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Shaking Salt

THE SECRET STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH



by Rev Alvin Chan

This article is adapted from a sermon preached by the Rev Alvin Chan on 19 Jan 14 titled “The Secret Strength of the Church” based on Acts 2:42-47. During the sermon, a video was screened, describing a humble life-saving station which, in the course of time, was transformed into a social club, forsaking its original life-saving mission.



HOW can we fulfill God's purpose for the Church?

The video is a modern-day parable that warns us about our purpose as a Church. We may set out as a collection of people to achieve a particular task but, as time goes by, things come in the way so much so that, as the life-saving station, we forget what we are originally called to do. This video reminds us of what our purpose is as a Church. God has a specific calling for the Church. What is it? How do we become the Church that will fulfill God's calling for it?

John Wesley articulated one fear. *"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."*

If we are like a life-saving station that refuses to get ourselves dirty, and/or to go into the world to save others, we would become the very thing that John Wesley feared that the Church could be reduced to.

For us to become the Church that God intends for us to be, we have to make three mindset changes.

1. We must recognize that the Church is not a place, but a **people**.

When people ask "Where are you going this Sunday?" we often answer: "Going to church." But we do not go **to** church - we **are** the Church. We go to worship, pray and serve - we are the Church. The Church is a people and therefore relationships are important. How we relate to and treat one another, and how we handle our disagreements is important.

The very way that the first disciples treated one another made

Christianity so attractive that the Church began to grow.

2. We must see the Church not as a monument, but a **movement**.

Over the Christmas and New Year season, I met visitors to our church who remarked that they remembered growing up here. But when I asked some of them, "Where is God in your life now?" they said, "Well, sometimes I go to church, sometimes I don't." For them, the Church has become a monument - something to remember their childhood by.

The Hagia Sophia is situated in Turkey. It is a most magnificent building built in AD532 by the Emperor Justinian. It was the world's greatest church, unmatched in majestic splendour and size for a thousand years, its dome reaching as high as an 18-storey building. It influenced the design of every Eastern Orthodox church. In 1453, it was converted into a mosque. It also influenced the design of mosques throughout the world. However, it is now a museum.

A building is merely used to house the movement that the Church must become for the sake of the Gospel. Purpose is therefore important. The Church can very easily get busy with many things to do. We need to busy ourselves with the right things. We see how the right things were being done in Acts 2:42-47. There was the Word, the worship, the coming together and the welcome. When new people came, especially those in need, they were welcomed into the community.

The Church cannot pride itself as a mere monument to remember its past. Monuments are dead. The Church is alive. It has to be a movement.

3. The Church cannot be made up of mere devotees or believers, but **disciples**.

The followers of Christ were first called "Christians" in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

But the name "disciple" came *before* the name "Christian". This distinction is important because, in this day, it seems as if the reverse is true i.e. that it is perfectly fine to be a Christian first and then decide (as if there were a choice) whether to become a disciple later (depending on whether the pastor does a good job of convincing the believer of the need to become a disciple!)

When Jesus called the disciples, it was a call to discipleship. He did not say: "Believe first and then, if you like it, you can sign up to be a disciple." It was only after the Church had been around for a while that the disciples were called "Christians".

Believe in God? Check! Going to Heaven? Check! Disciple?

Some of us may hesitate because we think being a disciple is an option, or we may think ourselves as not good enough, or we may not want to embrace the more stringent requirements of being a disciple. But there is no option. Christians are first and foremost disciples.

If the Church is to be filled with disciples, the character of the disciple becomes important. In Acts 2:42-46, we see the elements in place and indicative of the first disciples.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (**discipleship**) and to fellowship (**relationship**), to the breaking of bread and to prayer (**discipleship and relationship**). Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles (**discipleship**). All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (**relationship and character**) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. (**discipleship**)"*



and relationship) *They broke bread in their homes and ate together (discipleship and relationship) with glad and sincere hearts (character), praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. (discipleship and relationship)”*

The natural result? The Lord added to them day to day those who were being saved (v.47b). The purpose was achieved by the disciples focusing on discipleship, relationship and character.

As we concern ourselves, work and take care of ourselves in the areas of our discipleship, relationship and character, God will begin to do His work in our midst such that the purpose of the Church will accomplish itself. It becomes a natural outpouring from what we do. The Church then becomes a life-saving station almost effortlessly. We do not read of the early church planning many evangelistic endeavours. It was

their relationship with God and one another, and the witness of their lives (character) that became so attractive to those looking in from the outside.

Once we behave like the church God wants us to be, we will be able to fulfill His purpose for us. God will begin to use us. Almost effortlessly, we will fulfill our destiny as a Church.

The secret strength of the Church lies in the disciples – you and I who take care of our discipleship, relationships and character. This will be enough witness for the Gospel. It was enough for the early church. It will be enough today.

It is a “secret strength” because many do not realise its tremendous potential, thus failing to capitalise on this advantage.

God can only use disciples, not

mere believers.

How do we begin?

We must begin working on our relationship with one another. John 13:35, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

We can start by doing these:

***Speak the truth in love
Watch our temper. Do not sin in our anger.
Work hard and be generous with what we have
Watch what we say
Have a positive attitude towards others
Be kind and forgiving
(Eph 4:25-32)***

教会的秘密力量

曾宝发牧师

(本文改编自曾宝发牧师2014年1月19日的讲道。讲题为“教会的秘密力量”，经文取自于使徒行传2章42-47节。证道中播放了一段短片，描述一个不起眼的救生站，日久变成了社交俱乐部，抛弃其原本的拯救生命使命。)

我们怎样才能成就神给教会的旨意？

该短片是一个现代寓言，提醒我们，作为教会的目的。一开始，我们是一群集合起来，以实现一个特定的任务，但随着时间的流逝，其他的事情分散了我们的注意力，以致我们忘记了作为一个救生站，我们原本该做的事。短片提醒我们什么是教会的旨意。神对教会有个特定的呼召。那是什么？我们怎样才能成为一个履行神呼召的教会呢？

约翰·卫斯理明确表达他的担忧：“我不怕欧洲或美国的卫理公会派灭绝。但我害怕，惟恐他们的存在只是有名而无实，有宗教形式而无权力。这无疑会这样，除非他们坚守两个原则，属灵与一开始所定的纪律。”

如果我们都像个拒绝弄脏的救生站，并不愿进入世界拯救他人，我们将落成卫斯理所担心的教会。

要成为神想要我们成为的教会，我们必须更改三个心态。

1. 我们必须承认，教会不是一个地方，而是一群**人**。

当人们问：“这个星期天，你要去哪里？”我们经常回答：“去教会。”但我们不是去教会 - 我们**就是**教会。我们去崇拜、祈祷和事奉 - 我们是教会。教会是一群**人**，所以关系非常重要。我们如何对待彼此，以及我们如何处理分歧，是很重要的。

第一批门徒对待彼此的方式使基督教非常有吸引力，以致教会开始增长。

2. 我们必须视教会为一个**运动**，而不是一个纪念物。

在圣诞节和新年期间，有些到本堂拜访的朋友跟我说他们记得在这儿长大。我问他们：“现在上帝在你的生命的哪里？”他们说：“嗯，有时候我去教堂，有时不去。”对他们来说，教会已经成为一座纪念物 - 一样唤起他们童年的东西。

圣索菲亚大教堂位于土耳其。它是由皇帝查士丁尼建于公元532年最宏伟的建筑。这是世界上最伟大的教堂，其雄伟壮丽和大小是千年无与伦比的，它的圆顶高达18层的大楼。它影响每一个东部正教堂的设计。在1453年，它被转换为一个清真寺。它

也影响清真寺在世界各地的设计。但是，它现在是一个博物馆。

一栋建筑物只是用来容纳为福音教会必须成为的运动。因此，旨意是很重要的。教会可以很容易地忙于做事。但我们必须为正确的事情而忙。在使徒行传2章42-47节，我们看到该如何做正确的事情。有道、崇拜、聚集在一起和接待。当有新人到来，尤其是那些有需要的人，他们受到会众的欢迎。

教会不能以一个单纯的纪念物引以为傲 - 纪念它的过去。纪念物是死的。教会是活的。它必须是一个运动。

3. 教会不仅仅靠信徒组成的，还靠**门徒**。

基督的追随者是在安提阿最初被称为“基督徒”（使徒行传11章26节）。

“门徒”之名称早于“基督徒”。这个区别很重要，因为今时今日，它似乎正好相反，即，身为基督徒在先完全没错，然后再决定（好像我们有得选择）是否以后要成为门徒（取决于是否牧师有本事确实令人信服成为门徒的必要！）

