

Nov

2 0 1 3



TRINITY
Methodist Church

MICA (P) 083/09/2013

SALTSHAKER

THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS

HOW TO START A
CONVERSATION
ABOUT JESUS
PG 6

JUST A BEND IN THE ROAD
PG 10

GIVE WINGS,
NOT THINGS
PG 14



Shaking Salt

“Hey! Aren’t my feet beautiful?” one of my friends in the group exclaimed.

All of us in the group gave her a disapproving stare.

“I bring good news!” she explained.

How many of us think of feet as being beautiful? They aren’t something we commonly regard as particular trophies of beauty, but they can be turned into something more beautiful than all the gold in the world—when used for the right purpose!

In Romans 10:15, the Apostle Paul tells us, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Star of Christmas is a fun-filled family carnival organized by Trinity Methodist Church and various community partners. This carnival will bring Serangoon North residents of different ages, races, languages and religions together to celebrate the Christmas message of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.

TMC is the anchor of the carnival programme. We aim to share the Christmas story in creative ways to the Serangoon North community.

Those who visit the carnival will be brought back to the first Christmas in the little old town of Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago.

The Christmas storyboards will be the main attraction of the carnival. The storyboards will feature 3 scenes of the Christmas story, namely the Magi following the bright shining star, angels appearing to the shepherds and the birth of baby Jesus in a lowly manger. The interactivity of the storyboards will be further

enhanced with diorama* depictions of the nativity scene. With real-life actors, 3-dimensional cut-outs of sheep and donkeys, complete with a quiz to win a prize, the Christmas story will come alive in a fun and creative way. These days, the real Christmas story tends to get diluted with all of the trappings of the festivities, like Christmas trees, Santa Claus, etc. Wouldn’t it be nice to let people know the real Christian version, straight from the Bible?

The carnival will also feature favourites like game stalls, food stalls, a bouncing castle, carollers, stage performances, and a Christmas gift draw!

We at TMC know who the real Star of Christmas is. As His little stars, let us be that beacon of light by participating in this carnival in one way or another (see list of volunteers required on p.4). If you are hyperactive, do volunteer for the game stalls. If you are mighty strong, be part of our manpower team. If you have a brilliant smile, join our ushers and reception team. If you like to play dress-up, join our cast. And if you are game for anything and everything that we haven’t yet thought of, let us know too! Together, we shall bring the message of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace into the hearts of the Serangoon North residents.

As disciples of Christ, we don’t need a pedicure to have beautiful feet. We just have to bring to others the good news of the Messiah, the Saviour of the world born more than 2,000 Christmases ago – the true Star of Christmas.

** diorama: a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures, either in miniature or as a large-scale museum exhibit (Oxford Dictionary)*

Beautiful Feet

by Jestyn Koh
许正伟弟兄著



脚踪何等佳美

“嘿！我的脚挺漂亮的！”有位朋友感叹道。

我们所有的人皱着眉瞪了她一眼。

她解释：“报福音传喜信”

有多少人会认为脚是佳美的？我们通常不视脚为美丽的象征，但当正确的使用时，它们可以变成比在世界上所有黄金更美丽的东西！

罗马书10章15节，使徒保罗告诉我们：“报福音传喜信的人、他们的脚踪何等佳美。”

“圣诞之星”一个由卫理公会三一堂和各社区合作伙伴举办的嘉年华会，将欢乐无穷。这嘉年华会将集合不同年龄、种族、语言和宗教的实龙岗北居民，一同庆祝圣诞仁爱、喜乐、和平与希望的讯息。

