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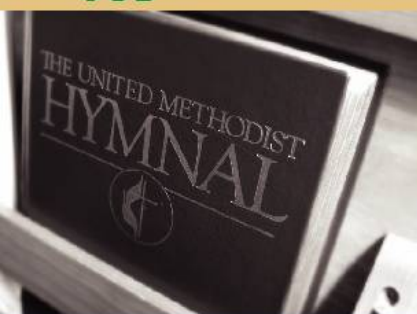
TRINITY  
Methodist Church

MICA (P) 078/09/2009

# SALTSHAKER

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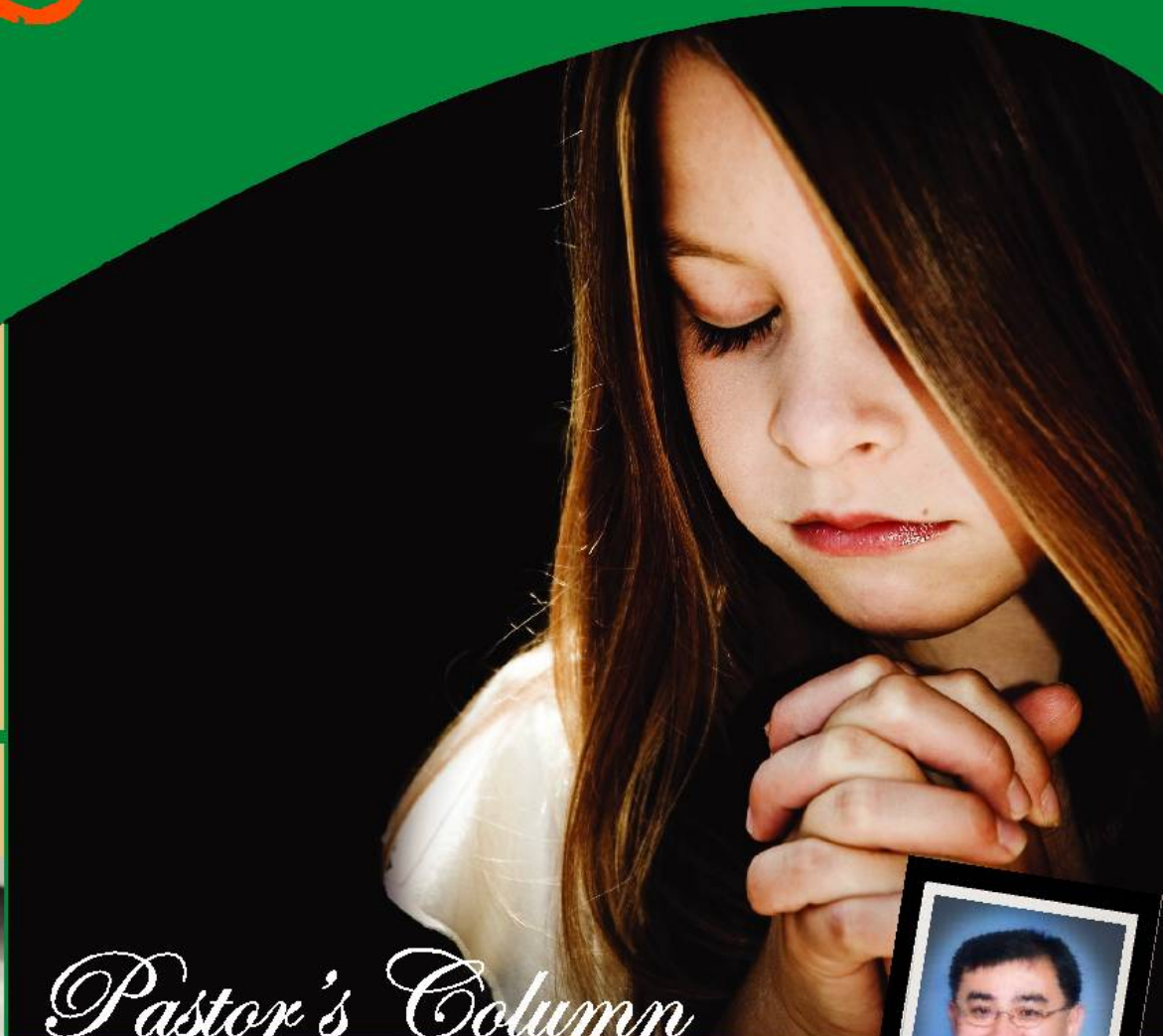
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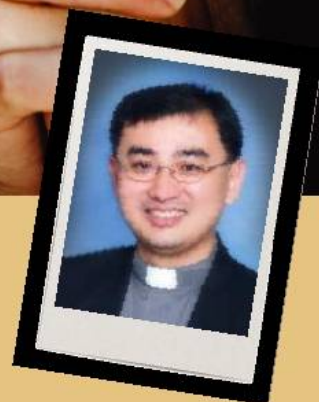
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## Pastor's Column

### The Posture of Pentecost — Waiting in Prayer

by Pastor Bernard Chao



The end of May each year is a significant time for Christians all over the world as we mark Pentecost Sunday and the season of Pentecost.

We remember how Jesus had instructed the disciples in the early church to wait saying, *"Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 1:4-5, NLT)

Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, records for us what the disciples did as they waited for the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit. He tells us that the disciples, both men and women, *"all met together and were constantly united in prayer"*. (Acts 1:14)

The disciples waited. They prayed.

And as they waited and prayed together, the Holy Spirit came upon the believers of the early church on the day of Pentecost in a powerful way that was evident to

and experienced by these disciples, and witnessed by the world gathered in Jerusalem.

The result of Pentecost? The believers went forth to preach, witness and spread the gospel into all the world – in power. They did so with the fullness, presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a reminder to each of us, and all of us together, that if we desire to live and be the kind of disciples that Jesus called us to be, we need the power of the Holy Spirit – who is also known as the Spirit of Christ.

Pentecost tells us how we may live and be such disciples – that we need to learn to wait in prayer.

Waiting in prayer was the posture of Pentecost. It was in that posture of waiting in prayer that the disciples awaited and experienced Pentecost.

And then they *continued* in that posture.



Luke records that the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

For the church today to walk, witness and work in the same Pentecost power, we must wait in the same Pentecost posture.

Waiting, unfortunately, is not something that we like to do very much. Waiting tests our desire for control over every aspect of our lives, frustrates our limited patience as those who live in a very instant world, and forces us to choose between the busyness and never-ending agenda of our lives, and the agenda of God.

Whose agenda rules your life? Yours or God’s?

Prayer is possibly one of the most preached and least practised aspects of Christian life in our day and time. For the very same reasons we do not like to pray, with so many oh-so-urgent things to do each day, prayer is swept aside. Whatever we may say in Christian company about prayer, we often do not practice what we say we believe.