当耶稣叫门徒，那是个呼召 - 培训其他门徒。他没有说，“首先相信，然后，如果你喜欢，你才注册成为门徒。”只在教会存在了好长一段时间，门徒才被称为“基督徒”。

信主？核对了！将上天堂？核对了！做门徒？。。。

我们之中有些人可能会犹豫，因为我们认为作为门徒是一个选项，或者我们可能认为自己不够好，又或者我们不愿接受做门徒的严格要求。但我们没得选择。基督徒的首要是做门徒。

如果教会里充满门徒，门徒的品德就变得很重要了。在使徒行传2章42-46节，我们看到第一批门徒的基本要素、原则和指示。

“都恒心遵守使徒的教训（培训）、彼此交接（团契）、擘饼、祈祷（培训和团契）。众人都惧怕。使徒又行了许多奇事神迹（培训）。信的人都在一处、凡物公用。并且卖了田产业、照各人所需用的分给各人（团契和品德）。他们天天同心合意恒切的在殿里（培训和团契）、且在家中擘饼（培训）、存着欢喜诚实（品德）的心用饭（团契）、赞美神、得众民的喜爱（培训和团契）。”

自然结果？主将得救的人、天天加给他们（47章b）。通过门徒们的培训、团契和品德实现了其目的。

当我们关注自己，工作和照顾本身各方面的培训、团契和品德，神会开始在我们中间动工，使教会完成其旨意。在我们所做的事自然流露。教会就几乎毫不费力地变成了救命站。我们不曾读过早期的教会努力计划很多传福音的活动。是他们与神和彼此的关系，他们生活的见证（品德），成为吸引外人的因素。

一旦教会具有神所要我们拥有的性质，我们将能够实现祂给我们旨意。神将开始使用我们。不费吹灰之力，我们将履行一个教会的天命。

教会的秘密力量在于门徒 - 你和我把我们的培训、团契和品德照顾好。这将足以成为福音见证。这样对早期教会就足够了。今天也将是足够的。

这是个“秘密力量”，因为很多人不知道它的巨大潜力，因而没有充分利用这优势。

神只可以使用门徒，而不是单纯的信徒。

我们该如何开始？

首先，我们必须处理我们彼此之间的关系。约翰福音13章35节：“你们若有彼此相爱的心、众人因此就认出你们是我的门徒了。”

我们可以开始做这些：

用爱心的方式，说实话
生气却不要犯罪
总要劳力。有余，分给那缺少的人
注意我们所说的
对他人有积极的态度
恩慈相待、彼此饶恕
(以弗所书4章25-32节)

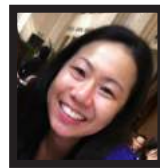
Watch the video on the Life-Saving Station at

下载短片：

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSbMUvkHH5w

small group connect

DIVE DEEP INTO THE PEOPLE OF TOMORROW



By Eugenia Koh



Our small group celebrating one of our member's birthdays

WHO are we - A group of young adults who believe in living life to the fullest and seeking to have God at the centre of all we do. Our group ranges in age from between 20 to 25.

WHY do we bother with small group?

DIONNE HOE - Small group is a place where I can share comfortably and openly without holding back anything as I know my small group members are trustworthy and would not judge me in any way. I am glad that I am able to establish that in my small group and am proud to say that I have definitely grown in my walk with God as I have seen God's faithfulness in every member as he worked in and through each of us. Being in a small group has also kept me accountable and definitely made me more disciplined as we have to listen to a sermon and share our reflections during the session.

PEOPLE -

CHRISTABEL DAVID - Being in a small group has helped make me accountable to being disciplined in my spiritual walk with God. Small group sessions have allowed us to share and walk with each other through different episodes of life. It is always amazing to see how our same God is at work in unique ways and this has allowed me to grow deeper in my understanding of and relationship with Him.

OLIVIA NG - Small group is a place where you can share honestly and grow spiritually together. With the many difficulties faced in your own personal life, small group is where we help pray for one another and encourage one another to press on. The friendship definitely goes beyond our meetings each month!

CLINTON YEO - Small group... the people closest to me after my immediate family. A place where I can strip away all my insecurities and have conversations with no holds barred. We share the same goal of wanting to learn more about God and how to be a shining light to our community.

JOSHUA WONG - Small group is a source of friendship and support for me. It is where I feel comfortable sharing both my burdens and joys as many of us are dealing with similar life issues. It not only helps me to grow spiritually but also challenges me to take extra steps whenever I can!

WHAT do we do at small group?

We are currently studying the book of Proverbs, with the focus on the pursuit of wisdom. We listen to the sermon series on Proverbs by Timothy Keller, the pastor of New York Presbyterian Church, before small group session, and then discuss our insights from his sermon and the passages covered as part of each week's topic. We take turns to facilitate the sessions each time.

WHEN do we meet ? Twice a month on Sunday afternoons

WHERE do we gather ? Usually in church, but sometimes at one of our homes

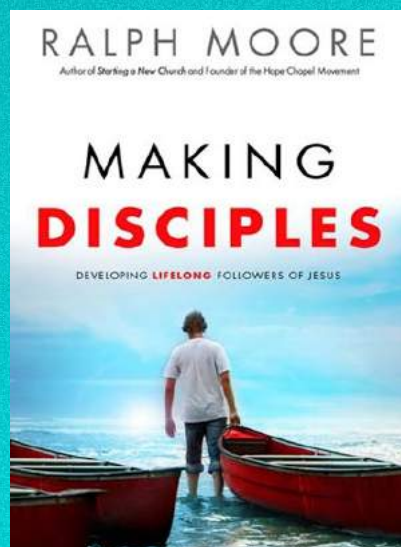
Keen to check us out ? Email Eugenia Koh to find out more - koheugenia@gmail.com

More about small groups at TMC can be found at www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html. Or contact Park Ming at parkming@tmc.org.sg, or through the church office

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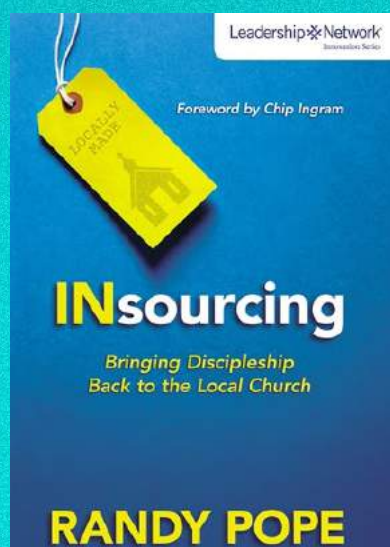
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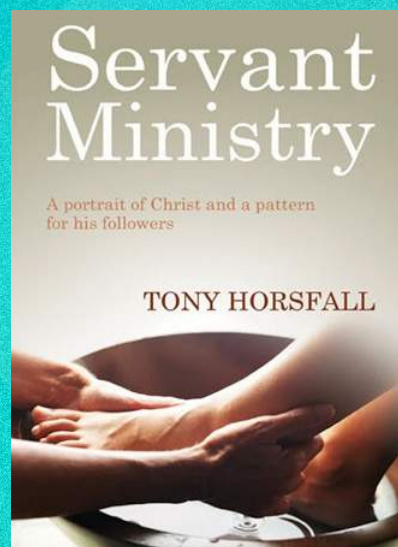
MAKING DISCIPLES
Author: Ralph Moore

In this book, renowned church planter, Pastor Ralph Moore shows leaders why a focus on making disciples is essential. This practical handbook helps guide churches on how they can focus their ministries around the Great Commission. It offers a model of church ministry that sees every member as a minister and is an indispensable resource for anyone who is looking to be equipped with the tools to raise a new generation of disciple-makers.



INSOURCING: BRINGING DISCIPLESHIP BACK TO THE LOCAL CHURCH
Author: Randy Pope & Kitti Murray

More than twenty years ago, the leadership team at Perimeter Church, a rapidly growing church founded by Randy Pope, realised that personal, life-on-life missional discipleship was accounting for a unique and unmatched depth of spiritual growth and heart for outreach with the individuals involved. Insourcing tells the story of how they learned to bring discipleship back from the margins of church life to the mainstream. Randy's journey as a pastor will encourage you and invite you to consider the effectiveness and fruitfulness of your own church's discipleship efforts.