三一堂是此项目的压阵主办机构。我们的目标是有创意地与实龙岗北社区分享圣诞故事。

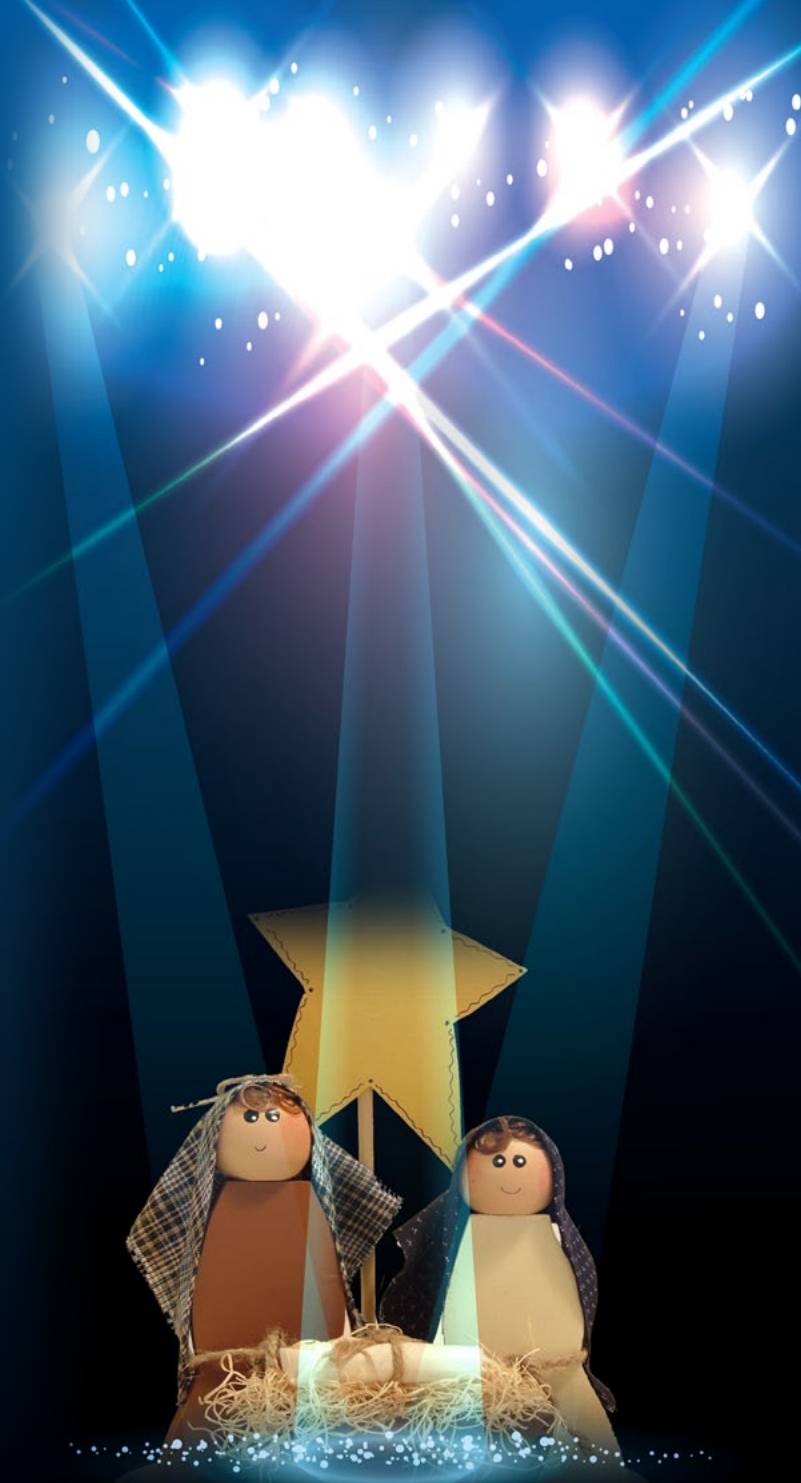
这嘉年华会将时光倒流，把参与者带回两千年前在小伯利恒的第一个圣诞节。

圣诞故事串连图板将是当天的主要景点。以三个情节为特色，即东方三博士跟随璀璨耀眼的明星、天使向牧羊人显现及耶稣诞生在卑微的马槽中。为进一步增强这交互性的故事板，我们还有描述耶稣诞生场景的立体布景。现实演员、立体的绵羊和驴子模型、备有奖品的问答比赛将有趣、有创意性地使圣诞故事变得活灵活现。现今，圣诞的真谛往往被节日的虚饰，如圣诞树、圣诞老人，等等冲淡了。如能让人们知道直接取自于圣经的真正基督版本，这有多好啊？

