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TRINITY
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SALTSHAKER



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Vision Seminar 2007 A Head & Heart Talk

Vision Seminar? What Vision Seminar? I thought our four-year TMC Vision was clear enough:

A church where every member experiences the reality and work of the Holy Spirit; and understands and practises discipleship.

Into its Third year, the Theme for 2007 is **"Service – Our Offering"**.

Not difficult to understand, but what does it really mean for each of us worshipping at TMC? And how committed are we to this Vision and Theme?

To help our congregation better understand the objectives and plans for 2007, I was tasked to prepare and present the TMC Vision Seminar on 7 Jan 07, itself a special day as we welcomed our new Pastor-In-Charge, Rev Dianna Khoo. As we have a well-educated congregation, my focus was not on the understanding, but on the commitment of our congregation to our Vision and Theme. Hence a "Head & Heart Talk".

The seminar opened with a series of photographs depicting the major TMC events in 2006 to help us reflect on the past year as we looked ahead into 2007. The message was:

"Where was I in 2006?"

Or perhaps, "Where wasn't I in 2006?"

Reflections on 2006

2006 was a special year for TMC as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The Scripture tells us that a Jubilee Year represents the Year of the Lord's favour. Indeed, it was so!

We started with the unveiling of a new logo for TMC, which clearly reflects TMC's Mission:

"To share the love of Jesus in our neighbourhood and beyond; and to become a community of love and grace."

Next, we embarked on a Church-wide Engagement Programme (CEP), studying the book "What's So Amazing About Grace?" The CEP conveyed the many personal encounters of receiving grace and the heart-wrenching moments of dispensing grace to others. Grace took on new meaning for many of us.

We continued our spiritual journey, focusing on a better understanding of the Holy Spirit during the Holy Week services, which culminated in TMC's first overnight prayer session on Maundy Thursday, also a first for most of us who participated.

In June, close to 300 TMC members and invited guests journeyed to Malaysia for our five-day TMC Family Camp. At the camp, which had the theme "One Family", everyone, aged between less than a year to a ninety-year-old from both our Chinese and English congregations, had a wonderful time of fellowship and bonding, and gained a deeper understanding of what it means to "Love One Another" in Christ.

This was followed by the activities leading up to our 50th Anniversary Celebrations in September. The banner competition attracted many teams from the

various small groups and ministries, which came together to express their thanksgiving to the Lord through creative banner themes and artwork. More than 600 attended the Anniversary Dinner, with many pioneering and past pastors returning to grace the occasion with reflections of their years in TMC. It was a wonderful time of celebration, reunion and reconciliation.

2006 came to a close with TMC participating in the Serangoon Garden Village Christmas Outreach. As a follow up, we invited many to our Christmas Eve service, which was attended by 140 invitees. We pray that many among them will receive Christ in the near future.

Perhaps the more defining moments of spiritual maturity and growth amongst our congregation were their many testimonies of how the Lord had touched their lives. And with the strongest baptism and membership growth in recent years, 2006 was indeed a "year of the Lord's favour"!

Key Objectives and Plans for 2007

The best objectives and plans will be of little effect if we do not relate with and commit to participate and support them. The key to this is our willingness to obey the Word. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gave us the Great Commandment to love the Lord our God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, and the Great Commission to go and make disciples and to teach them to obey His commands. Living in a sinful body and in a fallen world full of distractions, obedience admittedly takes much effort and sacrifice. But the Lord understands. He gave us the Holy Spirit to in-dwell within us. I pray that more of us at TMC will increasingly experience the presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In this context, let us ponder on the objectives and plans for 2007.

During our leaders' retreat in October last year, our leaders identified **four key objectives for 2007**:

- Encourage and facilitate our members to serve in various ministries;
- Adopt a "Purpose-driven approach" to Discipleship, i.e. equipping and training our members in a focused and organised manner;
- Help our members to lead Spirit-filled lives; and
- Continue to grow and strengthen our Small Groups and church leadership.

In line with the above, several **key initiatives** will be implemented in 2007:

1. Ministry Placement Process (MPP)

The MPP aims to help place anyone who is willing to serve in ministries that are in need of volunteers. Each ministry (committee / service group) shall:

- Communicate basic requirements for areas needing volunteers;
- Have representatives to receive those interested to serve;
- Assist in evaluating mutual fit, and follow up.

2. TMC Discipleship Roadmap

This is a Spiritual Life Development Process where an entire series of Bible studies and application-based topical studies are systematically organised to facilitate each individual in his/her spiritual growth and maturity regardless of his/her current stage of spiritual growth and knowledge. The Discipleship Roadmap focuses on:

- Deeper Understanding of the Word;
- Practical application of the Word in our daily lives.

3. Living Spirit-filled Lives

A focused range of activities to help us better understand the Holy Spirit, and more importantly, experience the work and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. These include:

- Sermon series on "Spirit-filled Disciples"
- Holy Week Services focused on "The Work of the Holy Spirit"
- Monthly church prayer meeting and special prayer sessions
- "Encounter with God" retreats

"Be still, and know that I am the Lord" (Psalm 46:10)

4. Grow and Strengthen Small Groups (SG) and the Church Leadership

There will be an increased emphasis on encouraging all to be part of a SG as we are convinced that the SG remains the basic "people-structure" to nurture all towards maturity in Christ. "Purpose-driven" activities include:

- Organised placement of individuals into SG
- SG Conference

- Development and Support for SG Leaders
- "Calling and Destiny" Workshop (20 Jan 07)
- "Encounter with God" retreat

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)

The aim of the above activities is also the ongoing nurturing and equipping of SG leaders as well as church leaders - to facilitate their understanding of their calling, and leading of Spirit-filled lives through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

2 Key Ongoing Tasks

Besides the four key objectives for 2007, we will continue to dedicate efforts and resources on two key ongoing tasks:

1. Outreach & Community Penetration

Living out our Mission to share the Love of Jesus to pre-believers, 2007 will see an increasing Outreach and Missions emphasis and build-up as we prepare for our Theme 2008: "Outreach – His Commission". Projected activities include:

- Alpha Courses
- New Believers Classes
- TMC Target Community Survey
- Christmas Evangelistic Events
- Monthly Evangelistic Healing Service

2. TMC Redevelopment Project

As we enjoy our new church facilities, we are reminded of the approximately \$12 million cost. We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and blessings in seeing us through the physical redevelopment; and touching our members and friends to contribute to the \$6 million raised over the last four years. However, much more needs to be done to repay the remaining \$6 million so that we can dedicate the church to our Lord.

