

# Saltshaker

Trinity Methodist Church • September 2003  
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A photograph of two men standing in the foreground of a large church hall. The man on the left is wearing a black suit jacket over a white shirt and is smiling. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, a light blue tie, and glasses, and has his arm around the first man's shoulder. In the background, church pews are visible with people seated, and a large arched doorway leads to another part of the church. The ceiling has exposed wooden beams and several pendant lights.

**TMC Transitions**

**Our Sabbatical Journey**

**In Conversation with Dr Hum**

**The 1st Combined Service**

**Catching up with Pastor Foo**

**Interview with Pastor Lai**

Pastor's Message	2
In Conversation with Dr Hum	3-4
Fundraising for TMC Redevelopment	4-5
The 1st Combined Service	6-7
Catching up with Pastor Foo Fook Heng	8
The Methodist Connectional System	9
Our Sabbatical Journey	10
Takhmau Trinity Methodist Church	11
Interview with Pastor Lai	12

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## TMC Transitions

**"Keep changing. When you're through changing,  
you're through." - Bruce Fairchild Barton**

**Transitions.** This is a word packed full of meaning and challenges. All of us go through them – from baby to toddler, from childhood to youth, from student to worker, from honeymoon to parenthood, from middle-age to old-age ... Everyone goes through transitions, but no one really likes them. Transitions are a time of tremendous change, a time of great stress, a time when our comfort is disturbed and our equilibrium dislocated. It is a time when our relationships are tested – both with others and with God. During transitions, our true colours are often revealed.

Think of the story of Israel. Abraham was asked to leave for an unknown land – the first transition. His faith was revealed – so were his weaknesses. Centuries later, Moses led Israel out of Egypt into Canaan, across the Red Sea and the Jordan. Not everyone was happy, but it was necessary if Israel was to survive and prosper. In the promised land, Israel prospered but gradually fell into the sins of idolatry and injustice – another transition was in store. By 586 BC, the whole of Israel had been exiled into foreign lands. This was probably the most trying period of her history. By the time of their return (read Ezra and Nehemiah), the Israelites had learnt their lesson – they were now ready to worship the Lord their God once again. And so the story continues ... until the time when the Messiah was revealed, and the Israel of God transited into the Church of God.

*"Today is not yesterday. We ourselves change. How then, can our works and thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same? Change, indeed, is painful, yet ever needful; and if memory has its force and worth, so also has hope."* ~Thomas Carlyle

And so our very own church, TMC, is going through tremendous change. The \$12 million ship is presently being built and the people are worshipping in the wilderness. Some are excited, some are grumbling, others are just watching to see what happens. Then we have our dear Rev Foo leaving us, and yours truly taking over his torch. Ivan and Kiem, two very dedicated leaders, have also left us (temporarily) for a new journey. Meanwhile, our LCEC Chairperson, Dr Hum, places before the church a vision for the future. Part of the vision includes the Combined Service cum Fellowship Lunch which we have recently experienced.

All of the above may be a little too much for some, but it seems necessary. Having been a member of TMC for about 10 years, I do sometimes sense that many of us have settled too comfortably into our little ghettos. The time has come for us to transit, yes, to change for the future. If we are to grow, we must be willing to change, to grow, to be transformed by the Lord and His Spirit. In the process, we will inevitably face inconveniences, struggles and pain. According to the Bible, there is no growth without struggle, no glory without suffering (Luke 24:26; Rom. 8:17; Heb. 2:10). And often, like a beautiful butterfly in a cocoon, we cannot see the final result of our struggles until the season is ripe.

*"Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, nor even to profit by it, but to cause it."*  
~ Harry Emerson Fosdick

So, my dear brothers and sisters, and fellow pilgrims in TMC's transitions, take heart. Like the Lord Jesus who endured the cross, we too have a cross to carry as long as we live in this imperfect and sinful world. But Jesus did not remain in the tomb forever; he transited from death into life, from suffering into glory. In this truth we have hope, and therefore the courage not only to endure change – but to be agents of change until Christ comes again ... our final transition. Come, Lord Jesus!! (1 Cor. 16:22)

by Pastor Lai Kai Ming

# In Conversation with Dr Hum

by David Gwee

***Dr Hum Sin Hoon has returned to the LCEC as chairman after a two year absence. Saltshaker finds out more about him and how he sees TMC progressing as a church.***



