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SALTSHAKER

CONTENTS

4 SMALL GROUP
CONFERENCE 2008



6 CHURCH CAMP 2008



10 NIC AT NIGHT



12 FIVE LOAVES TWO FISH



16 TMC BIRTHDAY POP QUIZ



Called to be a Community in Christ and Christ in the World

By Rev Dianna Khoo

In 2009, Trinity Methodist Church (TMC) will enter into the next phase of growth. We shall look for concrete ways to expand God's ministry. To achieve this, we need to discuss the use of our facilities, finances and other business aspects of maintaining a ministry. These are important and necessary discussions because we are to be good stewards of what God has given us. However, if we are not careful, our focus will be on those things and we will be drawn away from the purpose to which we have been called.

Acts 2:42-47 is a definitive description of a community of believers. When the first church began, that was what she set out to do, these were her purposes. The church:

- Worshipped God
- Met together in relationship with one another
- Grew spiritually
- Served one another by meeting needs
- Reached out to others and gathered them into the life of the church.

The key activities were worship, fellowship, growth, ministry and evangelism.

EXALT - Connect to God

The very first thing, the most important thing to do with our lives is to worship God. Worshipping God is not just about going to church and singing a few songs. Worshipping God means putting Him first in our lives. We are to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37-38). God wants a relationship with us and for that relationship to be first in our lives. Our highest priority is to love and know God.

TMC as a church wants to exalt God. We want to provide worship encounters and relational experiences that will help all of us to be more fully connected to God. We want to worship God not only in our activities, but also in the way we plan our programmes, spend our money and use our facilities.



EMBRACE - Connect to Each Other

While exalt refers to our relationship with God, embrace is our relationship with our neighbours, the people we serve with in ministry and meet together with in small groups. "We are all parts of his one body... we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others" (Romans 12:5). The verse says that we need each other, and that God designed it in that way.

TMC is a community that takes steps to build relationships with others, and not just wait for others to come to us. We show hospitality to family, friends, colleagues and strangers when we invite them to eat with us. In doing so, we invite them to first belong in our community, and then lead them to believe in the truths of the gospel.

EXTEND - Connect to Others

Extend is that part of our lives which is lived beyond ourselves. This is seen in evangelism, when we share the good news of what God has done with others; and missions when we go overseas in partnership with believers there. We serve others beyond our own backyard and comfort zones in outreach and social concerns. Jesus prayed to God the Father that his disciples would go into mission in the world in his footsteps: "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world" (John 17:8).

TMC has done, and continues to do, some incredible things. Though we can praise God for these fruits, we must never stop giving to others. Rather, we continue to be open to opportunities to care for people as Jesus did. We must be Christ to the world.

Intentional Living – Being Christ to the World

Church is not just about worship, ministry or even outreach. Rather, it's about how we live our whole life. We need to lead balanced lives and consider where and what we are investing in each of these areas, as individuals, as families and small groups, and as a whole church.

"As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Jesus had travelled all over Palestine, teaching and healing many people. But when it was time, he turned his face toward Jerusalem, toward certain suffering and death. He "resolutely set out" to fulfill his purpose and did not allow himself to be distracted or delayed. Jesus knew what he was called to do.

Church is not only about buildings and programmes. It's about people. And we must intentionally keep it that way. We are called to be a community, to live as Christ in the midst of a sinful and dying world. Therefore, our life in this community is our witness, bringing light and hope to all we connect with.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

TMC's Communications Ministry is on the lookout for:

Designers

to do layout for Saltshaker, church publicity collaterals & website

Writers

to write for the Saltshaker, church publicity collaterals & ad hoc projects

Editors

to edit the Saltshaker

Webmasters

to assist our web team

If you would like to join us, do contact the church office at 6282 4443 or Kiem Kiok at kiemkiok@gmail.com / 92353784.