But prayer, or the lack of it, is a telling thermometer of faith. Prayer is a very indicator of our trust, belief and reliance on God.

The lack of prayer in our lives says to us what we do not want to hear, and certainly do not want others to know – that, when push comes to shove, we trust ourselves more than God.

We trust our own abilities, we trust the world’s ways of dealing with problems. We think we can do it on our own. Can we?

Yes. Of course we can do things our way, on our own steam. God gives us that choice.

And yes, we will often see results – sometimes even results that are lauded by others.

But is that what is best? No. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that God can do far more than we can ask or imagine.

If you want human-sized results, sure, go ahead and do it your way.

If you want God-sized results, wait. And pray.

The disciples obeyed Jesus’ instructions to wait for the Holy Spirit. If we also desire Pentecost power in our lives, and God-sized results in our life and ministry as individual witnesses of Christ, and as a corporate witness as a church, we need to adopt the posture of Pentecost.

This means that we need to learn to engage individually (and together) prayer that seeks God, prayer that surrenders the self, prayer that allows and invites God to shape us as a church, and prayer that submits ourselves to be sent by God into places, to people, and possibilities of service, witness and ministry, that we may not have thought about, and may not have been previously willing to go into.

If you do not know how to pray, learn by praying with someone else, or with your small group, or at a church prayer meeting. The best way to learn about prayer is to pray.

If we want human-sized results, sure, go ahead and do it your way.

If you want God-sized results, wait. And pray.

If you know how to pray but struggle to wait and pray, pray with others. The mutual encouragement and accountability will be a grace that will sustain and stretch us.

Recently, I’ve been asking God whether He has a fresh message for us here at Trinity Methodist Church, and I believe God has said no. He has reminded me of His heart for us here to be a people on our knees.

Let us this season of Pentecost adopt the posture of Pentecost and be, just as that prayer that God impressed upon my heart for our church two years ago expresses, a people on our knees:-

#### *A People On Our Knees*

*O Lord, let us be  
a people on our knees,  
seeking only You to please;  
turning to one another  
as Christ we love by serving the other.*

*O Lord, let us be  
a people on our knees,  
seeking the lost, and hearing their plea;  
turning and moving outward  
as our hearts are strangely warmed inward.*

*O Lord, let us be  
a people on our knees,  
knowing Your Spirit and our need;  
having Your peace and making peace;  
bringing Heaven across the seas.*

# 五旬节的心态 — 在祷告中等待

赵伟君牧师  
翻译：柯文灵



对全世界的基督徒来说，每年的五月末是一个具有重大意义的日子，那是我们纪念五旬节的星期天和接着下来的整段的五旬节。我们纪念主耶稣曾在早期教会时候指示门徒要等候时嘱咐的：“不要离开耶路撒冷，要等待父所应许的，就是你们听见我说过，约翰是用水施洗，但不久几时，你们要受圣灵的洗。”（使徒行传1章4-5节）。

路加，使徒行传的作者，为我们记录了使徒们在等候圣灵降临前所曾做的事。他告诉我们包括男性和女性的所有使徒们“都同心合意地恒切祷告。”（使徒行传1章14节）。

使徒们等候了、祷告了，他们同心合意地等待和祷告了。在早期教会时期的五旬节时，圣灵降临在信徒当中的强大力量对这些使徒来说是明显的，门徒都体验了这个力量，世界也见证了耶路撒冷里所发生的事。

五旬节的结果？信徒们强而有力地将福音宣扬、见证和散播到世界各个地方去。他们是带着圣灵的充满、存在和力量去的。

五旬节对我们每个人来说是一种提醒：如果我们所有人要同心同意并热切地按主耶稣要求的去生活并成为祂所要的那种门徒，那么我们就需要圣灵——也就是基督的灵，圣灵的力量。五旬节告诉我们该怎么做才能过这样的生活和成为这样的门徒——也就是我们需要学习如何在祷告中等候。

在祷告中等候就是我们在五旬节应持有的心态。在祷告中等候也是使徒们曾在五旬节中所等候和体验的。而这也是他们曾一直持续着的心态。路加记录了早期教会“都恒心遵守使徒的教训，彼此交接、擘饼（包括主的最后晚餐）、祈祷。”（使徒行传2章42节）

今时今日的教会若要在相同的圣灵所赐的力量下行走、见证和工作，我们就必须以相同的心态在五旬节时等候。

不幸的是，等候并不是一件我们很喜欢做的事。等候会试探我们控制自己生命各个部分的欲望，它会挫败我们在刻不容缓现实中的有限耐性，它还会迫使我们在永无停顿的忙碌生活议程和神的计划议程之间做出选择。

哪个计划议程在支配着你的生命呢？你自己的还是神的？

祷告可能是现时代最为广泛宣扬和最不为遵守的基督徒生活了。我们不喜欢祷告的理由恐怕与我们每天有诸多事情要做的理由相同，于是我们总是将祈祷推托到一旁不去理会它。不管我们在基督徒圈子里是如何宣讲祈祷，我们通常不按我们所相信的去做。

祷告是显示信心的温度计。祷告是我们对神的信任、信心和依靠的一个指示器。生活中若没有祷告就是告诉自己我们不愿意聆听，当然我们也不愿意别人知道它，还有，在推挤挣扎之间，我们相信自己比相信神还多。我们相信自己的能力，我们相信世界上处理问题的方法，我们认为自己能解决。我们能吗？

当然。我们能按自己的方法、自己的能力去做事。上帝给了我们这个选择。而当然，我们通常也能看到结果——所得到的结果甚至有时候还被其他人赞赏。可是那是最好的办法？不。以弗所书3章20节提醒了我们：神能照着运行在我们心里的大力，充充足足地成就一切，超过我们所求所想的。

**如果我们要世人的结果，没问题，按你自己的方法去做吧。**

**如果你要上帝的结果，稍等，要祷告。**

使徒们遵从耶稣的指示去等待圣灵。如果我们也期盼圣灵的力量出现在我们生命当中及上帝在我们生命中所要的结果并将让它成为我们对神的个人见证，教会的见证，我们就需要采纳五旬节的心态。

这就意味着我们需要学习如何通过个人（及其他人）的祷告来寻求神，通过祷告交出自己，通过祷告允许自己让上帝和邀请上帝将我们塑造成一个教会，通过祷告顺从上帝让祂带领我们到我们原先并不愿意去的各个地方或面对各种各样的人和做出各种可能的服务、见证和事奉。