*it has been two years since we first went out to LA on my sabbatical! How time flies!*

*While we were in LA, we worshipped at the Rolling Hills Community Church. A fairly big church with very good facilities, and also clearly a Bible-teaching church. We enjoyed the worship services there as a family, and to some extent, we were also able to enjoy good Christian fellowship there. I attended some of the bible classes there, while Eunice was able to join them in a systematic Community Bible Class for a year. We benefited from these.*

**Saltshaker:** Did you find any difference in TMC after two years?

**Dr Hum:** Yes, to some extent, in terms of the need to meet some new people. Also, I gradually got to know that a few whom I know quite well have left us to worship somewhere else. Of course, there are the others whom I know very well and they are faithfully serving on at our church.

*In the initial months of my return, I found that we were all busy with the nitty gritty of getting ourselves ready for our relocation to PLMGPS. As such, as a leadership and as a church, we were thoroughly involved in the day-to-day activities of moving, relocating and the redevelopment of our facilities. After a while, I sensed that we needed to remind ourselves afresh of our overall direction as a church, and how this redevelopment work and all our nitty gritty efforts in relocating are part of this overall direction of building a 'healthy' TMC, with each of us growing as a healthy, balanced disciple of Jesus involved in winning the lost, and being built-up and equipped for ministry.*

*My family and I count it a privilege that we have TMC as our home, and that after we have been away overseas, we can always come back to all of you as part of our big spiritual family here at TMC!*

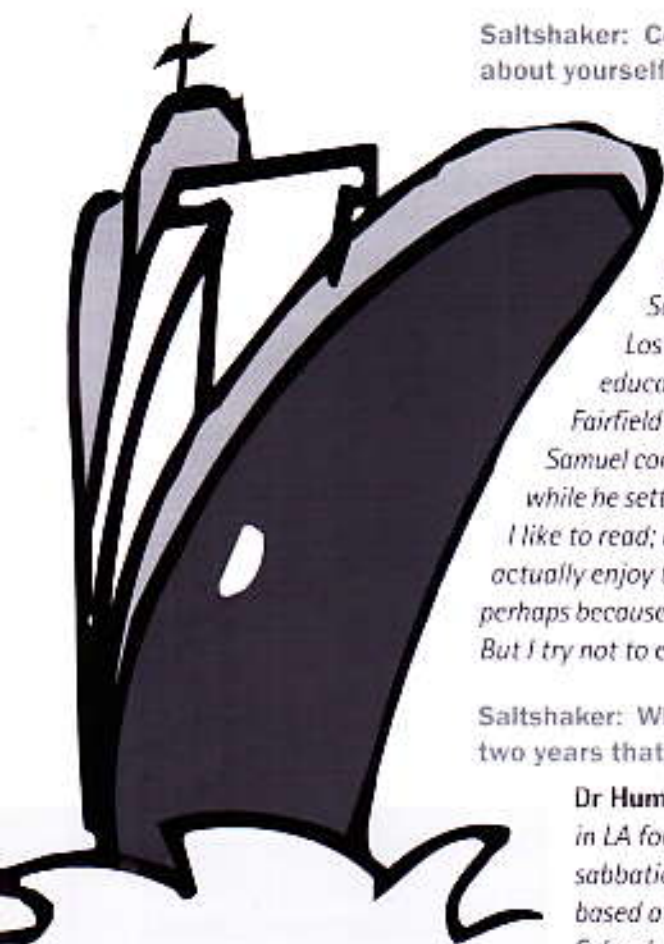
**Saltshaker:** Could you tell us a little about yourself?

**Dr Hum:** I am a professor in the NUS Business School. My wife Eunice and I have two boys Samuel (17 yrs old) and Daniel (15yrs old). Samuel has just returned to Los Angeles for his college education while Daniel is in Fairfield Secondary. Eunice is keeping Samuel company in LA for a few months while he settles back into a routine there. I like to read; I jog almost everyday and actually enjoy the runs! I like chicken rice, perhaps because I am Hainanese! And Laksa! But I try not to eat too much of these.

**Saltshaker:** What were you doing in the two years that you were away?

**Dr Hum:** My family and I were away in LA for a year; I was on my sabbatical leave from NUS. I was based at UCLA's Anderson Business School, which was where I did my doctoral work back in the 80s. I was doing my research and also teaching in the MBA program during this one year of sabbatical leave there.