SERVANT MINISTRY
Author: Tony Horsfall

Servanthood is a key part of every Christian's life and not just those in full-time ministry but more often than not, many Christians do not know for certain what the Scripture says about it. Understanding what servanthood means is vital not just to a Christian's personal walk with God but it also affects the health and well-being of local churches. Tony Horsfall applies the insights drawn from Isaiah 42, and takes a look at how the attitude we have towards serving affects character formation and keeps us going over the long haul in the harsh realities of ministry.

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A BETTER ANSWER

HIS parents were non-Christians who opposed his decision to become a Christian about 20 years ago. Adrian Cheong, then 17, had received Christ after his eldest brother Eddy, shared the gospel with him. Adrian's mother was so furious when she found out that she tore his copy of Our Daily Bread as she could not find his Bible. For years, the two brothers longed for their parents to receive Christ and prayed that God would answer that prayer. Adrian tells the Saltshaker how God did just that. Not in the way that Adrian wanted, but in a way that was far better than he could have ever expected.



by Adrian Cheong

A BETTER ANSWER

“About two years ago, when our missionary in Cambodia, brother Jacob Cheng, preached on Missions Sunday, something he said about how he felt obligated to reach out to his friends and family members made me feel that I had to do something about my father. So in 2013, I told myself that I would be more pro-active in bringing my dad to Christ.

Taking the First Step of Faith

One Sunday, 20 October 13, I took the first step of faith to reach out to my dad by attending the Mandarin service for the first time. That night, I told my dad about my experience in the Mandarin service after our weekly family dinner to sound him out and to pique his interest. I also mentioned the preacher Eddie Goh and his sense of humour while delivering God’s Word. Little did I know that this conversation served as a forerunner because I did not know my dad would meet Eddie soon after.

That very week, my dad fell from his bed and had to be hospitalised. I remembered the conversation I had with my dad a few days ago and I decided to ask Eddie to minister to my dad.

On the first day of my dad’s admission, Eddie visited my dad and prayed for him before leaving. To our great surprise, my dad said

“Amen” at the end of Eddie’s prayer. It was the first time I had ever heard him say that. In all the years that I had prayed for him, he had only said “Thank you” at the end.

What about Ancestor Worship?

On the second day of his admission, my dad had a seizure that left him feeling very breathless, anxious and restless. That night, my eldest brother Eddy mustered up his courage and asked my dad what was holding him back from becoming a Christian. My dad’s reply: ancestor worship. He explained that as he was the eldest son, it was his responsibility to perform the rites of ancestor worship. My eldest brother shared my dad’s burden with me and I consulted Eddie about it.

The next day, Eddie visited him a second time and to my surprise, my dad, in his state of breathlessness and restlessness, asked Eddie one question: “What about ancestor worship?” Eddie replied that respecting our ancestors is important to Christians and that we honour them through the giving of flowers. However, we do not pray to them. When he asked my dad if he understood, my dad said he did and the conversation ended there.

Hope Arises

My dad’s condition took a turn for the better. On one visit, I noticed

he had a Christian booklet on healing placed in his pocket. When I asked him about it, he said it was from a group of Christians who had been visiting and praying for him. The group from Lighthouse Evangelism’s hospital ministry started visiting my dad on certain days of the week when my dad was first hospitalised. They came after my eldest brother Eddy informed his colleague, who worshipped at Lighthouse Evangelism, about our dad’s hospitalisation.

The subsequent days were uneventful. My dad’s condition improved even more. His heart, lungs, kidney, bones and blood were given the all clear. He could walk around the hospital and eat solid food. On 2 Nov 13, a Saturday, the nurse even said my dad could probably be discharged in three days’ time.

When All Seems Lost

But things took a sudden turn for the worse overnight. I received a message from my eldest brother Eddy at 3am that our dad’s heart had stopped beating for 10 minutes and he was in coma. We rushed to the hospital. By then, our dad was already in the Intensive Care Unit. The doctors had discovered massive internal bleeding. At first, the doctors recommended an operation. An hour later, the doctors said that they could not go ahead with the operation and that my dad would go soon. Everyone was stunned. I immediately messaged Pastor Kang Ho Soon and Eddie to notify them and ask them to pray for my dad.

During that time, I prayed like never before. I pleaded with God: “Please heal my dad. He has not heard the gospel! Show everyone a miracle! Give me just a bit more time so that I can tell him to receive You as a personal Lord and Saviour.”

Despite my tearful prayers, my dad's body indicators showed that this miracle would not come to pass. After three hours of painful pleading, my dad's heart stopped and my spirit crashed. I was very confused and I asked God "Why? Why? Why did you let him go? He was so near to receiving You! Is this your way of taunting me and reminding me that I was not diligent in reaching out to my earthly parents while they were still healthy?"

Hope Renewed

While we were still deep in our grief, my brother Eddy showed me an SMS he had received the day before. It was from someone from Lighthouse Evangelism who had prayed with my dad. The SMS said: "Good morning Eddy, I met the director of the hospital ministry yesterday, Pastor Timothy. He informed me that the daily report from SGH showed that the team prayed with your dad to accept Christ." My brother didn't approach our dad when he first saw the SMS because our dad had seemed to be on the mend and he thought he would speak to dad after he was discharged.

Later in the afternoon, Eddy found out from Lighthouse Evangelism that our dad had actually received Christ and said the Sinner's Prayer on Thursday night – three days before he passed away. When I heard the news, I was so overwhelmed that I shed tears of joy.

So that We Can Meet Again in Heaven

The next hurdle was breaking the news to my mum. It was tough because my mum already had to cope with my dad's departure. She also lamented that there was no way of verifying for herself that he had really received Christ. She relayed

her frustration, anger and concern to my second brother Allen, who is a non-Christian.

The next morning, the three of us brothers had a discussion. Allen shared his reservations about dad's salvation as he was unaware of the manner in which my dad had converted and whether my dad had been coerced or was not of sound mind when he became a Christian.

To my surprise, Allen recounted an incident two days before dad's conversion. Allen said that he had witnessed the Lighthouse Evangelism group praying with our dad. Allen asked our dad after the group had left if he would ever receive Christ. My dad's reply was "Maybe" and he explained that he would like to see us in heaven. Allen concluded that our dad was on the verge of receiving Christ, but he wasn't sure if he had actually done so.

That afternoon, Eddy managed to contact the person who had spoken to my dad. All three of us brothers had a teleconference with him in Allen's car, with Allen posing all the questions. The man assured Allen that there was no coercion and that they had only given the invitation for our dad to receive Christ. The man recounted that our dad's response was: "Let me consider." After the man explained what it meant to be a Christian and how our dad could become one, dad said he would accept Christ and prayed the Sinner's Prayer. He said our dad appeared to be in a peaceful and not agitated state of mind. After that teleconference, Allen told our mum that based on this, it was clear that our dad had become a Christian and that this should be reflected in his funeral rites and stated religion. My mum accepted this. Praise the Lord!

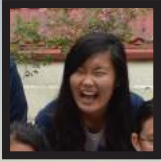
A Strange Assurance

When my dad was first hospitalised, I had a strange assurance that he would receive Christ. I shared this prompting with my friends Sophia and Desmond and we prayed for my dad's salvation. At the worship leaders' meeting two nights before my dad received Christ, I shared with two worship leaders Jestyn and Alfred about this as well, that I believed that my dad would receive Christ very soon. And the very night my dad received Christ, a Thursday night, I had worship practice and the worship team prayed for my dad's salvation. I believe it is God's divine arrangement as worship practice usually takes place on Friday but it was held on Thursday night just for that week!

Sometimes when I pray, I desire that God answers my prayers in the way that I want. This was especially so when my dad was in a coma and I prayed that God would revive him so that I could share the gospel with him one last time.

But God had a better answer. He let my dad pass away because his salvation was already assured."

Adrian and his wife Shermeen serve in the worship team at the 11.15am service. His eldest brother Eddy and wife Evelyn previously worshipped at TMC. Adrian's dad was 77 when he was promoted to glory on 3 Nov 13.



by Maisie Koh

GPS – Gratefulness, Perseverance and Servanthood

GPS or Gratefulness, Perseverance and Servanthood.

These were the three core values of the children's camp run by the TMC Children's Ministry on 5-7 Dec 2013 in TMC.

The camp's activities – games and lessons - were centred on these core values. The children learnt about being grateful for the things that they already had and even for things that they did not have. They also learnt lessons about servanthood and persevering through life challenges such as peer and academic pressures as well as lessons about servanthood.

