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TRINITY
Methodist Church

MICA (P) 167/09/2008

SALTSHAKER

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Rooted and built up in Christ,
Strengthened in Faith,
Overflowing with thankfulness.
† Colossians 2:7

Rooted and Overflowing

By Reverend Dianna Khoo

What do we say to Christians who know their faith well and who have been part of the church for some-time?

What else may a pastor say to Christians who are known for their "faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints"? (Colossians 1:4).

Such questions would probably be part of Paul's pastoral concern when he wrote his letter to Christians in Colossae.

The normal assumption is that there is probably nothing much we can say to Christians who are said to have faith in Christ and love for others. Such Christians would probably be considered to be mature Christians. Nevertheless, while praising the Colossians for their faith in Christ and love for fellow Christians, Paul encouraged them not to stagnate. "So then just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him..." (Col. 2:6)

In the same spirit, looking at our church, I do thank God for the faith of our members and the love which many of us share with one another. And like Paul, I would like to encourage you to "continue to live in him". The word "continue" conveys the idea that the Christian life, properly understood, is a journey of faith. It is a process during which we consciously allow God to work in and through our lives, helping us to grow "in him."

In our Wesleyan teaching, this process is understood as the sanctifying grace of God at work in our lives. Let me pick two points from Colossian 2:6-7 to offer two practical ways in which we can "continue to live in" Christ.

Well-rooted in our faith

The first is to suggest that we get ourselves well-rooted in our faith.

A well-rooted Christian will receive proper nutrients from the soil for healthy growth. And as the well-rooted Christian grows with regular healthy and holistic intake of the best food, the upshot is that this Christian would also be one who is not afraid of external challenges and forces at work in our lives.

Come what may, a well-rooted Christian will likely remain firm and steadfast. That's the kind of Christian which I pray we will all become.

The exhortation is for us to be like trees planted by streams of water, with roots that dig deeply enough to make us strong and stable. Roots that would draw sufficient nourishment to sustain our life and fruitfulness whatever our circumstances in life may be.

It is my prayer that we as a church would truly increase in our depth and knowledge of the Lord.

To be a deep-rooted Christian may take time. "(But) the Lord is often in less of a hurry than we are...It was fourteen years from the time of Paul's conversion to the time of his departure with Barnabas from Antioch. Those largely 'hidden' years were not wasted. God was preparing his instrument: tempering and hardening him, hammering him into shape, teaching him. Paul was learning about discipleship." (Michael Griffiths, Give Up Your Small Ambition.)

54 years old we may be as a church but it is never too late to dig

deeper with strong spiritual roots.

We cannot be content with a shallow root system, but we must dig deep into the ground of our being, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Allow him to grow his fruits in our lives and equip us with the gifts he wishes us to use in building up this community of faith into a healthy and wholesome body of believers.

Overflowing

But that's not all. Like Paul, I pray that members of Trinity Methodist Church will be known as Christians who are "overflowing with thankfulness" (Col. 2:7).

Notice that Paul uses "overflowing" and not "overflowed". This is to suggest that thankfulness which comes from a heart that is always grateful to God is not a one-off event.

The sense and spirit of thankfulness should ooze out of our lives to bless lives. That's the picture which Paul paints for us.

A thankful heart will be a generous heart. A thankful heart will be a sharing heart.

It's not overflowed, but overflowing, and that is a thankfulness that continues to flow, and to refresh whatever our circumstances in life.

Trinity Methodist Church enters into her 54th year of ministry in 2010. May we deepen our roots and live a life overflowing with thankfulness for what the Lord has already done and will continue to do in our church.

**WATCH
THIS
SPACE:**

Church Camp 2010

Date: 11 to 14 June 2010

Venue: Somewhere Up North

Speaker: Edmund Chua, Chairman, Board of Directors, the Hiding Place Christian Home Mission, and Co-founder of Corrie Ten Boom Centre, a church associated with the Hiding Place Christian Home Mission

Details soon

三一堂灵修会2010

日期: 2010年6月11-14日

地点: "北方"

发言者: Edmund Chua, 《藏身之家》主席及董事; 《Corrie Ten Boom中心》创立者之一

详情即将公布

Saltshaker

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<<邱宜观牧师>>

对熟知自己信仰并参加教会已有一段时间的基督徒，我们会对他们说什么呢？对有“在基督耶稣里的信心，和对众圣徒的爱心。”的基督徒，牧师还可以对他们说什么呢？（歌罗西书1：4）。这些问题也许也是保罗在写信给歌罗西时对教牧方面所关心的。

我们一般都觉得对基督有信心，对他人有爱的基督徒其实已没有什么可以说的。这样的基督徒也可算是成熟的基督徒。

尽管如此，在称赞歌罗西人在基督里的信心，和对其他基督徒的爱心的同时，保罗也鼓励他们不可停滞。“你们怎样接受了基督耶稣为主，就当照样在他里面行事为人”（歌罗西书2：6）。同样的，一览我们的教会，我为会友的信心和所分享的爱感谢上帝。如保罗一样，我欲鼓励你们“照样在他里面行事为人”。这其中的意思传达了一个概念，那就是基督徒的生命，正确地了解，就是一个信心的旅程。这是一个让上帝在我们的生命动工的过程，帮助我们在“在他里面”成长。在我们卫斯理派的教导中，这个过程是上帝成圣的恩典在我们生命里的动工。