如果你不知道如何祷告，可以与其他人、你的小组或教会的祷告会一起学习祷告。学习祷告的最好方法就是：祷告。

如果你会祷告却在挣扎等候着，那么就与其他人一起祷告——面对面的鼓励和责任感将在我们当中持续下去并造就我们。

最近，我曾问上帝祂是否有给三一堂一个崭新的信息，我相信上帝说没有。祂提醒了我让我们要祷告。

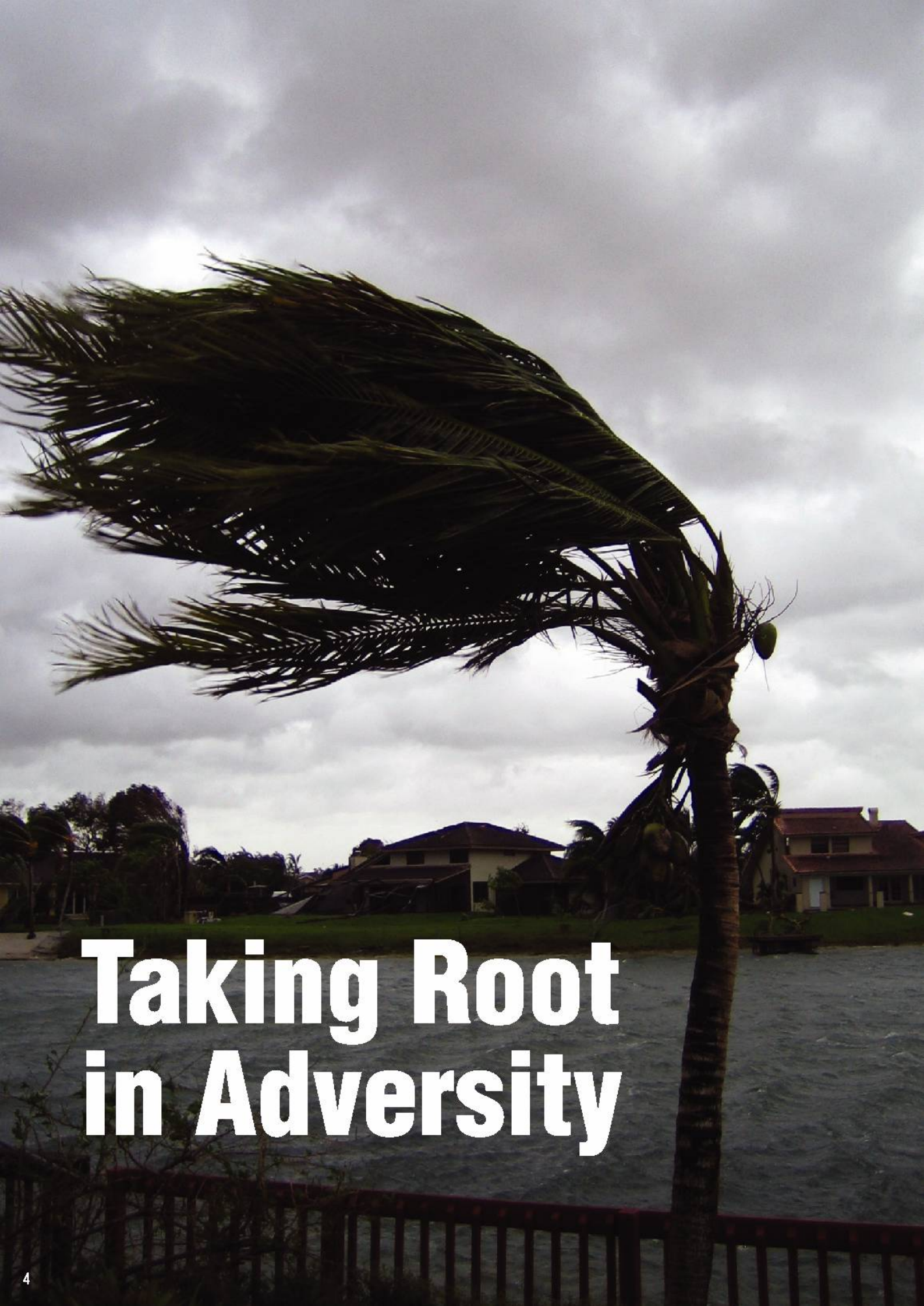
让我们在五旬节的时候采取五旬节应有的心态，就如2年前我们曾在上帝面前俯伏、热切祷告一般：

双膝跪着的人

主啊，求你让我们成为双膝跪在你面前的人，  
只寻求你的欢心；  
求你让我们彼此看顾，  
让我们如主爱我们一般的彼此事奉

主啊，求你让我们成为双膝跪在你面前的人，  
寻找迷失的人们并聆听他们的恳求；  
求你让我们带着一颗异常热切的心，  
伸手转向他们

主啊，求你让我们成为双膝跪在你面前的人，  
明白你的圣灵和我们的所需；  
求你的平安在暴风雨中降临在我们的心中。



# **Taking Root in Adversity**

# Leader's Column

by Chan Chong Hiok  
Associate Lay Leader



Waiting for the longest time for a taxi on the empty street outside my Seoul hotel, I panicked as I speculated about what might become of me if I missed my return flight to Singapore.

That was August 1974. As an SAF officer needing to report for duty on time, the possibility of not doing so was out of question.

In the meantime, there was no word as to when the funeral of the South Korean First Lady would end. An attempted assassination on her husband, the President, had resulted in her untimely death.

And because of the funeral, which brought traffic – and the country – to a halt, I was stuck without a cab minutes away from my flight departure time. I was in desperate straits!

A fellow delegate to Expo 74, a Christian mega conference, wisely suggested that we prayed for God to intervene. His first words in prayer stunned me to the core. He had said: "Thank You Lord for the situation we are in and that we cannot get a taxi to the airport."

What audacity! We were in a hopeless state and he was thanking God? I opened my eyes in mid prayer and immediately wrestled with his rationality, the wisdom and theology of his prayer.

Suddenly, I was struck almost audibly with the words "In all things give thanks" from 1 Thessalonians 5: 18 which Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright had spoken passionately about just a few nights ago in one of the night rallies. He had said that in order to walk in the Spirit, we have to espouse a thankful spirit in all situations, trusting God that He is more than able to take care of all our lives, of every situation.

To be able to give thanks, especially in difficult and hopeless situations, is the expression and evidence of a trust in God – in His omniscience and His omnipotence. We are to be able to thank God for good things and bad things when they do happen in our life journey.

That was my powerful first lesson in giving thanks to God when bad things happen. And God wanted to use that event to mould me into a deeper trust in Him.

By His providence, when we had finished praying, and the Lord had accomplished His purpose in me, the roads were rolling fast with traffic. We hopped into a taxi and I was spared from being late for official military duty.

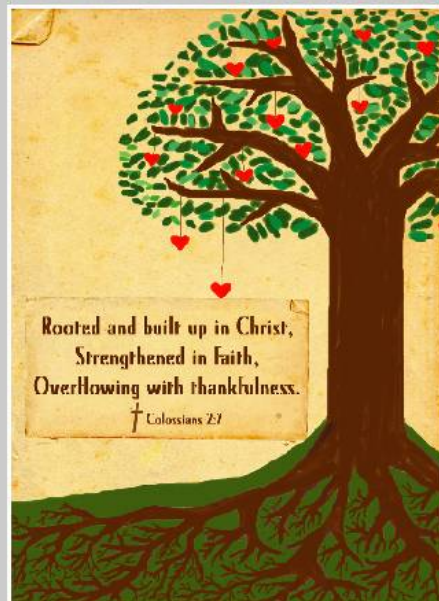
But it was a great lesson of faith...to "thank God for all things for this is God's will concerning you."