This year, TMC partnered with Scripture Union, headed by Pastor Flora Chew and her team, with the camp theme 'Live It Up!' and theme verse:

"But He answered, it is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)

Through the theme verse, we sought to teach the children to live a life that brings glory and service to God as God directs them – be it direct service to God or serving God by serving others.

Our children were encouraged to bring along their prebeliever friends, so that they might be blessed through this camp and also do their part in reaching out to the community. We also invited children from Contact 123, one of our outreach arms.

The message of the camp was not for Christian children only but also for the prebelieving children who came for the camp. These children were given the opportunity to receive Christ into their lives, as well as for prayer to rededicate themselves to Jesus. Seven children put up their hands for prayer and **we praise God for our TMC children, teachers/helpers who had responded to the invitation to invite their friends or relatives simply by giving them the write-up and registration form.**

Praise God for the most recent news that one of the girls who rededicated her life to Jesus during the camp, is now attending another church with her family and is looking forward to attending the Youth Fellowship there. She is also starting to read the Bible!

This camp was also a good opportunity for our children to interact with one another outside of Sunday school. They were able to build friendships with one another across the ages and genders. It was heartwarming to see the older children being responsible for their younger campers such as by getting the younger children to line up, getting them ready for worship and lessons and even helping them take their food for meals.

During the preparation period leading up to the camp, we encountered some challenges in the planning stage but **He is always faithful supernaturally to straighten things for us when we partner with Him.** We could only give thanks to Him for His amazing love for His children and the volunteers who were involved in the camp.



Children's Ministry is held every Sunday (except the first Sundays when children join their parents at the worship service) at 8.45am and 11.15am. www.tmc.org.sg/cm.html

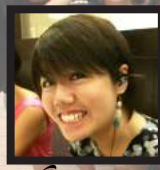
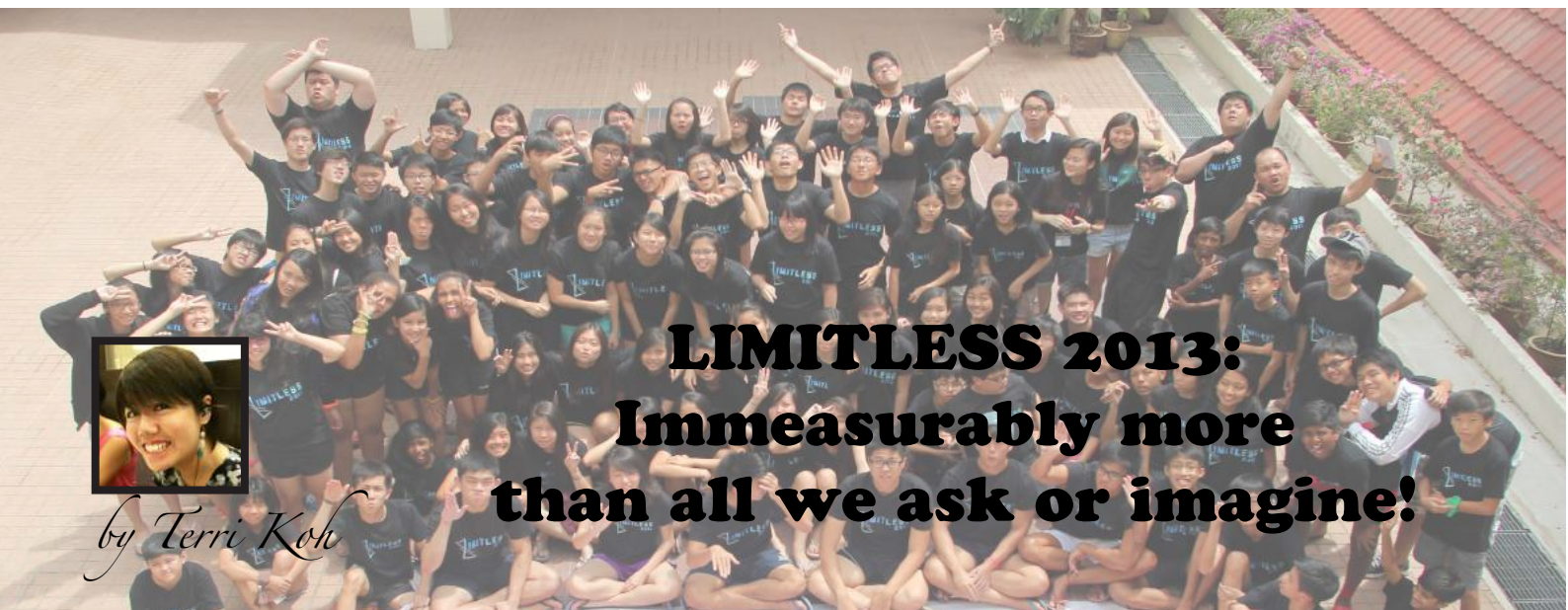
Perseverance, Servanthood

It was a blessing to work alongside the leaders, Alice, Sue Ann, Deborah, Joanne, Magdalena, Samuel, Bernice, Clarice, Zachery, Wennie, Julia, and Lin. I am inspired by how each one of them has so much love for the children. It has greatly encouraged me to continue serving in Children's Ministry. As I serve in CM, I can only pray and ask for God's guidance and wisdom to teach and lead the children in worship, to give me grace to do His will. I am thankful for support of TMCers and hope that you will all continue to support CM through prayer and by helping out in the various activities.



"But He answered, it is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)





by Terri Koh

LIMITLESS 2013: Immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

One of the highlights of TrinityYM's calendar is our annual end-of-year Youth Camp. At last year's Limitless 2013 Camp, we saw a record attendance of 150 campers, from the church and from our neighbourhood, all coming together to worship the Lord and fellowship with His community.

We thank the Lord for watching over every single detail of the camp and every single camper. Each of us could witness to His presence and power displayed in and through campers – truly He is a God who does immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. Let's hear from some of them:

How do you think you have changed through the camp?

God lit a fire in my heart. I am now more motivated to push my limits. 2014 is going to be a tough year juggling nine subjects and various leadership roles, but I have newfound confidence to keep going. I believe my Almighty Father will help me and through His help I will also learn to play the drums for worship.

In what areas would you like to grow and learn more after the camp?

I want to improve my drumming skills. I plan to join my school's (PLMGSS) chapel team to play drums to liven up the atmosphere so that everyone can worship Him, to realise how powerful and awesome He is. I believe He will guide me through 2014.

Joy Wong, 14

*Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine, according to his power
that is at work within us.
Ephesians 3:20
(New International Version)*

What has God shown/taught you at Limitless 2013?

That He is always there for me no matter how far I've drifted away and doubted my faith. Even when I didn't know how to praise Him, He has never stopped loving and blessing me. He showed me that no matter what happens, He is always there for me to return back to Him.

Sabrina Khoo, 17

How do you think you have changed through the camp?

I think I have changed in terms of realising how important leadership is. Previously, I would have just stayed in my comfort zone but this camp I tried to ensure that I spoke to the newcomers and forged lasting friendships.

In what areas would you like to grow and learn more after camp?

I would like to learn more ways to be a better leader for my group and portray Christ-likeness to the younger ones.

Grace Koh, 16



Joy Wong



Sabrina Khoo



Grace Koh (Middle)



This 2014, YM embarked on the theme of “DNA” – digging deep into the foundations of our faith.

Kicking off the year, we began the theme with a series on the DNA of God.

The series began with a look at the **FAITHFULNESS** of God as part of His “DNA” through the story of Noah and the ark. God’s very character is faithful and therefore we can trust in His promises and in His Word. Our mistakes cannot change His character – even when we are unfaithful, He remains faithful.

The series has also looked at the **GOODNESS** of God. God is the very epitome of goodness. Where He is is also the source of every good thing. The youths were challenged to shift their perspectives to trust in the goodness of God even when life gets messy or things don’t go their way.

Starting in March, a brand new Sermon Series begins called the “DNA of a Disciple”.

Youths will hear about the call to discipleship, and learn what makes a disciple of Jesus Christ.

MARCH

- 2nd - "An Open Invitation" (Speaker: Hern Shung)
- 9th - "A Passionate Pursuit" (Speaker: Calvin Hong)
- 16th - "Total Surrender" (Speaker: Sabrina Low)
- 23rd - "Follow: Whenever. Wherever. Whatever." (Speaker: Hern Shung)
- 30th - Vision Sunday

APRIL

- 6th - "A Disciple Loves" (Speaker: Blossom Chan)
- 13th - "A Disciple Reads the Word" (Speaker: Cheryl Sim)
- 20th - YM in recess for Easter Sunday
- 27th - "A Disciple Lives in Community / Community Breakfast" (Speaker: Tan Ming Xuan)

YM meets every Sunday at 8.45am.