*Samuel and Daniel therefore had a chance to experience the American school system for the year, while my dear wife Eunice had the burden of taking care of all three of us! Indeed, when my leave ended, Sam felt that he would be better off continuing in the US high school... which he did, and so Eunice stayed on to keep an eye on him, while Dan and I came back home to Singapore. And now,*



***“...our TMC will be like a \$12m Ship, and we must learn to steer it and move it forward to pick up the many along the way, both those who are near within our community, as well as those who are further away in foreign shores.”***

Saltshaker: What are your hopes for TMC?

**Dr Hum:** When I had the chance to study the book of Acts recently as part of the DISCIPLE class that I was in, the Lord gave me a fresh glimpse of what a New Testament church

should and can be...one where the people are in close fellowship with each other, constantly praying together, preaching and sharing the work of Jesus in their lives with boldness; listening to and learning from the apostles as they teach, and trusting the God they believe in to do His signs and wonders in their midst. Indeed, I saw afresh the reality of the Holy Spirit's work in the church of the New Testament!

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***I am hopeful that as TMC, we can be a present day New Testament church like that recorded for us in the Book of Acts. Each of us needs afresh the touch of the Holy Spirit so that we may know the reality of our God in our daily living.***

that recorded for us in the Book of Acts. Each of us needs afresh the touch of the Holy Spirit so that we may know the reality of our God in our daily living. That's why we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to revive

and renew each of us, so as to revive and renew our church as a whole. Then we will see ourselves growing as a New Testament church, becoming Warmer in our Fellowship, Stronger through our Worship, Deeper in our Discipleship, Broader in our Ministries and Larger in numbers through our Evangelism.

Saltshaker: Any words of encouragement for our members especially with a \$12 million building in the works?

**Dr Hum:** With the Lord's help, we will

be the generation to build and use the \$12m facilities at Serangoon Garden Way. As has been shared earlier, our TMC will be like a \$12m Ship, and we must learn to steer it and move it forward to pick up the many along the way, both those who are near within our community, as well as those who are further away in foreign shores.

Even as we await the completion of the redevelopment work, let's double our efforts and triple our dependence on the Holy Spirit as we prepare ourselves for our Return to New Beginnings with New Premises at Serangoon Garden Way!

Let's also remember that while we do our part, it is God who will actually be building His church. We can take courage from what Jesus said to Peter: 'On this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it' (Matt 16:18). Amen!

## Fundraising for TMC Redevelopment

by Chan Chong Wei

Trinity Methodist Church is currently under redevelopment in Serangoon Garden Way to meet the needs of a growing congregation. As of August 2003, the Church still lacks about \$8 million for its redevelopment project and that remains the principal concern for the TMC Redevelopment Fund Committee. Those on the committee, with good heads for numbers, do not underrate the severity of the task that lay before the church. About \$6 million was borrowed from Hong Leong Finance Pte Ltd and the rest of the loan was taken from the Methodist head office.

Heather Pates, chairperson of the committee, admits that fund-raising can be disheartening from time to time. What is of central importance, though, was that God affirmed His presence in all this. This is what

Heather says in response to the question of how her life has been affected, against the backdrop of those seemingly endless efforts to whittle away the outstanding amount: "Only through God's grace and providence in His time!" According to Heather too, pledges from the congregation remain the chief form of contribution but

to ask the congregation for more of such to meet the full amount is not sustainable. Thus, the church was galvanised into other fund-raising activities.

Some of the church members responded a little stiffly initially because they were shy about what they could do. But what ingenious ideas these minds contained, that was yet undiscovered! The youths had their basketball challenge, car wash adventures and the WSCS had their myriad of activities. Some of the suggestions never came to fruition. A walkathon in the works was never executed because of SARS. No matter.





The spirit of fundraising was passed around and transplanted and re-transplanted from one group to the other. There was always room for participation and enjoyment of friendships

made whenever anyone was roped in. Works of talent were also aplenty especially in the area of culinary delights.

Recently, during the combined service on 3rd August, the Family Aspirations small group set up shop selling teddy bears. Those bears were simply adorable and came in all shapes and sizes. The air of festivity lent to the lunch after the service was marvelous and many of those bears quickly found new owners.



