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Trinity Methodist Church

M.I.T.A.(P) No.045/09/2004

Saltshaker

Milk, Honey, and Water

TMC has returned from the wilderness. The people have "crossed the Jordan river". And we're back to the promised land, ... sort of.

Since we have been relating TMC's wilderness experience with that of Israel's, I thought it would be good to remind ourselves what happened after Israel crossed the Jordan.

- They found a land flowing with milk and honey – just as God promised (Exodus 3:8). And they lived happily ever after.

Not really.

- First, they had to overcome the walls of Jericho.
- Then they had to deal with the terrible sin of Achan.
- This was followed by years of war with the Canaanites, both in the north and the south.
- Then, after most of their enemies were subdued with the Lord's help, they allocated the land and settled down. (By the way, you can read all this in the Book of Joshua)
- And they lived happily ever after.

Oops, wrong again.

Well, many of us would know that the people of Israel fell into sin very quickly again – do read the Book of Judges. God had to deal with them like a parent, both in love and in discipline.

Eventually, God gave them a king (don't ask me which book of the Bible is that, or you'll have to re-do Baptism Class). And so Israel moved on – with some good kings, and many bad ones. But thank God for the prophets, she was constantly reminded of her mission (Isaiah 42:6-7):

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."

Well, whether Israel ultimately fulfilled her mission I'll leave to the scholars to debate. All I know is that the nation later lost her status and glory, beginning from the year 722 B.C. ... to this very day.

34 Serangoon Garden Way now flows with "milk and honey", and the beautiful Baptismal Pool overflows with clean sweet water.

I wonder how many new believers will step into it in the next 48 years.

If there's anything we can learn from the history of Israel after Jordan, it is the commitment to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. And this means faithfulness, righteousness, holiness, and obedience to fulfill the mission God has given us to make disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). In fact, the nature of God's mission (see above; Isaiah 42:6-7) hasn't really changed.

The prayer of TMC's leadership is to see every member experience the reality of the Spirit and practise discipleship in his or her daily life. For the next 4 years, we will adopt the following themes as an expression of our discipleship:

2005	Worship – my Lifestyle
2006	TMC – my Family
2007	Service – our Offering
2008	Outreach – His Commission

Well, the \$12m ship is on the move, and above is the direction we are going.

Are you coming on board? If so, can I request that you begin by praying for your pastors and your leaders? We thank God for you. Shalom.

By Pastor Lai Kai Ming

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TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

The Days Ahead

By Dr Hum Sin Hoon



We are finally back at Serangoon Garden Way (SGW)!

After some two years out 'in the wilderness', we have now come home. Many of us are full of joy and thanksgiving for this physically redeveloped Trinity Methodist Church (TMC). And we should be. The Lord has seen us through both 'fire and rain'. He has provided for the planned redevelopment, and has added a bonus in the form of a brand new reinstated sanctuary as well. How can we ever thank Him enough? His ways are indeed higher than ours!

Somehow, many of us sense that TMC has moved into a new era with the newly redeveloped physical premises. As we look ahead into this new era, what does the Lord want us to do as His spiritual church? Just where should TMC be headed in the next few years? Our TMC leaders considered this prayerfully and pragmatically during the Leaders' Retreat recently. The outcome from this careful deliberation is our conviction of a refreshed Vision that we believe captures the heart of what we perceive the Lord wants for TMC over the next few years.

Indeed, our conviction is for:

"Every Member to Experience the Reality of the Holy Spirit and to Practise Discipleship in his or her Daily Life".

What does this mean? Quite clearly, this represents a picture of a TMC where every member and friend truly experiences the reality of the Presence of the Holy Spirit in his or her life. This would mean that each is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life where Christ is

real from moment to moment. With the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the practice of Christian discipleship becomes possible. And this we must do:

dying to self constantly and serving Christ as His disciples by serving His people and reaching out to the lost.

What do we envisage as TMC moves forward in fulfilling this vision?