We face this challenge with faith and dependence on the Lord, and in the hope that we have the participation of everyone in our congregation. To organise this effort, a Journey of Faith Task Force (JFTF) has been set up.

Commitment – A Head and Heart Response

Where were we in 2006? How will each one of us support and participate in the

plans and objectives for 2007? This boils down to our individual obedience to the Lord's commandments and how we constantly draw on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to help us lead victorious lives.

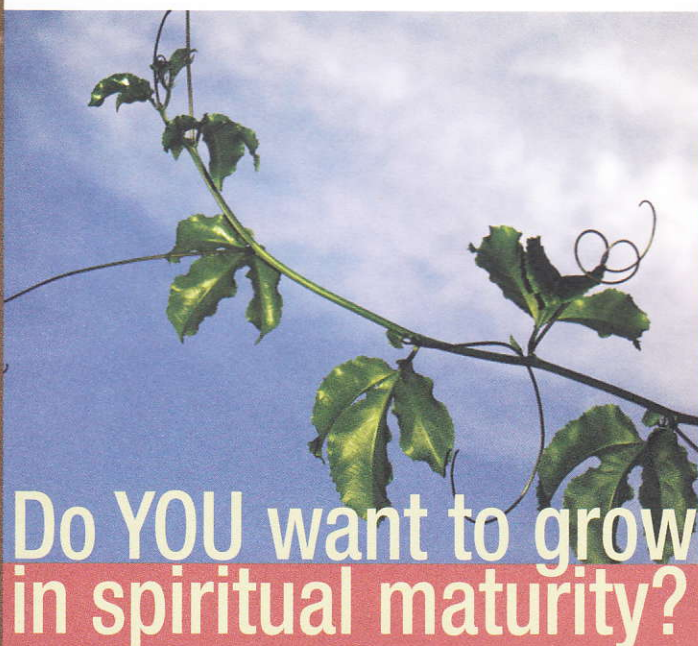
Four years ago, we started to rebuild our "ship" at TMC. We returned to our ship slightly over two years ago. Today, the direction of its sail has been charted. We have sailed out with a basic crew on board. More have joined us. The winds are blowing stronger. We need even more crew to sail on to reach out to the lost, the least and the last in our neighbourhood and beyond.

The question I exhort all of us to ask ourselves is:

Am I On Board?

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37)

Serving together with you for His Glory
William Goh



Andy Seah

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from the TMC Family on a journey of spiritual discovery and growth together...

How many of us can proclaim like Paul the apostle at the end of his life, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"? (2 Tim 4:7) We are all familiar with the Rat Race, but do we know this other spiritual race that Paul ran? It is the race of Discipleship, the race to be an obedient child of Christ, not so that we can boast, but so that God can say to us "you good and faithful servant" when we see him, so that God can be glorified. But to even begin to run the race well, we must get ourselves fit; we need to train and be equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:17).

The TMC Discipleship Roadmap will help to whip you into shape for the race, and the best part is, you will not be doing it alone. There is nothing better than having a community of believers growing in faith, knowledge and deeds together!

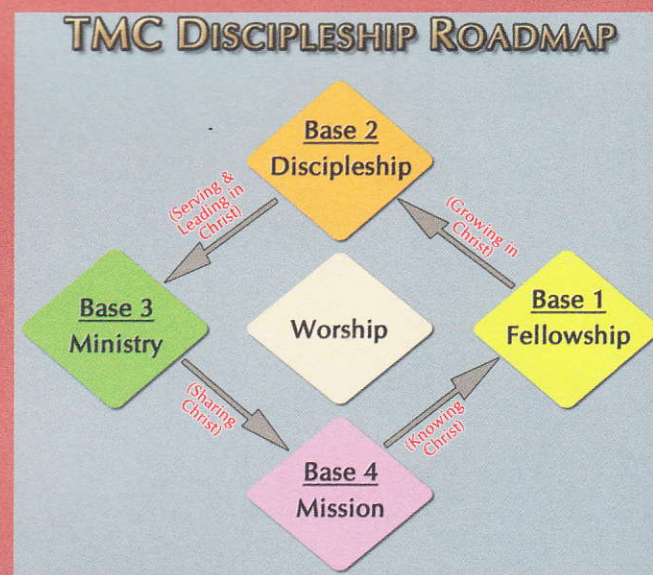
What is the TMC Discipleship Roadmap?

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Jesus exhorts us to be disciples, not just converts. A disciple is someone who holds on to Jesus' teachings (John 8:31), loves others (John 13:35) and bears much fruit to the Father's glory (John 15:8). This is also TMC's Vision as we seek to build Spirit-filled members who practise discipleship.

The TMC Discipleship Roadmap is TMC's way of helping us grow in discipleship through a purposeful, systematic yet non-intimidating approach. It aims to help each of us understand fundamental Christian teachings so that we hold on to the truth and in the process learn to love one another and to bear fruit that glorifies God.

