tells of how he inherited a church of 20 worshippers in Brooklyn in the 1970s. It was a broken-down church in an inner city riddled with crime and poverty.

He realised that he could not go on the same old way. He started a weekly prayer meeting. With much perseverance through the years, the Brooklyn Tabernacle has grown to a congregation of 10,000 with an award-winning gospel choir. Today, they still pray together as a church every Tuesday night, in a meeting attended by several thousands!

Back to TMC's humble prayer meeting on a Wednesday night. It is attended by about 14 faithful souls. The larger meeting on the third Wednesday of each month sees the pastors and leaders in attendance as well.

TMC was built upon the faithful prayers of its pioneers. Today, this legacy continues with this group of individuals who believes that prayer can move things at TMC.

You made a good point about people exercising their gifts for the kingdom. Do you know that the Prayer Committee prays before every church service and every Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) meeting? It also does prayer walks around the estate, before and during church camp, and every other camp or significant event which happens in our church.

They also run the PrayerNet service for everyone in church who needs prayer. That is indeed exercising gifts to the glory of the kingdom.

The church prayer meeting isn't only about that kind of labour though. It is for anyone who feels led to attend and wants to pray for the church and its members who have asked for prayer. It is also for those wanting to experience a deeper prayer life with others in community, just like learning the bible in the Community Bible Experience (CBE). Like CBE, there is no need to do any homework beforehand!

If you want great things to happen at TMC - which I'm sure you do, and I do too - come together to pray for it.

Yours truly,
God



“

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

You can tell how popular a church is by who comes on Sunday morning. You can tell how popular the pastor or evangelist is by who comes on Sunday night.
But you can tell how popular Jesus is by who comes to the prayer meeting.

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire

”

The church prayer meeting takes place every Wednesday, 8-10pm, in the Prayer Chapel. On the third Wednesday of the month, it takes place in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. No sign ups needed.

COMMUNITY BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Community Bible Experience (CBE) was a 12-week journey of going deeper in Christ through His Word, and deeper in community. It was about gathering as a community around the Bible, and experiencing God through His Word and through His community.

Intended to be an interactive and practical experience, those who participated walked away learning to exegete (analyse the text through studying its language, grammar, historical and cultural background) and exposit (open the text to understand meaning and implications) the biblical text as a primary source, without the help of a study guide or study questions.

155 people turned up at the first session on 20 Jun. Here are some testimonies from some of the participants.

When my small group, Vineyard, suggested suspending our regular fortnightly meetings to attend CBE together, I was open but apprehensive on what to expect.

Despite my reservations, I attended CBE with my existing disciple group. God, as always, came through with more lessons and revelations than I can count.

CBE is not your average bible study which focusses on learning from other participants, or from a single teacher.

CBE made learning richer without losing the intimacy of disciple groups.

With community and discipling relationships as a focus, the lessons and conclusions discussed at the disciple group were shared with the rest of the community.

I enjoyed seeing how my “seniors” in the Christian walk interpreted the bible passages and underlying ideas each week. As I listened to the sharing from other, generally older, groups, it hammered home this lesson: that God has given us one another to strengthen the church (Eph 4:11-12)

As we observed and discussed the passage in our disciple groups, the often differing perspectives and opinions within the group revealed things which a bible student alone might overlook. As my group mates and I explored one another’s perspectives on the passages, I got to learn more about them.

My small group is making the shift from reading Christian books to studying the Bible. The skills learnt from CBE equipped us for our new focus. The tools used in CBE have given me greater confidence in studying the bible, both in a small group setting and alone.



Daniel Gwee

CBE gave me a fresh encounter with Scripture.

The first two sessions might have been off-putting for some of us because we were not too sure about the "how" and "what" of CBE; however, things got easier and smoother after that.

Each meeting reminded me of a book club discussion.

There we were sitting and enjoying the fellowship, much laughter and interesting conversations about Ephesians. CBE certainly ignited verbal participation in the different groups.

CBE pointed to a practical method of reading and engaging ourselves in the Word of God and moving into a deeper relationship with God and His Word, and with one another.

- Elizabeth Lim

CBE was certainly a new and enriching experience for us - a tool that could help us delve further into the Word, appreciating the elements that we can look for in a Bible passage, and using the Bible Hub app which Pastor Alvin shared with us! The icing on the cake was the final session led by Reverend Dinesh himself.

My small group eagerly gathered for the fellowship dinner, made new friends, and then tried our best to work through the structure, etc. based on the techniques. We encouraged one another in the discussions, shared and appreciated one another's viewpoints. Over the weeks, we realised that God has equipped us with different giftings to work as a group of fellow learners.

"Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people." (Eph 6:18, CEV) I have been involved in the prayer teams in some programmes, and am also currently praying for some of our friends. So this verse was of particular importance for me.

