

Saltshaker

A Trinity Methodist Church Publication



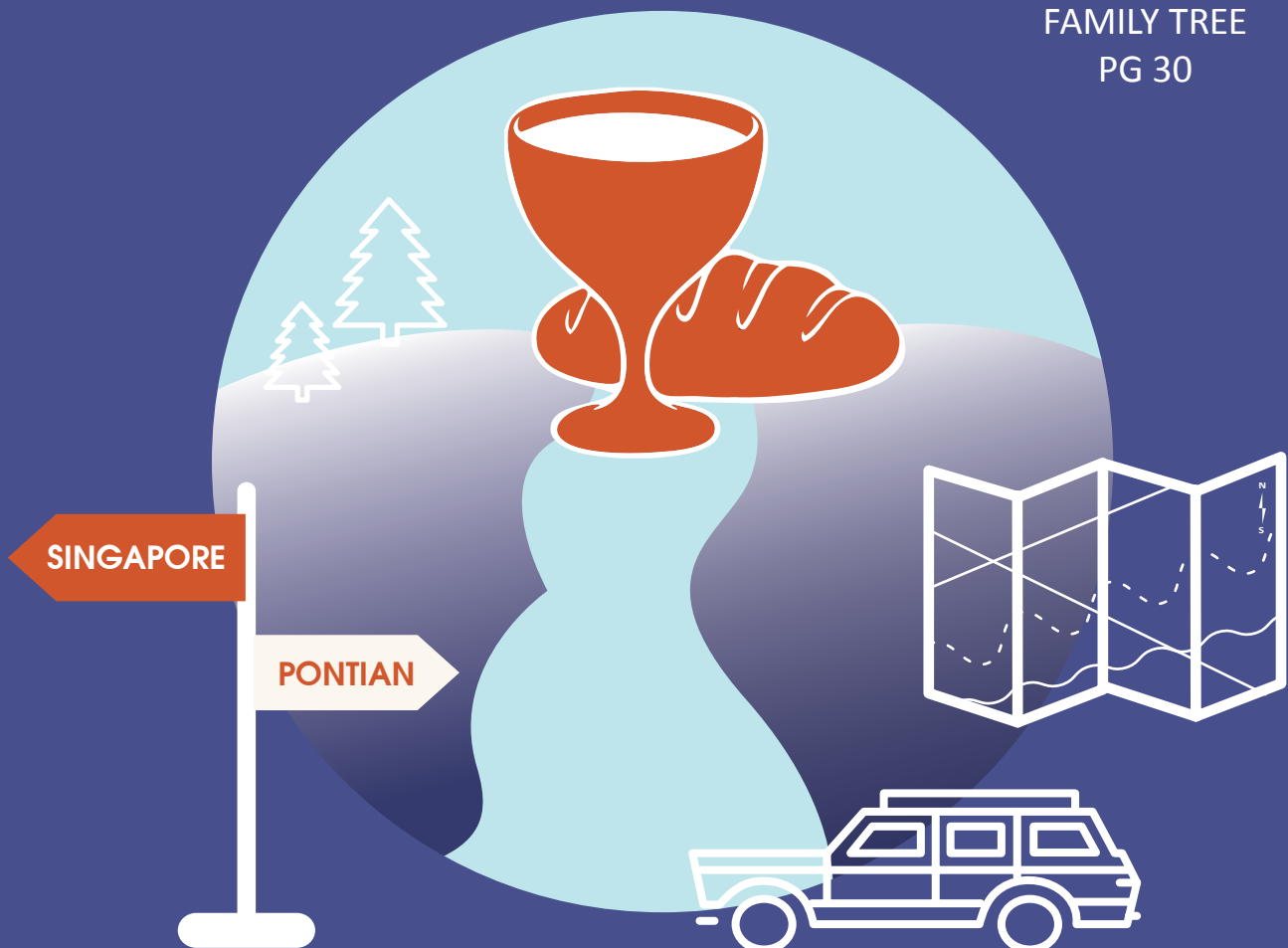
AUGUST 2016

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恩典之路 – 记华语崇拜笨珍短宣之旅

The Path of Grace

- Reaching Out in Pontian by the Mandarin Service

THE 60-MINUTE BLESSING

A FEW STEPS CLOSER TO CHRIST JESUS



李彩韵

Li Caiyun

“一步一步，这是恩典之路……”

2016年6月19日，伍传道带领着华语崇拜委员们前往笨珍展开筹备已久的短宣活动。这是三一堂华语崇拜成立十二年来首次主办、参与的短宣活动。笨珍是光嫻姐妹的故乡；借着她的分享，我们对这块土地及居住在这地的人们、他们的属灵状况等有了初步的了解。长期以来，笨珍一直是我们期望传福音的对象。直至去年年底，华委弟兄姐妹们前往笨珍开展退休会，对那地有了更直观的认识。今年二月中旬，大家在祷告中一致决定以那地为禾场，开始宣教工作。在数月的筹备过程中，圣灵加添我们传福音的负担，也让我们经历了上帝的供应与恩典。感动我们的灵，同样感动了华语崇拜中的弟兄姐妹，让他们借着恒切祷告与爱心的奉献托住我们。

在这次三天两夜的短宣活动中，于20日（周一）晚上举办的布道晚宴是主要项目。此前的一天半时间，大家在敬拜与祷告中，自洁、认罪，并寻求圣灵的浇灌与恩膏。我们也提名为20位受邀者不住祷告。以弗所书6：12告诫我们：“因我们并不是与属血气的争战，乃是与那些执的、掌权的、管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空属灵气的恶魔争战”。在传福音的这条路上，我们深知我们需要从神而来的智慧与能力。

晚宴上，虽然几位先前受邀的朋友临时有事无法前来，但因着其他受邀者携带亲友而座无虚席。在简单的介绍后，我们在各自的宴桌上与受邀者共进晚餐，并在谈话中试图拉近彼此间的关系。宴会中，Adalena姐妹与伍传道也通过见证与分享，将福音的信息带给受邀的嘉宾：Adalena姐妹从患病到得医治的经历，见证了神奇妙的作为，也彰显了神自己的真实与可信；伍传道则以演说的口吻，讲述了圣经中“浪子回头”的

故事，向嘉宾们提示神如父亲一般的怜悯与慈爱。虽然晚宴上尚未有人决志信主，但借着这次机会，我们得以更深地认识嘉宾们，为日后的福音工作铺垫。我们也满心感谢神预备人心，让所有参与的嘉宾都能敞开他们的心，来聆听这个好消息。甚至在宴会结束之际，一些嘉宾们仍津津有味地听着弟兄姐妹们的分享，舍不得离开。惟愿福音的种子深置在他们的心田，在神命定的日子叫它们发芽成长，开花结果。这次活动，也让我们深深地认识到神是何等地爱着这地的人们，坚固了我们传福音的信念。愿主使用我们与祂同工，将祂的爱传递出去。

21日（周二）中午，在返新之前，我们前往位于笨珍的玫瑰安老院探访光嫻姐妹的其中一位亲戚。虽然我们在那里待的时间不长，但我们也借机通过诗歌与祷告将神的祝福带给他们。赞美主，因着姐妹的分享，其中一位居住在安老院的老太太—郭冬粉（93岁）首次听闻福音，并欣然地接受主成为她个人的救主。这位老太太多年来祭拜人手所造的偶像，却始终得不到满足，心灵中的空虚，似乎等待的就是这一刻，让神来填补。能够见证神翻转人心的工作，我们确是何等有福！

这个短短的宣教之旅，大家同心合一竭力行出大使命。过程中，我们认识到自己的不足，却也充分体验到神的恩典满满，并从不离开。我们相信，这次旅程仅仅是一个开始，往后的路，我们期望神亲自地装备我们，让我们成为合祂心意的器皿、能供祂差遣的精兵。





委员们为着居住安老院的王秋花祝福祷告
Blessing and praying for Wang Qiuhua at the old folks' home.

刚决志信主的郭冬粉（93岁）老太太
Mdm Guo Dong Fen (93 years) at the moment of receiving Christ into her life.

“One step at a time on the path of grace”. Thus goes the song lyric of a well-known Chinese gospel song from a “Streams of Praise” album.

Spirit burdened our hearts more and more for this outreach work, and allowed us to experience God’s provision and grace. As the Spirit moved us, He also moved the congregation in the Mandarin Service to pray for us and shower us with love.

On 19 June this year, Eddie Goh (Lay Ministry Staff) led the Mandarin Service committee members on a short trip to Pontian, to evangelise to pre-believers there. This was the first overseas outreach activity by the Mandarin Service since its inauguration 12 years ago.

This outreach event took 3 days and 2 nights. Monday night’s dinner programme was the main event.

Pontian is the home town of Sister Guangchang. She was instrumental in helping us to familiarise ourselves with the lie of the land, its residents and their spiritual condition. We have, for a long while, set our sights on Pontian as a place to share God’s Word. Since the end of 2015, the Mandarin Service has had retreats in Pontian to make their own first-hand observations about the place.

In the lead up to Monday, we had spent one and a half days worshipping and praying, cleansing ourselves, and confessing our sins, pleading with the Spirit to pour out His blessings on us. We presented the names of 20 pre-believers to the Lord. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)

In February this year, we decided unanimously through prayer to begin evangelistic work in Pontian. During the months of preparation, the

Some of our pre-believing guests brought friends and relatives, making up for others who could not

attend. Our representatives were at every table trying to break the ice, and get to know our guests over dinner.

Sister Adalena and Eddie proclaimed the Good News with our guests through their testimonies and sharing.

Adalena told of how God healed her. She bore witness to God's miraculous ways, and illustrated how real and faithful God has been in her life.

Eddie narrated the story of the prodigal son in the Bible, and explained how God is like a Father to us in His mercy and kindness.

Although there were no decisions made for Christ that evening, we formed deeper relationships with our guests, paving the way to reach out to them more in future.

We were also full of gratitude to God for having prepared and opened the hearts of our guests to hear God's message of love. Even as the evening drew to a close, our guests remained to listen attentively and enthusiastically to the testimonies of various brothers and sisters-in-Christ.

May the seeds of the Gospel which have been sown in the hearts of our guests be rooted deeply, and bear fruit in His time.

This outreach event confirmed for us God's love

for the people of Pontian. It further strengthened our determination to continue to share the Gospel in Pontian. We pray that the Lord will allow us to work in partnership with Him to share His love with others.

On Tuesday afternoon, before we returned to Singapore, we visited Sister Guangchang's relative at an old folks' home in Pontian, Roseville Villa. We were not there long, but nevertheless seized the opportunity to bless the residents through gospel songs and prayers.

After one of our sisters shared about Christ, a 93-year-old resident – Mdm Guo Dong Fen – who was hearing the Gospel for the first time, accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. Mdm Guo had, for many years, worshipped idols without attaining any peace in her heart. It was as if she had been waiting for this moment all these years for Jesus to fill her empty heart. We were indeed blessed to witness the transformation work of God in Mdm Guo's life. Praise Him!

We worked together to carry out the Great Commission in this short outreach activity. In the process, we became acquainted with our inadequacies, yet we fully experienced God's abundant grace which never leaves us all. We believe that this event is merely a beginning. We pray for the Lord to equip us, to cause us to be vessels which fulfill His will, and to be the Christian soldiers ever ready to respond to His call.

The Boring 'Jesus' Film

**THE 60-MINUTE BLESSING
A FEW STEPS CLOSER TO CHRIST JESUS**



Eugenia Koh

I am here to share my BLESS testimony, and to testify of how we can share the love of God by just listening to our family and friends and eating with them.

God provided the opportunity for me to work with one of my colleagues who had a number of questions about the Christian faith. I tried to answer her questions while also sharing with her more

about God and the love relationship that Christians have with God.

I wanted to invite her to the screening of the Easter movie, "Risen", but because I was travelling quite a bit and had also procrastinated, the tickets were all sold out by the time I wanted to get them. I felt rather bad for being so disorganised and also felt I should have done more.

During the Easter week, it turned out that one of the workplace fellowship groups was screening a “Jesus” movie during Holy Week, and I was sent an invite. I felt that God was giving me a second chance to invite her. I extended the invitation to her; she was very open to coming along.

