

Saltshaker

A Trinity Methodist Church Publication



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BLESS

THE 60-MINUTE BLESSING

A Few Steps Closer to Christ Jesus



Chew Kim Ling

My mum is a pre-believer.

I have been praying intermittently over the years for her to know our Lord Jesus Christ. She had always declined by saying that my late father passed away as an unbeliever.

I had been discouraged and disappointed many times by my mum's rejection of my invitations to visit church that I stopped asking her many years ago.

My husband and I live with my mum. But due to work and even church commitments, I did not spend time to listen to her patiently and I knew that she felt neglected.

But things began to change when I started my sabbatical from work last July.

I intentionally spent more time with my mum. We went on a holiday together to visit her cousins in China. She enjoyed this very much.

Over this period of sabbatical rest, I realised that, when I am still before our Father God, I can see His Hand at work and hear Him more clearly.

For some time, the Holy Spirit had been prompting me to check out Hakka Methodist Church (HMC) as my mum is a Hakka and the church is near our home.

I had been procrastinating as I didn't know anyone there. By divine appointment, I got to

meet the pastor-in-charge at a conference. He encouraged me to visit his church with my mum. So one weekday afternoon, I walked into the church and the lay ministry staff at HMC encouraged me to bring my mum to their service.

After much prayer and hesitation, I asked my mum if she would visit HMC. Praise the Lord that she actually agreed!

We have since visited HMC several times. Although my mum is still not keen to attend services in church and continues with her ancestral worship rituals, she is more than happy to join their social activities and has gone on two outings with them.

My mum enjoys the warm hospitality of the brothers and sisters at HMC, and the delicious food



Kim, her mom (extreme left) and their relatives in Guangzhou



SHAKING SALT

served after service. One of the aunties whom I got to know also supports me in prayer for my mum.

Another breakthrough which I experienced was that, for the first time, I prayed WITH my mum and not just FOR my mum.

She was concerned over a particular matter. I asked her if I could pray with her and if she agreed with what I had said, she could say "Amen".

Words can't describe how I felt when I heard her say loud and clearly for the first time "Amen" at the end of my prayer.

I am also thankful that I was able to bring God into our home, during the Lunar New Year celebrations this year because of the "BLESS Someone this Lunar New Year" encouragement, which gave us suggestions to *lo hei* (i.e. toss raw fish salad) the Christian way.

We hosted several Lunar New Year *lo hei* gatherings at home with my small group members during which my mum was present.

Together, we thanked God for His bountiful blessings and had much fun saying the BLESSing prayer for each other with the Hokkien phrases like *ho mia* for "good life" and *ho peng you* for "good friends". This resonated with my mum.

Although my mum has yet to acknowledge Christ Jesus as Lord, I believe God's Word spoken will never return to Him void, and she has taken a few steps more towards knowing Christ Jesus.

It is my prayer that all of us at TMC will be able to stand up for Jesus, go by the power of the Holy Spirit and tell our BLESS testimonies for our Father God's glory.

Kim Ling is an Associate Lay Leader and chairperson of the Witness & Evangelism Committee in TMC. She first gave this testimony over the pulpit on Sunday 28 Feb.



Kim, her mom (in green) and a relative in Guangzhou.



Kim's mom (in orange) participating in Lo Hei the Christian Way



Ang Poh Kit

The 60-Minute Blessing

BLESS to be BLESSED

Christmas has always been special to me.

Yet for more than 10 years, my husband, Kelvin, and I have not had a Christmas celebration with family and close friends. This is because, as Kelvin is involved in CCIS (Celebrate Christmas in Singapore), he has to be in Orchard Road every night for a week before Christmas until after Christmas Day.

However, last year, CCIS in Orchard Road ended on 23 December, allowing us a Christmas celebration at home for the first time in more than a decade.

We wanted to reach out to the pre-believing parents of our dear friends, and invite them to our home for a Christmas eve dinner. Our friends are a young couple whom we have known for a while. Kelvin and I try to meet them for lunch whenever we can after church service.

I also wanted to share the Christmas joy with my small group. I looked forward to dining and fellowshiping with them. My small group members would also get to know my pre-believing friends.

However, I was dismayed when, one by one, my small group members informed me that they could not make it for the

Christmas Eve dinner.

Now that all my friends could not come, my plans had seemingly crashed.

I could not withdraw my invitation to my pre-believing friends. And my plan was to do a potluck dinner. Because God knows I can't cook; I can only eat.

Prayer was my only solution.

God turned my evening into something wonderful.

I was prompted to invite others (including some church friends) whom I wished to bless to our dinner. Together with Kelvin and I, our guests made a perfect 10. It was "just nice" as my dining table can only sit 10 people comfortably.

Surprisingly, a friend blessed us with turkey, ham and pork knuckle. It was truly sumptuous and, best of all, I didn't need to organise a pot luck dinner anymore!

Victor, the father of our friend, joined us for dinner. Kelvin and I did not know how he would respond as he was the only stranger in our midst. We began engaging him in small talk, which evolved into talking about God and a miracle which happened recently on Orchard Road (see related article at p. 8).

This miracle happened because of prayer and faith. Something impossible became possible because God intervened. Victor participated in our conversation and we had great fellowship.

During our conversation, I was blown away by a brother who shared his testimony with us.

In spite of his difficult situation and ill health, he has chosen to remain positive and faithful, putting his total trust in God. He perseveres in his prayers as he puts his unwavering trust in God daily. Although he is not well-educated, he surprised me with his hunger for God's word. He used to spend several hundreds of dollars on books to devour. Now he is wiser, he borrows books from TMC's resource centre.

I had intended to bless him, but he became a blessing to me at that dinner as I heard his powerful testimony.

Yet another friend inspired me with his testimony on God's faithfulness and healing. He was afflicted and greatly troubled with constant pain and increasing weakness of his limbs. His small group gathered to pray for him regularly over a period of time. With prayers and faith in God's healing power, this brother received gradual healing and he is almost back to full health.

God's plans are simple and beautiful. He planned our Christmas eve dinner in such a way that not only did we get to bless others, we were in turn blessed by our guests.

We plan to visit our pre-believing friend during the Lunar New Year and continue the friendship. We pray that one day, God will open the way for us to befriend the entire family and share the Gospel with them.

Poh Kit is an Associate Lay Leader in TMC. She first gave this testimony over the pulpit on Sunday 31 Jan.

THE 60-MINUTE BLESSING

(In a nutshell)

BLESS one person for 60 minutes (spread over a few occasions), or a few people for a total of 60 minutes - there is no need to be legalistic about this.

Share your **BLESS**ing experience with someone in the Witness & Evangelism team - encourage others to **BLESS**!

Obtain your 60th Anniversary '**BLESS**' Polo Shirt - we hope to have as many people as possible wear this on Sun, 11 Sep at the 60th Anniversary service.



My first Christmas dinner in over 10 years

Watchmen's BLESSing



Lim Sue Yien

A few weeks before the Lunar New Year, my small group the Watchmen, was presented with an opportunity to earn the TMC60 BLESS polo shirt!

A friend of mine was looking for volunteers to help out at an annual Lunar New Year event at the Kreta Ayer Senior Activity Centre. So a bunch of us made our way there one Saturday morning to help pack and distribute groceries and red packets to seniors living in one-room flats in the area.

A few Watchmen share their experience of four hours of packing, moving, singing, serving and carrying.

Chng Bee Peng

"As part of the festivities, we led the seniors in a rousing Lunar New Year sing-along. This was not an easy task, trust me!"

Even the Watchmen kids chipped in by helping to share new year greetings and serve the seniors during the buffet lunch. It was lovely to see how the older folks really enjoyed having the younger ones around.

In the course of the event, a few of the seniors shared about how they live alone and are sometimes too weak to cook or even go out to buy a meal. While the event was just half a day of work for us, after which we could return to the warmth of our families, many of the seniors would return to empty homes. It reminded me of how blessed we are to have food on our table and our families with us, and to have this opportunity to bless others in turn.

As Jesus said '...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'. It was indeed a blessing to be able to do something for Jesus that day."



Wei Chian and Bee Peng



The Watchmen Kids performing



Benny (in stripes) with the seniors

Benny Koh

"It took serious effort to pack 75 sets of groceries into three large plastic bags per set. The distribution to the homes was another challenge. Many carrier bags could not take the weight of the contents, and broke, only to be saved by the helpers. This charity drive has been going on for a decade, sustained by the dedication of volunteers. Kudos to those who have been there every single year for 10 years. As for me, it was my first time joining this charity drive, and it was an absolute joy to play a small part. I will volunteer again next year.

Laughter and cheer reverberated through the centre that day as the old folks enjoyed our singing. I could sense God wanting to bless the old folks through us. Some of them were touched by our messages and our rendition of 一件礼物 (The Gift). It was all in a day's work for me. Join us next year to experience the occasion."



Clara (in red)



Clara (in red) and her children



Back-breaking packing

Clara Fu

"Heb 13:16 - 'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.' In spite of our busy lives, we were able to find time to volunteer as a family. As parents, we are role models for our children, and through our interactions with the elderly, I managed to show how volunteering can make a difference and how good it feels to help others and effect change.

