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SALTSHAKER



TRINITY
Methodist Church

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CONTENTS

1 THE SEASON OF EASTER

4 EDDIE GOH'S REFLECTIONS

6 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MISSION TRIP TO CAMBODIA

8 TMC IN TRACKERS - A JOURNEY OF FAITH

10 GETTING TOGETHER WITH IMH FRIENDS

The Season of Easter

By Rev Dianna Khoo

Easter is not just a single Sunday.

It is actually a fifty-day season called Eastertide. It begins at sundown on the eve of Easter Sunday and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost Sunday.

Like all of the major holidays of the Christian year, the season of Easter is framed around a sequence of events in the life of Jesus. It commemorates the time that Jesus spent with his disciples following the resurrection, prior to his ascension.

Eastertide officially ends on Pentecost Sunday, which Christians think of as the "birthday of the church." Pentecost commemorates the sending of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's presence in the life of the Church and indeed, the world. Thus no other holy day is more important to Christians than Easter Sunday.

Yes, I know that Christmas usually wins the popularity contest.

But without Easter there would be no Christmas. In fact, without Easter there would be no Christianity at all!

Of course I don't mean that the Christian faith depends on the celebrations of Easter Sunday. Rather, Christianity stands or falls on the fact of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

"We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:15-19)

There is no room here for a Christianity without the resurrection!

But why does the resurrection matter so much to Christianity?

Well, from a historical point of view, it explains what otherwise cannot be adequately explained.

How a man crucified as a messianic pretender, like so many other Jews in that time of history, would soon be hailed by thousands as Messiah and Lord.

How a small Jewish renewal movement soon changed the face of history.

How a tiny band of defeated and discouraged disciples became an army of zealous evangelists, a group of ordinary people who went on to spread the Gospel worldwide.

The resurrection matters, not only because it helps to make sense of early Christian history, but also because it says, in a nutshell:

God won! Jesus won! Life won! Grace won! Love won!

In the war between God and evil, between eternal life and eternal death, the resurrection demonstrates the victory of God.

So let us not forget that we are Easter people, people whose faith is based on what took place on that first Easter.

How then shall we as Easter people live?

Victoriously! Because the war has been won even though there are still battles to be fought.

Ultimately, we have the assurance that Jesus has conquered death, the foe of all foes!

Therefore as we live, whether it be as individuals or collectively as a community of faith, let us be encouraged by what has been accomplished at Easter. Let us live as victorious Christians, as joyful, positive, and encouraging Christians!

For Jesus himself said, "I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

This abundant life is yours – live it with joy in your heart!

Wishing you and your loved ones an abundant and joyous Easter.

He is risen, hallelujah!

He is Lord, hallelujah!



复活节

邱宜观牧师

复活节不只是一个普通的星期天。实际上它是一个前后共50天的复活季节，从复活星期天前夕的日落开始，一直延续到圣灵降临节，其中共跨过六个星期天。

就如基督教里的所有主要节日一样，复活季节是围绕着耶稣生命中曾发生的一系列事情而构成的。它是纪念耶稣在复活后、升天前与门徒们相处的那段时间。

复活季节在圣灵降临节星期天当日正式结束，基督徒认为那是“教会的生日”。圣灵降临节是为了纪念圣灵被差遣及灵的活跃于教会（事实上是全世界）当中的。因此对基督徒来说，没有其它宗教圣日比复活星期天更重要了。

是的，我知道圣诞节通常一般会更受欢迎。

可若没有了复活节就不会有圣诞节。事实上，若没有了复活节，基督教将不存在！当然，我的意思不是说基督徒信仰是依赖着欢庆复活星期天。而是：基督教是立足于耶稣从死里复活的事实。

“并且明显我们是为神妄作见证的，因我们见证神是叫基督复活了。若死人真不复活，神也就没有叫基督复活了。因为死人若不复活，基督也就没有复活了。基督若没有复活，你们的信便是徒然，你们仍在罪里，就是在基督里睡了的人也灭亡了。我们若靠基督，只在今生有指望，就算比众人更可怜。”（哥林多前书15: 15-19）