We anticipate us becoming a more Prayerful and Worshipful church, where more and more of us become more and more Spirit-led, and where our ministries, missions and outreach are more and more clearly directed and led by the Spirit Himself. This would translate into what we have already begun to see: TMC becoming Stronger in our Worship, Deeper in our Discipleship, Warmer in our Fellowship, Broader in our Ministries, and Larger through our Evangelism and Missions.

Why is this our conviction?

This is something that our leadership has been learning over the past many months. We are learning to discern the Lord's work in our midst, to observe what He has been doing in and around us, and then to follow after Him and join Him in His work.

Over the past twenty months or so, we have indeed seen the Lord working in our midst. He was surely building and preparing us as a spiritual church to inherit the physical church that He has been redeveloping at SGW.

Let's consider some examples. *Remember* the Easter commitments made by our people. *Consider* the desire for strong Combined Services that facilitated our people's worship in spirit and in truth. See the many lives that had already been touched by His Spirit as you listened to their testimonies. *Discern* the Small Group (SG) ministry's progress: SG is Refreshing! SG Leaders Cluster Meetings, SGs seeking after the Lord, SGs in Service. *Observe* our dependence on Him through Prayers: unison prayers, earnest prayers, times of prayer, corporate prayers, crying out to Him for His compassion through healing, mercies and grace, and 'fasting and pray'. *Reflect* on the June 04 church camp: renewal, rededication, salvation, a spiritual stirring of the people, and the campers' attempt to share their experiences with the rest of the church. *Think* about the International Prayer Conference (IPC): the significant participation of our people, their spiritual growth and experience of His Presence and Reality, and their attempt to share these experiences with the rest of the church. See the Spirit's work in the Chinese Ministry: special dispensation of healing, testimonies, obedience in following after the Spirit's leading in the Mid-Autumn Festival outreach banquet. *Remember* also the YM camps: 'our youths found God', their hunger for Him, their continued prayer gatherings, the YMMs' (youth leaders) commitment and dedication, and the more recent involvement of adult resource persons. There are many other areas that can be highlighted for our consideration.

But the essence of all these is that God has been doing His work of spiritual

MOVING HOME

By Patsy Ong

I: Wilderness End

On the surface, Sunday 21st Dec 2004 was just like any other Sunday at Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Primary) – but throughout the service, there were hints of the great changes to come.

During the sermon, Dr Peggy Yap shared on how, many years ago, she had attended the TMC 7.30am service and stayed back (after hearing the customary pastor's invitation for fellowship after the service) only to find out that nobody else did. She reminded the church that God has given us a new building for the purpose of befriending those who come and bringing many others into His Kingdom.

At the end of the 11am service, Pastor Philip cheerfully told the congregation that 'this will be the last time you'll help stack up chairs in this hall'. Whereupon the congregation merrily moved the chairs to the side of the hall in well-practised order.

It being Seniors' Sunday, a celebration lunch was held in the canteen – the last of the many great lunches and conversations with old friends and new in PLMGS(P).

Back in the hall, it was left to Uncle Chua, the PA crew, and the volunteers from the Chair Ministry to empty the hall of both TMC property and the stacks of chairs for the last time.

II: Church Moving



III: The Dry Run

In spite of the technical problems to be solved, decisions to be made as to the positioning of furniture, pews to be wiped, hymnals to be distributed etc., there was a prevailing sense of wonder and gratitude among those present.

We were home. Thanks be to God!



renewal within our midst. He was clearly building and preparing us afresh as a spiritual TMC to inherit the redeveloped physical premises. We should therefore join Him in going forward in the days ahead: seeking for a TMC where everyone of us is renewed and empowered by the reality and presence of the Holy Spirit and where we practise following Him as His disciples. In other words, let us allow Him to do His deeper work in us!