Honestly, it was the most dry and boring film I had watched, without much of a narrative but just the piecing together of chronological events of the Gospels without too much context. Or so I thought. I felt that it would have been rather baffling for pre-believers, and I was worried what my friend would think. To my surprise, she said it was really interesting. And that made her more interested in finding out more. Subsequently, she went to watch the Easter movie “Risen” on her own!

We continued our conversations and, as she was moving overseas for work, I thought perhaps I should ask if she wanted to accept Christ given her increasing receptiveness. Eventually, I didn’t ask her that question. I just asked if I could pray with her since she was heading into a new season at work. She was especially concerned about her new boss whom she wasn’t sure she could work well with. So we prayed and I left it at that. But I wondered at times if I should have been bolder in asking her if she wanted to receive Christ.

But God really encouraged me when she sent me a message recently which said:

I know this is an abrupt message but you are the first and perhaps the only one I want to share this with now. You are a blessing in my life! God has spoken to me or rather he has shown me what he can do. My boss has tendered [his resignation] overnight and I just received the news. His replacement is someone I already know in London and [I have] a good working relationship with [him]. I would have never expected this outcome. Your prayers for me to him were answered as I knew in my heart the great challenges to come with [my former boss] coupled with the relocation stress of settling down. I was looking at this video made from a church last night about ‘We eat with our loved ones and friends so that we may feast with them eternally.’ I think you would know what I’m trying to say. Thank you my friend.

I was really awed at how God worked. One thing that God taught me was that he really goes ahead of us when we act upon His prompting or the stirrings in our hearts. And even when sometimes we feel we may fall short in terms of our efforts, He will use the simple acts of obedience from us and multiply them. There will probably be many more people God brings into her life but I am glad to have been part of her journey so far.

I want to encourage all of you who are in the midst of sharing your faith or have been feeling a prompting - however slight - to do so. May God lead and guide as we take small steps to share our faith.

Eugenia first gave this testimony over the pulpit on Sunday 29 May 16.



中秋节外展活动

佈道组与妇女会共主办

2016年9月12日 (周一、公共假期)

时间：傍晚5.30-9.00pm ● 地点：三一堂

活动节目包括：

月饼制作 (活动前举行, 约下午3.00pm开始)

免费自助晚餐

歌唱比赛 - 可获嘉奖！

剥柚子皮游戏

品茶、共享月饼

简短的信息分享

限制150人参与。报名截止日期9月4日。

请向李美琴姐妹/9842 5221咨询详情。

BLESS

SOMEONE THIS MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

organised by Evangelism Cluster and the WSCS

Mon 12 Sep (Hari Raya Haji)

5.30pm-9.00pm ● TMC

Invite your pre-believing friends and family to:

Make mooncakes (from 3.00pm)

Enjoy a buffet dinner

Participate in a singing competition, win prizes

Compete in pomelo-peeling

Sample mooncakes and tea

Listen to a short sharing of the Gospel

Event is free and limited to 150 persons. Event will be conducted in Mandarin. Register by 4 Sept at the Mandarin Service booth on Sundays.

Queries to Carol Lie / 9842 5221 / liecarol@yahoo.com

Buy a brick of



in support of the **TMC** **Missions Fund**

Donations from this project will be given to the Methodist Missions Society in aid of the construction of Glory Trinity Methodist Church in Phnom Penh

Limited Edition of
Love, Joy, Hope Bricks
*signed by Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup
housed in a specially-created acrylic casing*

10 sets only
\$2,000 per set

The Glass Collection of
Love, Joy, Hope
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150 sets only
\$200 per set

Individual
Glass Bricks

500 pieces only
\$60 each

View the bricks in the Plaza from Sunday 24 July 2016 or
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#gtmc

Order from the GTMC counter on Sundays

STRUGGLE WELL

The TMC congregation sent Jia Eenn to Cambodia with their prayers in May. She has now returned to Singapore after completing part of her internship in Cambodia.



Tay Jia Eenn



I had many long dinners with the Cambodian pastors and spent hours listening to them share about their hearts for Cambodia and His people.

At one of those dinners, Pastor Chamnap of Glory Trinity Methodist Church (GTMC) shared on what it means to trust in God.

He spoke about how God has never once failed to provide for his needs, especially when there is much uncertainty and financial instability for pastors in Cambodia. A pastor's wage is typically lower than that of a factory worker or even a labourer, making it difficult for a pastor to provide for his family. This obscene lack of material stability in the pastoral ministry is made even more daunting by the high demands of pastoring a congregation in Cambodia. Pastors often have to quell armed conflicts between quarrelsome neighbours, or hear wives weep over

their runaway and/or abusive husbands, etc.

Despite all this, Pastor Chamnap beamed from ear to ear without any obvious waver of doubt when he said, "He is my provider and He sustains me".

During my time spent with the congregation of GTMC, I was blessed with the opportunity to observe their lives. I was encouraged by all that I have seen.

Some of the members live in slums. Yet, every Sunday morning, I would see these very individuals putting aside everything else to come to church to serve and tithe.

One such lady member shared that she had contemplated a lot on whether she should attend the church camp lasting two days and one night.

The opportunity cost was very high for her as it meant giving up two whole days of wages; this was crucial as she is the sole breadwinner of the family. Nevertheless, she signed up for the church camp with full confidence that if she honoured God, God would honour her too. She was rejuvenated by the Lord at the camp. She shared that, a few weeks later, the revenue which she earned from selling street food took an exceptional spike although it remained the same for other sellers. Moreover, her neighbours, whom she invited to the camp, also became more open to Christians and the idea of church.

In my quiet times with God, I always come away with a message of contentment or an encouragement to have confidence in His provision. But I think a more applicable lesson to learn from my experience in Cambodia is the message of struggling well.

Our personal struggles may differ from others. The Cambodians struggle to meet their basic needs. We,

in Singapore, may work hard but not be recognised in the marketplace. As students, we may toil in our studies without significant success. Some of us may struggle to be a light in a pre-believing family.

GTMC showed me that it is possible to walk with God throughout our struggles, difficult though they might be. There can be meaningful purpose whilst we struggle – the purpose of glorifying God. The Cambodian lady who works hard daily to provide for her family is an example; she honoured God by giving Him her firstfruits.

Perhaps, glorifying God in and with our struggles is what matters most – allowing Him to work in our innermost being instead of keeping Him out and drawing a distance from Him; bringing others closer to Christ and growing more in His likeness in spite of our worldly exertions.

Struggle well, everyone.

[To the family who took me in as if I were their own, or-koon (Khmer for “thank you”)]



Jia Eenn with Ps Chamnap and his family.



“Paul said to his Ephesian readers, discouraged because of his imprisonment, “My suffering is for your glory.” Why? Because that is how it works. Suffering and glory are closely linked. Suffering glorifies God to the universe and eventually even achieves a glory for us. And do you know why suffering and glory are so tied to each other? It is because of Jesus. Philippians 2 tells us Jesus laid aside his glory. Why? Charles Wesley’s famous Christmas carol tells you.

*Mild he lays his glory by,
born that men no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.”*

Timothy Keller, “Walking with God through Pain and Suffering”

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES — SERVICE —



Kwa Kiem Kiok



The spiritual discipline of service encourages us to go out to serve others cheerfully, regularly and without seeking reward.

Such service draws inspiration from our Lord Jesus who, on the night he was to be betrayed and give his life for the sin of the world, first took off his outer robe, took a towel and washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-17). "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you," Jesus said.

For introverts like me, such service is hard because it is against my natural inclinations.

In *Invitation to a Journey* (IVP, 1993), Robert Mulholland Jr., recommends that Christians actually do some ministries and acts which are against our natural inclinations because in that way we can grow holistically. Therefore, I should intentionally do acts of service, so that I can become more like Christ through the power of the Spirit working in and through me; and so that my hands and feet can be strengthened.

This teaching goes against some popular practices of working mainly in our areas of strength. If I only did that, I would be a lopsided Christian who spends too much time on her own. So the first lesson about service is that we should take steps to do that which is against our natural preferences so that we can grow.

John Wesley said "One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And since he is invisible to our

eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbour, which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us."

For Methodists then, our acts of service are the way we show our love and service to God and for Him. Wesley also said "all works of mercy, whether they relate to the bodies or souls of men; such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, entertaining the stranger, visiting those that are in prison, or sick, or variously afflicted... or contribute in any manner to the saving of souls from death. This is the repentance, and these the fruits meet for repentance, which are necessary to full sanctification." This is an important Methodist teaching, that acts of service are worthwhile in themselves.

Thus, service is not an option, something we do when we have spare time, or when we retire. Rather, service is the way we show our love for God and the way we show that we are on the road of repentance and sanctification, that is growing in our discipleship and becoming more mature believers.

When Jesus bent down to wash the feet of his disciples, he did an act which was usually neither acknowledged nor appreciated. Like road sweepers and cleaners today.

Some time ago I learned this lesson. I was helping out in a ministry from behind the scenes, and only one or two people knew what I was doing. I felt quite good about myself and perhaps a little self-righteous.

When the time came for those

in the ministry to thank those who were involved, my participation went, of course, unacknowledged. Moreover, someone else was credited with what I had done. I was surprised at how hurt and upset I was. I had that very human tendency to want acknowledgement and praise for my service and contribution.

The second lesson about service is that we need to be realistic about ourselves and our expectations and to check our motives for service. I think it is not wrong to want to be acknowledged for our service; yet at the same time, service means denying ourselves.

Acts of service as a spiritual discipline is another path towards maturity, of disciples making disciples.

Rev Paul Nga will have preached five sermons on spiritual disciplines by the end of this year. Sabbath-Sacrifice, Solitude- Simplicity, Sojourners-Stewardship-Service.

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

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

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

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

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



“他对我说、我的恩典够你用的。因为我的能力、是在人的软弱上显得完全。所以我更喜欢夸自己的软弱、好叫基督的能力覆庇我。”

[哥林多后书 12:9]



李玲宇
Isabel Lee

我要与大家一起分享神的医治，也将荣耀、权柄、能力都归于我们这位又真又活的神。

2015年12月，神的圣灵一直催迫我，提醒我去作身体检查，甚至在半夜提醒的声音也会一次次，一遍遍地重复。5月底，我到医院抽血作全身检查；7月初从报告中和医生的口中得知我的卵巢有问题。正常的水平是11，而我的卵巢的癌数字是19.6。医生说为了防止扩散必须尽早切除。当下我的脑袋一片空白，也感到非常的害怕，流下了无助的眼泪，我无法决定是否要动手术。

一个星期后，医生的助理又提醒我要尽快作决定。我不想切除任何一个卵巢，所以一直延后了三个月。在这段艰难的日子里，我的心情起伏不定，感到十分失落和无助。感谢神提醒我与祂的爱关系，我迫切地恳求神来搭救、医治。我把自己完全地交托在神的圣手中。求主按着祂的美意带领我。“耶和华要保护你、免受一切的灾害。他要保护你的性命。你出你入、耶和华要保护你、从今时直到永远。”[诗121:7-8]

外子要到吉隆坡去公干。他想带我同行，我也想散散心就同去。在那里的海边小住，在那几天我与神独处，一直不断地祈求，“神啊！祢所创造的一切都那么美好，各从其类，飞鸟在空中飞翔也造了自己的巢，天父啊！祢造我也有祢的

美意。求祢完全医治我吧！“耶和华阿、求你听我的祷告、留心听我的恳求、凭你的信实和公义应允我。”[诗143:1]

在吉隆坡有机会见到浸信会的陈丽芳传道，她鼓励我交托这位信实的神。神垂听祷告中必能医治。教会的一对夫妇也介绍了一种保健品。在这时刻我强烈地知道这是神安排的医治。

我们的神是造天地和万物的创造主，我们的一生祂也作了周全的安排。祂更清楚我们每一个人的需要。祂是一位伟大又能行奇事的神。

三个月后，我带着满满的信心去做一次的验血。感谢主！我的报告是健康良好的。医生证实我不需要动手术。我反问医生你是基督徒吗？我得医治是我所信的又真又活的神医治了我，我们要相信祂。再次赞美荣耀我们三位一体的神。“白昼耶和华必向我施慈爱。黑夜我要歌颂祷告赐我生命的神。”[诗42:8]

各位弟兄姐妹，我的领悟是：无论顺境或逆境，我们都要完全信靠这位真神。凡向祂诚心祷告、完全交托，祂必完全显现祂对我们的爱和怜悯。

荣耀归于我们的神。阿门！

*"He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."
(2 Cor 12:9)*

I would like to share my testimony about the Lord's healing. I ascribe all glory, honour and power to our living God.