如果没有复活，基督教信仰就没有存在的空间！

可是为什么复活对基督教信仰那么重要呢？从历史的角度来看，它解释了那些不能得到充分解释的东西：在历史的那个年代，一个诸如许多其他以救世自居的妄求者犹太人是如何地被钉十字架，并很快地被千万人推崇为弥赛亚和上帝；一个渺小的犹太人的复活是如何迅速地改变了历史面貌；一帮被击垮了的丧胆气馁门徒是如何变成一支热心的宣道大军。一组普通平凡的人坚持继续将福音传扬到全世界各地。

复活是至关重要的，不只因为它使基督教早期历史更具逻辑，而是它更简约的总结：神得胜了！耶稣得胜了！生命得胜了！恩典得胜了！爱得胜了！在上帝与撒但之间的战争、在永生和永远的灭亡之间，复活彰显了上帝的胜利。因此，我们不可忘记我们是复活人，我们的信仰是基于第一个复活节已发生了的事。

身为复活人，我们应如何生活呢？如胜利者一般！因为我们已经战胜了，虽然我们还有战要继续打。但最根本的是我们确信耶稣已经战胜了死亡，那是最关键的！

因此在生活中，不管是个人或是群体的信仰，让我们因着复活节所取得的而受到鼓舞。让我们如一个得胜的基督徒般地活着，让我们成为一个有喜乐、积极和受鼓舞的基督徒！

耶稣说：“我来了，是要叫羊（或作人）得生命，并且得的更丰盛。”这个丰盛的生命是你的——让它带着喜乐活在你心中！

祝你及你至爱的家人有一个丰盛和喜乐的复活节。

已复活，哈利路亚！

是主，哈利路亚！

Saltshaker

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By Eddie Goh

I was quite a stranger to Trinity Methodist Church.

The only time I visited TMC was during one of the TRAC Ordination services. So I was very surprised to find myself becoming a full time worker here when I joined the TMC staff in February last year.

Before joining TMC, I was a Lay Ministry Staff at Aldersgate Methodist Church for six and a half years.

I met Jacob Cheng, TMC's then Lay Ministry Staff, in 2007 when he visited Aldersgate to borrow earphone devices for a combined service.

In our conversation, he shared that he would be leaving his position in TMC to become a missionary to Cambodia, and then surprised me by asking me to apply to take over his position.

I said that I would seriously seek the Lord concerning His will.

I committed this matter in prayer as I wanted to be sure of the will of God. I received confirmation from the Lord on three different occasions. As such, I decided to obey the will of God by applying for this position.

TMC is a warm and cosy church.

This is especially true of the members in the Chinese congregation whose love has helped me and my wife to be accepted into the big spiritual family that is TMC.

I am thankful to the Lord that the congregation is both teachable and diligent in their service to the Lord.

The Chinese Ministry was established five years ago and is now entering into its sixth year. It is still a very young ministry and we are consciously aware that we cannot depend on our own might; we are God's workers who work according to His will.

Psalms 127:1 puts it aptly: "Unless the LORD builds the house,

its builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

In line with the direction of the church, the Chinese Ministry has established seven small groups which meet on the first and third Sunday and Thursday of each month.

We aim to encourage every member in the Chinese congregation to belong to a small group so that together we can care for and support each other as we live out God's love for each other.

Besides the small group gatherings, we have bible study every second and fourth Thursday. Currently, we are studying the Gospel of John.

In addition, we have choir practice every Sunday after the service, discipleship and nurture classes, as well as special classes for those who serve in the ministry's committee.

Above all these, we must mention the times of wonderful fellowship made possible by the loving preparation of delicious tea and refreshments by our sisters!

Currently, we are working together with Contact 123 to reach out to the residents and the community in Serangoon North. We hope to establish a relationship with the community before sharing the Gospel with them. We believe that when the time is ripe, we will also be ready to bring the Gospel not just to our neighbours but beyond our shores.

One of the emphases that we are working on currently is the prayer meeting. We want to thank God for increasing the number of people at the weekly Sunday prayer meeting.

Our desire and hope is that each member of the congregation will see the importance of prayer, especially praying together.

Another area of concern is in the discipleship and nurture of the members in the congregation.

Christ's instruction to His disciples before His ascension was this:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

My prayer is that our brothers and sisters in Christ will continue to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, testifying for Christ and bringing others into His Kingdom.



