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# SALTSHAKER



## MAKING SALT SENSE

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# MAKING SALT SENSE



by Chan Chong Hiok

*This article is adapted from a sermon preached by Mr Chan Chong Hiok on 12 Apr 15 titled “Making Salt Sense” based on Matt 5:13.*

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” (Matt 5:13)

The properties of salt help us to understand what we should be.

Salt is sodium chloride. It is quite a stable compound.

The Old Testament says that there is something special in salt.

God wanted it to be in every offering (Lev 2:13).

Salt was cast on burnt offerings (Ez 43:24), so the temple offering always included salt.

In the past, it was a sign of friendship for people in the Middle East to be eating salt together.

As salt gives flavour to food, we are also meant to add flavour to those around us.

In the past, without refrigerators, meat would turn foul very quickly. Salt acted as a preservative that prevented meat from turning bad.

In 2 Kgs 2:21, we read that the water in the city was not good, and so the prophet put some salt into the waters which made them potable and also allowed the plants to grow; salt therefore has a purification effect.

In cold climates, salt is scattered when there is ice on the road, so that the snow thaws and the roads can be cleared for cars to move. Salt has a thawing effect. If we are salt to those around us, we bring down their defences so that they can see in us the beauty of the Lord and want to listen to us. We should produce a thawing effect such that people are ready to hear the gospel.

Saltiness can be diluted. In the same way, we also lose our saltiness when we “dilute” what God wants to do through us. It is for us to always be aware that others are looking at us. We should be exemplary in our behaviour, so that people recognise us as kind, loving, gracious, patient and not judgmental. As salt of the earth, we are able to bless people because of the blessings Christ has given to us. Knowing that we are salt of the earth, we should live powerfully as salty Christians, instead of fighting and resisting our calling.

As salt of the earth, God wants us to make an impact. Let us accept joyfully that we are the salt of the earth. There is no need to question “Can I?” or “How can it be?” You just are. The Word of God tells us that we are to be the salt of the earth and we have the resources that He will give to us as we turn to Him.

We do not need a lot of salt to make a dish nice. Just a sprinkle will do. In the same way, it need not take many to cause a change. In Gen 18:32, Abraham wrestled with God to spare Sodom. God said that He would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, if 10 godly people could be found. God was (and still is) looking for people even in small numbers who can make a powerful impact for Him. We are told to live such lives among pagans that though they accuse us of doing wrong, they may see our good deeds and glorify God.

I had the privilege of discipling a young person when he was in school. Early in his career, he went through rigorous interviews for a senior appointment. He was informed that he was successful in the interviews. He then asked who he would be working for. It turned out that he would be working for a premier brewery. He thought to himself: “How can I distribute so much beer? I might destroy a lot of families.” Although it was a good offer, he made the painful decision of declining the appointment. He told the company that he was a Christian. He took a position for Christ – he wanted to be salt unto the earth.

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt...” (Col 4:6, NKJV).

A junior monk was told that he would be going down to the town to preach. This monk was very excited at being chosen. So the senior and junior monks walked through many major roads and alleys and eventually returned to the monastery. The novice monk told the senior monk that he thought that they were going to preach. The senior monk said: “My son, we have preached already. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was mostly watched. We were preaching the whole morning.” It is no use to walk anywhere to preach, unless we preach everywhere we walk. People are watching our sermons - the sermons that you are preaching without knowing that people are watching and are hearing. Let us therefore be mindful of that.

How then can we be salty Christians? For salt to be effective, it has to be sprinkled onto our food. It may only be a few grains, but in sprinkling a wide area, the food can be well-covered. In the same way, we as Christians should be working in concert with one another. We should be seen as loving one another so that people may know that we are Christ’s disciples (Jn 13:34-35). For salt to make an impact, there must be contact. We must meet up with pre-believers, connect with the pagans and get involved in their football games, go with them to the gym, barbeques, and other outings. We need to get involved in other people’s lives – really involved - so that they can see that we are real people.

As disciples of Christ, we need to grow in our character and maturity, and share Christ with others. Scripture very clearly tells us to go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation. But we get jittery and panic attacks just thinking about sharing our faith.



Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ said: “You may be encouraged to know that many on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, like myself, are by nature shy. We do not always find it easy to talk to others about Christ. But since Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and since He lives within us, we simply ask Him to give us the courage to speak powerfully for Him. Whenever I am alone with a person for a few minutes, I assume that I am there by divine appointment to share the good news of God’s love and forgiveness.”

You do not need to be a professional to lead someone to Christ. The first time I led someone to Christ was in Korea. The person read the spiritual laws to himself. I prayed and he said “thank you” in Korean. This is how I shared my faith for the first time. When you share from your heart with love and passion, with concern for their souls, they will respond. The Holy Spirit is honoured and we will witness many people entering the gates of heaven.

Jesus is counting on you and me to tell the Good News of Christ, so that others can share it with even more people. It is my prayer that all of us be part of a witnessing church, because that is the first step towards a discipling church. Be a true disciple of Christ, by following Him tenaciously, by being salt unto the earth, and being a light unto the world.

### How can you maintain your saltiness?

1. Keep your first love for Jesus.
2. Be determined to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, and totally surrender to Him.
3. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit, can we walk in victory and power. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that causes people who hate Christians to eventually want to follow Jesus.
4. Share your faith. Norman Geisler, a well-known theologian, said: “The most rewarding experiences I’ve had in my Christian life have not come from teaching, pastoring, or ministering around the world. They come from meeting with non-Christians and seeing one after another come to know Christ.”

Success in witnessing is simply sharing about Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. Remember that you are just the messenger. God does not want you to change their hearts - that is His job.

# WYSIWYG



by Kwa Kiem Kioh

The term “wysiwyg” is short form for “what-you-see-is-what-you-get” and was used in computer-speak some years ago to mean that what is seen on screen is what it will look like when printed.

However, with Christians, it is not always “wysiwyg”, that is, what they say is not always really who they are. This is especially when we read Matthew 5 and are challenged by the standards that Jesus sets for us.

There are two points to bear in mind when reading this portion of the Sermon on the Mount. First, that Jesus came to fulfil the law and not to abolish it (Matt 5:17) and secondly, he expects his disciples to be salt and light in the world (Matt 5:13-16).

First, the Pharisees had missed the point of the commandments, so Jesus had to go through the commands again and explain what was really required. The refrain “You have heard it was said...but I tell you...” is said six times in Matt 5:21-48. Jesus uses this phrase to remind his disciples that the ethical and moral standards that are required of them are not the common or popular standard. For example, with regard to what makes a person clean or unclean. For the Pharisees, the food you eat makes you unclean. Jesus points out in Matt 15:10-20 that it is not what a person eats that makes her unclean (what goes in), but rather what she says and does (what comes out) which is unclean, that is, sin.

Thus, while the general understanding of murder is to kill someone, for those who follow Jesus, murder also includes “character assassination” and speaking ill of another person. And although adultery means having sex outside marriage, Jesus includes looking at another person lustfully as adultery.

It is not so much that Jesus sets a “higher” standard for his followers, but rather that what he sets is the fulfilment of the law (Matt 5:27-30), what the law really intended. Jesus points out that it is not about just keeping to the letter of the law. Rather, what is required of Christians is understanding and fulfilling the spirit of the law.

This leads us to the second focal point, that is, that Christians are to be salt and light. Christians are to be such a contrast from those around us that we are light to their darkness. Living up to these standards means then that we will be so different from those around us that they can see the light which is our lives. If Christians did not speak unkindly about other people, we would be very different from the people around us. Jesus elaborates on this in Matt 6 when he gives examples of how our spiritual disciplines are to be very different from those around us –

“when you give, **do not** announce...when you pray **do not** be like the hypocrites, when you fast **do not** look sombre as the hypocrites do...” (Matt 6:2-16).

If we are not to be hypocrites (saying something but doing something else), we are to be people of integrity. There are two meanings to the word “integrity”. First it means an adherence to moral and ethical principles; a soundness of moral character or honesty. Secondly, it means that state of being whole, entire or undiminished. Both these meanings must characterise us as Christians, so that wysiwyg: what you see is what you get, and Christians are really those of us who follow Christ.