Looking at my daughter, Renee, so spontaneously serving food to the elderly delighted me and made me feel so proud of her. Seeing the children enjoying themselves on stage was a very emotionally rewarding experience. I am deeply encouraged that I was able to bless the elderly in this community."



A dim sum treat after the event

(L-R standing: David, Colette, Sophie, Sean; L-R sitting: Wei Chian, Sue Yien, Shuwen, Bee Peng with Jonathan on her lap, Colin with Timothy on his lap.)



Kelvin Tan

WONDERS DO NOT CEASE... ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS

Celebrate Christmas in Singapore (CCIS) was started in 2004 by a handful of Christians who wanted to bring the message of peace and joy of Christmas back into what had become a largely commercial festival.

Believing that many may have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, this annual event at Orchard Road has become a hallmark of the Christian community in Singapore in reaching out and blessing the community with the message of love.

Together with participants from other parts of the world, CCIS is celebrated to commemorate the Gift of Jesus Christ during the first Christmas, through a multimedia celebration of performances, interactive activities, carols, floats, mass choirs, and much more.*

I have been involved in CCIS for more than 10 years.

As Programmes Chairman, I help to put together performances for the week-long event on Orchard Road. Doing the same thing for more than 10 years can give one the feeling of “same-old same-old”.

But I was to be given an awakening of God’s omnipresence last year.

One evening during the Christmas season, I was in the Command Post along Orchard Road with some of my volunteer colleagues. A young Indonesian man appeared looking ashen. He told us that he was visiting Singapore and while visiting one of our displays with his sister, his sister had had her wallet pickpocketed somewhere along Orchard Road. The wallet contained lots of money, credit cards and important documents.

I told him that he had to report the loss at a police station, and that we could not help him. I also gently broke the news to him that, despite Singapore being relatively crime-free, this was busy Orchard Road at Christmastime, and it was unlikely that the wallet would be found or returned.

He suddenly asked me if I was an Anglican. I said: “No, but I am a Christian. I am Methodist.” The young man said he too was a Christian and asked if I would pray for him. It was clear that he was very worried about the lost wallet and desperately wanted to recover it. I obliged and invited him to a



quiet corner for prayer.

Just then, an American pastor friend of mine entered the Command Post. I quickly apprised him of the situation. In his robust manner, my pastor friend started to pray.

I don't know about you but, when faced with such situations, we often pray "safe" prayers for peace of mind or comfort from the Holy Spirit. Few of us would pray like my American friend. He prayed for us to have faith and he declared in his prayer that the wallet would be found and returned! To be honest, I cringed a little.

Off went the Indonesian young man to make a police report.

An hour later, the young man entered our Command Post once more. I thought he could not locate the police station and had come back to ask for directions.

Lo and behold, he told me that the wallet had been returned! It had been pickpocketed by two men who went to the young man's hotel and returned the wallet with all its original contents! (The details of how this took place are unclear to me but the hotel key card was in the wallet as were, I presume, identity documents.)

The pickpockets told the Indonesian man that, after they had picked the wallet, they were sauntering down Orchard Road looking for their next target. They stopped before a performance by the De Lanerolle Brothers, a duet from Sri Lanka, who came to Singapore to sing about the Good News of Christmas. The song was about God's gift to mankind at Christmas and how we should all love our fellow men.

The pickpockets explained that, after they heard the performance, they were greatly moved and decided that they could not keep the wallet. They decided that they wanted to return it and made the effort of seeking out the Indonesian man at his hotel.

How's that for a Christmas miracle on Orchard Road?

(*Text from CCIS website <http://ccis.sg>)

Members of the public colouring the Christmas tapestry



The De Lanerolle Brothers



IN AND AB

BLESS AT LUNAR NEW YEAR



ENROLMENT OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADES



OUT TMC

BLESS AT EASTER WITH HOT CROSS BUNS



INSTALLATION OF MANDARIN SERVICE LEADERS

DEDICATION OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHERS & HELPERS



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES — SOLITUDE



Kwa Kiem Kiok

As an introvert, I find solitude easy. Nothing feeds my soul more than to spend time in a retreat over a few days.

Like many Singaporeans I am often busy with work, family and other commitments, so I treasure the times when I can shut the world out and just be by myself.

Solitude is somewhat different from Sabbath, though there are overlaps.

Sabbath is “rest” from work. That rest can be carried out with others, and can include time playing team games, enjoying Sunday dinner with the extended family and times for celebration.

Therefore healthy Sabbath practices include various opportunities that we consider not work.

Solitude, on the other hand, is time alone with God.



Nowadays, the first thing I need to do when I plan my solitude is to put away my mobile phone. It is so easy to be distracted by a buzzing phone with messages and social media.

I must trust that the world will still be turning very well even if I don't look at my messages for a few hours.

Putting my phone away is thus the first step I take to quieten myself. Since I am generally fidgety I also need to begin to put aside unwritten emails, new ideas for class, or the groceries I need to buy.

When I am quieter and more settled, I begin an extended time reading and meditating on God's word. I meditate on a particular text as well as reflect on the connections between different texts.

For example, as I read about Ezra reading the law to the people in Nehemiah 8, I also turn to Psalm 19 which is about the law of the Lord. Drawing parallels between the passages reminds me again that the Bible is one comprehensive book.

I spend time journaling, because I find that it is while doing this that I think, as well as allow the Lord to speak to me.

When I journal, I write what I am feeling and see where that takes me.

Sometimes I start with vague thoughts, "Feeling lousy about myself after class and the student arguing with me..." and as I continue to write, without consciously thinking, the Lord reveals to me why I feel the way I do.

Perhaps it's because I felt threatened by the student's questions. Or sometimes the Lord reveals that it could be because the student has an issue and it's not about me.

Journaling then often leads to prayer as the Lord reveals things about myself or others.

"I HAVE NOTICED THAT AS I AM MORE SETTLED IN MYSELF, HAVING BROUGHT MY OWN DEEP CONCERNS BEFORE THE LORD, I THEN HAVE GREATER CAPACITY TO BE WITH OTHERS, TO LISTEN TO THEM AND TO CARE FOR THEM."

These times of reflecting and thinking are also my prayers to the Lord. I will pray for those who have asked for prayer, as well as to intercede for others. I pray for the church and the world. I am learning to intercede wisely.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said in the book *Life Together*, "Let him who cannot be alone beware of community...Let him who is not in community beware of being alone."

Therefore solitude is not meant to be a discipline that we practise just for ourselves, but one which also enables us to be more deeply and meaningfully engaging with others in community.

I have noticed that as I am more settled in myself, having brought my own deep concerns before the Lord, I then have

greater capacity to be with others, to listen to them and to care for them. Jesus spent much time alone with the Father (Mark 1:35); and especially before he had to make big decisions (Luke 6:12-13).

His time alone sharpened His ability to hear His Father's voice and to do His Father's will (Luke 22:40-44). Likewise our solitary times should lead us out into service in the world and much deeper communion with others.

Rev Paul Nga will be preaching five sermons on spiritual disciplines this year.

Sabbath-Sacrifice, Solitude-Simplicity, Scripture-Study, Stewardship-Service, and Sojourners-Submission.

Kiem, who is one TMC's local preachers and a lecturer in Inter-Cultural Studies at the East Asia School of Theology, will be helping our readers in following that sermon series through this column.

The following materials are also recommended so that you can follow the sermon series more actively.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES – The Tasks of a Joyful Life (8 studies), by Larry Sibley from Fisherman Bible Study Guides (Special offer \$9.80)

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES COMPANION – Bible Studies and Practices to Transform Your Soul (8 studies with 6 sections in each study), by Jan Johnson from InterVarsity Press (\$34.00)

More at www.tmc.org.sg/pulpit.html. Queries to Park Ming / parkming@tmc.org.sg

WATCH WHAT YOU EAT



Tricia Tong

This column is about the things that little people can teach us about our relationship with God.



"Hello, Dr Chiang?

I think my daughter may have eaten some silica gel ... No, I don't know how much. She ripped open a small bag of it which she found in one of her Christmas gifts and was busy counting the little balls on the sofa when I found her. I had left her alone for maybe a minute... She seems happy...Just monitor for vomiting? No need

to do any toxicological analysis? Really? ... Okay, thanks."

On 28 Feb this year, pop diva Madonna performed in Singapore for the first time. The Archbishop of the Catholic Church and the Anglican Bishop of Singapore were reported as discouraging Catholics and Anglicans respectively from attending the concert.

I am not weighing in on the debate on whether it was acceptable for Christians to go to the Madonna concert. But the controversy did make me think about what media and other matter we consume.

Our contemporary society tends to applaud those who embrace all sorts of ideas and opinions

because it signifies that one is accepting, adaptable, moving with the times, not left behind, cosmopolitan, well-read, well-travelled, broad-minded, all of which are thought to be good traits. So there is a temptation to consume or “eat” this entire buffet of options which the world presents to us.

“When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.” (Jer 15:16)

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of eating the Word, receiving it inwardly into his soul. “The messages Jeremiah was called to deliver to others appeared to him to be of God, and they were as welcome to him as food is to a hungry man; he cheerfully received them, treasured them up in his memory, digested them in his mind, and carefully retained them.