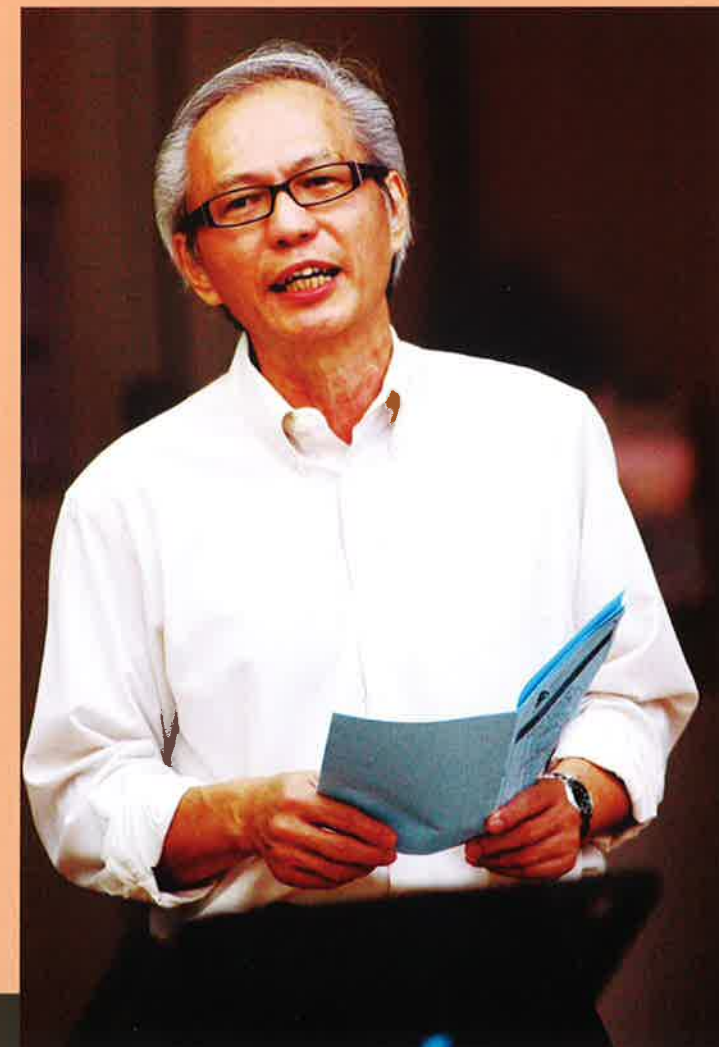
卫理公会三一堂这 属灵的家庭

三一堂对我来讲是相当陌生的，曾在好多年前来参加三一年议会年终的总会议派师典礼，并没有很深的印象，没想到竟然会在2008年二月加入成为这里的全职同工。

在未加入三一堂之前，我是在三一年议会属下的雅德门教会事奉达六年半的时间。在2007年的某一天，前三一神学院的同学张绍群传道来敝教会借耳机，供他们教会三一堂即将举行的双语联合崇拜所需，在我们交谈当中，知道他将卸下在三一堂华语崇拜的事奉到柬埔寨作宣教士，没想到他竟然问我是否有意申请接替他在三一堂的职位，我告诉他让我祷告求问上帝是否是神的旨意。

过后，我就把这件事放在祷告当中，我要很清楚上帝的旨意，就在三次不同时间的祷告中，我得到上帝的肯定，于是我就顺服上帝的旨意加入到三一堂。

三一堂是一间很温馨的教会，特别是华语崇



拜的弟兄姐妹很有爱心，也因此我们夫妇很快的就融入了这个属灵的大家庭。弟兄姐妹们也很有进取心，很愿意学习，每一位委员也很努力的事奉，大家都同心合一，感谢神的恩典。

华语崇拜设立至今已有五年，今年我们步入了第六个年头，可以说还很年轻，但我们知道一切的进展不是单靠我们的能力，更重要的是我们要与神同工，按着他的旨意行事。“若不是耶和華建造房屋，建造的人就枉然劳力；若不是耶和華看守城池，看守的人就枉然儆醒。”诗127: 1

