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SALTSHAKER



TRINITY  
Methodist Church

MICA (P) 158/09/2010

# REPORTING

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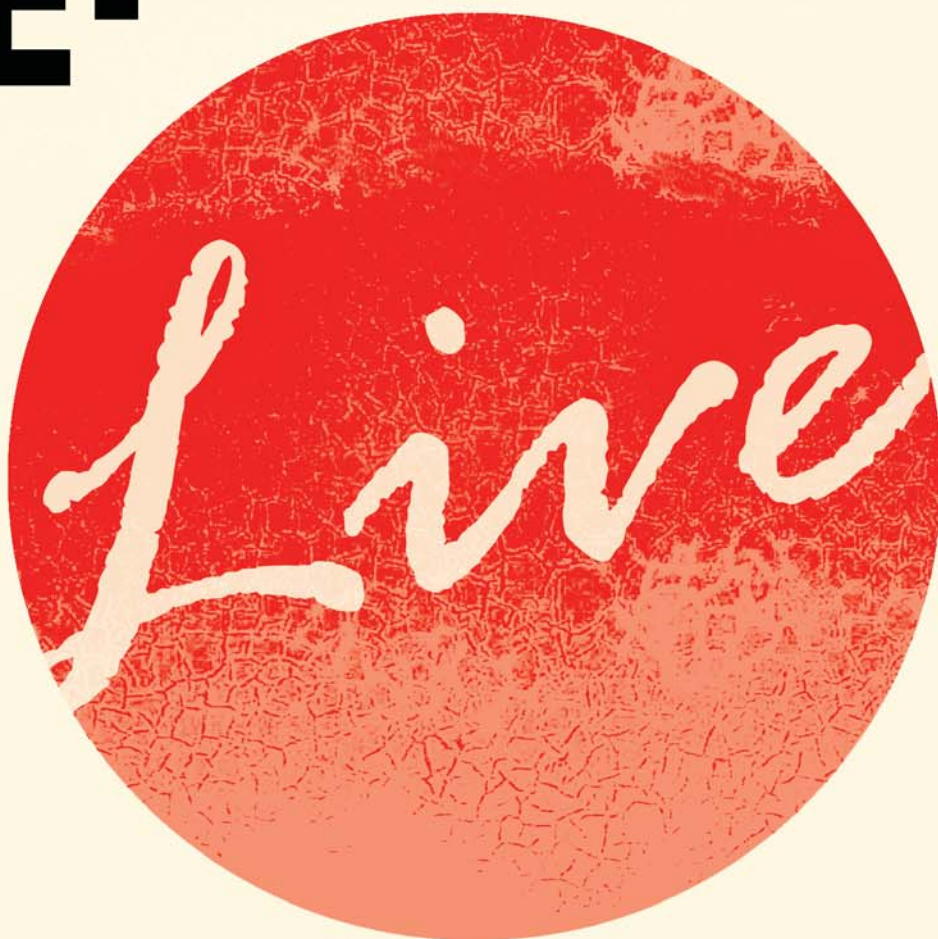
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# FROM JAPAN



## Shaking Salt

“

# REPORTING LIVE

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging. (Psalm 46:1-3)*

Beyond the television images of eerie white plumes emitting from the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant, are real people whose lives are now gripped with fear and anxiety. Not only has the earthquake and tsunami destroyed homes and infrastructure in the Fukushima area, the subsequent nuclear reactor leaks have created an atmosphere of fear in the remaining residents living within a 20-30 km radius. Several thousand people remain in their homes. Many cannot evacuate because they are old or infirm, and others remain to accompany them.

Whilst the world sees Fukushima as a threat and to be avoided, some Christians in Japan have taken a rather different view of things.

A small team of Christians led by Rev Dr Eisuke Kanda, President of Friends with the Voiceless International, together with other Christian humanitarian

organisations, got on their knees and sought the Lord as to how to be involved in this crisis. After much prayer, the words that came to these believers were: “In such a time as this”.

“We believe this is the time for Japanese Christians who believe in the resurrection to boldly step into the area full of the fear of radiation, to break the chains of fear with the love of the Lord Jesus.”

Armed with relief supplies and a Geiger counter (a radiation detector), they journeyed to the very edge of the disaster zone. They visited churches in the affected areas within the 20-30km zone, offering much needed supplies and lending their spiritual support.

Churches that are still standing have been used either as shelters or relief supply centres. A former gambling hall in Iwaki City, 40 km from the nuclear plant, was purchased by a church 2 years ago, but was never renovated due to a lack of funds. Today, this church building has become a crucial logistic point for storing and delivering relief goods for many shelters in the city, thus establishing the church as a focal point in the relief work in this city and, hopefully, in later reconstruction efforts.



(Left) Rev Dr Kanda holding a Geiger counter

(Right) Buying local produce from Fukushima City





# VE FROM JAPAN



by Lim Sue Yien

The Geiger counter has also proven useful. Although many people are scared of the radiation, they seem a bit relieved when they find out what the actual radiation levels are. In Fukushima City, where the team detected radiation levels higher than in the other cities, they nevertheless bought locally-produced vegetables in support of the community.

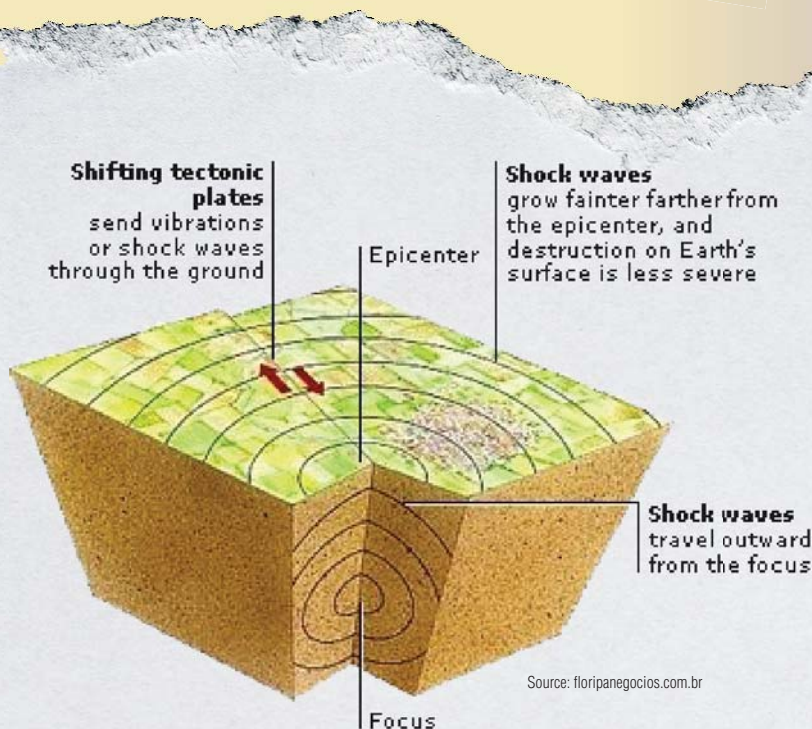
Just as fast as Fukushima became a household name the world over, the memory of Fukushima will fade away as soon as the news channels find a more newsworthy story to cover. However, Japan will take a long time to heal from this disaster. The Japanese view of the world has been shaken and their spirituality tested.