What are some of the things we can expect to see as we move towards this vision of spiritual renewal? Our TMC leadership is trusting the Lord's leading in this. For now, we will be working on four areas of focus, one for each of the next four years. We refer to these areas of focus as Themes. They are as follows:

2005 Worship – my Lifestyle
2006 TMC – my Family
2007 Service – our Offering
2008 Outreach – His Commission

The focus in 2005 is on Worship, that of looking to God and helping each of us understand and experience a real moment-to-moment relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit. Aligned with this Theme on Worship, we can expect to see teaching and sermon series on the topics of Worship, Prayer, The Cross and the Christian, the Work and Ministry of the Holy Spirit and the like. We can also anticipate the start of more small groups and Adult Bible Classes to engage us on the learning and living out of such topics. The pastors have also planned for the Purpose Driven Life (PDL) campaign to start in February, with the objective of engaging all of us in understanding and living out the purposes that God has meant for us. Indeed, the very first Purpose for every one of us as highlighted in this PDL series is that of Worship: how we have all been created by God to worship Him and bring Him delight as our heavenly Father! There are clearly more we can expect as we move into

2005. Most importantly, we are expecting to see the Holy Spirit more and more within our midst!

Looking ahead into 2006 is the Theme of *TMC – my Family*. The focus here will be on warmer and stronger Christian Fellowship within our church. Then in 2007, we look to focus on our work of ministries, and hence the Theme is *Service – our Offering*. By 2008, we would have laid the groundwork for a wider community outreach and mission, and hence the focus will then be on *Outreach – His Commission*. We will share more on these Themes as we move forward.

We are indeed entering a new era for TMC. The days ahead are filled with challenges and possibilities. Most importantly, the Lord has gone on ahead of us to prepare the way for us. We can expect to know and experience Him in a very real sense through the work of His Holy Spirit. Let's commit ourselves to join Him in this exciting journey that He has started for us as His TMC!



TMC turns a new page

First Service back at Serangoon Garden Way

By Yip Syn Wun

... be a 'living stone' of TMC, for the church is not about the beautiful building we see, but the people in it.

The choir had their 'warm-up' session. The PA crew were in attendance. The ushers were in position at the entrances. It was 8.30 am on Sunday 28 November 2004. Soon, the worshippers were streaming in, from the back as well as the side entrances. As the pews began to fill up, the organ started to reverberate with the familiar strains of "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and "Blessed Assurance" – an apt reminder of God's

faithfulness to Trinity Methodist Church.



It was a special Sunday, one that marked three 'firsts' – our very first worship service back at the new sanctuary after 23 months, the first ever 8.45 am traditional service in TMC, and the first Sunday in Advent, the season leading to the birth of Jesus Christ. The air of joy, excitement and anticipation was palpable as worshippers soaked in the sight and freshness of the new sanctuary with its stained glass and brand new pews.



Viewing the congregation from my vantage point in the choir, it was a thrill to see so many of the congregation already seated before the service commenced, including some faces I had not seen for some time. The worship leader extended a very warm "Welcome Home" before leading the congregation in that soul-stirring hymn of praise "How Great Thou Art". The combined voices of the packed sanctuary and the organ resonated richly through the sanctuary, a marked contrast to the much more dispersed sound of singing in the vast school hall at PLMGS. It was also a sight to behold. Hymnals in hand, it seemed everyone in the congregation was raising his or her voice to God in praise.

Sharing from 1 Peter 2:4-10, Pastor Kai Ming exhorted each one of us to be a 'living stone' of TMC, for the church is not about the beautiful building we see, but the people in it. Our excitement over the new building will fade, what really counts and keeps the excitement going will be the nurturing and loving relationships of the people in it. I pray that we will all learn and grow to be this loving community, spurring one another on, supporting one another, gracious with one another, even in disagreement, never forgetting the needy nor losing the zeal to bring the unsaved into His Kingdom. Indeed the closing song "Lord How Can I Repay" challenged each of us to play our part, seriously and sacrificially, in whatever role, big or small.

I felt a sense of history standing and worshipping back on 'home ground' on that first Sunday. Looking back in time, I recalled with thanksgiving the many who have served so faithfully and built up TMC through the past 48 years. Looking ahead, I share in the excitement of the vision, the strong desire and all the plans to nurture and 'grow' TMC to new spiritual heights.



By Cheng Wai Cheng

Life Eternal in God's Unceasing Grace

28th November 2004 was a special day for many of us. For the English congregation, it was the first worship service held back on 'home ground' after worshipping in PLMGS(P) for the past 23 months. For the Chinese Ministry, it was also our 1st anniversary.