华语崇拜配合教会的方针，共成立了七个小组，分别在每个月的第一和第三个星期主日崇拜後和星期四晚有聚会。最终的目标是让每一位华语崇拜者都能加入小组。在小组里大家能够彼此关怀，彼此扶持，活出主的爱来。

除了小组聚会，在第二和第四个星期四晚，我们有查经班，目前在查考约翰福音。我们在主日後也开始了唱诗练习班，栽培班和慕道班，也特别为委员准备了“再创生命奇迹”课程。更值一提的是每个主日後，我们满有爱心的姐妹会准备很丰富的茶点让大家享用和享受一个美好的团契时间。

目前华语崇拜向外展开的活动是配合联系123所举办的节目，与实笼岗北的居民有所联系，希望与他们建立关系，以便日後能将福音传给他们。除了在本地的传福音事工，当时机成熟时，我们也应该有到外地宣教的经历。

目前我们所要建立的是我们的祷告会，感谢主的恩典，参加的人数不断的加增，我们盼望每一位华语崇拜的弟兄姐妹都能看重祷告会，合一的祷告是上帝所喜悦的。在栽培弟兄姐妹灵命成长这方面我们也要更积极和努力。

耶稣在升天前向门徒说：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 我的祷告是我们主内弟兄姐妹也能够靠着圣灵所赐的能力，常为主作见证，引人归主。阿们。

Children's Ministry Mission Trip to Cambodia



By Yeo Su-Min, 12 years old

Day 1

10 Dec 08

Our team of 15 adults and 10 children met at the airport at 6:15am. To my pleasant surprise, despite the early hour, several aunts and uncles, including Pastor Dianna came to send us off.

I began to have cold feet and started to feel unprepared. I began to worry that I was still not completely familiar with my script and activity. I feared that I could not remember the lyrics of all the songs we were to sing, and also, my Khmer was still limited to the most basic phrases. The only thing I could do was to rely on God's strength.

When we arrived at Phnom Penh, Uncle Jacob (and a pink bus) was waiting for us. We spent most of that day taking in the sights and sounds of Phnom Penh. The town was pretty run down, people were jaywalking (mainly because there are no pedestrian crossings) and there were beggars everywhere.

The main highlight of the day was the visit to Toul Sleng Museum. It used to be a school, but was turned into a prison for torturing people by Pol Pot and his cronies.

It was morbid.

For most of the day, I struggled to understand how a man could be so evil as to kill his own countrymen (estimated to be 17 to 2 million educated people and their children). At the same time, I could not imagine the grief of the people who had lost loved ones or suffered under the regime.



Before the Trip

When my parents first told me that we would be going to Cambodia on a mission trip last year, I was surprised and (to be honest) a little unhappy. I mean, it was not exactly where I had been expecting to go for our year-end holiday.

The mission trip training sessions started right after I learned about our impending trip. Since I was not able to protest, I had to attend the training in the midst of preparing for my PSLE. The training helped me to understand the history and purpose of mission in our Christian faith as well as the horrible history of Cambodia. Gradually, as I learnt more and began to plan for the trip, I grew more enthusiastic about going to Cambodia. I even began to look forward to going there!



Day 2

11 Dec 08

The next day, we went to Care for Cambodia run by Norman and Fi. There, we led in worship. Everybody, regardless of their age, danced enthusiastically to the songs we had prepared.

Then we had lunch and made friends. We exchanged names and ages and smiled a lot as language was a big problem.

Next, we split up into groups and led various activities. There was the origami star to remind us that God sent His son Jesus Christ to earth to save us, the friendship bracelet that tells us that Jesus is our best friend, and the Empty Cross.



The children sculpted crosses to remember that Jesus died on the cross for them and has risen.

The children were also given the opportunity to accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour if they had not already done so. We played telematch games following that. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

Then, they shared with us their testimonies. They were just a few years older than me and yet they had experienced so much more. They prayed for us. You could feel the power of their prayers and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

That night, diarrhoea struck. Half the team went down.

"You could feel the power of their prayers and the presence of the Holy Spirit."

".....to keep them in my prayers, that they will have food and shelter and find God's love."



"I feel for them and I want to reach out to help them. But how, since I am only 12?"