Saltshaker

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在主内成为一个社群， 在世界中活出基督

文 邱宜观牧师

2009 年，卫理公会三一堂将步入另一成长阶段，我们将寻找更具体方法来扩展上帝的事工。要达到这个目的，我们需要对如何利用我们的设备、财务及其它关于维持事工的问题进行讨论。这些问题是重要的并且有必要进行探讨，因为我们要将上帝交托给我们的掌舵事务做好。如果我们不小心，我们就将会把集中力关注在那些偏离神原先招呼我们应做的事情。

使徒行传2章42 - 47节对信徒社群下了确定性的描述。当第一个教会初始的时候，这就是教会应做的事，这就是教会的目的。教会应：

- 敬拜上帝
- 彼此聚集在一起并建立彼此间的关系
- 在灵里成长
- 彼此服侍、照顾彼此需要
- 向他人伸出双手，将他们带入信仰生活中

教会的主要活动是崇拜、团契、成长、事奉和宣道。

晋升 - 与神的联系

我们生活中最重要的第一件事情就是敬拜神。敬拜神不只是到教会去唱几首诗歌而已。敬拜神是将祂摆放在自己生活中的首要位子。你要尽心、尽性、尽意爱主你的神（马太22：37-38）。神要与我们有一个亲密的关系，并且这个关系在我们生活中是首位的。我们最优先要做的就是爱神和认识神。

三一堂是一家要与神更亲近的教会。我们要通过提供崇拜机会和关系体验来帮助大家与神有更进一步和更完全的关系。我们不只通过我们的活动来敬拜神，也要计划我们的工作，妥善安排我们的资金投入和好好利用我们的设备。

拥抱 - 彼此之间的联系

在我们晋升自己与神的关系的同时，我们也要与我们的邻居、事奉工作中的弟兄姐妹相互拥抱，并通过小组聚集在一起。“我们这许多人，在基督里成为一身，互相联络做肢体，也是如此”（罗马书12：5）。这段经节说的是我们互相需要对方，这是神所设定的。



三一堂是一个采取程序步骤来建立彼此相互关系的社群，而不是守候着他人来伸向我们的社群。当我们邀请家庭、朋友、同事及陌生人来共餐饮时，我们向他们表示友好。这么做，我们是首先邀请他们到我们的社群来，然后带领他们相信福音中的真理。

延伸 - 与他人联系

延伸是我们生活中超越我们自己的那一部分。我们在传福音过程中可以看到，例如当我们分享神在别人身上作为的好消息时候，当我们到国外去宣道的时候。我们在自己本分外和舒适环境外服侍他人，我们在这些范围里关心社会中的他人。耶苏向神祷告，求神让使徒们跟随祂的脚步到世界各地去传福音：“因为你所赐给我的道，我已经赐给他们。”（约翰福音17：8）。

三一堂已经完成了，并还将继续进行，一些令人难以置信的事。我们赞美上帝赐给我们这些收获，我们也必须不断地将成果分发给别人。就如神所做的，我们应继续对关怀人们的机会保持敞开态度。我们要让世人看到基督活在我们里面。

有目的的生活 - 活出基督

教会不只是关于敬拜、事奉或甚至是传福音。而是关于：我们应如何过好我们的整个生活。我们需要有一个平衡的生活，并且要考虑我们应如何以个人、家庭和小组及整个教会的角色在各个领域中作出投入。

“耶苏被接上升的日子将到，他就定意向耶路撒冷去”（路加福音9：51）。耶苏去走了整个巴勒斯坦去教导和医治了许多人。但时候一到，他就面对着耶路撒冷，面对受难和死亡。他“定意”“要完成他的目的，不允许自己分心或推迟。耶苏知道他被招的原因。

教会不只是关于建筑物和计划。而是关于人。我们必须定意这么做。我们既然被招形成了一个社群，就要在罪恶和死亡的世界中活出基督。因此，我们在这个社群中的生活就是我们的见证，为的是要在与它联系的过程中带给它亮光和希望。

SMALL GROUP CONFERENCE 2008 KOINONIA

By Lim Sue Yien

A new and unique experience awaited participants of the inaugural Small Group Conference organised by TMC, held over a Friday and Saturday, on 25 to 26 Jul 08. The conference attracted more than 120 participants from TMC, Aldersgate Methodist Church and Pentecost Methodist Church.

Some signed up because they wanted to gain insights from the keynote speaker Dr Christine Pohl - an authority on Christian hospitality and community - of Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Some signed up because the workshops sounded interesting. For example, "Living and Dying Well" conducted by former TMC pastor the Reverend Lim Jen Huat did catch some attention! Others simply tagged along with their small groups.