Sean and Sharon found an inspiration during their holiday in Thailand. That inspiration precipitated a sale

of shawls and satin on 17

August 2003 in the school canteen. There are many more of such activities in store.

The Village People small group have planned for the launch of Project Jordan by the end of August. The project was the brainchild of Pastor Lai Kai Ming and Mr Albert Yeo. Pastor Lai was asked why the name was chosen and what the project was all about. He replied that the project was fundamentally a donation drive where cards would be issued as a platform for members, including students, who do not have a stable income to do their bit for fundraising. However, this drive would not be extended to a wider audience because no permission for canvassing from the public was given. Secondary to this end would be to reach out to those around us who do not know Christ. Pastor Lai



drew parallels between the Israelites crossing the River Jordan after years of sojourn in wilderness into the promised land and Trinity Methodist Church, bracing itself to move into the new-old premises. As always, homecoming folks brim with anticipation and hope.



The Church Membership Care Committee is doing its bit for fund-raising through the sale of church anniversary lunch tickets. On 12th September, Ms Violet Khor would be organising a Golf Tournament. Here are more talents to be shown and opportunities for outreach and friendships to be taken.

Ron Teo has inspirational messages for everyone by way of car bumper stickers. It would be a great Christmas present especially for friends from other churches.

Other excellent Christmas gifts would be the recipe books for sale. Editor Johan Wong and contributors such as Mdm Chew had prepared an excellent discourse on the proper way to go about making local delights. 3000 copies were printed, of which 1/3 were sold. The rest are still on sale at \$20 a copy. Try the recipes; you may be in for a pleasant surprise.

The Chapel of Life Committee is trying to appeal to those who stay around this part of the island to place

their loved ones in the new Columbarium as a convenient alternative to places such as Mount Vernon Crematorium or Choa Chu Kang Christian Cemetery. The prices for single, double niches and memorial and thanksgiving plaques for the walls of remembrance would be fixed by the LCEC. Members of the church can also contribute to the church by making donations to the rooms in groups. The WSCS room has received the most donations so far - \$5000 in total. Contributions can also be made for the pews.

The tinge of excitement in the ongoing fundraising programmes looks set to be carried over to the next year. Some programmes in the pipeline, though yet to be confirmed, are a musical, with SSO accompaniment on September 2004 (Ms Ang Hwee Suan will be seeing to its arrangements) and the 'Fabric of the Church', a project similar to Singapore's 'Fabric of the Nation'.





# The 1st Combined Service

by Eugenio Koh

It was a bold step taken in faith, the decision to merge the two services into one for a longer time of worship and prayer. What was amazing about it was how God had worked and rallied His people to help in putting the service together, as well as working to minister through the service and fellowship lunch.



## Behind the scenes

As early as 8 a.m. in the morning, the youths were gathered to help arrange the tables and chairs for the Fellowship lunch. There was much to be done, arranging the tables and benches, as well as lining the 'table cloths' and placing the song sheets and keropok on the table.

The youths also participated in prayer. As explained by Jacob, while they helped in physically preparing the place for the lunch, it was also important that they participate in spiritually preparing the congregation and the leaders for the service, for God's presence to minister and for a good time of fellowship.

The PA crew also had to grapple with new configurations of the sound system so as to accommodate both the 9am Band and the 11am Choir whose members also came early to prepare for the service.

Another group of early birds were the 'Family Aspirations' Group. They set up a store to sell teddy bears to raise funds for the Redevelopment Fund. The idea of selling bears came about, as they wanted to find "an innovative way to raise funds".

Innovative it certainly was, with whole families of parents and kids going round promoting their baskets of bears and an auction of a gigantic bear. The auction was a highlight and proved to be a great success, with the minimum bid starting from S80 and



eventually going to Mr Ron Teo for \$430. The bear was to be given to his grandson.



Helping the Redevelopment Fund  
All Proceeds to  
Church Redevelopment  
Fund

## The service itself

The combined service was not merely a physical combination of the two services into one. It symbolically showed how our church is united as one body, and made up of different members, all of whom are important in the eyes of God. As commented by Angela Ang, "The combined service was good as we see the whole church coming together. When services are broken up, it feels kind of divided. There is a sense of unity when everyone is worshipping together."





### The Children's Sermon

A special sermon for the kids showed how important children are as part of the congregation. The children were invited to sit in front of Pastor Kai Ming for 'a story'. This 'story' was a sermon on storing treasures in heaven and not on earth. The 'story' was told with the aid of a colorful power point presentation, showing pyramids in Egypt, the Pharaoh and his treasures.