Day 3

12 Dec 08

We almost cancelled the trip to Andong Village. Fortunately, we did not, though it was a long journey there and back. We got lost going there and got caught in a traffic jam on our way back.

However, it was all worth it. We visited the school first. Two days before we went there, they received their first water filter. This means that they can now have clean water to drink.

The children there really enjoyed the songs we sang. When we made balloons for them, they were so excited that they kept running back for more. We gave them goodie bags filled with necessities like rice, toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels and snacks. They were so happy.

After the activities, the rest of the mission team entered the village while I stayed in the school compound as I was feeling faint from the diarrhoea. Some of the children came to say goodbye to us and even offered us ice cream on their way home. So sweet!

Day 4

13 Dec 08

We visited Cheeky Monkey the next day. This is a sewing ministry set up by Kevin and Claire Lowe. The clothes are super cute!

After that, we went to our sister church Takhmao TMC where we met with some youths. They had a hard time guessing my age (my height fooled them). Most of them were way older than me. I found them very warm and friendly. I chatted with a few of them.

Next, we played a few icebreaker games (that Uncle Andrew thought up on the spot) and worshipped together. All the songs were in Khmer, so I just sat there and listened to the songs which they sang with gusto. After that we had dinner. I helped to serve them and gave them generous helpings of the sumptuous food.



...but with God, all things are possible.

Day 5

14 Dec 08

We woke up early the next morning to catch the flight home. I was sort of glad to return to Singapore but I do want to go back to Cambodia this year to catch up with all the friends that I made.

Looking back, I thank God for the privilege to have had this humbling experience. I am very fortunate to get to eat meat twice a day and every day. The children at Care for Cambodia eat meat only once a year.

I will continue praying for the children at Care for Cambodia and the members of Takhmao TMC. I pray that they will continue to grow closer to God, that they will trust that God has a plan for each and every one of them and that they will spread the good news to those who do not know the Lord.

However, it was the beggars who made a deep impression on me.

The man with the elephant disease, the one-legged man, the teenage girl with a baby and the boy who was lying on the floor, wrapped in a red net.

I feel for them and I want to reach out to help them. But how, since I am only 12?

For now, the only thing I can think of is to keep them in my prayers, that they will have food and shelter and find God's love, so that even in the toughest of times, they will know that God is with them and that God cares for them.

Can we organise a mission trip to reach out to the thousands of beggars? In my eyes, it is impossible, but with God, all things are possible, right?

TMCin TRACKers - A Journey of Faith

By Cheryl Sim

TRACKers is a three-month discipleship programme for youth in transition after their "O" levels, "A" levels or national service.

Designed to effect value change, the four-tier training approach builds them through biblical learning, mentoring relationships, mission exposure and local internship involvement.

This year, two youths from TMC embarked on their TRACK to Cambodia. Here are their testimonies:



Shermaine Lim

Going to Cambodia has made God's providence, His faithfulness and His love for His people more evident to me.

The first incident was when God "multiplied" the gifts that we brought for the kids in Cambodia. God really provided for us so that He could use us to bless the kids there.

During the mission trip preparation, we felt that something was missing in our planning. We prayed fervently and asked God to help us in our preparation. We planned and went to Cambodia with the faith that God would somehow guide us in ministering to the people there.

During our time in Cambodia, our itinerary did not go as planned. But slowly, day by day, whatever we had planned in Singapore was eventually carried out - the lessons planned and the sermons prepared were shared with the people in the slum area.

God loves the children and the young adults there so much that He provided and helped us in order to be a blessing and to share His word with the people in the slums.

What I learnt from this trip is that all we have to do is to seek God, be patient, and have faith in God that He will guide us no matter what and that God never ceases to love us.



Esther Ho

"A Journey of Faith"

These four words, also the slogan for the TRACKers programme, fully summarise what the past three months have been for me.

The word "faith" has two connotations to it: religion and trust, both of which were stretched and tested during this time. I have not only learnt many important lessons and grown in terms of theological knowledge but have also developed greater trust in God.

One of the lessons during the biblical training phase was waiting on God and listening for His voice. This was put to the test during our mission preparations when my group felt that we did not include God in our planning process.