We do this by moving through "bases" along the Roadmap, which focus on different aspects of Christian living. These aspects are Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission. As Christians, we first need Fellowship to help us grow. We then need to commit to Discipleship by seeking to become mature in Christ. As we become more mature, we would yearn to get involved in Ministry and last but not least, fulfill our Mission to reach out to the world, to be "salt and light". So as we move through each base, it is like learning first to walk, then to jog, then to run and eventually to be fit enough to run the marathon that Paul ran!



At each base, we can attend short (half-day) yet impactful courses that teach us important truths about Christian living. The table below lists the core courses and their content under each base.

Besides teaching biblical truths, there will be a time of reflection and commitment (covenant) at the end of each course to help us grow in Christian maturity and to apply what we learn in practical ways. Courses for the first three bases have been scheduled throughout 2007. There will be three runs of Base 1 courses and two runs of Base 2 and 3 courses this year. Besides the Roadmap courses, Tuesday nights have also been set aside for Into the Word courses where TMC members can learn more about God's Word through selected topics or books of the Bible.

TMC DISCIPLESHIP ROADMAP: CORE COURSES

| BASE | COURSE | WHAT THE COURSE COVERS |
|---------------------|---|---|
| (1) Fellowship | Class 101: Our Church Family: Introduction to Baptism & Membership | Course on: - What does it mean to be a Christian? ~ Salvation - What does it mean to be baptised? ~ Baptism - What does it mean to be a Member? ~ Community - What does it mean to be a Member of TMC? ~ Church Mission, Vision and Structure |
| | Pre-Membership Retreat | More in-depth teaching on: ~ Our Christian Beliefs ~ Membership ~ Our Methodist Heritage |
| (2) Discipleship | Class 201: From Milk to Solid Food: Discovering Spiritual Maturity | - How does one grow in spiritual maturity? Focussing on 4 habits of a Christian: ~ Time in reading the Word ~ Tithing ~ Prayer ~ Fellowship, especially Small Group & Accountability Group - Introduction to the TMC Discipleship Roadmap |
| | Class 202: How to do your Quiet Time | More in-depth course on Spending quality time with God through: ~ Reading the Bible ~ Prayer |
| | Class 203: Our Christian Stewardship | More in-depth course on Managing our Finances |
| (3) Ministry | Class 301: Understanding Christian Ministry | - Biblical teaching on Ministry - Introduction to SHAPE ~ Spiritual Gifts ~ Heart ~ Abilities ~ Personality ~ Experience |
| | Class 302: Discovering my SHAPE for Ministry | Course to help discover one's SHAPE |
| | Class 303: Essential Prayer Life | Course on understanding the importance and power of prayer |
| (4) Mission | Class 401: Introduction to Outreach | Course covering: ~ Evangelism - Learning to share one's faith ~ Missions ~ Social Concerns |



- *Into The Word* courses – on Tuesday nights
- Sermon Series & Adult Bible Class (ABC) – every Sunday

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2007

| WHEN | COURSE | I pray that God will help me attend | Praise God! I attended! |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 23 Jan - 13 Feb (Tue) | <i>Into the Word</i> 1: Holy Spirit (4 weeks) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Mar - 27 Mar (Tue) | Personal Holiness (Men's Ministry) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Mar (Sun) pm | 101 – Our Church Family: Introduction to Baptism & Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 Apr (Sun) pm | 201 – From Milk to Solid Food: Discovering Spiritual Maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29 Apr (Sun) pm | 202 – How to do your Quiet Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 May (Sun) pm | 203 – Our Christian Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 May - 12 Jun (Tue) | <i>Into the Word</i> 2: Parables of Jesus (6 weeks) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 May (Sun) pm | 301 – Understanding Christian Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27 May (Sun) pm | 302 – Discovering my SHAPE for Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 - 24 Jul (Tue) | 303 – Essential Prayer Life | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 Jul (Sun) pm | 101 – Our Church Family: Introduction to Baptism & Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Sep (Sun) pm | 201 – From Milk to Solid Food: Discovering Spiritual Maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 Sep (Sun) pm | 202 – How to do your Quiet Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Oct (Sun) pm | 203 – Our Christian Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Nov (Sun) pm | 301 – Understanding Christian Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 Nov (Sun) pm | 302 – Discovering my SHAPE for Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Dec (Sun) pm | 101 – Our Church Family: Introduction to Baptism & Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A Call to Discipleship

The TMC Discipleship Roadmap is specially tailor-made for TMC members to grow in Christ through a proper, guided approach. Many of us say we believe that it is important to be healthy and that exercising three times a week will help us keep healthy but how many of us actually do it? If you are serious about discipleship (and every Christian should be!), let us therefore commit to be disciples. If you want to be a fit disciple and are looking for like-minded people to become fit with, join the Roadmap courses!

TMC's theme for 2007 is "Service – Our Offering". May the Lord help you make full use of the Roadmap to equip you for every good work through faithful teaching and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).



Stephanie Seow

God Heals!

Hi, my name is Stephanie. I have been a Christian for slightly over a year. Before my conversion, I was the only non-believer in my family – my parents and siblings were all Christians – and I also married into a Taoist family.

In the last week of October 2006, my father was suddenly stricken with a severe rash on his body. I took him to see a dermatologist who diagnosed it as a case of “mild rashes”. My father was prescribed medicine and cream for external application. Despite this, the itch continued and he was unable to sleep for many nights.

When my father began having suicidal thoughts, I took him to

Changi General Hospital for a consultation with a skin specialist who immediately admitted my father to a single room ward. After spending five days there, and having undergone countless blood tests, x-rays and a biopsy, the results were inconclusive as to the cause of the rash. The doctor finally prescribed my father two weeks’ worth of steroids. My father was told that he could not take steroids for a period longer than the two weeks as it would affect his diabetes and may cause organ failure.