In December 2014, I was urged by the Holy Spirit to undergo a medical check-up. This prompting repeated itself several times, even in the dead of the night. In May 2015, I finally attended at a hospital for a medical check-up. Lo and behold, in July, I learned that I had ovarian cancer. Whereas the normal marker was 11, my cancer marker was 19.6. The doctor advised me to have my ovaries removed to prevent the cancer from spreading.

My mind went blank at the time. I was extremely afraid. Torrents of tears later, I still could not decide whether to go through the operation.

A week after the diagnosis, the doctor's assistant reminded me to make a decision quickly. I did not want to remove my ovaries and so I delayed my decision for 3 months. In this difficult period, my moods fluctuated, and I felt extremely depressed and helpless.

The Lord reminded me that He loves me, and I pleaded with Him for help and healing. I surrendered myself entirely into His holy hands, and begged that He would guide me according to His purpose. *"The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."* (Ps 121:7-8)

My husband then had to go to Kuala Lumpur on business and wanted me to accompany him. I too felt that I needed a holiday so I went along. I managed to spend a few days alone at a seaside resort. During those days, I prayed ceaselessly, "Lord! You made everything good. You made all kinds of animals. The birds in the air make their own nests. Heavenly Father, You had a purpose when You created me. Please heal me of my illness!" *"Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief."* (Ps 143:1)

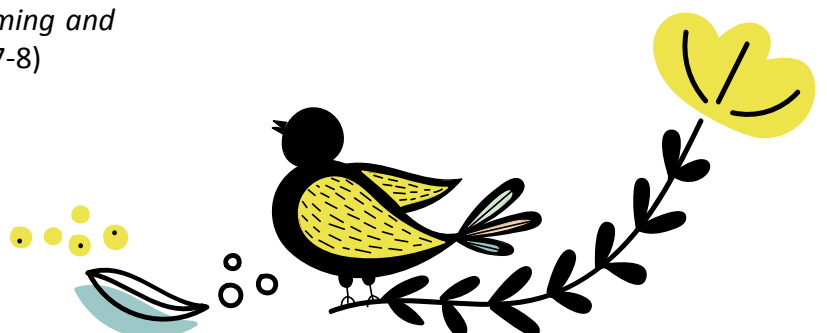
In Kuala Lumpur, I had the opportunity of meeting Pastor Chen Li Fang, a Baptist. She encouraged me to surrender to our faithful God. She said that the Lord can heal when we pray to Him. I also got to know a couple in that church who recommended to me some health products. I strongly felt that the Lord had engineered these meetings, and that He would heal me.

Our God is a Creator, and He has made detailed plans for each of our lives. He knows our needs best. He is a mighty God, able to perform miracles.

Three months later, I went for a blood test with full confidence. Thanks be to God that the report showed that I was in the pink of health. The doctor confirmed that I did not need an operation. I asked the doctor if he was a Christian. I told him that I was healed because the true and living God healed me, and we must all believe in Him.

We need to trust our true God, in good times and in bad. He is bound to show love and mercy towards those who pray and surrender to Him with their whole hearts.

I give praise and glory to God, the Father, Son and Spirit. *"By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life."* (Ps 42:8) Glory be to God, amen!



WE BRUSHED HER TEETH

AGAIN



Tricia Tong

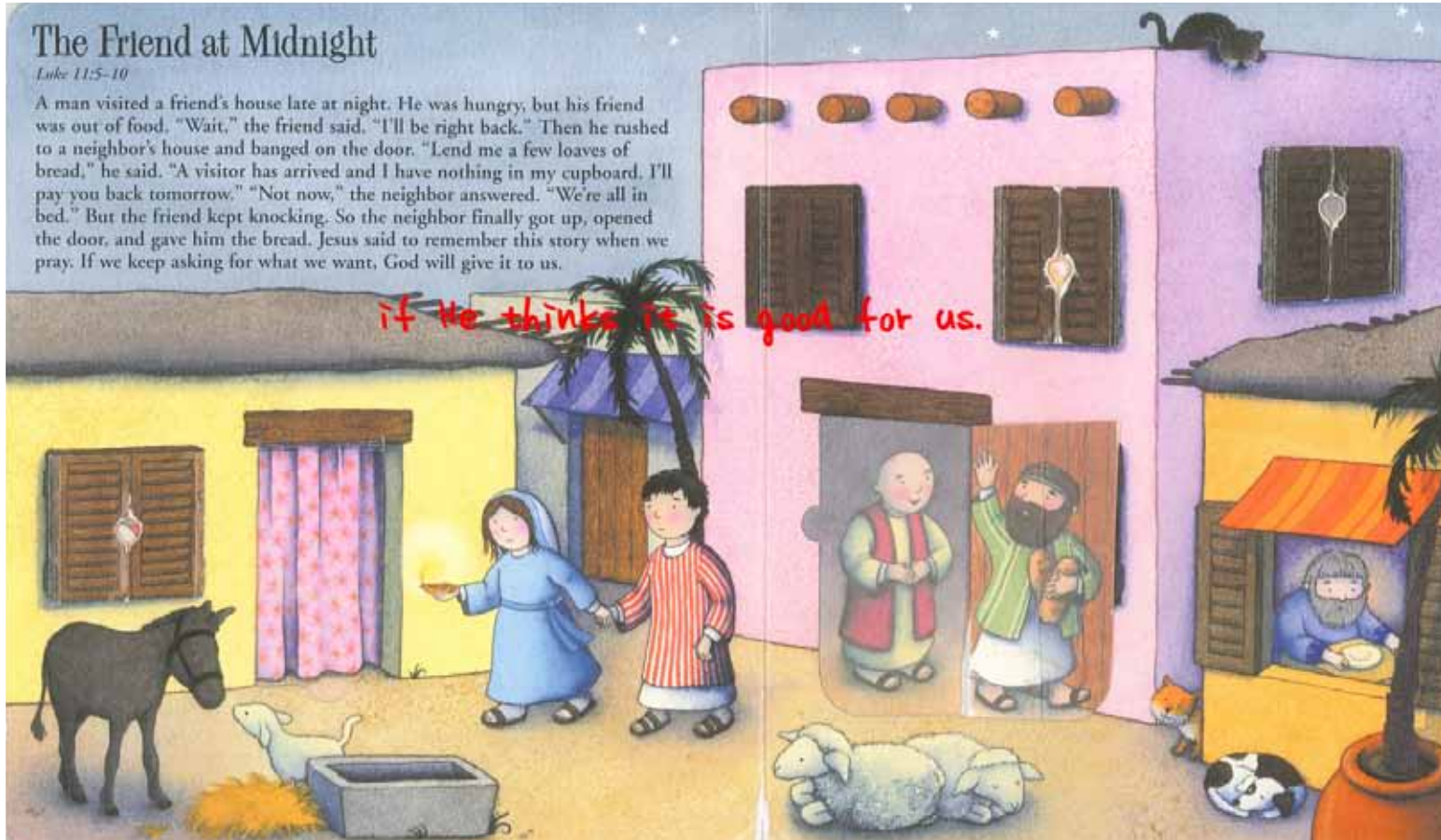
This column is about the things that little people can teach us about our relationship with God.

The Friend at Midnight

Luke 11:5-10

A man visited a friend's house late at night. He was hungry, but his friend was out of food. "Wait," the friend said. "I'll be right back." Then he rushed to a neighbor's house and banged on the door. "Lend me a few loaves of bread," he said. "A visitor has arrived and I have nothing in my cupboard. I'll pay you back tomorrow." "Not now," the neighbor answered. "We're all in bed." But the friend kept knocking. So the neighbor finally got up, opened the door, and gave him the bread. Jesus said to remember this story when we pray. If we keep asking for what we want, God will give it to us.

if He thinks it is good for us.



Vicky has a book titled "Stories Jesus Told".

One of the stories is "The Friend at Midnight". In less than 15 sentences, it tells the story of the man who knocks on his neighbour's door to beg for bread because of an unexpected visitor (Luke 11:5-10). It ends with, "If

we keep asking for what we want, God will give it to us."

When I read that sentence for the first time, I trailed to a stop. That can't be right, I thought to myself.

Meanwhile, one night, after Vicky had had a heavier dinner than usual, I thought she might not have any capacity left for her

usual cup of milk before bedtime. When bedtime approached, I asked her if she wanted her milk, as is our bedtime ritual.

She said, "No," so off we went happily to have her teeth brushed and pyjamas changed.

The moment I put her in her bed, she perked up and announced, "I want to drink milk."

Now, Mama had had a tiring day. All I wanted was for her to go to sleep so that I could have that shower I had been waiting for for hours. We would have to leave the room, make a cup of milk, wait several minutes for the milk to be drunk, and then brush her teeth again (and the tooth-brushing exercise is not the 3-minute adult version).

Suddenly, I was that friend who had been asked to get up to give three loaves of bread to his neighbour. I started to do the futile with a two-year-old. I started to negotiate.

"Vicky, you said you didn't want any milk. That's why we brushed your teeth."

"I want to drink milk."

"Vicky, you had such a big dinner. Look at the size of your tummy. You don't need milk."

"I want to drink milk."

"Vicky, just lie down and listen to your 'Jesus Loves Me' CD."

"I want to drink milk. I want to drink milk! I want to drink milk!!"

Here was persistence! That same persistence that made the friend who had 3 loaves of bread get out of his bed, waking his household in the process, to give them to his neighbour.

That same persistence in prayer that Jesus encouraged us to have in asking, seeking and knocking on God's door.

But was that toddler book right that "if we keep asking for what we want. God will give it to us"?

Now, if Vicky had said "I want to eat candy floss," that would have been the end of the matter, even if she had persisted in saying it a hundred times with tears as an accessory. But milk?

Milk. Full of calcium, lutein, DHA and whatever else written outside those tins. Drunk since a baby is born, whether from mother or formula. Never mind that the books tell you that when your child is already on solids, milk is merely a beverage. To most parents, it's still a staple for a two-year-old.



"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk 11:11-13)

The reference to the Holy Spirit in v.13 shows that God's promise is that petitions for our spiritual

welfare will be heard – things essential and needful for us like fish, eggs and milk, not things that will harm us like snakes, scorpions and candy floss.

The IVP New Testament Commentary Series says, "As disciples bring their spiritual requests to the Father, they know that he is ready to help them. He longs to work in them and supply the Spirit for their needs.

Like a father who feeds his child, so the Father will supply his disciples with the Spirit they need to be guided in their spiritual life. At the foundation of all discipleship is trust in the Father's goodness. He loves to provide for all our spiritual needs."

Asking, knocking and seeking persistently about whatever we want does not result in God's blank cheque to us.

If we, as parents, who are weak sinners (though saved), know how to keep our child from harm by not giving in to requests for venomous reptiles and arachnids, we should begin to understand why God, our Heavenly Father, does not grant the requests that He knows will hurt us.

This is our God, whose love is vast as the ocean, whose understanding has no limit.

So now, at the end of the story about "The Friend at Midnight", I read, "If we keep asking for what we want, God will give it to us if he thinks it's good for us." 🙏

IN AND AB

FAMILY DAY



OUT TMC



IN AND AB

FAMILY DAY



OUT TMC

YOUTH SUNDAY



The Fourth Decade

1987-1996

Taken from the archives for the 40th Anniversary, and past minutes of the LCEC meetings

1987

Theme: Renewed in Worship, Enabled in Service

Theme Scripture: Romans 12:1-16

Theme Song: The Body Song

Rostering of befrienders/greeters to look after visitors on Sundays to informally welcome them-to: our services.

A Membership Church Attendance / Database Survey was carried out. The Membership Directory was updated and sent to all members.

Senior Department of Sunday School provided manpower for outreach project in Serangoon North Estate.

Arthur Yeo answered the call for full-time ministry at Campus Crusade in 1987.

