

# *Saltshaker*

A Trinity Methodist Church Publication



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## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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# THE KINGDOM

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The Kingdom of God is a key concept in Scripture.

Jesus came preaching the Kingdom.

He taught us to pray: “Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven”.

And so we live each day wanting to see more of the Kingdom happen and manifest here on earth.

The Kingdom is not just about what will happen in future when Jesus comes back again to take his rightful place to rule on earth, but is happening here and now as well.

And we have the opportunity to take part in God’s Kingdom, living it out and showing his Kingdom to the world.

Much of Jesus’ teaching on the Kingdom is in parables.

The first parable of the Kingdom is that of the Sower and the soil (Matthew 13:1-9).

Jesus is referring to himself as the sower sowing the seed of the Kingdom.

There are four types of soil, or recipients of the sower’s seed— the path where the birds ate it up, the rocky places where there was not much soil for the plants to flourish, the places where thorns choked the plants, and the good soil in which the seed produced good crop.

The Sower sows widely, because he is generous.

Jesus shows us that throughout the gospel. He heals the sick and possessed who come to him, and he feeds those who are hungry.

The seed of the gospel is to be sown everywhere, generously. God causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

This is how we should serve others in the community. So pre-believers know that if they come to church, they will be helped, because we are generous.

The parables of the wheat and weeds, and the net are quite similar.

These parables tell us that there is a mixture of good and bad in the Kingdom.

We learn, firstly, that in the world, there are people who are of God and those who are of the evil one.

Secondly, the wheat and weeds grow closely together, and the good fish and bad fish are collected together. In the Kingdom it is not always so easy to tell who is good and who is evil.

We see the good in people who may not look respectable, and we see bad behaviour from Christians. The difference can only clearly be made at the end of the age, at the time of judgment.

Thirdly, and importantly, there will be judgment.

So this is the hope of the Kingdom, or the worldview of the Kingdom.



# OF GOD



Kwa Kiem Kiok

## Matthew 13

We do what we can here and now, and we work hard at it, but it is not the end.

We know that there is a judgment, and God will have the final word. If right now things look a bit bleak, or that there doesn't seem to be a strong Christian presence in society, we are assured that there will come a time when there will be judgment.

So we should work hard, knowing that there will come a time when God will come and establish his Kingdom here on earth.

The next parables are one-line parables, but are all quite distinctive and informative.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

The Kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.

First, the Kingdom is organic; it is small seed that will grow.

Perhaps what we do is small. For example, helping out in a school.

Perhaps what you're doing is putting up an article on social media that highlights a good deed.

A mustard seed action can be creation care - when we take steps to reduce our carbon footprint or recycle.

Another mustard seed action is to clean up after ourselves at the hawker centre so that the table is clean for the next person.

These are small mustard seed actions which we can do, which say something about our beliefs, our values and our views of the world. These are important witnesses.

Yeast in flour presents a different picture. The difference is that the mustard seed can be seen, and the growth of the Kingdom is obvious.

But yeast in bread, on the other hand, cannot be seen. We only know that the yeast has been there when we see the bread.

Sometimes, the work that we do in public is not seen obviously or openly, but it is there in the transformation of the institution or community. It's alright that the work that we do in the public space does not get much public acknowledgment - God knows what we have done and will reward us accordingly. The transformation that takes place is unseen.

These Kingdom parables tell us that witness in the public spaces can sometimes be in the hidden, quiet ways: the ways that actually bring life and health and wholeness to others. These parables tell us about the way that we can be and live out the Kingdom in public.

The Kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.



Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

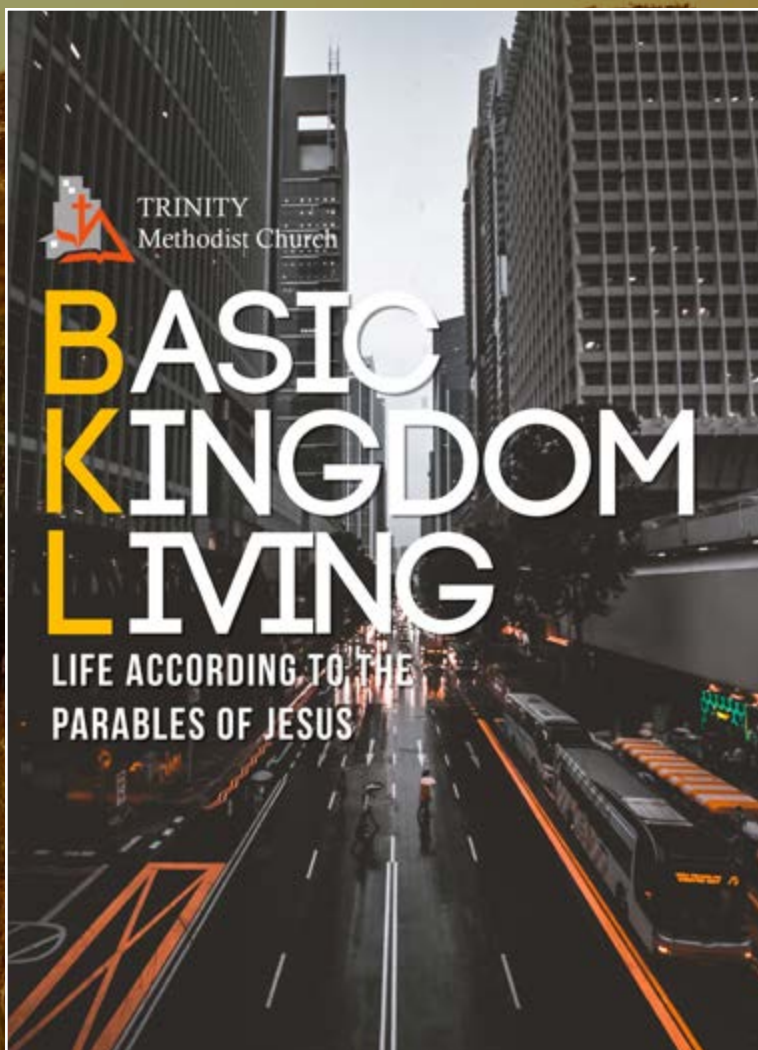
The Kingdom of God is treasure.

We have that treasure in our relationship with God, and we are reconciled with him by what Jesus Christ has done on the cross.

The Kingdom is worth everything we have. Those of us who are believers have made the commitment that God and His values are important to us, and we are willing to make sacrifices for this Kingdom. Our whole lives should show this.

These two parables give us slightly different angles on the Kingdom: first the treasure in the field is hidden. It is not something that is obvious, but something that the man stumbled upon. The other parable is about a fine pearl. The pearls are out there for everyone to see, but it is the master pearl buyer or merchant who can spot this precious pearl and the value of this pearl among all the other pearls. The Kingdom of God is a treasure.

*Kiem is one TMC's local preachers and a lecturer in Inter-Cultural Studies at the East Asia School of Theology.*



The sermon series on Basic Kingdom Living started on 28 Jan, and will continue until 24 Jun. Details – including the sermon schedule, discussion questions and additional resources –available at [www.tmc.org.sg/pulpit.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/pulpit.html) and the TMC app.

# FROM YOUR HEART

REV SNG CHONG HUI



*This is taken from Rev Sng's blog post of 18 Mar 15. To follow his blog, visit <https://goldenapplesilversetting.wordpress.com/author/chonghui2014/>*

One of the most frightening things that Jesus said was the conclusion in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

He said: "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart" (Matthew 18:35).

Often times we say we forgive that person but do we really forgive him from the heart? We say "I forgive you" with our lips but in our heart do we really forgive?

I think it would be a lot easier if Jesus had just commanded us to forgive without further stipulations. But He added those three words - Forgive from your heart.

If Jesus were to command us to forgive, without adding these three words, then we can all go through the external motions of forgiveness but now those three words would decide if our forgiveness is genuine.

No longer can we say "I forgive him" when in our heart we still hold a grudge. Even when we may smile at that person, shake his hand or even chat politely with him - yet we cannot say we have forgiven him from our heart because unforgiveness still lingers inside our heart.

Jesus does not want any of His disciples to pretend to forgive or to fake forgiveness. He wants us to truly forgive "from the heart."





# TMC's Newest Pastor –

The Methodist Church of Singapore practises an itinerant system in its pastoral appointments.

In the most recent round of pastoral appointments, TMC found ourselves blessed with a new and very experienced pastor, Rev Sng Chong Hui who arrives with over 36 years of pastoral service. TMC is Pastor Sng's 10th church.

His last two postings were as the Pastor-in-Charge at the Methodist Church of the Incarnation where he served for two years, and Fairfield Methodist Church where he spent four-and-a-half years.

His calling to serve God came early when he was still doing National Service. Not wanting to join his fellow officers in their nightly outings, he had plenty of time to read the Bible in his bunk. Three passages made an impression on him and he felt the presence of God. (see side bar)

He had hoped that he could receive an angelic visitation, vivid dream or audible voice like the examples one reads of in the Bible, but in reality, it was these scriptures that constituted his calling.

Now married for some 35 years to his wife Irene, a paediatrician in private practice, God has blessed them with four grown children. Their eldest son, Ben, enjoys his work on a koi farm. Their daughter, Becky, is a landscape architect. Another son, Zach, is a student at SIT doing game design, and their fourth child, Nat, is awaiting his A level results and he hopes to become a veterinarian someday.

