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TRINITY
Methodist Church

MICA (P) 167/09/2008

SALTSHAKER



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Christmas Isn't Christmas Till It Happens In Your Heart

By Pastor Dianna Khoo & Pastor Bernard Chao

For many Christians, we will be celebrating Christmas in our church services and in family gatherings. And like many other Singaporeans, we will also engage in a good deal of shopping for Christmas presents, decorating of Christmas trees, and preparing of Christmas feasts.

But Christmas for many who are not Christians will be like any other public holiday.

Many, in fact, most, will not celebrate Christmas at all. Christmas will have little meaning beyond lights at Orchard Road, great discounts and sales, office gift exchanges, and perhaps, Santa Claus.

One of our Christmas songs goes, "Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart." For many of us, we've understood the song as speaking to people who have not known Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. So it is often used as a carol to introduce the gospel to relatives and guests at Christmas.

However, this song speaks to us as children of God too.

Is it possible for Christians to celebrate Christmas without Christmas happening in our hearts?

Yes. It is possible for us as Christians to grow cold in our faith, and wander away from the Lord.

While we may appear the same outwardly, both in our demeanour and our behaviour, we can change inwardly, sometimes consciously and deliberately, and at other times unconsciously or through neglect.

It is even possible for us to remain active in service, in ministry, and even in leadership – outwardly busy for the Lord, but inwardly feeling further and further from the presence of our Lord.

That is why the writer of Hebrews exhorts us to "fix your thoughts on Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1). We are also warned in this way:

"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said:

‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion.’”

(Hebrews 3:12-15)

We are given a caution against allowing sin and unbelief to turn us away from God. Be careful not to let our hearts turn “hard” and become rebellious. Instead, we are encouraged to “hold firmly” to our faith in Christ.

The apostle Paul also echoes this teaching saying:

“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:2)

Our Lord Jesus says to John in the Book of Revelation:

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:15-20)

Like the Christmas song mentioned above, we often quote Revelation 3:20 as a message for non-believers. Actually, the word in this passage is directed at the “church in Laodicea”. It is a warning also for all Christians, for all who are followers of Christ.

Jesus knows us – both our actions and our heart. He warns us against settling into a lukewarm faith. Are we settling into or have we already settled into the lukewarmness of deliberate or careless ignorance, or that of uncaring indifference?

Have we fallen into a pattern of thinking that we don’t really need Jesus? Have you become too busy for Jesus? Has something else usurped Jesus

as your most valuable possession?

We can slip away from the presence of Jesus so far that we may have not even noticed that He is not there anymore. We’ve crowded Him out of our life.

An old Sunday School song declares that “joy is the flag flown high in the castle of my heart. . .for the King is in residence there!”

Is Jesus in residence in your heart?

Would you open the door to your heart to Jesus this Christmas? Would you fling wide the gates of your life to the people that Jesus loves? Would you lift up the shutters in your life where Jesus has never been able to enter before? Would you open the windows of your perspective that the Spirit of Christ may give you a fresh vision and understanding of the world He came to save?

This Christmas, let Jesus in!



Saltshaker

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圣诞不是圣诞。。。除非它发生在你心里。

撰文：赵伟君牧师及邱宜观牧师

对许多基督徒来说，我们将通过教会崇拜及家庭聚会来欢庆圣诞节。和许多其他新加坡人一样，我们也将忙于寻购诸多的圣诞礼物、装饰圣诞树及准备圣诞大餐。

但是，圣诞节对许许多多的非基督徒来说，将仅仅是另一个公共节日而已。

许多人，事实上是绝大多数的人，根本就不庆祝圣诞节。圣诞节对他们来说除了乌节路的璀璨灯饰、百货公司的大折扣和疯狂大减价、办公室里同事间的相互交换礼物、或许再有就是圣诞老人之外，完全没有其它意义。

一首圣诞歌曲这么唱道：“圣诞不是圣诞，除非它发生在你心里”。对我们来说，我们晓得这首歌是针对以耶稣为救主的人来说的。所以这首歌经常在圣诞节时候被用作传达福音给亲戚朋友的一首圣诞颂歌。