It was a refreshing sermon for all. As commented by Jonathon Ong, "The story-telling for kids was the best part. It is something new and really captures the attention of people." This was also echoed by Tricia, who said that "A segment for the children has been sorely lacking and this is a good start."

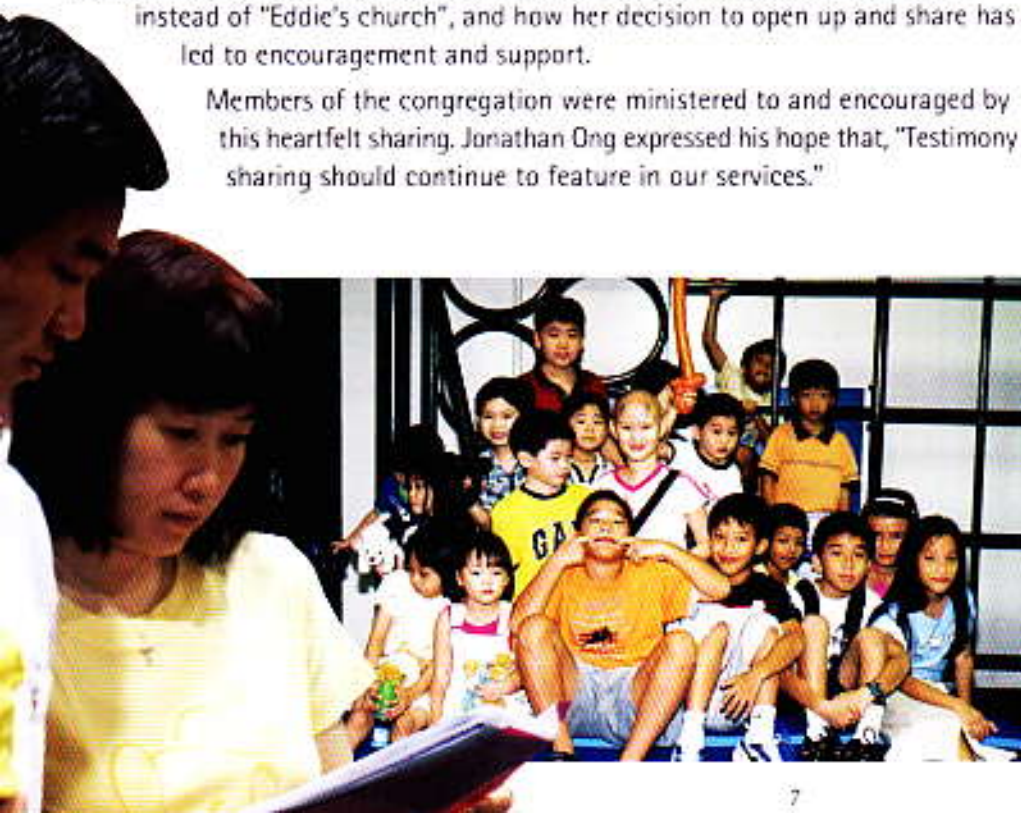
As much as the sermon was for the children, many of us learnt from it too. The enthusiastic child-like responses from the kids were refreshing. When the children were asked where they wanted their treasures to be, in heaven or on earth, one kid shouted "Both!" Even as the congregation erupted in laughter, it was a reminder of how we so often want the best of both worlds as well.

After the 'sermon', the children were led out for a treat - a magic show by a Christian clown. Armed with magic tricks and stories, he entertained while teaching them "good values".

### Testimony Sharing

Another addition to the service was the sharing of a testimony by Evelyn. It was indeed ministering as she shared on how TMC is slowly becoming her church instead of "Eddie's church", and how her decision to open up and share has led to encouragement and support.

Members of the congregation were ministered to and encouraged by this heartfelt sharing. Jonathan Ong expressed his hope that, "Testimony sharing should continue to feature in our services."



### The Fellowship Lunch

As Singaporeans, what better time to fellowship and share than with food and drinks. Gathered together at the tables, it was a good time of getting to know people of all ages, many of whom we have never met. As we sang songs of worship together, it was wonderful how the worship of God was extended beyond the church service.