Website: <http://trinityyouthmin.tumblr.com>

Email: tmcyouthmin@gmail.com

Facebook: TMC Youth Min

Twitter: @TrinityYM

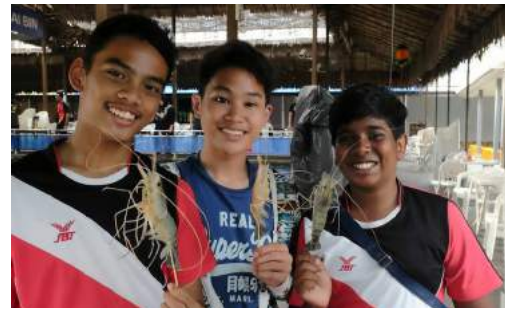
Instagram: @TrinityYM



IN AND ABOUT TMC



FAREWELL
PASTOR DIANNA
AND WELCOME
PASTOR ALVIN



C123
PRAWNING
OUTING



DEDICATION OF CM, YM & SGLs



WATCHNIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS DAY BAPTISM

Hope of an Easter Morning



by Rev Peter Goh



PICTURE with me the scene at the point of Jesus's death on that Friday afternoon.

With a deep sigh, Jesus released a final breath into the darkened sky. His head bowed forward. His body slumped. Jesus was dead.

At least that was what the people saw. The price had been paid and it was finished. In the final verses of Luke 23, there were at least four responses to Jesus' death.

The first person to respond to Jesus's death was probably the one who was nearest to Jesus when He died. He was the centurion, the commander of the crucifixion detail. He must have observed many men die on the place known as Skull Hill. And if they ended up on that hill, they were always the worst sort of men, foaming and cursing with hatred.

But the biblical account of what happened shows us that Jesus was different. Instead of curses, Jesus's lips uttered an offer of forgiveness, a promise of paradise and a heartbreaking cry of a son to His Father. And so while he watch the way Jesus died, it must have made the centurion wonder: "Could Jesus be the King that they say He is?" The centurion needed no further proof.

Luke records for us that when the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God and said: "Surely this was a righteous man." (Lk 23:47)

Then there was the crowd that gathered around the base of the hill. There were the lame men and women whom Jesus had healed. The sinners whom Jesus had forgiven and many others. They all came to watch the crucifixion. When Jesus died, a part of them died too. And when it was over, Luke describes to us that they beat their breasts and went away (Lk 23:48).

Jesus's mother was among the women who watched Jesus suffer. I believe that she must have heard the thuds of the hammer on the spikes and the verbal abuses spat out by the chief priests. Mary must have felt her son's agony as only a mother could. Mary must have wept for the boy she once held in her arms.

When the crucifixion was over, Luke describes that a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, tenderly and solemnly brought Jesus's body down for burial. This had to be done fast for the sun was setting and the

Sabbath was near.

At a distance, the other women followed and saw how and where Jesus's body was buried. Then in the predawn stillness of that Sunday morning, it happened - the miracle of miracles.

It was the first day of the week, very early in the morning and the women saw that the stone enclosing the tomb had been rolled away. They had probably thought: "Who could have rolled away the huge stone?" The women saw the empty tomb and the grave clothes and probably wondered and searched one another's eyes for answers. "Where is the body? Where could it be?"

Luke tells us that amid those flashes of confusion, two angels came and told the women: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" (Lk 24:5b-7)

Imagine what happened when the disciples heard the wonderful news. They were lit with joy. Right? Wrong!

"But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense." (Lk 24:11)

Ironically, the first sceptics of the resurrection on that Easter morning were Jesus's own disciples.

Wait, there is one more response. Your response.

What is your response to the resurrection on that Easter morning?

Other than the resurrection, there is no firmer foundation upon which we build our Christian faith and our eternal future. Because Jesus is risen, our sins are forgiven. Satan's doom is sealed and Death is not the final conqueror. The greatest implication of the resurrection is the assurance that God has an eternal hope for us.

The multitudes who went away thought that their hope had died with Jesus. The final chapter could not be more final than death. God always has a surprise ending. The same surprise awaits all who believe in Christ. What does the resurrection of Christ mean to your spiritual life with Christ?

Pray with me:

"Our loving Heavenly Father, we have come a long way with our lives filled with different struggles and uncertainties. From these circumstances that have shrouded our hearts and entombed us, we pray that you will roll away the stone. It is too heavy and we are too weak to roll it away. Where there is doubt, roll away the stone and resurrect our faith. Where there is depression, cast aside our grave clothes and release your oil of gladness upon our hearts. Where there is despair, chase away the night and bring a sunrise to our hope. Today in Your presence, as we remember Easter, we want to rejoice that no matter how dark the sky and how cold the tomb may be, with You as our risen Saviour, we want to thank you that there is always hope of an Easter morning in our lives. In the name of our risen Christ we pray. Amen."

Save the Dates!

The season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, which falls on 5 March this year. It is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays. It ends on Holy Saturday (19 Apr 14).

On Ash Wednesday, we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts, and then became a time for penance by all Christians. However, because every Sunday is a “little Easter”, the penitential spirit of Lent is also tempered by the joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

The Great Three Days - from sunset of Holy Thursday through to sunset of Easter Day - are the climax of Lent and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the significance of Jesus’s passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. This should be seen as a great unified service beginning with a service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday, and concluding with the services of Easter Day.

Good Friday is a significant day in our Christian calendar. Busy Christians are encouraged to slow down, remembering and reflecting on the meaning of our Lord’s death and sacrifice. In “Keeping Vigil” after the Good Friday service, under the leading of our pastors, we will quieten down and be still, trusting that God Who is Sovereign is fully in control of everything. We will give attention to Jesus’s horrible death and sacrifice on the Cross, reminding ourselves of God’s amazing love and the tremendous suffering He had to endure for us sinners. And we will also wait patiently for the Lord’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

(Some materials reproduced from
The United Methodist Book of Worship.)

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wed 5 Mar	8pm	Ash Wednesday service	TMC Sanctuary
Sun 13 Apr	8.45am / 11.15am	Palm Sunday service	TMC Sanctuary
Mon 14 – Wed 16 Apr	8pm	Holy Week services, with Ang Mo Kio and Christalite Methodist Churches. TRAC President, the Rev Dr Gordon Wong, will be preaching.	Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church at 1 Ang Mo Kio Street 21
Thurs 17 Apr	8pm	Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion	TMC Sanctuary
Fri 18 Apr	10am	Good Friday Combined English service	TMC Sanctuary with overflow to Emmanuel Hall
	Starts 15 min after the end of Good Fri service. Duration about 2 hrs	Good Friday – Keeping Vigil ☞ Resting in God ☞ Reflecting on the Cross ☞ Waiting upon the Lord	TMC Sanctuary
Sun 20 Apr	6.30am	Easter Sunrise service	Plaza
	10am	Easter Sunday Combined English service with reception of new members	TMC Sanctuary with overflow to Emmanuel Hall

Lest we forget Gethsemane,
Lest we forget His agony,
Lest we forget His love for us,
Let Him lead us to Calvary.

(adapted from “Lead Me to Calvary” by Jennie Hussey, 1921)

Easter Cross Wreath



by Koh Shuwen

IF your family is anything like mine, you might still have your Chinese New Year pussy willow stuck in a vase somewhere. Well, here's something I came across online that you could resurrect (pun intended!) these branches for. Hang this on your door or doorknob, as a reminder of Jesus's life, death and resurrection on the cross.