So the doctrines of the Gospel, which are the words of God, and not of men, when by searching and close application they are found in the Scriptures, and under the ministry of the word, they are food to souls, sweet, savoury, wholesome, nourishing, and strengthening.” (Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible)

The Word of God is also compared to milk (1 Pet 2:2) and to honey (Ps 119:103).

Spiritual life is sustained by nourishment from the Word. The man who “eats” God’s Word – by hearing, reading and meditating on it - gets the benefit out of it.

“It gives his soul something to feed upon, and the more he feeds

upon, and digests and assimilates it, the greater is his spiritual strength, and joy, and power, and fruitfulness in the Lord.” (Copyright © 2002 Peter Wade)

So what do we allow our eyes to see and ears to hear? In other words, what do we feed our souls?

Should we avoid anything and everything that is remotely anti-Christian? Such a puritan approach would mean that we should never again watch Disney cartoons because Minnie Mouse bullies Mickey Mouse, and Daisy Duck bullies Donald Duck rather a lot. Not quite the model examples of “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands ...” (Eph 5:22)

SO WHAT DO WE ALLOW OUR EYES TO SEE AND EARS TO HEAR? IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT DO WE FEED OUR SOULS?

We may well have to encounter the world and all that comes with it since we live in it. But there is a difference between that, and “eating” everything that seems interesting as if we were a two-year-old toddler.


If as disciples of Christ, we believe that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19), we should be careful what we “eat”. We have to make wise and possibly uncool choices with respect to the books we read, the movies we watch, the songs we

share, and especially the online materials we devour. When the silica gel episode happened, I asked Vicky: “Did you eat it?” She smiled sweetly at me and said: “Yes.” Only half-believing her, I followed up with what now seems to me to be a stupid question: “How many did you eat?”

She didn’t understand me but the number didn’t really matter. I was upset that she could possibly have swallowed ONE tiny ball of silica gel even though I had been assured that she could not poison herself with that small portion of foreign matter.

I think that God, our Father in heaven, would also be saddened if we “ate” things that harm our souls, however little these things might be.

We are often inclined to think of God as an emotionless being, operating from above. But the Bible tells us that: “He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.” (Is 53:3). Jesus wept at Lazarus’ death (Jn 11:32-35). He was deeply distressed at the stubborn hearts of his accusers (Mk 3:5).

May we not hurt our Heavenly Father with what we choose to “eat” – let us instead feed on His unchanging Word. 

a new body



Koh Shuwen

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

I read these scripture verses as part of the eulogy I gave at my grandmother’s funeral service on 28 Feb this year.

Almost exactly a year ago, I had written an article for the Saltshaker about my grandmother’s stroke and her acceptance of Jesus as her personal Saviour.

The former changed the course of her earthly life and the latter – I truly believe, prepared her for an eternity with the Lord Jesus.

Reflecting on the year that has passed, I am grateful for the angels whom God brought into



Shuwen and her grandmother, with other relatives (2007 circa)

my grandmother’s life. My aunt, by faith, persevered in bringing her Teochew-speaking pastor, Pastor Angeline, to minister to my grandmother at home two years before her stroke.

Pastor Angeline was also the one who baptised my grandmother at the hospital and who continued faithfully to visit and minister to her in the past

year. A week before she passed away, my grandmother was able to respond with a clear “Amen” to Pastor Angeline’s prayer. That account was a heartwarming affirmation of my grandmother’s newly-adopted faith in God.

Although I am very sad to be parted from my grandmother, I am at peace that she is with the Lord Jesus and free from her physical ailments.

Reflecting on the year that has passed, I am grateful for the angels whom God brought into my grandmother’s life.

I do not know if we will recognise each other with our new bodies in Heaven but perhaps all the inhabitants of Heaven would be so intent and focused on worshipping and praising God that nothing else would matter.

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This article was written with information from reports from the first mission trip to Cambodia in 1994, various other reports by Jacob Cheng, Country Director for MMS in Cambodia, interviews carried out by Samuel Wong, and Khmer-English translations by Claire Lowe.



Tricia Tong

Sometime around 1993, Rev Melvin Huang, then pastor at TMC, encouraged the church to think about adopting an unreached people group.

In Rev Huang's words, it was "not to try and save the whole world because Jesus already has". Rev Huang calls this the DOPE principle - Doing Our Part Enthusiastically (see related article in the Saltshaker issue of Sept 2012).

In 1994, nine TMC members visited Phnom Penh, led by Rev Kow Shih Ming. Their purpose was to meet the Cambodians for a firsthand experience and understanding of the Cambodian people's history, fears and beliefs.

Their visits to the Choeung Ek Killing Fields and the Tuol Sleng Museum of Crime left the team feeling emotionally burdened.

A sense of depression and hopelessness hung over their spirits.

"I uttered feeble and half-believing prayers".

"I will not forget mass grave no. 5 where the children, together with the women, were buried."

"How could anyone be so inhuman?"

"How could anyone kill a child? A crying child?"

"I didn't dare take a close look at the photos. I was afraid they might haunt me in my memories."

It is easy to criticise the Khmer Rouge regime as having been cruel and sadistic, but as Rev Kow pointed out: "Are we any better? Was it not our sins that nailed the most wonderful Being on the cross?"

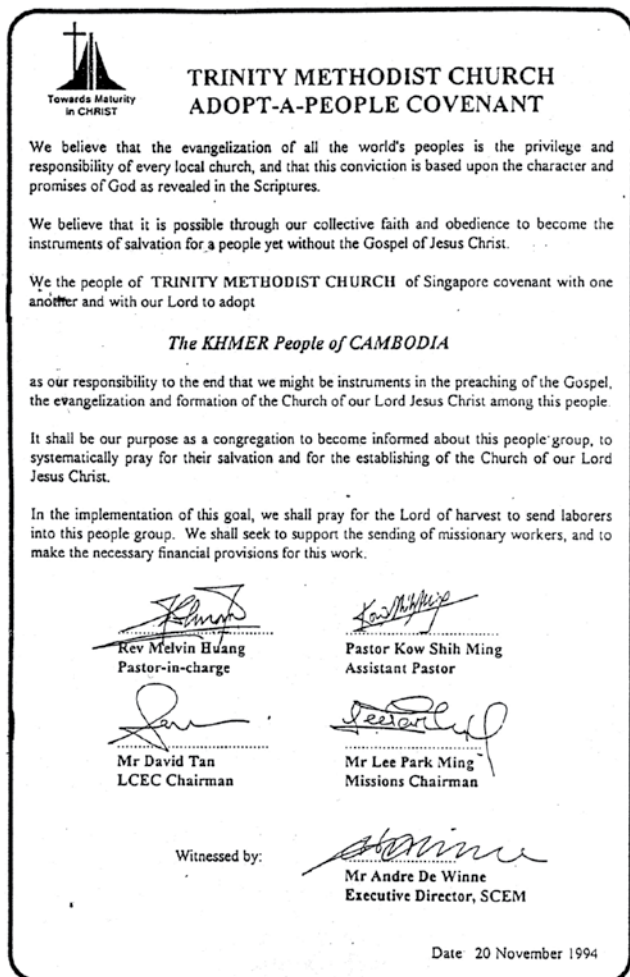
After another mission trip that same year to Thailand, the church waited on the Lord for a decision.

After visits to potential mission fields, including Cambodia and Thailand, and much discussion at a church leaders' meeting, it was resolved that TMC would adopt Cambodia as TMC's unreached people group.

On 20 Nov 94, an Adopt-A-People Covenant was signed, and in 1999, TMC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore Centre for Evangelism and Missions.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore Centre for Evangelism and Missions.



Ta-khmao TMC held its worship services in a church leader's home for a few months – not unlike our TMC in 1956 when we were first housed at Cowdray Avenue. It then moved into rented premises and it has been a nomad of leased premises till today.

There were two attempts in 2010 and 2012 to acquire an alternative site for the church. Both failed. Seemingly, the Lord had other plans.

The name “Ta-khmao” literally means “black grandfather”, a figure worshipped as an idol. This precipitated the change of the church's name to Glory Trinity Methodist Church – or GTMC - in 2012.

TMC has always been intimately involved with GTMC. Over the years, many TMC members have spent short periods at GTMC to serve in either administrative or training roles, or just simply to worship with them as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Today, GTMC has about 30 members.

GTMC has always longed to return to its plot of land. An elder once said that he would rather a wooden house be erected on that land for worship services, than to move around as leases run out.

Currently, church worshippers worship, play music, eat, and carry out youth activities all in the same room. The safety of children is also compromised as they play amongst the motorbikes because there is no proper play area for them. This can be a turn-off for visitors with children. It is also difficult for people to find the church when it keeps moving house.

But the Lord has recently answered the prayers of the GTMC congregation to move back to their old premises.

The time is ripe for doing so as the neighbourhood has changed. Much of the town has developed to a population of about 195,000. It is no longer as hostile. (Three sets of neighbours were present at the GTMC ground-breaking ceremony on 16 Jan 2016 - see title photo). The old swamp area is now filled with rows of town houses.

