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SALTSHAKER

celebrating
the
Son of God
for more than
50
years

ARE YOU A
"SECRET" CHRISTIAN
PG 23

MOVING FROM SELF-CENTREDNESS
TO GOD-CENTREDNESS
PG 24

SOBORNOST
AND FAITHFULNESS
PG 30

Shaking Salt BE LIKE CHRIST THIS JUBILEE



by Rev Peter Goh
吴正德牧师

SG50 is a nationwide effort for Singaporeans to celebrate our country's 50th birthday in 2015.

50 years of independence is a huge milestone. Wow! This is a momentous event for Singaporeans to reflect on how far we have come together as a nation and people.

However, people have different understandings of the Jubilee. Some might celebrate their Golden Jubilee to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. Others will remember it as they celebrate their big "five-oh", with more candles than they can blow in one breath. Seniors may well remember the Jubilee as the occasion for a free \$50 top-up on their SMRT cards.

It is good to glean from the Word the whole concept of Jubilee.

The faithful saints who have been through my God's Masterworks class on Leviticus will recall that, in Leviticus 25-27, there is a connection between the blowing of the shofar to mark the commencement of the Jubilee and the consecration of the fiftieth year on the Day of Atonement (Lev 25:9), once in every fifty-year cycle. There is also the connection to the concept of "going out in joy and [being] led forth in peace" (Is 55:12) to proclaim liberty in the "liberation" of the Israelites (Lev 25:10), an event proclaimed by the prophet Ezekiel to be the "year of freedom" (Ez 46:17). For a deeper understanding on the biblical concept of Jubilee, I suggest that one should read the Book of Leviticus, in particular chapters 25-27.

What is the significance of Jubilee for Christians?

The biblical focus of the Jubilee is about the restoration of the Israelites' socio-economic life and the community's sustainability.

Just as the land needs to rest, the Jubilee is a call for Christians who are relentlessly busy in the

marketplace to find rest and renewal for their tired souls, even as they pursue their inner dreams in the midst of their life challenges. It is a call for Christians to try to help and give a new beginning to those who are caught in the poverty cycle, to try and narrow the economic gap between the rich and the poor. It is a call for Christians by God not to "take advantage of each other, but to fear your God for I am the LORD your God." (Lev 25:17). It is a call for Christians to walk our talk, to transform our knowledge about the God whom we embrace and put His Word into our daily living.

When Jesus came to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Lk 4:21), He was personifying the true meaning of Jubilee. He was fulfilling the biblical concept of Jubilee when He came to set us free from the bondage of sin, from the eternal separation from God through His incarnation at the cross.

Jubilee is a clarion call from God for Christians to examine the way we live out our lives in the community, to be His light and salt of the world. It is an apt reminder for Christians to emulate Christ's character, to forgive one another, to restore and reconcile with one another within our family unit, with creation and with God.

This Jubilee celebration should remind us to testify to our neighbours that God's favour to Singapore all these 50 good years is to be shared and proclaimed. We know what the real Jubilee is. It is more than just words. It is being Christ's witness through the way we share our unconditional love, care and support for one another in this Little Red Dot, regardless of language, race, gender and religion.

Unless we live out what Jubilee means to us, unless our experience with Christ is intimate and real, it will be an uphill challenge for us to share with our neighbours what it means to encounter Christ who came so that they might have life, and have it to the full (Jn 10:10) in spite of life's unending challenges and pain.

SG50是一个举国欢庆的时节。

50年的建国历程，这确实是一个值得纪念的里程碑！

对于不同人群而言，禧年却承载着不一样的意义。部分国人为庆祝他们结婚50周年而将这一时节视为金禧年；另一部分则以此纪念自己步入了知命之年。而对于一些乐龄人士而言，禧年的意义可能集中在那免费获得的50元车资卡充值费。

尽管众人对禧年的认识不尽相同，但圣经上却清楚地阐释了禧年的真正价值。

那些上过我关于利未记的课程的同学或许会记得，在利未记25-27章中记载，凡第五十年，以色列民需在赎罪日大发角声，并以此年为圣年（利25：9）。此外，禧年也承载着“你们必欢欢喜喜而出，平平安安蒙引导”（赛55：12）、“在遍地给一切的居民宣告自由”（利25:10）等应许。这正是以西结先知所说的“自由之年”（结46：17）。倘若您想更深入地了解圣经中关于禧年的概念，我建议您研读圣经中的利未记，特别是利未记25-27章。

有鉴于此，那禧年对基督徒而言究竟意味着什么呢？

圣经中关于禧年的阐释多集中在对以色列社会、经济等的归复，以维持社会的持续性。不仅土地需要休息，神也呼吁那些常年在市场上奔波劳碌的基督徒安息，在生活的众多挑战中更新他们疲惫的心灵、专注他们的内在。禧年对基督徒而言也是一份呼召，让我们试图改变，解救那些被困在恶性循环中的穷人，缩小贫富之间的差距。它同时是一份提醒，让“（我们）彼此不可亏负，只要敬畏（我们）的神，因为（祂）是耶和华——（我们）的神”（利25:17）。

禧年更是一分挑战，让我们言行一致，将对神的认识转化为行动，让基督彰显在我们的日常生活中。

耶稣来，为报告神悦纳人的禧年。他发布了禧年真正的含义，成就了经上关于禧年的记载；耶稣来，叫我们脱离罪的辖制与捆绑，因着十字架他拯救了我们，使我们不至与神永世隔绝。

禧年是神向基督徒吹响的号角声，呼吁着我们检视自己，是否在世界中活出“光和盐”的样式？它精确地提醒着我们基督的品质，即要彼此宽待、与人和睦，并与神、与家庭、与世界和好。

这个禧年的庆祝活动，驱使我们向我们的邻舍见证神在过去50年中如何恩待新加坡。这见证，不单是要用口宣称，更是借由我们对彼此跨越种族、性别、言语、宗教等的爱与关怀体现出来。

在国家欢庆禧年之际，身为基督徒的我们必须清楚地知晓禧年的真意。倘若我们无法借着与基督的亲密关系真实地活出禧年的含义，我们又怎么能够与人分享基督来是要让人们得生命，并且得的更丰盛（约10:10）这一真理？唯有当我们真正学习像耶稣，我们才可能为祂作见证，宣告不论生活中面对怎么样的困难与挑战，我们都能安享主的同在。



Living the dream, Loving what I do – Fulfilling God's Purpose for Me



When I first came to TMC in 1993, I was a pre-believer. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour that same year, and was baptised in 1994. Today, my wife, Christina, and I attend the 8.45am service while our two teenage daughters, Calida and Carissa, attend the Youth service.

Living my Childhood Dreams

I have been with the defence ministry for the past thirty years. I work in a unit that protects the entities under the defence eco-system against a range of security threats. We detect, investigate and neutralise these threats. We also safeguard national interests by implementing policies and measures to deter potential threats.

As a child, I was inspired by Rick Jason and Vic Morrow, the lead actors in the 1970s WWII TV series titled 'Combat'. I wanted to be a combat officer so that I could defend my country. Later as a teen, I was fascinated by espionage stories. I wanted to be a spy-catcher one day so that I could protect my country from the bad guys.

My childhood dreams are realised in my current job. I had never imagined the type of work that I would be exposed to. I love what I do. There is never a dull moment. God has moulded me for His purpose in this job. This also explains why I have lasted thirty years and I continue to experience fulfillment in what I do.

Living with Integrity

In carrying out my duties, I make every effort to uphold integrity and do the right thing before God. Integrity is a reflection of God at work in our lives. I try my best to obey Him with a desire to make decisions that will please God. When I have to deal with difficult situations or make tough decisions, I pray first and seek God's guidance and wisdom - it helps a lot. Praying daily over work matters also enables me to check my motives and helps me not to compromise on my Christian values. Learning to rely on God and to wait upon His timing has not always been easy, but I know that He is shaping me in this area.

Being a Witness at Work

My work is a gift from God. I am always reminded of Matthew 10:32: "Whoever acknowledges me before man, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." Sharing about what God has done for me and my family is the best witness to my staff and to anyone whom God sends to be part of my life.

From time to time, I get the opportunity to meet individuals with personal struggles and challenges. I listen to them as they share about their situation and try and help them. I recall one meeting with an individual in his 50s. He was into heavy drinking and in bad debts. Having gone through an acrimonious divorce, he was also separated from his only child, who was in her late teens.

He accused his estranged wife of "poisoning" their daughter's mind against him. He said he loved his daughter and missed her, but did not dare contact her for fear of rejection. As I listened to his tearful account, I said a quiet prayer and asked God to help this broken man. I advised him to call his daughter and to give her the chance to decide whether she wanted to meet him or not, instead of believing that she did not want to see him. I also told him that I would pray for their reunion and urged him to pray as well. He was a Catholic but had stopped going to church.

Two weeks after we spoke, I got a call from him on a Sunday morning as I was driving to church with my family. He told me he was meeting his daughter that morning. He sounded anxious yet excited. His daughter had agreed to meet him at his parish church after the Sunday mass. He thanked me for encouraging him to call her. He also requested that I continue to pray for him and his daughter.

My role is as simple as that – to gently plant God's seed in every opportunity that He presents to me, and let Him do the rest.

Subordination

Paul's teaching on subordination emphasises that we must subordinate our lives to God.

God wants me to be accountable to Him first. He wants me to take my faith seriously, and build my character by choosing to do the right thing every day. To prepare me for the day ahead, God wants me to give Him my first hour every day, and also not to leave Him in the Bible after the morning devotions. I am reminded that His Holy Spirit dwells in me and so I need and seek His wisdom on all matters - personal and professional.

Paul also reminds us that we must also subordinate our lives to those in authority over us. God has placed me in this job to fulfill His purpose. I will be serving Him by being a good subordinate to my superiors. As a government servant, I am mindful that there is a chain of command, and there are rules, regulations and policies to adhere to.

Although I have not encountered difficult situations or people on the account of my faith, I cannot say I have always done the right thing. But I fear God, not man. I commit difficult situations to God, and pray, pray and pray! Then trust Him to help me manage and overcome the situation. He always does.



ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIER



by Joel Chua

I am an army officer.

Every work day, I oversee the management of administration, manpower, security, operations, safety and logistics matters of the company that consists of 130 personnel.

As an officer in the infantry unit, I observe that many NSFs (National Service Fulltime) enlist with the mindset that they will be wasting away two years of their lives.

I was just like those NSFs when I was 18. I was cynical. I remember vividly that, prior to my enlistment, I hated the idea of serving NS. I declared to everyone that national service was and would be a waste of time. My brothers and sister-in-Christ (Gary Low, Gary Khoo and Tricia Tong) prayed for me to find meaning in NS, and for me to be given a challenging experience.

I chose to keep a low profile throughout Basic Military Training (BMT). I simply hated what I had to go through but soldiered on for the three months of BMT. I prayed hard for God to end my agony by giving me an easy appointment after BMT. God showed me a passage in the Bible (“I can do all things through him who gives me strength” - Phil 4:13). I was encouraged and thought: “Yes, God is going to deliver me from my agony once and for all after BMT”. The reality was that I was posted to Officer Cadet School. I was upset with this arrangement but did not have much choice in the matter.

My mindset started to change when one of my friends in the army told me that serving the nation is akin to serving God. I had never thought of it that way. I started telling myself: “I am serving God throughout my NS”.

Today – 10 years after I enlisted as a reluctant and unwilling NSF – I am a career soldier.

I have finally understood what God wanted me to do in the army – to serve Him by serving my fellow soldiers and the nation, and making a difference in their lives.

I challenge myself to lead my soldiers as a “servant leader”, teaching them Christian values and hopefully making a difference in their lives. I try to influence my junior commanders to think and act like servant leaders serving the lower echelons. Most of the time, my junior commanders do not understand this rationale. They always question the necessity of being a servant leader. It is through time and personal witness that they realise and appreciate servant leadership.