Materials:

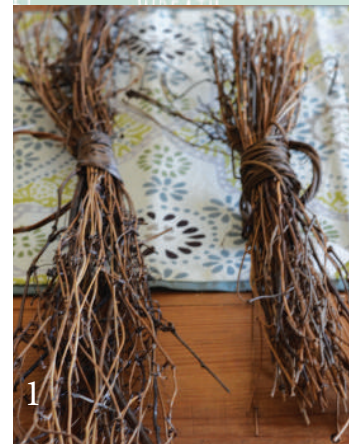
- 8-10 pussy willow branches for the vertical portion of the cross (the tips are easier to handle and trim)
- 6-8 pussy willow branches for the horizontal portion of the cross
- Artificial flowers like lilies or sunflowers
- Brown twine or string
- Hot Glue Gun (optional)
- Shears/Scissors

1. Select the straighter pussy willow branch tips for the wreath. Begin by trimming each bundle of branches to the height and length you desire, depending on where you plan to hang the wreath.
2. Secure them together into a cross with twine or string.
3. The original online post used plain branches, and small artificial flowers were interspersed and glued between the branches. In our case, the silvery white buds of the pussy willows – also known as catkins – will add some “sparkle” to the wreath. To create a visual “pop”, secure artificial flowers such as sunflowers or lilies to the centre of the cross beam with either a hot glue gun or twist ties.
4. Create and secure a loop on the back of the wreath (on the twine of the cross beam for extra durability) as a way to hang your cross.
5. Now you can hang it on your doorknob or door with any-over-the-door hanger and enjoy this great reminder of the Hope we have this Easter season!

The beauty of this cross is that you can use it all year round. What a great way to repurpose things you already have on hand and cut down on waste!

Joshua 24:15b

“... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”





Pastor John Lee welcoming the TMC WSCS ladies to Cambodia Care Centre2 (CCC) in Duem Sleng village



The flood waters had not receded from the main hall

CAMBODIA FOR CHRIST AND CH

If you brushed your teeth or flushed the toilet or had a cup of coffee this morning, consider yourself truly blessed. Because many third world countries do not have the basic essentials of clean water and proper sanitation that we take for granted.

At Duem Sleng village in the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where some of us from the TMC WSCS visited on our recent mission trip in October 2013, we discovered that the villagers collect rain water for drinking, cooking and washing. I saw some left-over rice scattered onto a sheet of zinc material so that it could be dried and learnt to my horror that this was to be their next recycled meal.

When we arrived at the village, we were given a warm welcome by Pastor John Lee, his wife and some villagers. We were also greeted by the delightful sight of a huge banner welcoming us to Cambodia Care Centre (CCC). We witnessed the aftermath of the recent floods in the village including rubbish that had piled up and was floating around, as well as dirty and stagnant pools of sewage water everywhere. As I looked around, I wondered to myself how the people managed to survive in such conditions.

As the water in the main hall had not receded, we could not carry out our plan to teach English and the creation story to the group of 200 children. However, next to it was the church hall which we could use for worship. The talented CCC staff and worship band led a lively time of praise and worship. It was truly a Spirit-led time of worship. All the children were very well-behaved, singing from their hearts.

Though the songs were in Khmer, I sensed the presence of the Lord in our midst and God's assurance to me that every child there was very precious to Him, that He would raise up a new generation of people with His love and hope, and that this was a generation that would have a future. This generation would love and honour Him. My spirit was lifted up by these assurances from the Lord. A dance performed by six young children to the song "He Lifted Me Up" strengthened these assurances. Indeed that must have been the message for the children as God's blessings have come to them in the form of free education through the ministry of CCC whose vision is to see the children getting out of the poverty cycle and given a bright future.



Praying and singing praises to the Lord during the time of worship



The TMC WSCS ladies who went on the mission trip

RIST FOR CAMBODIA

BY PATRICIA YONG (FAR RIGHT PHOTO: SECOND FROM LEFT)

I thank God for sending Pastor John Lee to make a difference in bringing hope to many hopeless families here. Pastor John Lee is a Singaporean called by God to this “god-forsaken” village three years ago. I was amazed that at 72, Pastor John Lee still travels frequently to CCC to show love and bring the message of Jesus to this community. God has truly anointed him and empowered him to do such immense work for the extension of His kingdom. I learnt that besides education, which is the primary focus, CCC also reaches out to the villagers through community work, hospital expense care, repairing and building houses for needy villagers, home cell groups, flood relief aid, a milk programme for infants and so on.

During our short walk through the slums, we saw so many needs. An eight-month-old baby, who had been abandoned by her mother and was now in the care of her grandmother, weighed only 3kg as she had been fed only water. Another baby with HIV was also cared for by her grandmother. There were many heartbreaking stories. However, we were encouraged by the sight of many houses with a red cross painted on their front. This denoted the house of a church member. Before we left the village, we prayed for one toddler who had

burns all over his body and a girl who also had burns on her legs.

I hope that in reading this story, God has touched your heart in some way. Perhaps you can pray for this ministry and the village, or if you are so moved to bless them, be it teaching English or giving in kind or even visiting the village, do drop me a note and I would be delighted to speak with you.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 33:12)

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAMBODIA CARE CENTRE (CCC) AND HOW YOU CAN BLESS ITS MINISTRY, CONTACT PATRICIA YONG THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE AT CHURCHOFFICE@TMC.ORG.SG

WHO CAME TO THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS



by Rose Tan

WE SANG, we ate and we partied.

All in the name of the Star of Christmas, an event held at the field near Block 123, Serangoon North Avenue 1.

This was a collaborative effort between Serangoon CCC, Hwi Yoh Ville RC, the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles, the Serangoon Active Aging Committee and TMC.

We planned a bazaar of food, games and a flea market, complete with the sale of discounted IT and sports products.

The highlight of the event was a storyboard of the birth of Jesus Christ. If you read the story carefully, you would have received full marks on the simple six-question quiz that won you a mystery prize. The last question was: "Who is the true star of Christmas?" The options were Baby Jesus, Santa Claus, Rudolph and Angels. Simple right?

14-year-old Edeline Ng who visited with her dad, Eric and 10-year-old brother, Dominic, told me that they soaked in the ambience and enjoyed themselves. It started out as a humid afternoon, where she bought purple and pink candy floss, which sadly melted. But the ice-cream cones saved the day together with a best-buy sports bag. Her family had to leave for another celebration before the finale pageant which told the story of the Star of Christmas.



Filipina domestic helper Elsie Lagman Jaime on the other hand, arrived early, having requested for leave from her employer, and managed to stay till the end of the festivities.

She said that this was only the second Christmas event that she had attended in the 13 years that she has worked in Singapore. She felt at home with the Christmas carols and it must have been heartwarming for her to catch a glimpse of home during the special performance by the Filipino group “His Sounds”. Their resounding harmony echoed throughout the open field.



In the same vein, the B-Boys danced their hearts out to thunderous applause.



The appreciative audience was also treated to a skit on the Gift of Hope by Ageless Theatre and a musical extravaganza performed by several church choirs. The Cherith Baptist Church brought together members whose average age was 60 and above. Not to be outdone, TMC's very own Fellowship of Ukulelians itself had an active 90- year-old musician.



The Star of Christmas was held together by the lovely carollers from TMC's English and Mandarin services, under the baton of Patricia Zoey Tan.



Surely the residents of Serangoon North felt the warmth and love of the Star of Christmas. The Star of Christmas was an event held to reach out to the Serangoon North neighbourhood. Did it succeed? I think it more than achieved its goal. It reached beyond the Serangoon North neighbourhood. Edeline hails from Ang Mo Kio and Elsie came all the way from Tiong Bahru!

A New Season



by Lim Sue Yien

Kevin and Claire Lowe have served as missionaries, and then tentmakers in Cambodia for 16 years. Now that they have relocated back to Singapore, the Saltshaker managed to catch up with Claire recently. She shares her personal reflections on returning, and on the Learning Lab (last featured in the Saltshaker January 2013 edition).

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“There is an appointed time....
for every event under Heaven.”

I WOULD like to make special mention of Joyce (the wife of Rev Dr Jonathan Seet), a former member of TMC. I was in my teens when I was chatting with her about her decision to enter full-time Christian ministry.

“I desire to give the best years of my life to God,” she had said. This sentence has made a deep impression in my life (and she probably doesn’t even know it).

At 27, after two years of being married, Kevin and I embarked on our missionary journey. Sixteen years have since passed, and it has been an AMAZING chapter of our lives.

When we first started, we were zealous about the great things God was going to do through us to build His Kingdom in Cambodia (sounds pretty holy, huh?), not realising that God had a more important item in His agenda - Knowing Him.

Yes, we did our fair share of mission activities. We evangelised and had the joy of leading a number of people to Christ. We also had the privilege of developing deep relationships and discipling several wonderful men and women.

Pioneering the Methodist work in Cambodia, facilitating the establishment of the Methodist Council, nine Methodist churches, the Methodist School, COSI (Community Outreach Services-Immanuel Children’s Village), Emmaus Bible School and various other endeavours and, in the second half of our missionary journey, starting Forever Living, World of Sports, The Learning Lab, Cheeky Monkey, Trinity Institute (which are all what we would like to call as Great Commission companies), and planting two other churches.