Whatever it was that brought members and friends to this conference, their time was well spent focusing on subject matters that we Christians do not normally talk or think about. As commented by Dr Pohl, things such as promise keeping, truth telling, gratitude and hospitality are vital to sustaining healthy community life. However, these practices are like beams in a home that generally go unnoticed until they fall down, or are broken down by betrayal, exclusion or deception. Despite the challenges, living in a Christian community is not optional. We are baptised into a community of believers, and as Jesus lived and engaged in his own community, so we are called to do likewise.

Methodists stress the importance of small groups because of John Wesley's view that holiness can be forged from the give and take of everyday interaction with people. Just as a person cannot keep warm alone, we all need holy friendships as we live together, in order to grow in maturity in Christ.

The seven workshops explored practices of being in community, and gave participants a chance to reflect on how they could fulfil their Christian responsibility through these practices. Participants were reminded that a heart of gratitude and forgiveness is the natural response to God's grace toward us. Christians should guard against grumbling or the attitude of entitlement which is so pervasive in Singapore society today.



The popular notion of the Sabbath as merely a time for rest was challenged by the Reverend Dr Tan Soo Inn. He reminded us that if we rest only because we need to, then we would never respect the Sabbath for what God had intended it. Sabbath is a time for us to obey God's pattern of life not ours, to remember that we are a free people and not slaves to our work, and to look forward to an eternal rest in God that we as believers can enjoy.

Some practices, like truth telling and promise keeping are challenges that we need to overcome, especially in an Asian context where we may be too afraid to offend, or we may not know how to say "no".

In addition to talks and workshops, a key feature of this conference was eating together! Surely many found it a relief to know practising hospitality is not too difficult at all. For instance, sharing a meal together around a table is one easy way to model hospitality. Everyone got to fellowship together during lunch and the *tok panjang* style dinner where dishes are served communally and participants were encouraged to sit with people they were not familiar with to share meaningful conversation at the dining table.

It was a day filled with enriching teaching, allowing us to focus on important but often overlooked aspects of our Christian life together, and of course not to forget the all important practical application and great TMC pastime -- eating together! So, if you missed this year's conference, be sure to attend the next one!

Audio tapes of the talks are available at the Resource Centre on level two.



小组座谈会2008



文 Lim Sue Yien

一个崭新和独特的体验正等待着由三一堂组织发起的小组座谈会。这个座谈会是在2008年7月25至26日（周五及六）举行。会议吸引了超过120名来自三一堂、雅德门、卫理公会五旬节堂的参加者。

一些人报名是为了要向主讲者，克里丝丁●伯尔博士(Dr. Christine Pohl)，学习了解更多的知识。来自美国肯特基 (Kentucky) 阿斯博礼神学院 (Asbury Theological Seminary) 的伯尔博士是一位基督徒款待和社群方面的权威专家。另一些人报名是觉得工作坊有趣。例如，由前三一堂牧师 Lim Jen Huat 牧师主持的“美好生死”就吸引了不少注意力！其余的人仅只紧随着小组参与了会议。

不管是什么原因把会友和朋友们带到这个会议来，他们都将时间放在我们基督徒平常不讨论或很少思考的一些问题上。正如伯尔博士所说的，一些东西例如：遵守承诺、坦白、感激和款待他人等对保持一个健康的社群生活是重要的。然而，这些就象是顶梁柱一样的习惯一般上都不为人所知，至到它们垮落下来或通过背叛、排挤或欺骗等等瓦解消失。尽管情形是这样，基督徒社群生活并不是一种随意性的选择。我们受洗进入了一个信徒的社群，因为基督活着并参与着祂的社群，所以我们要照着祂的榜样做。

卫理公会信徒强调了小组的重要性，因为约翰卫斯理认为圣洁是可以通过人与人之间日常交往的互让中获得。但就如取暖一样不能只单靠一人而得，因为我们过的是积聚生活的，所以我们都需要圣洁的友谊，好让我们可以在基督里长大成熟。

七天的工作坊探讨了可以在社群里实施的安排，让参加者有机会反馈他们可以如何通过这些实施办法来完成他们身为基督徒的责任。参加者也被提醒拥有一颗感恩和谅解他人的心是我们对上帝恩赐的一种自然反应。基督徒应该对抱怨或权利有所提防，目前这些心态已普遍深入到新加坡社会里。

Tan Soo Inn博士认为：世人对安息日的看法是抱着通俗态度，认为安息日只不过是一个休假时间。他提醒我们如果我们只是需要在休假日休息，那我们不会按神的意愿来遵守安息日的。安息日是人顺从神而不是我们自己生命道路的时间，要记得我们如今是一个自由的人，而不是我们工作的奴隶，信徒所期盼享受的永恒安息应在神里面的。