Over time, I have observed how my men change for the better during NS. Their usage of vulgarities has decreased. They encourage the physically weaker soldiers instead of scold them.

Getting junior commanders to buy into this servant leadership ideology is one of my biggest challenges. In my course of duty, I always try to be an exemplary role model of a servant leader, a Christian servant leader. I confess that I myself am a work in progress.

My service to the nation has been through God’s sustenance. It is now a pleasure to serve God and other soldiers in the course of performing my duty to the nation. I hope that I can carry on serving as long as God calls me to.

As we celebrate SG50, I am reminded of the bonus that God has given me and what he has done in my life. That’s not the \$500 bonus that civil servants are getting. To me, the better SG50 bonus that only God can give me is to allow me to serve him in the army till I am 50 years old (the retirement age for army officers).



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Jubilee A Biblical Perspective

By Bishop Kuan Kim Seng



Bishop Kuan Kim Seng



As Singapore celebrates our Jubilee Year, SG50, it is worth asking the simple question of where did this idea of Jubilee come from and what are the implications of such an idea? It may surprise some people, even Christians, that the very idea of Jubilee is from God Himself. The main Scriptural text concerning the concept of Jubilee is Leviticus 25:8-17, and the rest of the chapter. (The reader is urged to read this text in order to fully follow this short article.)

The first thing that needs to be emphasised is that the Year of Jubilee is God’s design. In fact the English word ‘Jubilee’ is derived from the Hebrew word *yobale*, used 14 times in Leviticus 25 when God introduced this concept. *Yobale* is announced by the blast of the shofar on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement, the joyful signal that all land in Israel is to be reverted back to the original owners. In essence, the Jubilee was a nationwide economic reset button for the nation of Israel to wipe out all systemic economic inequality, for on this fiftieth year ‘each of you shall return to his property.’ (v. 10b, 13)

God in His wisdom deemed that all land in Israel belonged to Him. (Leviticus 25:23) He gave leases of fifty years (some would argue that it is forty nine; okay, so be it!) and commanded that at every fiftieth year, the land that was sold in the preceding period would be returned to the original owners or their children, free of charge! As land was the chief means of ensuring livelihood, such a divinely instituted concept would eliminate poverty, especially the curse of inherited poverty. Fifty years was long enough to enable national socio-economic stability and short enough to see that no Israelite would ever live in perpetual poverty. When willingly practiced, the Year of Jubilee would steer the human heart away from the sinful propensity and danger to accumulate more and more to the point that fellow human beings are worth less than the things we own.

I would add another reason for such a divine provision. Israel was called to be a witness nation; that other nations would see Israel with her great civilisation expressed in social justice, love for one another and care for the poor,

and seek the God who created and love all humanity.

The chief questions that we need to ask ourselves as we reflect on Leviticus 25 is not whether the Jews have kept this law (read ‘law’ as ‘divine instructions on how to live well’) faithfully or even when is the next Year of Jubilee in the Jewish calendar, interesting and important as they may be. What we need to ask ourselves as we reflect upon this passage of Scripture is ‘What is God’s will for His people today as we live in a world that is choked with socio-economic inequality?’

It needs to be stressed that our Creator God and Abba Father is concerned about how well human beings should fare on this end of eternity, despite the pain, brokenness, greed, despair and unfairness that we see everywhere on earth. The extreme poverty that we see in many parts of the world is certainly an affront to God.

Surely in Jesus Christ, God has given us more than just a super economic reset button to be pressed once every fifty years. In His great wisdom and grace He has given us, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Holy Spirit. When the Spirit of God lives in us, our hearts will surely be turned away from the sinful propensity to accumulate more and more to the point of greed and carelessness towards fellow human beings.

So friends in Christ, as we Singaporean Christians celebrate SG50, it is good that we ask God what He would require of us. It is true that the concept of Jubilee was originally given to the nation of Israel to enable her to acknowledge the lordship of God and thereby accept His all-wise plan for socio-economic equity. It is equally true that we who believe in Jesus as our Lord must imbibe the same principle of seeing human beings as worth more than the things we own. Let me venture one example as we close - the myriad of guest-workers in Singapore should be given a decent deal. The same God who gave to His people the concept of Jubilee also said, ‘You shall not wrong a sojourner (guest-worker!) or oppress him ...’ (Exodus 22:21)

Reprint of The Bible Society of Singapore’s Word@Work June 2015 issue. 7

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Finding MOMentum



by Jill Koh

as a Christian in the Public Service

My workplace is a really good conversation starter. It almost always manages to evoke a wide array of emotions among the people I meet. Generally, you will either love me or hate me.

I am an assistant manager in the Applications Section (Employment Pass) of the Work Pass Division, in the Ministry of Manpower. Employment Pass, S-Pass, Work Permit, you name it, I know it! I manage a couple of teams and ensure that applications are being processed within the correct standards and benchmarks.

I have been asked many times (my colleagues included) why I chose the Public Service as my first workplace. I am not going to downplay the perks and the stability it provides, but I won't say it is simply a 9 to 5 job. Personally, I believe in the value of the Public Service. More importantly, I believe in the good it aims to provide for everyone around me and I want to be part of that. Some have called me a "young, idealistic and naïve public officer" who hasn't seen the "real world". Trust me, I see the real world every day.

The Ministry of Manpower is probably one of the most central ministries in any Singaporean's day-to-day life. Public holidays, foreign domestic help, Central Provident Fund, skills upgrading, retirement, re-employment, and so on. In my work, a majority of the people I interact with are Human Resource executives or the foreign applicants themselves who are keen on working in Singapore. I see my work – people – walking all around Singapore and it makes it all the more meaningful and at the same time, challenging.

How do I treat foreign workers with grace and not be that faceless bureaucrat on the other end of the line, obsessed with procedural correctness at their expense? More importantly, how can I honour God in all that I do?

Today, there are many differing opinions on foreigners, skilled or unskilled. The general sentiment is one of displeasure and discrimination.

On one hand, Singaporeans complain that foreigners take away their jobs, occupy their personal space in the MRT and live in their backyard.

Some people have called me a "gatekeeper" or "Singapore's first line of defence", a description which I take much offence to, especially on behalf of the foreigners. What are they? MERS?

On the other hand, Singaporeans who need foreign workers are upset with the constant tightening of the foreign worker policies.

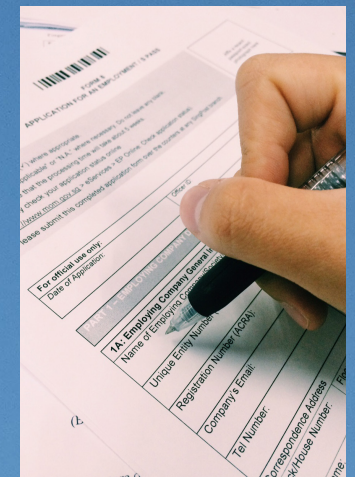
So what do Singaporeans want?

As a public service officer, I desire to meet everyone's needs. This means that I am often pulled in many different directions. As a Christian, I know that I need to honour God above all. This makes it tricky to discern how to act in a way that both honours God and meets the needs of my fellow Singaporeans. I try my very best to go the extra mile for everyone – foreigners and employers alike but at times, I am constrained by my role as a Public Service Officer.

For example, when dealing with cases where I have to exercise my own judgment, I often find myself whispering a prayer for God to give me an additional portion of His grace and wisdom. At work, I do my very best to glorify God by being joyful and doing my work with excellence. It is an uphill task every day but I thank God that I still look forward to going to work each morning.

Within my team, I am thankful that I am not persecuted for my faith. I thank God for pre-believing colleagues (I'm getting there!) who respect my faith and allow me to practise it as much as I can. Outwardly, my colleagues know that I am a Christian because of the cross hanging on my desk and because I cannot work OT (overtime) on Mondays and Fridays due to BSF (bible study fellowship) and worship practice or small group, respectively. Inwardly, I try as much as I can to serve my colleagues at my workplace and bring God's peace to them. Most of them have commented how I am constantly "zen" and calm in many situations. I truly believe this is God's peace that surpasses all understanding that continually guards my heart and mind in all situations. With the hope that I have in Christ, I understand that He is sovereign in all circumstances and nothing is too big for Him to handle.

As a young Christian Public Service officer, I know that God requires me to start being that salt and light to everyone around me – foreigner or Singaporean alike. More importantly, it is to see that my job is not merely a job but my vocation, and that I have been called and equipped to do and be God's hands and feet in the Public Service.



FREEING the Imprisoned Human Spirit



by Caroline Lim

I joined the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) in August 2001. I have now spent 14 years in the Service.

As a uniformed senior prison officer, I get rotated around every few years. I have worked as a Duty Operations Officer at the Changi Women's Prison and also various staff postings at Prisons Headquarters (HQ), dealing with rehabilitation policy, training and strategic HR (human resource). I am currently on secondment to the Ministry of Home Affairs HQ but will be returning to SPS in 2016/7.

I have always been inclined towards the "helping" professions. People often ask me why I chose to join the Prisons. My answer is a simple one – it is a calling from God. At the point of joining, I did not realise that it was a calling. I was just responding out of a desire God placed in my heart to work for the betterment of the inmates' lives, having been exposed to their plight when I was conducting field studies for my Masters in Psychology. The more I spoke to the inmates, the more I found myself wanting to be in a position to help them.

And so, after I completed my studies, I joined the Service. Being a prison officer allows me to serve a segment of our society that many would prefer to forget. It allows me the opportunity to help those who desire to change. Best of all, I can bring God's love and grace into the darkest of places. The darkness is a reference to man's heart, not so much the physical environment or prison life. As an officer, I can't directly share the Good News to the inmates. But I can model His love by living out Kingdom values.

Even when dealing with disciplinary matters, I can choose to focus on how the bad behaviour has to necessarily lead to certain consequences, without taking away the dignity and worth of the individual. And when that individual is ready to make changes to his life, I stand ready to offer a second chance. People may not often realise it but when you help an

inmate regain his footing in society, you are a social leveller. An inmate is often also a father or mother. Families impacted by incarceration often suffer financially and emotionally. When they can stand on their own and make it in society, you have essentially helped a whole family.

I have never been shy about the fact that I am a Christian. It comes up in social conversations with colleagues and I have invited colleagues to church events. But beyond these overt gestures, I believe that my day-to-day interaction with colleagues is the best way I can witness for Christ. I ask God to fill me with His love for the people I work with, so that I may always conduct myself in a manner that is honouring and pleasing to Him. This is especially so for colleagues who may be more challenging to get along with. I think that when God allows you to see others through His eyes, you cannot help but genuinely care for them.

I will be the first to admit that it was not easy. Once, a peer of mine (and a brother-in-Christ) whom I had to work closely with, said something to our boss that derailed a project that my team had been working on for months. I was very upset as I felt that he did not have all the facts and yet presented them in such a manner that led to a bad situation for my team. At that point, I had to make a decision – I could write him off and minimise contact with him, or I could choose to ask God to help me extend love and grace to him so that we could continue to work together. I chose the latter and God amazed me by blessing our working relationship to the extent that we became close friends.

Our boss even said that we were the best working partnership that she had seen! Of course it wasn't an overnight change; it took months of prayer and actively seeking opportunities for reconciliation at the working level. But I can attest to God's faithfulness – He transformed my anger into something positive that allowed me to see my brother-in-Christ in a different light.

I think that the SG50 Jubilee celebrations allow us to rejoice in our nation's achievements and honour those that have gone before us so that we are now able to enjoy the fruits of their labour. It is also a point for reflection as we contemplate the 50 years to the next jubilee – what do we hope to be and how can we get there.