Of his new posting, Pastor Sng finds that TMC has very clear vision and strategic direction which correspond to the ministry that tugs at his heart, that is, Discipleship.



*Rev Sng (standing, middle) and his family*

# Rev Sng Chong Hui



*Samuel Wong*

“I find joy and fulfilment in leading Discipleship groups. In my previous church, I led what I called the Ten Brave Christians who committed themselves to meet regularly with me for three months,” he said. “The outcome was most gratifying,” said Pastor Sng.

Here at TMC, Pastor Sng is also quite keen to start the BraveX, which entails having 10 persons in Disciple Relationships (DR) practising the 3 Ls (Learning, Loving & Leading).

His most imminent task at TMC is getting to know and remember the worshippers and their names.

“Being 64 years of age and trying to remember and store this 10th set of names in the limited hard disk space that is my head is quite challenging,” he quipped.

“What I am loving at TMC is being a little more relaxed as I am no longer Pastor-in-Charge.”

He added that living in the same neighbourhood where TMC is located also allows him the flexibility of cycling or walking to work on certain days.

He enjoys living close to many in the congregation. Recounting how a TMC member greeted him while he was gardening outside his house one day, he said: “I was crouching down and I was very impressed that he recognised me as most church members I’ve served only recognise me from the neck upwards with my clergy collar on.”



*A prize catch*



*Rev Sng (extreme left) and his angling buddies*

For health and regular exercise, Pastor Sng cycles around and along the Punggol Waterways with his wife at least three times a week. On his days off and special occasions, he enjoys fishing in the South China Sea with his angling buddies - something he hopes to do more often, now that he is on the cusp of retirement. Nevertheless, he hopes to stay in the ministry for as long as his health permits. He does not foresee himself retiring to a rocking chair.

A little known fact to most of us at TMC is that Pastor Sng is a prolific blogger. He started writing during his sabbatical year in 2015 when he made writing his reflections one of his sabbatical goals.

"I don't blog with strict regularity. There are times when I publish three postings a week and other times I might be in total silence for weeks," he said.

"It all depends on the inspiration. I blog to reflect on what God is saying to me in my personal experiences, encounters, happenings in the world. I always include a Bible verse. Hence, I deem it a devotional blog."

For those keen to read Pastor Sng's blog, the link is

**<https://goldenapplesilversetting.wordpress.com/author/chonghui2014/>**



### **Matthew 13 : 45 - 46**

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

### **2 Corinthians 5 : 14 - 15**

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

### **John 21 : 15 - 17**

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”



# IN & ABOUT TMC



**CHRISTMAS ALFRESCO DINNER**



**CHRISTMAS DAY BAPTISMS**







## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PARTY



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHERS' AND HELPERS' DEDICATION





# WE WENT TO

I went on my first mission trip to Cambodia as a youth.

It was an eye-opening experience.

I remember walking through a slum, feeling grateful for the blessings I had in life, and yet burdened by a sense of injustice as I observed the land.

I remember learning what contentment truly looked like as I met a youth my age whose entire life's worth of personal belongings could all fit into a bag, yet whose joy was irrepressible.

And I remember learning the power of faith and hope, as I met brothers and sisters in Christ who continued to trust in God amidst their circumstances.

Mission trips have a way of broadening our perspective, growing our faith and challenging us to look beyond the bubble that we live in.

Over the years, I've observed the same statement being made by our youth mission trippers after each trip: "We went to bless, but I feel like we walked away even more blessed by them."

Our most recent TMC Youth mission trip was no different.

From 29 Sept to 4 Oct last year, a group of six from the Youth Ministry headed to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to spend some time with our sister-church, Glory Trinity Methodist Church (GTMC).

We partnered with Pastor Chamnap to teach a series of workshops on Hospitality and Worship, which was well-attended by many churches across Kandal province, and worked together to run a youth outreach programme.

We also went on an impromptu road trip to Bokor Mountain (a four-hour drive each way), hosted by the pastors and youth of GTMC. It turned out to be a fantastic opportunity to get to know them better, and build deeper friendships.

In the short span of four days, God used them to teach and remind us of many important lessons of faith.



*Sharing a meal with our GTMC friends*

## **What it means to be a Christian community**

We were received with such love and care that it felt like we were at home and part of the family. In the words of a well-known Cambodian saying: "Same same but different."

Samuel Lum, a member of the mission team, said: "We had such raw and authentic fellowship that transcended all language boundaries. For me, learning to enjoy one another's presence was a revelation of what Christ meant the Church to be like: an authentic community without borders. Amid the hilarity of watching everyone invent their own versions of sign language to bridge the language barrier, the earnestness to show love and care towards us showed me how love spoke much louder than words could."