New Sunday School teachers were required to assist a class for one year, and were recognised as assistant teacher. They had to be of a minimum age of 17 years. All had to attend training courses.

7 JANUARY 1987

The Nursery got off the ground with an enrolment of 30 children, 1 supervisor, 1 teacher, and 1 full-time teacher/helper from the church. This number steadily grew to 53 children, 1 supervisor, and 3 full-time teachers by Sept 1987.

MARCH 1987

5 patients from Woodbridge Hospital and Pelangi Home were baptised in TMC

JUNE 1987

Evangelism Committee spearheaded participation in the Reinhard Bonnke Mission with 15 intercessors, 12 counsellors and 14 ushers.

JULY 1987

Ms Joyce Chew began studies at Trinity Theological College.

The Methodist Adults' Fellowship was discontinued, after 8 years of programs catering to adults.



MAF Gathering

13 SEPTEMBER 1987

TMC celebrated its anniversary with a lunch at Cathay restaurant instead of the traditional dinner in church premises.

19 DECEMBER 1987

Personal evangelism was carried out to share the Christ of Christmas in Orchard Road.

END 1987

Care Partner program was started to provide information feedback on attendance, needs, visitation etc. of individual members.



1988

19 JANUARY 1988

Theme: "Together we'll become that perfect whole"

Theme Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27
emphasising that we all become involved in the life and service of the church.

2 MAY 1988

First ever Church Clean Up Day.
More than 70 people participated.



Church Clean Up Day

6 MAY 1988

Care Partner Programme began.
As our church grew, members began to feel distanced. To forge a closer link between member and church, every member was assigned a care partner of about the same age. There was a list of 53 care partners, some of whom were couples, caring for the whole church.



Care Partner Party Family Day (1989)

4-6 JUNE 1988

WSCS organised the 1st Church Family Retreat led by Mr and Mrs Chan Chong Hiok at Ming Court Beach Hotel, Port Dickson.
45 people attended.
Theme: Togetherness in Christ.



Care Partner Party Family Day (1989)

17 JULY 1988

Dedication of the Trinity Education Centre (TEC) by Bishop Ho Chee Sin



SEPTEMBER 1988

After Small Group Training, at least 3 small groups were started - WSCS, Bridport and Namly.

Evangelistic Project "Andre Kole Outreach" at the Victoria Concert Hall was a success.

Gabriel Liew joined the Bachelor of Divinity programme at Trinity Theological College.

11 SEPTEMBER 1988

Anniversary lunch was held at Cathay Building.



Durians - always a favourite at church camps

1989

Church Theme: Growing Out

The Missions Policy was approved

7 JANUARY 1989

Evangelism Committee participated in the Tony Campolo rally at Kallang Theatre.

1 MAY 1989

Church Clean Up Day.

JULY 1989

Our church newsletter was revamped and renamed "The Saltshaker".



28-29 JULY 1989

TMC musical "Friends Forever" was held at SLF Auditorium with crowds of about 1,200-1,500 in attendance.



1 AUGUST 1989

Appointment of Assistant Pastor Philip Lim to TMC.

20 AUGUST 1989

"Love and Kindness II" Concert at TMC was presented by Social Concerns Committee for the residents of Woodbridge Hospital and Pelangi Home.

DECEMBER 1989

Air-conditioning of the sanctuary was completed and altar area extended.

1990

Theme: Growing Into

Theme Scripture: Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3, with the emphasis on continuous Christian growth into maturity or wholeness by undertaking a persevering journey of growing into Christ.

Lichfield Road was converted into a one-way street.

16 JANUARY 1990

Electric organ for the Sanctuary was purchased for \$33,000.

14-17 MARCH 1990

Family Camp held at Air Keroh Country Resort, Melaka, with 44 persons in attendance.



Rev Melvin Huang on guitar at the Family Camp

24 MARCH 1990

Registration of Kindergarten with Ministry of Education. TMC Kindergarten Committee was set up.

JUNE 1990

Youth Camp held at NUS hostel grounds. Commitment for 2 tutorial rooms costing \$64,000 made towards the Trinity Theological College (TTC) Building Fund. Kevin Lowe was accepted as a student at TTC.

END JUNE 1990

Extension work was completed on Resource Centre.

APRIL - AUGUST 1990

"Manila 2000 Outreach" project under Campus Crusade for Christ with mission trip involving 13 TMC members.

1991

1991 - 1993 Overall Theme: Renewing Our Vision

Theme: Marching On With Hearts Courageous

Drama and Music Fellowship (DMF) was started.

3 of TMC's missionaries joined Campus Crusade for Christ (Christopher Ow, Amos Ang and Adeline Chua).

The new United Methodist Hymnal was used.

3-10 JUNE 1991

Gabriel Liew was sponsored to participate in a field trip to Taiwan, with representatives from 5 other TRAC churches. His profound experience led him to suggest that TMC might begin to pray about starting a Mandarin Service for the working class living in the Serangoon area in 2 years' time.

9 JUNE 1991

The Resource Centre was burgled. Cash and a Hitachi double-deck mini compo set were missing.

On 19 Jun, a police inspector came to report that a man had been caught breaking into another church, and had confessed to stealing our Resource Centre items

29 JUNE 1991

An evangelistic Praise Night with children of the Sunday School intermediate department participating. Songs and 2 testimonies from Ivan Goh and Yip Lai Cheng were delivered. The speaker was Chan Chong Hiok.

8 SEPTEMBER 1991

Combined anniversary service was held at the Victoria Concert Hall.

13 OCTOBER 1991

Rescheduling of morning services to 7.30am, 9.00am and 11.00am, together with the 5.00pm Prayer and Praise.

19 NOVEMBER 1991

We published our new service times in the Straits Times at the cost of \$300 for 5 Saturdays.

21 NOVEMBER 1991

Ordination of Assistant Pastor, Reverend Philip Lim, as Deacon.



Richard Seng and Joy Chia in the DMF



Richard Seng and Amy Cheong in the DMF



Church anniversary service

10 DECEMBER 1991

30 carollers from the 9.00am service choir sang at the Orchard Road Sharity Box.

24 DECEMBER 1991

Carolling by the 9.00am service choir to members' homes.

Theme: Lord Achieve Your Holy Purpose.

Visitors' Package now presented to all newcomers.

JANUARY 1992

Church School extended its ministry by setting up 9.00am Church School on top of the existing 11.00am Sunday School.

16 MAY 1992

Gabriel Liew graduated from TTC and was appointed to serve as an Assistant Pastor in Wesley Methodist Church.

JUNE 1992

6 MYFers went on a 2-week mission trip to Sarawak.

11 JUNE 1992

Car rally was held with over 20 cars participating.

11-15 JUNE 1992

Church Family Camp held at Coral Beach Resort at Kuantan with 90 participants.

27 JUNE 1992

Praise Night was well attended by over 200 people. Theme: "We Declare The Lord Reigns" led by the band, Drama & Music Fellowship and the 9.00am service choir.

1 AUGUST 1992

Reverend Philip Lim was appointed Assistant Pastor to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church and Pastor Kow Shih Ming was appointed as Assistant Pastor to TMC.

17 NOVEMBER 1992

Toilets and kitchen in the basement of the Sanctuary were demolished, and discussions commenced to convert the area into a child care room.

13 DECEMBER 1992

National Service enlistees were commissioned at the 9.00am service after going through pre- National Service Camp.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1992

Vacation Bible School was held for 35 Kindergarten and 30 Sunday school students.

Theme: Trusting, Ministering, Caring.

Theme Song: My One Aspiration

14 FEBRUARY 1993

Services began for Institute of Mental Health residents in Hiding Place, after St Luke's Chapel in Woodbridge Hospital was demolished. (Woodbridge Ministry was founded by Andrew Lee who went single-handedly to the wards to preach the Good News to the patients. The Anglican church owned a piece of land on which St Luke's Chapel was built. The use was extended to TMC for services on 2 and 4th Sundays. In 1992, the Government acquired the land on which chapel was built.)

16 FEBRUARY 1993

Amos Ang and Tricia Yeo went on missions trips to Bulgaria.

11 APRIL 1993

Due to poor attendance, the 5.00pm prayer and praise service was closed.

23-24 MAY 1993

Small Group Seminar by Reverend John Mallison was conducted. Kum Yan and Grace Methodist Churches joined TMC and all benefitted greatly. There were about 130 participants.

3-6 JUNE 1993

60 participants attended a Youth Camp at Sentosa (Scripture Union campsite). Theme: My One Aspiration; Theme Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14

9-10 JULY 1993

Acts of Praise (Schemes, Lies and Video Screwtapes Exposed) held at SLF Auditorium was attended by approximately 1,000 people. It was a reminder of the constant battle Christians face with the devil, the spiritual warfare in and around us. Mr Chan Chong Hiok delivered the messages and over 100 persons (re-) committed themselves to Jesus.



Chong Kim Soon being made up



Dancing angels



The angels bearing down on the devils in Schemes, Lies and Video Screwtapes Exposed

END AUGUST 1993

Sanctuary roof was replaced at a cost of about \$50,000. The porch was also repaired.

12 SEPTEMBER 1993

Combined anniversary service was held at Singapore Conference Hall followed by lunch at Miramar Hotel.

9 OCTOBER 1993

WSCS Spiritual Retreat "A Day Apart".

4 DECEMBER 1993

WSCS carolling to the sick and shut-ins.

9-12, 16-19 DECEMBER 1993

TRAC Christmas Media Campaign saw TRAC block-booking 7 major shopping malls for the TRAC churches' carolers to spread the message of God's love at Christmas - NorthPoint, CentrePoint, Parkway Parade, Lucky Plaza, Shaw House, Scotts Centre and Takashimaya. TRAC published a 32-page booklet called "The Christmas Magazine" with the message of Christmas in both English and Mandarin. 3 carolling teams from TMC sang at Shaw House and greeters distributed the magazines.



(L-R) Seraphine Chia, Winston Low (partly hidden), Lynn Ho, Colin Yip, Amy Cheong, Richard Seng, Sean Say - TRAC Christmas Media Campaign



TMC's 9am service choir at the TRAC Christmas Media Campaign

Theme: One Voice, Touching Many Hearts and Lives

Theme Song: One Voice

Launching of Adult and Family Life Ministry (AFLM) under Dr Hum Sin Hoon.

APRIL & AUGUST 1994

Caring Evangelism Courses were held.

27 APRIL - 4 MAY 1994

First overseas mission trip to Cambodia led by Assistant Pastor Kow Shih Ming.



Accommodation on the 1st mission trip to Cambodia



Claire Lowe at Solomon Church in Cambodia



(Standing) Jane Lim (1st from left), Claire Lowe (4th from left) and Mrs Kow Shih Ming (5th from left) with other ladies who assisted Norman and Fi Teece in their ministry to street kids

8-12 JUNE 1994

Family Camp cum Retreat at Genting View Resort. 120 people attended.

22 JUNE - 2 JULY 1994

Exploratory mission trip to Thailand led by Assistant Pastor Kow Shih Ming.

JULY 1994

Local preacher Chia Boon Beng started Masters of Divinity course at TTC

11 SEPTEMBER 1994

Anniversary services at 8.00am and 10.00am.

There was no anniversary lunch organised. Instead, attention was focused on the Rwandan crisis. Over \$12,000 in anniversary offerings was taken during the Anniversary Service, and donated to World Vision for the Rwandan refugees.

27 SEPTEMBER 1994

The Missions Committee felt that Cambodia had opened its doors to missionaries whereas Thailand had received missionaries for decades. The general feeling amongst mission trippers was that there was a greater need in Cambodia. The Local Conference agreed to adopt the Khmers as unreached people group

NOVEMBER 1994

Missions Training Course was conducted to prepare members for mission trips to Thailand and Cambodia.

20 NOVEMBER 1994

TMC officially adopted Cambodia as our Unreached People Group mission focus, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Singapore Centre for Evangelism and Missions (SCEM).



Lee Park Ming (Missions Chairperson) signing the MOU with SCEM

21-27 NOVEMBER 1994

God Bless Cambodia Crusade

In the beginning of 1994, several Cambodian pastors shared that they felt that this would be a significant year for the people of Cambodia, then the 7th poorest country in the world.