让我从歌罗西书2：6，7提出两点提供两个让我们可以“照样在他里面行事为人”的实际做法。

第一就是我们须要在我们的信心里扎根。一个扎稳根的基督徒会从泥土得到所须的营养而茁壮成长。当扎稳根的基督徒靠着定时、健康和全面的优良食物成长，他将会是一个不惧生活中的外来挑战和影响的基督徒。不管面对什么情况，扎稳根的基督徒较能够保持稳健和坚定。这样的基督徒是我祈祷我们都能够成为的。这是要告诫我们应该像生长在溪边的树，有深埋在土里让我们坚强稳定的根。这样的根，无论我们生命如何都能够吸取足够的营养来维持我们，使生命有成效。

我祷告我们的教会能够增加对主的了解。要成为扎稳根的基督徒需要时间。然而，主通常就没有我们那么心急。从保罗信主到他与巴拿巴到安提阿去的间中相隔了14年。这段“无人闻知”的时间并没有荒废。上帝是在预备他的器皿——改变他、建立他、教导他。保罗是在学习门徒的意义。

我们的教会虽然有54年的历史，但要把属灵的根扎得更深仍不迟。我们不可满足于浅根系而是要以主耶稣基督为根本继续挖掘更深。允许他在我们的生命结果子，给我们他要我们用来将这个同信心的群体建立成健康完整的信徒的恩赐。

还不止这些。如保罗一样，我祈祷卫理公会三一堂的会友们会是“满有感谢的心”（歌罗西书2：7）的基督徒。一个对上帝感激继而充满感谢的心不是一次性的事。感谢的心应该时时从我们的生命满溢来祝福他人。这是保罗要我们了解的。一个满有感谢的心会是一个愿意分享的心。它不会仅仅填满然后溢出一滴，而是不断地填满，不断地满溢。这就是一个感谢满溢的心，会在我们的生命中不断更新。

卫理公会三一堂将在2010年步入54周年的事工岁月。让我们的根扎得更深，为主已成就并将成就的一切活出感谢满溢的生命。

REFLECTIONS AT THE CLOSE OF 2009



“When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Matthew 9:36-38

(Photo: TMC 53rd Anniversary)

By Lim Khia Teck
LCEC Chairperson

As we look forward to 2010, we thank God that TMC continues to be a cohesive and warm church family of Christians.

We celebrate our identity as God’s redeemed children, obedient to God’s call to live in a manner worthy of our calling.

There is much we should be thankful for.

We are in the last lap of our fundraising for the full payment of the church redevelopment project.

At the end of October 2009, the initial sum of \$12.3 million was reduced to just under \$750,000 (see box on page 5). We look forward to paying off this final sum and dedicating TMC debt-free to the glory of our loving God.

Personally, I recall the hospitality shown to me by TMCers when I first visited TMC in 1995. Many hands built this church years ago so that I could enjoy its shade.

So it was with gratitude that I participated in the current redevelopment project.

I am sure that there are other stories like mine of God’s faithfulness in what seems to have been our long journey of faith. Let us be reminded that the transformation of the TMC building took place so that many more may come into the house of the Lord.

Therefore, more exciting than the transformation of the physical building is the growth in the numbers of those who have made TMC their church home.

In the last church year, TMC welcomed 53 new members, including 32 who, in baptism, publicly confessed Christ as their Lord and Saviour. More small groups have also sprung up with members coming together to worship and grow in faith.

We pray that we will continue to usher in more worshippers in this church family, and that deeper fellowship and spiritual growth may be found by all worshippers in a small group.

In obedience to our call to be salt and light, we must continue to work at reaching out to our neighbours around us, further afield to Serangoon North and even further still to the Khmer people in Cambodia whom we have adopted as our unreached people group.

We are already making connections with the community in Serangoon North through our Contact 123 IT centre, and soon we will be partnering with Yio Chu Kang Chapel to connect with the elderly in Serangoon Ave 4 through an eldercare centre.

With the imminent full repayment of the redevelopment loans, we will be able to allocate more of our resources and attention to ministering to our neighbours and bringing to them the love of Christ.

Matt 9:36-38 challenges us to step forth to minister to the people around us - those stressed by the pressures of modern living, those numbed by endless distractions in need for a friend and the gentle love of God.

Whether it is through an involvement in Contact 123, the eldercare ministry or an Op Connect activity, let us look to our Shepherd and follow after Him, with faithful and thankful hearts.