# BLESS, BUT...



Ang Hern Shung

## Use what's in your hand

Xuan Ting, on her first trip to Cambodia, shared an inspiring encounter with a member of GTMC, named N. She had a passion for sewing and asked God how she could use her skills to help and be a blessing to others.

Despite not having much and battling health issues, N was led to hold sewing classes to the housewives in the vicinity, with the hope that they would in turn be able to pick up this skill and earn a living. This reminded us of how obedience isn't defined by what we have, but what we do with what we have been given.

It brought to life the sermons we heard last year on "What's in your hand?" God can truly take what's in your hand to fulfill what's on His heart.

## Worshipping together

Perhaps one of the highlights, and greatest takeaways of each mission trip, is the opportunity to worship alongside our GTMC brothers and sisters.

If you've ever had the opportunity to do so, you'd realise that there is something so natural and genuine in how they express their love for God in worship. It reminds us that worship is not defined by how well the band is playing, or how good the sound system is. Nor is it defined by our circumstances or emotions, but by our posture and heart of expectation as we come into the house of God.

Ruth Koh said: "There's a shift in the atmosphere when they worship, and it's very different from what we experience back in Singapore – and something I think we can learn from."

Samuel summed it up wonderfully: "As I watched both our team from Singapore and GTMC worship the same God in our own languages, I couldn't help but wonder if I'd caught a glimpse of the bride of Christ that John describes in the Book of Revelation."

Even as the GTMC redevelopment project has come to an end, we remember that the Gospel work continues. Let's continue to pray alongside our sister church. And perhaps even consider heading there on a mission trip.



(L-R) On Bokor Mountain - Chanthol, Jia Eenn, Xuan Ting, Ruth, Samuel, Preston, Andy



Praying for the nation of Cambodia on Bokor Mountain



# The Crèche

(pronounced “kr-e-sh”)



Tricia Tong

“Hello Samuel,” greets Auntie enthusiastically.

With outstretched arms, and a wide smile, our little boy (one year and one month old at the time of publication) is welcomed into TMC’s crèche every Sunday. He returns the warm reception with his toothy grin.

Tucked away in a corner on the second floor in a room labelled “Rachel”, the TMC crèche receives children aged 0-17 months old.

One of the walls is covered with a colourful mural of Noah’s ark. There is a cot, a rocker, a change table, a sink, wet wipes and boxes of age-appropriate toys.

When we first took our elder child to church at the age of one month, we attempted to lull her to sleep during the service – first horizontally, then vertically, then in a carrier.

We anxiously rocked her so that she would stay silent during times of prayer, desperately coaxed her to shush when she whimpered, and tried to be inconspicuous in doing all the above.

It was a respite when we finally decided to send her to the crèche so that we could give our attention to God during the service. Victoria was all of two months old then.

We never looked back.

When Samuel was born, he went straight to the crèche on his first day in church when he was just one month old.

The crèche also receives toddlers aged 18-36 months. They gather in the music room of the kindergarten hall on the first floor. A team of about 16 people are rostered to mind the crèche, and any four of them can be found carrying and entertaining babies and toddlers in both rooms on most Sundays.

In 2009, when the Children’s Ministry only ministered to children aged three years and above, Rev Dianna Khoo asked Eunice Hum to help start the crèche. Rev Khoo felt that children aged three years and below should also be cared for.

Eunice agreed to lead this ministry because she benefited from such a service when she and her husband were living in Los Angeles, California, in 1986 and she gave birth to their elder son Samuel.





“When we brought him to church at one-month old, the ushers introduced us to the crèche facility where parents could leave their babies in the loving hands of the gentle and kind caregivers, and then attend the church service,” said Eunice.

“The crèche service was a relief and encouragement to us. We could worship together at the service and be refreshed by the Lord without being distracted by Samuel.”

Eunice said the crèche service also gave her a breather, as she was caring for Samuel on her own at home without any help.

I have spoken with some parents and asked them, as they walk to and fro with their babies outside the Sanctuary, why they don't just send their children to the crèche. Some just like carrying their babies (which is great). Others feel embarrassed to leave someone else to suffer their crying baby while they attend the service.

Eunice says: “We are prepared for crying babies and toddlers, especially first-timers. We call the parents if the crying does not stop within 10 minutes. Most of the time, the bawling stops within five minutes, especially if the parent says ‘goodbye’ quickly and cheerfully, and actually leaves the room and the crying baby to us.

Eunice adds that it also helps if parents don't peek through the window. She said the children tend to start playing happily soon enough. Most of the babies and toddlers also settle in within a couple of months.

There are yet others who do not know that TMC has a crèche. That is not surprising since we are one of the few Methodist churches which operates a crèche service.