The Christian Jubilee is somewhat different and, in a way, more meaningful for me as a prison officer. I am reminded of how the captives are set free in the year of Jubilee and this is in essence what we try to do as prison officers. The freedom that I refer to is not that which can be bound by concrete walls but the freedom of the human spirit – to believe that change is possible and attainable. I pray and hope that each inmate that I am and will become responsible for, will be able to find their own Jubilee and live out meaningful lives back in society. It is never easy when you are in the business of changing



JUBILEE

Song ID #228898 Author: Michael Card 1982 Whole Armor Publishing Company
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The Lord provided for a time for the slaves to be set free
For the debts to all be cancelled so His chosen ones could see
His deep desire was for forgiveness, He longed to see their liberty
And His yearning was embodied in the Year of Jubilee

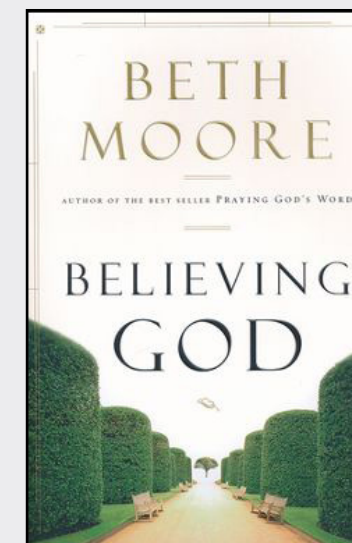
JUBILEE, JUBILEE
JESUS IS OUR JUBILEE
DEBTS FORGIVEN, SLAVES SET FREE
JESUS IS OUR JUBILEE

At the Lord's appointed time His deep desire became a man
The heart of all true jubilation and with joy we understand
In His voice we hear a trumpet sound that tells us we are free
He is the incarnation of the year of Jubilee

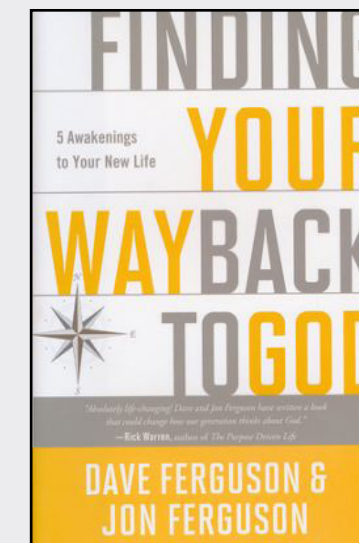
To be so completely guilty, given over to despair
To look into your judge's face, and see a Saviour there

Background image from <http://all-free-download.com>

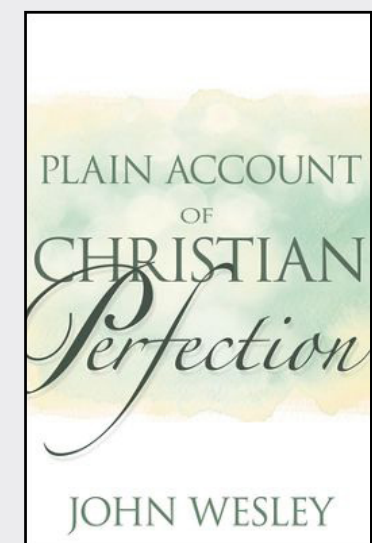
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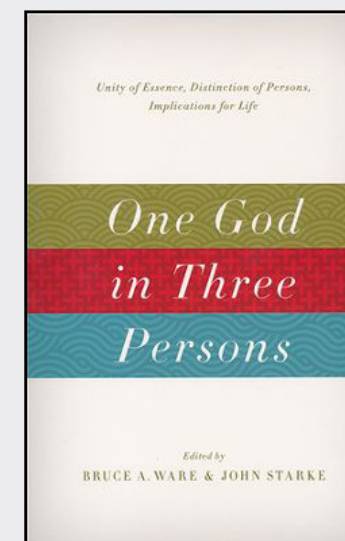
BELIEVING GOD
Author: Beth Moore



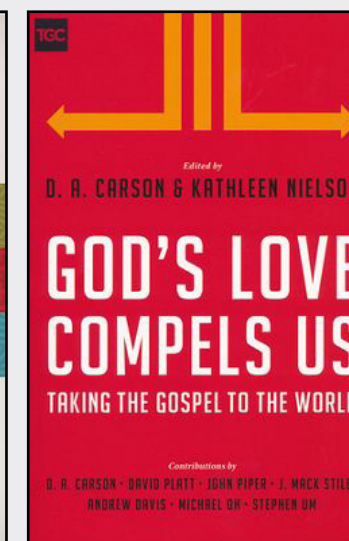
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Author: David Ferguson &
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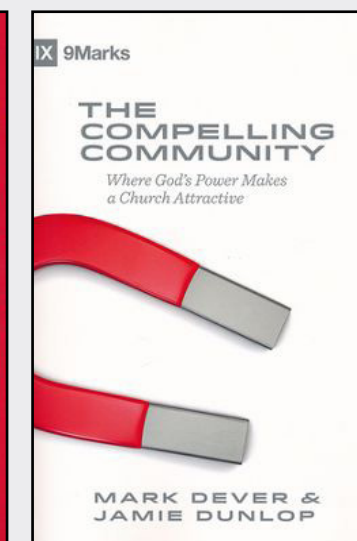
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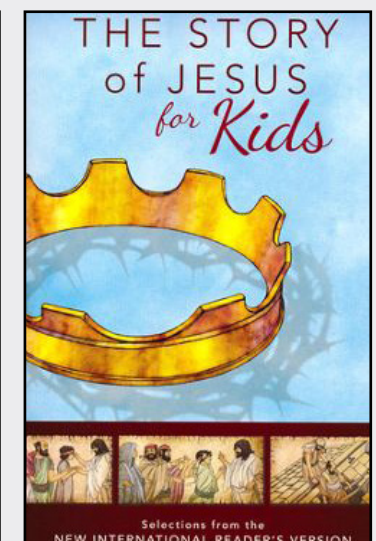
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**GOD'S LOVE COMPELS US
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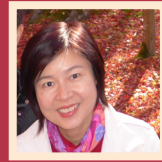
TMC RESOURCE CENTRE

You can also borrow some featured books from the TMC Resource Centre on Level 2. Some available titles related to Christians and their responsibilities to the nation include:

Blessed to be a blessing: The Methodist Missions Society Singapore by Goh, Robbie B.H. (266 GOH)
The Christian Church in the 21st century Singapore. National Council of Churches (260 CHR)
Jubilee and the destiny of nations: Understanding the Lord's jubilee for Singapore and beyond by Thio Li Ann (236.9 THI)

MY JUBILEE YEAR

by Chew Kim Ling



Kim turned 50 in June this year, the same year that our nation celebrates its Jubilee. She reflects and shares with us her journey of 50 years in Singapore, how she grew up and is still growing as a Christian in Singapore.

GROWING UP

My late father was from Ipoh, Malaysia and my mom is from Medan, Indonesia. They came to Singapore to live in the early 60s. My younger sister and I were born and raised in Singapore. My parents were a loving couple but only gave birth to me in 1965, after nine years of marriage due to fertility issues. I was a long-awaited baby and was much cherished as a child.

Although my parents practised ancestral worship and did not attend church, my mum studied in a Methodist girls' school in Medan. My sister and I attended a Christian kindergarten and a Catholic girls' school. Although I was exposed to Christianity in my younger days, no one spoke with me about the faith and I did not consider myself a Christian.



Kim with her family when she was younger

My dad was a self-made businessman and our family was blessed with no lack of material things. I have fond memories of my parents taking us to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, MacRitchie Reservoir and the movies. We also travelled overseas often as a family. That probably explains why I enjoy travelling so much even now. I didn't have many storms in my life. My childhood and school life were smoothsailing. And so was my love life. My husband Tai Keat was my first and only boyfriend. As a result, I didn't question many things in my life.

TURNING POINTS

Tai Keat and I first met in 1984 in university but only started dating in 1988. I knew he was a Christian but I didn't know much about his lifestyle. He gave me a lot of space and did not pressure me into Christianity. I only attended church regularly with him after we got married in 1991, and two years later, I was baptised.

Initially I was a pew-warmer in church but later started serving in the Children's Ministry (CM). I have now served in CM for 20 years, first as a helper and eventually as chairperson. My time in CM helped me tremendously as a young Christian. When I started serving as a teacher, I had to be prepared in order to teach the children, and that got me started on learning more about God's Word.

My faith took a quantum leap when I partnered Alice Lim (currently Lay Ministry Staff and overseeing CM) in this ministry when she joined in 2009. **When I started serving in ministry years ago, I served in obedience because I saw God as the awesome Creator who was really high up there.** Alice helped me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and this changed my prayer life. I realised how important it is to be empowered by the Holy Spirit when serving, because ministry is hard work and many times not sustainable by human effort alone.

Over the years through several CM retreats, I began to experience **God as a Father and a Friend**. God will bless us when we draw closer to Him; I have been blessed with the gift of tongues and I have been amazed many times that the Holy Spirit will prompt me on what to do and say and the people that I need to see would just appear in front of me. Although I am still in awe of our Almighty God, we now have a close and personal relationship where I commune in prayer with Him every morning before I get out of bed!

Life turned out not to be always smooth-sailing after all. A major storm brewed when we couldn't conceive and wanted to start a family after two years of marriage. We saw several

fertility specialists and I was diagnosed with endometriosis. We started on fertility treatments which went on for a period of nine years during which I went through three laparoscopic operations and three IVFs (in-vitro fertilisation). These procedures could have been emotionally and physically challenging but each time, God was good and saw me through. Even though the IVF treatment failed each time, our faith did not waver and we had so much love and support from our small group. The gap of several years between each IVF treatment was because we were praying that God would miraculously let us conceive naturally so that we could give glory to His Name especially in witness to our pre-believing relatives. Alas, that was not His will for us and we remain childless. However, we have been more than blessed by our god-daughter Sarah and many children in church. **I am certain my walk with God and ministry in Church would be different if we had children according to the typical plan and timetable for a married couple.**

I have been similarly blessed with a smooth career path for the past 27 years of which 23 years have been in the same organisation. The last year however has been different and I just could not understand why I was struggling. I am thankful during this period that my small group supported me fervently in prayer. After a while, I stopped questioning God and chose to see that something good would come out of these challenges. Indeed God taught me many lessons as I cried out to Him many times for help and now I know how to empathise with those facing work challenges.



Kim getting baptized



Kim and Tai Keat

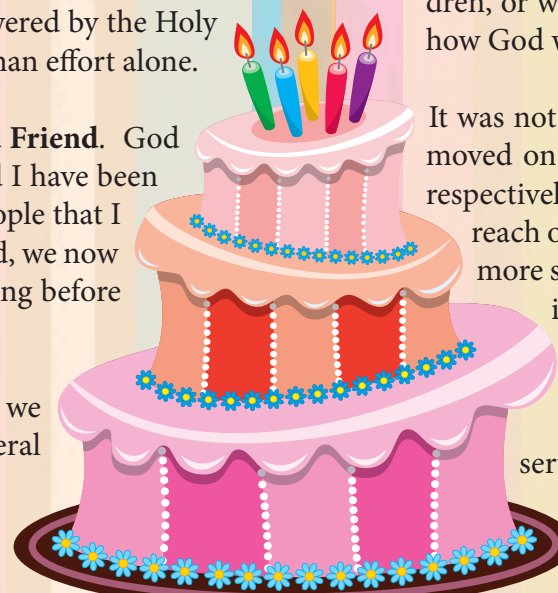
God is good all the time and His perfect plan was revealed to me in April this year. I had signed up for the Precept Upon Precept (PUP) class organised by TMC, but was too caught up with work that I was not able to turn up for class. Nevertheless, I felt prompted to still do the homework and God led me to Lev 25:10-13 which declares that **this is the year of Jubilee and it is your year of rest**. I knew instantly that God was speaking to me; it became clear that if it had been another smooth year at work, I would have continued working and taking sabbatical leave would not have been on the table. **Just like how God told Job, My ways are higher than your ways, just trust Him and He will have something good for you.** My application for one year of sabbatical leave starting in July was approved!