年末回顾篇

执行委员会主席林嘉德

就在我们瞻望2010年的当儿，感谢主，卫理公会三一堂仍是个温暖、富凝聚力的大家庭。我们欢庆——因我们是被上帝救赎的子女，并忠于活出神对我们的感召。要感恩的事项，确实不少。

在筹募三一堂重建金费方面，我们正步入最后一个里程碑。在2009年10月末，债款已从原本的 1千230万元减少至75万元（请看以下格子）。我们盼望付清这笔尾欠，将三一堂奉献给慈爱的上帝，荣耀祂的圣名。我仍记得在1995年初次拜访三一堂时，教友对我的热情款待。这所教会于若干年前由许多人的双手建立起来，让我能在它屋檐下蒙庇荫。因此，我怀着一份感恩的心，参与了这次的重建计划。相信在这看似漫长的信心之旅，一定还有其它见证主的信实的实例。让我们铭记于心，三一堂建筑上的改变，是为了让更多后人能来到神的殿前。

因此，比实体建筑物的改变更让人振奋的，是教友人数的增加。在上一个堂会年度，三一堂迎接了53名新教友，包括32名在洗礼仪式中公开宣称耶稣基督为救主的弟兄姐妹。在教友一

齐崇拜，坚固信心的当儿，更多的小组也随着崛起。我们祷告能持续迎接更多人加入这个大家庭，也祷告小组内建立起更深厚的团契，培养属灵生命的成长。

神要我们成为世上的盐和光，为了服从神的呼召，我们必定要继续将事工延伸到邻里社群，远至实龙岗北居民，更远至我们认养的宣教对像——柬埔寨的高棉人。我们已通过联系123，与实龙岗北居民做了联系。不久后，我们将与杨厝港福音堂合作，通过位于实龙岗第四道的乐龄关怀中心，与那里的年长者联系。在我们即将付清重建计划款项的当儿，我们有能力将更多的资源及注意力，应用在服侍我们的邻人，将基督的爱带给他们。

马太书9：36-38激励我们向前迈进，为处于我们周围的人服务——那些被繁忙的现代生活压迫的；那些因无数的琐事感到麻木，需要朋友及上帝关爱的。无论是通过联系123、乐龄关怀事工或联系行动的活动，让我们向我们的牧者看齐，并以信实感恩的心跟随祂。

“祂（耶稣）看见许多的人，就怜悯他们；因为他们困苦流离，如同羊没有牧人一般。于是对门徒说：“要收的庄稼多，做工的人少。所以，你们当求庄稼的主打发工人出去收他的庄稼。”

马太书 9：36-38



TMC Redevelopment Fund Update

卫理三一堂重建基金汇报

Opening Balance as at 1 Aug 2009	\$1,820,000
2009年8月1日期初债务余额	
Less: Repayment of Loans as at 31 Oct 2009	\$ 495,000
减：2009年10月31日已偿还债务	
Less: Available Reserves	\$ 578,500
减：可用储备金	
Loan still to be Repaid :	\$ 746,500
应付债务余额	

- =====
- (a) Figures have not been adjusted for the full donations received for the Upper Gallery and Hallelujah Room on 1 November 2009 and thereafter, for which we praise the Lord.
- (b) Assuming that 500 of our 834 members are in employment, a donation of \$150 per member per month from November 2009 will enable all loans to be paid by August 2010.

- (a) 以上列表尚未将赞助礼拜堂上层楼座及哈利路亚室建筑费用以及11月1日后的捐款计算在内。
- (b) 假设本堂834名会友当中，有500名为受聘员工，并由2009年11月起每月捐献\$150，应付债务将可在2010年8月全额付清。



Meeting God at a Prayer Mountain

Auntie Alice from the Chinese Ministry visited a prayer mountain in Jori-myeon, Paju, in South Korea, earlier this year. This prayer mountain was built by the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Yeouido island in Seoul. She shares with *Joycelyn Tan* and *Michelle Li* her testimony about her encounter with God at the prayer mountain.

Before setting off

Before the trip to the prayer mountain, I faced many obstacles and difficulties but I knew in my heart that this was all Satan's doing to prevent me from getting close to God. One week before the trip, I was down with a heavy bout of flu. Deep in my heart, I knew that God would heal me. Indeed, on Friday, the day I was to set off, God healed me completely and I was able to join the group for the trip.

Day 1 - At the Prayer Mountain

We had lunch at the hotel after landing at the airport in Seoul. Then we went into our individual "prayer holes" for our intimate time with God. The prayer hole is a very small area with limited amenities but the presence of God is very real there.

When I entered the hole, I just could not stop crying. Tears kept flowing for more than an hour and I just didn't know why. Usually, I would have a bad headache after crying for such a long time, but surprisingly, I felt very light and my heart was at peace. I felt that I had been washed clean by God.

Day 2 - He is the Lord who knows everything

On the second day, I entered the "prayer hole" listening to the audio scriptures that I brought along with me. As the Lord led, I prayed. I prayed for our church and many other brothers and sisters who were brought to my mind.

In the afternoon, I left the "prayer hole" and visited the Yoido Full Gospel Church. I saw many elderly folks making their way there; walking slowly but determinedly. Even with walking difficulties, their love for God did not stop them from attending the prayer sessions.

The prayers are held round the clock; believers praying loudly and unceasingly. The prayers sounded like flocks of birds chirping together and the whole place was "on fire"!

I remembered a year ago I had a dream. At that time, the Lord brought me to a place which I only now knew was the "prayer hole". God had everything planned out for me even before this trip was planned. He is indeed the Lord who knows everything.