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*This is the third in a series of articles for the Saltshaker 2015, following the pulpit calendar on the Sermon of the Mount.*



# Each One



by Andy Chew

I was prompted to approach this young individual. I knew his father, who was a taxi-driver. Sadly, he had passed away suddenly a few years ago while jogging in the park opposite my estate. He had suffered a fatal heart attack there. He left behind his wife and two teenage children.

When I sat with Junjie that night, he initially kept quiet. After a while, he broke down. He was basically stressed because of some huge responsibilities he had to shoulder and, at the same time, he had to prepare for the 'O' Level examinations.

Junjie's mother was diagnosed with renal failure at the beginning of last year. She had been a homemaker before his father passed away. After his demise, she had to work to support the family, but had been unable to work since she was struck by her illness.

Late last year, I came across a teenager, sitting at the void deck of my block, while I was on my way home.

Junjie has had to juggle with accompanying his mother for countless medical appointments, occasionally being at the dialysis sessions, and taking care of his 14-year old sister. Whatever time he had left, he used to revise for his examinations.

After he poured out his woes to me, Junjie said he felt better and that he needed to go back home to study.

I decided to help this family. I spoke to the Member of Parliament at one of the Meet-The-People sessions. Eventually, help came in various forms including grocery vouchers, cash, subsidies for Junjie's mother's medical expenses, and bursaries for both Junjie and his sister.

Occasionally, I visit the family. Junjie has since passed his 'O' Level examinations and is now pursuing his education in a polytechnic. His mother is responding well to the dialysis treatment and, if all goes well, she will be able to work again after her medical review this month.

"Each One, Reach One" – my title for this article - has been an aim of mine because many people have reached out to me in the various

chapters of my life. If not for these persons, I would not be where I am now. Without them, I would not have learnt what it means to love and to bless.

During the years when I was involved in mission work in Cambodia, time and time again I was asked and I also asked others: "Where is your mission field?" We usually have this misconception that only by going on a mission trip to a foreign land will we be able to make an impact in people's lives.

But making a difference must and should first happen in our very own community.

The words, "Love", "Bless" and "Help" are all action words.

The Bible says to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt 22:39b) and "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt 25:40)

We can only see the power of loving, blessing and helping by doing. There are countless opportunities for us to do just that.



As long as we are willing to step forward and say to God "here I am, Lord, send me", God will use us and we will be amazed at how He can use us.

I initially felt a lot of pressure and experienced a certain level of stress in my earlier attempts to reach out to others, but I was reminded that the transformation of lives is the work of the Holy Spirit. All I need to do is be God's ambassador, instrument, mouthpiece and tool. When I was reminded of this, the pressure and stress were replaced with joy.

I reminded myself regularly that I cannot be a blessing to all but if I can be a blessing to one person daily, then thanks be to God for that.

Some examples of how we can bless others:

**Greet the captain when boarding a bus or thank**

**the cleaner of the toilet we use.**

**When boarding the MRT train during our daily commute, smile at the familiar faces among our fellow passengers. If we do that over a period of time, and start striking conversations, they will become our commuting friends before we know it.**

**Buy a drink or food for the elderly person selling newspapers or tissue paper along the streets.**

**When we sense a colleague or classmate or neighbour feeling troubled, ask a simple question: "Are you ok?"**

The list goes on.

In one of my visits to Junjie's home, his mother asked me: "Are you a Christian?" I acknowledged that I was, and she smiled.

Brothers and sisters, be a light in the marketplace, be it your home, your block, your street, your office, your school, your army camp, because we are probably the only Bible the pre-believers will ever read.

If each of us can reach out to one other person daily, just imagine what an impact it will make to this world in which we live!

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." - Matt 5:16*



The Relational Evangelism @ Marketplace (REM) workshop took place on Saturday 25 Apr 15.

## How has REM renewed your understanding on witnessing and evangelism?

The REM workshop helped me to understand that witnessing is about being a friend ready to "listen, eat and serve". I just need to be myself. I do not need to be super-spiritual or super-holy which is often our stumbling block. I do not need to be especially preachy but simply tell my own life story. There is absolutely no pressure to "convert" the pre-believer because it is not my responsibility but the work of the Holy Spirit.

I found it particularly useful also to apply the concept of a scale (Engel Scale or Rainer Scale) to identify where the pre-believer is in his spiritual condition. It is unrealistic to expect someone to make a quantum leap from a position of having no awareness of God, for example, to making a decision to accept Christ into his life. It is a step-by-step progression. This workshop has given me new insights in fulfilling The Great Commission.

Low Giat Ling, Hougang Small Group

Witnessing isn't the same as evangelising. I had always associated them with each other. Thanks to REM, I was reminded me that all believers are called to witness but only some are called to evangelise. I learned some tips on sharing my life story. Not only are the tips simple to follow, a short sharing is enough to leave an impression in the hearer without being intrusive.

Lynn Cham, Footprints Small Group

The workshop was helpful in renewing my understanding of witnessing. It is affirming to know that I don't have to be too hasty to share the Gospel and that I really should be a friend, have regular "coffee talks", and over time, they will open up to you. REM was also a good reminder to be bold and not be discouraged by rejection.

Julia Chia, Footprints Small Group

Both my wife, Serena, and I enjoyed the REM workshop. It made us realise that sharing our faith is not that difficult after all. It is simply talking with our neighbourhood friends, fellow parents in school and so on. It is basically making use of everyday situations and the gifts that God has given us to further His Kingdom. Best of all, it is all in God's wonderful plan. We are just His conduit. And we should allow Him to use us, not because He commanded us to do so, but because of His love for us, and what Jesus has done for us at the cross.

Tang Siang Tang, HIS Family Small Group

## Snippets from the REM Workshop



Witnessing is not a contrived activity. It is a way of life. Our witness should flow out naturally and spontaneously from our everyday activities and conversations. Being as we are, where we are.



Evangelism is a process and in the early stages, just as in plant germination when the seedling is growing underground, it doesn't mean nothing is happening when we don't see anything.



Witnessing may be understood as ushering someone One STEP closer to Christ, instead of expecting them to take one giant leap of faith.



Be a witness of the love and grace of Christ by BLESSing a pre-believing friend.

- B – Begin with prayer
- L – Listen to a friend
- E – Eat with a friend
- S – Serve a friend
- S – Share your life stories

Please contact [claire@tmc.org.sg](mailto:claire@tmc.org.sg) if you wish to have a Witness & Evangelism representative visit your small group so that it can learn more about sharing the faith simply and naturally through relationships.



# Evangelising Without Petrification



by Nancy Chua

*This testimony was shared by Nancy at the pulpit on Sun, 12 Apr 15.*

When I was a new Christian, one of the pastors in TMC frequently preached on Matt 28:19-20 – the Great Commission.

Initially, I was quite petrified when I learnt that the Lord commands me and all who belong to Him to make disciples of Jesus Christ. I gave myself all sorts of excuses like “I slur, I don’t speak well, please God send someone else”.

One day, when reading the Bible, I turned to Ex 4:10 which states: “Moses said to the Lord, ‘Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.’” I immediately closed my Bible. How could the Bible know my inner thoughts, I wondered.

For a while I stopped reading the Bible. One day, I decided that maybe if I flipped to the centre portion, I could avoid reading about Moses. This I did, and I was brought to Jonah 1. I read that Jonah refused to obey God and tried to run away, but God caught up with him. With that, I became very sure that the Great Commission was God’s call to me as well. I couldn’t get it out of my mind.

Sometime later, the manager at my workplace asked me along for lunch with a client. She told me that this client, who was a Caucasian, had a Malaysian girlfriend who was Buddhist, and that he accompanied his girlfriend for worship. I thought it was a good opportunity to evangelise to him, and asked my manager for permission. Being a Christian herself, she agreed.

During the lunch, when the opportunity arose, I asked the client: “Martin, I heard you are a Buddhist.” Almost immediately, he thundered and asked in a most annoyed fashion: “What’s wrong with being Buddhist? You Christians think so highly of yourselves.” And off he went. He added that the whole world was so full of problems and mockingly asked why I thought I was serving a living God.