BEYOND 50

Our nation's founding father Mr Lee Kuan Yew's passing in March this year occurred during the time that I was facing challenges at work, and had a deep impact on me. I wondered what God's intended purpose for me was in relation to my country and community. He led me to think about the ageing population - I will be one of the statistics of people turning 65 in 2020. Am I going to be living in a retirement village since we don't have children, or will we be in a community where the old and young live together as a community? I'm curious to see how God will be involved in shaping this. I have no idea yet and will just let Him take the lead.

It was not easy to transit out from one ministry to another after 20 years and I am very thankful that when I moved on from CM and TMC Kindergarten, George Sathiasingam and Pamela Lim were willing to step up respectively in obedience to God. Since I started serving in the Witness & Evangelism Committee, learning to reach out to those who have yet to know Jesus Christ is becoming a bigger part of my life. I am learning to be more sensitive to allow the Holy Spirit to take the lead and to remember that all that is required is obedience in taking that one step to bring someone one step closer to knowing God.

My loving Father God has indeed made all things beautiful in His time. It's been an amazing 50-year journey and I pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit, I will finish the race well as a good and faithful servant. I am excited...



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BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

by Samuel Wong



How a jaded joe sees how his life has unfolded past mid-century and where he sees it heading.

Are you an “old” Christian? Well, I am.

Born before Singapore gained independence, and way past the Hawaii-Five-Oh milestone, I look back and see that I have not had any other religion. Consistency in religion, and going through the rituals, are not the same as having consistency in faith.

I was brought up in the realm of Christianity primarily because both my parents were Anglicans. They were Anglicans when they met. Mother remained Anglican, even though Father moved on to being Methodist. Growing up, I went to an Anglican kindergarten and then straight into 10 years of Methodist methodology and schooling all through my formative years. On Sundays, I shuttled between services at Wesley and services at St Matthew’s. To say there is continuity and consistency in my life is almost an understatement. Even my career has spanned no more than two related industries – first in media and then in public relations. I used to be cajoled and feted as media, and now that the shoe is on the other foot, I cajole, pander and facilitate the media in my public relations work for clients.

Whether I was being cajoled or was the one cajoling, I have been blessed with a colourful career I did not imagine growing up. With my creative streak, I had always thought I would end up in some field of design but God obviously had other plans. Having come from a family of printers and paper merchants, I eventually ended up editing a couple of lifestyle magazines. Magazines sell new ideas and dreams to their readers, lofty concepts of good food, and best global hotspots to visit. All the while, I kept my fingers on the pulse of the latest trends in fashion and beauty. In short, I was living “The Good Life” as the job required. While others travelled for work with briefcases of figures, spreadsheets and reports, I was reporting from the front row of the Paris Fashion Week or soaking up the

sun in some new tropical resort and directing a photo shoot. Doors were open for me to meet global heroes, heroines and leaders in their field. It was a charmed life, a whirlwind of fun and excitement. I worked as hard as I played. I guess I did not spend as much time as I should have in counting my blessings nor did I have much time to give back for the blessings I received.

With more control of my life and time now, I am thankful for those earlier years just as much as I appreciate the more leisurely pace I find myself adapting to now. My spirituality and faith has climbed a couple of notches and I try to contribute to what I can, when I can. Indulgences of a good life become even sweeter when there are regular reality checks - going for a mission trip, joining and serving in various church ministries from outreach to church camps. Ask around or go to the iSunday Counter at the Plaza any Sunday and you will be directed accordingly. Giving back to God is much more fulfilling than you can imagine. I myself am not less inspired when I write for this newsletter of a small limited circulation than when I was writing for local and regional magazines with six figure print runs.

Clearly TMC has its fair share of “old” Christians. Particularly at the earlier 8.45am service, we are in every pew - people who have been with the church for more years than they can remember, spanning two or three generations. We continue to come every Sunday or at least the requisite thrice annual visits over Easter, Christmas and the September anniversary. Many have fallen into the rut and even more have fallen off the wagon but, thankfully, we have a great bunch of stalwarts who have not given up. Some fell away for a few months or a few years but have returned to the fold like me. Some never return, never to be seen again, not even on Facebook!

As we roll by week in and week out, do we sometimes ask ourselves what and how we are

contributing to the community and working out the Pray, Grow, Serve mandate? How are we helping and supporting the various ministries TMC is involved in? As I pondered over this piece a couple of Sundays ago, I had a poignant moment when I really thought about the words we mouth and sing at every Sunday service:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen*

Amen. What wonderful tidings we would bring to Him if we sang and really meant it each time instead of just doing it ritualistically and instinctively with nary a thought or meaning. Living in mostly middle-class Singapore, we most certainly should be grateful for the many blessings of peace, wealth and for many of us, good health.

As I look back and reflect on my life, I never forget the reason why my parents named me as such - I was to be dedicated to Christ not unlike the prophet I was named after. Biblically, the name translated from its Hebrew origin means “heard of God, or heard from God”, a prayerful plea from a woman named Hannah who prayed frequently and fervently for a child. When God finally granted her wish, she named her son Samuel to commemorate the blessing and to dedicate his life to Him.

With this story instilled in me since young, I believe I have yet to live up to my mother’s and God’s expectations. God willing and guiding, it will change. If you, like me, live a happy and somewhat jaded life, we both need to get out of our comfort zones and dedicate some time to His work and glory. In my small way, I have. Down the road and to His glory, and at the turn of TMC’s 59th anniversary, let us expand and expend more time and effort for His ministry. A line from Our Daily Bread that I gleaned this morning during my Quiet Time puts it most succinctly when it says: “Anyone doing God’s work in God’s way is important in his sight.” Are we doing the work for the respect of men, or the respect of our Father in heaven?

Not quite the been there, done that after all, is it?



VOICES FROM THE LAITY



by Lim Sue Yien

Never too Old (or Young) to Serve

This is the last in the series of the Saltshaker features on the work of the Lay Leadership, a group of seven passionate individuals who lead different clusters of ministries and committees, and represent the laity across the English Congregation, Mandarin Service and Youth Ministry.



"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." Eph 4:11-13

Robert Yeo leads the Apostolic Cluster, a varied group of Committees and Ministries with the purpose of providing a sense of order in the administration of the church. However, on most Sundays, you'll see him in the Plaza fellowshipping with old and new friends. If you do not see him, it is because he is with the "counting team", counting and auditing the offerings from all services.

Robert has called TMC his home for more than 30 years. The Saltshaker will spare him the embarrassment of revealing his age here, but will just say that he had been a self-confessed pew warmer until his 40s, when he started serving. He has served in a wide repertoire of ministries, from being an usher, to a car park warden, and even cleaned toilets at a church event! A season with the counting team eventually led him to the Finance Committee. Today he is an Associate Lay Leader, and the chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations and Staff Committee.

Through the years Robert has been active in church life, he sees God having provided TMC with exactly what she has needed at every stage in her history, particularly providing spiritual leaders. Rev Philip Lim led TMC and its leaders on a journey of faith. Building a \$12.6 million church during a recession was a tall order, but Robert distinctly remembered Pastor Philip saying that God would provide. At that time, Robert was the Finance Committee Chairperson, and in charge of the fundraising. Hence he had to hold on tight to that hope, especially so when our 50th anniversary came and we were not yet ready to dedicate the church building. When Rev Dianna Khoo came, she led the church to clear its debt. Now, Robert considers Rev Alvin Chan's tenure to be one of establishing lasting and fruitful processes, and building accountability to one another and to God, through a focus on discipleship.

To Robert, becoming a disciple is a response of knowing God through His Word, and thus wanting to do His will. Most Christians acknowledge that God is important in their lives. However, not knowing His heartbeat makes it difficult to know His direction for our lives. Knowing His Word will allow us to learn to wait for Him, be still when we need to, and to be obedient and act when we need to. Life is a journey of faith. If we know God well through His Word, we can become stronger, and less demanding in wanting our own way. When the journey is not smooth in certain seasons of our lives, it must be for a purpose, be it to test or refine us. If we love and understand God, we will always cling on to the fact that God loves us and is good. When we are walking in the valleys, we must remember, as the Footprints story goes, that God does not abandon us.

Robert is encouraged to see TMC learning the Word together through the various bible classes that Rev Peter Goh has helmed through the years, and now with Precepts. The Alpha course is also a way to set a foundation of God's word for pre-believers.

"After you grow, you must serve. No matter how small, take these small steps, and begin the journey". He reminds everyone that no one is too young, or too old, to serve. Neither is inexperience an excuse if the person has prayerfully considered, and is sure that God has called him to do it. Serving allows us to live as one body, one family and one church. When challenges come, we can draw emotional strength from our church community or small groups. Serving in church is a faith-building experience, as it enables us to see how God uses different people, with different mindsets, behaviours, perspectives and talents, to build His kingdom.

God has brought him many joys and challenges in his 20 plus years of serving, but Robert sees himself merely as one small member in a larger body of Christ.



Robert presenting a long-service award to Mrs Jenny Seow, senior accounts assistant in the church office



Robert and one of the counting teams

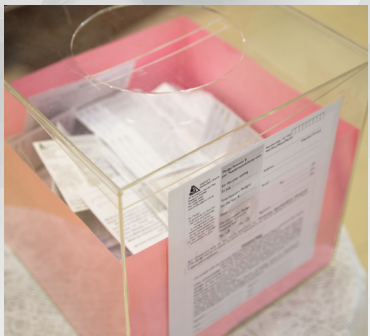
IN AND ABOUT TMC



Youth Gunday & Baptism



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ARE YOU A SECRET CHRISTIAN?

by Kwa Kiem Kioh



THIS IS THE FOURTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES FOR THE SALTSHAKER 2015, FOLLOWING THE PULPIT CALENDAR ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT!

Secret Christian? But, you ask... Paul says "I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Rom 1:16) so shouldn't we be proud to be Christian and find ways to proclaim that publicly, albeit sensitively?

Yes! Though we are not ashamed of the gospel or being Christian, Jesus says in Matthew 6 that some aspects of our spiritual lives should be carried out "in secret". In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus mentions several spiritual acts which should be done anonymously, in secret, or "unseen". These are the spiritual acts of giving to the needy (6:2), praying (6:5) and fasting (6:16). That phrase "in secret", as well as references to the Father who is "unseen" is mentioned six times in Matt 6:1-18. Hence, it is emphasised. The passage gives us two reasons for this.

First, followers of Christ should do their spiritual acts to be seen by God in heaven, and not as a "show" for those around them. At our human level, we want others to think well of us, so we sometimes hint to others how we donate regularly to charity, and so long prayers because it sounds like we have Jesus wants us to pray simply and sin- what we call The Lord's Prayer. Showing more holy and spiritual than other God.

These spiritual acts are meant to be not meant for us to perform in point that Jesus is making is to acts. To be done away from knowing. Just between you and who knows all and sees all will praying and fasting for Him.

This leads us to the second reason in secret: God our Heavenly Father (6:18). God will see the sincerity of He will know that we are genuinely the people around us. These actions will also heaven which cannot be seen, and where



done to God and for his benefit and order to receive praise from people. The do these acts in secret. These are spiritual the public eye. Without anyone noticing or God. For God and God alone. And God reward you because then you are giving,

why these spiritual acts should be done will see and be pleased and will reward us our actions because we do these in secret. seeking Him and not the affirmation of be like storing up for ourselves treasures in moth and rust cannot destroy (6:20).

Today, social media and smart phones make it so much harder for us to live our lives in secret. In Jesus' day, the Pharisees would announce their donations to the poor and pray loudly at the street corners so that people could admire them. Today everybody posts everything they do and eat for the world to see. It's so easy for Christians to be sucked up into that habit of showing not just our holiday photos but also our prayer times or to make a statement that we are "fasting today ... not having lunch appointments." Doing that is the same as the Pharisees showing off on the street corners.