The principle applies today, and everyday. I have since had to learn and relearn to thank Him and to deliberately trust Him to show up.

And He does all the time! The Lord is faithful. God is more than able to care for us even in the most difficult and darkest hour.

May your experience of giving thanks to God by faith produce in you that peace that surpasses understanding, resulting in growth in your walk with Him

In all things give thanks for this is God's will concerning you.



## 在逆境里扎根

曾宗煜, 副执事  
翻译: 柯文灵

在首尔市里酒店外一条空荡荡的街头招揽德士耗去了我很长时间, 尽管那样, 仍然还是看不见任何德士的踪影。我在惊慌中臆测自己如果赶不上返回新加坡的班机将会发生什么样的后果。那是1974年的8月, 身为新加坡武装部队的官员, 我必须准时报到执行职务, 完全没有误点的余地。但那一刻, 却没有人能告诉我当时南韩第一夫人的葬礼究竟什么时候才能结束。一场针对当时总统先生的刺杀行动却造成了第一夫人的死亡, 于是我就那样无助地被困在首尔市了, 而距离我上飞机返新的时间已经是分秒迫近。我完全陷入了一个绝望的困境。

在一个庞大的基督教研讨会里邂逅的74年世博会代表建议我向神祷告。他祷告的第一句话深深地震撼了我。“感谢主将我们放在这个情况里让我们无法招揽到机场去的德士。”这是什么话呀? 我们正处在一个绝望的困境, 而他却向神感恩?! 祷告半道时, 我睁开了我的眼睛。。。我心里立刻就开始了与他祷告中的理智、智慧和理由挣扎了。忽然, 我仿佛听见了神的话: 帖撒罗尼迦前书5章18节的“凡事谢恩”, 这也是宣道营(CAMPUS CRUSADE)的创始人BILL BRIGHT在数天前一个集会上曾热情宣讲的。他曾解释说为了要活在灵里, 我们就必须要在所有的环境中用一个感恩的心灵去信靠神, 要相信祂比我们更有能力来照顾我们自己的生命。

如果要谢恩, 尤其是在苦难和无助的时刻, 就要明显向神表示我们信靠祂的全知和全能。在我们生命的旅途里出现的不管是好是坏的东西, 我们都要能够感谢神。那就是我遭遇逆境时所学到的第一个强而有力功课。而神也用了那件事情塑造了我对祂更深的信靠。

因为神的眷顾, 我们祷告完毕后, 神也完成了祂要在我身上要做的, 接着马路很快地涌现了车流。我们跳进了德士, 而我也躲过了可能因为迟到而必须接受的军事惩罚。那是我信仰上的一个重大功课。“凡事谢恩, 因为这是神在基督耶稣里向你们所定的旨意。”那是1974年的8月。

这个原则仍可以在今天。。。每一天, 应用。自那次后, 我一而再地学习刻意为祂的出现向祂感恩。而祂确实总是出现! 主是信实的。神有能力来照顾我们, 就算是在我们最困难和最黑暗的时刻。愿你因信靠神向神感恩的体验让你有出人意外的平安, 让你在与祂同行中不断成长。

凡事谢恩, 因为这是神在基督耶稣里向你们所定的旨意。



## Worship Whys — The Doxology

According to the entry in Wikipedia, “a doxology (from the Greek doxa, glory + logos, word or speaking) is a short hymn of praise to God in various Christian worship services, often added to the end of canticles, psalms, and hymns.”<sup>1</sup>

Bible History Online defines a doxology as

“a hymn or liturgical formula expressive of praise to God, as the Gloria in Excelsis (an expansion of Luke 2:14, UMH<sup>2</sup> 82), sometimes called the Greater Doxology, and the Gloria Patri (‘Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost... world without end, Amen,’ UMH 71) also known as the Lesser Doxology... To the same general class belong Psalm 41:13; Psalm 72:18; Psalm 89:52; Romans 16:27; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; Jude 1:25; Revelations 5:13; Revelations 19:1-3, and the modern stanza beginning ‘Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.’”<sup>3</sup>

In the Order of Worship at Trinity Methodist Church (TMC), we sing the Gloria Patri after the corporate Affirmation of Faith, and a Doxology as our tithes and offering are being presented at the altar.

The usual Doxologies sung in TMC are “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (UMH 95), and “To God Be the

Glory” (lyrics by Andrae Crouch, and also known as “My Tribute” in UMH 99). Both are Trinitarian Doxologies, expressions of praise to the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup>

This is obvious in “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”, where the last line is ‘Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost’.

It is less obvious in “To God Be the Glory”, but nonetheless, the “He” in “To God be the glory for the things He has done” can be interpreted as God the Father, while the “He” in “With His blood, He has saved me” and “By His power, He has raised me” can be interpreted as God the Son and God the Holy Spirit respectively.

Being essentially expressions of praise to the Lord Almighty, the singing of the Doxologies should be heartfelt and mindful rather than a mindless and empty mouthing of the words.

[1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doxology>

[2] United Methodist Hymnal

[3] <http://www.bible-history.com/isbe/D/DOXOLOGY>

[4] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doxology>

### GLORIA PATRI UMH 71

Glory be to the Father and to the  
Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW UMH 95

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**  
**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### TO GOD BE THE GLORY (MY TRIBUTE) UMH 99

To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done  
With His blood, He has saved me  
With His power, He has raised me  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done

a prayer for the  
pentecost season

# COME, O COME, THOU QUICKENING SPIRIT

WORDS: HEINRICH HELD, TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN



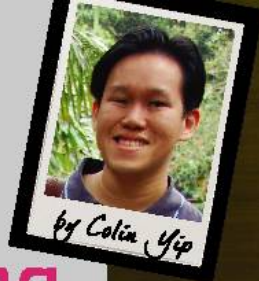
Come, O come, thou quick'ning Spirit,  
God from all eternity!  
May the power never fail us;  
dwell within us constantly  
Then shall truth and life and light  
banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure  
wisdom, counsel, purity.  
That we ever may be seeking  
only that which pleaseth thee.  
Let thy knowledge spread and grow,  
working error's overthrown.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing:  
when we trespass on our way,  
cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee  
and be with us day by day.  
Should we stray, O Lord, recall;  
work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty,  
thou who makest all things new,  
make thy work within us perfect  
and the evil foe subdue.  
Grant us weapons for the strife  
and with victory crown our life.