一些习惯，例如：说实话和遵守承诺都是我们需要战胜的挑战，尤其是在亚洲，我们可能会害怕得罪人，或者我们可能不知道如何说“不”。

除了讲座和工作坊，会议中的一个主要特写是共餐！显然许多人发现了款待他人实际上不是那么困难的一件事。例如：围桌共餐是款待他人的一种简单方法。每个人在午餐时刻一起相互团契交流，还有那种长桌式共享菜肴的晚餐，我们鼓励用餐者尽量与不熟悉的人士同桌共餐，在餐桌上分享有意义的交谈话题。

这是富有教育意义的一天，它让我们一起集中探讨一些基督徒共同生活中重要但经常被忽略的事，当然我们也没忘记执行所有的重要习惯及三一堂的重要消遣活动——一起共餐！如果你错过了今年的会议，下次就一定要参加哦！

二楼的 Resource Centre 能提供有关的录像带。



Reflections of an Anti-Camp Camper

Church Camp 6-9 Jun 2008

By Amanda Yong



I am not what you would call a “camp person”.

Camps – be they school camps, youth ministry camps, Extra Curricular Activity (ECA) camps as they were known in the bad ol’ 80s and 90s, and even dare I say church camps – were always to be endured rather than enjoyed.

I was, more often than not, the rather unenthusiastic camper dragging my feet as the whistle blew calling everyone to gather for games or the reluctant participant who would try my best to skive especially when it came to the more gruelling activities that I felt demanded too much of my sluggish, phlegmatic teenage self.

And, while I grew older and wiser (or so I would like to think), my attitude towards camps had not altered very much in the years since I left school. Hence, it was with some hesitation that I signed up, or rather, was signed up (by my mum of course) for the church camp this year.

Truth be told, to “psych” myself up for the camp, I decided to look upon the camp as a break from work, family bonding time, and at the very least as a chance to get my fill of the one-of-a kind chendol found only on Jonkers Street in Malacca where the camp was to be held. Yes, the truth is out. People do have various covert reasons for attending church camp (take note, future camp committees!)

Well, what a difference a camp makes.

Not that I am now a pro-camp convert! But, this year’s church camp was admittedly more pleasure than pain. And that, I suppose, speaks volumes coming from an anti-camp camper.

What, you may ask, was so different about this year’s church camp?

The laid-back slacker in me cherished the slower pace of the overall camp programme, which I believe was intentional as it gelled perfectly with the camp theme “Connect 3” that was fleshed out in the sub-themes:

Communion - Connect to God

Community - Connect to Ourselves

Commission - Connect to Others.

During the four-day camp, along with the other campers, I slowed down, stilled my heart, and listened to God – through the sermons of the much-anointed Reverend Dr Mark Chan, the fellowship and encouragement of fellow campers, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit as I prayed and worshipped in private moments and alongside other believers.

I learnt that the hurly burly of everyday life whether at work or play, which results in the frenzied compulsion to “get on with it” (as Rev Dr Chan would say), is a symptom of “hurry sickness”, a disease that not only leads to transactional, pragmatic and business-like relationships, but also leaves no room for contemplation and communion with God that would allow one to truly discern God’s call on one’s life.



I learnt that God's people are to be a compassionate, committed and contagious community, that a life that counts is a life that is marked by faithfulness to Christ, absolute abandonment and spiritual fruitfulness. God wants us to make the most of our time and opportunities, pour out our lives as a drink offering to Him, and break away from conforming to conventional world views and instead make a radical commitment to His Great Commission.



I learnt that Spiritual Friendship is a vital part of the Christian life and that God has blessed us and longs to bless us with friends of whom we may be inspired to say, "What a Jesus we have in friends!"

Indeed, while I found the sermons and group discussions hearty fare for my soul, the generous amounts of free time allotted to the campers allowed me to also reflect on the Word as preached by Rev Dr Chan. Of course, I also relished the fact that I had enough free time to connect with other campers of all ages during the (gasp!) games, shopping jaunts, and pilgrimage to Jonkers Street for chendol that is simply to die for.

This reflection shall now end, as it began, on a personal note.

There was, for me, a specific and utterly unforgettable moment during the camp when I felt that very special "connection" that the camp was supposed to be about.