Carrying out spiritual disciplines "in secret" means that our spiritual lives are to be nurtured privately. As the hymn writer says, "Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone... like Him you will be." So let us keep some aspects of our lives a secret such as prayer and our devotional times with God. Let us be discreet about the donations we make and how we spend our money. And let us fast privately and be joyful in public. Then we will receive our reward, to be like Jesus.

Image from <https://pensivequirrel.wordpress.com>

MOVING FROM SELF-CENTREDNESS TO GOD-CENTREDNESS

Pastor Edmund Wong was the main speaker at UNION Church Camp 2015.

Below is an abridged version of one of his talks.



By Edmund Wong

Singaporeans have developed discerning tastebuds for food, and are prepared to pay the price for it. We are prepared to drive to wherever the famous char kway teow or chilli crab is, even if it's on the other side of the island, queue for however long it takes, and even pay an obscene amount of money to fulfill our cravings. All because we recognise good quality food when we see it.

When it comes to following God, there is a price to pay if we want to be a top-quality disciple, one who bears the marks of God's workmanship. Otherwise, we end up being mediocre and being changed by the world instead of changing the world.

By the time Genesis 14 takes place, Abram has heard God's voice to leave his family and country, to go to the land that God will show Him. There, God will bless him and make him a blessing. As he followed God, there was a famine and he went on to Egypt. That was where he messed up. To save his own skin, he said that his wife was his sister. Pharaoh and his family suffered plagues and realised that Abram was the cause of it. Abram was sent away from Egypt. He did a restart. He built altars to worship God.

If we want to follow God all the way, our hearts need to make two shifts like Abram.

Genesis 14 describes the common skirmishes of the day. In order to strengthen one's kingdom, one had to form alliances. The four kings from Mesopotamia formed an alliance against the five kings who ruled over their small city-states. These five city-states had to pay protection money – whatever crops their land produced, and whatever financial reserves they had.

After 12 years, these five city states decided that enough was enough; they were not paying anymore. Consequently, the four kings from Mesopotamia came down from the north, and took out six tribal

groups before defeating the five city states near the Dead Sea. Lot, because he was in Sodom, was also captured.

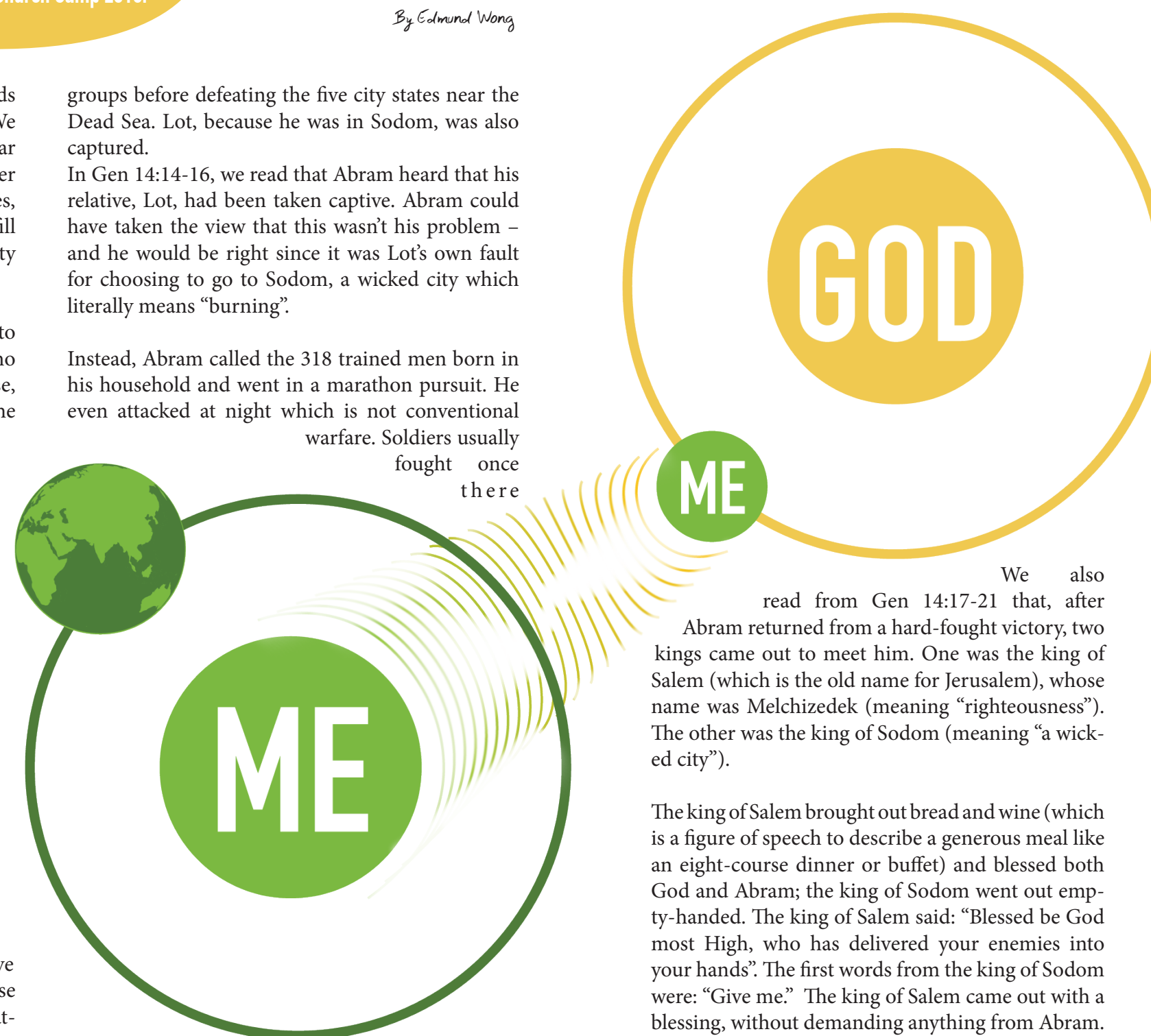
In Gen 14:14-16, we read that Abram heard that his relative, Lot, had been taken captive. Abram could have taken the view that this wasn't his problem – and he would be right since it was Lot's own fault for choosing to go to Sodom, a wicked city which literally means "burning".

Instead, Abram called the 318 trained men born in his household and went in a marathon pursuit. He even attacked at night which is not conventional warfare. Soldiers usually fought once there

was light at day-break. Either he felt the urgency of the task for fear of Lot's safety, or he wanted to surprise the enemies who were sleeping. Either way, he was doing all it took to get Lot back, even though it was out of his comfort zone. Abram recovered all the goods and brought back his relative

Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Following God requires that we move from self-centredness to other-centredness, by coming out of our comfort zone. (see separate story, "SG Connect – The 2am Friend")



We also read from Gen 14:17-21 that, after Abram returned from a hard-fought victory, two kings came out to meet him. One was the king of Salem (which is the old name for Jerusalem), whose name was Melchizedek (meaning "righteousness"). The other was the king of Sodom (meaning "a wicked city").

The king of Salem brought out bread and wine (which is a figure of speech to describe a generous meal like an eight-course dinner or buffet) and blessed both God and Abram; the king of Sodom went out empty-handed. The king of Salem said: "Blessed be God most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hands". The first words from the king of Sodom were: "Give me." The king of Salem came out with a blessing, without demanding anything from Abram. The king of Sodom came out with a bargain and demanded from Abram the plunder that he thought he was entitled to. The king of Salem was God-centred; the king of Sodom was self-centred.

Abram was made an offer by a king of righteousness

and a king of wickedness. Abram gave the former a tenth of everything and was allowed to keep the balance. The latter demanded the human captives in exchange for Abram keeping the plundered goods.

In Gen 14:22, Abram said to the king of Sodom: "I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

Abram did not want the king of Sodom to take credit because when the four Mesopotamian kings attacked, the king of Sodom ran away. Abram credited God Most High, creator of heaven and earth. In those days, the gods one worshipped were confined to one's families and territories. When one left one's family or territory, one essentially left the god one used to worship. Abram was really saying: "This God whom I want to give credit to is not confined by family or territory. He is God most High, overseeing heaven and earth. That's how big my God is. Sodom, you will not get credit. If I have to take nothing that belongs to you so that my God gets the credit and is not dishonoured, so be it."

This God, Yahweh, had made a covenant with Abram to bless him, and Abram intended to stay true to the covenant and pledge his allegiance to no one else, but to the one true God, even if he had to pay a price, even if it meant saying "no" to what the king of wickedness offered him. He believed that the King of Righteousness would bless him. Abram was a man of faith not because of his alliance to men, but his allegiance to God; not because he chose heaven over hell, but heaven over earth! Abram moved from self-centredness to God-centredness by choosing out of his convictions even if those convictions would cost him.

For some of us, following Jesus may mean saying "no" to golf on Sunday. For some others, it may mean something else like foregoing a Korean drama series or Saturday night soccer, shopping or whatever. There are not wrong in themselves, but we know that there comes a point in time when these things rob you of something in your soul causing you to lose joy in God. Moving toward God-centredness may mean saying "no" to that job that causes you to work overtime all the time such that you have no

time for family or small group or ministry. For some of us, God may be asking you to leave your job permanently and go into a full-time ministry.

As a church, we are living in dark times and need to choose out of our convictions. Marriage is no longer between a man and woman; some have lobbied for it to be allowed between two men, or two women*.

Now in our smartphones, there are emoticons for families with same-sex marriages. Guess who will be using the phones apart from you? Your children. Ireland has already given the go-ahead for same-sex marriages. A girl wanted to move to New Jersey to marry her biological father because New Jersey



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge, crisis and controversy."

— Martin Luther King Jr

had decriminalised incest. In Massachusetts, three people are living together as married to one another; they call themselves a "throuple". But the trouble is happening not just outside the church, but inside. A mainline denomination in the USA is split over this issue. A pastor in the USA was jailed for preaching that homosexuality is a sin. An elderly couple in England was fined for not allowing their bed and breakfast joint to be used by a homosexual couple.

There may come a time when it is not popular to

be a Christian in Singapore. Are you prepared to pay the price to stand up for your beliefs? Are you prepared to stand your ground when your company is lobbying for rights as part of their "corporate social responsibility" that go against your conscience and conviction, even if it would be a career-limiting move? Are you prepared to continue teaching your children about marriage the way God intends, even if you are labelled as "old-fashioned"?

Abram shows what it means to pay the price for following God. Moving from self-centredness to other-centredness by coming out of the comfort zone. Doing what it takes for family including our spiritual family. Moving from other-centredness to God-centredness by choosing out of our convictions.

Say "No" to the bargain from the king of wickedness. Say "Yes" to the blessing from the King of Righteousness.

*At the time of print, the US Supreme Court has ruled that the US Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage.

Reflections from campers on the most significant spiritual takeaway they received from the camp:

GOD

ME

We need to know and understand what takes away our time with God.
— Tan Siang Tang

Discipleship involves a continual dying to self which is essentially a painful process but worth its price. — Claire Lowe

Union with God - giving God that "one thing"
— Member of Manasseh Group



I would like to buy about three dollars worth of gospel, please.

Not too much—just enough to make me happy, but not so much that I get addicted.

I don't want so much gospel that I learn to really hate covetousness and lust.

I certainly don't want so much that I start to love my enemies, cherish self-denial, and contemplate missionary service in some alien culture.

I want ecstasy, not repentance; I want transcendence, not transformation.

I would like to be cherished by some nice, forgiving, broad-minded people, but I myself don't want to love those from different races—especially if they smell.

I would like enough gospel to make my family secure and my children well behaved, but not so much that I find my ambitions redirected or my giving too greatly enlarged.

I would like about three dollars worth of the gospel, please.