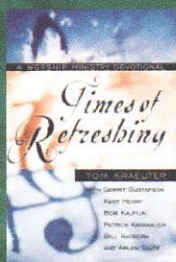
Fearing the worst, I suddenly recalled God’s goodness in healing the sick. If the doctors were not able to detect the cause

of my father’s rash, I knew that Jesus could if we believed in Him. Holding to that conviction, I took my father to the Friday Prayer and Healing Fellowship where Brother Yan prayed for him. Through Brother Yan, the Lord revealed a prescription for my father - a concoction that required “red mud”, which my brother had to obtain from a construction site! After applying the concoction on my father’s body for three days in a row, the rash disappeared. My father was able to sleep well at night. He was completely healed!

Praise the Lord for through His mercy, my father overcame this illness and God’s glory was revealed in his life!

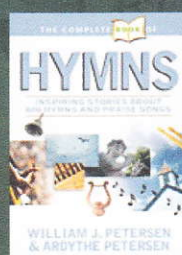
Book Reviews

Tricia Tong



Times of Refreshing
Tom Kraeuter
264 KRA

This is a compilation of short articles written by contemporary song writers and is suitable as devotional material for worship teams and those seeking to remind themselves of why and how Christians worship. The articles cover a wide variety of topics, such as the God whom we worship, our acts of and attitudes in worship, how those in the ministry of worship should consider their acts of service and how we should build one another up in our worship of God.



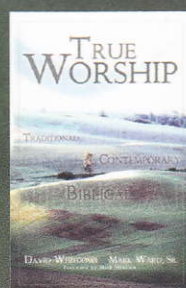
The Complete Book of Hymns
William Petersen & Ardythe Petersen
264 PET

Several books have been written on the stories behind Christian hymns ("Then Sings My Soul", Robert Morgan and "101 Hymn Stories", Kenneth Osbeck), but this one not only consists of the tales behind the old favourites like *Amazing Grace*, it also contains the context and scriptural bases of contemporary Christian lyrics such as *Shout to the Lord*. You will sing more exuberantly after being inspired and encouraged by the genesis of these oft-sung songs.



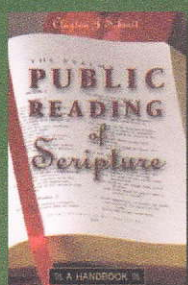
The Meal Jesus Gave Us
Tom Wright
234 WRI

We partake of Holy Communion once a month and, at times, the meal that Jesus gave us is reduced to a mere ritual and routine. The reader steps right into the drama of the first communion feast as if he were one of the original witnesses of that meal. The book excites the partaker of the Sacrament as it explains the rich and deep meaning behind this means of grace. Read this book - you will come away with a deeper appreciation of the meal we share each month and partake in Holy Communion more meaningfully.



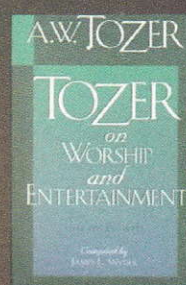
True Worship
David Whitcomb & Mark Ward Sr.
264 WHI

Yet another book titled "True Worship". Yet how necessary to know what true worship is when the word "worship" is sometimes used carelessly and often used synonymously with "singing". Is this how "worship" should be understood? God tells us in John 4:23 to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Whilst this bible verse trips easily off our tongues, what does it really mean? Re-acquaint yourself with the biblical principles behind worship by reading this book. Pray & ask the Holy Spirit to cause you to be willing to be instructed in biblical worship so that your worship may be acceptable to the Lord.



Public Reading of Scripture
Clayton J. Schmit
264 SCH

"What's so difficult? Anyone can read Scripture at a church service!" Or can anyone? This handbook is essentially for those who are lectors and those who are considering service as a lector. The contents also instruct all Christians in the service of the Lord (whether as lector or otherwise) to seek prayerfully their call and gifts to serve. The lector has a heavy responsibility, particularly one of preparation. Through this book, the to-be lector is instructed in the faith and maturity he needs before he attempts to read God's Word in public, and he is also provided with practical tools to read God's Truth with interpretation and abandonment. Each chapter ends with oratorical exercises and questions to be discussed in a small group.



Tozer on Worship and Entertainment
A.W. Tozer
264 TOZ

Tozer's fierce allegiance to the primary purpose of worship is consistent in all his writings. This 20th century writer has inspired many to re-look their motivation for being on church on Sundays and their daily living. Is our attention at a church service held or unheld only by the physical sights and sounds that we experience? Must a preacher or worship leader be captivating before the congregation can worship God? Tozer says, "I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven." Do you agree?



These books are available for borrowing from TMC Resource Centre

TMC Celebrates Good Friday and Easter

Eugenia Koh

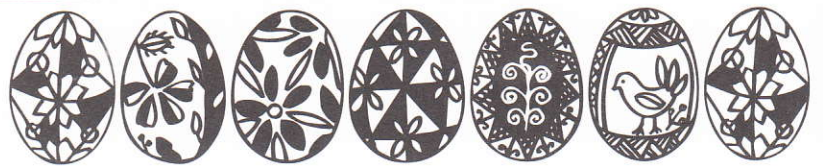
Good Friday and Easter are undoubtedly two of the most significant days in the Christian calendar, marked by Christians worldwide.

While the symbolism behind the commemoration of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter needs no explanation to any of us Christians, it is still well-worth taking the time to return to the basics, stripping away the ritual and remembering the essence of what they stand for.

Good Friday: We remember the day Christ was crucified and died on the cross for us, taking upon Himself the sins of the world.

Easter: We celebrate the day that Christ rose from the dead, conquering sin and death.