Yes, we are 1 year old! Remember the red egg that you received as our anniversary gift to you? There is a Chinese saying – 'what goes to the stomach, goes through the heart'. We hope that while you were savouring the simple red egg, you were reminded of your new life in Christ. That is also our anniversary's theme: 'Life eternal in God's unceasing grace'.

Now that we are 1, we have moved on from a so-called small group gathering into a formal service complete with a printed bulletin and conducted just like the English services (including a time of worship, silent prayer and confession, collection of offerings and the preaching of a sermon).

The anniversary message was preached by our Pastor, Rev. Philip Lim. He shared with us that the thought of starting a Chinese Ministry was conceived as long as 14 years ago. However, the plan had been shelved until the recent church re-development project. These two are both faith-stretching projects. But our God is not a God of the impossible. Everything is possible with Him who gives us



strength. He made all things beautiful in His time. During the time of exodus, He had prepared our church building and started the Chinese Ministry. Now that we are back home, He is going to do even greater things.

The Chinese Ministry presently worships in the Prayer Chapel @ B1 (room below the sanctuary). Our anniversary challenge from the Pastor is to grow and 'move up'. We do look forward to moving up to the beautiful sanctuary.

You can be a part in the answering of this prayer. If you have friends or family members who are Mandarin-speaking, do get them to join us. We conduct our gathering like a service but we fellowship like a family. See you there!

The Chinese Service is held at 11am on Sunday in the Prayer Chapel @ B1.



Consecration Service

By Chan Chong Wei

for Trinity Methodist Church

It was a grey morning and the rain was light. This, however, did not deter the guests and congregation of all the services in TMC from arriving on time for the service. Although the service was held in the main sanctuary, the live video-feed brought the congregation in the new worship hall and the main sanctuary together, in worship.

At 10am, the service began. An organ recital of *Recit de Nazard*, composed by Louis-Nicolas Clerambault, was delightfully executed by Ms Mary Gan, the principal of the Methodist School of Music. One particular repertoire favourite was the Spanish hymn: the *Toda la Tierra* that invoked the use of chimes and bells on the organ. A choral introit completed the opening of the service with the hymn, 'Celebrate the Lord'. After that, TMC pastor-in-charge, Rev Philip Lim lit the third advent candle and the chairperson of the church redevelopment committee, Mr P Sathiasingam, prayed for the church.

After some two years of church redevelopment, Trinity Methodist Church (TMC) has finally returned home, to her new-old premises at 34 Serangoon Garden Way. The consecration service, which marked that joyous return, was held on 12th December 2004.

Indeed, the Lord's presence was to be celebrated for the many blessings He had given TMC to carry out His work. Among these, was God's gift of friends and co-workers, who voyaged with TMC as her new destiny was formed. Rev Philip Lim introduced these people to the congregation during the time of welcome and greetings and recalled their invaluable contributions. Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) chairperson, Dr Hum Sin Hoon, noted the very intimate relationship which TMC has within the Methodist family. He encouraged the congregation to be mindful of that connectivity and to savour the moment of thankfulness for the church given by God.

The congregation was then treated to mini-sermonettes from the various guests. The present TRAC president Rev Wee Boon Hup exhorted church members to allow the Holy Spirit to indwell them so as to be inflamed with the same passion that the church of Acts had. He likened a church with people but without the passion, to a country club. Similarly, Rev Dr Isaac Lim also called upon TMC to be on fire for God.

Before the consecration, Bishop Dr Robert Solomon delivered a sermon on 1 Chronicles 29: 10-20. He recounted one of his experiences in an English church and spoke about the problems symptomatic of many English churches today, of which all that remains of these churches are the outward trappings of establishment – as evidenced by big beautiful cathedrals, shells to a handful of congregation. Their current situation challenges TMC to be a church that is centered on worship, costly discipleship and mission.

Thereafter, the Bishop consecrated the church. In his prayer of consecration, he gave thanks for God's blessings and asked Him to transform the church so that His will and purpose for the congregation may be fulfilled. Bishop Solomon finished the prayer by inviting God to take ownership of His church.