这嘉年华会当然还包括最受欢迎的游戏摊位，小吃，弹跳城堡，报佳音，舞台表演，和圣诞礼品抽奖！

我们心知肚明谁才是真正的圣诞之星。身为神的小星星，让我们成为投射的一线光，为这嘉年华会出一份力（请看第4页的志愿者名单）。如果你好动，可以帮忙游戏摊位。如果你有力，加入人力团队。如果你有灿烂的笑容，可作招待员。如果你喜欢装扮，加入演员阵容。如果你什么都愿意做，甚至我们尚未想到的事情，快来报名参加吧！让我们一起把爱、希望、喜乐与和平的讯息带到实龙岗北居民的心中。

作为基督的门徒，我们不需要足部治疗使我们的脚美丽。我们只需给别人带来弥赛亚的大好消息，世界的救主在两千多个圣诞前诞生了 – 那真正的圣诞之星。



LIST OF VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

(sign up online at www.tmc.org.sg/xmas2013.html
or with Jestyn Koh in the church office)

志愿者名单

(上网报名www.tmc.org.sg/xmas2013.html
或到教堂办事处找许正伟弟兄)

Support:	Prayer Warrior
Display:	Props Construction Art Work Tailoring (period) Costumes Decorations
Hospitality:	Welcome Team / Befriender Information / Usher Registration Goodie Bags Distribution Ticket / Coupon Sales
Manpower:	General Manpower Security Transport Cleaning Crew
Stage:	Actors / Actresses Story-telling Emcee Stage Performer (Carolling) Musician Stage Crew
Sponsorship:	Cash Sponsor
Booths:	Games Serve Food Sell Drinks Photographer Balloon Sculpting Flea Market Manage Prizes Manage Quiz
Others:	I Can Do Anything (through Christ who strengthens me!)

支援:	代祷勇士
陈设:	道具建设 艺术作品 裁缝 (古装) 服饰 装饰
招待:	欢迎队伍 / 友好大使 信息 / 招待员 注册 派分礼包 售卖门票 / 优惠券
人力:	一般人力资源 保安 运输 清洁人员
舞台:	演员 讲故事 司仪 舞台表演 (报佳音) 音乐家 舞台工作人员
赞助:	现金
处理摊位:	游戏 饮食 摄影 气球雕塑 跳蚤市场 奖品 有奖问答
其他:	我什么都愿意做 (基督赐我力量!)

THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS

Open Field beside
Blk123, Serangoon North Ave 1
Sat, 21 Dec 2013
4pm – 9pm

圣诞之星

实龙岗北大街1, 大牌123旁边的广场
2013年12月21日 (星期六)
下午4时 至 晚上9时

www.tmc.org.sg/xmas2013.html

The Christmas Story through Carols

In this edition of the Saltshaker, we include a simple guide at the foot of each page.
The guide provides a narrative that strings together 10 well-known Christmas carols
to tell the Christmas story.

If you are having guests to the house this Christmas your guests can be encouraged to
participate by reading aloud the narratives in between the songs. Depending on the resources
available, musicians can either provide the music for the carols, or they can be played back
from a CD.

It is not so important to get the music and harmony perfect. Rather, spend time praying that
as your guests (and you) read the story and sing the songs, you would all be reminded of
the true meaning of Christmas – Emmanuel, God with us! – and to respond to Him as
He calls us.

This guide is also available online at www.tmc.org.sg/xmas2013.html,
as is a party guide and tips on how to share your faith.

Why do people give gifts at Christmas?