Despite only having a week left before our trip, we decided to scrap our plans to seek God's direction and wait on Him. Four days before our departure to Cambodia, God provided us with our entire ministry toolbox within a span of two hours. Praise be to God!

God's providence was truly evident throughout our 10 days in Cambodia. The incident that struck me the most was when we were in Siem Reap and had to conduct a Sunday school lesson.

Armed with just a miserable stack of newspapers, five pieces of mahjong paper and three rolls of tape, we ventured to hold a dress-up competition on the Armour of God. Our futile attempts at trying to get each group to dress just one person up resulted in a mess of 64 kids tearing newspapers and pasting it on themselves. God miraculously multiplied the little that we had and at the end of the activity, almost all 64 kids were dressed up!



But God's grace did not just stop there.

I was asked to do an impromptu sharing on the Armour of God after the activity and as I was not prepared for it, I panicked.

To be honest, the only memory verse that I could remember had always been John 3:16, so when the phrase Ephesians 6:12 popped into my head and it turned out to be a verse related to the Armour of God, I could not help but know that God was really at work there.

In my frenzy, I jumped straight into the verses describing the armour (v.14-17) and missed out reading verse 12 completely.

But God still had His own way of working. As I started to speak, I could feel God's presence with me and words were just rolling off my tongue without my own deliberation, and yet the entire sharing still fell within one single theme.

The Armor of God protects us not from physical attacks but from spiritual ones. By putting it on, we are able to live victoriously as we are not only protected it but have the weapons to attack as well.

When I finally read verse 12 back in Singapore, it was amazing when I discovered what was written there:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

God indeed does work through His own ways and ensures that the message He has for His children is delivered. Amen!





They were apprehensive and afraid. Challenged to step out of their comfort zones, they hesitated.

Like many both inside and outside of the church, some members of the Heartbeat of God (HBOG) were uncomfortable with the idea of interacting with the mentally ill.

So when their then small group leader Miss Violet Khor suggested they host some patients from the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) for a few hours of fun, food and games, some members baulked.

But when they finally decided to face the unfamiliar, reach out to those vastly differently from themselves, and stepped out in faithful obedience to the Lord, they discovered that in giving of themselves, they received so much more in return.



Getting Together with IMH Friends

By Violet Khor

In response to Pastor Bernard's call to connect with others to share the love of Christ, the HBOG small group decided to link up with the IMH friends who have been coming to our church once a month.

Also, the Outreach and Social Concerns committee had been looking after them and some HBOG members thought of blessing the OSC committee members with a break by taking over the running of the monthly programme.

Concerns expressed by some members

We discussed the matter in HBOG and there were concerns from some members of the group. Some felt uncomfortable and said that they did not know how to interact with the IMH patients and what to talk with them about.

Some asked: "What if they get out of hand? Who would then be responsible if anything happens?" Yet others said that they do not speak the same language.

But, there were also those who had helped out with the IMH patients before and they shared their experiences. What they shared allayed the anxieties of most of the members. Thus, preparations for food, gifts, songs, sharing and games were discussed and the work distributed among the members of the group.

Positive experience

The day of anticipation and excitement finally arrived. The connection with our IMH friends on that Sunday, 22 Feb, proved to be a positive learning experience for HBOG members.

As one of the HBOG members said during the group's reflection session: "We think that we are giving something to them but actually we are the ones who have learnt something from what they have given to us".

At the beginning of the get-together, there was a sense of uneasiness for some of the HBOG members but as the session got on the way, the members warmed up and some even sat beside our IMH friends, sang with them, made conversation with them, shared their meal with them and even danced with them. It was heartwarming to see that we are all created equal in the sight of God.

Personal Highlight

The highlight for me was when I shared from Psalm 37:3-4 on trusting the Lord and to be happy in the Lord. This was when one of our IMH friends who had been very quiet, had refused to talk and was expressionless throughout suddenly began to give the biggest grin showing but a few teeth. His face brightened up.

I was delighted and overjoyed to see him happy. Why was this so?

Earlier, I had shared with the small group that even though we could not make "good" conversations with our IMH friends, through our presence and our fellowship, our IMH friends must be able to go home having felt that they had experienced the love and care of our Lord through us.