According to Rev Dr Kanda, Christians in Japan play an important role, not just in bringing relief goods, but bringing to people things which cannot be shaken, such as faith, hope and the perfect love of God which releases people from fear. In another Christian effort, a tract that Rev Dr Kanda wrote after the Kobe earthquake in 1995 called "When the Foundations of Life are Shaken", is being distributed with relief goods.

*Do pray alongside our Japanese brothers and sisters so that the creation of new communities from the ruins will be founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ, instead of a rebuilding and a return to the same old lifestyle. If there is a moment in history when the church has a chance to rise up and make a great spiritual impact in Japanese society, that time is now.*

The Saltshaker Team thanks Rev Dr Eisuke Kanda for his generous sharing in this difficult time, and Ms Makiko Okada from Evangelical Free Church, Singapore for her patience and tireless assistance.

If you too wish to 'shake salt', you may wish to contribute to the Singapore Red Cross Japan Disaster Fund 2011.



## QUAKE BITES

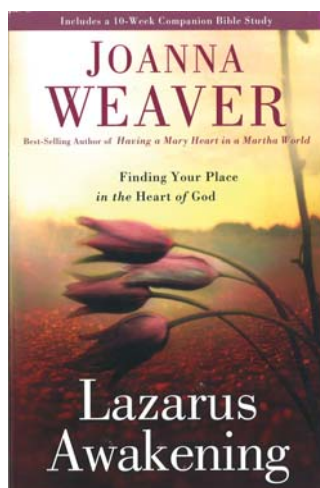
An earthquake is a vibration or tremor of the Earth's surface, caused by the sudden release of energy stored in the rocks in the Earth's crust. The sudden release of energy is caused by plate movement. As tectonic plates separate or push against each other, they exert friction on one another, creating built-up pressure at the plate boundaries, where earthquakes frequently occur. Built-up pressure causes energy to be stored up in the Earth's crust. Eventually the pressure and energy needs to be released. The energy radiates out in shockwaves through the Earth's crust. Large faults will form causing rocks to break apart and move in sudden jerks.

Energy released during an earthquake is also known as shockwaves. The energy of an earthquake is dependent on two factors: the focus and epicentre. Focus is a point where there is a release of energy within Earth's crust. The epicentre is a point on the Earth's surface that lies directly above the focus. Shockwaves are the strongest nearest to the epicentre. When a large earthquake's epicentre is located offshore, the seabed may be displaced sufficiently to cause a tsunami.

Visit <http://www.usgs.gov/> for more updates on earthquake occurrences around the world or download "Quakes – Earthquake Notification" by TAWCS to observe the constant the movement of plates.

# Bibliothèque *by SKS*

Look out for SKS's visit to TMC in **June!**



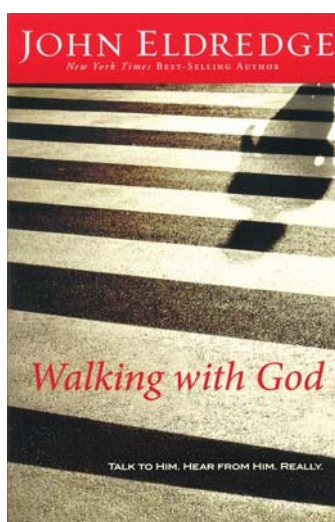
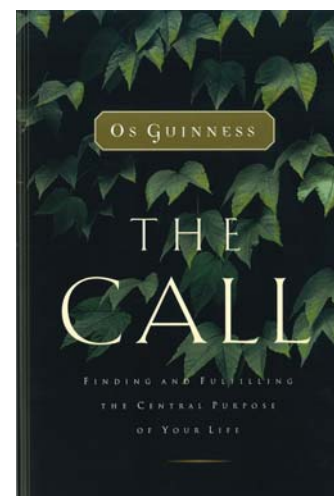
## Lazarus Awakening by Joanna Weaver (\$23.50)

For many of us, translating the academic understanding of God's love for us into actions from the heart is a lifelong process. As we consider our inadequacies or grieve over our shattered dreams, we find it difficult to believe that God cares for us personally.

In this life-giving book, Joanna Weaver shows you how to embrace the truth that Jesus loves you. Just as He called Lazarus forth to new life, Jesus wants to free you to live fully in the light of His love, unbound from the grave clothes of fear, regret, and self-condemnation.

## The Call by Os Guinness (\$28.00)

The Call continues to stand as a classic, reflective work on life's purpose for a Christian. Guinness helps the reader to discover answers to questions they may have about their purpose in life through a corresponding workbook - perfect for individual or group study. According to Guinness, "No idea short of God's call can ground and fulfil the truest human desire for purpose and fulfilment." The Call is for all who desire a purposeful, intentional life of faith.



## Walking With God by John Eldredge (\$23.50)

Sharing from his personal journals and experiences, John Eldredge takes you through a year of his life where he lived out many of the principles discussed in his earlier books such as: healing of the heart, the fight for joy, and spiritual warfare. By painting a picture of what intimacy with God can look like, Eldredge asserts that everyone can have a conversational intimacy with Christ.



# letters to God *revealed*

connect with God

This column gives us a glimpse into TMC worshippers' quiet times with God.

## Storms 9 February 2011



In the middle of the storm, Peter was sure of one thing: he would take his chance with Jesus rather than stick with man-made solutions. Can you imagine the night? The darkness, the sound of the waves crashing, the disbelief of seeing Jesus do what common sense told Peter could not be done? Yet Peter recognized Jesus' voice, and his only thought was "I've got to get to Jesus." Trust in Jesus replaced terror, confidence in Christ birthed courage. How is your relationship with Jesus changing how you think and live?