Say: People give gifts at Christmas for many reasons: some people give gifts
to show their love for their families and friends. Some people tell the story
of Santa Claus – who in fact is the kind soul, Saint Nicholas, who gave gifts
to the poor.



How to Start a Conversation About Jesus



by James Lim

IN TRYING to reach out to the people around us, one of the most difficult things most of us face is the question of how to broach the subject.

How does one start the conversation about religion and then talk about the Jesus in our lives? Of course the most ideal situation is if the other person raises it first. But if the person you want to reach out to never mentions religion, how should we go about trying to raise this important but sensitive issue?

Every one would have tried different approaches, but this is how I usually do it and by God's grace have been relatively successful using it. This method may work when you are trying to reach out to more than one person at a time, though I find that if you have the time, talking to one person alone is more ideal as it does not result in too many people trying to debate with you at one time.

I usually start with this simple question:
"So what is your meaning in life?"

More often than not, they will need some time to ponder and think about the question as most people have not really thought about this important question. The more common responses tend to be:

1. To be happy
2. To help others
3. To provide for my family

Usually, the person will then ask you in return: "What is your purpose in life?" This is when I can start sharing about my belief in Jesus and how He has given us all a much grander and meaningful purpose in life that will last for all eternity. A purpose that is more than just to provide for our families or to be happy on this earth. A purpose to make disciples of all nations, so that all can

celebrate together in paradise when the time comes.

I would also try to point out that, sooner or later, if our purpose in life is just focused on ourselves, we will lose direction and begin to question if there is something more. That is why we were created! We are meant for bigger things than ourselves!

On the other points about helping others or providing for family, I might then ask: "What happens after that?" What happens after they become successful in providing for their family or after helping others becomes easy or is accomplished? Then what? Are we supposed to keep pursuing one dream after another?

I would then approach the topic on death and what happens after. What do they believe happens after we die? Do they believe in a god? In heaven and hell? This allows us to remind them of the futility of all that we are doing on this earth as everything will pass away, but our spirits will never pass away. It is just a matter of where our spirits go to to spend all of eternity after we pass away. That is the important question.

There is no fixed approach to telling others about the Good News. The most important thing is not to rely on your own strength. Acknowledge that in your own strength and words nothing will ever happen. But when you surrender your lips and mind to Christ and trust in Him completely to lead you in the conversation, the Holy Spirit can lead you to say the right words at the right time to your friends. Of course on our part, we need to be sure of our faith and be ready to give an account for the reason of our faith. That is where daily Bible study and prayer comes in.

I hope this helps you in starting a conversation about Jesus and following up from there.



Mr and Mrs Yee Sing Choon (2nd and 3rd from left) at Yum Cha

A Fruitful Yum Cha 饮茶的成果



by Yee Wei Wen 余伟文

My parents, Mr Yee Sing Choon and Madam Wong Kong Chun, are both 82 years old. They resided in Ipoh, Malaysia, until June 2011 when they moved to Singapore to live with my family of five in Serangoon.

We had been praying for them to know Christ. We prayed that someone would bring them to church and share the gospel with them while they were in Ipoh. We also tried to find Christian relatives to invite them to church in Ipoh. All this seemed in vain. When they moved to Singapore, we attempted to bring them to the church in Chai Chee where we worshipped. They obliged us for a few times but did not continue with their attendance.

My daughter, Joyce, is attending the TMC Kindergarten. In February 2012, my wife, Deanna, came to know about TMC's Yum Cha session when she went to pick Joyce up from TMC on a Wednesday.

In the following two months, Deanna would take leave and accompany my parents to the Yum Cha sessions. As both of us are working, we could not continue to take leave. Deanna asked Brother Victor if anyone could ferry them to church. Thank God for His angel, Sister Linda, who volunteered and faithfully provided a transport service for my parents.