— Don Carson



By Lim Sue Yien

THE 2AM FRIEND

Reflections from Church Camp

Following God requires that we move from self-centredness to other-centredness, by coming out of our comfort zone.

Why did Abram rescue Lot in Gen 14? Abram had a family obligation to Lot. Lot's father Haran had died in Ur of the Chaldees. As the oldest brother, Abram was obliged to become a father to Lot and that included doing whatever it took to get him back even though Lot left Abram's protection through his own unwise choice.

You and I have an obligation not just to our biological family, but our spiritual family especially when we see our family fall or stray.

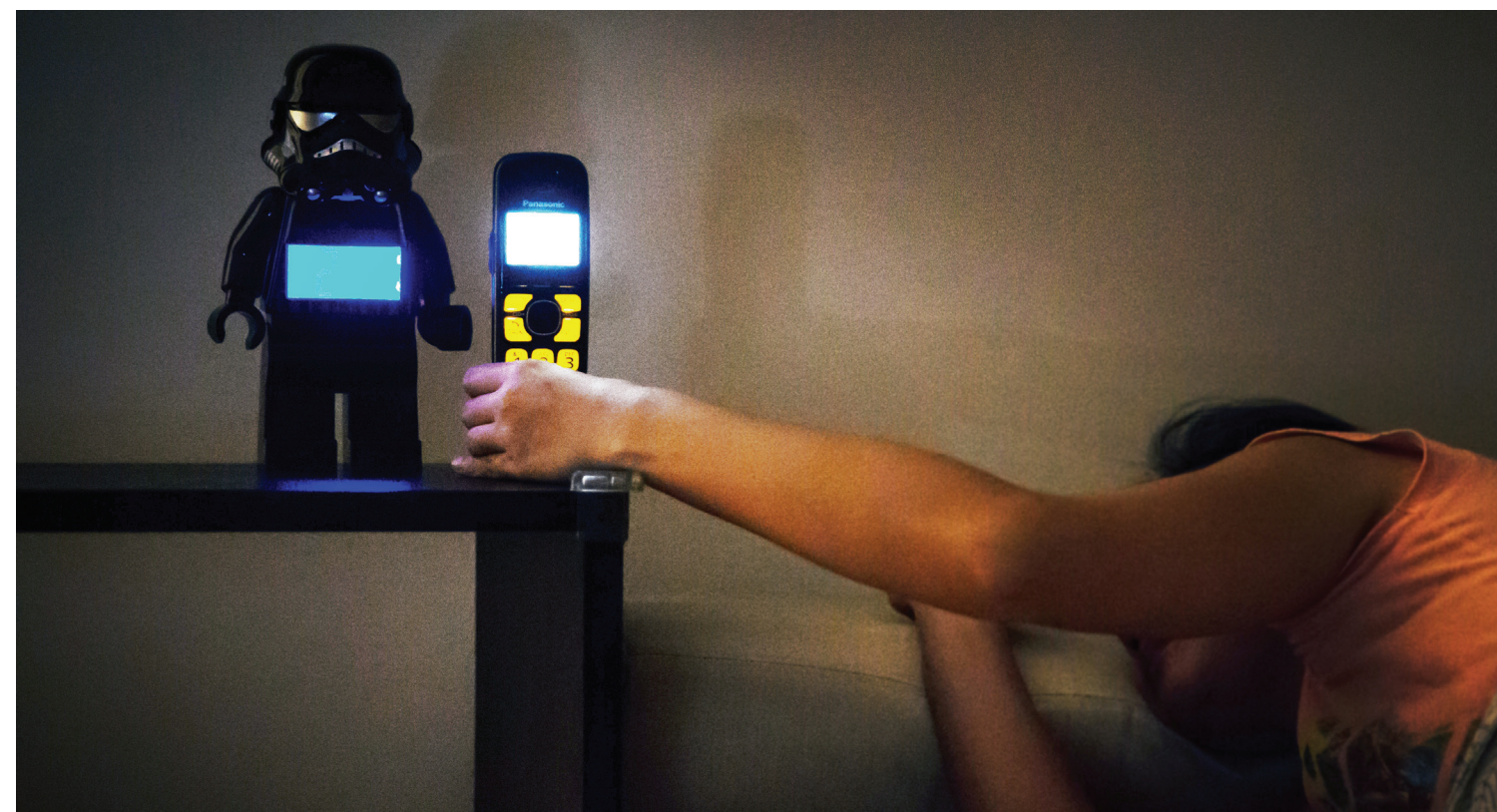
If we are family, paying the price for our growth requires that we come out of our comfort zone to fulfill our family obligation. For those of us not in small groups, you can't just sit in the pews on Sundays. This does not fulfill your family obligation. The Bible talks about encouraging one another, exhorting one another, comforting one another.

And you can't do that unless you are in a spiritual community. For those of us already in a small group, Patrick Morley talks about having a 2am friend. In other words, if you have a crisis at 2am, do you have someone in your small group or church whom you can call? If you do, praise God. But at the same time, can you also be a 2am friend? In other words, can you make yourself available when someone else is having a crisis?

- Pastor Edmund Wong,
UNION Church Camp 2015 speaker

Pastor Edmund raised the topic of being a spiritual family in the journey to becoming a top-quality disciple. Here are some reflections from small group members who attended the camp.

"Through the many phases of life, where friends and colleagues come and go, my 2am friends have



always come from the church community. These friends don't just provide a listening ear, but are also able to support me in prayer.

I would encourage everyone to be in a small group! Admittedly it is not easy to be in one because it takes commitment and also being able to "click" with one another. It is important to me to be part of a small group because it is a committed group that's ready to share struggles and learn together in our journey of life, encouraging one another in the faith and helping one another practically and spiritually.

Being part of the church camp has made me realise that the wider church community is important as well, and I'm so glad to be part of it. While I consider my small group a bunch of close friends, the people in church are also friends and family. So if one does not want to be in a small group just yet, or is not comfortable being one, I think I'd say just be

involved in the community! While being in a small group is good, being in the wider church community is equally encouraging because there are people from different walks of life, from different stages of life. Each of us will have our own different struggles and can help affirm one another along the way.

Imagine the whole church as a big "small group"!"

- Olivia Ng of People of Tomorrow SG

up with me that day. Strangely, I had never mentioned about my struggles to anyone, and on that day I was at my lowest point. When I met up with my 2am friend, he told me what God wanted to tell me, and he hit the nail on the head. From my experience, being in a Christian community gives us the assurance that God will always speak to us through our 2am friends."

- Eugene Koh of BASIC SG

"For those who are not yet in a small group, I would say that all of us need to be in a community where we can be safe to be ourselves and we accept one another just as we are, as imperfect children of a perfect heavenly Father, journeying together as fellow disciples of Christ. The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone, but among others where the love of Christ can be demonstrated in many practical ways, including being available at 2am if needed!"

ABOVE ALL, LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY, BECAUSE LOVE COVERS OVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS. OFFER HOSPITALITY TO ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT GRUMBLING. EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS. 1 PETER 4:8-10

A small group also plays an important role as we navigate the storms of life that all inevitably have to pass through at some stage in our lives. Often in such times, the reality of love in action is experienced as the members rally around the affected person and provide the support needed in their time of need. The group is really able to be God's hands and legs, administering His grace in its various forms."

- Colin Yip, Small Group Committee Coordinator

"Having 2am Christian friends who have journeyed with me has been instrumental to my growth as a person. They have held me accountable to the commitments that I have made, upheld me in walking close and right with God and His ways, and been a source of God's wisdom and encouragement to me. Someone once said that often you are defined by the decisions you make and the friends you keep. Deciding to be part of a small group of people whom I share my life with and who challenge me to grow definitely sits in the pile of good decisions made."

- Eugenia Koh of Grapevine SG, Small group leader for People of Tomorrow and Named

"I remembered an incident when I was in my teenage years. I received a call from my 2am friend. He said that while he was praying, God impressed upon him that I had some issues and felt the need to meet

To join a small group, visit www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html and click on the "Join a small group" link where you can provide some basic information to help the SG Committee follow up with you, leave your name with the iSunday Counter, or email colinyip@gmail.com for more information.



By Ang Hern Shung

SOBORNOST & MY TTC JOURNEY FAITHFULNESS



More than three and a half years ago, I found myself sitting in Rev Dianna Khoo's office.

I had just made the decision to enter into full-time ministry, and Pastor Dianna was talking me through the steps. During our conversation, Pastor Dianna brought up the idea of me entering Trinity Theological College (TTC) for a full-time Masters of Divinity course. At that time, I was very hesitant about that option as I was just not keen to return to the whole process of academic reading, essay writing and studying for examinations. Yet, as I continued to wait on God and prayed over it, there was a greater sense of affirmation and peace that this was the right step to take.

Fast forward three and a half years. I found myself graduating from TTC in the beautiful sanctuary of St. Andrews' Cathedral in June 2015. That day was a testimony of God's goodness, faithfulness and grace throughout my TTC journey; and as I look back on the journey, I continue to see God's fingerprints all over it.

In TTC, contrary to what I had originally perceived, we didn't just study the Bible all day. Rather, we also

engaged in other wider topics, such as the study of world religions, ethics and current affairs. We were also sent out on internships and placements to learn from other churches and Christian organisations, to broaden our perspectives. And perhaps one of the greatest challenges (at least to me) was having to learn the Greek language from scratch - a difficult task considering I was already struggling to speak my second language, Chinese!

Yet amid these fantastic learning opportunities and experiences, some of my biggest lessons and take-aways were not found in the books or the classroom, but beyond. Here are just two of them:

"Sobornost"

This was the first "cheem" (Singlish for "complex") theological word I heard upon entering TTC. It was the theme of our TTC Retreat in 2012, and also the topic that our retreat speaker, Rev Dr Simon Chan, was speaking on. It also turned out to be one of the most important lessons I've learnt in TTC.

"Sobornost" is a Russian word referring to "a spiritual community whose unity is effected through the

words of the Gospel." This was what we experienced firsthand in TTC. We learnt the importance of building a spiritual community in our lives - a community that cared for one another's souls, and sought to refine one another towards Christ-likeness. A community that was diverse in beliefs, characters and personalities, yet united in our love for God and one another.

We laughed together, we cried together, we suffered together, we rejoiced together. Just as iron sharpens iron, there were times when I felt the sting of rebuke and correction from my classmates for character flaws and weaknesses. Yet, it was these same harsh

**"The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are."
- C.S Lewis**

but truthful words spoken in love that sharpened me as a person and moulded me into a better disciple. There were also times when we found ourselves drowning in the workload; and encouragement,



prayers and help would come pouring in, in the form of our classmates, schoolmates and lecturers. Perhaps this was God's way of preparing us for the journey ahead in ministry, in helping us realise the vital need to be planted deep in a spiritual community. Sobornost is truly God's design for growth and our spiritual formation. And it is vital that we find ourselves planted into one, for God to mould us and shape us into a better disciple.

"Faithful to the End"

I would be lying if I said the journey was easy or

that I didn't at times struggle through the semester. In fact, to be honest, every semester was a struggle as we juggled the heavy weight of our workload and other commitments. There were many times during my TTC journey that I felt overwhelmed and when the pressure seemed to get the better of me. There were even occasions that I woke up in the middle of the night worrying about not being able to complete my assignments. Yet, it was during these times of anxiety and pressure that I experienced God's grace and peace, and His hand at work.

Whether it was a time extension given to us by a lecturer, or a sudden inspiration in the middle of writing a paper, or even surprise texts of encouragement from friends when I needed them the most, I saw God's grace and love at work through each semester. Even in the valleys, I thank God His grace reigns there too.

We often study about the character of God - faithful, good, just, loving etc. It's one thing to read about it, but to experience it firsthand in our daily life is something that just cannot be taught. Just as Peter's life was forever changed by his declaration of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Matt 16:13-20), this revelation of God's character changed my life.