We have been to other Methodist churches on the rare Sunday that the TMC crèche takes a break, and have not found one that has a crèche service for the 0-36 months age group.





Most other churches have a cry room instead. In this room, the children play with toys while their parents attend the church service by watching a TV screen. Sadly, we have never managed to give our full attention to God in such a facility, with the inadvertent but excusable noise made by the children, and the louder but inexcusable noises made by the parents who end up exchanging notes on which enrichment centre is better.

We are sometimes asked why we are so confident that our babies are being properly cared for at the crèche. That's because we know that the minders include those who have children of their own, or have been babysitter to their nieces and nephews and friends' children – they have a lot of experience with little ones.

We are also acquainted with Eunice's exacting standards for cleanliness and hygiene, and have witnessed the care taken about the crèche. The floor is always mopped before the children enter. Any used sheets are changed and laundered after each service. The toys that have been played with are sanitised after each session.

Thanks be to God for providing the loving and caring aunties and *cheh chehs* who patiently play, sing, feed and care for the little ones.

Mun Yee and Josiah Poh, parents of three-year-old Avigail and seven-month-old Gavrielle, say they are glad that TMC has a creche ministry because it helps them as new parents and fairly new regular worshippers to still be able to attend the service.

"Without the ministry of the crèche, I would not be able to serve as an organist," says Josiah. "It is also a place for our kids to learn social skills."

## A TOT-FUL MORNING

Every Thursday from 18 Jan, 9.00-10.30am  
Trinity Methodist Church, 34 Serangoon Garden Way

Wondering what to do with your 0-3 year old on  
Thursday mornings?

Tired of the same toys, books and walls?

Break your routine and join in this gathering  
of songs, stories, and craft.

A wonderful opportunity for adult  
conversation too! Parents, Grandparents, all  
Caregivers are welcome. (Remember to leave  
home with the baby!)

Register your attendance at  
[www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm](http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm)

For Enquiries:  
[atotfulmorning@gmail.com](mailto:atotfulmorning@gmail.com)





# PRESENCE

"MY PRESENCE WILL GO WITH YOU, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

EXO 33:14

TMC SPIRITUAL RETREAT

1 - 3 JUNE 2018

PALM RESORT HOTEL, JB

<http://www.tmc.org.sg/camp2018.html>



# PUSHING THE RIGHT BUTTONS IN MAKING DISCIPLES

Joshua Loke & Zoe Chai

## WHERE DISCIPLES MAKE DISCIPLES

### **“Where Disciples Make Disciples”.**

That appeared on the bulletin cover last year almost every week.

We are encouraged to press on in our journey of discipleship. It is the hope and prayer of our leaders that each one of us will eventually become disciple-makers.

To many of us, it may sound like a daunting task.

Am I good enough a Christian to disciple others?

Do I have an intimate relationship with the Lord such that I can discern His plans for me, much less those I am discipling?

Am I willing to be vulnerable and accountable to others?

Discipling does not always take the form of disciple groups. It may not have a formal, concrete structure. It is a spirit of nurturing that may arise in situations where we may already find ourselves, be it in church or in our marketplace.

Perhaps you are already practising it in ways that you are not aware of yet.

When we started serving in the Audio Visual (AV) team, we did not realise that we had just embarked on a discipleship journey. This is our story.

### **JOSHUA LOKE**

At one time, towards the end of every 11.15am service, there was always a final powerpoint slide, which stated: “Interested to help in AV? Contact Daniel at [this number].” Did you ever notice that?

That final slide led to the start of my service in the AV team.

My decision to serve in the AV team was borne out of faith. This commitment to serve was quickly followed up with on-the-job training.

I shadowed the AV team members serving at the 11.15am service and learnt all that I could from them.

One of those people was Justin, a guy who is



adept at creating slides that are beautiful and relevant for the service. Justin showed me the ropes. Beyond his artistic talent was his patience in guiding, and care in encouraging me as I fumbled on the job initially. This gave me the confidence to do the job well and to help others as well. Although it is not something we have talked about, I was effectively a disciple of Justin and I am thankful for his mentorship.

If we are patient and caring like Jesus Christ was, discipleship can start wherever we are placed.

Today, the final powerpoint slide of every 11.15am service states: “Interested to help in AV? Contact Joshua at [this number]”.

## **ZOE CHAI**

I started serving in the AV team some months ago.

I had been in TMC for about year, and had been thinking about how I could serve God in church.

During the bus ride back from church camp 2017, I made my decision to serve in the AV team.

I asked Daniel, who happened to be a few seats away, and he agreed readily to have me on the team. I was slated to shadow a couple of people from the visuals team – Joshua was one of them.