Since my parents were new to Singapore, they had no friends or relatives. Their only company was their children and grandchildren. Hence, getting them connected to the Christian fellowship was



a time of refreshing to them. Since they started attending Yum Cha, they began to tell us about some of the new friends they had found. They shared with us that Mr Lee Kuan Yew's former bodyguard, Brother Henry, was from the same Labrooy Road where they lived back in Ipoh. We noticed that they started to look forward to Yum Cha, and even reminded us that they would be attending the gatherings.

In mid-June 2013, my father had a near-stroke. It happened in the early morning when Deanna and I had left home for work. Our second daughter prayed over him while waiting for the ambulance. My father regained consciousness after her prayer. Later in hospital, the paramedic who had attended to him told me that his condition had not looked good en route to the hospital. Miraculously, my father recovered and was discharged from hospital on the third day. Praise God for His grace and mercy toward my father.

We believe God gave my father a second chance. Hence, we asked him if he and my mother would like to declare to relatives and friends that they accept Christ as their Saviour through water baptism, they agreed. Praise God for His faithfulness in answering all our prayers.

My parents were baptised on 13 July 2013!

We wish to thank Pastor Peter Goh, Brother Eddie Goh, Brother Victor and Sister Linda and all those who attended the baptism service. TMC, her ministries, the service of love of her people, have brought two souls who are dearest to us into the kingdom of God.



我的父母, 余盛村和黄光珍, 已经82岁高龄了。他们居住在马来西亚怡保, 直到2011年6月搬来新加坡实笼岗和我一家五口同住。

当他们还在怡保时, 我们一直为他们祈祷, 期望他们认识基督。祈求有人会带他们到教堂, 并与他们分享福音。我们也试图找信主的亲戚邀请他们到怡保的教会。所有一切似乎是徒劳的。当他们移居到新加坡, 我们也尝试带他们到我们在菜市路崇拜的教会。他们勉强跟我们去了几次, 但却没有继续再去。

我的女儿, 明思, 在卫理公会三一堂幼儿园就读。2012年2月的一个星期三, 我的妻子, 朱丽燕到三一堂接明思放学时, 获知乐龄事工每月举办的“饮茶”聚会。

接下来的两个月, 丽燕特意请假带我父母来“饮茶”。由于工作, 我们不能长期地请假。丽燕问维克多弟兄是否有人能帮忙。感谢主, 祂的天使 - 琳达姐妹自告奋勇, 按时接送父母到教堂参加“饮茶”聚会。

由于父母初搬到新加坡, 这儿没有朋友或亲戚。唯有孩子和孙子陪伴他们。因此, “饮茶”的团契令他们耳目一新。自从参加了这聚

会, 他们常告诉我们一些有关新结识的朋友以及李光耀先生的前保镖, 亨利弟兄原来不但是同乡, 还曾住在同条街上。我们注意到他们开始期待, 甚至提醒我们, 他们将参加下一个饮茶聚会。

今年的6月中, 我父亲差点中风。事情发生在清晨, 当时我和丽燕已出门去工作。我们的二女儿边等救护车, 边为他祈祷。祷告后, 父亲苏醒过来。之后在医院, 往陈笃生医院途中照顾父亲的医务人员告诉我, 他的情况不佳。不可思议的是, 父亲居然康复并在第三天出院。赞美主, 感谢祂对父亲的恩典和怜悯。

我们相信主给了父亲第二次机会。因此, 我们问父母是否愿意通过洗礼向亲友们宣示他们已经接受基督为救主。他们同意了。赞美主的信实, 因祂回应了我们的祈求。

我的父母于2013年7月13日受洗了!

我们借此机会谢谢吴正得牧师、伍显芬传道、维克多弟兄、琳达姐妹和所有出席洗礼仪式的亲友。三一堂的事工是个爱他人的事奉, 把我们两位挚爱的人带入神的国度。



Yum Cha serves as a platform for TMCers to invite pre-believers to join the community to sing, exercise and have snacks and tea. Yum Cha is about making friends.

Every 1st Wednesday of the month from 10.00am- 12.00pm.