然而，这首歌也似乎要传达一些信息给我们这些已经是神儿女的信徒。

如果圣诞不发生在基督徒的心里，他们是否也可能庆祝圣诞节呢？

是的。作为基督徒，我们的信心有可能会冷却而远离神。

我们的外表，包括我们的举止行为在内，看起来可能和平时没什么两样；可是我们的心里已经发生了变化，有时候是有意识地并刻意地，而另一些时候则是不知不觉地或疏忽地。

我们甚至可能在崇拜中、在事工上、甚至作为神的事工领导人——外表上看起来仍然是为主火热地忙呼着，但心里却感觉越来越远离神。

希伯来书的作者劝戒我们要“思想我们的耶稣”（希伯来书3：1），他作出了下列警告：

“弟兄们，你们要谨慎，免得你们中间或有人存着不信的恶心，把永生的神离弃了。总要趁着还有今日，天天彼此相劝，免得你们中间，有人被罪迷惑，心里就刚硬了。”（希伯来书 3：12 - 15）。

这里提醒我们必须谨慎于允许罪孽和不信的恶心使我们离弃神。要小心，别让我们的心“刚硬”，我们要“坚定”我们对神的信心。

使徒保罗也同样教导我们说：“并且你们若不是徒然相信，得以持守我所传给你们的，就必因这福音得救。（哥林多前书15：2）

我们的主耶稣在启示录里对约翰说：

“我知道你的行为，你也不冷也不热，我巴不得你或冷或热。你既如温水，也不冷也不热，所以我必从我口中把你吐出去。

你说：我是富足，已经发了财，一样都不缺，却不知道你是那困苦，可怜，贫穷，瞎眼，赤身的。我劝你向我买火炼的金子，叫你富足；又买白衣穿上，叫你赤身的羞耻不露出来；又买眼药擦你的眼睛，使你能看见。

凡我所疼爱的，我就责备管教他，所以你要发热心，也要悔改。看哪，我站在门外叩门，若有听见我声音就开门的，我要进到他那里去，我与他，他与我，一同坐席”。（启示录 3：15-20）

耶稣了解我们——包括我们的行为和我们的心灵。祂告诫我们不可习惯于温水般的信心。我们是否即将习惯于或已经习惯于如温水般的有意无意的无知？或漠不关心呢？

我们是否已经有了一种习惯性的想法，认为我们实际上并不需要耶稣？你是否因为太忙而没时间给耶稣呢？是否有某些东西已经取代了耶稣成为你最具价值的所有呢？

我们可以在自己都不觉察到耶稣已经不存在的情况下离弃祂。我们已经将祂排除在我们的生命之外。

一首古老的主日颂歌宣告说：“喜乐的旗帜就高挂于伫立在我心中的堡垒。。。因为万王之王就住在那里！”

耶稣是否正住在你心里呢？

你是否愿意在这个圣诞节为耶稣打开心门？你是否愿意为耶稣所爱的子民敞开你生命中的大门？你是否愿意掀起你不曾让耶稣进入的生命之窗呢？你是否愿意打开你的视野，好让圣灵使你清晰看见及明白祂所要拯救的世界呢？

这个圣诞节，让耶稣进入你心！

Chinese Ministry turns 5

by James Loke

1

OUR ORIGINS

The Chinese Ministry started out as a small group of seven members all of whom were originally from another small group - the River of Life.



At PLMGPS and celebrating our first anniversary



2

THE PREPARATION

My wife and I were away from church for about a year when I was posted to work in Eindhoven in the Netherlands in 2001. During my stint there, we went to a Mandarin-cum-Cantonese-speaking church. It was the first time we had both held a Chinese Bible in our hands even though we had been Christians for many years. Our time in the Netherlands became a time of learning and training for us as we became quite involved in the worship service as a back-up singer and guitarist. We learned to sing Mandarin worship songs mostly from the Songs of Praise series. We read the Bible, prayed and helped to reach out to the Chinese nationals studying there. It was really amazing how in this way, the Lord prepared us to make our current Chinese Ministry a reality. All this happened before we even had a hunch or hint about what was going to take place in the next 12 months.



A trip to the Botanic Gardens

EVENTS AND PROGRAMME

Sunday Prayer Meeting
9.30 - 10.30am @ Prayer Chapel

Small Group Gathering
1st & 3rd Sundays (1.30pm to 3.00pm) or Thursdays
of the month (8 - 9.30pm)

Bible Study Class
2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month (8 - 9.30pm)

Sunday Fellowship Tea
Every Sunday after Service

Evangelistic Outreach Service
21 December 2008 (11am - 12.30pm)



Cultivating plants and lives...
Potting plants in commemoration
our third anniversary

THE INITIAL PROMPTING

We were excited to use the Chinese language as the medium of communication in our spiritual lives. Using Mandarin brought a completely different feel to our worship. The Bible became more "real" to us. Perhaps it is the richness of the language, or that it is "in our blood". This was despite the fact that so far, the practice of our Christian lives had been in English. In 2003, we returned to Singapore and continued to join the River of Life. This close-knit small group consisted of Jacob and Wai Cheng, Kok Hwee and Siew Joo, Keegan, Amy and I. We shared our experiences while in Eindhoven, of how we were ministered to in Mandarin. At that time TMC was worshipping at the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' Primary school (PLMGPS).