I was so embarrassed. I thought all eyes in the restaurant were on us. I was not prepared for this verbal onslaught. While he was condemning me and all Christians, I prayed: “Dear God, I have no answers to all these questions. Could You please help me? Please put words in my mouth.”

When Martin stopped to catch his breath, words just flowed steadily out of my mouth. I was still in a daze and did not quite know what I was saying. I remembered hearing the last part of what I said which sounded something like Paul, an apostle of God, claimed that he was the greatest sinner. Thank God that Martin was quite satisfied with my reply. The following week, he even wrote me a letter to thank me for sharing my faith, and wrote that one day he would follow me to church!

After the incident, I realised that I had overcome my fear because whenever I am evangelising, God will put words in my mouth when I am stuck. Henceforth, whenever the opportunity arose, I would bring Jesus into the conversation. It does not matter if the person you are speaking to does not accept God that very moment. We should leave it to the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to the Truth.



## Invite your pre-believing or unchurched friend to:

**ALPHA Introduction Lunch**

**Sun 12 Jul | 1.00-3.30pm**

Topic in English:  
**Is There More to Life than This**

Topic in Chinese:  
**古代中国人的神**

Thereafter, for pre-believers ready to attend the ALPHA course:

**ALPHA Course**

**Ten Sundays from 19 Jul | 1.00-3.30pm**

**Begin to pray for a pre-believing friend and reach out to him/her.**

**[www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html)**

**Trinity Methodist Church  
congratulates**

**Ang Hern Shung**

Master of Divinity

on his graduation from

Trinity Theological College





# A Soon-To-Be Extraordinary Testimony



by Lim Joo Ming

Joo Ming shared this testimony over the pulpit on Sun, 19 Apr 15.

This is a very ordinary testimony, which I believe will be extraordinary one day.

As the first person in my family to come to believe in Christ, the first item on my prayer agenda has always been for my family members to come to know and accept Christ.

My family members gave me space to believe in Christ without any criticism. I understood the sensitivity of the issue in the family and thus did not share about Christ at home.

When my nephews and nieces were old enough to make choices of their own, I made a conscious effort to find opportunities to share with them my experiences with the Lord.

It was not easy as I did not want to make them feel that I was imposing my way of life on them. Yet I earnestly wanted them to know Christ. Occasionally, I would invite them to events organised by TMC.

Finally, two nieces responded. They came for the ALPHA introductory session.

After the introductory session, Niece A dropped out. Niece B came for one more session, then disappeared for the next few weeks. This happened during the time when my father passed away. At the funeral, there was the Buddhist camp and the Christian camp (which consisted of my family and my younger sister). I did

not ask my niece about her absence at the ALPHA course. I just continued to pray for both my nieces.

On the 49th day after my father's demise, I returned to my hometown to be present for the Buddhist prayers even though I did not participate in the ceremony. My sister-in-law surprised me by telling me that she heard about her daughter attending some event at my church and that she did not mind her children choosing their own faith. I was very encouraged and that gave me the courage to remind Niece B about the next ALPHA session.

Niece B turned up for the last few sessions even though she lives quite far away from our church. She was moved by the Holy Spirit during the Holy Spirit weekend. Although she didn't outwardly express her acceptance of Christ, I am sure the seed of the Gospel has been planted in her heart because she informed the ALPHA coordinator that she would like to attend ALPHA when it is in session again.

This is not my entire testimony. It is a journey. I believe that my niece will accept the Lord in His time. As for my part of her journey, I shall continue to pray for her.

## DISCOVERING GOD THROUGH ALPHA

by Jason Chia

Jason was baptised at TMC on 29 Mar 15.

My father was raised as a Catholic so I had some form of exposure to Christianity in my growing-up years. For example, I read the children's bible when I was younger, and I attended a Christian kindergarten and primary school. I have had Christian friends who shared about the faith with me.

A few years ago, I started praying (albeit irregularly) to God in times of need. However, I never truly understood what it meant to have a relationship with God, to accept Him as Lord and Saviour.

Things changed when I attended the ALPHA course earlier this year. I was introduced to it by my close friend Sarah and her father Ray. Through the sessions, I rediscovered the Christian faith anew. I learnt to look at it as much more of a personal spiritual journey than just a "religion".

After the ALPHA course, I was introduced to the Vineyard Small Group by Daniel Hum. Since then, I have been attending its fortnightly meetings. It has been a refreshing experience that has allowed me to dig more deeply into God's Word, and I find the Bible

study materials used by the group very helpful.

I have been involved in a few church activities. For example, I was involved in the recent Youth Avenue Christmas dinner, and served as a waiter during the dinner.

In this past year, I have been brought closer to God and my faith has been strengthened. I look forward to the new spiritual experiences that God will bring in the coming years.

Baptism classes will next be held on Sun 11, 18, 25 Oct, 1 Nov | 2.00pm. The baptism service will be on Sun 8 Nov.

Membership classes for those already baptised who wish to become a member of TMC (including by transfer from another church) will next be held on Sun 15, 22, 29 Nov, 6 Dec | 2.00pm. New members will be received on Sun 20 Dec.

[www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html)





## The Way of Discipleship



by Ang Hern Shung

One of my childhood past times was playing with LEGO sets.

LEGO pieces are building blocks made up of different shapes, sizes and colours. Yet, despite their differences and regardless of the year of their manufacture, they are all designed and made with the ability to connect to one another. Put together, these LEGO pieces can create just about any shape or building.

Joey Bonifacio, in his book, The Lego Principle, uses this word-picture to introduce a simple discipleship principle: At the very heart and foundation of discipleship, is relationships and connecting to one another and to God.

In Youth Ministry, we too believe in this principle, where relationships and community form the building blocks of our discipleship culture.

Rather than running programmes or organising events, our desire is to see the discipleship culture permeate every aspect of our ministry. Whether it is serving in the worship team, discussing topics in groups or even a simple meal after church with friends, each opportunity is seen as an opportunity for discipleship.

With this simple focus of community and relationships as the context in which discipleship happens, we have made some key changes to the way we “do” Youth Ministry, placing a heavy emphasis on facilitating spiritual relationships and building community.

One such change made at the start of this year was the introduction of Age-Group Breakouts. This new feature involved splitting up the Youth Ministry community into two groups on two Sundays of each month into the Secondary age group and the Tertiary age group. This allows us not only to shape the teaching and curriculum to cater more specifically to the two age groups, but it also provides for a more focussed community for the youth to grow together.



A combined session where we discussed about Why Community



Nicole Gan preaching at our Secondary age group breakouts, on Relationships



Our Community Sunday in March, where we had foot-washing as a activity lesson

Another new feature was the introduction of Disciple Groups (DGs). DGs are smaller intentional discipleship groups, led by one of our Youth or Young Adult leaders. These groups meet outside of the usual Sunday Youth Ministry for the purpose of “doing life together”. The idea is to allow for shared life experiences, where the youth are able to encourage one another in their faith while journeying together towards Christ-likeness.

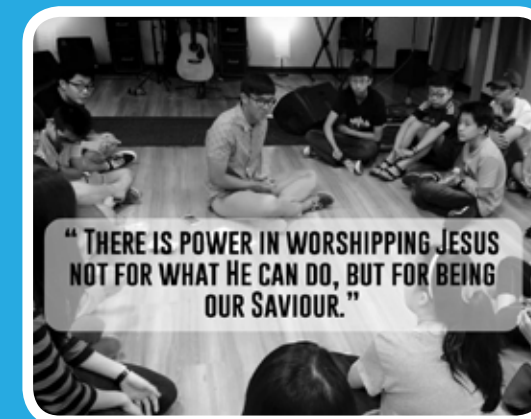


We also seek to provide further opportunities for the youth to pursue greater levels of discipleship. One such opportunity is our current Disciple Class, where we journey together in the study of God’s Word over 34 weeks. Our current class has 14 youths who have set aside their Saturday mornings to study God’s Word in a community. At the time of writing, they are 25 weeks into the current cycle. (see following article, “Peeling Off the Layers of the Bible” by Andrea Oh)

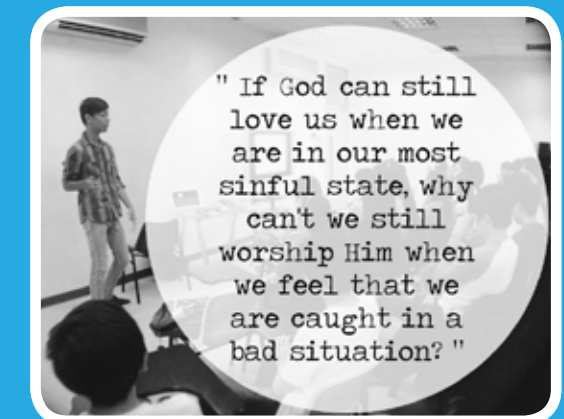
So where does the immediate future lie for Youth Ministry in the area of discipleship?