VOX DEI

A new sound filled Trinity Methodist Church last Christmas Day – the sound of Vox Dei or Voices of God.

The group is made up of people of varying ages – from late twenties to those in their sixties.

It's not quite 'the choir' of Trinity. Vox Dei started because some of us could not bear the thought of a Christmas service without a special anthem. So Ang Hwee Suan got some old-timers and new-timers together to sing something for that service.

Since then, the group has sung once again during the Chinese New Year eve service.

The group members are not "fixed". The composition depends on the demands of the pieces selected and the mix of voices needed and available!

Said Hwee Suan: "I am really thankful to Pastor Dianna and friends and members of Vox Dei who are supportive in tangible and other not so tangible ways. I know many of you miss the choir's singing every week. I am not sure how Vox Dei will turn out yet so do pray for us. We have not quite planned to sing every week but on 'special' occasions, for sure!"



The Lord is good and when that IMH friend gave me such a broad smile, it reminded me of the objective we had set for ourselves. The smile was an affirmation that he and his friends had experienced the love of Christ through us. We were indeed "humbled to have been agents used by God to share his love" as one of the HBOG members later shared in the reflection.

Enriching experience

One other member of HBOG said: "They are so spontaneous and simple things give them great joy". Another said that it was a new experience for her and she would like to do it again.

The tone during the reflection was so different from the first discussion we had when it was first suggested that we hold a get-together with the IMH friends. The group has learnt what it means to practise hospitality to those who are different from us, to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading and to soften our hearts to learn from the Lord.

As part of the reflection, the group also looked into two passages, Mark 10:13-16 and Matthew 15:21-28. The group was asked to reflect on the following questions:

- How are the IMH friends like the little children and the Canaanite woman?
- How did Jesus respond to the little children and the Canaanite woman?
- What did Jesus do?

- What can we learn from Jesus on how we should respond to people who are different from us?

The IMH Connection has indeed been an enriching experience for the small group. God is so good and His mercies are new every morning.

Outreach & Social Concerns @ TMC

By Melissa Koh

Christina Choo, who is currently in charge of the Outreach and Social Concerns (OSC) Ministry, says that a very real concern faced by the ministry is the shortage of manpower and resources. Although there have been a few volunteers, many of them are unable to commit to this ministry for the long run. Hence, it is quite disruptive for the families that they have already reached out to.

Despite all this, she continues to praise God for opening doors and allowing her to share more about the ministry, so as to increase awareness of this in the church.

Under the OSC Ministry, there are many areas in which one can lend a helping hand. They are grouped into the following:

- Homes and Institutions, which constitute the Institute of Mental Health, Chen Su Lan Children's Home, Bethany Methodist Nursing Home and St. Luke's. The OSC Ministry attempts to reach out to these residents by befriending and caring for them. Currently, on the last Sunday of each month, some residents from IMH come to TMC for a session of devotion and fellowship breakfast.
- Helping the needy, such as those who are poor and oppressed. The OSC Ministry extends hospitality to these families or people and provides financial assistance and/or counselling. Currently there are eight families receiving help from TMC.
- Educating the less privileged, such as the children from Chen Su Lan and giving tuition to the children at Contact 123. Every Friday evening, a tuition session is also held in church from 7 to 9pm.
- Prisons ministry, which includes helping families of inmates adjust and adapt to their situations as well as befriending inmates. The church also acts as a liaison between the prisoner and the prisoner's family.

For each of these ministries, the OSC would like to appeal to TMC members to volunteer their time and efforts to help in reaching out to these people. For more information, do contact the church office at 6282 4443.

DVD REVIEWS

New DVDs available for borrowing from TMCRC



DVD198 Reinhard Bonnke FireFall

In this Firefall DVD set [recorded live at the Hillsong Conference in Sydney, Australia] Reinhard Bonnke shares the Biblical, Spirit-led principles that have empowered him to lead over 40 million souls to Christ since the year 2000. This 2 disk set contains 4 transforming messages entitled: 1. From Zero to Hero 2. Preach the Original Gospel 3. God Uses Ordinary People 4. Releasing the Fire Within.