What does it mean to "connect with one another"? Colin Yip shares his personal reflections on



by Colin Yip

The small group Jagas (Watchmen) enjoying some food during a gathering



# Connecting in Small Groups

Our connection to God - that's the basis for any of our human connections. We cannot meaningfully connect within our small groups without our personal connection with God.

With that in mind, how can we connect with one another in small groups?

## I. Developing Spiritual Friendships

"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."*  
-Ecclesiastes 4:10, 12

In this world where we reside as "aliens", constantly pressured by the world's values but challenged daily to live in obedience to Him, we need friends who can understand our struggles and offer encouragement, affirmation and prayer.

The small group should be a trusted community where spiritual friendships can be developed and nurtured.

These friendships should help us go beyond the superficial to allow us to connect with one another at a deeper spiritual level, where we understand that we are all fellow disciples on the same journey of faith. We need to be mutually accountable for one another's spiritual health, so that we need not walk the narrow path alone.

Small groups are not the only place where these friendships can take place, but it is a good starting point.

## 2. Building Spiritual Community

The small group offers a safe environment where we can practise living together as fellow disciples in a community of faith. We can minister to one another, offer counsel and prayer, and help one other in practical ways.

But in relating to one another, it is important to have an attitude of seeking to give instead of seeking to receive. This has to do with loving

others, and placing the needs of others before our own. It is similar to what Paul exhorts in Philippians 2:1-4, to humbly consider and place others as "more important" than ourselves.

This does not mean thinking *less of ourselves*, but rather thinking *less about ourselves*, for Christ's sake.

If we view a small group as a place where we just receive from others, such as in the form of teaching, counsel or prayer, then our motivation and commitment will be determined by how well we feel our own needs are being met.

But if we have the mindset in which we also seek to bless others each time we meet, then our motivation and commitment is more likely to be driven by our love for others. Just imagine if every member thinks in this way, not only would it be a time where there is much mutual edification at every meeting, but each member is likely to end up "receiving" more than they have "given"!

When that happens, we can cultivate a community where our orientation is to look outwards toward others instead of inwards toward ourselves, just like the community described in Colossians 3:12-16.

## 3. Exercising Spiritual Gifts

Service is yet another way the small group can connect to others within and outside the church.

Each of us has been blessed with various spiritual gifts, and Scripture reminds us that these gifts are meant for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7), to equip us for works of service so that the body may be built up (Ephesians 4:12).

Small groups have proven to be an effective platform in helping the church conduct its ministry. In recent years, various groups have stepped forward to anchor the organisation of many of the church's major events including church camps and evangelistic programmes.

Serving together also strengthens the bonds between group members, and allows them to engage with others in TMC whom they may normally not get a chance to connect with.

Serving as a group can embolden members, who may usually be reluctant to step forward individually. These individuals may perhaps come out of their comfort zones to use their unique gifts for service.

1 Peter 4:10 says "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

The call to service could not be clearer.

## A Call to Consider

Part of a small group? How are the members in your group connecting with one another today.

Not part of a small group? Then consider prayerfully about joining one.

## WHAT'S ON THE WEBSITE ON SMALL GROUPS

Today, TMC has 39 small groups representing about two-thirds of the congregation across the Youth, English and Mandarin services. Details of the groups, with meeting times and venues, can be found on the TMC website:

<http://www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html>

For more information, you can contact our Lay Executive Staff, Lee Park Ming (parkming@tmc.org.sg), or Colin Yip (colinyip@gmail.com).

# Connections from a Baptism Class



connect with one another

Top photo: James Tang (left) and Yip Fook Yoon (right)  
Bottom photo: Justina

Poh Kit has been a great mentor to me. During our study of God's word and sharing, she shared her own testimony with me. I give thanks to God that as we journeyed towards my baptism, I have gained a better understanding of the church and of our faith.

**Sandra Bay**

Mr Yip, my discipler, has guided me in a significant way since I decided to seek God and began attending TMC. Mr Yip is a great role model. His frank sharing of his experiences and his personal growth has enabled me to discover new approaches in leading a Christ-like life amid daily challenges. The Men at Prayer sessions on Saturdays which I attended on Mr Yip's invitation have also enabled me to grow and enriched my relationships with fellow worshippers. Through the grace of God, as I reach the most significant milestone (yet) in my journey with the Lord, I am very thankful for the encouragement and support provided by the church, our friends and in particular, my discipler, Mr Yip.

**James Tang Teck Chye**

It is a joy to be able to participate and help in the spiritual growth of new believers. It was at the Men@Prayer sessions on Saturday mornings that I encouraged James to attend the baptism class. As I had already built my relationship with James through our fellowship during Men@Prayer, our relationship during the baptism class was really a continuation of an existing friendship. We are very comfortable with each other and we often share and pray about our weekly challenges as well as give thanks for blessings that come our way, be it related to church, work or family. I am quite certain that our relationship will continue to deepen in days ahead.

**Yip Fook Yoon**

Shermaine and I have known each other for four years. Her friendliness made it easy for me to approach her in times of doubt or trouble. She has helped me to understand and know more about God. It almost feels like we are biological sisters. God's great love has touched me - I have put my trust in Him and decided to walk with Him. I have enjoyed being in my small group, which has been with me through thick and thin and helped me to stay close to God.

**Justina**

It has been a pleasure and privilege to disciple Susan for her baptism and membership class. During the sessions, we used a book 'Now That You Are A Christian', and Susan shared openly and unreservedly with respect to learning about God's Word and on how to grow in obedience. I believe the Holy Spirit worked through her wonderfully. I am blessed to be Susan's sponsor, to help her grow in her trust of God and to pray with her as she walks the way that leads to life.

**Violet Khor**

As Justina's friend, and one who is supposed to help her along with her journey into becoming a Christian, I think it has been a great journey for me too. Justina often approaches me whenever there is something bugging her. I think we are comfortable with each other because I have known her since we were both 14 years old. Our conversations have helped me to understand why she wants to dedicate her life to God, and to have a greater understanding and relationship with Him. I believe that her relationship with God will continue to grow stronger. I think we will always lend one another a listening ear as and when one of us needs it.

**Shermaine Lim Shi Min**

# In Remembrance of WHAT?

connect with one another



**I**'ve always thought that one of the saddest things about attending a funeral is that there are usually so many great things said about the deceased, but the deceased isn't around to hear it.

Sometimes, I wonder why it takes a person's demise for great things to be said about him or her.

Why must a person pass away before any appreciation is shown to him?

I hear that in Korea, there is a new trend in which a person can pay to have a mock funeral held for him. This would involve a normal funeral or memorial service, save that the deceased isn't really dead, but lying in the coffin listening to all the testimonials about him.

Whether the attendees would be made aware that this was merely a mock funeral or whether they would be innocently led to believe that the occupier of the coffin was dead was something I couldn't ascertain.

In any case, when I heard of this trend, I thought: "Man, that's quite creepy."