These are all activities that we could include in our missions CV. If we wanted to sensationalise, we could include our testimonies of surviving two cross-fires, armed break-ins, being on the verge of losing Titus when he became strangely ill in Myanmar, a painful miscarriage, a long-awaited birth of a third child.

But interestingly, when we look back on the 16 years, one thing that stands out above the rest for both Kevin and myself is this: Knowing God and learning to have faith in Him (hence the name of our youngest daughter - Faith, Hui Xin [Mandarin for knowledge and faith respectively]).

It is coming to an experiential knowledge that GOD IS WITH US, and that we can put all of our trust in Him, for He never fails. He provides and blesses beyond what we can ever dream or imagine. Indeed, we affirm the last utterance of John Wesley: “The best of all is that God is with us”.

“So what is it now? What are you going to do now that you are back in Singapore?” That’s what almost everyone asks. Honestly, we don’t know. There aren’t any specific and clear plans. We came back primarily for our older children’s education. Titus, specifically, asked to school in Singapore. Formal schooling in Singapore is also a better option for Tabitha.



What about the work and ministries in Cambodia? Forever Living, the American company that employed Kevin to start their branch office in Cambodia, has been handed to a new Cambodian country director. Promised People Church, a local Cambodian church, has been fully indigenised and handed over to the local Christians.

The Tent, an English-speaking congregation, renamed to Phnom Penh Church, is now under the leadership of a co-pastor, another missionary. The Learning Lab (TLL) is managed by a Cambodian team, guided and mentored by a missionary.

Kevin and I plan to make monthly trips back to Cambodia. I will touch base, encourage and provide continual professional development for TLL staff. Kevin will return to Cambodia to continue to teach at Bible School and Trinity Institute, and preach at Phnom Penh Church, and knowing him, he probably will be itching to pioneer a new work.



The Lowe Family celebrating Chinese New Year in Singapore in 2014

One thing we are certain of is that God is going to be with us in this new season of our lives, and we look forward with great anticipation of how He is going to pen this new chapter of the book of our lives.

We trust that this season is a time appointed by our Lord and Master.

The Learning Lab

Q: Having handed over TLL to a Cambodian team, have you “completed” your work in this ministry?

Completed in a sense that I’ve identified and equipped the leadership. Uncompleted in another sense that I’m still involved in coaching and discipleship. I return to Phnom Penh once a month to do this.

Q: How do you see your role going forward?

As an encourager, affirming strengths and good work. As a coach, coaching teachers in the classroom. As a mentor, journeying with the leaders. As a gatekeeper, to ensure that the mandated mission of TLL is kept faithfully.

Q: How is discipleship in TLL lived out?

In TLL, discipleship is not defined in spiritual lingo. Discipleship is simply the living out of what pleases God in the most seemingly “mundane” activities of everyday life, believing that a transformation cultivated in the workplace will be also manifested in the church.

For example, a certain sister learned to produce neat and well-formatted worksheets. In so doing, she testifies of how she strives to do everything with excellence now, including her ministry in church.

Another sister struggled to take her job seriously and incessantly played with her phone even during teaching hours. After several “hints” and “reprimands” she still didn’t change.

The leadership had to sit her down seriously and have a heart-to-heart, positive, gift-identification and strength-affirming talk with her. She made a 180-degree transformation. She now has a new-found passion for life. She shared that one of her goals in 2014 is to commit herself in a ministry at church.

Another brother struggled but eventually was able to forgive a colleague who spoke ill of him. He testified that this was a miraculous transformation - something he had never been able to do before.



Claire serving at The Learning Lab

Medicine for God's Glory



by Samuel Wong

MOST of us are aware that TMC organises mission trips to support our various causes in Cambodia each year.

But what some of you may not know is that these trips include medical missions to bring both spiritual - and physical - hope and healing to the ailing and afflicted.

In November 2013, Dr Ang Poh Kit and her husband Kelvin Tan led a nine-member team comprising their fellow Gloria in Excelsis Deo small group members to Phnom Penh and a couple of far-flung villages outside the city on one such medical mission trip.

Spiritually, Park Ming led the group each morning with Bible sharing, emphasising the purpose of the mission and reminding the group of the lives they were touching. Operationally, Poh Kit led in the medical clinic set-up requirements. Everyone was given a specific role to play.

The group was also invited to visit a village school-cum-church started by Pastor John Lee, a retired pastor from Singapore. As it was rainy season, the grounds of the school were flooded. Even then, their arrival was greeted by a large number of children. Led by their Cambodian teachers, the children eagerly and joyously sang and danced for the visitors. They also raised their hands and volunteered to pray for the church, always spontaneous and eager to participate in worship. Before the service was over, a long queue had already formed in anticipation of the clinic operations. Pastor Lee had initially limited the number of patients to 60 but as more people had shown up, over 80 patients were processed and benefited from the medical aid.

Another place the group visited was the village of Prey Veng. With experience behind them and almost no briefing or direction, the group just fell into position and had the clinic running in no time. With limited resources, it was a guessing game as to what medications were most needed. Despite this, there were times when certain medications ran low and alternatives had to be found. On a personal note, Poh Kit also brought along and gave away many toothbrushes she had collected on her other overseas trips. These turned out to be most useful as many Cambodians do not maintain regular or good oral hygiene.



Dr Ang Poh Kit

We arrived in Phnom Penh armed with baggage - safer in our bags than in cartons that would arouse suspicion and lead to close scrutiny by the customs authority - filled with as much medicine and equipment we could carry. The decision on the choice of medicines to bring hinged largely on the kind of illnesses we were likely encounter.

Based on feedback from the ground and with donations from some pharmaceutical companies, we also took with us equipment such as a blood pressure monitor, a glucometer, aural thermometer, torch lights, auroscope, bandages, needles and syringes, gloves, sanitizers, antiseptic washes and more. To fortify the patients' health, we also had vitamins and milk powder.

This was my third medical missions trip abroad and my second to Cambodia and GTMC. On an earlier trip in 2007 with the WSCS ladies, we didn't venture beyond Phnom Penh. The grateful and thankful faces of the patients we saw then were still fresh in my mind.

As it turned out, this trip was even more fulfilling. As we were now more adventurous and were accompanied by more people who were more familiar with the local terrain, we drove to a far-flung village that was not serviced by any medical clinic. Trusty Jacob Cheng, our TMC missionary in Cambodia, had made arrangements for our visit with the pastor of the village church. News spread fast and by the time we arrived, there was already a large crowd waiting for us.

Although we felt a little overwhelmed, we quickly organised ourselves. To maintain crowd control, we gave out queue numbers, conducted registration and proceeded with taking their blood pressure. As I was the only doctor on the team, I saw them all individually with the help of a trained nurse who was working with OMF (Overseas Mission Fellowship) in Cambodia acting as interpreter. She was a godsend and taught me some useful Khmer words for the different body parts, as well as those related to physical symptoms of headache, cough, running nose, body aches, pain, insomnia and more.



The common ailments of those who came to seek medical treatment included problems of upper respiratory tract infections, body aches and pain, headaches, giddiness and poor sleep. Clearly, many of these conditions were due to the stress of their hard lives coupled with the many daily chores they had to perform, many of which involve things that we take for granted like fresh food from the refrigerator, tap water, flush toilets and fans and the air conditioner to cool us down. Many also looked older than their age.

Even though there was a good mix of patients, the females formed the majority, as did adults versus children. There were also several cases of chronic illnesses like hypertension and diabetes. Fortunately, there was medicine for those patients too.

Team members also helped with the dispensing of medicine. As this particular village was far from Phnom Penh and our accommodation at Harvest Inn, we camped overnight at the village church.

The pastor and his wife cooked dinner and we all bonded and ate the hearty meal, which was simply spread on the floor, as was the custom in Cambodia. As there was no running tap, we bathed in cold well water which many, myself especially, had to get used to. Also the bathroom and toilet had no working doors and someone had to stand guard while we went about our ways. In all, it was a worthy adventure and helped us all to appreciate all the creature comforts we take for granted back here in Singapore.

As the only medical doctor on this mission, I felt responsible for many areas. As it was up to me to give directions on how the clinics were to be run, God guided us all and with great cooperation from everyone, we worked well as a team.

My experience as a family doctor, which allows me to see a wide variety of ailments on a daily basis during my practice in Singapore, was an advantage during this trip. Also, medical issues involve many different body systems and it is only family doctors who keep a wide range of drugs to treat the many health ailments. I found the mission meaningful, am glad to have useful in serving God, am eager to go again.