Pastor Chamnap hopes to grow GTMC to a 500-member congregation by 2023. He shared with the Saltshaker his vision for GTMC:

TMC then adopted Ta-khmao Trinity Methodist Church (Ta-khmao TMC) - a house church in Ta-khmao province. It had 10 members then.



TMC young adults who organised a teaching camp for Ta-khmao TMC in 2002.

In 2004, TMC purchased the plot of land on which Ta-khmao TMC was located for US\$10,000. On this 595 square-metre piece of land, a wooden structure was built on stilts. It housed a fish pond below. The structure had a short life. In 2005, it tilted and became unsafe for use. The building had to be brought down.



Pastor Chamnap (foreground) praying in front of GTMC's plot of land.

"Every week, we conduct a worship service and Sunday school. We connect with youths through music classes. There are small groups in session on Saturdays from 3-4pm. We meet for prayer. On the last Sunday of the month, there is a youth fellowship in the afternoon.

The congregation has grown spiritually. For example, this can be seen in their tithes and offerings. They now give more towards ministries after my teaching on giving. This shows an increase in their faith. There are also more volunteers in service to God.

When the new building is completed, we can have more ministries and several other classes like English and computer classes, and a kindergarten. These activities would be opportunities to build relationships with the youth through and to share the Gospel.

We hope to grow the small group ministry. There are only two small groups now. I hope to see cooperation between small groups, praying together and reaching out to neighbours.

We hope to have a place for children in the community to come and play. When children come to the church compound to play, we can share Christ with them."

Pastor Chamnap also intends more ministry to be done to disciple women folk working in garment factories in the vicinity.

All these plans require ... space. Space for future church growth. Space for the pastor's residence, offices and classrooms. Space for a multi-purpose area. Space for a child-care centre to generate revenue.

The construction cost of this new building is estimated to be US\$355,000. This figure includes a provision of 10% for contingencies as well as set-up costs.

With their current financial status, GTMC's congregation knows that they will not be able to build anything on their land. This is not a unique situation to GTMC. Many churches in Cambodia are not able to buy land especially when the cost of land and construction continue to rise. In 2013, it was reported in the Phnom Penh Post that land prices in Ta-khmao city had risen between 10 to 15 per cent in the first quarter compared to the same period the previous year. But these churches thank God for the partnership of churches from more developed countries which help to fund their land and building costs.

In the end, a building is just that - a building.



Artist's impression of new building.



LEGO model set up in the Plaza every Sunday to show the progress of pledges / gifts to the Missions Fund in relation to the construction of GTMC.

But building a church is a faith project, and not merely because we have to trust God for the funds. Generations of believers will come to gather in the building set apart for the true and living God. Generations who live in a land where most do not know Him.

Religious buildings show the presence of their faith. As Jacob Cheng, Country Director for Methodist Missions Society (MMS) in Cambodia and one of TMC's members, says, to many, the first sight of the Christian faith is the building dedicated to be called a church. The building with the Cross is an outward sign of the faith of God's disciples to show the presence of God, and a place that welcomes all who come and the love and peace in Him. It is an identifiable icon of the presence of God through the

faith and commitment of His people. It is a place that welcomes all who come to embrace God's love and peace. It is a place from which believers will share the Gospel and bring more people into the church, equipped with facilities for ministries and growth.

"Our old building was a wooden building built over water... But we worship one God. The important thing is our worship," said Som Ravey, a worshipper at GTMC.

TMC started collecting pledges for its Missions Fund in January 2016, for donation to MMS in support of the construction of GTMC. Payments for the project will be made through MMS on a progressive basis as the construction of the building proceeds. It is still not too late to pledge or give to the Missions Fund as collections will stop only on 31 Jul 16. There are several ways to give and enquiries can be made with the GTMC Redevelopment Management Committee through the church office or the iSunday Counter.

As TMC in Singapore celebrates 60 years of God's faithfulness, we thank God for the opportunity to bless the faith community in our sister church – GTMC – as they begin the process which we once began – that of constructing a church building to house disciples who will go on to make disciples.

The Second Decade

1967 – 1976

Taken from the archives for the 40th Anniversary

1967

26 FEBRUARY 1967

TMC bade farewell to Dr and Mrs F Olin Stockwell at the Anniversary Service.

17 AUGUST 1967

The Trin Fair '67 was held to raise funds under the patronage of Mrs Goh Keng Swee. Over \$5,000 was raised. With this and many other fund raising projects, the building debt was completely paid off by August 1970.



END 1970

Membership increased from 75 in 1966 to 246 by end 1970. Reverend Chew retired as Pastor Emeritus and Reverend Christopher Smith was appointed as pastor, assisted by Trinity College student, Mr Loune Afoa of the Samoan Methodist Church.



END 1972

Membership increased to 269. MYFers constructed a concrete pavement for recreational purposes which doubled up as a parking area. Extension at back of the basement was designed by Property Chairman Mr Pang Kia Seng, adding more space for Sunday School and the Social Hall.

1975

MID 1975

Church bade farewell to Reverend and Mrs Christopher Smith.



END 1975

Membership increased to 313. Mr Andrew Lee took charge of the church again until the appointment of Mr Daniel Tan in December 1975, who was admitted on trial by Annual Conference.



1976

1976

LCEC appointed Peter Lai and Lawrence Pang to form a Planning Committee to look into church extension.



PASTORS

in the second decade



Rev Chew Hock Hin
Pastor (End 1965 - End 1970)

Mr Tan Eng Seng and
Mr George Wee
Student assistants



Rev Christopher Smith
Pastor (End 1970 - Mid 1975)

Mr Loune Afoa
Student assistant



Rev Daniel Tan
Pastor (Dec 1975 - End 1979)

THE OLD GUARD



by Lim Sue Yien

ANDREW LEE: MISSIONARY AND MENTOR

As TMC celebrates 60 years of God's faithfulness, we remember the people who answered the call from God to establish a Methodist church in Serangoon Gardens. They will remind us what life was like in the early days, and how their service in church shaped their spiritual journey.

There is no big room bearing his name, nor any plaque in his honour.

Many at TMC today would not have known him.

But the late Andrew Lee, who was called home to the Lord in 1980 at the age of 62, left a legacy keenly felt at TMC.

Andrew was a relational person, an extrovert who loved people. At 89 Cowdray Avenue, there was always a steady stream of visitors - pastors, friends who had biblical discussions with him or wanted to hear what he would share on the bible or just sing with him.

Andrew had a practice of inviting guests over for dinner, some of whom were strangers he met on the street! There was always a seat at the dinner table for a guest in his home.

Andrew wore many hats in TMC.

He was Sunday school teacher, the church lay leader, the preacher, the hymn leader, the choir director, greeter and filled many other roles. Each of these tasks he did with enthusiasm and in faithfulness to God.

TMC is known as a church with a close relationship with Trinity Theological College (TTC), having sent many students through its doors to become both pastors and ministry workers.



Andrew and Poh Lin (seated in the first row) with the church family in the early years.

TMC has anchored itself to be a church where disciples of Christ make disciples through spiritual relationships and Christian mentorship.

TMC is also known to be a missions-minded church, being one of the early supporters of the Methodist Church's mission field with the Iban and Sengois in Malaysia. Today, we support eight missionaries in Cambodia, Bangladesh and China. TMC also has a unique ministry to the mentally disabled at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH).

Andrew was the pioneer who had an important hand in every one of these aspects.

Today, some look at discipleship as a programme. For Andrew, it was the one thing that God called each believer to do. Many people can call him mentor.

Albert Lim, whom Andrew called godson, while reflecting on Andrew's influence in his life, says that Andrew taught him more during his 10 years with him, than his own father did in a lifetime.

Andrew took Albert under his wing when the latter came to Singapore as a young man in the 1970s. Albert became almost like an apprentice, helping Andrew as he led worship, served communion, and heading the Outreach Committee (Missions and Social Concerns combined).

Andrew worked with many to build our church where all were welcomed. Albert says that it is Andrew's perseverance, faithfulness and hospitality that he will remember. Albert also remembers accompanying Andrew as he ministered to the then Woodbridge Hospital inmates, and even to Malaysia to visit the Sengois.

There is no denying that the one other area for which Andrew is remembered is his passion for missions. He made many trips to Malaysia and befriended both the Ibans and the Sengois, ministering to them, even stealing into the jungles to see them during the war when it was dangerous to do so.

Park Ming acknowledges his father's influence on his own heart towards missions work. Park Ming himself was chairperson of the Missions Committee for many years. Andrew mentored the late Rev Clarence Tan, who founded the Methodist Missions Society. He also mentored the first president of the Sengois Mission conference in Malaysia, Rev Bahrahu, supporting him in his studies at TTC.



Andrew (standing 4th from left) on a mission trip to the Sengois

Some years back, Park Ming went to visit the Sengois. He received a hug from the District Superintendent when he realised who Park Ming was. It turned out that Andrew had led this man to Christ all those years ago.

Andrew had incredible compassion for the marginalised in society. He would not only minister faithfully to the Woodbridge inmates, he also ministered to the leprosy patients located in the same compound, something not many people would dare to do.