Simply put, we hope to continue to be faithful in improving the quality of our community, and to continue to make disciples who make disciples.

**“Community itself is one of the main ways we do outreach and discipleship, and even experience communion with God. The real secret of fruitful and effective mission in the world is the quality of our community.” (“Centre Church” by Tim Keller)**



One of the tertiary age group breakouts with Timothy Tan sharing a perspective on worship



Samuel David sharing his first message at a secondary age group breakout



Our Secondary 1 and 2 youth at a Community Event



Our Tertiary age group breakout having their discussion segment

The Youth Ministry meets every Sunday at 9am in The Upper Room.

Visit [www.facebook.com/TMCYouthMin](https://www.facebook.com/TMCYouthMin)



# Peeling Off the Layers of the Bible



by Andrea Oh

Studying the Bible had always been a challenge for me.

I knew that, to grow in my faith, I would have to read the Word constantly, and to read deeply into it. Yet every time I tried reading the Bible, I felt like there was something missing. While I appreciated each verse, I rarely had any revelations about God, or my relationship with Him. I knew that the way I was studying the Word was not right, but did not know how to go about correcting it.

DISCIPLE I class provided a framework for me to study the Bible. In the past, I would choose a book of the Bible at random and read it without understanding its significance. In DISCIPLE I, we study a different book each week, with each book linked to a theme that discusses a particular aspect of our faith. I began to look out for how these different themes are addressed in each book. With daily bible verses assigned as part of the bible study and preparation for the weekly discussion sessions, my reading also became more systematic and focussed. Now I read the Bible with a sense of purpose each day, compared to my aimless reading in the past.

I also often struggled with relating the Word to my life. I did not know how to view it as a guide to my life. The DISCIPLE I notes on the political and cultural circumstances of the biblical times helped me greatly in this aspect. With greater understanding of the context, I can now better understand the motivations and feelings of each of the characters of the Bible. Although times have changed, our doubts, challenges and struggles mirror those which are found by the characters in the Word. The stories found in the Bible are still relevant and inspirational today, centuries after they were written.

The group discussions also help to ensure that we see the Bible from different points of view. If we have any doubts about the lessons each week, voicing them in class allows us to tackle such doubts

from multiple perspectives and to refine our own understanding of the Bible. Many times, I did not even know that there were more layers of understanding to a certain verse or passage other than the one that was obvious to me until someone else brought up their own point of view. As questions are answered, new questions arise. In this way, we never stop seeking deeper insights into our faith.

Discipleship class has ignited my thirst for more knowledge of the Bible. These classes have also equipped me with knowledge of how to study the Bible effectively and I believe that this will aid me in my Christian walk in the years to come.

The DISCIPLE bible study programme is aimed at developing disciples through a disciplined study of the Bible. The study is conducted within the nurturing fellowship of a small group of believers committed to helping one another grow. This programme has been offered within Methodist Churches including TMC for the past many years. Interested? Visit [www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html) or talk to Park Ming in the church office / [parkming@tmc.org.sg](mailto:parkming@tmc.org.sg)



Andrea's DISCIPLE I class in session

# Jesus in the Mirror



by Claire Lowe

Look into the mirror and who do you see? Jesus or...a Pharisee?

Many Christians may have “made a Christ out of sanctification”. We think we have arrived in spiritual maturity, because of our tearful repentance, answered prayers, mastery of spiritual disciplines, active involvement at church and many a spiritual gift. Having come far in this sanctification process, we have become righteous.

And what do the unchurched think about our spiritual piety?

They see us as self-righteous. Judgmental. Hypocritical. Phony.

Sadly, instead of being witnesses for a loving and gracious God, many Christians have, unwittingly, become “anti-evangelists”. As unintentional as it may be, oftentimes, our attitudes, words and actions drive the unchurched further away from Christ, and His Gospel of love and grace.

And how do we respond to these “cynics and sceptics” who ridicule Christ because of our repulsive characteristics? We call it spiritual warfare or persecution. Instead of taking responsibility of our shortfall, we blame the devil for his antics.

Robinson and Chatraw, in their book, “Jesus in the Mirror”, challenge us to scrutinise our lives, and come face to face with the truth of some of these critical remarks. Through the pages of each chapter, they invite us to recognise our blind spots and embrace correction, so that we, in our transformation, may become more credible witnesses of the Gospel.

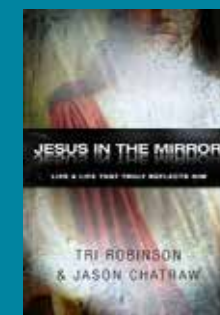
Sharing from their own personal struggles and journey toward Christ-likeness, Robinson and Chatraw carefully unpack some distinct characteristics that would make Christians stand out (in a positive way!) They help readers to understand meekness as a self-controlled disposition, instead of as weakness. They encourage us to inculcate humility, speak of loving our enemies and being kind to the undeserving as personality traits unique to Christ. By faithfully nurturing and sincerely demonstrating compassion, we continue to incarnate Christ to the world around us.

The ultimate antithesis to pharisaical behaviour is learning to be more grace-filled. Christians need to be bearers of grace. In so being, our reflections of Christ may disarm resistance and open roads to people's lives. This will not only lead to effective evangelism but also healing and restoration.

## Rate the Pharisee in you! 1 (hardly) to 6 (pretty often)

1. I mostly hang out with Christians, especially spiritual ones.
2. I can recognise flaws of people and shortfalls in situations.
3. I point out wrong theology.
4. I say to others how long I've served in a particular area of leadership.
5. I often get my way and I'm mostly right.

Your total score on this arbitrary pharisaical instrument is \_\_\_\_\_ / 30.

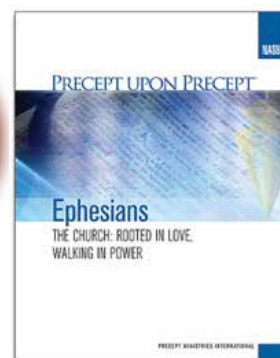


Tri Robinson and Jason Chatraw's “Jesus in the Mirror: Live a Life that Truly Reflects Him” is available from TMC's Resource Centre on Level 2 (248.6 ROB)





# PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT



**Precept Upon Precept® (PUP) Bible Studies  
are in-depth, inductive studies in an  
easy-to-follow, daily format that takes  
approximately one hour per day.**

## LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, targeted by grace, sons of God united in a single family, inheritors, holy, redeemed, forgiven, raised from the dead and seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenlies! How can you not study Ephesians!? Before Paul even hints at how believers should live, he lays a rock-solid foundation: who we are in Christ! If you think you're just a cog in a machine, if you don't know your true identity, then this study is for you.

Every Wed 1 Jul - 9 Sept (but not 5 Aug)  
2.00-5.00pm

**OR**

Every Thurs 2 Jul - 10 Sept (but not 6 Aug)  
7.30-10.00pm  
The Upper Room @ L3 in TMC

**Pick up a detailed brochure from the magazine racks at the iSunday  
Counter / outside Emmanuel Hall, or visit [www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html)  
Registration must be by Sun, 21 June  
Enquiries to Lee Park Ming / 6282 4443 / [parkming@tmc.org.sg](mailto:parkming@tmc.org.sg)**

## VOICES FROM THE LAITY



*William Goh  
William is the chairperson of  
the Local Church Executive  
Committee*

THIS YEAR, THE SALTSHAKER WILL FEATURE THE WORK OF THE LAY LEADERSHIP, A GROUP OF SEVEN PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WHO LEAD DIFFERENT CLUSTERS OF MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES, AND REPRESENT THE LAITY ACROSS THE ENGLISH CONGREGATION, MANDARIN SERVICE AND YOUTH MINISTRY.