Jacob began to feel the need for a Chinese Ministry within TMC. He was burdened to reach out to the Mandarin-speaking in the Lorong Ah Soo neighbourhood as well as families members of the congregation who were Mandarin-speaking. He shared this with our then Pastor-in-charge, Rev Philip Lim, who suggested that we start a Chinese Ministry.



Chinese New Year celebration 2007

THE MINISTRY

The first service of the Chinese Ministry was held on 23 Nov 03. We began with a weekly fellowship held at the PLMGPS canteen.

In November 2004, when we moved back to our newly redeveloped building in Serangoon Gardens, we held our weekly fellowship meetings at the Prayer Chapel.

With God's blessings and grace, our numbers grew and we moved to the Abraham Room the following year. With the continued increase in worshippers, during the third year, we moved again, this time to the church sanctuary.

From the original group of seven, the Chinese ministry has now grown to a total of close to 80 members. We see God's hand in building up His Church and His people. We pray that God will continue to use the Chinese Ministry to bring His Good News to the many who still need to hear the message.

THE CHINESE MINISTRY TODAY

By Joyelyn Tan

Who are the people in the Chinese Ministry today?

Some are members from the English-speaking congregation who caught the vision to build up a Chinese ministry. These members then brought their parents who are Mandarin-speaking to join the service. Praise the Lord, it is a great joy to see uncles and aunts in their 60s and 70s praying to receive the Lord into their hearts and to be baptised in His Name!

Other members transferred their membership from other churches because they want to worship as a family with their children who are in the English service.

Then there are many who have been invited by friends who are part of the congregation.

We also have some "walk-ins" who responded to our banners or the signboard in front of the church. Some of these are Chinese nationals who work here and are staying nearby. They want to find out more about Christ. They usually bring some of their friends along as well. Some of them have come to know the Lord and continue to serve the Lord even after returning home.

What do you find encouraging about being part of this ministry?

Seeing parents, grandparents in their late 50s, 60s and even 70s give their lives to the Lord. To me, this is the most encouraging moment in the ministry. It does not end there. As their faith grows, and they get to know the Lord better, they begin to serve such as by cooking for the fellowship lunch, helping with ushering, and participating in the prayer meetings.

We give thanks...

Glory Small Group

Norman: Praying that we will have a breakthrough of more than 100 worshippers in 2009!

Si Mei: Thank you God for helping the brothers and sisters to grow as they learn from Him.

Lie Wei Kwang: Thank you Lord, for filling the brothers and sisters with love and concern and may You continue to strengthen our faith in You every-day.

Lim Mei Xian: My heart is filled with joy and thanksgiving as I reflect on how we have outgrown our worship place from Abraham room to the sanctuary.

Lee Siew Fen: I give thanks indeed, for we have seen more worshippers in our midst!

Siew Bin: I am truly thankful to the Lord for the Chinese Ministry, especially for the platform of being able to serve together with my children; my son playing the guitar and my daughter-in-law and myself as the backup singers.

Ho Zhen Hui: Thank God that even my 3-year-old son is a part of the Chinese Ministry!

Member: Thank God that I am able to serve Him as an usher and in the Scripture-reading ministry.

Faith, Hope, Charity Small Group

Mei Kim: Thank God for helping me to grow spiritually in the knowledge of Him and His Word through my involvement in the small group ministry.

Desmond: My desire is to see the small group growing like living cells, displaying concern, living out faith, hope and charity so that the Head of the Church will be glorified!

Yuen Lai: I pray that the church will grow; the numbers will increase, that with each person's service, we will fulfill the Great Commission. May God open the way for us, leading us, strengthening us and keeping our desire alive and the fire aflame in us.

Say Yong: Keep us growing, Lord, we started off with just seven worshippers at the beginning, and in five years we have seen an increase of more than 10-fold!

Daniel Small Group

Thank you, Lord, for Your love towards the Chinese Ministry!