As I pondered on this, praise and thanksgiving just overflowed my heart. He is good to me all the time!

Day 3 - The Prayer Mountain

The road to the prayer mountain was steep and not an easy road for me. As I walked, I kept praying for strength, to be able to continue to walk on my own without troubling others.

As the group walked, we sang the Hokkien praise song "Hold My Hand". Miraculously, I was able to walk independently all the way and even able to keep up with my daughter Ann.

When we reached our destination, I could feel the presence of the Lord. Walking in the mountain, the peace of God overwhelmed my heart. I did not feel hungry or miss watching my favourite television programmes.

And if you know me, I can be quite a busybody at times. At that place I was nothing like that. I was just a child resting in His bosom and tasting the sweetness of His Love for me, just like a daughter enjoying the presence of a loving Father.

Day 4 & 5 Back in Seoul: Testimonies & Dreams

Back at the hotel in Seoul, the group gathered together at night and I shared with them many testimonies from our Chinese Service. Many brothers and sisters were touched and encouraged.

I shared how I came to the Lord and how my daughter prayed for my salvation for more than 30 years. I also shared about how God appeared in my dream to encourage me and how the entire family of Carol's, a sister in our church, came to know the Lord.

God used these testimonies mightily to touch the hearts of the hearers. One of the sisters even recorded them and uploaded the testimonies to the website.

Epilogue - Two dreams from God

In my first dream, I was receiving the Holy Communion. There were three green cakes. I gave one to my son, and kept one for myself. The third one, I knew, was meant for Jesus.

I have always been a worrier, especially when it comes to my family. At that moment, when I knew that one of the cakes was for my son, I knew that God was trying to tell me that my son was under His loving care. At that moment I surrendered my son to Him and He delivered me from all my worries.

In my second dream, God let me know that all the sins committed by my ancestors including worshipping and bowing down to idols had been forgiven once and for all in Christ. We were washed clean. My descendants belonged to Him and we were all God's Children. Praise the Lord!

What a fruitful trip for me, experiencing God and His Kingdom! Although we cannot touch God, He is real.

Everything that happens in our lives does not happen by chance. God is in our midst, and in every moment, His Hand is working in our lives.



潭秀风口述

静娴 采访
敏志 纪录

简介—— 韩国祷告山 和 汝矣岛纯福音教会

汝矣岛纯福音教会」位于韩国首尔南部的政治中心汝矣岛，是一家五旬节派神召会的教会教会于1958年5月18日由赵镛基及崔子实传道，于崔子实家（首尔-恩平区大枣洞）的客厅创立。

韩国祷告山

赵牧师和赵牧师的岳母，建了一个「祷告山」——梧山里崔子实纪念祈祷院 -

这个祈祷院是一个让基督徒安静等候神、禁食、祈祷的祷告山。很多访客来到这里得着圣灵充满、病得医治、难题得到解决等属灵经历。

这座祷告山，每天有7趟免费的来回接驳车！

祷告山上过夜是免费的，提供睡袋，而且夏有冷气冬有暖气。

祷告山上也有餐厅，味美价廉，为了在祷告山上禁食祷告很久之后，一些特别饮食：素食清淡流质。

潭秀风的祷告之旅5天的行程

出发前

在去祷告山之前，一直有一些拦阻，但我知道那是撒但不要我去亲近神在出发的前一个礼拜前，我感冒生病，一直到前一天，那是星期四的时候，我还没好，但我凭着信心，求神的医治，到了星期五出发的那天，神真的医治我，让我能够顺利的成行。

第一天 - 祷告山（梧山里崔子实纪念祈祷院）的洞穴

到了韩国机场，有会华语的基督徒的来接待我们中午到了饭店后，就去找祷告的洞穴，那个洞穴里面小小的，几乎没什么设备，就是可以在里面祷告亲近神。我一进到里面，就一直哭，哭了好久，大概一个小时，照以前我哭这么久，应该会头晕，但在那里不会，哭完我觉得里面好轻松，好像神把我里面的罪，清洗干净。



第二天

第二天，我在洞穴里听圣经，并为我们的教会祷告，为一些 神启示我的人祷告。

下午就离开祷告洞穴，到了他们的教堂去看看，那边的老人不用人接，自己慢慢的走去聚会，爱主的心，完全不受年纪的影响。在那里的24小时都有人祷告，祷告很大声，好象好多的鸟叫，不停的祷告声，真是好火热。在一年前，我曾有作过一个梦，当时我并不知道梦中的那个狭窄的地方就是这个祷告山洞穴，神在我还不知道的时候就己经安排好了，他早已计划我这次的行程，感谢神。

第三天 宽临山

因为这条山路走起来比较累，我祷告神，让我能自己走，不要麻烦别人，我们唱着”牵我的手”那首诗歌，边走边唱，结果，我还不输我的女儿。在那里真是很好，感觉到神同在，走在山上内心满满的是神的平静，安稳。不感觉肚子饿，也不会想看电视，你们知道我很”鸡婆”，到那里我一点都不会，就只想当 神的乖小孩，享受他同在的甘甜。