“饮茶”是本会友可以邀请朋友加入我们团体生活的一个平台, 一同唱歌、做体操和分享茶点。该聚会是为了结交朋友。

每个月的第一个星期三, 早上10时至中午12时。

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Say: Actually Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to the virgin Mary, who was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David...



...The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." ...



ANSWERED PRAYERS - Just a Bend in the Road



by Emily Tan

I would like to share this testimony of how my friend and I led another classmate to say the sinner's prayer.

It was the most unexpected time anyone could imagine – during one of our lessons.

Three of us were in the same group so we took a room to practise our nursing skills. When you put girls together in a group, they talk. So we were just talking and sharing about our own views about life from a Christian perspective.

Then somehow, God being God, who is always silently working behind the scenes, led us to the pivotal moment of my classmate's life where she was finally willing to accept Christ!

As she is a very dear friend of mine, being able to witness this was just...awesome. I had already been sharing Christ with her all this while. Moreover, she was from ACJC, so she already knew something about Christianity. I think the best evangelism anyone can practise is to actively live out your faith for others to see and persevere in your faith in God.

Our friendship grew a lot deeper when she started to open up and shared the problems she faced. In the beginning, about one year ago, I found it a bit awkward to say things like: "Hey you know you don't have to bear this alone, God loves you." As time progressed however, she became much more open and sharing God with her felt so natural. In retrospect, I realised that me simply being there for her, especially at the start, and listening and giving of my time, could have been one of the first doors which God opened before entering her heart.

This episode has taught me to cover the people whom you want to reach out to in prayer and keep them in mind all the time. Along this journey, I did get "rejected" by her as well. For example, we invited her to join our nursing prayer cell group many times but she always said she was uncomfortable and hence declined. But as a cell group, we prayed for our pre-believing friends and I really believe that God hears us and He will answer. When she finally sat in for the

first cell group session, we all knew God was already working in her heart.

At times when God presented me with opportunities to share my faith with her, she sometimes made skeptical remarks which were somewhat disheartening, but I've come to realise that it is normal for pre-believers because they haven't experienced fully what God can do in their lives. Don't give up when it seems like you have hit the end of the road in trying to bring someone to Christ, because it could just be the bend in the road before things turn around.

"For I am not ashamed of this good news about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes." - Romans 1:16

Another thing I have learnt is that you have to be very honest with them about the Christian life. Don't create an impression that the Christian life is a bed of roses. I know how we can unknowingly do that when we start sharing about how good God is and how much He loves us. All this is true but the reality is that Christians too face struggles in life. I only realised this when she asked me: "If you're a Christian, how come you still have problems?" I replied by telling her that being a Christian doesn't mean you are free from problems. It means you will know how to get through problems because of God who helps us.

Even though whatever you are doing may seem fruitless or "too little a step", I would really like to encourage all readers not to give up. Nothing is too little or too much. As long as you act on your faith, God will work on your act of service. Keep persevering and watch God be God. He is the One with the power to change hearts. We just have to be the salt and the light.

*This testimony was first shared on Overflowing Cups, a Facebook page started by the Youth Ministry.
www.facebook.com/trinityYMoverflowingcups*

Away with the Trinkets



by Koh Shuwen

Every Christmas Eve, without invitation or prompting, dozens of relatives and friends heed the inexplicable siren call to gather at my family home. I guess that's what's called tradition.

Not everyone who turns up is a Christian so it is generally a time of festivities. My TMC friends have also participated in this "pilgrimage" after Christmas Eve celebrations in church.

Guests frequently come bearing gifts, but for the last few years, my family has done away with the Christmas gift exchange.

The main reason was the accumulation of well-intended gifts in the unfortunate forms of white elephant trinkets and gadgets over the years. I'm willing to bet that we can line the length of the Great Wall of China with the mugs, pens, calendars and cutesy ornaments (all probably made in China!) that are collectively exchanged as Christmas gifts each year.