However, as we remember the significance of both of these key events year in and out, how have we grown in love and understanding of our Lord? How has



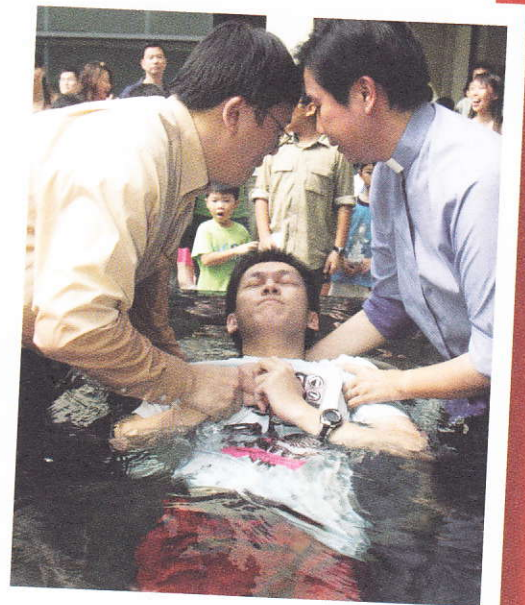
the amazing grace of God's love and the power we have from Christ's resurrection changed and

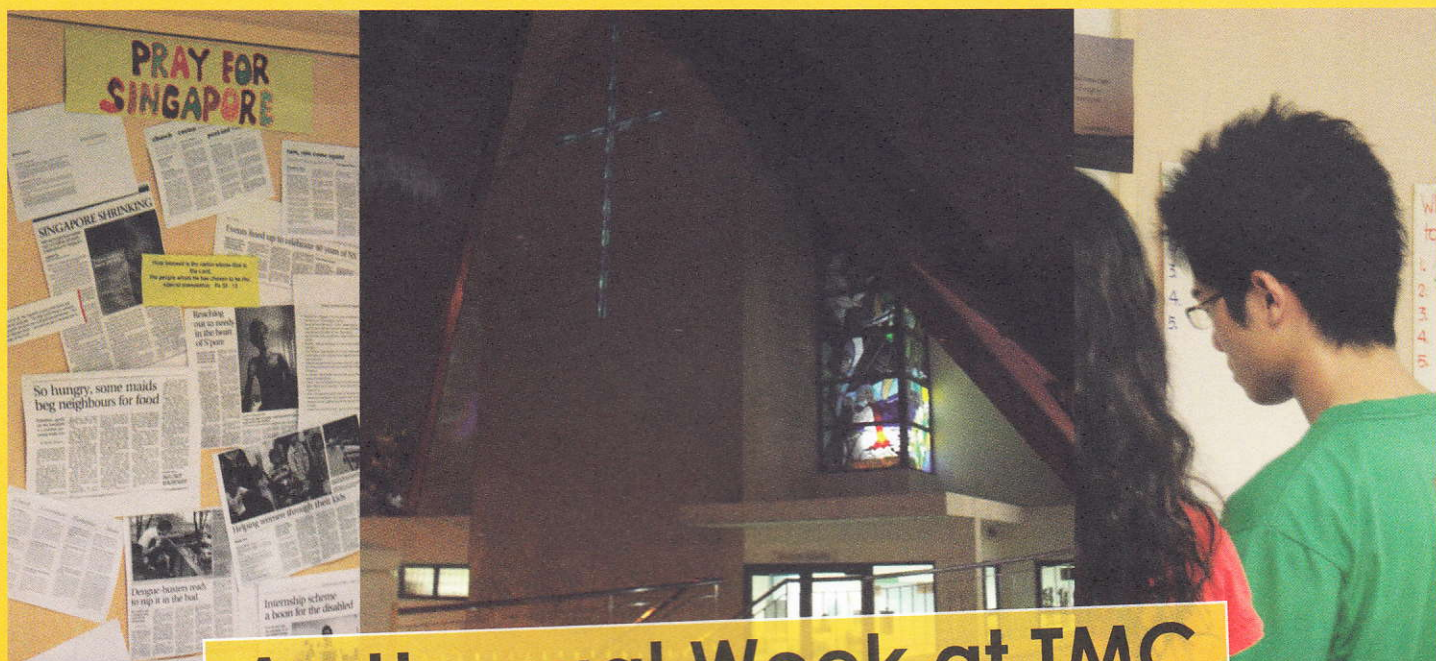
transformed our lives even as we attend the services each and every year?

In helping members of TMC prepare for Good Friday and Easter, there was a service each night of Holy Week (beginning on Monday and ending on Easter Sunday) this year. The theme of the Holy Week services centred on understanding more about and experiencing the Holy Spirit, with Rev Wee Boon Hup sharing insights from the Word of God. Many who attended the services were ministered to by the messages, and refreshed by the Spirit's touch.

The Good Friday message by Rev Lai Kai Ming, on The Cry on the Cross, spoke of Christ's last cry on the cross, how Christ identifies with the cries of His people, and His sacrifice on the cross. The Easter message, delivered by Rev Dianna Khoo, on the effectiveness of Easter, reminded us of the power we have through Christ's resurrection to lead effective and abundant lives. As a church, we also celebrated with joy the baptism of members from both the English and Chinese congregation, welcoming our brothers and sisters into the community of faith.

While yet another Good Friday and Easter has passed, it is truly my prayer that we have also grown in love for Christ, and are walking more victoriously in our lives. May the Spirit's touch and prompting through the services not be forgotten, and may God's Word truly continue to bear fruit, as we walk through the next season in the church year.





An Unusual Week at TMC

Chng Bee Peng

Unusual 24.7 came to TMC in the week of 15 to 22 April 2007. More than 300 church members came together to call on the Lord in continuous prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making it the largest and longest prayer gathering for TMC to date. It was part of a one year unbroken prayer chain amongst the churches of Singapore, with a total of 52 churches participating from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, each anchoring a week of 24.7 prayer.

It was the first time something like that had ever been done in TMC. Church members were asked to sign up for prayer slots of one hour or more, with small groups and other member groupings taking most of the overnight slots so they could support and encourage one another to make it through the night. In all, 14 small groups participated, together with six ministry groups and five other groupings (such as the church office, Disciple I class, Friday Prayer group etc).