Before my first Sunday serving with the AV team, Joshua took time off work on a Wednesday night to go through with me the nuts and bolts of what the team did. He handed me the reins to create the slides and checked my work to ensure every slide was good to go. He also came earlier on Sunday morning to show me the ropes (and buttons) and made sure that I was comfortable with running the show.

The thing about Joshua is that he would always ask if I was ready to do things on my own or to try it out and his patient and assuring presence in the AV box helped to calm my nerves.

I remember the first Sunday that we served together. We had forgotten to type in the prayer requests and had to do it while the song slides were being screened during the service. There were also a few other people directing us on various other matters but Joshua told me to just focus and relax and take my time. He was just so calm and collected amidst all the voices! I really appreciated that as it helped me to not panic and remain on task.

I am very blessed to have had Joshua as a mentor and I am heartened to hear how he passed on the baton of discipleship he first received from Justin.



*(L-R) Zoe, Joshua, Justin*





李彩韵  
Li Cai Yun

# "I WANT TO SPEAK IN TONGUES" 我要讲方言

“你们祈求，就给你们；寻找，就寻见；叩门，就给你们开门。”（马太福音7：7）

在信主后的第27年，神再一次向我彰显了祂的信实与恩典。

我从小就是基督徒，也曾多次渴慕圣灵的充满与浇灌，但对于属灵的恩赐，我却总是敬而远之。我是一个相对寡言的人，在面对神时，我承认我亦是如此。我相信圣灵会随己意将恩赐分配给神的子女，且没有人比祂更知道我们的需要，因此若圣灵没有赐下，我又何须多说、多求？于是，这些年来，我从不曾向主开口寻求什么恩赐。偶尔，在听到关于恩赐的见证或讲道时，我的心虽也曾受感动，但于我而言，它始终是可遇而不可求的。

2017年11月24日，在门徒培训班上，我们就圣灵的课题进行了讨论。Uncle Philip与我们分享了他对圣灵恩赐的看法，并鼓励我们向神祈求。我第一次真心地渴慕说方言的恩赐。我期望能与主有更亲密的交通；我不满足于与祂只停留在现有的关系中。于是，回到家中，我第一次开声向主寻求说方言的恩赐。然而，周末转眼过去了，神似乎并没有回应我的祷告。

周一早晨，我随华语崇拜委员会的弟兄姐妹们一同前往笨珍参加退修会。傍晚，我们回到入住的宿舍进行敬拜与祷告。伍传道娘带领我们为着神一路的引领与供应献上感谢，并为着我们个人与事工的突破做祷告。在静默祷告中，我再一次向主寻求说方言的恩赐。可一直到祷告时间结束，弟兄姐妹们准备散会，神仿佛仍然没有听见我的呼求。

正当我们准备回房去时，伍传道突然走到我的面前，说他有感动要为我领受说方言的恩赐来祷告。传道、传道娘问我是否愿意？当时我心里不禁感到一丝激动，“这正是我的祷告！”我小声地说道。原来，神一直都听见了我的祷告。理性上，我知道神垂听我们每一个人的祷告。可是，当祂以这样的方式回应我的时候，我还是心潮澎湃，内心除了感恩，仍是感恩。

伍传道和众弟兄姐妹于是为我代求。祷告中，我感到双腿无力。当我躺卧在地上，我感到一股力量重重地压在我的胸前，我的舌头也开始颤动，可却没有发出任何声来。我记得曾经在一些刊物中读到人们如何能习得方言，于是我默默地又向神提出了另一个非分的要求：主啊，谢谢你回应了我的祷告，我感谢祢愿意将这恩赐给我；但我求祢让我准确无误地知道这是从祢而来，而没有一丝一毫出自我自己。当祢赐下方言，求祢让灵语从我的嘴里迸出，不是我自己发声……我的双手开始颤抖，眼泪倾泻，不一会儿，嘴唇开始颤动，形成我无法辨识的音节。

这一个晚上，圣灵大大地运行在我们当中。委员会中其他弟兄姐妹也领受了圣灵的恩赐与触摸。感谢主，在我认识祂的第27年，选择以这样的方式再度彰显自己；祂确实是一位又真又活的神，且祂爱我们，按祂的心意应允我们的呼求，充充足足地成就一切，超过我们所求所想的。这样一位满有慈爱与能力的主，值得我用一生去追随与事奉！



“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”  
(Matt 7:7)

I have been a Christian since young, and had longed to be filled with the Holy Spirit many a time.

But I had never asked the Lord to bestow me with any gifts, including the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I believed that the Holy Spirit would give gifts to God’s children in His own time, as God knows our every need. If God had decided that I could do without a certain gift, why should I think otherwise?

Occasionally, I would hear a testimony or a sermon about God’s gifts, and my heart would be touched. Nevertheless, I felt that I did not need to seek His gifts. If He so willed to give them to me, then He would do so in His time.