There are many definitions of discipleship.

To my mind, discipleship is the process of becoming a disciple of Christ, to be increasingly (because we can never fully be) Christ-like in our thoughts, words, and actions. At the heart of fulfilling this is a posture of surrender in obedience to Christ's commands and teachings as conveyed to us through the Bible.

Why is it so difficult to be a disciple of Christ? Because His ways are not the same as the ways of this world. Let's face it. It is not easy to forgive and forget those we love who have hurt us, let alone love our enemy. And how many of us can readily declare that he has always been able to display the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) in our daily interactions with others?

Some have taught that discipleship is optional. There are no expectations of a Christian, and good works are discretionary. The result is that many believe that one can be a Christian, and yet not be a disciple of Jesus. In other words, they may have accepted Jesus as saviour, but they may not have accepted Jesus as Lord. This is not the true Gospel. To accept Jesus as Lord is to place Jesus as the central focus in all aspects of our lives, be it work, family, or our relationships with others. Yet many, including myself, struggle with being a disciple of Christ.

Jesus knew that it wouldn't be easy to follow His ways. When He said: "Follow Me" (Matt 4:19), he also told His disciples to "calculate the cost" (Lk 14:28), and to "die to self" (Lk 9:23) in order to follow Him. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us to help us in our discipleship journey – because it is tough doing it on our own strength.

But how often do we turn to God in prayer, except as a last resort when we feel helpless? How often do we rely on our own strength to solve life's struggles, instead of seeking the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, who dwells quietly in us, ever ready to intercede for our needs? And how regular has our quiet time with God been? Has it become irregular and rushed?

In his last book, "The Radical Disciple", the late John Stott was asked for his thoughts on the church today. He described it as having "growth without depth". Others have described the church today as a

mile wide but an inch deep.

This has shaped my conviction that, as a church, we need to go back to basics. We need to go back to authentic discipleship and intentional discipleship making. And we should start with our personal discipleship growth.

We are familiar with the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow spiritually. Let me single out two.

First, constant communication with God through prayer. Prayer reminds us that God is the central focus of our life. As we submit to His will, we can draw on His strength and peace to face life's challenges.

Second, increasingly know and be deeply rooted in His Word. This helps us to understand God and grow in our relationship with Him, which in turn will motivate us to live out His Word, from the inside out; in effect, living transformed lives, in His way, for His glory.

James 2:26 reminds us that "faith without works is dead". Serving our God is living out our faith. An outward response to God's love is an essential part of our discipleship journey to be more like Christ. So we should serve the Lord with gladness (Ps 100:2). We are called to obey the Great Commandment of loving God and our neighbours (Matt 22:37-39), and to fulfil the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded (Matt 28:19-20).

Our church focus is shaped and communicated in a simple way which is easy to remember: Making Disciples: Pray, Grow, Serve.

It has often been said that discipleship is caught, not taught. It is my sincere prayer that all of us have caught the joy of discipleship, however difficult it may seem at time. As the LCEC Chairperson, I also pray that all LCEC members, as servant leaders of TMC, will earnestly walk the talk in personal discipleship, so as to set an example for others to follow.

As we continue our journey of faith, let us live by faith, and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7).





*Poh Kit is an Associate Lay Leader  
(ALL) in TMC's Pastoral Cluster.*

**Voices from the Laity**

## WHO DARES TO CLAIM TO LOVE CHRIST?



Pastoral CareNet Ministry (PCM), a two-year old ministry in TMC, envisions every TMC member as a caring disciple of Christ.

As spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ, we know that we are to love one another as Christ has loved us, for in this way, others will know that we are His disciples.

I am all too familiar with this command. I ask myself: Is this just pure head knowledge?

Do I truly show love, care and concern for my fellow members in church?

Do I bother to follow up with a newcomer after her first visit?

Am I ready to disciple a new believer and help journey with her in her walk with God?

Do I make visitors feel welcome and comfortable, so they will want to come back to worship God?

Do I look out for our regular worshippers who are lonely and do not have many friends?

Am I ready to come alongside someone who needs help and pray with her?

Will I take time to visit members who are hospitalised or homebound?

For the bereaved, do I bother to attend wakes and bring comfort to the family?

Pray, grow and serve – these areas of our Christian life in TMC have been much emphasised in the past few years. More recently, we have been reminded to be the salt and light of Christ, to live up to our calling as His disciples.

The demands of discipleship are not just intimidating, but challenging too.

Praise God that for the past two years, our PCM team together with our mentor Pastor Peter, has been gradually and intentionally creating an environment of love, care and concern for our fellow members.

We meet many newcomers at The Connection Café and have followed up with them too.

Some newcomers have attended the ALPHA course and even got baptised, become church members and joined small groups.

The number of hospital visits and home visits the team has done and are still doing is countless.

Many in PCM have spent much time with the lonely, the hurting, the disappointed and bereaved, holding their hands, lending them shoulders to cry on, and ears to listen to their problems, and said prayers to comfort and uplift them.

I never realised there were so many people in need of pastoral care and love within our church until I joined PCM.

I have been very encouraged by the compassion and care exhibited by the PCM team, and the spirit of love and unity that binds us together as one.

Many whom we have cared for have expressed much gratitude and love to the team.

It is not natural for us to love others as ourselves. One has to be intentional and deliberate to achieve this goal. We must consciously remind ourselves of the cross which we need to carry as His disciple, and the responsibilities that come with it.

Discipleship is not only for church leaders. It is for everyone who dares to claim to love Christ.







## JOHN 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you  
L♥VE one another as I have L♥VED you. so you must L♥VE one another. By this everyone will  
know you are my disciples. if you L♥VE one another.

### PCM VISION

Every TMC member a caring  
disciple of Christ

### PCM MISSION

To L♥VE one another

To provide an atmosphere of care through:

CARE AND SUPPORT  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
COMING ALONGSIDE

### AREA OF INVOLVEMENT

- Hospitality
- Connection Café to welcome visitors
- Visit the sick, hospitalized and homebound
- Care support ministry
- Support to bereaved families
- Integration of pastoral care in Small Group Ministry, Women's Society of Christian Service, Glowing Years' Ministry
- Empowering and equipping church members through Caring God's Way workshop

### PASTORAL CARENET MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rev Peter Goh  
Ang Poh Kit ..... Associate Lay Leader  
Chairperson

Wee Eng Hock ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson  
Emily Wilfred ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson

Linda Wee ..... Treasurer

Paul Chong ..... Connection Café  
Jessie Chong ..... Hospital / Homebound  
Emily Wilfred, Kee ..... Visits and Care Support  
Seok Kin, Nellie, ..... Ministry  
Linda Kwan

Sam Lim ..... Bereavement

### CARING GOD'S WAY WORKSHOP

Sunday Jul 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 16, 23 | 2.00-5.00pm |  
TMC Prayer Chapel  
Cost \$10 (for materials)  
Lunch and tea provided

Designed to equip members in:

**Caring**, Connecting & Coming alongside those in  
need

**Appreciating** and Applying God's Word

**Reaching** out with support and care

**Encouraging** & befriending

For more information: Contact Francis in the church office at 6282 4443/ francis@tmc.org.sg

# HOSPITALITY



Koh Shuwen

## EVERYONE'S MINISTRY

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

MANY OF YOU WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SEEN ALVIN AND ARICAL FU (ONE OF TMC'S YOUNGEST GRANDPARENTS) WITH THEIR LIVELY BROOD OF GRANDCHILDREN IN THE PLAZA. THEY WERE BAPTISED AND BECAME MEMBERS OF TMC AT EASTER 2013.

### 1) Tell us a little about yourself

Arical and I are both real estate consultants. But most our time is spent as playmates to our five grandchildren Jollie, Carine, Rian, Renee and Rafael. We currently attend Sunday service with our daughter, Clara and her two children (Renee and Rafael). Clara's helper, Anna, also attends the service with us when she is available. In June this year, we will be participating in the TMC Church camp with all our grandchildren, except Rian who is still very young.