What did the participants pray about? And is it possible to find enough things to pray about for a whole week? Certainly! To facilitate 24.7 prayer, the Intercessory Prayer Committee put together a wealth of resources in the prayer chapel, such as articles on prayer, newspaper clippings, CDs, and even paper and crayons for expressing praise to God through creative works. For instance, a member of the "Family Aspirations" small group was inspired to draw a picture of Jesus with his hands clasped together in prayer as

depicted in the stained glass window in the prayer chapel.

The materials were helpfully organised into various stations – Pray for the Methodist Church, Pray for TMC, Pray for the World, Pray for Singapore, and Pray for Missions. A prayer wall was also set up where 24.7 prayer tags containing the prayer requests of church members were put up for those who wished to intercede for a fellow brother or sister. Plenty of "prayer ammunition" as one participant put it!

But could one hour be too long for continuous praying? After all, many of us find it hard to commit to even 10 minutes of prayer each day. Is it possible to "pray without ceasing"? Based on the testimonies of the participants, the answer is a resounding yes. They consistently testified that one, two or even three hours was not enough time to commune with our God and Heavenly Father. A few even exceeded their allotted time and continued to pray with the people who came in for the next session. Or they would feel led to come back on a different day to continue praying.

Quite a few expressed surprise because they originally thought they would not be able to last the allotted time. But when these members made themselves available to speak with God, God in turn blessed and ministered to them richly. Some participants also shared that although they came tired, at the end of their prayer session, they felt restored and ministered to, and were able to go to work or

continue with other daily activities feeling refreshed.

God also led people who were initially unsure about participating in 24.7 to eventually take part. For example, He led the way for one member by making available a slot at a convenient time for her. The week of Unusual 24.7 also coincided with the week of the Alpha Course on prayer. A participant of the Alpha Course shared that the day after the Alpha session on prayer, he prayed and asked God whether he should participate in 24.7. God then answered his prayer by sending someone in his small group to call him at the appropriate time to invite him to join the small group in 24.7.

Overall, many participants testified that they had been blessed and gave thanks to God for this experience. Even after the week was over, there were requests to keep the prayer resources intact and the prayer chapel open, so that church members could continue to access the room and materials and continue to pray. Thanks be to God!

"And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pak Lin's Retirement

Cheryl Sim

After over 20 years of service in the church office, Ms Lee Pak Lin has become a very familiar face to many members of the TMC family. Known for her dedication and diligence, Pak Lin has been an invaluable member of the office staff and an encouragement to many. Pak Lin has since gone on early retirement and Saltshaker had the privilege of interviewing her following her retirement in December 2006.

Q: When did you start serving in church? Could you share what your experience of serving in the church office over the years has been like?

Pak Lin: I started working in the church office in 1980. At that time, I was also teaching Sunday School to the Secondary Two and Three classes. I went on to teach in the kindergarten and nursery, but I stopped when I had to work on Sundays in the office. God has been very good all these years. He was the one who brought me to work in church in the first place. He has opened doors for me and during the

time I have been working in church, my spiritual growth has grown deeper. There was a period when I was very down, but it was during those trying times that I could hear God the clearest. The Lord has also sent many "saints" to encourage me and He answered many of my prayers through them.

Q: Has there been anything particularly memorable about your work in the church office?

Pak Lin: I think the most memorable thing about working in the Church Office is the teamwork amongst the people who work there. Everyone has always been very nice, people I can joke and laugh with. The church office is very important; it is the backbone of the church. Once those working in the office are united, we can help the Pastors and the rest of the church.



Of course, we must be aware that it can also be a battlefield, where Satan can tear us apart due to our different personalities.

Q: What are your hopes for TMC, as we move past our 50th anniversary celebrations?

Pak Lin: That TMC will go ahead and live out God's vision, and not that of man's. I believe that we must reach out to do community work, which requires prayer, direction from God and obedience; we must not slacken. At one prayer service, the Lord convicted me of our covenant with Him on the Serangoon North community. We must go down to their level, reach out, and show love to the heartlanders, just as we ourselves have experienced God's love.