It was a lesson that I needed to learn and experience for myself for the journey ahead: that He who ordained this path, will sustain us through the challenges that may come our way. "Faithful to the End" was the theme of our Graduation - a reflection of our cohort's prayer that we would remain faithful to the end, even as we depart to our various ministries. Yet, it is also a reminder and a promise that God is and will remain faithful to the end. Even when we are faithless, He remains faithful. Thank God!

Hern Shung joined TMC as Lay Ministry Staff (Youth Ministry and Prayer) on 1 Jul 15.

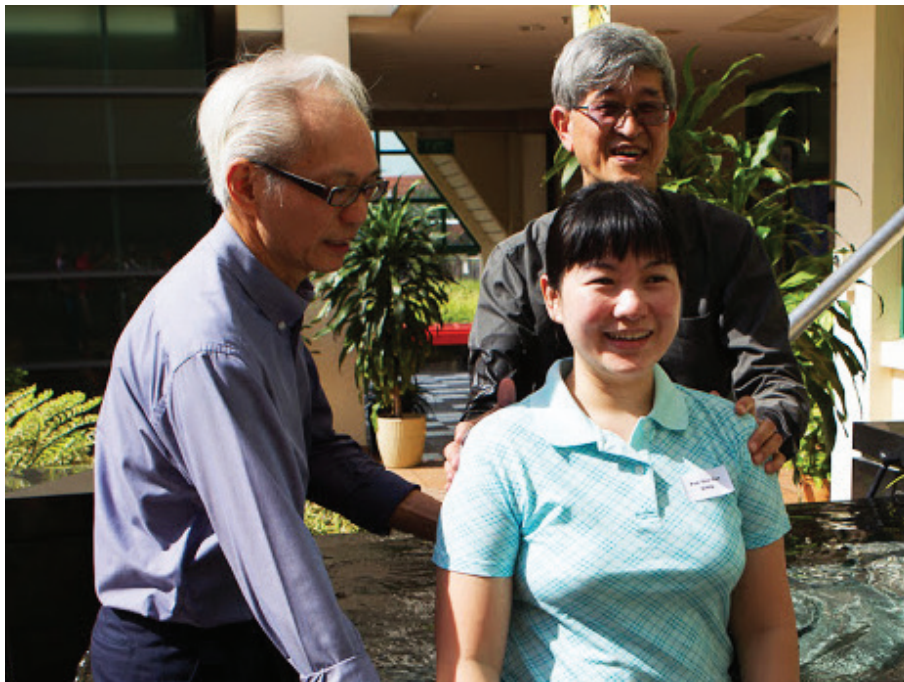
HOSPITALITY — EVERYONE'S MINISTRY

In this issue, the Saltshaker talks to Emily Poh.

This is the second of a series of articles featuring our new and not-so-new members. These stories provide a glimpse of how we, as a TMC family, reached out to these once-upon-a-time visitors and impacted their lives and decision to stay on to worship at TMC.



By Koh Shuwen



Emily getting baptised.



Emily (centre) with Leana (top right), Jayden (bottom left) and Rhys (bottom right)

Tell us a little about yourself.

I work as a Pharmacist in Mount Elizabeth Novena. My husband Gia and I moved back to Singapore from the UK in 2009 when my eldest son Jayden was 2 years old. We settled into life in Singapore with the conversion of my practice licence as well as with the move into our home in 2010. My work schedule is always busy as I work rotating shifts as well as keep up with on-the-job continuing education. Apart from work, my life mainly revolves around my two boys and home.

I had attended Catholic schools all my life as my mother wanted us to grow up grounded in Christian values. My mother used to bring us to Novena Church for their Christmas day mass but she never accepted it as her religion as my father is a Taoist and she deemed that it was not good for a married couple to have different religions. We were also never baptised because there was always the concern that if we were to accept another religion, we would abandon our ancestors' Taoist practices. My grandparents used to worry that if we turned to Christianity, they would not receive burnt offerings from us after they pass on. I have personally always wanted to be a Christian and bring my children up in the Christian

faith. My weekends had always consisted of outings to the shopping mall and my two sons lacked social interactions with other children because they do not have any cousins here. I worried about what values and life skills Jayden was picking up. I had been contemplating when and how I should start exploring the Christian faith. There are so many Christian denominations and I did not like to be overwhelmed on my first visit, as I preferred a more reserved environment. My new neighbours next door are an old couple and they shared that they were Methodist.

How did you first learn about Trinity Methodist Church?

One Sunday morning in November 2011, I decided to search online for a Methodist church near us and found TMC in Serangoon Gardens. My helper Jonalyn (she goes by Leana) got the children ready and Gia drove us to TMC for the 8.45am service. Jayden was five years old then and Rhys was 11 months old. I brought Rhys to the crèche and Jayden attended the Children's Ministry. I enjoyed listening to Pastor Dianna's sermon, which was different from those of other traditional churches I had attended and I wanted to come back to hear more. After service, Park Ming introduced me to you (Shuwen) and that was my first connection to, and understanding of

what went on at TMC.

What first struck you about TMC?

On my first visit, I did not feel overwhelmed by the people, unlike at other churches. I was given the space to get to know the people and activities in church, without feeling pressured to join the church. These first impressions of TMC made me feel comfortable.

What made you decide to worship regularly at TMC?

I came back to TMC every Sunday after my first visit whenever I did not have a Sunday work shift. My children enjoyed going to church as they made friends there. Even Leana socialised with other church members and attended the Christmas party for domestic helpers. I joined a cell group hosted by Dr Ang Poh Kit that meets every Tuesday and everyone has been helping to nurture me as a young believer of Christ. In February 2013, I decided to sign up for the baptism class and I was baptised in March 2013. My two sons were also baptised in TMC on Christmas day in December 2013. Gia has been supportive of our sons and I attending church and I pray that he will join us in church as well.



Becoming a Christian has changed my life. I have come to understand God's word better with the help of daily devotions, regular reading of the bible and through the study of the discipleship handbook. I find comfort in the Word of the Lord and try my best to live my life according to the Word. Armed with prayer, I am calmer nowadays when faced with challenges. Gia has even commented that he can see the changes in my life since I became a follower of Christ.

My family and I joined the church camp in 2013 where we got to know more people in church like Patricia Tan (Raphael's mother), Mr and Mrs Yip (Colette's grandparents) and many others. After meeting Patricia at the church camp, I decided to join her cell group, John 15:5 which consists main-

ly of parents with young children. We have similar concerns for our children's educational, social and spiritual well-being. Patricia has been a very encouraging and caring cell group leader. She always takes time to listen and pray for us. She taught us how important it is to pray for one another. We usually meet up at Sam and Yasmin's home where the kids will play with one another while the adults have their sharing and discipleship session, which always starts off with a good spread of food. We even went on a group trip to Malacca in 2013 where we built stronger bonds as a group.

How do you hope to grow at TMC as a disciple of Christ?

To me, TMC is like a big family congregation. Everyone works closely like a family and everyone is always willing to help each other out. It has been difficult to serve regularly given my current work schedule. I participate in events like singing in the choir for the Star of Christmas when I am available. Jayden also played the role of one of the three wise men. I hope to serve in church in the choir or as an usher and when my sons are older, I hope to conduct medical missions work.

What encouragement do you have for people who are contemplating baptism / membership?

For people who are contemplating baptism or membership, I want to encourage them that getting to know God is definitely a lifelong process and it will take time. I have never regretted coming to know God as I learn something new every day and I have started being able to apply those lessons in daily life. Getting baptised was a big step for me. Before my baptism, I was nervous and worried about how my parents would feel about it. I felt guilty that I did not tell my parents about my baptism as I was worried that they would not be able to accept it.

My mother found out when she saw the photos of my baptism. We did not speak about it openly but she has acknowledged that I have chosen to follow Christ and she has seen the changes in my attitude towards life. Nowadays I even see her sharing Proverbs 31 Ministries' photos and posts from Joel Osteen Ministries on her Facebook page. She is starting to see the light of Christ too! TMC is definitely my church family as I have gotten to connect with the TMC community over the past two years. I hope my children, and their children will worship together with me at TMC like the multi-generational families I see here.



李彩韵

孝亲晚宴

《水长流》、《往事只能回味》、《我有一个好家庭》……首首动人的怀旧金曲，于5月24日唱响大巴窑后备军人协会珍辉阁。这是华语崇拜阔别三年后再次举办的孝亲节晚宴。

晚宴上，主讲嘉宾张汉林牧师以长辈们耳熟能详的歌曲，串讲了他与家人信主的经历。从未信主时的彷徨无助，到信主后安然信靠、全然交托，张牧师深信引导家人认识耶稣是赠



手祷告。只见几只零星的手缓缓举起。尽管与期望的相距较远，但我们相信在主里所做的工，没有一点是徒然的；福音的种子已经种下，在适当的时刻必定发芽、生根，结出美好的果子来。“我们只要相信，把一切都完全的交托给神……我们必须忍耐、相信，还未认识基督耶稣的亲朋戚友们，将来有一天慢慢知道更多的真理，毕竟，罗马不是一天造成的。”（陈光娣姐妹，全文见下）



予他们最宝贵的礼物。而华语崇拜配合母亲节、父亲节举办的这个孝亲节晚宴，正是旨在将这份珍贵的礼物献给亲朋戚友。正如伍传道娘所说：“华人有句话说‘知恩图报’，

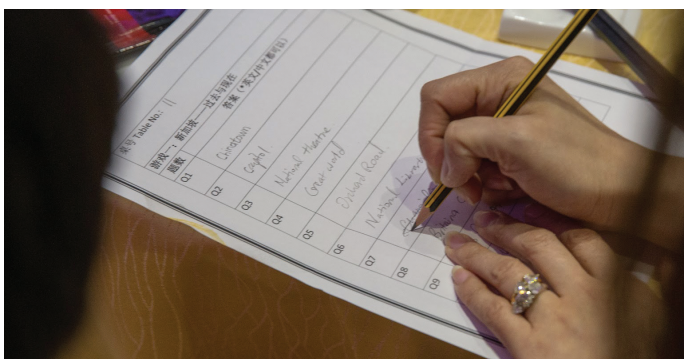
对我们有恩惠的人，带领他们信耶稣便是更完美的报恩方式。”（全文详见下文）

对于与会者而言，这确实是一个充满意义的晚上。一名

姐妹总结道：“这是一个充满主爱与温情的活动”（Eugenia Koh，经翻译，原文详见下文）。首次参与孝亲节晚宴的张雅慧姐妹则指出：“平常我不知如何和（朋友）分享福音。这一晚我很高兴可以借着张汉林牧师和圣灵来让她们听到主的福音。”除了与会者，这次孝亲节晚宴也将福音带进了餐馆，带给了所有在场的侍应生。感谢神，为我们开启了这扇福音的门。

在分享结束之际，张汉林牧师吁请愿意接受福音的慕道友举





这是我和老公第一次参加三一堂的孝亲节晚宴。我们来自外地。我们的家人也都不在新加坡，所以我们邀请了几位朋友来参加这晚宴。当中有一些是还未认识主的，也有一些是刚刚接受主的。

虽然当晚才刚听到福音的她们没决志信主，可是我相信这是一个好的开始，让她们来认识主。平常我不知如何和她们分享福音。这一晚我很高兴可以借着张汉林牧师和圣灵来让她们听到主的福音。希望这福音的种子是掉在好土里。将来会茁壮成长。

至于我们这些已经接受主的，我希望我们会继续在主里成长，跟随主，一生不偏离祂的道路。也愿我们可以继续为主在这地上做光做盐。阿门！

-- 张雅慧姐妹

“传道与我以双重的身份邀请家族中未认识耶稣的亲人参加24/5教会主办的孝亲晚宴。

感谢圣灵感动了我们所邀请的亲人当晚出席，当中有7位没听过福音；那晚每一位都很轻松

地享用美味佳肴和上帝所赐的灵粮。这比除夕的团圆饭更有意义。这是一个撒种的季节，接着就是让福音的种子继续在好土地生长，我们会为他们祷告，等候收割的日子。

华人有句话说‘知恩图报’，对我们有恩惠的人，带领他们信耶稣便是更完美的报恩方式。

使4:12a 除祂以外，别无拯救。”