DVD199 Reinhard Bonnke Full Flame Film Series

From one of the leading soul-winners of our time comes this rich and compelling eight-part film series that will challenge your convictions, and ignite your passion for the lost. Through the power of cinematic storytelling and the conversational teachings of international evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, Full Flame delivers clear steps to spiritual empowerment every Christian desires.

DVD200 Magdalena Released From Shame

Mary Magdalena acts as both narrator and participant in this movie as she traces through the stories of the lives of women who have come in contact with Jesus and how they were powerfully released from shame and guilt.

DVD201 Israel Hanna The Journey

This is a real-life testimony of Israel Hanna's journey of faith. God rescued Hanna from the grip of suicidal despair and revealed Himself through mercy and provision. Hanna's relationship with the Lord grew to a depth that could not be shaken -- until the tragic and untimely death of Hanna's young daughter. Hanna's profound grief returned him to the despair and isolation he once knew. His loss threatened to consume him and he felt forsaken, but the Lord drew him back in an amazing and unexplainable way. Israel's touching experience will remind you that God loves you, He cares for you, and He desires to restore to you those things the enemy has stolen.

DVD202 Dutch Sheets Intercessory Prayer

If God is all-powerful, why does he need us to pray? If we pray and nothing happens, does this mean that God isn't listening? If you have ever felt that your prayers don't count, Intercessory Prayer will show you just how vital your prayers are. Pastor Dutch Sheets will inspire and give you the courage to pray for the impossible and help you find persistence to see your prayers to completion.

DVD203 Lay It Down

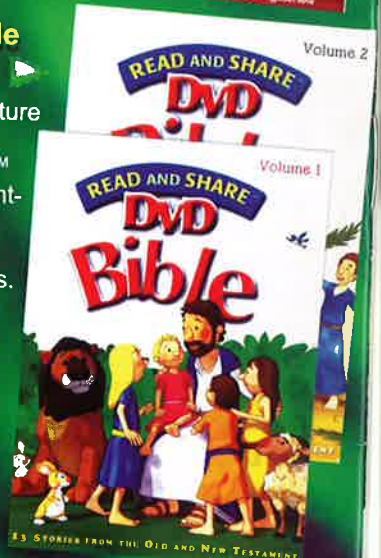
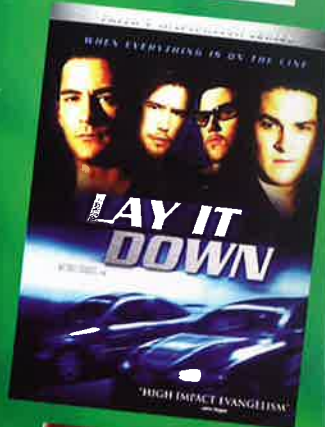
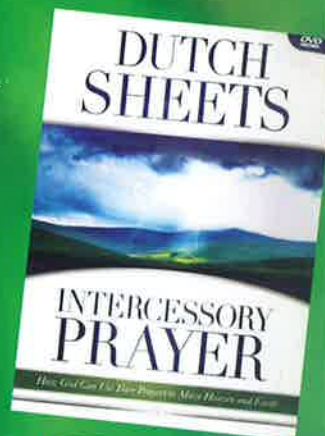
From the producers of Mercy Streets come a heart-pounding drama set against the world of illegal street racing! Ben and Pete Destin are extreme-living brothers on a collision course with eternity. When Ben chooses the narrow road, will Pete follow...or take a terribly wrong turn? Lay It Down is a powerful, groundbreaking evangelistic film. Its heart-pounding action and compelling delivery make it a must see for teens and young adults.

DVD204 The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything

Ahoy there Veggie Pirates fan! Get a sneak peek at the music of the new Pirates Who Don't Do Anything movie. You can listen and sing-along to music from the film. This fun-filled sing-along includes songs from tobyMac and newsboys, and lots more Piratey fun!

DVD205 & DVD206 Read And Share DVD Bible Volume 1 & 2

Thirteen essential lessons of scripture starring the Bible's best-known characters. The Read And Share™ Bible on DVD combines an enchanting art style with a warm narrator and gentle musical underscore to transport kids back to Biblical times. The bite-size vignettes are perfect for the attention span of little ones, and give parents maximum flexibility to fit any timeframe.



TMC Resource Centre