I'm not trying to guilt-trip anyone into giving up exchanging gifts. There's always a time and an occasion for that. If you're racking your brains for a Christmas gift for your loved ones this year though, how about making a donation to a charity or supporting a cause of its choice?

What my family does now every year in lieu of a gift exchange, is to ask guests to donate to the Straits Times (ST) Pocket Money Fund instead. We pass a donation box around and there is no obligation to give or any minimum sum stipulated. The take-up rate was low in the beginning, mainly because people had already come prepared with their gifts but participation has increased over the years as people have gotten used to the idea, and are no longer worried about turning up empty-handed.

I have no connections to the ST but I do really like what they do with the ST Pocket Money Fund. Most of us don't have to worry about where our next meal is coming from. Many of the beneficiaries of the ST Pocket Money Fund however do. The fund is used as pocket money for students to buy food in school, pay for bus fares, books and stationery. We all know how tough school is nowadays. Just imagine having to cope on an empty stomach or without writing tools!

Not to spoil the market for retailers but perhaps let us pause before we go into a frenzied gift-buying mode this Christmas. Think about celebrating it a little differently. As the season of feasting and giving draws near, let us also bless others. We believe, after all, that Christ, Who gave us life, is our reason for the season.

Donations to the ST Pocket Money Fund are channelled primarily for disbursement of school pocket money to children from low-income families. A portion will cover the costs of other programmes that support the social and educational development of the beneficiaries and fundraising expenses.

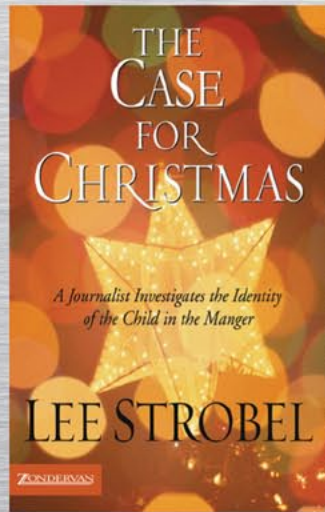
...Then Joseph and Mary went up to Bethlehem the town of David...



Sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem



BIBLIOTHEQUE



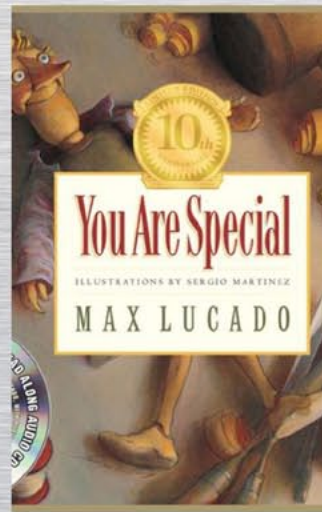
THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS
Author: Lee Strobel

With material from The Case for Christ as well as new ideas from author Lee Strobel, this book is designed to be a tool to be given away to family, friends, neighbours and others who want to understand what happened at Christmas two thousand years ago. By focusing on the hows and whys of Christmas, this book will help believers reaffirm their faith while guiding seekers as they pursue solid answers about this miraculous occurrence.



LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Author: Nancy Guthrie

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room is a family Advent devotional from Bible teacher and mum Nancy Guthrie. Along with devotions for every day in December, this resource includes explanations of some hard-to-understand aspects of popular Christmas carols and discussion questions to draw in your kids and transform your time together from a dry lecture into a treasured family experience.



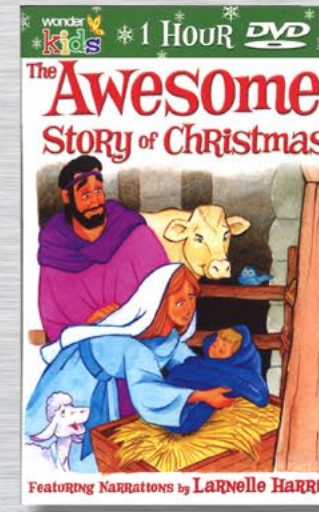
YOU ARE SPECIAL
Author: Max Lucado

In You Are Special, Max Lucado tells the story of Punchinello, the wooden Wemmick who believes that he is not good enough because of what others say about him. You Are Special reminds us that we are precious to God just the way we are. It is through spending time with Him daily that we begin to see ourselves through His eyes. This is an important truth that children and parents need to know: God loves us even though we make mistakes and have flaws!