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Matthew 14:27

### **Prayer:**

***Jesus, You know the circumstances and relationships in my life where I'm feeling caught in a storm, uncertain of how to make it through safely. I find such confidence in the thought that You come to me in the midst of these storms, urging me to take courage in Your presence. Hold out Your hand to me, Lord, and help me walk on water with You. I want my life and leadership to reflect my trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.***

# The Business of My Calling

*"Do not work for the food which perishes."  
- John 6:27 (NASB)*

January 1, 2011

At yesterday's Watchnight Service, Pastor Dianna reminded us from Psalm 90:12 that we should number our days aright so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. I am convinced that this ought to be my resolution for the new year. Have I thought about why and how I should conduct myself in the business of my calling at work? In what purpose, manner and spirit am I going through my secular business in this new year?

Firstly, for what purpose am I working? "To provide things necessary for myself"? "To provide for my parents"? "To provide things for myself and my family so that we can have all the necessities in life"? All good enough answers, aren't they? But do they go far enough for a Christian? I must indeed go even farther. The purpose of my very existence is to please God and to do the will of God on earth as the angels do in heaven. As taught in John 6:27b, I realise that I should be working for food that ensures everlasting life. Food that will never perish but lasts forever.

Secondly, in what manner do I transact my secular business? Trust and diligence have always been the rules which I follow, and I have always given my very best for my customers and partners. The golden rule of "doing unto others what we want others to do unto us" has also been a key principle in how I treat others. If I expect my colleagues to be prudent in spending the company's resources, then I myself must first set an example through my thoughts, words and deeds. If I expect the best quality delivered from my suppliers and partners, then I myself must deliver the very best to my customers. Yet Christians are called to go still farther. I am called to include prayer from the bottom of my heart in all the work that I do. Without prayer, I am no different from any honest pre-believer. As I am a Christian, there must be a difference because I have the Creator of the universe as my Heavenly Father. I must walk an even more excellent way than the regular honest person.

Thirdly, in what spirit do I go through my business? Is it the spirit of the world or the spirit of Christ, my dearest Lord and Saviour, who freely chose to die for my sins (past, present and future) and to be crucified for my freedom? Christ sacrificed for me. Christ freely shared His inheritance with me. I did nothing to deserve to be God's child but yet, He gave me the privilege to share His wealth in abundance with Him. If I am to act in the spirit of Christ, I must do all things through Christ who strengthens me, in the spirit of sacrifice as Christ did for me, putting the will of God before my very own. As in Philippians 4:4-9, I must rejoice in the Lord always and not be anxious about anything but praying for everything and telling God what I need and thanking Him at all times for all He has done.

I will continue to strive without ease or comfort or wealth. I will glorify His Holy Name in all that I endeavour to undertake in this new year. As the apostle Peter reminded me in 1 Peter 2:12, I should live such a good life among pre-believers that, though they may never fully understand or appreciate my ways, they may see my good deeds and glorify God on the day of His return! Indeed, God has been gracious in revealing yet another great truth, that is, the most excellent way of pursuing my secular business! Amen!

Have you been touched by the sharings of our two brothers-in-Christ? Please consider telling us how God has been speaking to you! Drop us a message at [tmccomms@gmail.com](mailto:tmccomms@gmail.com) with the excerpt from your quiet time journal – you never know how your walk with God may touch the lives of others.





# A Prayer for the Season of Pentecost



*\* Pentecost is the 50th and last day of the Easter Season when the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).*

Heavenly Father,

As we enter the Season of Pentecost, we are reminded that on that decisive Day, when the disciples were united and **expectant** as they gathered for prayer, the Holy Spirit came and filled the gathered believers!

We praise you Lord, for your sacrificial love demonstrated in Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, and we thank you for your blessings and for providing the Holy Spirit to be our Counselor.

Yet, many of us continue to live defeated lives. We focus more on things of this world, instead of your eternal kingdom. We care too much for our own well being, and too little for the needy amongst us. Forgive us, Lord! Grant us strength to repent from our sins.

During this Season of Pentecost, we pray for all of us to adopt an **expectant** posture, and to have a **special encounter with the Holy Spirit**. We pray for help to pause and listen, to obtain clarity of your plans and purposes for every one of us - our choice of schools, jobs, friends, life partners, resolutions to pursue or decisions to give up. Holy Spirit, grant us discernment and wisdom to make the right choices, the courage to live out these choices, and the peace and contentment to accept their outcomes.

Lord, plant in us a growing heart of compassion to reach out and help the poor and needy among and around us. Remind us to seize every opportunity to share the Gospel with patience and gentleness with pre-believers, using our lives as living testimonies of your love for all.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will convict many to step up boldly to serve, in roles big or small. Lord, provide servant leaders who will serve whole-heartedly, with devotion that flows from a life of obedience, love, joy and peace, and who will walk ever closer to you.

In this Season of Pentecost, let us be **"Holy Spirit conscious"**; let us experience anew His empowerment for all of us to live victorious lives for His glory!

In Jesus' name, Amen!





# A Prayer Net-izen



*This is an edited email to the Prayer Net on 3 March 2011*

Dad completed his chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment in early 2010. Mom completed her chemotherapy around mid-2010.

Sometimes it seems so distant, almost unreal. At times I almost forget how difficult it was. Then I would suddenly recall details such as how traumatic Dad's treatment had been for him, feeding him through a tube because his mouth and throat were raw and blistered as a side effect of radiotherapy, rushing Mom to the A&E at the onset of the fever and chills, and how my heart broke when Dad's cheeks became so sunken from the drastic weight loss.

When news of Dad's condition broke, it had only been 3 months since Mom's emergency heart surgery. In fact, we were still awaiting her biopsy so her doctors could decide on the appropriate treatment. On receiving the news, I sent a text message to my Small Group members and some other friends so that they could pray for us.

Having to suddenly look after my parents during that period, I was often torn as I also had my own family to take care of. I had to keep reminding myself to keep a clear head.

What I do remember vividly is walking along the corridors of SGH one day and feeling amazed that, despite all the stress, I was not falling apart. In fact, my steps were light. I felt buoyed by the prayers being said by our friends. I was also touched when some of you who had learnt about Mom's condition from the Prayer Net, approached me to ask after my family.