第四天/第五天 - 首尔/见证/异象

在饭店，晚上聚在一起的时候，或是在往首尔的路上，当我和我同行的弟兄姐妹，讲我们教会的见证，好多人都因此受到感动。例如我是如何信主的，我的女儿为我祷告30年，神在梦中鼓励我；还有美琴一家人信主的过程。神利用这些见证感动了当中有很多的弟兄姐妹。有一位姐妹还将这些见证放在网路上。



神给我两个梦：

在梦里我在领取圣餐，看到三个青色的糕点，我给我的儿子一个，一个我的，那第三个我知道是要给耶稣。一直以来，我很担心我的家人，当下我清楚地知道我的儿子在神的手中，我不必担心了。

另一个梦，神让我知道，一切祖先犯的罪，和不洁净的偶像崇拜，他都已经为我洁净了，我的下一代，是属神国度的孩子。赞美主！

这次祷告山之行最多的收获：- 接触到神真实的国度。我们的神，是摸不到的，却是真实的，在我们的生活中的种种，都不是凑巧，神都在当中，我们时时都可以看到他奇妙的作为。

STORIES OF HOPE from the Hope Fair

By Lee Park Ming

A jobs fair with a difference, the Hope Fair, which took place at Paya Lebar Methodist Church on 17 Oct, was a platform to link jobseekers to available jobs. Some monetary help was also given to the poor and needy who applied for financial assistance.

The brainchild of the Methodist Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) churches, the Hope Fair was a response to the global economic crisis that has not spared many Singaporeans from being retrenched and losing their jobs.

Open to people of all races and religions, this was the third in a series of Hope Fairs. TMC was one of the joint organisers of this fair, along with Paya Lebar Methodist Church, Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church and Toa Payoh Methodist Church.

TMC's role in the Hope Fair was not confined to offering administrative help. Seeds of hope were planted in a myriad of ways. Here are a few stories of hope from the fair...

Before the fair...

Story 1#

Hope in a voucher

What's in a \$100 grocery voucher? For each needy family that received one, every coupon was a welcome relief from the daily stress of wondering where their next meal would come from.

For TMC's Hope Fair volunteers, each voucher was, as we would later learn, a chance for us to connect with the poor and the needy around us.

As churches were required to write a letter of recommendation for each potential beneficiary of the voucher, the voucher distribution was one of the ways in which we were able to establish relationships with strangers, allowing us to venture through what used to be closed doors.

And it was quite clear that none of this would have been possible but for the Lord's guiding hand and perfect timing.

TMC disbursed 37 of these vouchers to those who had difficulty in making ends meet during this period.

As only three of the needy families in TMC opted to receive vouchers, to bless others, we also visited Serangoon Garden Secondary School (SGSS) and Serangoon Garden Community Centre (SGCC) to offer vouchers.

Our missives to the potential beneficiaries from SGSS and SGCC have established the beginning of a partnership between TMC, the school and the community centre.



At the Fair...

TMC's booth was the only one at the mega fair that was not "professionally" set up.

And that low-key approach may have been a blessing in disguise. Perhaps it was the "family" atmosphere of our booth that attracted people to our booth to ask about jobs.

This opened up an unexpected avenue for us to connect with jobseekers. Some of our volunteers were kept quite busy going round the fair helping people to find and register for jobs.

Reflections

I clearly saw the hand of the Lord in guiding us as a church to serve Him. In the two weeks I had to organise TMC's involvement in the Hope Fair, I found my heart warmed by the enthusiastic response from TMC's worshippers.

I was greatly encouraged that when the church rose to serve and connect with the community, she was able to come together so quickly, to learn to trust and work together so freely, and was also so ready to share the love of Jesus Christ with the needy.

The Hope Fair is now over, but the work in connecting with these 49 poor and needy families whom the Lord has graciously sent to us continues. Let TMC come together as one body in Christ in this servant ministry of sharing the love of Jesus with others within and outside of TMC.

All praise and thanks to a Saviour who loved us enough to die for us!



Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- 1 Corinthians 13:7



To receive their voucher, each beneficiary had to be accompanied by church personnel. This gave our volunteers a precious opportunity to connect with our guests by hosting and ushering them through the process of collection.

Story 2#

We didn't have big plans for our booth at the fair.

But God did.

Our original purpose for the booth was merely to create awareness about TMC. Clearly, that wasn't the only objective achieved on the day of the fair.

God made us a de facto "employer" as well. And that was without any intention or effort on our part.

On the Friday before the fair, a lady who had seen the Hope Fair poster in front of our church walked in to our church and asked if she could leave some leaflets at our booth. She was looking to hire about 30 to 40 employees for her wellness spa, which has 10 outlets in Singapore (top picture).

God works in amazing ways indeed.



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

By Tricia Tong



Take a look around TMC's outdoor areas and what you will see are neat flowerbeds, carefully cultivated plants and lush green foliage.

For that, we have Mr Wee Eng Hock and Dr Fong Yeng Hoi, the renowned green fingers of TMC, to thank. They support TMC's gardening ministry, which was borne out of a need both to beautify the landscape of the church, as well as to provide an inexpensive and ready source of supporting foliage for the floral creations in the Sanctuary and Worship Hall each Sunday.