Andrew has clearly been an enormous influence on his five children, four of whom worship and serve in TMC today (see boxed text in next page).

If you ask Andrew's children what his legacy is, it would be his unwavering love of God and the church. His daughter, Pak Kheng, says that she always remembers him singing hymns and conducting the choir with great gusto and joy. "His entire life was always God and church first," she says.

On the family front, Pak Kheng remembers that her father was great at whipping up yummy dishes – his baked macaroni and roast shoulder of lamb are what she still craves for.



Andrew practising vocalisation?

Andrew's beloved wife Mrs Lee Poh Lin, was the driver in the family as Andrew never learnt to drive.

Auntie Poh Lin, as she is affectionately known in TMC, was chairperson of the Women's Society of Christian Service at one time. She was a pillar of support to Andrew in his adventures and health challenges.

Auntie Poh Lin enjoyed singing in the choir. She was a most dedicated chorister. Tricia Tong, formerly Worship & Music Committee Chairperson and choir director, recalls that at age 80, Auntie Poh Lin would wake up at 5.30am, and take more than one bus from her home to get to choir rehearsals at TMC at 7.30am. She was always on time.

Although she is now 92 years old, and no longer able to move around independently, Auntie Poh Lin attends church faithfully every Sunday. After service, she can be seen at the Plaza chatting with old friends, attended to by her children and grandchildren.

If there is one thing to be said about Andrew and Poh Lin, it would be that their devotion to Christ was palpable, manifested through their compassion for His people and His church. They were disciples who made disciples.



Andrew (extreme right) relaxing with church friends - notice the Lana cake in the picture!



Poh Lin (seated on extreme right) at a pot luck

While Andrew led the church with great energy and devotion, he always remained a lay person. His dream however, was that one of his children would become a minister.

Pak Ming is lay executive staff at TMC with responsibility for discipleship.

Pak Lin was an administrative assistant at TMC for many years and now still helps out in the church office.

Pak Kheng is with the Outreach & Social Concerns Committee and is involved in helping the needy.

Pak Lan is often seen in church befriending the elderly in our midst and accompanying her mother.


Andrew's dream has been fulfilled through his grandson, Ian Lee, who is now Assistant Pastor at Bedok Methodist Church. See related article, "Be. Don't Just Do."

60-HOUR PRAYER CHAIN



Sim Cher Khee

Cher Khee is the chairperson of TMC's Prayer & Intercession Ministry.




Prayer is every believer's lifeline to Almighty God.

We in the Prayer & Intercession Ministry want to encourage this discipline of maintaining regular communication with God, our Abba Father, and the practice of seeking His Face as often as we can.

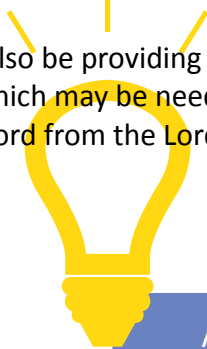
The 60-hour prayer chain – a TMC60 event - will start on Thursday 19 May at 8.45 pm. It will end at 8.45 am on Aldersgate Sunday, 22 May.

The prayer chain will be held at the Prayer Chapel, where we will have several "prayer stations" to act as focus points, for example, our church ministries, our missionaries, our nation, just to name a few.

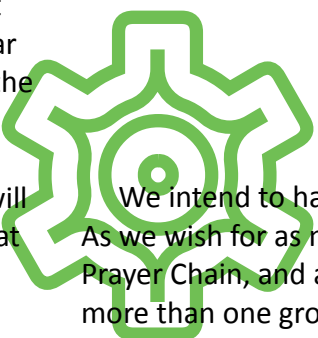


Participants can alternatively choose to relax and enjoy a quiet time of being in God's presence, simply contemplating on His Word, while listening to "soaking" music in the background.

Yet others may wish to spend the time to carry out a Lectio Divina – a structure of prayer that uses scripture and silence to invite God's presence and direction into their lives.



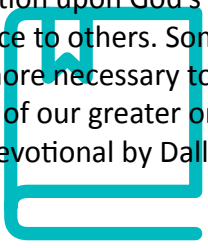
We will also be providing writing and colouring materials which may be needed when participants receive a Word from the Lord in pictures or art form.



We intend to have hourly slots during this period. As we wish for as many as possible to join in the Prayer Chain, and as the Prayer Chapel can take more than one group of individuals at a time, all TMC worshippers can sign up for one or more of the 120 hourly slots. Eating is discouraged. However, bottled water will be provided to participants for their convenience.

"We can, through faith and grace, become like Christ by practicing the types of activities he engaged in, by arranging our whole lives around the activities he himself practiced in order to remain constantly at home in the fellowship of his Father.

What activities did Jesus practice? Such things as solitude and silence, prayer, simple and sacrificial living, intense study and meditation upon God's Word and God's ways, and service to others. Some of them will certainly be even more necessary to us than they were to him, because of our greater or different need." (taken from a devotional by Dallas Willard)



I pray that this event will bring about a transformation in the lives of those who take part.



AT A GLANCE



60-Hour Prayer Chain

Starts: Thurs 19 May at 8.45 pm

Ends: Aldersgate Sunday, 22 May at 8.45 am

Venue: Prayer Chapel

Sign up in April for one of 120 hourly slots.

www.tmc.org.sg/tmc60.html

THE OLD GUARD



by Violet Khor

MY JOURNEY OF FAITH AT TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

My journey through Trinity Methodist Church spans over 40 years.

I began my journey at TMC in the 60s during the time of the late Rev Chew Hock Hin. My mother sometimes brought my two sisters and I to TMC, and other times to Christ Methodist Church and Geylang Methodist Church.

When I was a teenager, I was baptised at TMC by the late Rev Chew.

One day, my younger sister, Patricia, and I found ourselves taking part in the meetings of the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF). We became regulars at MYF meetings and bible studies. I suppose we kept attending the meetings because we felt there was this sense of bonding or comradeship among the various members of the group like Lee Park Ming, Lee Pak Lin, Violet Gail and Clifton Tan, Noel, Benjamin and Anna Goh, Tuck Chee, Kenneth Pang and Lim Choo Siang etc.

In the mid-70s, I found myself being elected as the President of the MYF. We held our meetings and bible studies at the site now occupied by the Prayer Chapel.

The youths at that time held strongly to the spirit of “We Can”, “We Will”, “Never Say Die”. We believed that the MYF meetings were not only for the youths of TMC but should include the youths of the neighbourhood. So we started the coffee place to attract the youths in Serangoon Gardens to come to have a cup of coffee. This also created an opportunity for us to befriend them. We also put up Christmas pageants outside TMC along Serangoon Garden Way in the month of December. Basketball games and tae kwan do were other activities we organised to attract youths in the neighbourhood to join us.

The MYFers had a strong affinity for the church and its building and were zealous to help in its maintenance. I think we took it upon ourselves to be the cleaning squad because the church then had no maintenance person or company to do the work as it does now.



Violet (circled) at a 1970s camp



Violet (standing) leading an MYF meeting (1970 circa)

We would clean the church once a month, with each group responsible for an area of the church. It was great fun! I believe these activities bonded us closer as a group.

I remembered the Sunday when Rev Smith gave us time at the pulpit to talk about MYF and share the Word. The “We Can” and “We Will” spirit in us readily responded to Rev Smith’s invitation. You can call us foolhardy, brazen or daring. I remembered the frowns on the faces of some of the more senior members of the church in response to what we said. I vaguely recall someone having said: “How could they say these words?” Upon reflection, Rev Smith was indeed gracious to the youths and took great chances with us.

Years passed. I grew older but perhaps not much wiser. I found myself in the women’s group and became the President of the Women’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS), enjoying the support of the lovely ladies.

It was also during this time that I experienced one of the drier periods in my life. There were personal challenges but God was and is faithful. Mrs Adeline Chia, one of the WSCS ladies, brought me back to attend prayer meetings, and I felt drawn to know God in a more personal way once more.

I also became chairperson of the Witness & Evangelism committee and lay leader, but two meetings I enjoyed attending were the prayer meetings and the Missions committee meetings.

At the Wednesday Prayer and Intercession Meeting, one of our cries then (and I believe also now) was: “Lord stir the hearts of our people to gather together to seek Your face.” The prayer meetings were small, and I understand that they are still small. But I thank God for these faithful few who gathered to intercede for the church.

Missions work has always strongly tugged at my heartstrings. On my first trip to Cambodia many years ago, I met Norman Teece who ran Care for Cambodia with his wife, Fi, back then. As part of the trip, Norman took us to the Tuol Sleng Museum of Crime. Upon leaving the museum, I found myself sobbing away. Norman said to me that I would go back to Cambodia. After that, whenever I went to Cambodia on mission trips, he would ask me when I would serve in Cambodia permanently. I would smile but I did not take him seriously. It never occurred to me then that I would serve in Cambodia one day.

When I retired from the education ministry, I continued to have a passion for missions work. Whenever we sang the hymn: “Lord send me”, my discomfort became stronger.

So one day, to ease my conscience, I told the Lord that I would go to Cambodia for a short stint of 3 months to do missions work. Little did I know that I was to stay for what is now my fifth year.