My parents have gone back to their lives and routines. They now go for regular reviews. Mom

is still on oral medication and her condition is stable. Dad's recent scan showed no signs of tumour. We have come such a long way since the second half of 2009. We've been amazed by God's love, goodness and grace. We've seen how He is always in control. We've learnt to let go and trust Him. He never fails us. We have much to be thankful for.

I am also thankful for those of you who had been praying for my family and me. It epitomises what the Lord has asked us to do - to love one another. God bless.



If you require prayer support, or if you would like to support others in prayer, subscribe to TMC's e-community of prayer warriors – the TMC Prayer Net. Just provide your name and email address to the church office at [churchoffice@tmc.org.sg](mailto:churchoffice@tmc.org.sg)

*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people"*

- 1 Timothy 2:1



# Who Are The Easter People?



## Completely Fearless, Absurdly Happy, and in Constant Trouble?

TMC was blessed to worship together with Dr Andrew Peh, lecturer from Trinity Theological College, from Monday to Wednesday of the most dramatic week of the Christian calendar – the week leading up to Easter Sunday.

With moving scenes from The Passion of Christ movie accompanied by heart-rending strains of the song, Via Dolorosa, Dr Peh invited worshippers to consider the path of Jesus – the path of suffering.

In the unfolding supper conversation about one's ultimate destination narrated in John 14, Jesus told His disciples what lay in store in His Father's house, but not without an exacting demand of discipleship. Quoting GK Chesterton, Dr Peh said that, "Jesus promised his disciples three things—that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble." Are these the hallmarks of TMC's discipleship? The majority of those who responded on TMC's Facebook (go to the quick link from [www.tmc.org.sg](http://www.tmc.org.sg)) thought they could be happier.

## Witnesses are Martyrs

These 3 promises would appear to have been the hallmarks of

the lives of Stephen, Paul and Silas who, as we know from the Book of Acts, were persecuted of the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It should probably not have surprised us to hear from Dr Peh that the word "witness" is derived from a Greek word meaning "martyr".

Can we confidently say, as witnesses for Christ, that we acknowledge and see ourselves as martyrs living out our faith? Dr Peh suggested that we might even view martyrdom as extending beyond the usual definition of physical death by some violent and painful means. In imitating Christ and witnessing for Him as His true disciples would, our martyrdom could consist of denying our egos, pleasure, power, success, and indeed anything or anyone who threatens to dominate our lives.

## Posture, Priority and Power of Prayer

It seems such a tall order for us to martyr ourselves, even if not through the form of physical torture.

Dr Peh taught that we need to adopt a posture of prayer that consists of complete dependence on the Father. As Jesus punctuated His life and ministry with prayer, we too should give prayer priority in



connect with God



*"I bless thee for counting me worthy of this day and hour, that in the number of the martyrs I may partake of Christ's cup, to the resurrection of eternal life of both soul and body in the imperishability that is the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

- Polycarp



*"The legs feel nothing in the stocks when the hearts are in heaven"*

- Tertullian





our lives. And in all things, to remember that prayer in and of itself has no power, for it is the object to Whom we direct our prayers that accords power.

### Change your Water, Change your Life

The call is, therefore, to humility. In the midst of familiar images of the washing of feet being conjured in our minds on Maundy Thursday, we were encouraged also to take up the basin and the towel as loving servants of others.

Rev Bernard Chao reminded us that we have a universal need to be cleansed from sin, and we must not let our pride get in the way. Water is a precious commodity and all the more precious because we cannot just "get by" without being continually washed by that life-changing water.

### Who are the Easter People?

The climax of Holy Week often seems to begin the moment the altar table is stripped on Maundy Thursday. Even though the Easter story has been written, the grim atmosphere of Good Friday always seems apt as we are reminded of Jesus's suffering on the Cross so that we might live.

Rev Dianna Khoo pointed out that we almost always resent being shown by Jesus what is wrong with our life. At one time or another, we have asked God not to interfere in our lives even though God sent His

Son to bring us into a proper relationship with Him. Yet, if only we allow Jesus to be the King of our lives, God will accept us because of Christ's perfect obedience even death on a cross.

Did Pontius Pilate become a closet Christian as alleged? If even mercy can be extended to him through God's wonderful, searching, prevenient grace, we can take comfort – and act – despite all our previous bad choices.

We have certainty in the place of rest for our souls. Rev Michael Wong preached that the Easter faith, which hinges on the resurrection, requires us to live confidently. It is our birthright. Easter faith also requires us to live gratefully. We are a forgiven people freed from sin. Easter faith requires us to live hopefully. We shall one day meet the Lord in glory.

### Just a Perfect Attendance?

A perfect attendance of each year's Holy Week services comes to nought if it fails to translate in us living out the Word in our lives. Apart from Easter Sunday, there are 51 mini-Easters throughout the year – 51 other Sundays when Christians gather to celebrate the risen Christ.

Each mini-Easter, therefore, shall we examine ourselves and ask, "Is my life an expression of the Easter faith?"



*"I am not shut out of heaven after all."*

*- William Cooper*



*"Before we can see the Cross as something done for us, we must see it as something done by us"*

*- John Stott*



*"Are heaven and hell dogmas created to keep Christians in check? Your denial of its existence does not change anything."*

*- Rev Michael Wong*



# CONSCIOUS

OR

# Comatose?



connect with one another



*By Richard Seng  
Associate Lay Leader*

Responding to God's love for us is what we seek to do in the renewed vision for TMC, following the recent leaders' retreat.

Have we responded to His love? How and where have we done so? Does it show plainly in the lives we live?

By "respond", I am not referring to our participation in programs, even those organized by the church. That's the way the world has always taught us. That's the way Satan, our enemy, would love us to do to death (quite literally) since he then need not do much more to re-establish a chasm between us and Almighty God.

We take many things for granted in life. Instinctively, we expect potable water from the tap, and clean air to fill our lungs. The absence of calamities like earthquakes and tornadoes are a given.

Are we conscious about this - that you and I, from the fallen line of Adam, who have a continuous propensity to sin against the Lord God, are saved once and for all by God Almighty who came in the person of Jesus Christ, and paid the ultimate price Himself.

Who are we that anyone should love us, be nice to us, and respect us?

Yet, we, who by ourselves are unholy, have every spiritual blessing in Christ.