The initial back-breaking work of digging and loosening the hard clay, and the cementing of each plot border was cheerfully done with the help of Mr Sam Lim.

Now, on weekdays, you will see Uncle Wee and Dr Fong pruning and watering the plants patiently. Once bare, the church grounds are now alive with an assortment of colourful foliage such as cordylines, pseuderanthemum jessica, dracaenas, tea leaves, ferns and Song of India.

Flowers like pentas, guzmania, heliconia, bougainvillea, star daisy, periwinkle, tibouchina and lantana are all layered thoughtfully, nodding in the gentle breeze.

Take some time to stroll around the church premises and observe God's lovely creations. You'll be surprised at how many other flower beds there.

See if you can identify the various species of flora. And say a prayer or sing a song of praise to the Lord for the beauty of his handiwork.



FLOWER POWER

By Linda Wee



We praise God with flowers.

He created their colours and their raiment. Their fragrance praise His loving hand.

Members of TMC's Floral Ministry rejoice in glorifying God when His flowers smile brightly and gaily in TMC while His congregation sings His praises.

When that happens, every week, we feel the Lord's blessings upon us and upon our church.

Many of us were inspired to serve God through flowers after enjoying – and being inspired by – short courses on flower arrangement held at TMC.

The Floral Ministry team usually meets to prepare the floral arrangements for the Sanctuary and Worship Hall on Saturdays. But some Fridays may also see members working hard late into the night.

Flowers are either delivered by florists or personally chosen and brought in by the Floral Ministry team.

We can get a selection of colourful leaves just by running down to the garden at the side of our church, and snipping them off with our clippers.

This chips off some costs from the floral arrangement bills too. Kudos to Uncle Eng Hock!

Each floral arrangement is put together after some deliberation on the design we have come up with. But sometimes, we simply come up with an arrangement as we let the blooms "talk" to us.



Very often, our leaves come from the now luxuriant "TMC leaf plots" that Uncle Wee Eng Hock has kindly, and painstakingly, planted for our con-





Operation Mooncake Festival Mooncake Mania

By Koh Eu Beng

It was a mooncake mania on 3 Oct 2009, the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar – the day of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. And the 47th Company of the Boys' Brigade took the opportunity to have a Mooncake Night.

As the final-term examinations were just around the corner, we were hesitant about the turnout. However, despite two late cancellations due to illness and other reasons, we had about a third of our boys, including the families of two boys, join us for a short time of fellowship.

The BB Officers' families were on hand to make it a family affair. The highlight of the evening was a snow skin mooncake-making demonstration by Mrs Nancy Lim, Captain Lim Choo Siang's wife. This also provided us with a constant supply of the delicious mooncakes.

Of course, no gathering is complete without food. Thanks to Peter Lim, "associate" BB officer and helper, and his family's generosity, we had lots of finger food to complement the mooncakes. The informal setting made for a casual, relaxed atmosphere in which everyone could mingle and get to know the families of the boys.

Amid the interaction with friends new and old, we learnt something new – an idiom from China, courtesy of Madam Xu, mother of Zi Fan from Dalian – “十五的月亮十六圆!” Go figure!

Clearly, an enjoyable time was had by all and we look forward to the next gathering. Praise and thanks be to God.

The Boys' Brigade 47th company is a joint effort between Serangoon Garden Secondary School, the Boys' Brigade and volunteers from TMC to teach and train boys into Christian manhood. Eu Beng, who worships at TMC, is an officer with the 47th BB company.

TMC is involved in the weekly parades, running camps and befriending the youths. If you wish to help our boys, please contact Capt Lim Choo Siang through the InfoDesk at level one or at lcscmh@yahoo.co.uk

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

BB BLAZE

January – March 2010, every Saturday afternoon (except for a break during Chinese New Year)

BB invites all TMCers to lead, organize or take part in preparing our boys for an annual race, involving craft and a physical fitness training programme.

This prepares the boys for a Brigade-level adventure quest and includes:

- long distance running, cross-country or otherwise
- strength training
- skills training (archery, kayaking, map reading)
- cycling

BB Recruitment Drive

**January – February 2010
mornings on 8, 15, 23, 30 Jan, 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb**

BB invites TMCers to support and take part in fun activities during the 2010 recruitment drive for new boys.

Some suggestions include rock climbing, tree top obstacle course at Bedok Reservoir, inline skating and laser quest. All great for breaking the ice among new boys.

Do feel free to give us your suggestions.



SIT LONG TO RUN BETTER

A retreat to rejuvenate your mind and soul. Eight hours of a day set aside to be inspired, to learn and then to go forth to bless others. This was "Sit Long to Run Better", a retreat for ladies held on 10 Oct 2009. Organised by TMC's Women's Society for Christian Service (WSCS), it attracted 37 participants who chose to devote a Saturday to God. The speaker was Mrs Joyce Ewing-Chow, an inspirational, prophetic and visionary leader who has impacted the lives of many women of various church backgrounds and all walks of life. Through her teaching sessions and activities, coupled with her vibrant personality, there was not a dull moment.