Violet (front row extreme right) with the Methodist Youth Fellowship (Jan 1972)



Violet dedicated as a short-term missionary in 2010

I went for the 3-month attachment to find out if it was my calling. In the second month, I felt the call to serve as a missionary – as a principal in the Methodist School of Cambodia.

I applied to attend the Certificate in Missions Course to be equipped for my role. During the course, we were asked to reflect on Mark 4:35-41. I became excited because God's Word affirmed and assured me of my decision. I had not made a foolhardy or rash decision but it was the Lord who initiated the invitation for me to go across the seas. "Let us go across to the other side." (Mark 4:1)

I am now in my fifth year serving in Cambodia. It has been a challenging yet fulfilling journey. The experience has challenged and deepened my faith in the Lord and revealed the heart of the Father to me. I thank the Lord for this enriching experience and I often thank Him for His love that never lets me go. Even at this stage in life, He is still moulding me into His likeness. What a privilege and honour.

When I was back in TMC recently, I saw the words "Where Disciples Make Disciples" on the banner and bulletin cover.

Since the time I have been in Cambodia, I have felt even more strongly that the ultimate goal of all disciples is to grow new disciples. We are all called to go out and bring "church" to the people. There are people who for one reason or another are hesitant about going into a church. We can bring the love and presence of the Father to them.






Violet leading staff in devotion at Tuol Kork Methodist School in Cambodia (2012)

"...And how are they to believe him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Rom 10:14)



Let's unite our hearts in prayer to undergird the journey that TMC is taking so that the heart of each worshipper is captivated by the love of God to befriend another for Christ and to Christ, especially in times like these.

I pray that each worshipper in TMC will be stirred to ask the Lord to create opportunities for conversations with their pre-believer friends that will lead to them knowing God. Stir up, Lord, our faith! Stir up, Lord, our desire to see lives restored by You. Stir up, Lord, that zeal and passion that translates into action as we receive a deeper revelation of who you are and of your love. Lord, we offer to you ourselves as a willing mouthpiece, willing hands and feet. Use us, Lord, especially in times like these. Lord, we need your grace and mercy, like we never need before.

My journey of faith through TMC has been a long and fulfilling one. I am thankful to God for the pastors and fellow worshippers who have helped and guided me along the way. I am so blessed because God has proven Himself to me again and again through each phase of my journey. What patience He must have with me. God is:



T	- trustworthy and true
M	- majestic, magnificent, mighty and yet magnanimous
C	- compassionate and caring



HE IS FAITHFUL. TO HIM BE THE GLORY!

MY JOURNEY ACROSS THE SEA – PART 1

(A POEM BY VIOLET KHOR)

I am the new kid (although not in age) on the block
To join mission work in Cambodia
In the area of education
As principal of the Methodist School of Cambodia at Toul Kork

When my family members and friends heard about this
Various questions and answers I received
Some were – Are you sure? Can't you serve in Singapore? Take care.
But I am sure that I am to go.

Now I am three years into the mission field
How time flies but much have I learned and given in exchange
Allow me to recount
Some of the challenging, inspiring and heart-warming experiences
These will remain with me even after I finish my term

First of all, I thank the Lord for using me even during this stage in my life
After having retired from active work-life
It is a great privilege and honour
I would not have exchanged it for another route.

Now, what are these encouraging moments that strengthen me to give even more?
Let me count my blessings
One of them is to stand before 800 boys and girls each morning looking at you
My heart goes out to them and I say to the Lord that this is indeed a ready-made parish
A parish for the making of disciples through the teaching of the Word
Through showing of kindness, love and Christian example

Let me give an example:
I do not know that my greetings every morning mean something to the students,
Especially the younger ones, those in the primary levels
One morning, because of time constraints, I hurriedly went into morning-prayer
But a chorus of voices went up and said, "Good Morning Teacher"
It was the sweetest thing I heard that morning
I apologise for being rude and for forgetting to greet everyone
And I told them that it was good to be reminded to greet the teachers and the students
How sweet and heartwarming!

I can also remember the time when a group of secondary school students came to me
And volunteered to do an outreach programme to a school in another province
They planned the programme and the budget
And even collected donations from among themselves to support the programme
And sought subsidy from the school for the shortfall
The leader said that they have received from youth teams who came from Singapore
Now it is their turn to give in return
They said, if Singaporean youths can do it, so can we.
Lord, it touched my heart and if I could cry there and then
I would - but a straight face I kept.

Oh, yes there is yet another time I could remember
Regarding the youths (there are many but a few only whom I can mention)
After a Youth Revival Workshop
“Revo (for revolution for change) Groups” were formed.
The first group came confidently to me
And shared with me that they wanted to organise a Talent Show
Why? Said I
They said that their purpose was to galvanise the talents of the students and showcase them
To encourage the students that we all have gifts to be explored.
What enthusiasm they show and what an inspiration they are to me.

It was the “first of its kind” Talent Show and totally organised by the youths
I, myself discovered that we have students who are able to play the violin and do magic show
These talents I would never have uncovered if the youths had not opened my eyes
How marvellous!

The teachers, how they have developed in their skills and love!
They show their love and kindness through their attentiveness
I am touched and comforted
Little things they do and say show they understand and they care
How is your health? You do not look very happy today teacher?
Teacher, I know you like coffee and I have bought a cup for you
These are simple deeds and words, yet show mountains of kindness and care?
Surely and surely, love is shown through actions!

There are times when teachers come into the office and share challenges they face
Personal challenges, family challenges
And ask to be prayed for
Lord, what a privilege it is to be used as a channel of love!

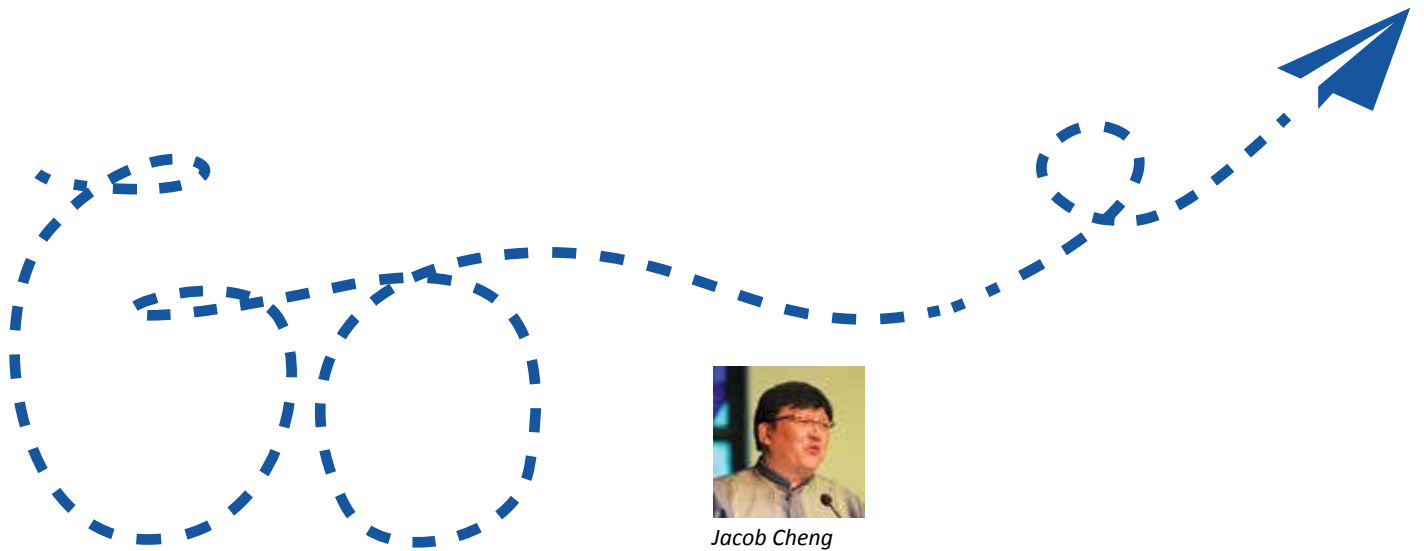
Morning devotions for all staff at 7.15am
The first year – a little tardy
But now most of the teachers are ready to begin morning devotions
It is good to see the change
It is even better to hear them after a year or two, sharing/testimonies.
Once they were invited to share how they came to know the Lord
At another time they shared how they view their relationship with God

It touches the heart to hear from teachers who come from a different religion share:
I am a Buddhist and before I came to this school, I hated the Christians
Because I thought that they hate the Buddhists and want us to be Christians
But I came to this school
And I learn about the Bible
And I learn that God also love the Buddhists
Now I do not hate the Christians!

Another Buddhist lady teacher who has just joined the school this year shared
When I joined the Morning Devotion in this school,
The Bible passages, the prayers and the teachings
Address the problems I am going through
I am so amazed said she.
Lord, you are merciful!
You comforted her and You affirmed in me that your Word does not return void.

These are only some of the highlights I like to share
Many more there are but I must not be wordy.
Are there no challenges? Surely there are. In this world there will be challenges.
They are like pruning shears –ouch it is painful
But Lord you are always there
You protect, You comfort, You place balm over the wounds
And you make them well
And Lord, I learn, I become more attentive to your leading.