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11**

**"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." Isaiah 43:25**

We've read and heard those verses before. I have too. My life up to 2 years ago was a lot of 'doing,

trying etc'. No more.

A continued consciousness of who I am in Christ has overtaken me. Since God spoke to me through the sermon series "Being Set Free", my morning awakenings have been transformed, from "Wa, another day again to meet deadlines, demands etc..." to "Wow, another day in the Lord to behold all that He has given me yet again!"

A continued consciousness of how loved I am by my parents, wife and kids causes me to continuously express my love for them in word and deed. When I respond in action because of that consciousness, everything I do takes on a different shape, and has different results. Even trials and challenges are seen as opportunities for discovery!

Now, I love to meet people even more, being in a constant state of consciousness of God's immense love, grace and mercy towards us through the blood of Jesus Christ. It causes me to sing all the more as I recall how mysteriously He has chosen me to be part of the church leadership team. On my own, I am nothing. But in Christ, I have everything to offer to Him. I am willing to be transformed and used for His glory.

We've just celebrated Easter - one pivotal moment in time, through which you and I - sinners once condemned to eternal hopelessness - are reminded that we have been made ... get this ... heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven in Jesus Christ.

God asks, "*TMC, do you know how much I love you?*"

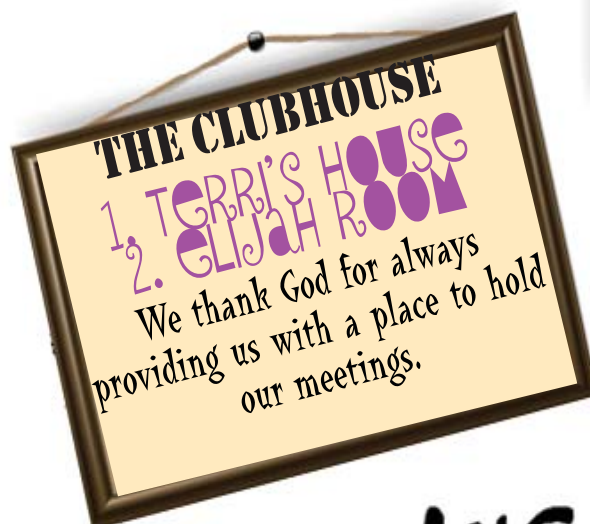
How will you respond? Consciously?

# small group connect

connect with one another



SMALL GR



*salty*  
WE ARE C

THEME VERSE -  
Matthew 5:13

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

1. Bible Study - this year we are focusing on the topic of 'Second Coming of Christ'. We tackle debate-worthy questions (eg. Did Christ go to hell after being crucified? What happens to those who don't believe in God?)
2. Fellowship over drinks and food - Terri's treats at Thai Express, Pow Sing, Dessert Bowl, etc.
3. Birthday Celebrations - surprises, cakes and HAPPINESS all around!
4. Events - Christmas Carolling @ Serangoon Gardens 2008, purchasing small group books together, welcome ceremony for Chinese and Myanmar Nursing Students. packing goodie bags for Christmas Eve Service







CUP CONNECT

CLUB HOURS

Every Saturday @ 2pm  
(Ceteris Paribus)

LUBBERS

## CLUB'S AIMS

1. To be the salt and light of the world.
  2. To be accountable to one another (keeping our deepest and darkest secret within the group)
  2. To finish a whole bible study book (Don't worry pastor, despite not finishing any of our bible study book so far, we've indeed grown and learnt a lot!)
- Being in a small group has nurtured our hearts to passionately serve the Lord in CM, YM and the Worship Team

## ABOUT SMALL GROUP CONNECT...

This feature is brought to you by the Small Group committee at Trinity Methodist Church which seeks to bring and integrate small groups into the church life of Trinity Methodist Church.

More about small groups at TMC can be found at [www.tmc.org.sg/small-group.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/small-group.html), or through Park Ming at 6282 4443/[parkming@tmc.org.sg](mailto:parkming@tmc.org.sg)



Name: Terri Koh

Age: >19

Status: Cell group leader

I love my polka dots dress!



EASTER SUNDAY!

Good Friday



IN & about TMC!



BB & GB enrolment



Yum Cha!







connect with one another

# CHILDREN & INFANT BAPTISM





# Life ... Cherished Even After Death

Looking for a serene final resting place for your loved one need not be an uphill task with

## The Chapel of Life in Trinity Methodist Church

The air-conditioned columbarium boasts of an exquisite and modern architecture, and is replete with elegant finishings for its 2,400 niches, each housing one to four urns.

The tranquil setting of the Chapel of Life is a sanctuary for the remembrance of dearly departed loved ones, and serves as a comforting haven for bereaved families.

### DONATION AMOUNTS\*

Level	Single	Double	Family
7	\$2,500	\$4,500	-
6	\$3,250	\$5,875	\$13,000
5	\$4,000	\$7,250	\$13,250
4	\$4,000	\$7,250	\$13,250
3	\$3,375	\$6,125	\$8,750
2	\$2,750	\$4,875	\$8,750
1	\$2,250	\$4,000	\$8,750

\* subject to terms and conditions

- TMC members: 20% less
- Other Methodist Church members: 10% less

Opening hours: 10.00 am—7.00 pm daily (including public holidays)

Your loved ones — a timeless memory

Preserve this memory today

Chapel of Life

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34 Serangoon Garden Way

Singapore 555940



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Methodist Church

Tel: 6282 4443 Fax: 6282 0094

E-mail: [churchoffice@tmc.org.sg](mailto:churchoffice@tmc.org.sg)

Website: [www.tmc.org.sg](http://www.tmc.org.sg)



# Children's Ministry goes Digital



By  
Sunitha Jayaram

## *Having difficulty keeping up with what the children in TMC are up to on Sundays?*

The Children's Ministry (CM) webpage is just a mouse click away. It gives you the latest updates on how the children and teachers connect with God, connect with each other and connect with others.

The easy-to-navigate webpage provides information on how CM connects with God through the curriculum and key events on the CM calendar.

How does CM connect with each other? When does CM meet? Who are the teachers? How can parents partner teachers through the Children's Ministry? These questions are all answered at the CM webpage.



Interested to find out how CM connects with others? Amongst other things, the webpage provides a glimpse of how the children have been reaching out to their penpals in Cambodia through the CM Transworld Radio partnership.