The service ended with a benediction by the Bishop. Our new District Superintendent, Rev Dr Jonathan Seet, said grace for lunch while asking the Lord to supply the needs of the church.



After eight 'grueling' weeks of membership classes, it finally happened! On a bright sunny Sunday, the 19th of December 2004, Trinity Methodist Church witnessed its first "Baptism and Confirmation" service in its new premises. This event also coincided with the opening of the new Worship hall on the second level.

First Baptism by Immersion

By Melissa Koh

It was a day when things happened differently from other baptism and confirmation services. The actual baptism would occur after the service, after everyone had already read the Baptismal Covenant and had been confirmed together. The baptism by immersion would be done on the church premises for the first time in TMC's history. Everyone was invited to gather at the Plaza, where the baptismal pool was, to witness this event. Six people, not including children, would be baptized.

The atmosphere was warm and enthusiastic as everyone gathered at the Plaza before the baptismal pool, all eager witnesses to the 'rebirth' of these new members. Pastor Philip waded into the pool fully dressed and the names of those who were going to be baptized were called out. One by one, they waded into the pool and the pastor placed his hand on their heads and baptized each one in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They were then immersed inside the pool and returned to 'life' as a new 'person' in Christ.

Afterwards, a lunch reception was held for the new members. The LCEC chairperson, Dr. Hum, gave a welcome speech, before the leaders of the various ministries within the Church were introduced and the certificates were handed out. People ate and people lingered and there was much fellowship to be had and new friendships made. Altogether, it was a touching and enjoyable experience.



The Trinity in the Stained Glass

Surrounded by the beauty and glory of His Creation, is the Holy Trinity.



Left Window:

The hand of God the Father comes down from heaven to encourage, instruct and lead.

Meanwhile, Jesus intercedes for us in prayer (John 17). His prayers rise to heaven like the fragrance of incense. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace shown as a dove with an olive branch, descends.

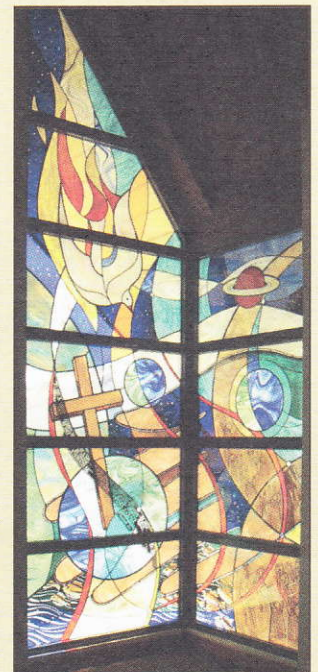
The verse Psalm 141:1 reminds us to be like Jesus – to pray each day; to worship and give thanks with uplifted hands; to intercede for our loved ones, our neighbours and the world.

Right Window:

God, the Father, holds the world safely in His hand, while His Son, Jesus, died on the cross to cleanse us from sin and give us eternal life.

The Holy Spirit, a dove clothed in fire, descends to convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8). Also, as we accept Jesus into our hearts, the Holy Spirit fills us with boldness and power to share the Gospel (Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:31).

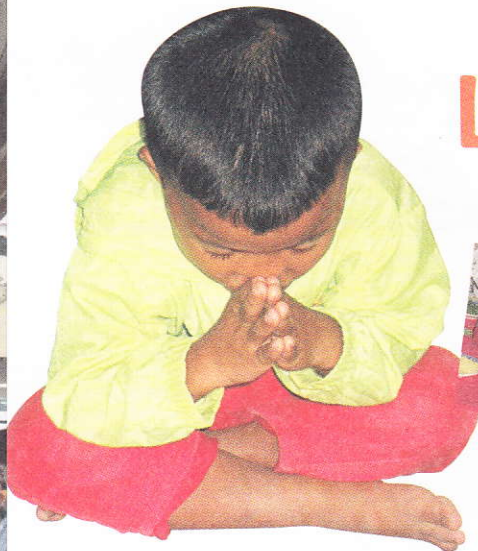
The verse from Isaiah 9:6 reminds us of what God the Father has done for us in giving us a child, His Son; and who this child is, for us.