### 2) How did you first learn about Trinity Methodist Church?

My brother Desmond and his wife, Irene invited us to TMC for an outreach event featuring local artiste, Li Nanxing, who shared about how coming to know Christ transformed him from a gambling addict to an evangelist for Christ.

### 3) What first struck you about TMC?

We were actually looking for a church to worship at, and had visited many other churches. TMC came across as a very warm community and we felt at home here. Many members have been with this church for many years and are related to one another! It is just like a big family gathering together every Sunday to worship God.

### 4) What made you decide to worship regularly at TMC?

We both were exposed to church and Christianity from a young age but we were distracted by other commitments. We both felt it was time to return to God and be open to Him guiding our path and direction.

### 5) What's one thing you think TMC can do more of or do better in welcoming newcomers and visitors?

There is no "one size fits all". We need to cater to each individual's needs and care for them in order to build relationships and trust.

### 6) What ministries are you already involved in? How do you hope to grow or serve TMC as a disciple of Christ?

We are currently attending two small groups as well as Pastor Peter Goh's monthly bible class. We are awaiting and seeking God's direction regarding which ministry to serve in.

### 7. What encouragement do you have for people who are contemplating baptism and/or membership?

My challenge to them is: "What is holding you back?"

Alvin and his grandson Rafael enjoying a video in the comfort of the TMC Resource Centre



Arical (extreme right) mixing grandmotherly duties with a catch up with a friend





Lim Sue Yien

SG Connect

## HIS Family

Fellowshipping over Sunday lunch with members of HIS Family small group is a highly-recommended experience.

Generous portions of food and drink appear in front of you without you having to lift a finger. All special dietary restrictions (no chilli, less oil, more veggies) can be catered to.

“Food is very important to this small group,” Siang Tang tells me in a serious tone while my notebook struggles to find space on a table full of delectable dishes.

HIS Family small group is one year old. The group is an offshoot of the small group, Family Aspirations. Feeling a strong call from God to start a new small group, Tai Keat, who co-leads with Siang Tang, finally took the leap of faith after seeking God for several months.

The four couples meet every other Saturday afternoon at homes of members living in Bukit Timah and Katong. Each session begins with worship, bible study, prayer and then ends with fellowship - over food of course!

Building spiritual disciplines has been a key emphasis for the small group from the beginning. This consists of gaining knowledge of God’s Word, applying it in one’s life, and developing a strong prayer life. It is through having these disciplines that one can allow oneself to be changed by God - what Christians term as sanctification or transformation. Big words, but all it means is that all of us need to grow up, from being a new believer, to being a changed believer who obeys Jesus’ command to go and make disciples.

Prayer is an important part of the life of this small group. There is a time during meetings for all to share prayer requests, followed by praying for one another. This is a meaningful time of encouragement and accountability, where members share deeply on their spiritual condition and struggles. The group also runs a WhatsApp chat, where prayer needs are immediately followed up by saying prayers on the chat line itself. Tai Keat finds this helpful because praying over the chat line shows the person that the group is there to meet

their needs there and then. Prayer ministers to the person in need allowing them to experience the Holy Spirit while they are being prayed for. Praying openly in this way also allows members to learn from one another how to pray.

Several members are old-timers of TMC, while others are newer. Serving together has brought everyone closer together, and allowed the newer members to meet a wider church community. During the mid-autumn festival last year, HIS Family organised a treasure hunt at the Botanic Gardens.

Currently, the group is working through the Navigators study series called Colossians 2:7, which is also part of the TMC Discipleship Roadmap (available at the magazine racks or online at [www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html)). To apply what they are learning from the bible study, the group intends to serve together in the upcoming run of the ALPHA Course.

Friendly banter continued across the table as the plates of food gradually emptied. Some members then cheerfully announced that they were off to a badminton session with members of the Hougang small group. With that, my interview ended, but not before I had been blessed with the good food and warm fellowship of this group of brothers and sisters in Christ.

**HIS Family welcomes new members, young and old. If you would like to meet up with them over Sunday lunch just to see if this group could be suitable, they would love to meet you.**

**To join a small group, visit [www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html) and click on the “Join a Small Group” link where you can provide some basic information to help the SG Committee follow up with you, leave your name with the iSunday Counter, or email [colinyip@gmail.com](mailto:colinyip@gmail.com) for more information.**



Photo (top left): Members enjoying nature on a tree top hike

Photo (above): HIS Family organised the treasure hunt during the 2014 mid-autumn festival family outing at the Botanic Gardens

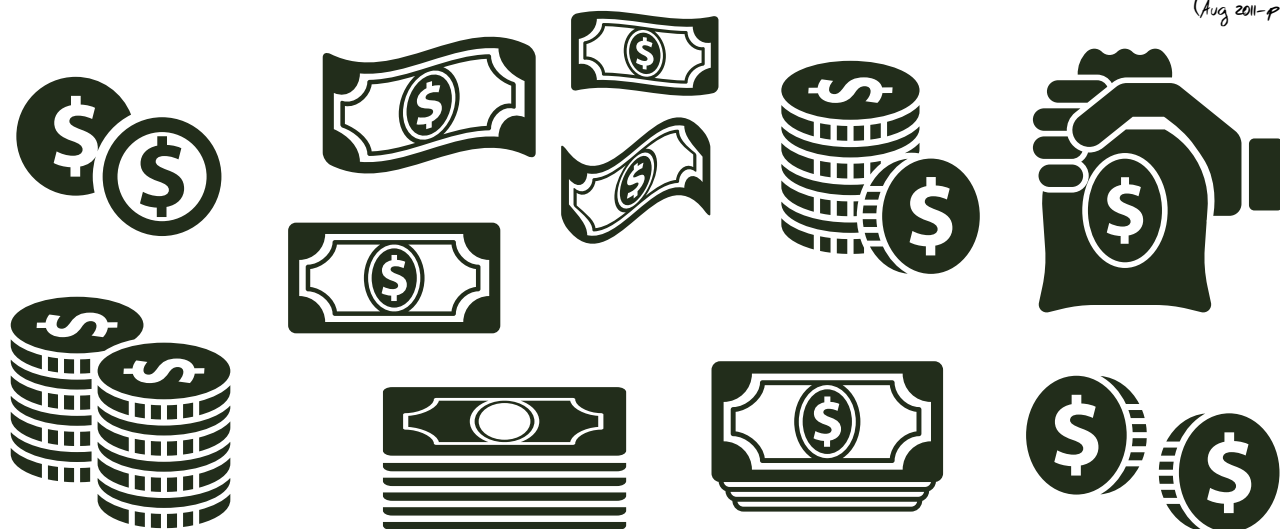




# SERVING GOD BY WATCHING THE MONEY



by Ong Hon Yuh  
Chairperson,  
Finance Committee  
(Aug 2011-present)



TMC has a Finance Committee (FC), which includes the church treasurer, and various sub-ministries with responsibilities for the church's finances, such as the counting teams that deal with tithes and offerings.

How does the FC govern the church's expenditure without hampering God's work through our ministries? How does the FC exercise good stewardship on behalf of the church, and how does it account for worshippers' tithes and offerings, and other income of the church?

## It's Not Our Money!

Our annual expenditure is about \$2 million each year.

The church is financially supported only by the tithes and offerings of the congregation.

Other income such as those from fixed deposit interest, donations from the Chapel of Life columbarium niches, and rental for use of our premises for weddings is insufficient to support the annual expenditure on staff salaries, conference commitments, cleaning and maintenance of the building, and the ministry work of the church.

It is relatively easier to spend other people's money. I happily spent my parents' money for more than 18 years of my life, never worrying that I would not have any pocket money for food, books and transport. I was even able to save up some of my pocket money as long as I spent prudently. I exercised even more prudence in spending when I stopped asking for pocket money and lived only on my full-time national service allowance.

It is a huge undertaking for the FC to be entrusted with the church coffers. We must be conscious at all times that the tithes and offerings received belong to God.

"Everything under heaven belongs to me." (Job 41:11b)

It is not the FC's money or even the church's money *per se* to spend indiscriminately.