It was that instant when I received and read the little note that was given to each camper on the first day of the camp. The words on each piece of notepaper were not thoughtlessly scribbled. In fact, we were told that before the camp, the camp committee had met to pray and to seek a Word from the Lord for each individual camper who had signed up, and that they had taken the time to write personalised words of encouragement and exhortation.

Mine read:

"God knows the plans He has for you. Put your trust in Him."

These words, like no other, were at that particular time in my life a balm to my soul, a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. God ministered to my heart through the faithful obedience and selfless giving of my fellow brothers and sisters in the camp committee. It was truly a connection like no other.



Post-camp, suffice to say that I can testify with great joy and absolute certainty that God's Word does not return to Him void, but accomplishes His purposes for which He sent it. To God Be the Glory.

The TMC church camp was held on 6-9 Jun 08 at the Holiday Inn Melaka. The powerpoint slides and podcasts of Rev Dr Mark Chan's sermons are available on the church website www.tmc.org.sg.

看啊!弟兄(姐妹)和睦相处是何等的善 何等的美 - 诗133:1

CHURCH CAMP 6-9 Jun 2008

大家一定不会忘记 在营会中 每日叁餐的丰盛

弟兄姊妹陆陆续续坐满一张一张准备好的餐桌
谈话嘻笑的声音 不绝於耳
耳边时常不经意的听到
啊 真是感谢主 讚美主
每一桌 每一个人
都带着 一种饱足的笑容

满桌的饭菜香 伴随着一声声对神的感谢与讚美 洋溢在 Holiday Inn 的空气中
我是你们的主、你们的夫子、尚且洗你们的脚、你们也当彼此洗脚。

-----约13:14

我赐给你们一条新命令、乃是叫你们彼此相爱。我怎样爱你们、你们也要怎样相爱。

你们若有彼此相爱的心、众人因此就认出你们是我的门徒了。

-----约13:34-35

在第二天的早晨
传道和传道娘 为委员们洗脚
后
委员也为会众洗

看起来只是一个仪式
但我们在其中的人 都领受
神的爱 在当中涌流
祂的爱 分散到每一个
洗脚的 以及被洗的人心裡

但圣灵降临在你们身上、你们就必得着能力、
并要在耶路撒冷、犹太全地、和撒玛利亚、直
到地极、作我的见证。---徒1:8

神 在我们每个人的心裡 都预备了 对圣灵的渴慕

在聚会中
在个人的交谈中
不断的发现 -----

神 在我们这些门徒身上

给予着 相同的 负担 和 使命

感谢神 藉着圣灵的感动 使我们有合一的异象

愿 神的旨意 可以 在我们这属祂的器皿身上
畅行无阻

一些自己的话

谢谢神 让我在新加坡

拥有一个属灵的家

在我最困难时

谢谢 神 安排你们在我的身

边

-----敏志





BACKSTAGE

Nic at Night

Saltshaker takes a sneak behind-the-scenes peek at the making of the musical...

By Noelle Yong



"Nic at Night, here's the story of Nic at Night..."

Two girls making funny faces at one corner, four boys playing air kung fu at another, lead actors busy rehearsing their lines, the choir singing along boisterously - this is all in a day's work at the Nic at Night rehearsals.



With the objective of reaching out to other children and their families, the Children's Ministry practised for Nic at Night, a musical based on the story of Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus and how he chose to seek, believe and serve Him despite criticisms from the other Pharisees.

The children have been rehearsing the songs to be sung during the musical at their respective 8.45 am and 11.15 am sessions on Sundays. They all then come together to rehearse the musical as a whole at 2 pm.

VIP AC

AGE PASS

During such sessions, you get to see the hard work, dedication, faith and patience of the adult helpers involved. As Karen Tan, the director of the production, says, "It is not easy to be optimistic about the musical when the children forget their lines or are not too enthusiastic but we just got to have faith that God will continue to lead us."



The children, too, give their best despite some reluctance and apprehension on their part. When asked about what she thought of her role as the narrator, Ruth Koh said: "I've been protesting for the past two weeks but they still refuse to change my role." However, Ruth was still diligently reading through the script and preparing for her role during the rehearsals.

Just like Nicodemus, this endeavour is indeed a testament of the Children's Ministry's obedience to God's call despite the many challenges faced.