But I also realised I wouldn't mind paying for such a get-up. Obviously, I wouldn't intentionally cause grief to anyone. So why would I even consider doing that?

Well, I wonder what my friends and family would say if I ever moved on. I've always wondered what they would say as they stand up there in front of the microphone at my funeral.

I wouldn't want to be remembered as a person who brought laughter wherever he went, nor would I want to be remembered as a person who was the life of the party. Rather, I would want to know how many lives I had impacted during my time on earth, and how many people I helped towards a deeper relationship with Christ.

In a cemetery, each gravestone bears the name, age, date of birth and death, sometimes with a statement of that person's life or a verse. I've always wondered what my loved ones and friends would write in this space.

I can only wish that someone would write something like: "When he came, there was no light. When he left, there was no darkness."

But we can't dictate to others what to write about ourselves, can we? Rather, our actions and how we have lived our lives will decide what is written about us in that small space.

In the end, we're all just specks on this earth who will return to dust. But what we do during our lifetime to leave a legacy counts for everything.

*I don't want to be remembered as the person who ate 50 plates at Sakae Sushi, or the person who ate 2kg of steak, wedges and veggies, or the person who told funny jokes (possibly lame ones too).*

*Rather, I want to be remembered as a person who changed someone's life for the better. I want to be remembered as a person who led someone to Christ.*

*I want to be remembered as a person who loved and, by loving, showed others God's love.*

*I want to be remembered as the person who loved God, loved people and loved life.*

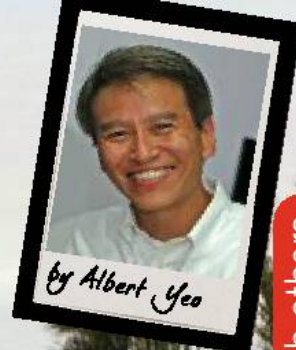
*I want to be remembered as the person who brought joy, happiness and peace to everyone around him.*

*I want to be remembered as the hands and feet of Jesus, and being God's light wherever he went.*

## So what do you want to be remembered for?



# Reaching Out to St Luke's Eldercare Centre



connect with others

TMC is in partnership with Bless Community Services in reaching a wider community for Christ at St Luke's Eldercare Centre (SLEC) at Blk 217 Serangoon Ave 4.

SLEC is this year's beneficiary of Charity Bike 'n' Blade.  
( <http://www.charitybnb.com.sg/index.html> )

This humble fundraising outfit has seen amazing support from a growing list of companies and individuals in Singapore since the event took shape five years ago.

As featured in the  
Saltshaker April 2010 issue:



Charity B 'n' B is raising funds  
In aid of: St. Luke's Eldercare Ltd (Serangoon Centre)  
When: 4-5 September 2010  
Where: Singapore-Mersing-Singapore  
To ride: 320 Km

As at 18 May:  
Total donations : \$119,830  
Registered participants: 81  
Confirmed participants: 49

Charity B 'n' B has been heartened by many non-cyclists who want to volunteer their help for the event. We will be putting up a list soon so that we can match the helpers to the help required.

There are many ways in which worshippers and friends of TMC can make a donation – online donations at <http://www.charitybnb.com.sg/howtodonate.html> or by cheque / credit card made payable to St Luke's Eldercare Ltd. You'll find all the forms you need on Charity B 'n' B's website.

Donations made to St Luke's Eldercare Ltd will enjoy tax deduction of two and half times the donation value.

# 孝敬父母遵诫命，

Children, obey your

connect with others



2010年5月22日（星期六）晚上六点半，嘉香大酒楼灯火辉煌。卫理公会三一教堂第一次孝亲节晚宴在和谐温馨的气氛中即将开始了。

这是一个很独特的晚宴，卫理公会三一教堂为此筹备了很久。孝敬父母，就是真诚地、发自内心的对父母的尊敬、热爱、关心和赡养。一些教友带着未信主的父母来参加聚餐，有些教友也带着未信主的亲朋好友来了。

当晚有大约 239人参加了这一晚宴，现场的气氛非常热烈，高潮一波接着一波！



杨忠彬牧师  
Pastor Kenny Yang

黄秀玲  
Huang Xiu Ling

晚宴中穿插进行了两位特约嘉宾的分享。首先是新传媒特别嘉宾黄秀玲分享了主赐予她的恩典。她曾经在A水准英文考试中交了白卷，那是她人生最灰暗的一段日子。但是上帝的恩典让她有了重读的机会。也是主赐予她力量，让她战胜了重重困难，最后考入国大中文系。她毕业那年刚好新传媒在招聘新闻主播，于是她再次领受了上帝的恩典成为了新闻主播。她说：“在平静的生活里，从点点滴滴中，她都能感受到上帝的恩典。”正如她歌中唱到主爱是甘甜的，主赐给她一切丰盛恩惠。虽然也会有心灰，也会有疲惫，但主指引她心的方向，一步步将她带领。她要向主献上她的一生。

此时的我热泪已盈在眼眶，因为在我的那段灰暗日子里，我也是靠着天父的引领，靠着他的慈爱和恩典才能渡过的。不知我身边的朋友是否有感动，但我非常希望她们在以后的人生路上，如果面临挫折困难，也会有上帝的引领，也会有上帝的恩典降临在她们身上，我开始默默地为我的朋友和那些没有信主的人祷告。希望她们能打开心灵，认识上帝，接受上帝为我们的救主。

第二位分享的是杨忠彬牧师，他是1965年乌节路麦唐纳大厦大爆炸的幸存者。他年事已高，信主已经45年了。正是那次的灾难改变了他的人生，也让他成为了牧师。这个可爱的老人以一首歌开始了他的分享。“大山可以挪开，小山可以迁移，惟有主的慈爱永不离开你...”，他一边唱一边比着手势，让现场的气氛不断高涨起来。

当年的那次灾难使他失去了一只眼睛，他的身上缝了366针。七个医生都说他没希望了，可是上帝的恩典降临在他的身上，他奇迹般地活了下来。在住院期间他也有过心理挣扎，也埋怨过上帝不公平，为什么让他如此伤痕累累地存活在世上。这时一个陌生人的探望改变了他。那个陌生人给他讲了一个故事。

故事是这样的：一个很有爱心的人有一只猫，猫的皮毛非常漂亮，他非常宠爱这只猫。可是有一天他却突然把猫身上的毛全



# 成全神旨乐天伦

parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother.