TMC has been blessed with a surplus every year through the faithful giving of our congregation. We must therefore spend prudently on our ministries and the administration of the church. He has installed us as responsible and faithful stewards of these resources to do His work on earth and we must therefore use the money wisely for His purposes to be carried out through the church.

## No Plans, No Money!

My parents did not often ask me what I did with my pocket money, except when I asked for extra money for school-related expenditure, or when my usual stipend ran out due to overspending. I remember my sheepishness when I had to account to them because of the latter reason.

Every March to May, our ministries prepare their budgets for the next church financial year, which begins in August. The FC scrubs through the proposed budget of each ministry before the leadership approves the budget. Typically, each ministry has to account for its ministry plans for the coming year when they put in a budget. The proposed budget is presented to the congregation in June or July as they consider their pledge commitments.

Approximately 30 per cent of our budget is channelled towards ministry work. It is therefore important that our ministries are clear about the objectives of their ministry plans, and also execute their plans in a most prudent manner. It is important that the objectives of the plans are clear and achievable. This applies to our administrative spending too. Every cent counts!



One of my key operating principles as FC chairperson has been this: if there are no new plans, the previous allocated budget will usually be maintained (and sometimes cut) but not increased.

Even with an approved budget, there are certain amounts which require additional approval before the funds can be utilised. This is when the FC asks sometimes difficult questions of ministries. To the bystander, the enquiries may appear to be nit-picking or casting doubt on a particular ministry's plans, but that is not the intention. It is necessary to ask hard questions on behalf of the congregation who have entrusted the leadership of the church and its resources to a few of their fellow brothers and sisters.

What kinds of questions has the FC asked? These are not necessarily confined to dollars and cents:

“(When buying a laptop), is it necessary to spend another \$100 to upgrade the RAM when there is already 8GB of RAM? What kind of work is being done which requires the upgrade? At work, we seem to do fine with 4GB.”

“Can we spend less per head for a buffet lunch? Surely the fellowship is more important than the dishes? There is a group in church which caters inexpensive lunches which are good value for money. The cheaper food does not appear to have a negative impact on their fellowship.”

“How does this plan or event help our members to become better disciples?”

“Are you planning for the follow-up of pre-believers after the outreach event? If not, why spend money in organising the outreach event in the first place?”

We should seek to expand and give depth to our ministry work in church and in the community

so that we are making disciples who can make disciples. We need to examine and reflect whether our resources (money, manpower, time) are indeed directed toward this end.

### No Hoarding of Money!

The above questions do not always make the FC popular with everyone, and sometimes such questions cannot be comprehensively answered. None of us is clairvoyant after all. This is where faith has to be exercised.

The FC is a gatekeeper of church funds, not a jailor. As we work at ensuring that money is well-spent, we also recognise that money has to be spent and not hoarded unnecessarily. Plans are necessary to do our duty to God, our congregation and the community. Amid due diligence and human prudence, plans, however, have to be entrusted to God in faith.

We set aside reserves for operating expenses in case tithes and offerings slow down significantly for some reason, such as in an economic crisis, contingencies which require major works, for example burst water pipes, and other unforeseeable developments.

But Jesus reminded us in Matt 6:33 that we are to *“seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these [things that we need] will be given to you as well”*. We must trust that the Lord will always provide if we love and serve him faithfully.

Pledge Sunday is on  
Sunday 5 Jul 15.

For a full list of our ministries, visit  
[www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html)

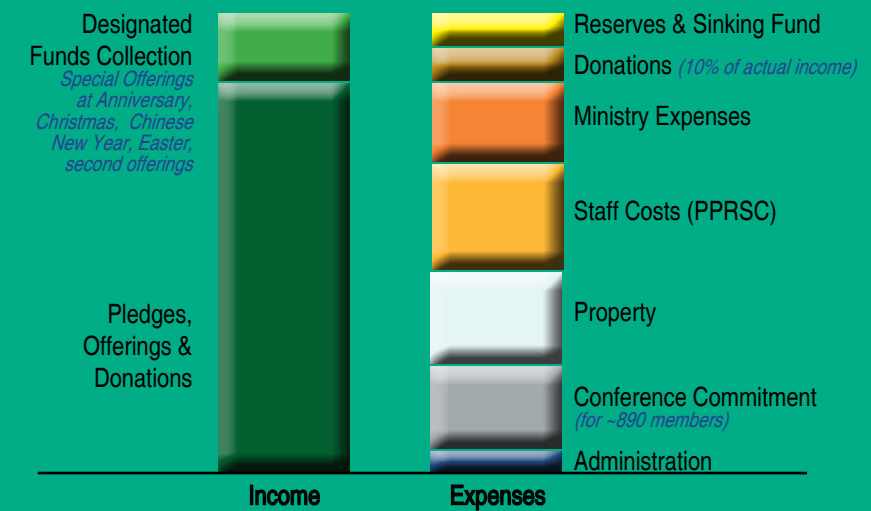


Figure: A pictorial depiction of how the income we receive is expended across the various responsibilities and needs of the church

### Tithe

To tithe is to give to God the portion, usually 10 per cent, of the blessings He has given to us in terms of salaries and bonuses, profits and other income. The tithe principle is this: “He gives unto us, we give back to Him one-tenth of all that He has blessed us with.”

### Pledge

To pledge is to formally declare and commit the amount a person wishes to tithe and offer to the Lord in the financial year. All pledges are kept strictly confidential by the Treasurer, Finance Chairperson and Accounts. Visit [www.tmc.org.sg/resources.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/resources.html) for the contents of the pledge card.

### Conference Commitments

As part of our Methodist connectional system, TMC contributes about \$450 per TMC member to the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) annually. This contribution, which is known as “Conference Commitments, is given by all 21 TRAC churches and goes to support the Methodist pastors’ salaries, ministries and administration costs. (The Methodist Church in Singapore consists of almost 50 local congregations, and is organised in conferences: general conference, annual conferences, district and local conferences. TRAC is an annual conference.)

About 60 to 70 per cent of our expenditure is on Conference Commitments, and internally, on TMC’s utilities (about \$150,000 annually), maintenance, administration, staff salaries and the sinking fund. These are responsibilities

that we fulfill as a church to provide a physical place for people to meet God, with one another, and to the Methodist Church.

As the Lord exhorts us to make disciples, serve and minister to one another and the community in Singapore and in Cambodia, the remaining 20 to 30 per cent of our receipts, and the collections for the Community Fund and Missions Fund are expended in our ministry programmes and activities.

### Community Fund

A fund that supports outreach and social concerns efforts in the community such as community programmes and financial assistance for poor and needy families.

### Missions Fund

A fund that provides support for missionaries and mission organisations, and also the missions work in Cambodia, in particular, Glory Trinity Methodist Church.

### Properties Development Fund

A fund to provide for major property-related works which can be redevelopment projects, major structural repairs and maintenance of both planned and contingency natures.

### Designated Funds

Together, the Community Fund, Missions Fund and Properties Development Fund are known as the Designated Funds to which reserves are channelled.



TOGETHER IN UNITY

**JDOOP**  
JUBILEE DAY OF PRAYER

ONE DAY,  
ONE PLACE  
**50,000**  
In Prayer  
JUBILEE  
SINGAPORE



**5 JULY, 2015**  
SUNDAY • 4.14 PM

CELEBRATE AND PRAY TOGETHER AT  
**SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB**  
STADIUM MRT STATION (CC6)

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Jointly Organised By:  
National Council of Churches of Singapore  
Evangelical Fellowship of Singapore

Supported By:  
Singapore Baptist Convention  
Indian Christian Network  
Festival of Praise Fellowship  
National Prayer Alliance  
LoveSingapore

If you want to secure a place at this once-in-a-lifetime event, please act quickly to register at the iSunday Counter / [www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html) for one of the limited free tickets to the event.

Transport will be organised from TMC to the event venue.

Queries to Sim Cher Khee through the church office.