Nic at Night was presented on 30 Aug 08 at the TMC Worship Hall. Look out for coverage of the musical in the next issue of Saltshaker!



ACCESS ONLY

Five Loaves and Two Fish

TMC Fundraising Dinner

@ Orchard Hotel



By Chng Bee Peng

The TMC Fundraising Dinner was held at Orchard Hotel on 1 Aug 08, and what a grand night it was! With more than 500 guests in attendance, the ballroom was packed with church members and guests dressed to the nines for a night of wonderful dining, good music and warm fellowship.

The evening kicked off with a speech from Pastor Dianna Khoo, at the end of which, each table was presented with a basket of “Five Loaves and Two Fish”, comprising five buns and two fish-shaped cakes, as part of the traditional first course.

The first performance of the night was an adorable handbells performance by the children from TMC Kindergarten, followed by two video presentations showcasing TMC’s history and ministries, and a personal testimony from Ms Angie Tan. Guests were also treated to musical performances by our church members Serene Chew and Irene Ooi throughout the dinner.



The highlight of the evening was the live auction, where the most sought after item up for grabs was a pair of Grandstand tickets to the inaugural Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix in September 2008. After several rounds of exciting bidding, the tickets were finally sold for the princely sum of \$2,950 to the highest bidder. While it may have been rather nerve-wracking for the bidders, it was certainly entertaining for the rest of the guests! Other items snapped up included a series of beautiful glass sculptures depicting the theme of “Five Loaves and Two Fish”, specially designed and donated by one of our church members for the dinner.

At the end of the evening, guests took home lovely key pouches sewn by the ladies of Tabitha Services, an NGO in Cambodia supported by TMC.

As at press time, more than \$425,000 had been raised through this fundraising dinner and the pledges and donations are still coming in. It is truly a testimony of God’s faithfulness, in prompting so many guests, sponsors and donors to give so generously from their hearts, exceeding all earlier expectations. Indeed, the theme of the night was wonderfully manifested through how God multiplied the efforts of the organisers to bless His church. To God be the glory, great things He has done!



248.9 GOD
HOW TO RETIRE WITHOUT RETREATING
JOHNNIE GODWIN

It's never too early to think ahead to retirement. Godwin provides practical insights on the mental and spiritual preparation that can make retirement a new beginning, a time of productivity, and truly 'life's best chapter.'

247.1 ZIG
BETTER THAN GOOD
ZIG ZIGLAR

Discover how others have risen above fear and failure to embrace the quality of life they were meant to have.

249.4 WRI
BE A GREAT PARENT
DR. NORMAN WRIGHT

Dr. H. Norman Wright skilfully outlines the strategies needed to raise disciplined children who will grow into self-sufficient, responsible adults.

248 BUF
FINISHING WELL
BOB BUFORD

Buford sought out 60 remarkable people - including Jim Collins, Peter Drucker, Roger Staubach, Ken Blanchard and Dallas Willard - and recorded their lively conversations in these pages so that they can serve as "mentors in print" for all of us.

248 ORT
IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT
JOHN ORTBERG

Consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever.