Peter Brown, Artist, Synergraphic Design, November 2004

Lessons from Cambodia

A personal reflection by Timothy Yong



As we prepared to leave for Cambodia, I was excited yet apprehensive. This was the first time I was going on a mission trip. I was excited to go and allow God to use me to encourage our brothers and sisters-in-Christ there, but feelings of being unprepared clouded my mind. Other little things unsettled me too - being in an unfamiliar place, different food, being followed and stared on in the streets, tiredness from lack of sleep...It was natural to feel insecure.

God was indeed gracious and merciful, speaking to me through the camp, using the people there and the experiences I went through as instruments to teach and guide. *God showed me how blessed I truly was, with much material blessings and no lack of basic necessities. Even just being born and brought up here in Singapore is a blessing!*

On the first day, Thomas and I were buying fruits for the team at a fruit stall by the road in the evening. A little girl and a lady carrying her child approached us to ask for money. We only had big US dollar notes with us, so we didn't give any money to them. As we were leaving, boarding the mini-bus and closing the sliding door behind us, *they stood there looking hopelessly at us. I didn't dare to look at them as it broke my heart*



as we drove off. It was the first time I saw poverty with my

own eyes. I prayed for them and asked God to forgive me for the times I was discontented with what I had. Why did God choose to bless me with such a comfortable life? I can only thank Him for His grace.

As I joined the worship sessions and mingled with the people during our free time and mealtimes, God showed me that His grace was sufficient indeed.

Most of them are poor and are just making ends meet, but when they worship, they sang joyously out loud, regardless of whether they were in tune. They sang with their hearts. Even though I did not understand the words being sung, it warmed my heart and I could feel God's presence among us as we worshiped. *God showed me that it is not how much we have or what we have that matters, but that true joy and contentment comes from serving God and doing His will in our lives.* One man I spoke to was unemployed and did odd jobs to support his family, yet God has always provided for his needs and he would use whatever he has to buy fruits for his non-Christian friends when he visits them to share the Gospel with them. God used this man to put me to shame and show me how little faith I had in His providence.

God also taught me to look at life more simply, with less distractions and that love is truly a language with no barriers.



He used the children to teach me these lessons. They always shared whatever they had, like sweets with anyone who did not have any. They were selfless and their intentions were always pure, and that's what God wants us all to be like.

The best thing that happened during the camp was that 6 girls came to know Christ and accepted Him as Lord and saviour. I wasn't there when the ladies (Eugenia, Joy, Amanda, Sherry)

were sharing with them, but *God showed us the power of His word, that it touches the hearts of others if only we are willing to share.* "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

God also used another brother-in-Christ to show me what it means to serve Him.

This brother is studying

others. Life should not be about seeking after material security, but seeking after God's will in our lives and doing it, sharing the blessings He has bestowed on us.

On the last day of the camp, just before the campers went home, we were having dinner when Chanda, Pastor Santik's brother, asked me if I was happy to be here. I answered 'yes', many thoughts then flooded my mind. Then he asked me when I would be coming back again. I told him I would be coming back again next year. God had placed in me a compassion for these people, in the few days spent with them. He helped me to see them and love them through His eyes. At the end of the trip, *God taught me and gave me more than I could give to His people.*

He humbled me and showed me that it is when I am weak that He is strong. I pray that God will continue to do great things among His people there in Cambodia and, as I get down on my knees to say "Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee...", that I would continue to heed His call, serving Him as His hands and feet.

"And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17).

marketing at the local university. He shared with us that it is his ambition to set up a company that works with the church to give jobs to unemployed Christians. He said that he felt God leading Him in this direction as he feels for his church members who are struggling to make ends meet. God blesses us with whatever we have so that we can use it to bless



Discipleship and Nurture 2005

The Discipleship & Nurture (D&N) Committee has lined up a number of programmes and courses in 2005 to help TMC members grow in the Lord through the Word. This page gives you an overview of the programmes that are coming up over the first quarter of the year.