So what did the ladies learn? And how were they inspired? Read on to find out...

It was indeed beneficial for me. I never once thought about attending a silent retreat but after the one hour silence during the retreat, I have second thoughts.

Joyce was motivating and, of course, very entertaining! She held my attention from beginning to end; I didn't have a chance to stray.

This experience showed me that I am able to know when and how God speaks to me.

- Roslyn Teo

Joyce is such a warm, cheerful, gentle, humorous and friendly woman after God's heart. When she preached, it brought to us a tremendous consciousness of the reality of God. Her special God-given ability allowed her to communicate an immediate anointed message to every woman present.

This retreat has made me aware of the necessity of reading His Word. However, it is only when I take it to heart, and am consumed by an overpowering love for God's Word, as Joyce is, will I ever begin to realise God's full plan for my life.

I learned to have the right attitude, to prayerfully set time for God. I believe that God can and will use me.

- Veronica Yang



At the end of the day, we ladies took home with us the desire to rekindle our awareness of God's presence in our everyday lives. We learnt to set aside a period of time in silent solitude before the Lord to allow our souls to be nourished and enriched through reading His Word.

We realised that intimacy with God in solitude restores the divine rhythm in our busy work schedule. It is when our souls are blessed, that we can be a blessing to others.

- Alice Chong

Joyce's opening line was: "Take Heed. Attend to yourself first, before attending to those under your care."

Personally, what I liked was how she used examples of what we do in our everyday lives to speak to us. For example, Singaporeans live very hurried, complex and overcrowded lives.

Our professional status and social obligations put claims on us. We are weary and breathless all the time and we know and regret it but still live the same hurried life.

We do not even know how to breathe properly, so, she taught us the right way of breathing. She joked that we should not be called Singaporeans but "Russians"

because we are always rushing even when there is no necessity.

Our kids, on the other hand, should be called "Hurry" because we always say "Hurry" we are late for school, "Hurry" or we will miss our bus, "Hurry" finish your meal ...

Her "Mother Teresa" type quotes capture the meaning and substance of her teaching. Here are some of her one-liners which mean and speak volumes:

- Love can only be shared when you have the glory of God
- When the devil reminds you of your past, you remind him of his future
- When we touch God, we touch life

- Agnes Tan

LET'S GET TO KNOW...

TMC was pleased to welcome some new members into its staff this year. Saltshaker caught up with them to find out more about these new additions to our family...

By Eugenia Koh & Melissa Koh



Lee Park Ming, Lay Executive Staff

What did you do before you joined TMC's church office?

Prior to joining TMC's church office, I worked for two years with Overseas Missionary Fellowship as a finance and administration manager. My current job at TMC is to act as the Lay Executive Staff for Small Groups and Missions and other things like the recent Hope Fair.

What or who is the one thing you cannot live without?

God.

Where can we find you in your free time and what would you most likely be doing?

I enjoy spending my leisure time outdoors, near nature and greenery or the sea, walking my dog, doing prayer walks or going for runs. Another place you might find me at would be the gym.

Share one outstanding trait or quality that makes you you.

I have passion for missions.

Eric Cheong, Lay Ministry Staff

What did you do before joining TMC's Church office?

I was in New Zealand for the last five years where I worked as a registered nurse on permanent night shift in an advanced psycho-geriatric unit while studying at the University of Otago. On returning to Singapore last Christmas, I worked briefly as assistant chaplain at the St Luke's Hospital and as a nursing officer at Peacehaven, a nursing home run by the Salvation Army.

What or who is the one thing you cannot live without?

Besides the Almighty God, my wife and children are the closest people in my life whom I cannot live without.

Where can we find you in your free time and what would you most likely be doing?

Since returning from New Zealand, I have been really busy back home in Singapore. Much of my spare time is spent chauffeuring my family members around and catching up with my own readings while doing some additional papers at the Trinity Theological College. I would like to spend my moments of quietness reflecting and discovering myself. I believe that I must not be determined by my own limitations but rather explore the possibilities that abound.

What is your favourite food?

I love Cantonese congee and fried beef hor fun with fermented black beans. Over the last five years, I have learned to cook beef rendung, setting the Kiwis' taste buds on fire!

What made you join TMC?

I was looking for a ministry in church and was referred to TMC by Aldersgate Methodist Church. If God is willing, I hope to be involved in the itinerant ministry in years to come.





Eng Ching Boon, Facility Officer

What did you do before you joined TMC's church office?

I was a facility manager with Flextronics NMC.

What or who is the one thing you cannot live without?

Joy

Where can we find you in your free time and what would you most likely be doing?

Reading and watching TV

What is your favorite food?

Fish Porridge

What made you join TMC?

There was a facility position available at TMC and I was also attracted to working in a Christian environment.

Alice Lim, Lay Ministry Staff

What did you do before you joined TMC's church office?

I was involved in evangelising and discipling children. I also trained others to do likewise and did Christian counselling.

What or who is the one thing you cannot live without?

Clear cut – My most loving God Almighty.

Where can we find you in your free time and what would you most likely be doing?