Thank you Lord throughout eternity!
Thank you, Lord, for helping the Chinese Ministry to grow towards maturity.
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His love endures forever.





信望爱组

美琴：藉着小组聚会让我灵命能成长，同时增进圣经这方面的知识。

进福：愿小组成为有生命的细胞，展现关怀，活出信望爱，教会元首因而得荣耀！

运来：希望教会成长，人数增加。每个人参与事奉，传福音。求主为我们开路，引导我们，加添能力，保守我们的心志，常常火热。

延杰：开始时人数七位，五年后增加十倍，希望教会继续成长。

但以里组一感言

感谢主对华语崇拜的爱！

感谢主永世长存！

感谢主让我们的华语崇拜不断茁壮成长，一步步迈向成熟。

称谢耶和华，因他本为善；他的慈爱永远长存！

荣耀组

黄延熙：希望2009会众会突破100人以上。

黄细妹：感谢神带领弟兄姐妹在主里成长与学习。

李伟光：感谢神给三一堂华语崇拜的弟兄姐妹都互相关怀与充满爱心，愿我们的信心也日益加强。

林梅香：以前是在亚伯拉罕室，现在能在圣殿较大的空间内崇拜，满怀喜乐与感恩。

李秀芬：华语崇拜的人数越来越多，的确要感恩。

秀敏：感谢主让我们成立华语崇拜，让我和孩子世勇能参与事奉，他弹吉打，我与媳妇作伴唱。

何贞辉：感谢主让我的小儿子也能参加三一堂的华语崇拜。

组员：感谢主让我能参与在招待与读经这方面的事奉。

making contact in



By Chng Bee Peng

In a quiet corner of Block 123 Serangoon North Ave 1 lies a cosy air-conditioned haven.

This is Contact 123 – an IT centre managed by TMC through which our church can serve and reach out to residents of the Serangoon North community.

TMC officially began managing Contact 123 in December 2007. Time flies and it is now almost a year since the Lord led our church to embark on this project.

In the spirit of year-end retrospection, Saltshaker thought this would be a good time to look back at the beginnings of Contact 123 and its activities over the past year.

How did Contact 123 start?

In June 2007, TMC was offered the opportunity to help the Serangoon CC to manage an IT Centre at Block 123, Serangoon North Ave 1. This was an answer to our prayers for God to provide more opportunities to reach out to our neighbours and share the love of Christ in the community.

Initially, there were some concerns about whether we had the resources to take up this challenge. But Mr Ong Chew Chwee, Chairperson of the Contact 123 Committee, shared that it has been amazing to see how God has been leading the committee and providing for the needs of the centre.



When TMC first took over the centre, the existing computers were too old and inadequate for the activities which the committee had in mind. But thanks to God's faithful providence, at that very same time, a church member managed to persuade her employer to donate 13 used - but more advanced - computers to the centre. When a new hard disk or a new printer was needed, God would lead someone to provide one. Currently, the equipment at the centre now comprises a total of about 40 computers, all of which were either donated or assembled by volunteers.

What sort of activities are there in Contact 123?

Contact 123's main activity is to provide IT and Internet services. The aim is to help reduce the "digital divide" by encouraging heartlanders to learn and use technology. For a small fee, members and visitors can use the computers at the centre during opening hours. The centre is currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon and 1pm to 6pm.

Besides IT services, other activities are also conducted at the centre.

- "Homework Help" service for children visiting the centre. To encourage them to finish their homework at the centre, the children are rewarded with free time at the computers.
- Tea parties such as quarterly birthday parties for members of the centre, Chinese New Year party, and school holidays party. It gives volunteers an opportunity to mingle with the members and visitors to the centre, and also residents who do not normally come to use the facilities.

Serangoon north



- Classes such as IT classes on Basic Computer Skills, Blogging and Hanyu Pinyin classes. As church members are also invited to participate in these classes, this is also a good opportunity for them to interact and make friends with members of the centre during class.
- Invitation to Nic at Night. This was the first event in church which children from the centre and their parents were able to attend.
- Cooking demonstrations for ladies
- Free mammogram and health screenings
- Monthly free Legal Clinics (scheduled to begin in early 2009)

Some of these activities were actually initiated by other ministries in the church such as the Women's Society for Christian Service (WSCS) and the Children's Ministry.

To promote more participation by the residents, the WSCS ladies also took the time to go round to nearby blocks to distribute flyers to publicise the activities.