Adult Bible Class (ABC)

The ABC is targeted at adults who desire to understand more deeply the sermon topic that was preached the previous Sunday. It kicked off on 9 January with Pastor Philip as our first speaker and had a good response of over 30 participants. Come join us every Sunday (10.10 – 11.00am) in the Upper Room (3rd floor of Sanctuary Building) for a meaningful time of learning God's Word!

Schedule of Topics

9, 16 & 23 Jan: Series on Worship
13 Feb–27 Mar: Purpose Driven Life Series
(Note: There will be no classes on 30 Jan & 6 Feb.)

River of Life

The *River of Life* is a Discipleship Roadmap that helps to guide TMC members in our spiritual growth. It comprises 4 stages of our growth as a disciple of Christ and recommends relevant courses and developmental activities for each stage. The *River of Life* comes in an easy-to-update booklet which contains detailed information about each course. For enquiries on the booklet or specific courses, please contact the Church Office (Seok Eng).

Upcoming Courses

16 Jan–13 Mar (Sun): Baptism & Membership Class
20 Jan–3 Feb (Thurs): Major Chinese Religions & Folk Religions
31 Mar–5 May (Thurs): Biblical portrait of Marriage
3 Apr–4 Apr (Sun): Walk with God

40 Days of Purpose

purpose driven life campaign

After much prayer and consideration over the vision and direction of the church during the last leaders' retreat in October 2004, the leaders had decided to focus on topics that build on our vision and those that nurture the congregation. As such, the Purpose Driven Life was chosen as the first church-wide programme in which everyone in the church could participate and be involved in.

Why the Purpose Driven Life (PDL)?

The Purpose Driven Life is a 40-day spiritual journey on the meaning and purpose of life. It is a tool that is designed for Christians from all walks of life and more so for anyone who is in search of a purposeful and fulfilled life.

In our church's context, the five purposes that Rick Warren shared in his book coincide with the overall vision of TMC and the themes of TMC for the next 4 years.

It is an excellent tool that helps to explain the meaning of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is a tool that helps one to discover God's purpose for one's individual life as well as that of the church as a whole if it is put into use and action.

As a tool, the PDL helps the participants to experience the tremendous spiritual power of God as they wrestle with not only the meaning of the passages but also its meaning for their lives. In short, the process of going through the course becomes a life transforming experience as the Holy Spirit works in the lives of the participants. This becomes a springboard from which we, as the community of TMC, could embark on our 4-year journey to realize the vision and direction of the church.

Why should you be involved?

The impact of the recent tsunami reminds us that our time on earth is temporal and that it may end in unexpected ways. Most importantly, it highlighted the need to focus our lives and to live it meaningfully. This 40-day journey is one way to discover God's purpose for your life and how one can live a meaningful and purposeful life. This may be the most important 40 days of your life, so, come and invite your friends to join you as you embark on this journey to discover what God has in store for you.

This 40-day spiritual journey covers the following:

13/2	Wk 1	What on earth am I here for?
20/2	Wk 2	You were formed for God's pleasure
27/2	Wk 3	You were formed for God's family
6/3	Wk 4	You were created to become like Christ
13/3	Wk 5	You were shaped for serving God
20/3	Wk 6	You were made for a mission
27/3	Wk 7	Celebration!

If you need further information, kindly contact the campaign directors, Chew Chwee and Seok Eng or call the Church office.

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For Caesar Augustus, the first Emperor of Rome, whose census ordered of the entire Roman world, compelled Joseph to return to

Bethlehem, the town of King David, where the baby Jesus was born.

For the Christ child whose special birthday we celebrate every year.

For the carols sung with great cheer and the choirs whose voices ring with joy bright and clear.



For King Herod, under whose rule Bethlehem came, who failing in his plot to kill the newborn King, in the process massacred all boys in Bethlehem two years and below.

For History that was made that momentous night when our Lord Jesus was born.

For the hosannas and hallelujahs

proclaimed in the heavens and on the earth that special night and every year thence because the King of all heaven and earth has come.



For the Redeemer whose birth is indeed the reason for the season.

For the reconciliation that Christ came to bring, to bridge the chasm

of sin that separated God and man.

For the return of Trinity Methodist Church to our dear home at 34, Serangoon Garden Way in time to



celebrate the joyous birth of our Lord yet again.