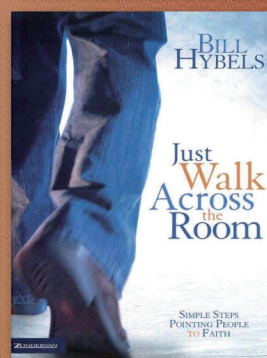
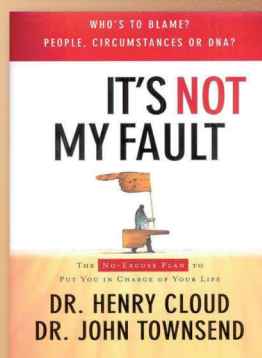
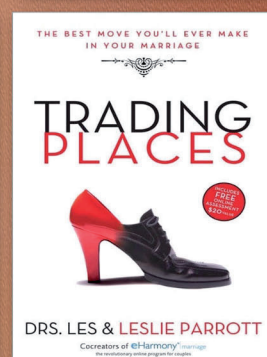
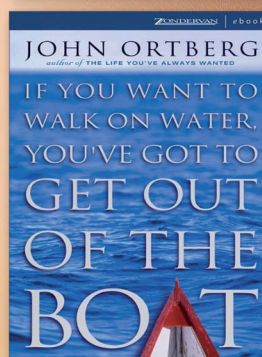
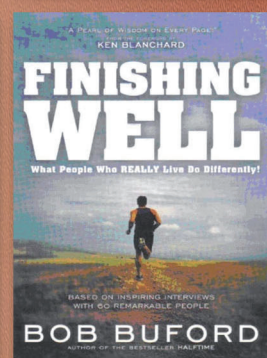
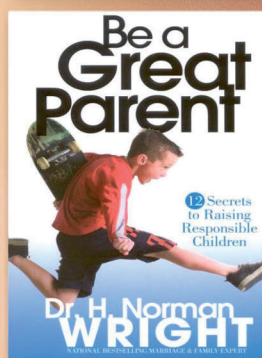
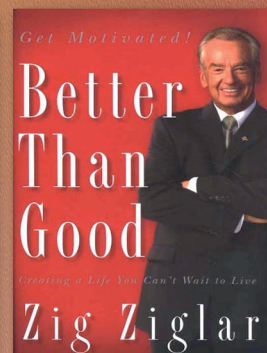
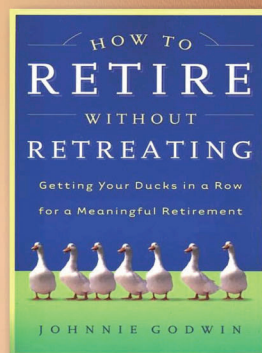
249.7 PAR
TRADING PLACES
DRS. LES & LESLIE PARROTT

To understand your spouse, you've got to walk in his or her shoes. That may sound uncomfortable or difficult, but it may just revolutionise your relationship.

247.1 CLO
IT'S NOT MY FAULT
DR. HENRY CLOUD & DR. JOHN TOWNSEND

It's Not My Fault. Who's to blame? People, circumstances or DNA? Here are some tips to put you in charge of your life.

BOOK REVIEWS



These and many other new books are available for loan from the TMC Resource Centre

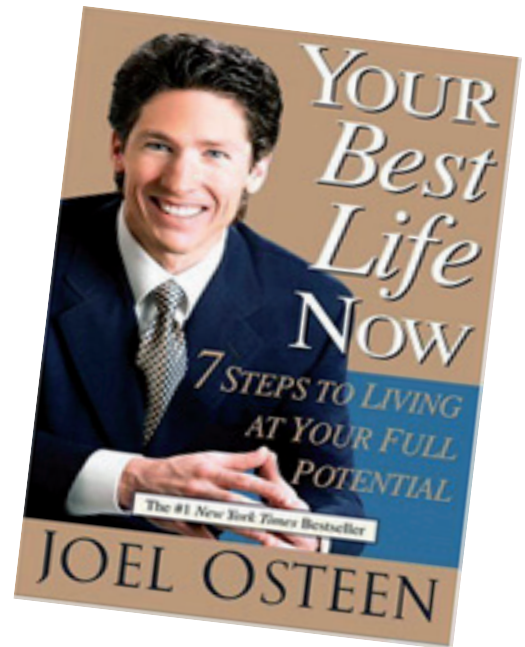
TMC Resource Centre

Your best life



By Fu Dunyi

In his 310-page book titled *Your Best Life Now*, Joel Osteen, the senior pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, provides a guide to help us live our best life today and not tomorrow, or some future date that may never come. Drawing timeless wisdom from the Bible, Osteen suggests seven steps to guide our life-long journey to live in the fullness of God's love, grace and blessing. They are: 1) enlarge your vision; 2) develop a healthy self-image; 3) discover the power of your thoughts and words; 4) let go of the past; 5) find strength through adversity; 6) live to give; and 7) choose to be happy. The book has enriched me by broadening and deepening my knowledge and understanding of the life-transforming wisdom of God's Word.



1. Enlarge Your Vision

The first step of living our best life now is to enlarge our vision. In Jeremiah 29:11, God says "For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Thus, we know that God wants the very best for us, and His plans are for our good. Surely God's plans will be much better than our own plans for ourselves.

2. Develop a Healthy Self-Image

God created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), and crowned us with glory and honour (Psalm 8:5). As His "workmanship" (Ephesians 2:10), God is continually shaping and moulding us to be the people He wants us to be, so that we be transformed into His likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18). God takes pleasure in blessing His children. As we meditate on who we are, we can put aside our feelings of worthlessness, because those who trust in the Lord will prosper (Proverbs 28:26).