On 15 and 16 Apr 1994, the Cambodian Christian leaders met with high-ranking government officials and obtained permission to use the Olympic stadium for the Crusade, when normally it would have taken several months to get permission.

At that time, the stadium could seat about 10,000 people indoors, and 50,000 outdoors. Built in the late 60s, it was used only a few times before it became a military base in the war against the Khmer Rouge in the early 70s. The 1973 crusades were held in the indoor stadium with thousands being saved and helped.

The stadium was being offered for free instead of the normal rental of several thousand dollars per day. However, the stadium was in such poor condition that thousands would have to be spent to prepare for an event such as this.

TMC made a one-time gift of USD4,000 to this Crusade from the Missions Fund, and committed to pray through Nov 1994.

24 NOVEMBER 1994

Rev Kow Shih Ming was ordained as Deacon.

15 - 18 DECEMBER 1994

Pre-National Service camp was held, with NS enlistees dedicated on 18 Dec 1994.

21-23 DECEMBER 1994

TRAC Christmas Media Campaign at Takashimaya Square. The 9.00am service choir, Drama & Music Fellowship, and some counsellors participated in this outreach project.

1995

Theme: One Spirit, Sharing Many Gifts and Graces.

Theme Song: The Church Must Stand Together.

1 JANUARY 1995

Reverend Melvin Huang was appointed to Christ Methodist Church as pastor-in-charge. Reverend Lim Jen Huat was appointed to TMC as pastor-in-charge.

14-17 FEBRUARY 1995

Reverend Kow Shih Ming and Peter Lim made a trip to Cambodia to meet Government ministers and officials to explore the possibility of starting a Methodist School and church in Phnom Penh.

12-19 MAY 1995

Vision trip to Cambodia.

14-18 JUNE 1995

Youth Camp at Sentosa with about 30 in attendance.

16 JULY 1995

A permanent place of worship for the Woodbridge ministry was sought.

18 JULY 1995

A feasibility study on the viability of linguistic ministry in TMC was led by Rev Kow Shih Ming, Cheng Shao Koon, Colin Chan, Lai Kai Ming, Lesley Lai, Christopher Ow, Adeline Ow, Albert Yeo and Lee Ling Ling.

The study included the areas of Braddell Heights, Cheng San, Hougang, Serangoon Gardens and Teck Ghee, and included research on the demographics. Visits were made to churches that conducted both English and Mandarin services. The reason for the study was that some people who attended TMC had parents and elderly relatives whom they wanted to bring to TMC, but the latter did not speak English.

The study recommended that a Mandarin fellowship be set up for the parents and relatives of people who were attending TMC. This would also address a misconception that Christianity breaks up families. New believers would be followed up with. Mandarin-speaking youths could be referred to the MYF. It was a good point of focus for the possible development of a Mandarin Service in future. Starting a service was not feasible at the time with limited resources.

SEPTEMBER 1995

Missions Committee pledged to pay for a pick-up truck for the work of World Relief Cambodia in the slums.

10 SEPTEMBER 1995

Anniversary Service was held at Singapore Conference Hall with lunch at the Singapore Conference Hall restaurant.



26 SEPTEMBER 1995

Renovations to the Resource Centre were completed.



18-25 OCTOBER 1995

Vision team in Cambodia - Kwek Bee Choo, Cheng Shao Chuen, Lai Kai Ming, Lesley Lai, Lee Pak Lin - to train teachers to run Sunday School lessons.



END 1995-1996

23 NOVEMBER 1995

Reverend Lim Jen Huat was ordained as an elder at the 20th session of TRAC.

DECEMBER 1995

20 to 30 church members participated as greeters during the TRAC Christmas, Outreach and 150 responses for "free talks" were received. These talks were held in Jan - Mar 1996.

24 DECEMBER 1995

MYF held a Christmas Party using the "Jesus" video and about 20 pre-believers turned up.

1996 Theme: One Lord, Reaching Many Nations and Peoples

Theme Scripture: Romans 15:20-21; Rev 5:6-10

1 JANUARY 1996

Rev Richard Tan was appointed as Assistant Pastor to TMC.

5-9 JUNE 1996

Church Family Camp at Penang.

13 JULY 1996

MWS Family Care Fair - TMC contributed 4 stalls.

8 SEPTEMBER 1996

40th Anniversary Service held at Victoria Theatre.

21 NOVEMBER 1996

Rev Richard Tan was ordained as an elder at the 21st session of TRAC, held at Faith Methodist Church.

PASTORS in the fourth decade



Rev Melvin Huang
Pastor (Aug 1986 - Dec 1994)



Rev Philip Lim
Assistant Pastor (1989 - Jul 1992)



Rev Kow Shih Ming
Assistant pastor (Aug 1992 - Dec 1995)



Rev Lim Jen Huat
Pastor (Jan 1995 - Jul 1998)



Rev Richard Tan
Assistant Pastor (Jan 1996 - Dec 1998)

THE OLD GUARD



Koh Shuwen

The Chew Hock Hin Family Tree

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



Rev and Mrs Chew Hock Hin (on Rev Chew's left),
Mr Chew Chin Jin (second row 4th from right),
Mrs Chew Chin Jin (on Rev Chew's right) (circa late 1960s)



Rev Chew Hock Hin (first from left) at the
official opening of the church (1963)



Mr Chew Chin Jin (second from right) and Mrs Chew Chin Jin
(fourth from right) attending a church meeting

Eunice, by her own admission, was quiet, timid and self-conscious growing up, lacking in confidence, having led a sheltered life.

Being the granddaughter of Rev Chew Hock Hin came with many responsibilities and expectations. As a child in a Christian extended household, headed by a Methodist pastor no less, saying grace at mealtimes, bedtime prayers as well as memorising bible verses were very much part of Eunice's daily routine.

From the time that Rev Chew became a pastor at TMC (end 1965 – end 1970), TMC became very much a 'family business'. Eunice was eight, when the Chew family started attending TMC.

Rev Chew wrote and printed tracts on how he became a Christian. Eunice and her elder sister, June faithfully plied the 'delivery route'.

He would drive slowly alongside his two young granddaughters as they delivered his self-published tracts to the mailboxes of those staying in and around Serangoon Garden. There were occasions when Eunice feared for her life as ferocious, barking dogs would come tearing down the driveway at whom they perceived to be unwelcomed intruders.

She also recalls her grandfather playing hymns on a turntable connected to a loud-speaker, to prepare churchgoers for worship on Sundays morning. However, this was short-lived as neighbours complained about the early morning music.

Mr Chew Chin Jin, Eunice's father, was involved in numerous church committees in addition to being a Lay Leader. He was a familiar face and particularly enjoyed going around greeting church members on Sundays.

Eunice's mother, the late Mrs Chew Chin Jin, served as an organist and choir conductor for many years until her legs grew weak. Mrs Chew was an accomplished pianist and organist and contributed greatly to the music ministry at TMC. She became the director of music in TMC and trained many choristers and musicians.

A full choir was started in late 1965 under the baton of Mrs Chew and practised every Friday night; it is fondly remembered as having been a lot of fun. Besides responses and anthems, the choir also presented cantatas*, one at Easter and one at Christmas. Mrs Chew was full of energy and her famous word was *balik* (Malay for "start over") when something was not right. As her mother's able helper in collating photocopies of choir materials, Eunice was also an unwitting and unknowing accomplice in violating copyright laws!

Eunice herself sang in the choir, was an usher and took on extra 'duties' such as the after-hours *jaga* (Malay for "watchman") of the church. Some may remember picking up the church key from her to access the church premises after hours. She was one of the few who knew the trick to closing the old wooden sliding door to the Sanctuary.

Together with June, Eunice was in charge of making sure that her grandfather got his Cascade drink to keep his blood glucose levels up at the end of each service, as instructed by her grandmother.

Eunice credits the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) with transforming her, directly and indirectly. The age range of MYF-ers ran from 13 to 24 years old.

* A cantata is a vocal composition with an instrumental accompaniment, typically in several movements, often involving a choir. (Source: Wikipedia)

Violet Khor and the late Violet Tan were previous MYF presidents whom Eunice looked up to as role models. When her seniors 'graduated' from MYF, the reins were handed over to Eunice and June. It was through the combined fellowships with the MYF-ers from other Methodist churches that she slowly learnt to come out of her shell.



Mrs Chew Chin Jin conducting the choir in the Upper Gallery



Mr Chew Chin Jin in the Walking With Jesus Walkathon (1985)



Eunice on the guitar

It was also during an MYF Singapore and Malaysia (organised by the MYF Institute) combined retreat in her early teens that Eunice was led by a Christian sister from another church to pray the “sinner’s prayer” to receive Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

Chan Chong Hiok’s bible discovery classes, which delved into topics such as the assurance of salvation and what it means to have a Spirit-filled life, were also instrumental to her spiritual development. It was very apt that this bible study series took place during the period she was entrusted with the leadership of MYF at TMC, which she felt insufficiently equipped for.

At that time, there was a big transition in MYF as the older members had “graduated” leaving only a small group of MYF-ers. Learning to let Christ take control of her life (a Spirit-filled life) gave Eunice the strength and assurance to take on the task to helm MYF at TMC. And the Lord was good. He led a few God-fearing and God-loving sisters to be in the committee with her.

They all believed strongly in prayer and the committee decided to meet and pray every Wednesday as they were wondering whether to close the TMC MYF chapter with so few people left. Eunice believed it was God’s will that MYF at TMC continued as the membership eventually grew. It was truly a lesson about prayer for her.

In the days when there was no air-conditioning in the sanctuary, the MYF-ers met from 3pm on Sundays at the basement of the sanctuary (where the Prayer Chapel is currently sited).

The wooden slats near the pulpit let in a lot of the noise from the rowdy MYF-ers during the 5.30pm Sunday services. Warnings and reminders from the then-pastors to “keep it down” were very much part of, and added to, the bonding experience between the MYFers. Such was the camaraderie of the MYFers that they would be out until the wee hours of Christmas Eve, and yet turn up to sing in the Christmas cantata the following day.

Many of us are familiar with Eunice as a volunteer in our Children’s Ministry, where she has been serving for 15-20 years. I have seen her patiently guiding her young charges on the finer points of making prints with paint and lovingly cut-up vegetables.

Eunice first taught Sunday School class (Primary 2 cohort) after her “A” Levels and one of her students was George Sathiasingam whom she remembers as being reserved and very well-behaved. Things have truly come full circle as George started teaching in Sunday School himself a few years ago and is the current chairperson of Children’s Ministry. Eunice mentions with a laugh that she now reports to George, and she’s glad she has always treated her students well!



Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Jin on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, surrounded by family



The baptism of Eunice and Sin Hoon's sons

What most of us do not know is that Eunice very nearly transferred out of Australia's University of Newcastle's Bachelor of Economics course to pursue a degree in early childhood education at the Institute of Early Childhood Development in Melbourne. Despite Economics not being her cup of tea, it must have been God's will as her decision to stay on at Newcastle gave her the chance to get to know Hum Sin Hoon better and altered her life course. The rest, as they say, was history, for both Eunice and TMC.

Eunice's wedding to Sin Hoon (TMC's current LCEC Chairman) in 1983 was very much a TMC affair. In true 'kampung' spirit, everyone pitched in to help with the flowers, car decoration, hair and make-up.

The Hums are blessed with two sons, Samuel and Daniel who were both baptised at TMC by Rev Lim Jen Huat (pastor from Jan 1995 – Jul 1998), after they had received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. Samuel is currently living in Silicon Valley, and Daniel is serving as the chairperson of the TMC's Young Adults Ministry (YAMY).

Over the years, Eunice has observed that TMC members have grown spiritually, with more members and small groups actively studying God's Word. Compared to the earlier days, TMC-ers also seem more comfortable talking about matters regarding the Holy Spirit.

She is encouraged that TMC's heart for people to come to the Lord, and enthusiasm for the Word of God, is demonstrated in our outreach to the community. For example, engaging the senior citizens at St. Luke's Eldercare Centre, the youths at the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home and Youth Avenue as well as the residents at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), over and beyond programmes that draw people to visit our church.