- James Tang





Alex

When Pastor Byron first took us through the CBE, it was mind-boggling to say the least - structure, point, tone, purpose, application. Few of us would have thought to study the Bible in such a structured manner!

As the weeks went by, it became second nature. All around me, people were quickly counting the repeated phrases, dividing passages into sub-sections, figuring out the point and tone, and finally deciphering what the practical applications were.

The success of any programme is its lasting effect. I think the biggest impact was how the lessons translated into practice within my small group. Those of us who had attended CBE unconsciously began applying the methods to study Bible passages beyond Ephesians, and bringing along the rest of those who did not attend the CBE. The post-CBE evidence certainly points to something good going on.

“TMC is organising a 12-week Community Bible Experience (CBE) on the book of Ephesians. I have signed our small group up,” my small group leader announced.

At CBE, we were given the “cooking ingredients” (i.e. the five-step bible exposition method). It didn’t come naturally to me and I suspect, many in my small group.

I stared blankly at the verses and thought hard about the first step – structure - the most important step. But I couldn’t pen anything down. Nevertheless, with the guidance of the church leaders, my small group pushed on and managed to go through the verses step by step. There were differences in our views, and it was encouraging to know that this was not unexpected. God does indeed speak to us in different ways.

I went to the first session with an open mind. But I went to the second session feeling somewhat apprehensive. I felt like my close to 30 years of bible study had been thrown out of the door. Had I not read and studied the Bible correctly all this while?

With an obedient heart, trusting God, I allowed our good Lord to teach me once again. I was glad I hung on. I got better at picking out repeated words and themes, studying and deciphering the main purpose and points of Paul’s letter, and learning how to apply the teachings. As we came together to study and share as a community, the sessions also gave me an invaluable chance to meet other church members and even a visitor from another church.

I’m still far from being an expert in the bible exposition method. However, I am certain that I have improved through the weeks and have become equipped with a new bible study skill. The experience has also opened my mind to explore different methods and various resources for deeper bible study. Now, I find the Bible speaking to me. I have begun to ask questions, see beyond the surface, and better understand God’s message for His people then and His message for me now.

I have also established new friendships and deepened existing relationships through studying God’s Word together as a community. As a Chen Su Lan Home care group volunteer, the CBE has empowered me with some bible study exposition skills, enabling me to share God’s Word and message with the children I care for with greater confidence.



Esther Khor

EVENTS

Tues 3 Dec

3.00pm | Youth Avenue nerf games

Fri 6 Dec

9.00am | Youth Avenue cycling

Sat 7 Dec

4.30pm | BLESS: Christmas pot-luck for seniors
Golden Ginger

10.00am | Youth Avenue Leaders
Captains' Development I
www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123

Tues 10 Dec - Thurs 12 Dec

Youth Avenue Camp

Thurs 12 Dec

9.00am | BLESS: A Tot-ful Morning
Christmas Celebration
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm; www.facebook.com/atotfulmorning

Sat 14 Dec

10.00am | Youth Avenue Leaders
Captains' Development II

11.00am | BLESS a child from Chen Su
Lan Methodist Children's Home with
Christmas Shopping

11.00am | Youth Avenue Leaders
Captains' Development III

1.00pm | Youth Avenue Leaders
Captains' Development IV

3.00pm | GYM Thanksgiving

Tue 17 Dec

3.00pm | Youth Avenue indoor sports

Wed 18 Dec - Sat 21 Dec

FEARLESS Youth Camp
www.facebook.com/fearlessgryouth

Sat 21 Dec

9.30am | BLESS: Antioch Toa Payoh
Christmas blessings

10.00am | Youth Avenue Leaders
Captains' Development II

7.00pm | Youth Avenue Christmas party

Sun 22 Dec

9.00am | BLESS: Christmas party at
Institute of Mental Health

10.00am | BLESS: Christmas party for
domestic helpers

Wed 25 Dec

9.00am | Christmas Day Service with
baptism of infants and adults

Thur 26 Dec

10.00am | BLESS: Christmas party at St
Luke's Eldercare Centre

Sat 28 Dec

6.00pm | BLESS: Young Adults' Christmas
party

Tue 31 Dec

10.30pm | Wesleyan Covenant Renewal
Watchnight Service

Fri 10 Jan

GYM Lunar New Year Shopping

Sun 12 Jan

Reception of new members

Sat 18 Jan

8.00am | First Local Conference

Every Sat

4.30pm | The Saturday Service (with
Holy Communion on 3rd Sat)
Emmanuel Hall

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/
yvonnnetangb@gmail.com
www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh

Every 2nd Monday

11.30am | Line Dancing

Every Wed (not 25 Dec, 1 Jan)

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 (not 28 Nov, 19 and 26 Dec)

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 24 Jan)

8.00 - 10.00pm | Healing Ministry at the
Prayer Chapel

Every 1st Fri

9.15am | WSCS Bible Study

Every 3rd Fri

2.00pm | Line Dancing

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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