部都剪掉了。猫于是开始怨恨主人，因为猫失去了自己漂亮的衣服，变得很丑。从此猫躲在角落开始不理主人了。后来有一天主人抱着猫出门，猫看到在街上有人在售卖猫的皮毛，猫这才恍然大悟，原来是那时用猫皮做的衣服很流行，主人是为了救它的命才剪掉了它的毛。

杨牧师明白了上帝爱他的性命胜过他的皮肤，他终于明白了上帝是多么爱他。虽然他只剩下一只眼睛，并且满身伤痕，可是他还是要感谢上帝。医生说他要至少住院三个月，但奇迹再次发生，两星期后他就康复出院了。上帝拯救了他的生命，同时也安慰了他的心灵。从此他更坚定了他的信仰。

大家还在吃着聊着，感谢上帝的恩典让这些亲朋好友聚在一起。席间处处都可见到温馨的画面。我和教友的母亲聊了起来，她很开心，想以后和孩子一起去教会。我想她的开心来自孩子的懂事和孝顺。孩子带父母来参加孝亲节晚宴的目的也就是在享用美食的同时，让父母在主爱里得到心灵的平静和快乐。

难忘、温暖的时光总是过得很快，但那种久久的感动仍留在每个父母和孩子的心中。愿上帝的恩典降临在每个家庭中，愿每个家庭在主爱里享受天伦之乐。

The lights were warmly glowing at Kia Hiang Restaurant on 22 May. Such was the warm and electric atmosphere that welcomed guests to TMC's first Parents' Appreciation Banquet.

What does it mean to be filial to one's parents? I think it involves a sincere and heartfelt respect for one's parents, coupled with love, care and provision for them in their golden years.

There were about 239 guests at the banquet, and happy chatter could be heard continuously. Each successive item that evening surpassed the previous in its drama and the warmth that it brought to the human heart.

There were two celebrity guests at the banquet. It was Mediacorp Channel 8 newscaster, Huang Xiu Ling, who first took to the stage to speak about the grace of God in her life.

She told the audience that she had handed up a blank examination paper for her A-Level English exam. That was, she described, one of the darkest moments in her life.

Nevertheless, the Lord in His grace provided her with an opportunity to retake the exam, giving her the strength

she needed to overcome the obstacles in her life. This culminated in her entering the National University of Singapore to pursue Chinese studies.

At the time of her graduation, Mediacorp so happened to be recruiting news anchors. Thus, once again, she was visited by God's grace as she became, as she now is, a celebrity newscaster with Mediacorp.

Xiu Ling said: "In the peaceful and calm moments of my life, I reminisce the various episodes of life's drama, and find God's grace is truly with me."

In the song that Xiu Ling sang, we also were reminded of the sweetness of the Lord and His bountiful blessings. Although she too has dark and tired days, yet the good Lord continues to lead her in this life. What other response then but to offer up her life to Him?

Tears welled in my eyes as I too recalled dark moments in my life and how it was only by the love and grace of God the Father that I emerged into brighter days. I wondered if my friends at the banquet were similarly touched, but I very much hope that they too will be guided by the Lord, and touched by His grace. I felt moved to pray for my friends and the pre-believers around me, that they might open their hearts to embrace the Lord, our Saviour.

Just as I thought that Xiu Ling's testimony was the highlight of the evening, I was electrified by Pastor Kenny Yang's testimony. He was one of the few survivors of the Macdonald House bombing in Orchard Road in 1965.

This lovely gentleman brought the house down with this song, which he sang with flamboyant actions: "Mountains can be moved, hills can be moved, but the Lord's love will never forsake you."

The disaster in 1965 caused Pastor Yang to lose an eye and suffer 366 stitches to his entire body. It came as no surprise that these injuries caused seven doctors to declare that it was only a matter of time before the patient died.

Well, that time hasn't yet run out! Miraculously, through the grace of God, Pastor Yang lived.

Yet, as he lay in his hospital bed, Pastor Yang struggled with God, lamented His unfairness, and railed about why He would allow a disfigured man to continue to live in this world. The Lord sent a stranger to enlighten Pastor Yang.

This stranger visited Pastor Yang in hospital and told him a story: a man had a cat which had a beautiful coat of fur. The man loved the cat very much.

Yet, one day, he suddenly shaved off all of the cat's fur. This caused the cat to hate its owner as the cat really did look very ugly without his fur. Henceforth, the cat hid in dark corners and ignored its owner.



connect with others

One day, the man carried the cat outdoors. The cat then saw that there were many vendors on the street selling cat fur. It was only then that the cat realised that cat fur had become the rage and that its owner had shaved it for its own protection.

With this story, Pastor Yang was brought to a realisation that God loved him more than his outward appearance. Although blinded in one eye and scar-ridden, He found reason to give thanks to God for his circumstances.

He was to witness another miracle from God when he was discharged from hospital after two weeks of admission, contrary to the doctors' assessment that a three-month recovery period would be necessary. His life had been saved, his spirit assuaged and comforted, and his faith strengthened.

While we continued to indulge in the delicious cuisine set before us, we gave thanks for God's grace that brought good friends and family together. At every turn, there was a portrait of happiness and joy amongst families.

I chatted to the mother of one of our worshippers. She expressed much happiness that evening, and told me that she intended to go to church with her child.

I believe that her happiness stemmed from the attitude of love and filial piety from her child. Wasn't that the purpose of the banquet? That one's parents received into their hearts God's peace and love through their children?

The clock always seems to tick away more quickly in the moments that we later come to cherish. May the hearts of family members that were touched – both of parents and of children – continue to beat in rhythm with one another as they reminisce this moment in the days ahead. May God's grace dwell in the homes of these families, and bless them with familial joy always.



# ANSWERING THE MISSIONS CLARION CALL THROUGH PRAYER



by Eugenia Koh

**E**xodus 17:8-15 is one of my favorite passages in the bible. It speaks of the power of prayer, and the importance of intercession.

In the passage, the Amalekites were attacking the Israelites, and in response, Moses said to Joshua: "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

And so the story goes, whenever Moses held his hands up, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

Moses, the great commander who had brought the Israelites out of Egypt would have been an invaluable commander in battle. But he chose wisely when he understood that the battle is won not just by human strength, but by God through intercession.

And so it is with our support of Missions. Not everyone is called out to the mission field, but we are all called to support our missionary brothers and sisters through prayer.

We too can be like Moses, raising our hands in prayer as God empowers the missionaries we're interceding for to do His work, and as His Spirit moves powerfully among the nations.

Every quarter, the missions committee in TMC organises a time of prayer, for us a community of believers to come together to intercede for those labouring in the mission field.

The last session held on 17 April, was a refreshing time of sharing by Jacob and Wai Cheng who happened to be in town, and a time of intercession for the missionaries and ministries which TMC supports.

Although some of us may have missed that time of prayer, here's a snapshot of the key prayer items, for you to join us in making inroads for Christ where He has placed TMC!