3. Discover the Power of Your Thoughts and Words

The third step of living our best life is to discover the power of our thoughts and words. Our words can become self-fulfilling prophecies. Our life follows our thoughts. We can create an environment for either good or evil with our words. Therefore, focus our thoughts on the Most High God who has promised, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31). So we can do what the Apostle Paul says: "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). When our thoughts are focused on these good things of God, our lives will also reflect these qualities.

4. Let Go of the Past

We need to break free from the hurts and pains of the past. Don't let the regrets of yesterday poison and destroy the hopes and dreams of tomorrow. Let us learn to forgive those who sin against us, and so receive forgiveness from the Lord, as the Lord's Prayer promises us. Remember, our emotions follow our thoughts. "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrews 12:15).

5. Find Strength through Adversity

We can find strength through adversity. Though we may face difficult situations, the key to living a victorious Christian life is to trust in the overall sovereignty and goodness of God. To live our best life, let us learn to trust God's sovereignty even in difficult times.

Those trials test our faith, character, and endurance: "we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5: 3 – 4).

6. Live to Give

The sixth step of living our best life now is to live to give. Unfortunately, many of us today live only for ourselves. As long as we remain self-centred, we will never experience God's abundant blessings. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). When we are generous, God will also be generous with us!

If we want to reap happiness, we have to sow some 'happiness' seeds by making others happy. When we make other people happy, God will make sure that our life is filled with joy. "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

7. Choose to be Happy

Finally, we can live our best life when we choose to be happy. We can choose to be happy and enjoy the day, or we can choose to be unhappy, have a negative attitude, and feel frustrated and depressed. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Similarly, even when the apostle Paul was in prison, he could say, "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Therefore, let us enjoy our families, our friends, our health and everything in life.

Happiness is a by-product of excellence and integrity. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward" (Colossians 3:23-24).

We can be happy with who God made us to be. We don't have to compare with others. The Bible teaches us, "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to someone else," (Galatians 6:4). Be the best that we can be, then we can know the victorious life and will receive the "crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:8) which the Lord will give to all his faithful servants.

TMC'S BIRTHDAY POP QUIZ

By Eugenia Koh

It's celebration time once again as TMC turns **52**!

We rejoice at God's faithfulness through these 52 years and as we remember His goodness, we also look forward with anticipation, at how He can continue to use us to further to expand His kingdom. In line with the theme of celebration and partying comes our Saltshaker pop quiz! All good parties need some trivia so take a stab at the below and see how you fare in terms of knowing our church history by answering our who what when where why!

When

did TMC become bilingual?

23 November 2003 – The Chinese Ministry came into being. The Chinese Ministry started with a weekly Chinese fellowship held at the PLMGPS canteen. That small group of a few people has now grown to about 70.

Why

is the roof of the sanctuary shaped like a tent?

The tent-like shape of the church sanctuary, which still remains today, was inspired by the revival meetings of that era (1950s – 1960s). Revival meetings were held in tents so that the members could easily move from place to place to spread the gospel

Where

was TMC's first service held?

85 Cowdray Avenue, home of Mr. and Mrs. Tong Kum Toh

A group of young married couples from Wesley Methodist Church had set up home in the brand new Serangoon Gardens estate. They had a vision of starting a church to serve the growing community in the budding estate.

How

much was raised at TMC's first fundraising event?

The first church fundraising event was a church fair on 31 October 1959 and raised \$2,500

What

was the theme of TMC's first church camp?

An inspirational "Called to Serve" – interestingly, it was held exactly 15 years ago from this year's church camp, from 6-9 June 1983. The camp's organizers and campers at that time comprised mainly young people.

TMC IN NUMBERS

2

9 December 2002 – TMC moved out of Serangoon Garden Way and held its first worship service at Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' Primary School (PLMGPS); **28** Nov 2004 – TMC returned to Serangoon Garden Way from PLMGPS, holding our first service at 8.45am in the new church building



6

0,000 Initial cost of the land. The piece of land was purchased by the pioneer group of 28 members.



4

children who are now on the mission field with their parents. Coen and Creda are Jacob and Wai Cheng's children; Titus and Tabitha are Kevin and Claire's children.



8

0 people attended the first contemporary service held in TMC on 20 April 1986. The service was held at 8.15 am and began with 15 minutes of singspiration by Ivan Tan with the sermon by Rev Melvin Huang.