Gilbert echoed this sentiment. "The time of fellowship is very good. We come together to share, pray and sing praises after service. It is good for us as a church to be singing everywhere we go".

At the end of the day, what is most important is that God is pleased. As Ms Khoo Koh Hee puts it so wonderfully, whatever service it is, "It is all good. We come here just to praise Jesus Christ. Whatever is good."

# Catching up with Pastor Foo Fook Heng by Patsy Ong

**Q: How are you all settling into FPMC? Any specific areas of ministry?**

We're settling in quite nicely. As with all transitions, I would need some time to get into the rhythm of things over here. The children are adjusting to both the new environment and people pretty well although they do miss their friends in TMC. The congregation here is nearly about the same size as that of TMC. FPMC has a Preaching Point in Woodlands so we pastors need to commute between the main church and the preaching point. I've taken over all the duties and responsibilities that the previous associate pastor had been handling. It feels like being thrown into the deep end of the pool immediately. But I'm glad for the challenge as it allows me to get right into the main life of the church and its ministries.



**Q: What will you remember TMC for and what is your most memorable experience in TMC?**

Food! I truly appreciate all those who diligently fed me. Thank you for the extra 5 kg gained! Your efforts have not been in vain.

Fellowship! To say that the fellowship has been heartwarming would be an understatement. You have opened your hearts and shown me and my family how to love and what Christian love is. 'Blest be the tie that binds' comes to mind, a hymn incidentally written by a pastor who was leaving his flock for another.

I left TMC with many memorable experiences. One of the most recent was the outpouring of support and love my family and I received at my recent bereavement. You made my non-Christian family members see, for the first time in their lives, what being a family-in-Christ is like. They were completely bowled over. You were there for us in our time of need. There are no words to describe the special place that you have in my heart.

**Q: How has pastoring TMC made an impact on you and your family in the last 4 years?**

I thank God for bringing me over to TMC to begin my first pastoral ministry. The exposure and experiences have been tremendously invaluable in helping to mould and refine me to be a better pastor. The church members at TMC have taught me to love, laugh and live not only as a pastor, but also as a person. It's been a great joy shepherding God's people at TMC simply because they have been so accepting, understanding and supportive. They have made it such a delight for me. In fact, I've often jokingly asked some of my fellow pastors if it was a sin to enjoy myself so much as a pastor.

My children have spent a very meaningful part of their lives in TMC and we're very glad for that. We have seen them grow up under the care and nurture of church members, especially the times Grace and I were not able to look after them. The uncles, aunties, big sisters and older brothers who came by to look after them, play with them, feed them, and shower them with gifts have been a real blessing to us, and to our children!



**Q: Any words to the congregation...?**

Fight the good fight. Finish the course. Keep the faith. The world is small, but even if we don't meet again, remember to meet me in heaven.



# A Tribute to Fook Heng and Grace

*It seems but yesterday  
That you came to Trinity  
Armed with our bible  
And your beloved A, B, C*

*Four years! So fast!  
Look how they've grown!*

*So too, with the lives you have touched,  
And the seed you have sown.  
We'll miss you, but our loss is not only  
Fairfield's gain;  
For wherever you are,  
You'll bring glory to His name.*

*Grace will be the nightingale of Chinatown  
Singing, 'Make way, make way,  
The Lord loves you.'*

*And as Fook Heng shares and expounds  
In his long flowing gown,  
Every Chinaman and woman  
Will rally around*

*Exclaiming, 'God bless our Bok Su!'*

*N.B. The A, B, C refers to Pastor Fao's children.*



Composed by: Mrs Patricia Chia



## Thank You

*Thank you for the sermons  
The words you're preaching  
Thanks for all the truth they're bringing  
Who can live without it?  
Besides the Pharisees.*

*What would life be  
Without the Father, Son, Trinity?  
So I say, thank you for the sermons  
For preaching it to me, to me.*

Composed and presented by: TMC Youths

## The Methodist Connectional System

Below are extracts from the book *The People Called Methodists* which explains the Methodist Connectional System (of which TMC is a part of) and the Itinerant Ministry by Methodist clergy.

One of our great Methodist distinctions is the affirmation that we are interconnected. This is rooted in the biblical image of the church as a body of Christ, inspired and gifted by the Holy Spirit. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Cor 12: 27).

The word that describes inter-connection is 'Connectionalism'. In the Methodist Church, this can be seen at

many levels with a global vision and local thrust. These connections are even built into the organization of the church.