Other activities were initiated by the volunteers themselves. For example, the Blogging class came about at the suggestion of a volunteer who wanted to share his blogging skills with the older folks who visit the centre.

Who are the volunteers at Contact 123

The volunteers at Contact 123 include not only our own church



members, but also existing volunteers from the previous centre and other volunteers from the neighbourhood. So there is a mix of Christians and non-Christians even among the volunteers. Chew Chwee shared that this presents another opportunity for our church members to not only interact with visitors of the centre but also fellow volunteers, and in so doing, develop meaningful relationships which could lead to opportunities to share God's love.

How can I be involved?

Over the course of the past 12 months, we have heard much about what goes on at Contact 123.

But some of us may not have had a first hand experience of how our church is extending God's Kingdom in this little corner of Serangoon North.

As we make our plans for the new year, why not think about stepping forward to offer your talents or resources for the centre?

I learnt something interesting from Chew Chwee in this regard – we sometimes think that helping out at Contact 123 means having to share the gospel with strangers, and some of us may feel apprehensive about that.

But really, it is more about making friends, getting involved in their lives and developing meaningful relationships, so that they may experience the love of Christ through the friendship and fellowship of Christians.





Postcards from Alpha

Conducting Alpha in Small Groups

It has been close to half a year since the Cherem small group embarked on the Alpha Course and it has been an amazing journey. Personally, I have been blessed by the many sessions we had together with our pre-believing friends, and the opportunity to share the joy of our experiences and faith.

Hear first-hand from some of the other members of my small group, as well as one of our invited friends, to find out more about the experience!

by Eugenia Koh



MARTIN TAY

"I think the Alpha course is the perfect way to introduce Christ to non-believers in a casual and non-aggressive manner. For me as a Christian, it helped to reacquaint myself with Christ and also to re-examine the fundamentals of my faith."

ROMONA LOH

"Physically, I think our group has grown closer as Alpha creates a comfortable space for each of us to share our views, experiences, thoughts, anxieties, questions and prayer requests with one another."

Spiritually, our group has learnt to be more hospitable, extending hospitality to strangers and welcoming them into our

PEGGIE SWEET INVITED FRIEND

"I found the contents of the Alpha course refreshingly different from my expectations of a Christian class. In the sense that I was allowed to disagree with the principles introduced throughout the course."

I also did not feel that I was being pressured to convert to Christianity. This was something I appreciated a lot. Because of that, I viewed the course not just in terms of learning more about Jesus and Christianity, but also in terms of learning about the guiding principles of life. Some ideas and topics are important to all of us,

such as the concept of heaven, mortality, the difference between doing the right and wrong thing. Often in our lives, we don't stop to think about them. Being in the Alpha course, I'm glad that I had the chance to properly sit down and think about these issues.

The course has also cleared up a lot of my doubts and queries on Christianity. For example, I never knew why Christians liked to evangelise and I always thought it was because they were kaypoh or too enthusiastic for their own good. Now, I realise it's actually formalised as part of the Christian faith, that you're actually encouraged to evangelise and share your experiences."

Some history

The Alpha Course has been running for almost 30 years.

The course was first used as a means of presenting the basic principles of the Christian faith to new Christians. This was subsequently adapted by Nicky Gumbel, when he realised how this simple course could also appeal to non-churchgoers. The course spread during the 1990s, initially in the UK and then internationally, as more churches and groups found it a helpful way to answer questions about the Christian faith in an informal setting. There are now over 36,000 courses worldwide in 163 countries and it is supported by all the major denominations.



group. We have also learnt the practice of discipleship and applying it in a practical context.

I think the Alpha course is a timely reminder for each of us to return to the origins of our Christian faith. It allows us to revisit the basic tenets that Christianity is built upon, which in the midst of our busy daily lives, we more often than not tend to neglect."

CLAUDIA W

"Alpha was great! It gave me a chance to not only know God more but also the people in my small group. With the different roles given to each of us, we worked effectively, supporting one another. It was a great bonding time with the body of Christ."



BRIAN CHUA
FACILITATOR

"The Alpha Course has been a great learning experience for me and for my group. Before we started the Alpha journey, we did a month-long preparation course on evangelism and each member contributed names of people whom they wanted to invite to the course. If I can remember correctly, we had more than 15 names on our list. During our first Alpha session, we had many new members attending. However, as time went by, only three remained committed to the course.