On 24 Nov 2017, at the DISCIPLE course I was attending, there was a discussion on the person of the Holy Spirit. Uncle Philip shared with us his views on the Spirit’s gifts and encouraged us to pray for these gifts.

For the first time, I genuinely longed to receive the gift of speaking in tongues. I desired a more intimate conversation with the Lord. I was not satisfied with my relationship with Him.

On the way home, I prayed for the first time to receive the gift of speaking in tongues. The weekend passed and it seemed that God did not respond to my prayer.

On Monday morning, I went to Pontian, Johor, for a retreat with brothers and sisters from the Mandarin service.

In the evening, we worshipped and prayed. Rebekah Goh led us in a time of thanksgiving for God’s guidance and providence; she also prayed for a breakthrough in our spiritual lives and ministry.

In the silence of the moment, I prayed again for the ability to speak in tongues. But at the end of the prayer session, the Lord had not answered my prayer.

Or so it seemed.

Just as we were about to return to our rooms, Eddie Goh said to me that he was prompted to pray for me to receive the gift to speak in tongues.

It was like a bolt of lightning to me. This was my prayer!

And I had not told anyone about it. Quietly, I said to myself: “So the Lord has heard my prayers.”

I knew that God hears all our prayers, but when He answers in this way, He stirs my deepest emotions. I was filled with thanksgiving.

Eddie and a few brothers and sisters prayed for me. During their prayers, I felt weak in my legs. I felt something pressing my chest when I lay on the floor. My tongue started to quiver, but I made no sounds.

I recalled reading about how some people learnt to speak in tongues, so I made a bold request to God: “Lord, thank you for answering my prayer. Thank you for being willing to give me this gift, but please let me know – without a doubt - that the gift is entirely from You, and that I have nothing to do with it. When you give me the gift of speaking in tongues, let it not be my own speech. Let its source be entirely from you.”

My hands started to shake, and tears poured from my eyes. Within a short time, my lips started to move and I made sounds that I could not understand.

The Holy Spirit worked mightily among us that evening.

There were others who received the Spirit’s special touch and gifts.

I give thanks to God that He chose this way to reveal Himself to me after 27 years of knowing Him.

He is a real and living God, who loves us all.

He answers our prayers according to His will, and achieves everything beyond our imagination.

This is our loving and omnipotent God.

He is worthy of our worship and service.



# IN HIS TIME

TMC has been serving the residents at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) for many years.  
This testimony was given by an IMH resident at TMC on Outreach & Social Concerns Sunday, 22 Oct 17.



My wife left me four years ago after 24 years of marriage.

Not because I womanised, smoked, drank or gambled. But because, since 1989, I have been suffering from epilepsy, an incurable illness.

I am still suffering from epilepsy, but I am praying for God to heal me completely. God has helped me - my seizures have stopped at least. I am so happy. I am carrying on with life and continue to pray.

Since my wife left me, I had been praying for God to perform a miracle so that my wife and children would visit me.

Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months. I did not see them for three years.

I was very down. I nearly gave up.

But God showed me two bible verses through a magazine. Paraphrased, they told me that, firstly, God knows what I want, and when I should receive what I want. Secondly, God uses sufferings, trials and tribulations to test my faith.

I thought that maybe I was not faithful in prayer because I was often doubtful. I was always asking God: "God, why have you not answered my prayer? You are most powerful and You are a compassionate God. Yet, I seem still to be waiting for the fish to bite."

On 26 Aug 17, my wife brought my two children to visit me at IMH.

I was so overjoyed that I cried. I promised God to testify that God is real and He answers prayers in His own time. We cannot rush God. Instead, we must let God do His work.

Don't be surprised when God answers our prayers generously.

*In His time, in His time,  
He makes all things beautiful in His time.  
Lord please show me every day  
as You're teaching me Your way  
that You do just what You say  
in Your time.*

*In Your time, In Your time,  
You make all things beautiful in  
Your time.  
Lord my life to You I bring  
May each song I have to sing  
be to you a lovely thing  
in Your time.*

To serve at IMH, please  
contact Yvonne Tan  
[yvonnetangb@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnetangb@gmail.com)

*Afternote: The resident said in January  
2018 that his condition has improved and  
that God has healed him. Thanks be to  
God for His healing grace!*



# Bibliothèque



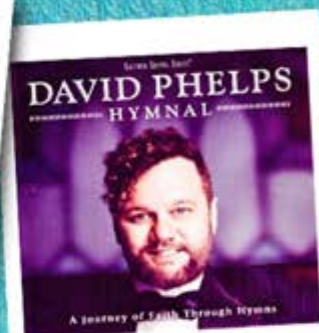
D1390  
He Is Risen - Instrumental & Vocal Easter Favorites