First, the General Conference, as the one representative body that speaks officially for Methodist doctrine, policy and practice, and symbolizes the connection for all Methodists in Singapore. Thus, an individual member of any local Methodist church is a member of the total Methodist Connection. The three Annual Conferences in connection with each other under the General Conference, form The Methodist Church in Singapore.

Secondly, the Annual Conferences constitute the connection between local churches through their Local Conferences.

Thirdly, the Local Church is a connectional society of persons who have professed their faith in Christ.

A fundamental characteristic of the ordained clergy is the Itinerant Ministry (also known as the Travelling Ministry). The clergy are members of the Annual Conference, and thus are appointed by the President of each Annual Conference to fields of labour, including local churches. Pastors are to accept and abide by these appointments.

# Our Sabbatical Journey

by Tan Kiem Kiak

Ivan and Kiem Kiak Tan left for theological studies in USA in mid-August. Ivan served in church leadership in various capacities while Kiem served as a Lay Ministry Staff from 1999 to 2003. She was also the former editor of 'Saltshaker'. Below is their account of why and how they embarked on this journey.

## Our Sabbatical Journey

One commandment we have trouble keeping is the 4th one: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord." (Ex 20: 8 & 9) Each week just whizzes by – long work days, small group meetings, family commitments, church meetings, preparing for bible study, a little time for friends and exercise. We hardly spend time in sabbath reflection and prayer, or even unhurried time with friends. And, though we do go away each year for a holiday, two weeks away doesn't quite refresh us from 50 weeks of fast-paced Singaporean life.

But at the same time, we question why we are living such a fast-paced life. Do we need to? More importantly: how does God want us to live? Does our lifestyle reflect our values, our trust and faith in Him? We are quite sure that our call is to live out our faith here in Singapore: this is home and where our families and friends are, but we feel there is a need to step aside and to think through it all.

For several years we had discussed the idea of going away. In God's good time, various things began to fall into place in 2002. By June 2003, we had completed three and four-and-a-half years at our respective jobs. We felt that it was time to move on. We were ready to go. With advice, we sought out different schools and found that Asbury Theological Seminary, a Methodist graduate school in Kentucky, USA, would meet our needs very well. We applied and were accepted. At various stages, we experienced the Lord's blessing and providence.

This sabbatical is much more than just going away to study. It's more than just getting additional degrees (our third, for the record). This sabbatical, is for us to move away from what is familiar and comfortable, and to go into a different environment, becoming students again. It is a time for learning and growth, for formation and transformation. It means making friends and getting involved in a culturally different Christian community. We have our apprehensions. For us, this journey is also about trusting God to take care of the families and communities we leave here. It will remind us that we are not indispensable (especially in our local church!) and that we need to trust in our Lord as the One who provides.

A wise friend urged us not to worry about what we will do on our return – the Lord will show us. Meanwhile we are

assured with His peace that this step is the right one at this time. The next step (or job) will reveal itself in His time. And so we will spend the next two to three years away. Yes, even the length of time away is uncertain. But we journey with our hands in the hand of God, for that is better than a light, and safer than a known way.



# Takhmau Trinity Methodist Church by Thu Santik



The Takhmau Trinity Methodist Church has been in partnership with TMC since 1998. The pastor of the church was Mrs. Huy Leng Heng. In January 2003, Mr. Thu Santik was appointed as pastor of this church. Church membership at present is about 20 adults. Every Sunday after worship we divide into three groups for Bible Study.

There are 4 members in the Men group, 6 in the Women group and 10 in the Youth group. Sunday school has just started a few Sundays ago. There are about 7 children in the Sunday school class. Most of the youths are students, and two are working. The children in our Sunday school class are children of our members.



## **Situation of the members**

Many of our church members are jobless. Only one man works in a Christian organization. One member from the Women group works in the garment factory. She often shares the Gospel with those who work with her. So far, about 4 or 5 ladies have come to church through her work.

## **Region**

There are many churches around the Takhmau area. These churches include Yehowah witness, the Mormons (Church of Latter-day Saints). Most of the people

living around this area have heard about Jesus but their hearts have become hardened. Please continue to pray for the people in this area, that God will soften their hearts and they would turn to God.