Just as it was through MYF at TMC that Eunice was discipled by disciples, it is her prayer that the phrase that appears on our church bulletin every Sunday - "Where Disciples make Disciples" - will be more than a catchy theme for a season, and that TMC will continue to focus on growing spiritually.



Eunice teaching in the crèche



Eunice presenting George with a token of appreciation at a Children's Ministry retreat in 2015



Now both Sunday School teachers!



THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH



*Rev Malcolm T.H. Tan
Pastor-in-charge, Covenant
Community Methodist Church*

Before I tell my story, may I wish my beloved home church, Trinity Methodist Church, a blessed 60th anniversary.

I started attending TMC as a young primary schoolboy in the late 1960s. It was the time when many families from Paya Lebar Methodist Church and Pentecost Methodist Church moved to TMC because the late Rev Chew Hock Hin had been appointed to pastor TMC.

My grandmother, the late Mrs Chia Chye Koon, was one of those who went over to TMC to support her pastor and his new congregation. It was timely as TMC in those early days was a small struggling congregation. I followed my beloved grandma every week to church and to special meetings in the weekdays.

TMC was my spiritual home from the late 1960s until the mid-1980s. It was my growing up, boy-hood church that saw me through teenage years to my early 20s.

It was the church where I first learnt about receiving Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. It was the church where I went to Sunday School and made friends with other boys and girls in those early growing years. This was the church which taught me first to open the Bible and to read the Word of God. There, I went for my youth fellowship experience.

Those were the days of the the Methodist Youth Fellowships (MYF), whose motto was 'Christ above all!' We laughed, we sang, we prayed, we did charitable activities, we played, we went camping, we played pranks on one another, and heard the preaching of the Word of God together.

In those days, TMC was a humble wooden church situated on high ground along Serangoon Garden Way. Quite literally, it was 'the little brown church' of bygone memories for me.

I left TMC when I became a pastor in the Methodist Church in August 1984. After graduating from Trinity Theological College in June 1984, my first pastoral charge was as Assistant Pastor at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC). The Rev Daniel Koh was the pastor of TMC then. He openly prayed for me in church one Sunday before I left to serve at KKMC. I received three books as a going-away present. One book was on world religions, another on Christian relations with Islam and the third was on John Wesley's spirituality. You could say that my pastor then, saw how my ministry would unfold.

I have been a pastor for 32 years from 1984 until 2016, having served as Assistant Pastor for three and a half years at KKMC and another five years as a pastor at Bedok Methodist Church, followed by four and a half years at Faith Methodist Church, as pastor-in-charge.

As part of our Diamond Anniversary celebrations, the Saltshaker has invited former church members who are now in pastoral or full-time Christian ministry to share with our readers the impact that Trinity Methodist Church (TMC) has made on their lives.

I then spent about two years as the National Director of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship. Returning to the Methodist ministry, I was appointed to Barker Road Methodist Church as pastor-in-charge for 16 years. It was followed by my current posting as pastor-in-charge of Covenant Community Methodist Church which meets in the Methodist Girls' School (MGS) at Blackmore Drive. I have been privileged to serve in 5 different Methodist churches within the 32 years as a pastor. Most of the time, they were happy and fruitful years by the grace of God.

As I look back on 32 happy, eventful years as a pastor, I can only give thanks for the privilege of Christian service. Gratitude must also be expressed to my home church, TMC, for how it prepared me for years of fruitful ministry.

As they say, it takes a village to raise a child. It certainly takes a Christian community to raise a disciple for Jesus Christ.

There is no such thing as a loner of a disciple. After all these years in Christian service, I am convinced that it is always God's will for everyone to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and be saved.

I also believe that every born-again Christian should have a local church to belong to. It was a gracious and kindly Christian community that gave me the spiritual environment that prepared me for the Methodist ministry.

I thank God for the many people in TMC who have contributed to my life over the years.

I remember the Rev Chew Hock Hin who was an example of an evangelistic pastor. He was faithful to care for his flock as well as to win souls all the time for Jesus.

The Rev Christopher Smith was a warm and friendly pastor, who reached out to church members, befriending them. He practised pastoral care and counselling. He taught many to learn to be befrienders and counsellors, as well. His influence was partly responsible for my entering the Methodist ministry. He was warm and welcoming, receiving me into the membership of TMC, although I had already turned charismatic by then.

Two Sunday School teachers also impacted me, Lee Park Ming and Chan Chong Hiok. Lee Park Ming showed me that Christianity was a practical, social religion, that being a Christian in church meant building up the fellowship and community life of the people of God. His commitment to the Youth Fellowship was truly inspirational. Chan Chong Hiok left his influence in me, emphasising the utmost importance of the Great Commission, that it is more important than any other priority in a Christian's life.

I also thank God for the many friends and peers who grew up with me at TMC and have also entered the Methodist ministry: Lorna Khoo, Gabriel Liew, Kevin Lowe, David Gwee and Ivan Tan. These were friends I knew in TMC and are now also fellow ministers of the Gospel in the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC).

May TMC be used by God to produce more pastors for the Methodist Church. To God be the Glory!



In the Hush of the Morning



David Gwee
Pastor, Christ Methodist Church

The year was 1968. Serangoon Gardens was still a sleepy township, colloquially known, especially to taxi drivers, as *ang sar lee*, meaning “red roofs” in Hokkien.

Grocery stores used milk tins suspended from the ceiling as cash registers. Favourite hangouts included Tip Top Restaurant, Mubarak Store, Sputnik Coffee Shop, and NIB secondhand book store.

It was into this cosy neighbourhood that a young couple moved, together with their six-year-old son. They took up residence in number 5, Jalan Chulek, at a cul-de-sac. The little boy relished exploring the estate, cycling around on his little red bicycle. The young couple, Methodists, decided to start attending Trinity Methodist Church (TMC) and eventually transferred their membership from Christ Methodist Church.

That young couple was my parents, Daniel and Doris Gwee. And I was that little boy, eagerly wandering around the vicinity.

Through the years, my parents played an active role in TMC. Papa was the LCEC chairman at one stage and mum, the Sunday School Superintendent. I enjoyed attending Sunday School and the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), learning the ways of the Lord from many teachers including Mr Chan Chong Hiok, his wife Margaret, and the

Over the years I became involved in ministry too. I had the privilege of being a Sunday School teacher for 14 years, which I consider to be my most fulfilling lay commitment. TMC played the major part in my preparation for full-time pastoral ministry, although I didn’t know it at the time. Apart from Sunday School and MYF, bible study under Malcolm and DISCIPLE Bible Study were important parts of my spiritual schooling.



(L-R) Derek, Doris, David and Daniel Gwee on the occasion of David’s confirmation



David and Dawn (second row, first and second from left) at a Games Day with the Methodist Youth Fellowship (circa 1984)



David Gwee being bullied at a Sunday School camp (1994)



David (far right) in the Good Friday play Forsaken (2003)

My calling to full-time ministry began in a very dramatic fashion. It happened in the year 2000.

At that time, I was very comfortable working for Hewlett Packard. On that momentous morning, I was just waking up. The sky was beginning to lighten. I remember it as clear as if it were yesterday. As I lay in my bed, I sensed God telling me: "Go full-time."

It was like a fuzzy font of the phrase in my mind's eye, accompanied by a kind of "hushed vocalization", not really amounting to a voice. But it seemed to me that God had spoken. I very hesitantly told my wife Dawn: "God said something to me. But it's too scary so I'm not going to tell you just yet." Even now, she still remembers that day.

Following that, various incidents such as then-Assistant Pastor at TMC Rev John Benedict Foo praying for me at the July 2001 Young Methodist Leaders' Conference, the wisdom and counsel of then-Pastor-in-Charge of TMC Rev Philip Lim, the affirmation of my Sunday School teacher Chong Hiok, and another God-encounter via a devotion time reading Psalm 62, finally convinced me to begin studies at Trinity Theological College (TTC).

Dawn and I were also blessed by the exceptionally generous help from two of our oldest and dearest friends, members of TMC: Fang Yea Yee and Sin Guek. With their help and the help of TMC, I was able to concentrate on my studies and not be unduly worried about daily expenses.



David Gwee's ordination

In 2006, I graduated from TTC. I applied for and was accepted as a Member-On-Trial in the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC). My first appointment was to Barker Road Methodist Church as Assistant Pastor and I spent two-and-a-half years there, becoming a Deacon in the process. Following this, I was appointed to my current church, Christ Methodist, in 2009.

So very quickly, 10 years have passed since I first became a pastor. It has been a deeply fulfilling life, filled with challenges and blessings. Through it all, Rev Malcolm Tan's advice to "keep your eyes on Jesus" has guided me through thick and thin. I am very blessed to have an immensely rewarding vocation. I have the opportunity to help people grow spiritually as well as help those in trouble. I wouldn't exchange it for anything.

As TMC celebrates its 60th anniversary, it can be proud that it has produced many disciples who are not only biblically well-schooled, but also dedicated to ministry. In terms of pastors, apart from the aforementioned, Rev Dr Lorna Khoo and Rev Gabriel Liew are also alumni of TMC. This makes TMC, a medium-sized church, one of the most prolific pastor-producing churches in TRAC, bested only by much larger churches.

TMC must continue to have very strong emphasis on discipleship, particularly on bible study and ministry/service towards others. Why do I say this? It is because these two commitments are key for spiritual development. I believe that this was the strength of TMC in the past, and must continue to be its strength into the future.

So my birthday wish for the family of TMC is this: Be biblically well-nourished and committed to serve others, within and outside the church.

God bless TMC on its 60th Anniversary!

60 WITH TMC

My First and Only Church



Sim Cher Khee

How time flies...

It feels like I have come to this stage of life in the blink of an eye! I'm grateful to God for His grace and protection all these 6 decades.

It's not quite a coincidence that I will be turning the same age as TMC, I think; my spiritual growth has been very closely linked to the time I've spent in the church.

I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and God in 1982 at an Assemblies of God church outreach event at Toa Payoh Stadium. My girlfriend then, Maely (now my wife), also accepted the Lord at the same time, and we were looking for a good place to worship.

My sister studied at Paya Lebar MGS and had a friend who worshipped in TMC. That's how we came to TMC. My sister has since moved on to another church, and I have stayed at TMC all these years.

In the early years, I served as an usher, and also tried my hand at the newsletter (very, very, very basic and a far cry from what it is now!). At one stage, I joined the choir.

In the 90s, TMC was looking for a prayer coordinator, and the Rev Richard Tan (then assistant pastor at TMC) asked me to be one.

At that time, I had been attending the Friday Prayer and Healing Ministry for quite a while, and had experienced the reality of prayer and God's power. I therefore decided to respond to the request and call.



Cher Khee and Ashley Choo, participating in church clean up. These were the wall fans in the Sanctuary. (circa 1980s)

Through all these seasons of service, TMC has been foundational to my spiritual growth. My personal spiritual goals have been: 1) to be in close communion with Abba Father, who has blessed me so much spiritually and in all other aspects, and 2) by God's grace and His Spirit, to be committed in following the will of God for my life.

TMC's role in helping me achieve these goals has been a significant one.

In my early years as a believer, I received love and encouragement from those ahead of me in the journey of faith. More recently, our Pastor-in-Charge, Alvin, has led church members to seek God intimately as children of God, and this has encouraged me in my spiritual walk too.

TMC is my first and only church - a cosy family church where my family and loved ones have been blessed by people, groups, and various activities we have been a part of.

My birthday wish for TMC is to be church where people will willingly line up to worship, praise, and seek God, and experience the fullness and reality of his presence, power and peace, and therefore, go out and tell others of their experiences with such an Almighty God!

Happy birthday TMC!

A special birthday wish to Cher Khee from his family

Dearest Cher Khee / Daddy,

Thank you for your loving, God-fearing leadership of our family all these years. You are gentle, selfless and kind. We love you and pray that you will experience many more years of walking intimately with God! Happy birthday :)

Maely and Cheryl



6 WITH TMC

A Sense of Urgency



Rose Tan

“I don’t feel 60, except when I feel more aches and pains”.

Pauline Koh doesn’t look anywhere near 60. She’s slim, chatty and full of energy.

When asked about her discipleship journey, her first thoughts are how she can truly be a confident Christian witness and make a difference to the lives of others.