For continuity, it would be wonderful if TMC could organise and roster a team of family doctors for future missions at fixed intervals. We would love to hear from family doctors who have been inspired by this and can volunteer for future missions. Essentially we only covered two or three villages this time but future missions could expand this network. Similarly our case notes for those who have registered with us would also be useful.”



Alvin & Arical Fu

Alvin and Arical Fu, both relatively new TMC members who were baptised only months before the trip, felt compelled to go. Here's why:

Arical:

“After the many blessings I have received, I was looking to do that which would please and honour our Heavenly Father. I was prepared to do whatever it took despite an initial sense of fear and trepidation. Praying for His guidance and wisdom since he had led us thus far, I felt assured that His love and His grace would continue to bless us throughout the trip.

“We felt most welcome at Harvest Inn where Jacob and Wai Cheng were simply wonderful and kind in showing us around and making arrangements for us. They are indeed exemplary workers for God and a blessing to the Cambodians and TMC.”

Alvin:

“We had witnessed and were impressed by the various awareness campaigns on Cambodia featured at the church plaza so we decided to experience it ourselves. We wanted to fellowship with other members of our small group on this trip and were also inspired by our group leaders Kelvin and Poh Kit and their determination to help the Cambodians affected by the recent floods. Especially comforting

affected by the recent floods. Especially comforting was that five of the nine members in our team had Cambodian mission trip experience. Above all, we knew we had God looking after us,” said Alvin.

Surmising their feelings after the trip, Alvin was most impressed by what he witnessed. “People from all walks of life, from housewives to professionals to successful business people, worked together to make the medical mission a successful and meaningful event. We are very glad to have gone as we have grown in our faith, had the experience of serving the Lord and praying for the people of Cambodia. We certainly hope more TMC members will come forward to extend their helping hand to participate in future missions trips.”

If you practise family medicine, or if you are interested in participating in the next missions trip to Cambodia, please approach Kelvin Tan.

www.tmc.org.sg/missions.html

iSunday!

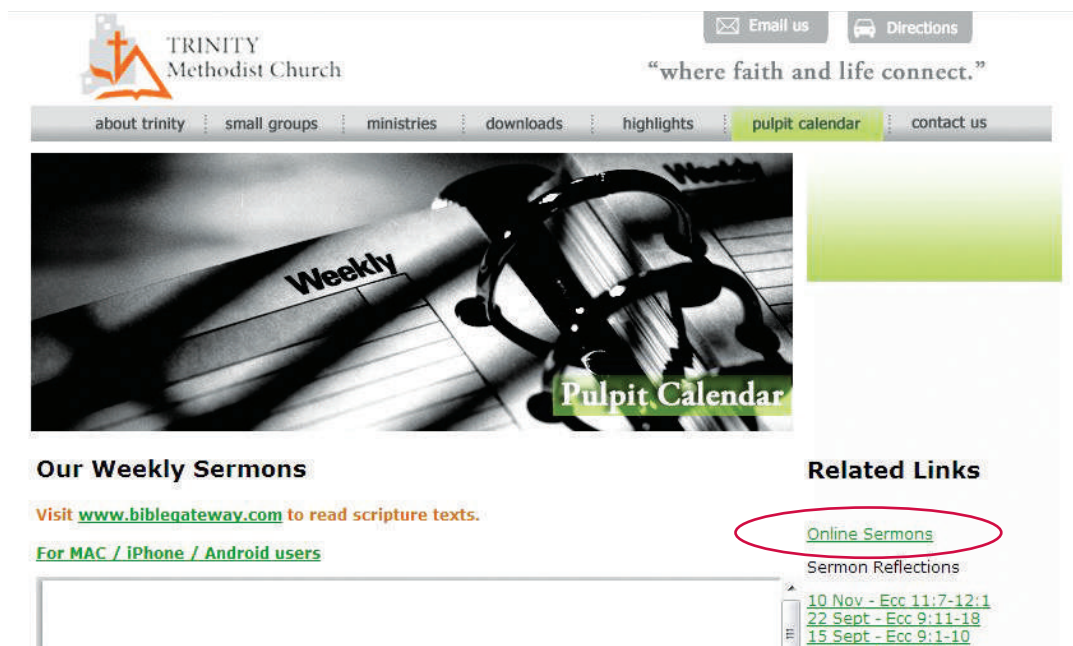
If you are the observant sort, you will soon notice a new piece of furniture in the Plaza. The iSunday counter is situated right smack in front of the media board of the Plaza, not far from the water cooler.

It is an information counter for enquiries to be made of the church office staff, a place for ministries to take registrations or queries, and, importantly, a place to take newcomers to.

You will also find that the magazine rack (formerly situated near the vending machines) will soon be moved to its new position under the media board. In this way, TMCers can easily find registration forms and other materials featured by the posters on the media board.

Pledge cards and donation envelopes will also move with the magazine rack. There's going to be a hive of activity at iSunday as we also invite newcomers to congregate there to find out more about us!

iSunday - iloveSunday? infoSunday? invitingSunday? You decide.



Since January this year, TMC sermons have gone online.

If you are on holiday or have to travel and have to miss a Sunday, here's how you can catch up with the teaching of God's Word from TMC's pulpit.

On the TMC home page (www.tmc.org.sg), click on "pulpit calendar" on the menu bar. Once you are directed to that page, just look under "Related Links" to find the link to the Online Sermons which are arranged by date (ddmmyy). The recordings are in mp3 format.

You may have been inspired by a particular sermon, in which case, you can download and burn it onto a CD as a gift to someone. Or you can empower someone who is homebound by teaching them how to use the facility.

This service is brought to you by the Communications Ministry and will be on trial until the end of June when its frequency of use will then be reviewed.

EVENTS

Sun, 2 Mar

2.00pm

Last Baptism Class

www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html

Mon, 3 Mar

11.30am

GYM Outing – Divas of the Decade

Wed, 5 Mar

8.00pm

Ash Wednesday service

Wed, 5 Mar, 2 Apr and every 1st

Wed of the month

10.00am – 12.00pm

Yum Cha@10 is an opportunity for people to come together for fellowship, and serves as a platform for TMC-ers 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

Sun, 9 Mar

8.45am

Baptism Service

10.15am and 12.30pm

Children's Ministry Parents/Teachers Meeting

www.tmc.org.sg/cm.html

Sun, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mar

2.00pm

Membership Class

www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html

Sun, 16 Mar

Children's Ministry Creative Prayer P1-6
Resource Centre Book Table in Plaza

Sun, 16 Mar and every 3rd Sunday thereafter (not in April)

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.

Sun, 23 Mar

11.15am

Boys' and Girls' Brigade Enrolment

Thurs 27 Mar – Sat 29 Mar

Leaders' Retreat

Sun, 30 Mar, 27 Apr and every last Sunday 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

Thurs, 27 Mar, 27 Apr and every 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 in

the church office / eddie@tmc.org.sg.

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

Sun 6 Apr

10.15am

Children's Ministry Fellowship for teachers and helpers

Sun 13 Apr to Sun 20 Apr

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

services (see page. xxx)

Sun 20 Apr

10.00am

Reception of New Members at service

Sun 27 Apr

TMC Kindergarten Sunday

www.tmc.org.sg/kindergarten.html

Sun 27 Apr

8.45am and 11.15am

Children's Ministry – Children in Prayer

Every 2nd and 4th Sun

7.30 – 8.30am

Church Prayer Meeting in Sanctuary

www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every Sun (not 20 Apr)

10.15am

Design for Discipleship

www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html

Every 2nd and 4th Wed (not 23 Apr) 8.00 – 9.30pm

Bible App – Book of Hebrews

www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html#bibleapp

Every 3rd Wed

10.00am – 12.00pm

God's Masterworks: A Concerto in 39 Movements

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

Every Fri

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry in the Prayer Chapel

Every 1st and 3rd Fri (not 18 Apr)

9.15 – 11.15am

Bible Study on Genesis

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

Every Sat

9.00 – 11.00am (not 19 Apr)

Fellowship of Ukulelians meet to worship, fellowship, receive coaching and of course play a wide repertoire of Christian hymns and contemporary worship songs with the ukulele.

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

2.00 – 4.00pm

Contact 123 - Soccer Training at Blk 143

Serangoon North Avenue 1.

www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#c123

Further details on TMC's events can be found at www.tmc.org.sg

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