Lord it is time well spent in MSC
And the journey continues
With you going ahead of me
I go ahead with confidence!



Jacob Cheng

I remember receiving an invitation card that came with instructions on how to get to Trinity Methodist Church.

As I thought that the card was something “official”, I made my way to Trinity Methodist Church for the first time. (I had attended the Luis Palau rally in June 1986 and I knew that the invitation card was a consequence of the decision I had made for Christ at the rally.*)

I was anxious as I had not been to a church prior to that day, and did not know what to expect.

The first person I met was Rev Melvin Huang. He offered his hand, and gripped mine hard.

Everything was so unfamiliar to me. Yet, I did not know that that meant I was feeling out of place.

I continued to attend TMC and never left.

I was a heartlander from a different culture, who spoke mainly Mandarin and Chinese dialects. I had problems having simple conversations with others in church.

I did not know what I was singing when hymns were sung and the Bible was read. I just followed.

Yet, I learnt about loving God from the worship of those who truly sang to Him, from the prayer

meetings with those who sought Him, from those who ministered to me, and sincerely prayed and conversed with me.

I appreciated those who taught me by talking to me so passionately about God. The Word of God was illustrated to me through their actions.

I began to learn about ministry at TMC, when I was a youth without any experience. I certainly would not have chosen myself to be a church leader of any sort.

When seeking the Lord on my role in TMC, I read Matthew 5 intensively, and experienced the presence of God through His Word for the first time. The Lord also showed me 2 Peter 5 when I was unsure about serving as a youth leader.

I had no thoughts about serving God full-time until I attended a watchnight service.

Rev Melvin Huang gave an altar call and invited a response from those who felt that God was calling them to serve Him full-time. I responded.

I remember two things that Rev Huang said: “Prepare” and “Ten years”.

I realised then that I was not ready for formal theological training. I needed first to complete tertiary education.

**WHERE DISCIPLES
MAKE DISCIPLES**

 **CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**



Jacob (standing, extreme right) participating in the 1988 Easter Celebration.



Jacob (in hat) on his first mission trip to Cambodia, with Lai Kai Ming and Lee Pak Lin (1995)

In addition, my parents objected to my new faith; they would not approve.

I needed God to confirm His calling for me to serve full-time. One year after that watchnight service, I passed my examinations and was able to pursue tertiary education.

I saw that as a stepping stone in preparation for theological training.

When I told my father of my desire to serve God full-time, he said it was a waste that he had brought me up.

I pleaded with God to allow me to have my parents' blessing to serve Him. If they told me to "GO", I would not hold back.

A few years later, I was awed when my parents accepted Christ as Saviour.

Their attitude drastically changed. From being hostile, they started hosting cell group meetings in our home.

One morning, my mother said to me: "Son, I thought you wanted to serve God full-time. What are you waiting for?"

God had heard my prayer, and I heard Him say clearly: "GO!"

In exploring full-time service, I went for my first mission trip to Cambodia in 1995. I sensed God calling me to be a missionary when I encountered Him through what I saw and heard.

To become equipped for missions work, I enrolled in Trinity Theological College (TTC) in 1996.

However, after TTC, I felt that I should begin serving in TMC as a lay ministry staff. I served in the Small Group ministry.

One of the small groups became a Chinese fellowship. This fellowship eventually became what is now the Mandarin Service.

This experience has had the greatest impact in my current ministry. It was a time of encountering spiritual victory and breakthrough as a result of fervent prayers in the lives of those who turned to Christ.

Prayer, evangelism, follow-up and discipleship - I learnt that process which has become indispensable in my current missions work.

In April 2008, TMC endorsed and supported my family as missionaries to Cambodia. I started by making disciples through projects that helped people's livelihoods.

Today, I am serving as the Country Director of the Methodist Missions Society in Cambodia.

I am glad that I am part of a team of Singaporean missionaries and local staff who serve in various ministries. We serve the students who attend the Methodist School of Cambodia, children from the COSI Immanuel Children's village, youth and young adults in our hostels, trainees from Emmaus Women Center, and many Cambodians from different Methodist churches.

We often cannot keep up with the things that



Mandarin Service, a turning point in Jacob's ministry - at the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' Primary School canteen (Jul 2004). Jacob is seated with arms folded.

evolve around us, and we are acutely aware that God is faithful in using us for His purpose in evangelism, discipleship and church-planting in Cambodia.

How did my growing up years in TMC influence me in my ministry?

There were many TMC worshippers who made the effort to nurture and bless me with sincere Christian love when I was a young Christian. Philip Tan came to my house weekly to follow-up with me on the foundations of the Christian faith.

When it was my turn to follow-up with new believers, I realised that the follow-up process requires a lot of love and commitment.

Ivan Tan, Kevin Lowe, Amos Ang, Ashley Choo, Arthur Yeo and Peter Soh encouraged me when I was a youth. Pastor Philip Lim, Kwa Kiem Kiok, and Lai Kai Ming journeyed with me when I served in TMC.

I am blessed by these persons, and many others, who walked with me through the different stages of my Christian growth.

Those growing-up years taught me that we make disciples when we GO, and take interest in people's

eternal life and spiritual growth, bring them the Gospel, and relate to them with love, in gentleness, humility and sincerity as the Lord taught us. GO to them, so that they can GO!

(*Many of our members were mobilised as counsellors, ushers and intercessors for various evangelistic rallies in the 1980s.)



Jacob explaining the Cambodian culture to Ps Peter Goh and members of the Communications team at Barn Barn Restaurant (2012).



Jacob introducing young people whom he discipled at Harvest Inn (2012).



Jacob at one of the milestones of TMC - Topping of the Cross (31 Jul 04).



Jacob (third from left) leading the Communications team to visit a church leader in the rural areas of Phnom Penh.

BE. DON'T JUST DO.



Ian Lee
Assistant Pastor,
Bedok Methodist Church

One of my earliest memories as a child was that of playing in the TMC sanctuary while my dad was serving. So in every sense, I pretty much grew up in church because of family.

When I was 12, my youth group leader Daryl Ong brought our group for an evangelistic show that was going on one Sunday. I can't remember the venue but I do remember accepting Christ that day.

TMC provided a platform for me to discover my passion for church work while I was serving in various ministries. Beyond that, it was also where I had a sense of belonging through my small group and the friends I had in church.

My decision to become a pastor happened at a later stage when I was worshipping at Wesley Methodist Church but my decision to enter full-time ministry came about while I was still worshipping in TMC. In some sense, I think everyone I encountered in TMC helped steer me towards full-time ministry in one way or another. But there were three persons who played a more significant role.

First, it was my dad, Lee Park Ming, who always encouraged and supported me in following this calling.

Second, it was Rev Ivan Tan, who was my small group leader then. He provided sound advice and guidance.

Third and most poignant, would be Jacob Cheng (currently Country Director for the Methodist Missions Society in Cambodia) who mentored me while I was studying in the polytechnic. My time spent under Jacob's mentorship made a huge difference in my life and deciding what to do with it.

I learnt from Jacob's example that discipleship is central to the life of the church. Because he was willing to spend time one on one with me, I learnt many life lessons, I felt that I was valued as an individual and that my Christian service mattered.

This has had an influence on my current ministry. Every young leader in Bedok Methodist Church is strongly encouraged to have a mentor who meets up with them on a monthly basis to talk about their life, how they have been growing and their involvement in ministry. I think it's made a significant difference in the leadership renewal and sustainability of the ministries.

Much can and should be said about discipleship but perhaps humility deserves a special mention. I think being humble marks an individual's openness to constantly learn and improve himself or herself. This goes for both the mentor and the disciple. Christians who think they have all the answers are the most unpalatable to have as mentors. At the same time, a person who is seeking to grow in his service and as a Christian needs to be open to have someone speak into his life in order for that to take place. A church which wants to be a place "where disciples make disciples" needs to "be" more than "do".

May TMC be a place where spiritual relationships matter to all, where discipleship is for all and Christ is centre of it all. Blessed Birthday TMC!



WHERE DISCIPLES MAKE DISCIPLES

CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



Ian on the drums during the Sunday School holiday camp (1994)



Ian serving at TMC's Ministry Fair (circa 2005)



(L-R) Rev Malcolm Tan, Ian Lee, Lee Park Ming.



FROM CRY-BABY TO LMS - A TMC PRODUCT



Ang Hern Shung

You could say that I'm a product of the "TMC system", having gone through the TMC Kindergarten, Sunday School and Youth Ministry.

Some of my earliest memories of TMC included spending a lot of time in the office of the then-kindergarten principal, the late Mrs Alice Lim, not because I was always getting into trouble, but because I was a bit of a cry-baby when I was younger!

I went to church regularly and attended Sunday School.

However, it was in the Youth Ministry that I began to take my faith seriously.

I remember that it was during my first Youth Camp in 2000 that I experienced the presence of God and accepted Christ in my heart. Looking back, I'm continuously amazed at the journey God has taken me on so far.