Pauline says that it was a loving colleague, Lena Lee, who cared enough to bring her to Christ. Evidence that we can be disciples anywhere in the market place.

As we chatted in the Plaza for this article, Pauline had her eye trained on Aunty Clarice. It turned out that Pauline had noticed Aunty Clarice waiting at the bus stop one day, and she felt prompted by God to give Aunty Clarice a ride and henceforth every week. This is not the first time that Pauline has provided such regular church transport service. Now that’s Christian neighbourliness!

In 2008, TMC’s Worship & Music ministry organised a course in floral arrangement which culminated in a floral arrangement competition amongst the course participants. Although Pauline had had no professional training in this area, she had always been interested in flowers and plants. When she came in third in the competition, it confirmed God’s plan for her to serve in the floral ministry.

The floral ministry mostly works in pairs. Pauline’s partner, Mary George, guided and shared her experience generously. They enthusiastically look forward to the chance once a month to display their creativity in worship to our God.



Pauline in Sanctuary



Now that retirement looms ahead, “there is a sense of urgency to do more outside of my current job as the Group Director in IT at the CPF. I’ve always poured my effort into work, achieving secular awards and held back in participating actively in church committees as I am not able to commit much of my time,” says Pauline.

Pauline also shared that her personal spiritual goal is to fulfill God’s purpose in her life. Most recently, God has touched her heart to hear the cry of the needy. She is grateful to her small group Heartbeat of God, led by Dr Fu Dunyi and his wife, Mary for helping in her discipleship journey.

Growing with the church, Pauline feels that TMC has achieved much over these 6 decades, producing many pastors and missionaries, and touching many lives around the Serangoon area with Youth Avenue and other initiatives. She is encouraged by Pastor Alvin’s leadership and supports his emphasis to build disciples. Towards this end, she feels that every member of the congregation must grow in maturity to effectively reach out to those around them, especially pre-believers and bear witness to God.

Closer to home, Pauline’s husband Keng Seng, her three children and her 100-year-old mother-in-law are pre-believers. She continues to pray for their salvation.

“TMC is a place where I know people care genuinely for one another. You can see it from the way the pastors and leaders care for us, and the close support among parishioners. My birthday wish is that God will deepen our knowledge and understanding of His Word and that we grow in our love of Him.”



TMC60

ANNIVERSARY

SERVICE & LUNCH

9.00AM

ONE COMBINED SERVICE FOR ALL
CONGREGATIONS AT TMC

12.00PM

LUNCH AT BAN HENG, 1 MARITIME
SQUARE, HARBOURFRONT CENTRE, #04-01



LUNCH TICKETS

for an 8-course Chinese lunch (with free flow of soft drinks and tea) will go on sale on Sun 7 Aug.

\$15 per seat.

Please consider sponsoring someone, if possible.

Ticket sales close on 21 Aug.



BUS TRANSPORT

to and from TMC will be available free-of-charge for those who do not drive and who register their need.

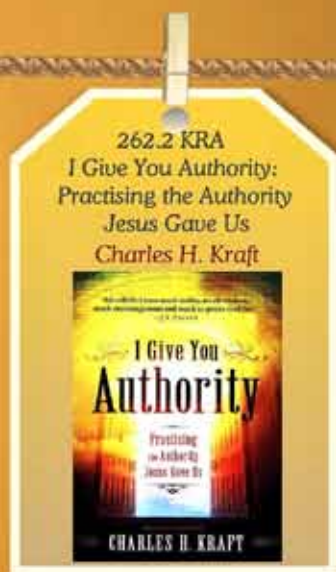
If you drive, please do not make use of the bus transport, but do offer others a lift.



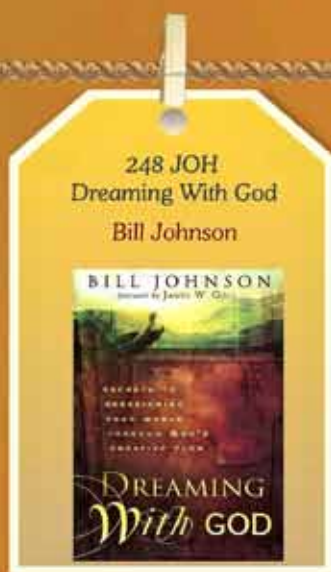
CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Buy your tickets & register for transport on Sundays. www.tmc.org.sg/tmc60.html#lunch

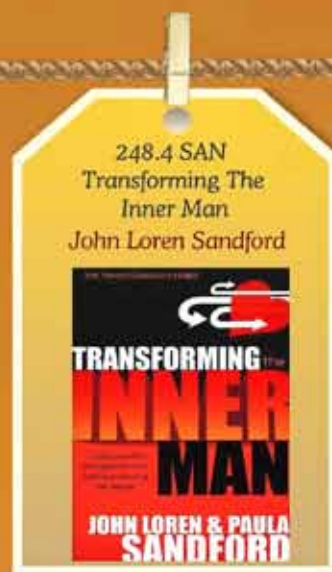
Bibliothèque



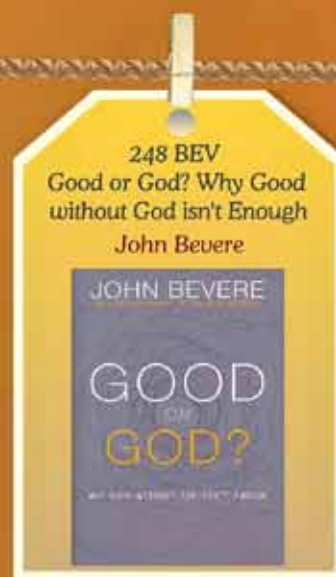
After His resurrection, Jesus passed His own authority on to His followers. Kraft reminds us that we are empowered by Jesus and possess the power of the Holy Spirit. He shares how to properly, wisely exercise and release this authority into and over all areas of life.



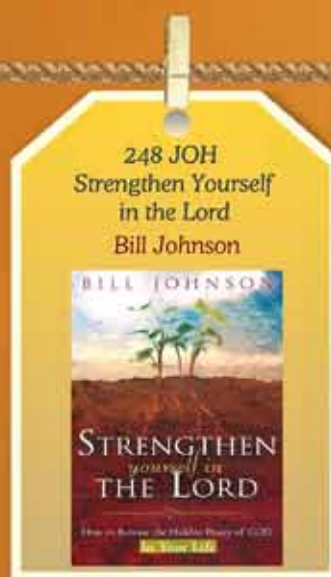
Johnson reveals the secrets of using God's unlimited supply of imagination, creativity, wisdom and dreams to transform your family and community, your job or business, the nation and the world.



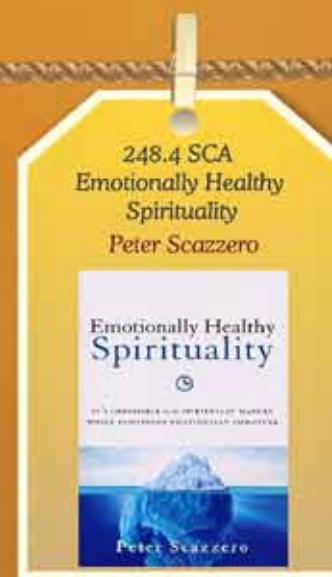
This book will equip each believer with the basic steps to a life-transforming, deeper intimacy with the Father. It introduces the keys that reach to the depth of the heart with the power of the cross and resurrection to effect lasting change through continual death and rebirth.



We believe what's generally accepted as good must be in line with God's will. Generosity, humility, justice - good. Selfishness, arrogance, cruelty - evil. The distinction seems pretty straightforward. If good is so obvious, why does the Bible say that we need discernment to recognize it? This book will help you to engage with God on a level that will impact your life.



How can you "count it all joy" when facing turmoil at home, work or within your family? Johnson tells you how through Scripture and personal experience. You can be strong when you know the keys to encouraging yourself - looking past failure and into a successful future.



Scazzero outlines his journey and the signs of emotionally unhealthy spirituality. He provides seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for us. "The combination of emotional health and contemplative spirituality," he says, "unleashes the Holy Spirit inside us so that we might experientially know the power of an authentic life in Christ."



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

EVENTS

Sun 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug

1.00pm Caring God's Way Workshop

Sun 7, 21, 28 Aug

1.00pm Alpha Lunch Talks
www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

Sat 13 Aug

9.00am Alpha Retreat
www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

2.00pm Fellowship of Ukulelians
Festival of Praise

Thurs 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Sept, 6, 13, 20 Oct

2.00pm / 7.30pm Precept Upon Precept Bible Study on the Book of Daniel
www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup

Sun 4 Sept

1.00pm Alpha Celebration Lunch
www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

Sun 11 Sept

9.00am TMC 60th Anniversary Service at TMC
12.00pm TMC 60th Anniversary Lunch at Ban Heng, Harbourfront
www.tmc.org.sg/tmc60.html

Mon 12 Sept

5.30pm Mandarin Service Mid-Autumn Celebration
www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#autumn

Sat 17 Sept

8.00am Last Local Conference

Sat 24 Sept

1.00pm Youth Avenue Pizza Party
www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#ya

Every Sun

9.30am Mandarin Service Prayer Meeting

Every 2nd Sun

After the 11.15 am service Young Adults' Lunch Fellowship

Every 3rd Sun

10.00am
WSCS Visitation to Homebound. Those interested to bring the church into the homes of the homebound, please contact Lucy Chan at 9748 2733.

Last Sun of the month

9.00am
Visit to Institute of Mental Health by Outreach & Social Concerns. Contact Yvonne Tan at 9091 8589 / yvnn_tan@yahoo.com
www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh

Every Wed

8.00pm Church Prayer Meeting
www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every 1st Wed

10.00am-12.00pm
Yum Cha@10 is an opportunity for people to come together for fellowship, and serves as a platform for TMCers to meet one another as well as non-Christians in the community mid-week. Contact the church office / churchoffice@tmc.org.sg
www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym

Last Thurs of the month

10.00am-12.00pm
St Luke's Eldercare Centre Devotions at Blk 217 Serangoon

Ave 4. TMC's ministry to SLEC brings hope, help and the love of Christ to many needy elderly. If you wish to join in, contact Eddie from the church office / eddie@tmc.org.sg.
www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#slec

Every 1st and 3rd Fri

10.15am Bible Study on Book of Daniel by Mrs Esther Wong

Every Fri

8.00 – 10.00pm
Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

Every Sat

9.00 – 11.30am
Fellowship of Ukulelians
www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele

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60-HOUR PRAYER CHAIN

A TMC60 EVENT
TESTIMONIES AND THANKSGIVING

MCI (P) 065/10/2015

PRAYER WALL

A SALTSHAKER SUPPLEMENT

The 60-Hour Prayer Chain started on Thurs 19 May at 8.00pm, and ended on Aldersgate Sunday at 8.00am. At every hour during that period, at least one person was in the Prayer Chapel praying.

Here are the testimonies from some of these prayer warriors. May they touch your heart and encourage you to make your daily prayers to the Lord.

As I entered the Prayer Chapel, I felt the peace and tranquility of the room. Certainly, the presence of God was in that place. I thanked God for the Prayer & Intercession ministry which had made this possible. They had really devoted their time to set up the posters and write-ups of each station well. As I moved quietly to each station, all this while praying emotionally, I sensed that God was looking down, smiling joyfully and was very pleased. Surely every move was so meaningful.

My last station was at the altar. I knelt down and asked God to bless my family with their needs, for the salvation of my loved ones and the healing of sick friends. I asked God to heal my arthritic leg and injured arm. After which, I moved closer to the altar and told God, "If you are real, Lord, show me. Let me pick up the scroll* with Your words". I picked up the cross and the scroll and went back to kneel down again. With tears in my eyes and holding the cross, I could visualise Jesus dying on the cross. I thanked Jesus for dying for us. With His blood, He cleansed our sins, and with His life, He gave us power and strength.

When I reached home, I unveiled the scroll and God's Word was from Habakkuk 3:19. I had never read the Book of Habakkuk, but I read it three times that day because it has only three chapters. From here, I could sense that God is so real. The verse mentioned that the Sovereign Lord is my strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. Deer legs are supposed to be very strong. These legs can climb mountains and stand on heights. I claimed this verse and I trust that God is my strength and will see to all my needs. Amen.