-- 伍传道娘 曾淑芬姐妹

“感谢神，祂恩典与慈爱。等待，盼望的孝亲节，终于圆满落幕了。充满喜乐的晚宴，身为基督徒的我们都知道，这是一个神与人同在的宴席，上帝的慈爱，充满在信徒与非信徒的心中，一切是多么地温馨。悦耳的歌声，配合会众的掌声，使我们洋溢在喜乐中。愿祂与我们的默念为甘甜，我要因耶和華欢喜。（诗篇104:34）

当晚，虽然有牧师的歌声见证会，感觉还是少了一些推动力，也许将来，可以邀请会众上来分享见证与耶稣的爱，加添一点力量。记得当牧师问，

有谁愿意接受耶稣的请举手，我迫不及待，希望看见有很多只手举上来。可是并不多，感觉很失望，也许是属天的季节还未来到，相信上帝有祂美好的旨意，我们只要相信，把一切都完全的交托给神。我靠着那加给我力量的，凡事都能做。（腓4:13）我们必须忍耐、相信，还未认识基督耶稣的亲朋戚友们，将来，有一天慢慢知道更多的真理，毕竟，罗马不是一天造成的。

神是爱，我们应该愿意为主做工，但那其实是神的恩典，只要相信神的智慧，和祂的爱，不管觉得自己有多卑微，都应该找到神对你的呼召。

最后，我要感谢伍传道、梅利兄主席，所有筹备委员和工作人员，因为有您们的爱，彼此都以充满喜乐的心来服事，但是，最重要的是，我们要时时感谢神，因为有祂的同在，神的慈爱必彰显在我们当中。我们也要学习与基督耶稣联合的生命，时时合而为一，是上帝救恩里面的一个柱石，只有神是伟大的！赞美神！Hallelujah！我的心哪！要称颂耶和華。（诗104:35）”

--陈光娣姐妹

PARENTS' APPRECIATION NIGHT



By Li Cui Yun

"As the Water Flows", "Memories of the Past", "I have a Good Family". These were some of the Chinese oldies belted out at Toa Payoh SAFRA on 24 May 15 as the Mandarin Service held a Parents' Appreciation Night.

Interweaving familiar songs with his testimony, Pastor Henry Zhang shared with many senior guests his helplessness before he accepted Christ, and the peace that came over him as he surrendered his life to Christ. Pastor Henry firmly believes that leading one's family to Christ is the best gift that one can give them. Indeed, this is precisely why the Mandarin Service chose to hold this Parents' Appreciation Night between Mother's and Father's Day – to give the Gift of Christ to relatives and friends. As Re-

confessed that she did not know how to share the Gospel with her friends. She was thankful that her friends heard the Gospel that evening through Pastor Henry and the work of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel was also heard by the waiters in the restaurant that evening.

At the end of his testimony, Pastor Henry invited pre-believers to accept Christ. There were some of us who had hoped that there could have been more raised hands in acceptance, but we believe that that work is God's alone to do. Nothing was done in vain as the seed of the Gospel was sown. In God's always perfect timing, the seed will sprout, take root and bear fruit. As Sarah Tan put it: "We just need to be-



bekah Goh said: "The Chinese say: 'Repay kindness with kindness.' Leading someone to Christ is a far better way of showing gratitude for their kindness to us."

It was a meaningful night for the attendees. Eugenia Koh said: "The event was filled with warmth and the love of God." First-time attendee Audrey Chang

lieve and leave the rest to God. We need to be patient in our faith. Our pre-believing family and friends will know more of His truth in good time. After all, Rome was not built in a day."

"The Parents' Appreciation Night is an event that the parents of the youths staying at the Chen Su Lan home look forward to attending each year. It is a special treat for them to be hosted at an eight-course Chinese dinner. The event was filled with warmth and the love of God, and one of the parents at my table was really attentive to the songs and sharing by the preacher. I believe that the seed of faith and love was sown in her heart and that in time it will bear fruit."

- Chen Su Lan group leader, Eugenia Koh



"Personally, I thought the program was very well-run and the sharing by the singing pastor was very well-received by the audience, especially the old folks who could relate to the old songs. Although light-hearted, the pastor's testimony was clear and, judging from the expressions on the faces of the audience, I could see signs of a breakthrough."

- Brother Gan Gim Guan



ACEKIDZ @SG | A HOME AWAY FROM HOME



(All facts are correct at the time of printing.)

By August 2015, childcare centre AceKidz @ SG would have moved into the premises vacated by the former TMC Kindergarten (TMCK).

AceKidz has been providing quality childcare services in Singapore since 1998 with the purpose of creating a “home away from home” for young children with busy working parents. From its humble roots as a childcare centre in a quiet housing estate in Bukit Timah, AceKidz has evolved to provide quality care and education for children in other parts of Singapore.

AceKidz’s vision is a second home for children, where their growing needs are fulfilled in a safe, healthy, positive and creative environment, and where their childhood will be the happiest days of their lives. Its mission is to provide a creative environment, conducive for the optimal growth and healthy development of children. It is no surprise therefore that their programme stimulates a child’s

natural creativity and provides many opportunities for interaction in a warm and caring environment.

At AceKidz, a core education in English and Chinese literacy, numeracy, science and technology is provided. It also offers an enriching curriculum which encompasses Art and Craft, Music and Movement, Speech and Drama and technology-based learning and instruction. In addition to developing a child’s intellect, positive social and moral values are promoted. Each child is nurtured holistically to his full potential.

“We are constantly reminded by Proverbs 22:6: ‘Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.’ We strive to help plant the seed in a nurturing environment that will enable the seed to grow, and that the growth will be witnessed and treasured by the child’s family and loved ones,” says David Wong, founder and director of AceKidz, who worships with his family at Wesley Methodist Church.

Although many are sad to see TMCK close after a fulfilling 15 years, another chapter in the outreach efforts of TMC is opening at AceKidz @ SG. TMC is delighted to partner with an experienced childcare operator like AceKidz which is similarly committed to ensuring that the seed of the Gospel is sown in the young lives which skip in and out of 34 Serangoon Garden Way on weekdays and their parents too. In that sense, there will be no change to TMC’s outreach efforts to this age group, which can be honed even further with the administration and formal education of the children being entrusted to AceKidz.

Says Chew Kim Ling (Witness & Evangelism Committee Chairperson and Associate Lay Leader at TMC): We are thankful to God to have David, a fellow brother in Christ, supporting TMC’s continued desire to reach out to pre-school children and their families. We pray for TMC worshippers to have the heartbeat of God for the lost, take that one step to befriend and bless these families so that they may experience and yearn for the love of Jesus Christ too.”



34 Serangoon Garden Way, Singapore 555940
T: 6284 0894 / 9247 0611 | E: info@acekidz.com.sg |
www.acekidz.com.sg | Registration enquiries to
David Wong / 9489 2000 / davidwong@acekidz.sg

Half Day Care

7am to 1pm

\$700* discounted from \$800

Full Day Care

7am to 7pm

\$850* discounted from \$950

(*special rates for TMC members and existing TMCK who register and commence enrolment in the month of Aug 2015; the special rate will be then be applicable until Dec 2016. Prices before subsidies and GST.)

ACEKIDZ'S PHILOSOPHY

AceKidz offers a quality child care programme which will stimulate a child's natural creativity and at the same time provide an opportunity for healthy interaction with other children in a warm and caring environment.

which will furnish the building blocks for the healthy physical growth of the children. We actively promote a healthy lifestyle for our children and encourage them to adopt healthy habits and good hygiene practices.



Our dedicated staff, who are trained in the specialised field of early childhood education, will develop each child's cognitive, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative potential. Our curriculum aims to develop children to become life-long learners by helping them to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and dispositions through the following learning areas.

- Language and Literacy
- Numeracy
- Motor Skills Development
- Aesthetics and Creative Expression
- Discovery of the World
- Social and Emotional Development

We accommodate an individual pace of learning and development through our thematic and integrated programme. Our staff are committed to manage children with special needs with the assistance and intervention from external professional agencies where practicable.

We are committed to be a health-promoting school and provide a well-balanced nutritional programme,

Parent education seminars are also conducted to inform parents on the latest developments in early childhood education and enhance their parenting skills.

ACEKIDZ'S GOALS

- **A**ffective education: Inculcating good habits & social skills
- **C**reativity: Encouraging and stimulating
- **E**xperiential learning: Hands-on and interactive
- **K**indness: Making friends
- **I**ndependence: Positive & confident
- **D**evelopment: Physical, intellectual, emotional, social
- **Z**eal: For life

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Evening of Saturday
26 Sep '15 at Trinity
Methodist Church

Invite your friends and family to a delicious dinner. Bring your mooncakes to share. Children will enjoy a lantern walk.

Free of charge.
Look out for details
in the bulletin!
This event will be
held in Mandarin.

中秋节庆祝会
2015年9月26日
星期六傍晚
卫理公会三一堂

诚邀您的亲友同我们一起共享美味的晚餐。
带上您的月饼与众人同享。
儿童将提灯笼步行。

无需收费！

详情请参见次序单。

中秋節

EVENTS

Fri 31 Jul to Sun 2 Aug

Children's Ministry Retreat
Children's Ministry (incl crèche,
kindergarten and primary levels)
will be in recess on Sun 2 Aug

Sat 1 Aug 10.00am

Small Group Leaders' meeting
www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html

Sat 1, 22 Aug, 5, 19 Sept 3.00pm

Youth Avenue Youth Captains' Leadership
Development
www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123

Sun 2, 16, 23, 29 Aug, 6, 20, 27 Sept 1.00pm

Alpha Course
www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

Sat 8 Aug

Youth Avenue National Day Party
www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123

Sun 15 Aug 2.30pm

Ukulele Festival of Praise
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html

Sat 15 Aug, 5 Sept 9.00am

Small Group Leaders' Discipleship
Group

Wed 12, 19, 26 Aug, 2, 9 Sept 2.00pm

Precept upon Precept Bible Study on the
Letter to the Ephesians
www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup

Thurs 13, 20, 27 Aug, 3, 10 Sept 7.30pm

Precept upon Precept Bible Study on the
Letter to the Ephesians
www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup

Sat 22, 29 Aug 9.00am

Teaching Series "Empowering the 21st
Century Christian Woman for Victorious
Living" by Pastor Joshua Lye

Sun 13 Sept 10.00am

TMC 59th Church Anniversary (includes
Mandarin Service)
Children's and Youth Ministries will be in
recess

Sat 19 Sept 8.00am

Last Local Conference

9.00am

"Lead Like Jesus – Servant Leadership"
Training Seminar by Mr Luke Kuepfer
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html

Sat 26 Sept

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html

Every Sun (except 1st Sundays) 10.15am

Design for Discipleship
www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html

Every 2nd and 4th Sun (not on 13 Sept) 7.45am

Church Prayer Meeting
www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every 3rd Sun 10.00am

WSCSVisitation 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 peo-
ple 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

Every 3rd Wed 10.00am – 12.00pm

God's Masterworks: A Concerto in 39
Movements. A bible study of the Old
Testament. Currently on the Book of
Numbers.
www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#masterworks

Last Thurs of the month (except Sept when it will take place on 23 Sept) 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 Fri

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

Every 1st and 3rd Fri (not 7 Aug)

9.15 - 11.15am

Bible Study on Exodus
www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#exodus

Every Sat

9.30 – 11.30am

Fellowship of Ukulelians
www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele

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Lithographic Print House Pte Ltd

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