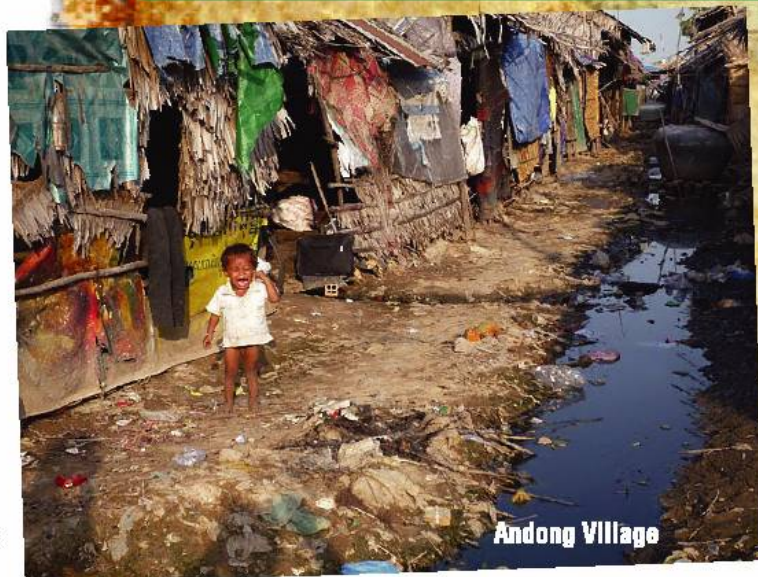
Takmao Trinity MC Building



Children's Ministry with worshippers at T



Activities at Care for Cambodia



Andong Village



Jacob & Wai Cheng sharing during a time of intercession for missions



Mission team fellowshiping TMC

### Pray for OUR MISSIONARIES

- **The Cheng Family: Jacob, Wai Cheng, Coen and Creda**  
For emotional strength to love the Khmer people and to be spiritual parents to them; for their work in Cambodia to expand – both in terms of spiritual discipleship and for their confectionary business to increase its orders and penetrate into the Singapore kitchen and other hotels or restaurants.
- **The Chan Family (Chong Hiok and Margaret)**  
For God's guidance as his ministry is in the midst of a global reorganisation and for perseverance as they face the challenges that goes with the reorganisation; for journey mercies as Chong Hiok has to travel regularly and also to have time with his family.
- **The Lowe Family (Kevin, Claire, Titus, Tabitha and Faith)**  
For God's protection on Kevin for strength as he oversees his businesses and ministries and at the same time take care of matters at home; for Titus and Tabitha to be able to bond well with their baby sister.

### Pray for TAKMAO TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

- For Pastors Chamneb and Socheat to persevere in their ministry and for them to remain faithful in doing God's work; for protection on their family
- For God to show the pastors and leaders of TTMC His direction for its ministries.
- For Pastor Socheat who is considering stepping down as a pastor and serving instead as a Children's Ministry worker in TTMC. May God confirm her desires during this period of seeking.
- For the youth camp that is being planned, for a time of learning for the youths in the church and also to reach out to those outside the church.

### Pray for THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- For God to continue to guide the Committee members as they plan towards growing the church towards a Great Commission Church.
- For the Committee members to persevere in their areas of responsibilities and to challenge more members in TMC to be involved in the call that God has given to all believers to make disciples of all nations.
- For protection upon the Committee members as they continue with the work of missions in TMC and in Cambodia.

### Pray for CARE FOR CAMBODIA

- For those who will be graduating from CfC to obtain jobs in the city and find good accommodation; that they will not be distracted by the lures of the world and be lost in it.
- For God to provide for the needs (spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental) of the children's home as Norman and Fi, along with all the workers, run the ministry by faith.
- Every year CfC struggles financially in meeting their operational and ministry expenses - pray for God's providence and that they will continue to press on in their work to the children in CfC and in the surrounding villages.

**LET US INDEED UNITE IN PRAYER!**

**THE NEXT MISSIONS' PRAYER SESSION IS  
TAKING PLACE ON 24 JULY, 2 PM - 4.30PM**

# EVENTS

## Connect with God

**24 July**

Day of Prayer for Missions  
1400 - 1630 hrs

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July & 14 August**

"Help, Lord, I'm Hard of Hearing"

0930 - 1200 hrs

A WSCS course to help us to pray.

Visit <http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html> for details and registration form

**1st and 3rd Fridays**

WSCS Bible Study on the book of Ruth  
with Mrs Esther Wong

0915 - 1100 hrs. Contact Diana (beldavid@singnet.com.sg)

**Every 1st and 3rd Wed of the month**

The Connection

Prayer Meeting

**Every Saturday**

Men @ Prayer

0630 hrs

## Connect with One Another

**4 July, 1 August**

Project Lunchbox

after the 11.15am English service

Lunch in the Plaza. "You Meet, We Feed"

**3 — 4 July**

Children's Ministry Worker's Retreat

**17 July**

Mandarin Ministry 1 Day Batam Trip

1100 - 1400 hrs

Details on the web and in the bulletin

**22 July**

Seniors' Ministry Get-together

1100 - 1400 hrs

**8 August**

Children's Ministry

Prayer Walk for Kindergarten & Primary School Children

**21 August**

Seniors' Ministry High Tea

1600 - 1900 hrs

**Every Saturday**

WSCS Line Dancing

3 pm, Contact Eunice (yeo48sgw@gmail.com)

## Connect with Others

**11 — 25 July**

Girls' Brigade 'GB Fortnight'

Annual Fund-Raising Event

**7 July, 4 August**

Yum Cha

(Every 1st Wed of the month)

1000 to 1200 hrs

Midweek tea in the Plaza for anyone aged 50 years and above

Contact Eric (eric@tmc.org.sg) or

Gek Khee (gekkhee@tmc.org.sg)

Visit <http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html> for details

# SERVICES REQUIRED

the

## communications committee

enlists the services of the following persons for God's work in TMC.

### WEB MASTERS and DESIGNERS

to keep the church website current and user-friendly.  
Knowledge of Dreamweaver or equivalent essential.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

to capture TMC life on digital media.

Monthly roster.

Possession of own digital camera and internet ability preferred.

### DESIGNERS

to lay out articles and photographs, and to design the TMC newsletter / flyers  
Once in four months or more.

Knowledge of InDesign or equivalent essential.

### ADMINISTRATORS

to attend to various administrative tasks within the Communications Committee.

Must be able to use email.

## CREDITS

### Editorial Committee

Rev Dianna Khoo  
Rev Bernard Chao  
Amanda Yong  
Tricia Tong

### Translator

Mavis Kuah

### Designer

Noelle Yong

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Anthony Woo  
Chew Kim Ling  
Jason Tang  
Jefferery Teo Photography  
Raymond Seah  
See Choon Keat  
Tricia Tong  
Yu Yong Horng

### Stock Photography

<http://sxc.hu>

**Every 2nd Sunday of the month**

Outing with Chen Su Lan Home children

**Every 3rd Sunday of the month**

WSCS Visitation to Homebound

after the 8.45am English service

Contact Veronica (SST@sas.edu.sg)

**Last Sunday of the month**

Hospitality to Institute of Mental Health residents

**Last Thursday of the month**

Visit to St Luke's Eldercare Centre (Serangoon)