Visit CM at <http://www.tmc.org.sg/cm.html> and check back frequently too!

The children and teachers meet with God every Sunday at 8.45am and 11.15am at the following locations in church:

**Infants** (Abraham Lounge, L1)  
**Pre-school** (Kindergarten, L1)  
**Primary** (Hallelujah, L3).

For more information on our activities and how you can help out in the CM, kindly contact Chew Kim Ling (chairperson) or Alice Lim (lay ministry staff) through the church office.



# Let's Hear It Again - It is Time to Walk the Talk

## **We have to start with ourselves. It is time to walk the talk.**

I retired about 5 years ago. My family decided to sell our house and move into a HDB flat. Whilst we were deciding on which Housing Development Board (HDB) estate to live in, my wife issued her “decree” - we would live in Serangoon North. I saw this as God’s direction for me to continue with TMC’s mission to reach out to this neighbourhood as TMC had adopted Serangoon North as our area of outreach in 2005.

I am, by nature, an introvert and, at first, I just could not think of anything that I would have in common with the people living there. The only Chinese dialect I can speak is Cantonese. So what could I do?

I decided on prayer walks, similar to the walks that a few fellow believers used to take in the Serangoon North heartlands.

I got up at 5.00 am each morning for walks with my canine companion, Scamper. He is now 12 years old in dog years (84 in human years) and needs a wheel-chair to walk as he has lost the use of his hind legs. Early morning walks were devoted to prayer. Evening walks were devoted to talking to people and getting to know them.

“Good morning, uncle!” This Bangladeshi cleaner would shout across the blocks when he saw me. He is Sumon, a Muslim in his thirties who collects the rubbish, sweeps and washes the floors of the HDB blocks around me. About 18 months after we first exchanged good mornings, Sumon could not be seen in the estate. One evening, as Scamper and I were walking along Serangoon North Avenue 2, I saw Sumon sitting on the grass verge by the road. He burst into tears when he saw me. A complaint had been made against him and, as a result, he had been transferred to Serangoon Central. I found this story very odd as Sumon was easily the most hardworking and cheerful cleaner in the estate! I sought clarification from the Town Council for its decision. When I met Sumon the morning after,

he was grinning from ear to ear. He had been re-transferred to Serangoon North estate and had been promoted to supervising 2 other cleaners! A month later, Sumon asked me, “*Sir, are you a Christian?*” How did he know? Over a few evenings thereafter, he would sit with Scamper and I, and share about his life.

Mr Wong is another gentleman whom I would meet during my walks. He goes to work at about 5.30 am. In the evenings, he would be at the neighbourhood coffee shop enjoying beer before heading home. At one of our evening meetings, he brought his pet dog - a Shih Tzu! Through our chats, I learnt that he is an illiterate ship fitter who has worked in many ports in Asia and the Middle East, and has broken almost every bone in his body in workplace mishaps or fights. We agreed on a list of topics which were taboo for our chats - his family and his religion. One day, he shared that his employer wanted to retire him as he had reached 67 years of age. He was at a loss as to what he should do next. Breaking the taboo, he asked me, “*Are you a Christian?*” I had made no mention of my faith all along as agreed. One hot afternoon, a crying and angry Mr Wong telephoned to ask me to meet him. He had had a big argument with his wife. Previously, he had shared that his wife had suffered a stroke a few years ago. He wanted his wife to take short walks with him but after her stroke, she had consistently refused to do so due to her weak legs. The only help I could offer was to pray for him. A week later, he shared excitedly that his wife had started taking short walks with him. *Praise God!*

After I was introduced to the book - “Just Walk Across the Room” - by Bill Hybels, I was determined to be less timid in reaching out to more people. Just before the Lunar New Year of 2010, I went to the fourth floor of my block of flats to meet the Lim family who had just moved in. Mr Henry Lim, a 71 year old retiree, owns an 8 year old bulldog named Amos. He had been a senior police officer and a body-guard to Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, for thirty years. I had also served in the police force! We got along like a house on fire. Henry would meet me in the



(This is an extract from a sermon preached by Lee Park Ming on 13 March 2011 as part of the sermon series encouraging worshippers to Just Walk Across the Room)



“Sir, are you a Christian?” How did he know?

The job of conversion belongs to God. God only wants me to meet each person at their point of need.

evenings for a chat. I found out that he was very lonely as his wife was staying with their daughter to look after their grandchildren. I suggested that he pick up computer knowledge and skills at one of our outreach ministries, Contact 123 at Block 123 Serangoon North (see [www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html)), and to chat with other senior citizens there. He took up my suggestion and signed up for a computer course.

This Lunar New Year, I also got to know Mr Sim, another gentleman with a more-than-ordinary profession. At the crack of dawn, I would see him almost sneaking in or out of the block of flats that I live in. He returned my ‘good mornings’ hastily before doing his usual “disappearing act”. One evening, Mr Sim introduced himself to Scamper and I at our favourite bench. I asked about the unusual timings of his arrival and departure from our block of flats. Mr Sim turned out to be an embalmer, one of only 7 supporting the 60 undertakers in Singapore. “Should I take my leave now?” he asked as many people refuse to talk to him after this candid disclosure. I said I was OK with it. In the following 2 hours, he shared about his job with regular punctuations of whether I wanted to get to know him further. I reassured him that I was very comfortable talking to him and wanted to know more of what he did. I reciprocated his candour by asking if he believed in Jesus. He said he was a believer who felt very far way from God. I encouraged him to

return to God and told him that I would pray for him.

In the past five years living in Serangoon North, I have made friends with a myriad of people and these are a few others; a Cambodian lady, her Indian-Singaporean husband and their 5 year old daughter; a group of 4 China-born ladies who converse with me regularly despite my limited Mandarin; two Thai ladies and their Singaporean husbands.

Well, have I converted anybody? NO.

The job of conversion belongs to God. God only wants me to meet each person at their point of need. I just need to discern the steps that He wants me to take for each friend that I make. I therefore challenge each of you to **Just Walk Across the Room** to point another person to Christ.



Scamper

It  
is  
about  
**being  
yourself** in  
relating to others.

It has more to do with  
taking a genuine interest in  
another person and **listening** to  
their story than it does with learning  
evangelism tactics and techniques.

It follows the model that Jesus has set for us.

When Christ “walked” across the earth 2,000 years  
ago, He had no formulae and no script, only the  
offer of redemption to people like us.