D1391  
Brandon Heath  
No Turning Back



D1392  
Tasha Cobbs Leonard  
Heart, Passion, Pursuit



D1393  
David Phelps  
Hymnal



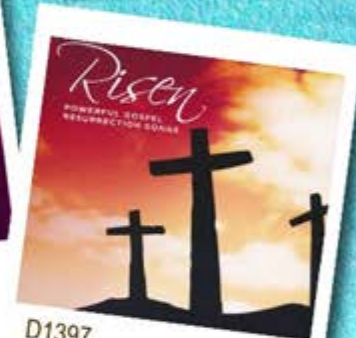
D1394  
Top 50 Praise Songs  
Instrumental



D1395  
Point of Grace  
Recollections



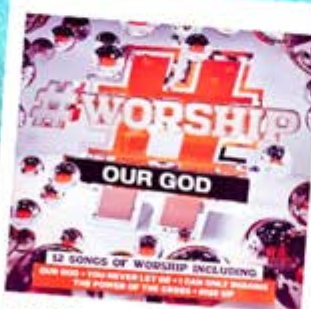
D1396  
All About Worship: My  
Pursuit



D1397  
Risen - Powerful Gospel  
Resurrection Songs



D1398  
Matthew West  
All In



D1399  
#Worship: Our God



D1400  
#Worship: Cornerstone



D1401  
#Worship: This Is Amazing  
Grace

These recently released CDs and many other resources are available for borrowing from the TMC Resource Centre, situated at Benjamin Room on Level 2.

The resource centre is open on Sundays from 10am to 1pm.



# EVENTS

## **Thurs 1 to Sat 3 Mar**

LCEC Planning Retreat

## **Sun 4 Mar**

Boys' Brigade Week Collection

## **Fri 9 Mar**

7.30pm DISCIPLE III commences for 32 sessions

[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html)

## **Sat 10 Mar**

10.00am Youth Avenue Leaders Captains' Development (1st Batch)

## **Sat 10 Mar, 7, 14, 21 Apr, 30 Jun**

3.00pm Youth Avenue sport activity

## **Tues 13 Mar**

10.00am The Way of Grace commences for 9 sessions

[www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/d&n.html)

3.00pm Youth Avenue nerf games

## **Fri 16 Mar**

10.00am Youth Avenue Holiday Programme – Bollywood Veggies

## **Sat 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 19 May**

10.00am Youth Ave Leaders Captains' Development III

## **Sat 24 Mar**

9.00am Faith and Culture talk

## **Mon 26 to Thurs 29 Mar**

8.00pm Holy Week services  
[www.tmc.org.sg/pulpit.html](http://www.tmc.org.sg/pulpit.html)

## **Fri 30 Mar**

3.00pm Good Friday service

## **Sat 31 Mar**

1.00pm Youth Avenue Easter pizza party

## **Sun 1 Apr**

6.30am Easter Sunrise Service

9.00am Easter Sunday combined

English service, with Baptism of Youths and Adults

## **Sat 14 Apr, 12 May**

10.00am Youth Ave Leaders

Captains' Development II

## **Sun 15 Apr**

8.45am / 11.15am Reception of new members

## **Sat 28 Apr**

11.00am New members' fellowship lunch with leaders

## **Sun 20 May**

Enrolment of Girls' and Boys' Brigades

## **Every Sun**

9.30am Mandarin Service Prayer Meeting

After the 11.15am service Young Adults' Lunch Fellowship

## **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 Wed (not Wed 28 Mar)**

8.00pm

Church Prayer Meeting

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

## **Every 1st Wed**

10.00am-12.00pm

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

for TMCers to meet one another as well as non- Christians in the community mid-week.

Contact the church office / [churchoffice@tmc.org.sg](mailto:churchoffice@tmc.org.sg)

[www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym](http://www.tmc.org.sg/ministries.html#gym)

1.00-3.00pm

Rummikub

## **Every Thurs**

### **9.00am A Tot-ful Morning**

A time for caregivers and children aged 0-3 years old to enjoy songs, stories and other activity

[www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm](http://www.tmc.org.sg/highlights.html#atm)

## **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 Fri 30 Mar)**

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry at the Prayer Chapel

## **Every Sat (except 5th Sats)**

9.00 – 11.30am

Fellowship of Ukulelians

[www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele](http://www.tmc.org.sg/regular.html#ukulele)

## **Every 1st Sat**

4.30pm

Youth Ministry - Worship, Word and Community

[www.facebook.com/TMCYouthMin/](http://www.facebook.com/TMCYouthMin/)

## **Monthly**

WSCS Visitation to Homebound.

Those interested to bring the church into the homes of the homebound, please contact Lucy Chan at 9678 4046. Group leaves TMC at 10am.

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