I was a bit disappointed at first but God reminded me about the parable of the seeds. Al-though the numbers had dwindled compared to the start of the course, we had a very enjoyable time with our three new friends as they were very inquisitive about Christianity and we had many thought-provoking discussions.

JANE KWANG

For me, doing the Alpha course was daunting at first as it seemed like such a big project! But my encouragement to other small groups is this - just get started and let God do the rest (and of course with the help of experienced people who have gone through Alpha before).

I also thought I knew God fairly well, but the Alpha course taught me that learning about God could possibly be a life-long process. "Nothing is perfect, only with experience and errors do you perfect something."

So please, small groups, don't be afraid of whether your group is good enough. During the Alpha course, our group bond-

ed more and roles were streamlined.

The group bonded because we had to welcome people into the house of God and so had to interact and mingle with one another even more. We had a mission to introduce God to others.

Different people are suited for different things and though the journey of Alpha, God led our group members to do what they were each good at be it meal preparation, arranging of the Weekend Away, leading discussions, singing and even participation (yes, simply being there is good enough).

There is no right or wrong. Just get started! God will not give you a situation you cannot handle. Trust Him!

Facts about Alpha

The Alpha course is designed primarily for people who aren't churchgoers and each course is open to anyone who would like to attend.

The course is based on small groups of people, hosted by one or two leaders who facilitate and encourage discussion. People get to know each other, discuss the weekly topics and deepen friendships. The whole course usually lasts for 10 weeks, with a day or weekend away in the middle.

Each session begins with a meal or refreshments. This is a chance to get to know others in the small group. Then there is a short talk, which looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week.

This is followed by a time of discussion, where everyone is welcome to contribute their opinion, ask questions and discuss with the rest of the group. The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment.

The pre-believers raised very interesting points in our discussions and it really taught us how to be sensitive to them as well as how to respond to questions on our faith. It's something which no book or seminar on evangelism can impart.

From the group's perspective, we really bonded as we each had a role to play - from being friends with the guests, facilitating discussions and of course in the preparation of food! Each person in the group was important in making the Alpha course a success.

The Alpha course has since ended and we have progressed on to a new study. I'm happy to say that God has blessed us with three new members - our three pre-believing friends. Even though they have not accepted the faith, they are still keen to join our group. It can only be because of HIM. Praise God!"

The GB and BB

by Melissa Koh

WHY?

WHAT?

The Boys' Brigade (BB) and The Girls' Brigade (GB) are international uniformed youth organisations for boys and girls respectively.

The objectives of these two organisations are:
*to help youths become followers of Jesus Christ
*to nurture them based on Christian values to lead and serve in Christian character.

HOW?

The BB and GB also provide training that help to develop and groom these young men and women to reach their fullest potential and become responsible citizens in future. Engaging the youths of today in meaningful and purposeful activities is of vital importance to everyone. They are after all the future of our society and training them in the right way should be considered a worthwhile investment in our future, and theirs.

WHO?

In order to maintain strong Christian ties, each BB and GB Company is affiliated to a church. The church's pastor would be the chaplain for the brigade company and help to guide the youths in the Christian way.

Trinity Methodist Church is affiliated with the BB and GB companies of Serangoon Garden Secondary School (SGSS).

Being a non-Christian school, teachers assigned to be in charge of the BB and GB co-curricular activity (CCA) may not be Christian. The students probably also do not have much exposure to Christianity. It is through the GB and BB CCA that they get a chance to learn more about Christ.

The SGSS GB company has been fortunate to have Ms Lee Hui Ling, a member of our congregation, as the teacher in-charge of it while Mr Lim Choo Siang, also another member of our congregation, is the captain in charge of the SGSS BB company.

However, they have admitted to being stretched very thin due to a lack of volunteers to help with mentoring and guiding these youths. It is their fervent hope and prayer that more Christian volunteers, such as yourself, can come to help out with the BB and GB activities so that the youths may have greater exposure to Christian values and do not have to miss out on activities due to a lack of helpers.

WHEN?

They meet every Friday afternoon and sometimes on Saturdays too.

SO?

Of late, TMC has been actively trying to reach out to our surrounding community as part of Operation Connect. This is an outreach ministry to the youths in our community. All you need to be a part of this ministry is to have a heart for the youths, be a friend to them and share the gospel with them.

If you would like to befriend and mentor a youth, please contact Ms Lee Hui Ling (9788 7687) or Mr Lim Choo Siang (9382 2021) for more information.

"TRAIN A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT."

PROVERBS 22:6