# Just Walk Across

Emphasizing the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Just Walk Across the Room sessions invite us to step into encounters with people who have their own stories to tell and whose hearts yearn to experience God’s love reaching out to them.

**Smile. Encourage. Befriend.**

You can make the difference of an eternity for someone. It all starts with  
Just a Walk Across the Room.

*Coming to you at TMC...*

**on 10, 17, 24, 31 July 2011**

Visit **<http://www.tmc.org.sg/jwatr.html>**



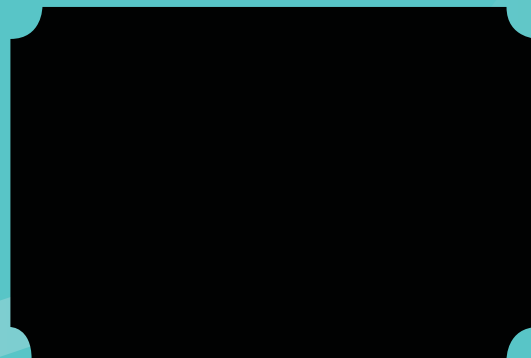
*The most important thing the course taught me was to adopt a mindset change...Evangelism is the duty of all believers, who are empowered through the Holy Spirit... It is about being actively aware of the Holy Spirit's guidance in our everyday interactions with the people around us and our obedience to the Spirit's prompting. We should be ready at any time to explain to pre-believers why we believe in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us...We need not worry about the outcome. I also appreciated the fact that the sessions equipped us with practical skills such as on how to share the salvation story with others and throwing "Matthew" parties.*

~ Monica Chia

In March 2011, I was tasked to take photographs of the Chapel of Life in TMC. I felt awkward taking pictures in the columbarium, especially in the presence of two ladies who started to sob. I thought it was best to explain to them the reasons for my presence and conduct, and to seek their understanding and approval for the photographs which contained their side profiles.

# WALK ACROSS THE ROOM

To my pleasant surprise, one of them jokingly asked if I wanted to take some photographs that showed their faces. The tension and uneasiness in the air disappeared immediately. As we chatted, one of the ladies shared that she had come to pay respects to her deceased brother. Her companion was the deceased's wife. They had been visiting the columbarium regularly over the past few months and she thought it would be ideal for them to attend a Mandarin service in TMC if there was one. "Of course there is a Mandarin service", I exclaimed excitedly, and promptly arranged for them to meet with Mr Eddie Goh, the Lay Ministry Staff for the Mandarin service. Praise the Lord that He moved me to Just Walk Across the ...Chapel of Life!



L-R: Monica, Alice, Sue Ann,  
Swee Eem & Heather

connect with others

*Page 16 of the book:*

*"...one thing I've learned is that life's great moments evolve from simple acts of cooperation with God's mysterious promptings..."*

*Page 24 of the book:*

*"People were Jesus' One Thing. And they still are."*

*Pages 29-30 of the book*

*"...the single greatest gift you can give someone is an introduction to the God who asked his Son to go the unthinkable distance to redeem them. And when you allow your life's great preoccupation to be people, you'll find that when Christ asks you to take a walk across a street, into a restaurant, up a flight of stairs, through a locker room, wherever, you are ready! You're ready to leave your Circle of Comfort and follow his lead because you remember the fact that Jesus once crossed an entire universe to rescue you — the same Jesus who was known to enjoy deep community from time to time but who would consistently and unapologetically excuse himself from a Circle of Comfort and walk in the direction of someone he could direct toward the Father. Today, to Christ-followers all over the planet, he says, "Reflect my love! And repeat my action."*



Joshua is 15, a soft-spoken student, living away from his family.

Lim Ah Ba is 64, weathered and tanned, and lives away from his wife.

Wee Fen is a homemaker and at 61, she is sprightly and active.

### What do they have in common?

They pledged their acceptance of Christ during the Mandarin service on Sunday 3 April, whilst Henry Chong the gospel singer was sharing his testimony (yes, Henry walked across the room in his own way).

Joshua is Malaysian on scholarship here in Singapore. Coming from a Christian family, he used to attend the Ulu Tiram Methodist Church in Johor with his parents and two older brothers. During the school holidays, his dad will drive to Singapore to pick him up so that he can join the family in worship back in Johor. While in Singapore, some of Joshua's friends tried to introduce him to other churches but he is not comfortable worshipping in English. By chance, his classmate's parents brought him to Trinity Methodist Church which he found a good fit.

Lim Ah Ba lives with his younger son. His wife is helping to look after their grandson so she stays at their older son's flat, leaving Ah Ba to look after himself. Ah Ba does occasional renovation work for a lawyer, who lives in Serangoon Gardens, and they have become

friends over the years. He was touched by this lawyer friend's sincere efforts to persuade him to attend church. He related to me that his lawyer friend is highly educated and a Christian so there must be something that he is doing right. Ah Ba has been attending the Mandarin service since last month. He is happy that the church community has provided opportunities for him to make more new friends.





Wee Fen is 61, one of six girls in a family of nine siblings. She has one daughter who married into a Catholic family; Wee Fen's son-in-law is also an only child. Being filial children, Wee Fen's daughter and son-in-law take turns to visit their parents. They stay with Wee Fen at least 3 days a week.



During their stay, they attend church as a family. However, on Sunday 3 April, Wee Fen's sister, Wee Meng invited her to attend TMC's Mandarin service featuring special guest, Henry Chong, the singing pastor. It was during this time that God spoke to Wee Fen and she welcomes the Lord into her life. With her husband's support, she has taken the important step to remove the idols from her home's altar. May she continue to find favour with God.

Praise God for touching the lives of Joshua, Ah Ba and Wee Fen. Let us learn to embrace them and make them feel at home in our church. This is our responsibility as God's community and this work should not be left only to the pastoral ministry. All of us can play a part in engaging and encouraging one another in the church. May God speak to us and direct our efforts through Proverbs 3:5-6

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."*

Come on, get up and  
**JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM.**

Just be a friend.

Need to know how?

Why not participate in the next run  
of **JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM**

(see details on page 20)

Henry Chong







# Spotlight on Chen Su Lan Home



Beneath the gleaming skyscrapers lies a harsh reality in Singapore – many children and youths fall through the cracks due to poverty and lack of opportunity. It's estimated that some 23,000 children go hungry every day and an average of 1,200 youths drop out of school annually. Many of these children and youth are crying out for God's love and providence.