Saltshaker

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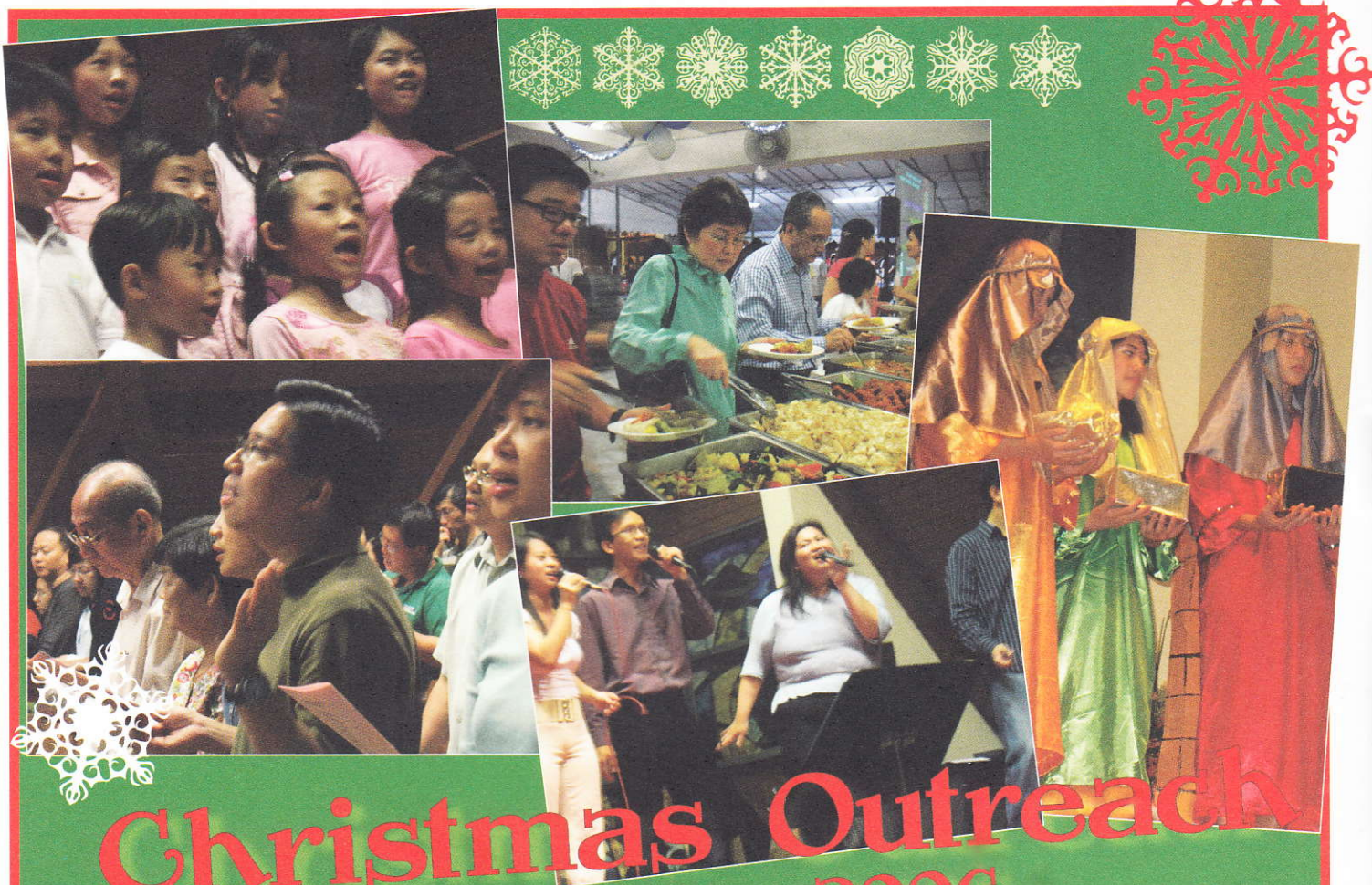
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Christmas Outreach

December 2006

Ong Hon Yuh & Melissa Koh

You have heard of "Singapore 2006". Were you there when we had our very own "December 2006"?

Preparation for TMC's "December 2006" began with enthusiastic support from different ministries, volunteers and donors who generously and graciously offered their time, efforts, and donations toward the preparation and organisation of the events.

The series of events began with the opportunity to participate in the Serangoon Garden Village celebrations on 2-3 Dec 06, graced by the Minister of State for Finance and Transport and MP for Aljunied GRC, Mrs Lim Hwee Hua. The Psalm 100 choir and members from the 8.45am choir and Children's Ministry sang and danced the night away. The opening number, a traditional carol sung to the tune of a popular pop song by Ricky Martin, and with accompanying funky salsa moves, was a hit with the crowd.

Meanwhile, other members took the opportunity to distribute more than 700 goody bags and flyers as part of publicity for our Christmas Eve events. Each goody bag contained a booklet about the true meaning of Christmas, an invitation to the Christmas Eve party as well as some sweets.

The choral and dance performance put up by our members warmed the hearts of many including the organisers, who invited us to return in 2007. A member of the public even prayed to receive Christ after a conversation with Brother Yan!

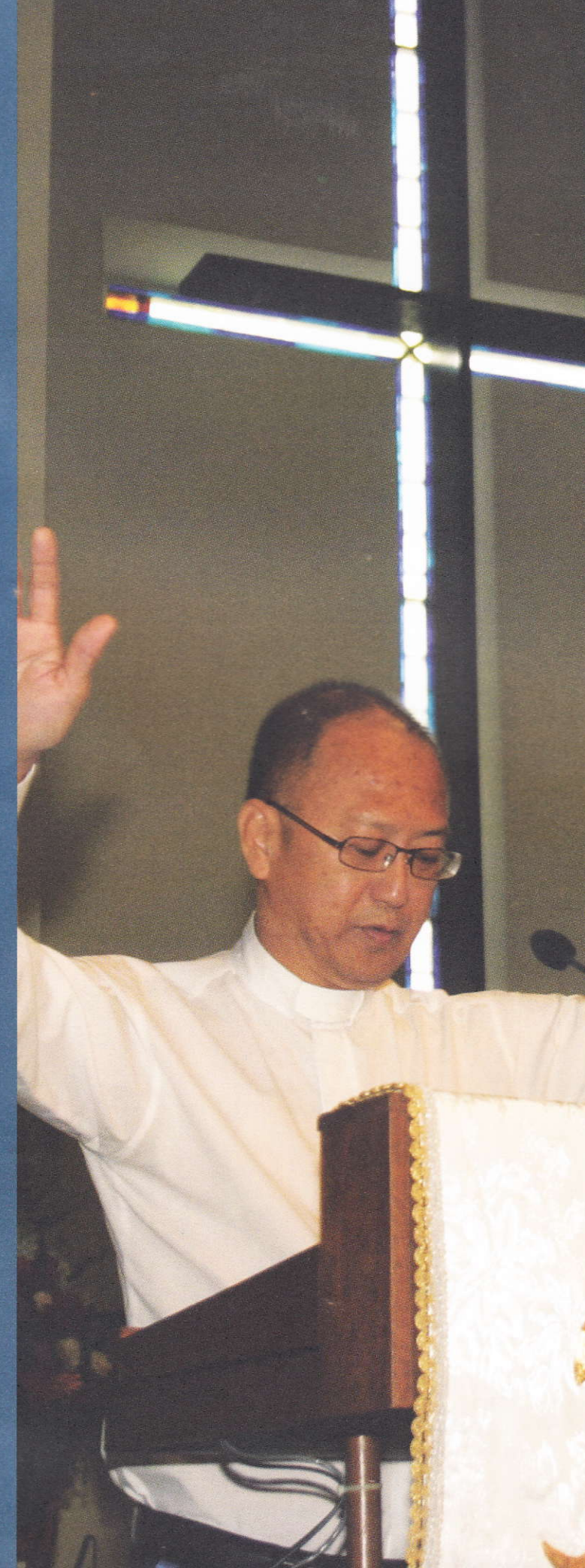
Some of our members, and our energetic Youth Ministry also went out to the neighbourhood of Serangoon North Ave 1 and Serangoon Gardens to distribute flyers, balloons and buns to invite the residents to join us for the celebrations. We received some of these residents as our visitors on Christmas Eve!