## BIBLIOTHEQUE

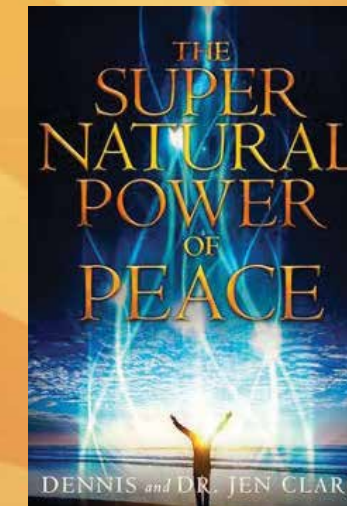
by Vinitha Jayaram



Here are some of the newest arrivals from SKS.

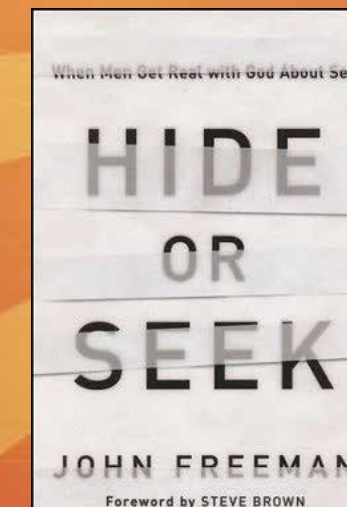
THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF  
PEACE

Author: Dennis and Dr Jen  
Clark



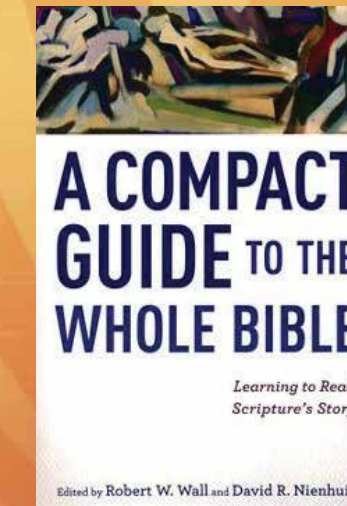
HIDE OR SEEK

Author: John Freeman



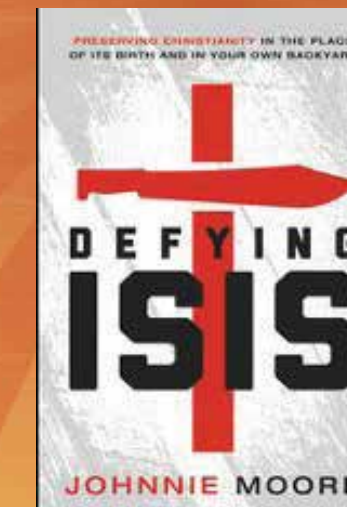
A COMPACT GUIDE TO THE  
WHOLE BIBLE

Author: Robert W. Wall  
and David R. Nienhuis



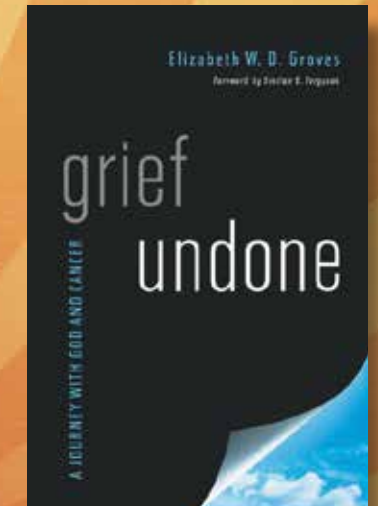
DEFYING ISIS

Author: Johnnie Moore



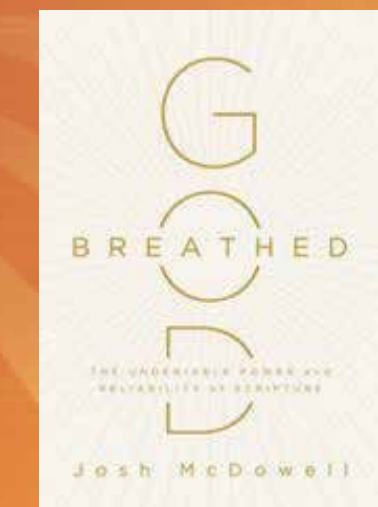
GRIEF UNDONE

Author: Elizabeth W.D.  
Groves



GOD BREATHED

Author: Josh McDowell



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### TMC RESOURCE CENTRE

You can also borrow some featured books from the TMC Resource Centre on Level 2. Some available titles are:

1. **Coffee shop conversations: Making the most of the spiritual small talk** by Dale Fincher (248.6 FIN)

2. **Love like Jesus: Reaching others with passion and purpose** by Judah Smith (248.6 FIN)

3. **Presence driven donkeys: Bringing Christ to the streets** by Jeff Yuan (248.6 YUE)



# EVENTS

**Thurs 4, 11, 18 Jun**  
**7.30pm**

Precept upon Precept Bible Study on the Book of Nehemiah  
[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup)

**Fri 5 Jun – Mon 8 Jun**  
**UNION Church Camp**  
Pulai Springs, Johor Bahru

**Sat 13 Jun, Wed 24 Jun**  
Youth Avenue Outing  
[www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123](http://www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123)

**Sat 20 Jun, 4, 18 Jul**  
**3.00pm**  
Youth Avenue Youth Captains' Leadership Development  
[www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123](http://www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123)

**Sat 27 Jun**  
**11.00am**  
Youth Avenue Teachers / Volunteers Gathering  
[www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123](http://www.facebook.com/YouthAvenue123)

**Sun 28 Jun**  
Pre-Pledge Sunday

**1.00pm**  
ALPHA Call to Prayer

**Wed 1 Jul and every Wed until 9 Sept (not on 5 Aug)**  
**2.00pm**  
Precept upon Precept Bible Study on the Letter to the Ephesians  
[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup)

**Thurs 2 Jul and every Thurs until 10 Sept (not on 6 Aug)**  
**7.30pm**  
Precept upon Precept Bible Study on the Letter to the Ephesians  
[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#pup)

**Sat 4 Jul**  
**9.00am**  
Small Group Leaders' Discipleship Group meeting  
[www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html)

**Sun 5 Jul**  
Pledge Sunday

**4.14pm**  
Jubilee Day of Prayer  
<http://jdop.sg>

**Sun 12, 19, 26 Jul, 2, 16, 23 Aug**  
**2.00pm**  
Pastoral CareNet Ministry – Caring God's Way workshop

**Sun 12 Jul**  
**1.00pm**  
ALPHA Introductory Lunch  
[www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html)

**Sun 19 Jul for 10 Sunday sessions**  
**1.00pm**  
ALPHA Course  
[www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html)

**Sat 25 Jul**  
Youth Avenue Pizza Party

**Every Sun (except 1st Sundays)**  
**10.15am**  
Design for Discipleship  
[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html)

**Every 2nd and 4th Sun**  
**7.45am**  
Church Prayer Meeting  
[www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html)

**Every 3rd Sun**  
**10.00am**  
WSCS Visitation to Homebound. Those interested to bring the church into the homes of the homebound, please contact Lucy Chan at 9748 2733.

**Last Sun of the month**  
**9.00am**  
Visit to Institute of Mental Health by Outreach & Social Concerns. Contact Yvonne Tan at 9091 8589 / [yvnn\\_tan@yahoo.com](mailto:yvnn_tan@yahoo.com)  
[www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh](http://www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#imh)

**Every 1st Wed**  
**10.00am-12.00pm**  
Yum Cha@10 is an opportunity for people to come together for fellowship, and serves as a platform for TMCers to meet one another as well as non-Christians in the community mid-week. Contact the church office / [churchoffice@tmc.org.sg](mailto:churchoffice@tmc.org.sg)  
[www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym](http://www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym)

**Every 3rd Wed (not in Jun)**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
God's Masterworks: A Concerto in 39 Movements. A bible study of the Old Testament. Currently on the Book of Numbers.  
[www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#masterworks](http://www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#masterworks)

**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](mailto:eddie@tmc.org.sg)  
[www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#slec](http://www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#slec)

**Every Fri (not on 17 Jul)**  
**8.00 – 10.00pm**  
Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

**Every 1st and 3rd Fri (resuming on 3 Jul)**  
**9.15 – 11.15am**  
Bible Study on Exodus  
[www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#exodus](http://www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#exodus)

**Every Sat (not on 6 Jun)**  
**9.30 – 11.30am**  
Fellowship of Ukulelians

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