- Evelyn

(*Every prayer warrior was invited to take home a wooden cross, and a scroll of paper on which was written a Bible verse and prayed over by the Prayer & Intercession ministry.)





I felt very encouraged to see a continuous human chain of sisters and brothers-in-Christ coming into the Prayer

Chapel to pray, and glad to have been a part of it. I took over from a sister for my first hourly slot, and then later, some other people joined me in my second hourly slot; others then took over from me. It was truly a time - and I really felt it - when the people of the church came together to pray for the church and God's kingdom. It was just great. The Prayer & Intercession ministry organised this so well. They must have spent a lot of effort and time on it. The information on the "world" section was good. I now

have a clearer picture of God's plan for Israel, and can appreciate more when others talk and pray about it. The verses in the the mini scrolls were also meaningful. I happened to take one which was one of my favourite verses. Having cushions for people to kneel to pray was a really good idea.

I somehow found the one hour a bit short. I spent some time reading up the various enlightening pieces of information and also had a short time of quietness. I'm glad that I signed up for a slot of two hours instead of one. I enjoyed the time fellowshiping with our Lord and felt all the more encouraged when I knew that there were other people praying along with me although we were doing our own individual prayers. I thank God for all who prepared and organised the prayer chain. May God bless them all abundantly and reward them according to His riches in heaven. — Eunice Hum





When I came to know that the 60-hour Prayer Chain was one of our church's 60th anniversary events, I was really excited about it.

I scheduled myself to pray on Fri, 20 May from 5-7pm.

I fasted from meat and only ate vegetables and rice to prepare myself to seek God.

When I entered the Prayer Chapel, I read the displays that had been put up for us, and noted the prayer items and the things we could do during our prayer time.

I decided to sit at the Creative Corner to let God speak and minister to me.

As I sat with the worship music playing in the background, I

couldn't control my tears. I believe my heart was unloading the burdens that I have been carrying all these years, things that He has revealed to me about the church.

I took my own thick paper card and still weeping, I wrote the word "LOVE". God is LOVE. God is still patiently and waiting for His people to love Him wholeheartedly.

Then I asked God what He has in His heart for the church. Music notes came to me. I drew few musical notes and I tried to 'google' for more but I couldn't continue. I decided to continue the drawing the next day.

Interestingly when I related this to a sister-in-Christ, she shared with me what she had received from Him. She had drawn pictures and music notes on a card. I went to look for her card in the Prayer Chapel, and true enough, I saw music notes on her pictures. I decided to pin up what I had drawn. I believe in my heart that God wants us to love and worship Him. — Alice Lim



I sought the Lord regarding which time slot I should sign up for, and was prompted to sign up for the 3 am slot on Saturday. I waited till the last week of registration to do so, and it was one of the slots that had not been filled at that time, so I knew that it was a sign that I was to meet the Lord at that time. A few days before the prayer slot, my sister and my parents decided to join me; this was a double confirmation for me that God had assigned that slot for my family.

I was very happy that my elderly parents were so sporting to join me in the wee hours - they were wide awake. Most of all, they told me that the one hour passed very quickly. I was extremely touched to encounter the Lord and His tangible presence at the Prayer Chapel. He never fails to show up when His people seek Him. Praise the Lord for all He has done. Thank You Lord. Amen. - *Anna*

It was a really good and blessed time. Kiem, Amanda and I met in church and we spent an hour in continuous prayer. God just put on our hearts items and areas to pray for, and it was such a blessed time of interceding for the church and groups of the congregation He prompted us to pray for. — *Eugenia Koh*



It was truly a sweet time to be quiet before the Lord. It was a reminder and a motivation to spend more time with God in my daily life too. As I was praying through some of the items on the charts, the one about LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) struck me the most. Perhaps this has, in part, to do with my work; I was deeply burdened to pray for the younger generations that they will have the right values about relationships.

— *Li Caiyun*





I did a six-hour slot from Friday midnight, and a two-hour slot in the wee hours on Saturday.

On Friday, I felt an urgent need to pray for our pastors and leaders, for direction in the discipleship of our church and for the church in the area of prayer.

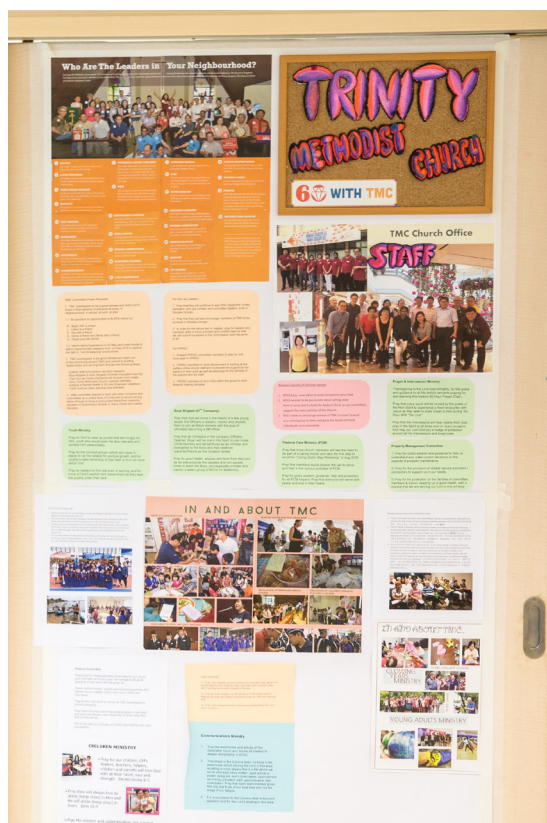
This is what I prayed for our leaders:

- To develop a close relationship with the Holy Spirit to guide their lives;
- To have a heart to serve as servants, and to love the person first instead of just doing the work required;
- To be protected from unnecessary struggles and situations in their lives that would hurt them from leading others effectively;
- To develop a heart to study God's Word so as to be able to lead the church wisely into our next 60 years; and
- To display the fruit of the Spirit in their service.

In the area of discipleship, I prayed that our leaders and members will seek to equip themselves to become true disciples of Jesus and to encourage one another towards sanctification or holiness.

I also prayed that TMC will be a church which always goes down on her knees to seek God in our lives.

On Saturday, I felt the need to pray for revival – starting with each of us in TMC, then in Singapore and other parts of the world. - *Lee Park Ming*



On Fri 20 May, at 11pm, I led some of my team members from the Communications Committee in one of the hourly slots. As each of us stepped into the Prayer Chapel, we saw so much content, that no words needed to be exchanged between us. We all seemed to know what to do – buckle down and talk to God. It brought to my mind this book I read when I first became a believer. It was titled “Don’t Just Stand There, Pray Something!” (Robert Dunn)

It was touching to observe the prayer boards that had been lovingly assembled and tacked up. No fancy powerpoint. No elaborate professional printing. Just put together like the project work we used to do in secondary school in the 1980s, all of which added to the charm and atmosphere of this TMC60 event.

You could sit to pray, stand to pray, kneel to pray, draw to pray, read to pray, sing to pray. The hour passed all too quickly, and I am thankful to have been part of it. Lord, hear our prayers.

— *Tricia Tong*



Just one hour and I was engulfed by the myriad of issues in the world and at home which corroborates what our Lord has said about suffering in this world and the events illustrated in the Book of Revelations. It was a wake-up call that time is not on our side. We have to pray and push on in our walk with Christ, to obey Him and be ready at all times to do His work. May the Lord's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Praise the Lord.

— *Leon Boon Sim*

I felt very peaceful and totally rested during the one hour of prayer. — *Eddie Goh*



This one hour with the Lord was truly a great and blessed time. I will continue to pray.

— *Yue Kay*

The slot my family chose was 3am on Saturday. I am usually sleeping at that time but, surprisingly, I wasn't sleepy during my slot. It was very peaceful. I felt very rested and calm, and I could pray effortlessly. One hour passed very quickly. I could easily have prayed for another hour. - *Alice Tham*

I felt the Lord leading and guiding me throughout. It was a wonderful hour soaking in His wonderful love. He led me in praying for the various items that were pasted on the walls of the Prayer Chapel. The background music was nice and peaceful. I enjoyed my hour with the Lord and learnt a lot too from just waiting on Him. Praise be to the Lord! - *Lai Ping*



The displays of the prayer pointers were very informative and clear. The quiet room was so conducive for prayer that I could have prayed for two hours instead of one. It was better than praying at home where I am easily distracted by the telephone and children.

I am very happy that TMC organised this event, and hope that it becomes a regular affair where we come before the Lord to seek His face – even without elaborate displays. - *Lydia Han*

I am thankful for those who came up with the idea of a 60-hour Prayer Chain so that we had the the opportunity to have an hour with the Lord and come together as a church in this joint initiative.

I thank the Prayer & Intercession ministry for taking the time to list down and put up the prayer concerns which aided us in prayer. - *Merinna Choy*



As a family, we felt that it was meaningful to come together and set aside time to pray specifically for the church and its ministries. The materials provided on the walls also helped us to be intentional in, and direct, our prayers. - *Terri Koh*

My group had a good positive experience. Some described it as “calm” and “peaceful”. One of my group members even felt like crying when, praying at the section on world events, she realised how God feels about the present world situation. I myself felt peace and a connection with God. I kept seeing a golden throne fade in and out.

— *Robert Yeo and team*

I had a very good and spiritually nourishing experience during my prayer slot. It was a very meaningful one hour which helped me to refocus my relationship with God, to really listen and converse with Him only. I'm really thankful for this first-time experience as part of a prayer chain. I set out to give but I feel more blessed. — *Jasmine Tan*

We must pray because it helps us to be holy in obedience to our Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit. — *Peggy Sim*

It was a wonderful experience. My wife and I enjoyed the quiet time spent conversing with the Lord. The prayer requests that were put up on the wall were helpful. — *Kelvin and Tracy*

On behalf of my wife, we would like to thank you for all the hard work put into the 60hr prayer and praying for us. My wife and I had a special time with the Lord. We should do it more often. May the Lord be pleased with the prayers of His people. Blessings and Shalom. -

Anonymous

I was heavy-laden with things at home and at work. I went to the Prayer Chapel and sought the Lord. I felt God's peace in my heart and my burdens lifted. — *Sharon Chu*

My family and I had a good time giving thanks to God in worship and thanksgiving. As we entered into prayer and as the Spirit led us, we were reminded to slow down in communicating with Jesus as the Lord delights in our presence too. We are indeed blessed to be part of this prayer chain of TMC. May we grow from weakness to witness for His glory.

— *Patricia Yong*



I found the information on the walls very useful for focussing on prayer items.

— *Anonymous*



I felt good having intentionally and purposefully talked to God our Father about myself, my family and others. The feeling of praying for others surpassed all other emotions. This reaffirms the Chinese saying: 施比授更有福 - it is better to give than to receive.

— *Anonymous*

I was so touched that I had tears streaming down from my eyes. — *Anonymous*



I thank God for giving me the courage to sign up at the last minute. I believe many of those who did not sign up were like me, fearful of the duration and not knowing how to pray. I must applaud the effort put into organising the reading materials and prayer items. After spending one hour, I personally experienced the need and power of prayer. In fact, I went back on Saturday afternoon for another prayer session after I had completed my Friday morning slot! All praise to God! — *Nerine Seng*

It was a wonderful time to connect with God. The one hour allowed me to put aside everything and just sit there to pray and speak to God. I was able to empty all other thoughts and take my time to pray. I am glad that I signed up for the session. — *Janice Pang*

It was a spiritual experience and a good quiet time with God. The logistics were also well planned.

— *Kelvin Kwok*



The experience in the Prayer Chapel was a novel experience for my wife and I. I felt that it was time well spent and I am happy to have been part of the 60-hour chain. We are glad that we went and thank the team behind this initiative. God Bless. — *Anonymous*

The Prayer Chapel was done up so well. The exhibits were clearly and very thoughtfully laid out, and created an ideal atmosphere for a person to be in a prayerful state.

— *Anonymous*

We had an awesome experience, praying in the calmness of the peaceful chapel. We also loved the displays of local and world affairs. — *Anonymous*



60-HOUR PRAYER CHAIN