Christmas Eve began with a Chinese outreach event in the morning where the Gospel was preached powerfully by Pastor Lam from Alpha. Decked in shiny blue and silver tinsel, the Plaza came alive in the evening with a sumptuous buffet spread topped with Christmas desserts. The popcorn, candy floss and ice cream were certainly crowd-pullers!

The message of the heart-warming skit put up by the Children's Ministry was reiterated by Mr Chan Chong Hiok who preached about the meaning of Christmas. The night was rounded off by a boisterous countdown to Christmas Day with the movie *Left Behind (Part One)* and singing led by the Youth Band. Our Assistant Pastor, Rev Lai Kai Ming, also shared about not being left behind to encourage both Christians and non-Christians to seek the truth.

A total of 140 visitors joined us on Christmas Eve in the morning and evening and a total of 13 persons committed their lives to Jesus, the Saviour and Perfecter of our Faith! Thanks be to God!

We will continue to look for more opportunities to present the Gospel to the community, so that we can "share the love of Jesus in our neighbourhood and beyond". Look out for more outreach activities so that you can bring your relatives and friends to know the Lord Jesus Christ!



Time To Say (a heartfelt)

Goodbye...

Noelle Yong

There is "a time for everything, and a season for everything under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), a time to say "hello" and a time to say "goodbye". The time to say "goodbye" was the farewell service for TMC's Pastor-in-Charge, Rev Philip Lim, on 31 Dec 06. It not only marked the end of a new year and the time to usher in the next. It was also a time to bid goodbye to Rev Lim as he goes on his sabbatical leave.

During his goodbye message, Rev Lim recollected his many experiences whilst serving as a minister in TMC. He recalled that he was appointed to TMC as minister on trial 11 years and seven months ago and then was reappointed again to TMC as a pastor-in-charge eight years and seven months ago. In both instances, TMC was his first church of appointment in his different capacities.

After 17 years of ministry as a pastor, this sabbatical was indeed a much needed one. Citing the need for personal renewal and growth, he said that most of his time would be spent on reflection and catching up on reading so as to be better equipped for service.

Rev Lim's foremost regret was concerning those who have left the church. This however, is coupled with the hope that those who have left us would someday come back. His greatest joy was the fruition of the Chinese Ministry and the redevelopment of the church. He also challenged us as a congregation to clear our debts incurred from the redevelopment project.

It was indeed a heartfelt farewell as members of the choir and congregation could not help but tear as Rev Lim delivered his message.

The service was followed by a farewell lunch. It was a time for members of the congregation to personally say our goodbyes as well as to sign the scrapbook that was to be presented to him. Members went up to share the many memories they had of Rev Lim and two members even gave solo song performances one of which was a rendition of Teresa Teng's The Moon Represents My Heart. It was a heartwarming lunch to bid farewell to a much beloved pastor and friend.

To quote one of Rev Lim's favourite songs, Hymn of Promise, which was sung at the end of the service, "In our end is our beginning...unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." We do not know what lies ahead for us, but this is not the end. It is only but the beginning of a new season for Rev Lim and for us at TMC.

Getting to Know Pastor Dianna Khoo

Patsy Ong

Saltshaker interviews Reverend Dianna Khoo, TMC's new Pastor-in-charge, and gets some serious answers.

Q: What were you doing prior to coming to TMC?

Pastor D: I was a TRAC Youth Worker from 1981 to 1986, Christian Ministry Staff at the Anglo Chinese Junior College from 1988 to 1995, and Pastor at Pentecost Methodist Church from 2000 to 2006.

Q: What made you decide to join the pastoral ministry?

Pastor D: It was a response to God's calling as well as a personal realisation that I have to really make each day count because every day is a gift from God. I was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 years ago and that really had a positive effect on me. It made me realise how critical it is to respond to God's calling while I can; that in life, there is an expiry date and no one is exempt from it.

Q: What was your first impression of TMC?

Pastor D: TMC is a church with lots of keys! I was given a set of six master keys and more than 12 other facility keys during my first few days in office.

Q: Can you tell us one memorable thing that has happened to you since you have joined TMC?

Pastor D: Meeting someone who had dropped out of church for years! It was extremely encouraging to see how God has touched and transformed him over the years and to know that he is now worshipping at TMC.



Q: Are there any areas you may want to focus on or see happening in TMC and why?

Pastor D: I hope to help strengthen the small group ministry. I see that as a key to shepherding the congregation as we grow in size and strength. Corporate worship is also a critical area in any church. We need to continue to work hard to improve and enhance the environment for worship. My prayer is for our services to be an Oasis for all worshippers - an Oasis where the presence and the Spirit of God can be sensed and experienced by all. One more aspect is our social outreach and witness as a faith community. We need to live out our Christian lives, both individually and collectively. I really pray for more intentional outreach and care, especially to those who are less fortunate than us.

Q: Anything you would like to say to the congregation?

Pastor D: "Anyone who is among the living has hope - even a live dog is better off than a dead lion." (Ecc 9:4) Let us be alive in Christ who gave us life! I'm looking forward to a lively and joyful ministry with you all.

STAFF RETREAT 2007



20 Mar - 22 Mar 07