I now serve as a Lay Ministry Staff (LMS) in TMC, where a big portion of my ministry is with the youth. My heart and passion for young people stems from my own personal journey of having been greatly impacted and influenced when I was a youth in the Youth Ministry.

There were individuals in the church who played a big part in helping to guide, disciple and steer me to where I am today.

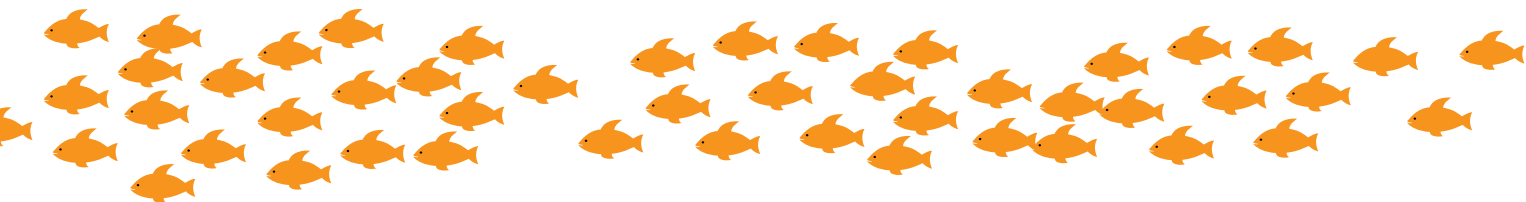


Hern Shung helping Greg Raeside (acting as Pontius Pilate) with his props in the play, "Forsaken" (2003)

One such individual was Jacob Cheng, who was a LMS back then, before moving over to Cambodia to be a missionary.

I remember that TMC put up two plays in 2003 – one on Good Friday and another on Easter, called "Forsaken" and "Not Forsaken" respectively. Jacob roped in a few of us younger guys to help him with the building of the stage set and props. I didn't know Jacob well back then, but because my friends were in it and it seemed like a fun thing to do, I joined in to help too.

We probably didn't recognise it back then, but we had unknowingly entered into a discipleship journey (though I'm sure it was very much intentional on Jacob's part!) Almost every day, we would come by TMC after school and help to build props. By entrusting tasks to us, he taught us



responsibility and demonstrated belief in us. When we messed up, he would turn it into a lesson and help us learn from our mistakes. During breaks, over *teh*, he would challenge us about our faith and speak God's Word into our lives. Most importantly, he inspired and modelled for us what a life of faith looks like.

I think this not only helped shape my faith, but many years later, also led me to want to spend my life doing the same with future generations.

Looking at my own journey, I'm reminded of how TMC can be a place where disciples make disciples. Just as Jacob and many others in the past took the initiative and opportunity to believe and invest in the next generation, my prayer is that we too will continue to believe in and invest in the young people of our church, rooting them in the Word and in the community, and yet giving them wings to soar to the heights God has prepared for them.

As we celebrate 60 years of God's faithfulness in TMC, I'm reminded that what our next 60 years will look like will be determined by the disciples and spiritual leaders that we raise today.

My birthday prayer for TMC is that we will continue to step out in love and impact our community, our nation and generations to come.



(Left) Youth Ministry (2002 circa) - Hern Shung is 2nd from left in the back row

THE PASSAGE OF 60 YEARS

Sixty is just a number.

At 60, I am learning how to count my blessings rather than keep track of what has been lost, missing in my life, recounting the mishaps or holding on to any negative feelings.

When I was young, I led a carefree life and every night felt like a Saturday night, filled with parties and drinking. I thought time would stand still and I would stay forever young.

My life changed after encountering the Lord Jesus 17 years ago and I have spent 16 of those years at TMC. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prv 1:7)

I have lost my anxiety, frustration, bruised ego, aversion to loss and my sunk-cost bias. In their place, I have found God's unconditional love, mercy and grace to my family and myself. I have tried to live up to those blessings so freely given through my thoughts, giving, approach and attitude to life, and relationships.

In retrospect, I am now able to smile about the things that have not gone right in my life. After 60 years, I have learned to forgive because I need to move on but I am still working on forgetting.

I ask myself these questions about my 60 years on earth:

- As the head of my household, have I inspired my two children and taught them the values and the beatitudes of God?
- Have I forgiven and given others a second chance, offered opportunities, encouraged, inspired and given generously?
- Have I been faithful and sincere?
- Have I been judgmental, critical and full of condemnation? (Unfortunately, yes, many times!)

Looking ahead, how do I put God at the centre of my life? How do I continue to be steadfast in my relationship with Him?

I am not perfect. My responsibility is to allow the Holy Spirit to continue to transform me, step by step.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33).

And as someone else said: "Take care of God's business and He will take care of yours."



Happy birthday to my dearest hubby and our daddy, Chiam Young. You are always special in our hearts. God bless you!

Grace, Han and Eling

Bibliothèque



The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in Doing Hard Things the Right Way

John Townsend
248 TOW

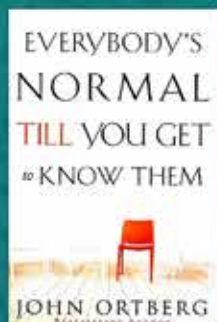
We are surrounded by entitlement. We witness it throughout our culture - people ignore responsibility, live selfishly, choose comfort first, and are their own number one priority. It is a multi-generational disease infecting relationships in our homes, in our workplaces, and in our churches. But there is hope and a solution. John Townsend invites us to help others do hard things the right way - the only way to find true success.



Defying ISIS: Preserving Christianity in the Place of its Birth and in Your Own Backyard

Johnnie Moore
272 MOO

Moore unveils the threat he sees to worldwide Christianity from the extremist group ISIS. He reports that homes and churches have been destroyed, crosses burned, and Christians tortured. In these never-before-published stories, he introduces believers who have stared these terrorists down—and lived.



Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them

John Ortberg
284.4 ORT

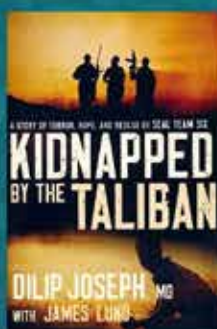
Ortberg zooms in on the things that make community tick. You will get a thought-provoking look at God's heart, at others, and at yourself. Even better, you'll gain wisdom and tools for drawing closer to others in powerful, impactful ways.



Becoming a Contagious Christian

Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg
248.6 HYB

Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg believe that effectively communicating our faith in Christ should be the most natural thing in the world. We just need encouragement and direction. The authors share the central principles that have helped the believers at Willow Creek Community Church become a church known around the world for its outstanding outreach to unchurched people.



Kidnapped by the Taliban: A story of terror, hope and rescue by Seal Team Six

Dilip Joseph and James Lund
B JOS

On December 5, 2012, Joseph and two native colleagues, en route from a medical clinic in an Afghan village to Kabul, found themselves face-to-face with four men carrying AK-47s. Forced at gunpoint into the back of a truck and driven to a remote location, the men were sure they were headed to their execution. Joseph experienced roller-coaster emotions wondering if he would ever see his family again. After four days of uncertainty, gunfire announced the arrival of navy SEAL Team Six, the elite group of soldiers that took down Al-Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden.



These books and many others are available for borrowing from TMC Resource Centre

EVENTS

Sun 3 Apr

Reception of New Members

www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html

Sun 24 Apr

Pastoral Care Ministry Sunday and Mini-Fair

Thurs 28 to Sat 30 Apr

LCEC Planning Retreat

Johor Bahru

Thurs 19 May (8.45pm) – Sun 22 May (8.45am)

60-Hour Prayer Chain – a TMC60 Event

www.tmc.org.sg/tmc60.html

Sun 22 May

10.30am or 1.00pm

Alpha Experience

www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

Sat 28 May

New Members' Fellowship Lunch with LCEC

Youth Ministry Community Service Project

Every Sun

9.30am

Mandarin Service Prayer Meeting

Every 2nd Sun

After the 11.15 am service Young Adults' Lunch Fellowship

Every 2nd and 4th Sun

7.45am

Church Prayer Meeting

www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every 3rd Sun

10.00am

WSCS Visitation to Homebound. Those interested to bring the church into the homes of the homebound, please contact Lucy Chan at 9748 2733.

Last Sun of the month

9.00am

Visit to Institute of Mental Health by Outreach & Social Concerns.

Contact Yvonne Tan at 9091 8589 / yvnn_tan@yahoo.com

www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh

Every 1st Wed

10.00am-12.00pm

Yum Cha@10 is an opportunity for people to come together for fellowship, and serves as a platform for TMCers to meet one another as well as non-Christians in the community mid-week. Contact the church office / churchoffice@tmc.org.sg

www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym

Last Thurs of the month

10.00am-12.00pm

St Luke's Eldercare Centre Devotions at Blk 217 Serangoon Ave 4. TMC's ministry to SLEC brings hope, help and the love of Christ to many needy elderly. If you wish to join in, contact Eddie from the church office / eddie@tmc.org.sg.

www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#slec

Every 1st and 3rd Fri

10.15am Bible Study by Mrs Esther Wong

Every Fri

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

Every Sat

9.00 – 11.30am

Fellowship of Ukulelians

www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele

CREDITS

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