For the prophet Isaiah who foretold the birth of our Lord when he declared, 'for to us a child is born... And he will be called Wonderful

Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6).

For the infant Jesus who was called Immanuel – 'God with us'.

For the incarnation of Almighty God in the form of a man.



For the humble stable where the royal birth took place amidst animals common, lowly and base.

For the Saviour of the world born

that still silent night and the salvation that he brought for all who would believe.

For the penultimate sacrifice made

by our God who condescended to become like one of his creation only to die that we may live with him in eternity.



For the thirty-three years our Lord walked on this earth, teaching, healing and leading a life of selfless love.

For the thanksgiving and triumphant joy all Christians feel because our Saviour was born, lived, died for us, and reigns forevermore.

For the Thuja Home where for an hour on the 19th of December 2004, 10 members from The Rock and

Saved & Sanctified small groups, together with Outreach and Social Concerns Ministry, shared a little cheer and the Christmas message of God's love to those who would hear.

(The Outreach and Social Concerns (OSC) Ministry held a Christmas party for the residents of Pelangi Village where Thuja Home is located. Some members from The Rock and

Saved and Sanctified performed a mime to share the message of God's love and assisted in the distribution of teatime snacks. The team from the OSC Ministry visits the home two Sundays each month and invites all who are interested to join them in a fulfilling time of service and sharing. Contact William Chua for more details.)



Thuja Home



For the Magi who travelled that long, arduous road in search of the King they sought to worship and adore with splendid gifts of incense,

gold and myrrh.

For Mary, highly favoured by God, and chosen especially to be the mother of our Lord (Luke 1:28).

For the manger most modest where our Messiah in all majesty and magnificence lay sleeping swaddled in cloths.



For the great company of Angels who announced the birth of Jesus and erupted in joyous praise, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom

his favour rests' (Luke 2:13-14).

For the amazing grace that saved us all, though undeserving and unworthy we may be.

For the abundant life that we may experience in all its spiritual richness, blessing, passion and power because Jesus came and paid the price.



For the shepherds who, while watching their flocks by night and were surprised by the glad tidings of the heavenly host, dropped all they were doing to worship the

baby Jesus, spreading the good news and glorifying God.

For the suffering our Christ was to endure – tortured, rejected, mocked and scorned.

For all we saints who being alive in Christ seek to live as 'imitators of God' and children of light, pressing on in the hope of eternal glory with our Lord (Ephesians 5:1).



Victory in Christ

Youth Camp 2004

By Lai Wei Cheng

The vision for the Youth Ministry in 2004 was based on the theme of discipleship and with this vision in mind, the youth leaders decided that this year's Youth Camp would focus on the starting point of discipleship: Realisation of the victory we have in Jesus Christ.

Besides extending the invitation to the youths of Trinity Methodist Church (TMC), the youth leaders of the Youth Ministry also decided that this camp would be an outreach effort as well. They encouraged the youths to invite their non-Christian friends and also invited the youths from the 47th Boys and 55th Girls Brigade from Serangoon Garden Secondary School. Though it rained nearly everyday, the youths still had their fair share of fun and interaction with each other which culminated in a water-bomb fight on the second last day of the camp.

Using *The Bondage Breaker*, written by Neil T. Anderson as the foundation of the talks and discussions, the guest speaker for the camp, Rev Dr Norman Wong, Director of Truth Ministry, brought forth the message of the victory each Christian has in Jesus and explained who Jesus is. After 2 days of interacting with the youths, Rev Norman posed a challenge to the youths to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour or recommit their lives to Him. Rev Norman also had another challenge for the youths, which was in the form of a 40-day commitment to read the Gospel of Mark under the guidance of a youth leader, who will meet up with them at least once a week. One focus of this commitment is to help the youths take time to listen to what and how the Lord has spoken to them for that day and record it in the space given for that particular day's devotion. Some have already signed up for it.

As the New Year begins to unfold and school goes into full swing, may the youths who attended the camp continue to grow strong in the Lord and never forget the victory we have over the evil one in Jesus Christ! Amen!



"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- Gal 2:20