Thanks be to our Lord Jesus that the church members are not happy and satisfied with this small number in the church. They always ask why the church does not grow and what they can do to help the church

grow. They are willing to join forces with the pastor and church leaders to grow the church. Even though their living conditions are not so good, they are eager to participate in the activities of the church. It is an

encouragement to see the people care for the church.

This year we would like to focus on discipleship by concentrating on small group ministry. In small groups, we would be able to share and each of the members could contribute more to the group. Through small groups, we would be able to provide the primary knowledge of the Bible to our members. We would also encourage the youths to have their own small group too, where we wish to see them learn how to share the Gospel and to reach out to their friends at their schools and workplaces. This year, we will have an outing for our youths. The purpose of the outing is to bring them together and to study the bible and have fun together. We

Recently, TMC's partner in Cambodia, Takhmau-Trinity Methodist Church, also underwent a period of transition with the appointment of a new pastor, Pastor Thu Santik. Below is his account of the situation of the church and its plans and vision for the coming year.



want to encourage the youths to invite their friends to come for this outing so that they will have the opportunity to share Christ with their friends.

At the end of the year we will have an evangelistic Christmas celebration in our church. We want to use this time to reach out to the neighbours.

Our church leader has proposed that the other way of reaching out to the youths and their parents is through tuition classes. The Methodist Centre is doing this project and it is quite a successful project. If possible, and funds permitting, we would like to look into this area too. Please pray for this plan. We also would like to ask TMC to pray and consider sponsoring this project.

## **Needs**

We really need your prayer for our work in Cambodia. As we are partners it is very important to support each other either by prayer or financially.

## *Note from Pastors:*

*If you are moved to support our missions efforts in Cambodia, and want to give separately to support our missions work there, please make your contributions to "Trinity Methodist Church" and mention that it's for Takhmau Trinity Methodist Church Fund.*



# Interview with Pastor Lai

When we welcomed our new assistant pastor into the TMC family recently, we were also eagerly heralding the return of one of our own into the fold. For "Pastor Lai", or Kai Ming, as he is more popularly known, has been an active member of our church for the past 10 years or so. He became a Christian in 1988 when he was an undergraduate in London. Interestingly, Kai Ming's link with TMC originated there, when he met our very own Ivan Tan who became his mentor, and who subsequently introduced him to our church when he returned to Singapore in 1991. Before leaving for theological studies, he served in many areas including the Evangelism Committee, the Choir, the Children's Ministry, and the Youth Ministry. He was also associate lay leader for a period of time. TMC is also where he met his wife, Lesley, with whom he has two daughters, Lois and Yasha, who are 7 and 4 years old respectively.

by Amanda Yong

## Share with us a little about yourself.

Let's start with my hobbies. My favourite game is basketball. When I have no choice, I will go running or swimming. My favourite pastime is reading, something I cultivated only when I became a Christian at the age of 18. That was when I became very excited about learning about God and reading the Bible.

## What obstacles did you face when you made the decision to become a pastor?

I suffered from a sense of inadequacy about whether God would use me, but I could also see God opening doors for me. It was more of an internal struggle because everything else, the

external factors, went smoothly.

My greatest concern when I was studying at TTC (Trinity Theological College) was finances because it was a huge change from receiving a good pay while I was serving in the army to becoming a student without income. However, my concerns were unfounded because the church was very supportive

and gave me enough to fund my studies and to support my family.

## What are your thoughts and feelings about coming back to TMC, your home church, as assistant pastor?

I feel happy to be ministering amongst people I'm familiar with, to be working in a familiar system, such as the church office, and to be working with supportive leaders.

## What are your main concerns presently?

First of all, on a personal front, how to strike a balance between ministry, family, and personal time with God. Where the church is concerned, I can sense tiredness as a result of the various fundraising activities and projects we've had. However, I would like to encourage all church members not to let this rebuilding project become a burden to us, but to trust in God, that it is God's work, and that He will see to it that it is being done. Above all, let us maintain a strong prayer life, that God may refresh us by His Spirit.



## Any last words to add?

Yes. I would like to thank people who have been my constant source of support, especially my family, and my mentor Ivan. A special thanks also to Park Ming for taking pains to work out my scholarship back in 2000 and for his constant prayers and encouragement. Finally, I want to give thanks to God for seeing me through all these years - "Lord, how can I repay!" (Psalm 116:12).



Want to know how TMC was started?  
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