I love to read the bible first of all. And also other edifying books to encourage myself and others. I like to have a cuppa with my loved ones and close friends. I also like to cook and I enjoy being with nature.

Share one outstanding trait or quality that makes you you.

I'm compassionate, and I love to teach.



Cho Mei Chan, Intern

What did you do before you joined TMC's church office?

I was working in a media agency as senior manager and was involved in planning and implementation of advertisers' media budgets

What or who is the one thing you cannot live without?

The air that I breathe... haha... But seriously, God - Because whenever I feel down, I turn to God and seek comfort in bible verses, hymns and prayers (talking to him).

Where can we find you in your free time and what would you most likely be doing?

At home lazing around, doing a bit of reading, surfing the net and of course watching Korean dramas!

What is your favorite food?

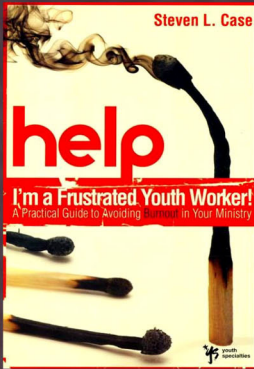
I love chilli crab and durian – though not necessarily in the same meal!

What made you join TMC?

When the flyer on the G1FT (Giving 1 year Full Time) programme (an internship programme in TMC) was out in May, I read it and felt that it spoke to me. It was exactly what I was searching for and decided that if I ever left my job, I would apply for it. Unexpectedly within a month, I left my job. God's timing is better than man's.

book reviews

~ Latest book releases in the RC



259 CAS
Help! I'm a Frustrated Youth Worker! A Practical Guide to Avoiding Burnout in Your Ministry
Steven Case

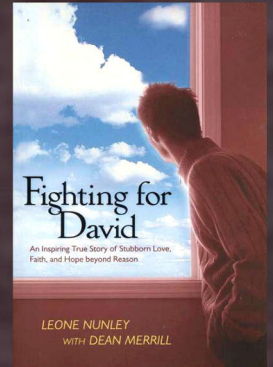
This book will help you through situations such as complaining parents, dealing with tragedy, deciding when to leave a bad situation and how to handle frustrations. You'll find helpful tips to deal with the challenges of youth ministry and refreshing ideas to help continue on despite the struggles.



B NUN

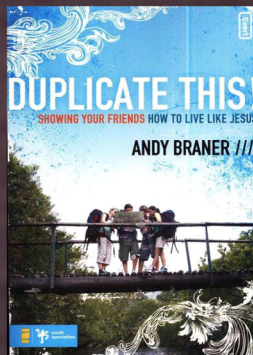
Fighting for David: An Inspiring True Story of Stubborn Love, Faith and Hope Beyond Reason
Leone Nunley & Dean Merrill

Leone shares her many trials - legal, financial, emotional and spiritual, and the amazing ways that faith helped her and David overcome. You'll find valuable lessons on choosing hope over despair, opting for hard work over giving up and erring on the side of love.



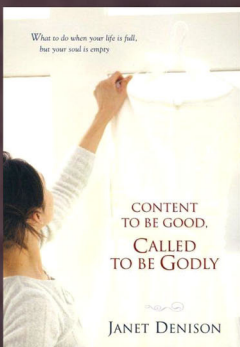
248.3 BRA
Duplicate This! Showing Your Friends How to Live Like Jesus
Andy Braner

In this book you'll learn the foundations of discipleship and what it means to make a disciple. You'll be equipped to walk with your friends as they learn what it looks like to follow Jesus.



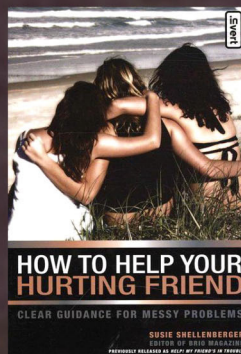
231.8 ROG
When Answers Aren't Enough: Experiencing God as Good When Life Isn't
Matt Rogers

In 2007 University of Virginia Tech experienced a horrible nightmare when thirty-three students were killed. VA Tech campus pastor Matt Rogers found himself asking and being asked, "Where is God in all of this?" The answers felt hollow and empty. Rogers takes us to the heart of our longing, in search of a God we can experience as good.



248.4 DEN
Content To Be Good, Called To Be Godly
Janet Denison

Do you sometimes feel like a "professional Christian"? Do you live a life that looks perfect from the outside.... but is missing the joy Jesus promised? Denison, a Bible teacher, mom and busy pastor's wife shares her insights and experiences of her own journey.



248.21 SHE
How to Help Your Hurting Friend: Clear Guidance for Messy Problems
Susie Shellenberger

This book offers practical advice on how to make and keep friends, how to be someone other people can trust, and how to let your faith shine through in everything you do.



B BEN

Saving Levi: Left to Die, Destined to Live
Lisa Misraje Bentley

Lisa and John Bentley went to China to build an orphanage in a village near Beijing. Soon after their arrival, a 6-week-old baby boy, with burns on over 70% of his body, was found in a field and brought to them. This is just the beginning of Levi's story. This is a book about the value of life and a loving God who uses whomever He pleases to accomplish His will.