Looking to serve a group of underprivileged children and youths? Here's how you can get involved with Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home with TMC's Social Concerns ministry!

## Shelter

Many of us have grown up in families where food and shelter is a given. Few have ever worried about not having a safe haven to call home.

Yet in many children's homes across Singapore, this concern is very real.

Children can only reside in the Home up to age 16, after which they either have to live independently or be sent to a boys' or girls' home for young adults. In the most ideal scenario, the children return to live with their parents. However, this is sometimes not possible due to the family's circumstance.

There will be a couple of youths who will graduate from the Home this year. TMC is looking for possible tenants to provide them a good Christian household to live in, and also contributions towards the children's rent.

## Befrienders

God has worked in amazing ways in our ministry with the children and youths from the Home. We are constantly given opportunities to further reach out to them.

Currently, a group of 15 children and youths from the Home attend TMC on Sundays. The Home's director of programs is keen to send an additional group of 5 children to TMC. We need dedicated volunteers who can spend some time with these often hyper-active children as they participate in our Children's Ministry. This is an opportunity for us to befriend the children and be a conduit of God's love for them.

Many of us who have been privileged to be part of the lives of youths from the Home have grown in our journey of faith. We have shared stories and seen God's hand upon their lives and the ministry. We extend an invitation to you.

Come and join us in this exciting journey where God uses us to make difference in our community!

If you:

- know of a suitable Christian household to house the children;
  - can contribute towards the children's rent
  - are keen to befriend one of the children who attends TMC;
- please write to Eugenia Koh at [eugeniakoh@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:eugeniakoh@yahoo.com.sg) or contact her through the church office.

More about the Home at <http://www.eslmch.org.sg/>



# Diary of a Disciplining Missionary

Jacob Cheng, one of TMC's missionaries in Cambodia. He lives in Cambodia with his wife, Wai Cheng, and their 2 children. This is an excerpt from his report in January 2011.



The family riding a nori, an improvised platform that runs on a railway track.

The holistic approach in making disciples is demanding and challenging. The journey is long. It's just like having children of your own where you feel vulnerable when a child of yours goes astray. It is sometimes heart-wrenching and it takes us much time to recover and refocus our care and attention on the others.



Nanyang Polytechnic students who taught villagers to use lemongrass as insect repellent. Boran and Chantha (both holding an appreciation card) helped co-ordinate the logistics for the training.



Wai Cheng talking to a group of students from PLMGS who came to learn how to make soymilk and Ang Ku Kueh from our Khmer girls. (Sreyrim (left) and Dimple standing behind the work table).



After 4 months at Harvest Inn, Raksmei, an 18 year old student who left COSI orphanage as a timid young man, gained much confidence to survive on the busy streets of Phnom Penh. He learned to serve guests at Harvest Inn and to drive a tuk tuk. At Harvest Inn, that is one of the practical ways to exercise one's faith in God. Pray, trust and do it.

Sreyrim was full of joy when she saw that the soymilk and nyonya cakes were selling well, even though the quantity sold is small. She had a chance to share her skills with some visitors who were keen to learn. The fees she earned helped her to pay for her grandmother's medical expenses, and later for the funeral.

There are 10 other young adults with Raksmei and Sreyrim in this faith journey. Most of them are from the second batch who joined 4 months ago. They are now a part of us, living with us.

Boran and Chantha, both from COSI orphanage, gained much experience when they helped to co-ordinate the program for students from Nanyang Polytechnic. They assisted in arranging transport, food, lodging, recreation, provided translation and most importantly, encouraging camaraderie. They were effective testimonies of God's work, Christians who had found hope in Christ. We thank God that our people can serve with various student groups and mission teams.

We are glad to teach these young disciples about Jesus and His Kingdom. Sharing parables and counselling is a norm during work or rest. We hope that they glorify God with their life and skills and become effective witnesses for Jesus in Cambodia.



Friends on tuk tuk

If you are ever in Phnom Penh, do support Harvest Inn which provides simple accommodation for visitors. Check it out at

[www.tmc.org.sg/Missions/Harvest-Inn.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/Missions/Harvest-Inn.html)

We are praying for Missions on 25 June. Please contact Andy Chew through the church office for more information, or visit the Missions web page at [www.tmc.org.sg/missions.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/missions.html)



## SERVICES REQUIRED



The church receives cash every Sunday from three services and the children's ministry. All cash is counted manually. If you can help our blister-fingered human counters with the simple task of counting notes and coins on Sunday, please contact Denisa Chin at 6282 4443 / denisa@tmc.org.sg. Alternatively, you might like to make a donation towards an automated cash counting machine (though the camaraderie in the counting room would then really be missed!)

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## EVENTS

### 1st & 3rd Friday, 9.15am

WSCS Bible Study by Esther Wong. Contact Mrs Diana David or Mrs Joanne Wong at 96507126 / 98585517 for more details...



### Every Friday, 8 pm

Healing Ministry.....



### Every Saturday, 7 am

Men at Prayer.....



### Every Saturday, 3 pm

WSCS Line Dancing.....



### Wed, 1 Jun, 6 July, 10 am

Yum Cha is a seniors fellowship ministry. Contact Eric Cheong at 9180 6713 or Gek Khee, 9653 5116 for more information.....



### Sun, 3 Jul

Youth Sunday

Children's Ministry Retreat.....



### 10-13 Jun

Church Camp in Malaysia

(There will be no Children's or Youth Ministry sessions).....



### Sat, 16 Jun

Contact 123 Outing.....



### Sun, 19 Jun

SKS Book Sale in TMC.....



### Sat, 25 Jun,

Day of Prayer for Missions

Contact Andy Chew through the church office for more information..



### Sun, 26 Jun, 31 Jul

Visit to Institute of Mental Health (OSC).....



### Thurs, 30 Jun, 28 Jul, 10am

St Luke's Eldercare Visitation & Devotion. Partnering Bless Community Services, we are reaching a wider community for Christ at SLEC in Serangoon (www.slec.org.sg). Contact Eric Cheong at 9180 6713 to visit SLEC with TMC....



### Sun, 10 Jul

Pre-Stewardship Sunday.....



### Sun, 17 Jul 11

Stewardship Sunday.....



### Sun, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul, 2.00 - 4.30pm

Second run of Just Walk Across the Room.

Contact Violet through the church office to sign up.....



Further details of all events are at <http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html>