VEGGIE TALES
Author: The Little Drummer Boy (DVD)

In this Veggie-version of a holiday classic, Junior Asparagus stars as the Little Drummer Boy, a lonely child who finds the true meaning of Christmas when he stumbles upon the birth of the baby Jesus. The video is a story of hope, love and forgiveness and this timeless tale will warm the heart of children everywhere!



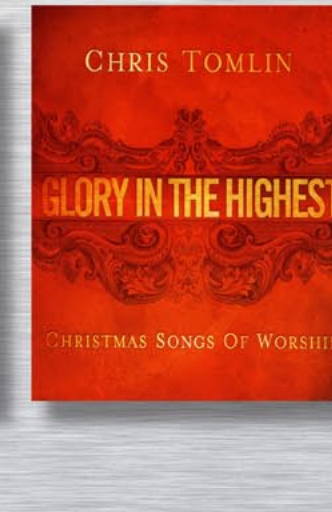
THE AWESOME STORY OF CHRISTMAS
(DVD)

This fun-to-watch DVD is one of the most Biblically accurate presentations of the Christmas story that your child can ever have! The story of Christmas comes with words that appear on the screen to help enhance the reading skills of the children. It also contains 15 Christmas Carols sung by the Wonder Kids!



12 CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES
Author: Bill & Gloria Gaither (CD)

Every year during December, whether we are singing about the joy of Christmas in an arena full of people, or simply enjoying a meal around the table, it is important to make time to celebrate the birth of Christ with those we love! This album by Bill & Gloria Gaither will bless you with reminders of the joy, hope and fulfilled promises that are ours through the timeless Story of Christmas.

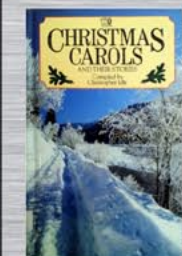


GLORY IN THE HIGHEST
Author: Chris Tomlin (CD)

With a keen ear for a hook and an absolute devotion to God, Chris Tomlin's Glory in the Highest is his first Christmas record. The songs in this album remind us of the redemption that the birth of Christ has brought. The songs tell listeners of the hope and joy that we have in Him. Tomlin's earnest persona is a natural for the yuletide setting. He strikes a balance between familiar Noels like "O Come All Ye Faithful" and straightforward songs of praise and worship.

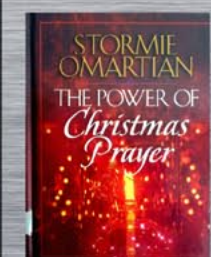
TMC RESOURCE CENTRE

You can also borrow books related to the Christmas season from the TMC Resource Centre on Level 2. Some available titles are:



Christmas carols and their stories
Compiled by Christopher Idle

Stories of Christmas Carols
By Emurian, Ernest K



The Power of Christmas Prayer
By Omartian, Stormie

What's the point of Christmas?
By John, J



Give Wings, not Things



by Rev Dr Kong Ho Soon

This is an adaptation of a sermon delivered on Children's Sunday on 29 Sep 13, titled "Gifts for our Children".

What gifts do we give our children?

According to the World Health Organisation, 146 million children around the world are hungry. Every three seconds, a child dies of hunger in the world. These hungry children of the world desire food, clean water and proper healthcare. They have no need for handphones or computers.

Our problem in Singapore is not hungry children but overweight ones. Our concern is not whether there will be food on the table for our children, but what to eat and where to eat. Most Singaporean parents resort to money and material things to satisfy our children. We start a bank account when our children are born. We go to a shopping centre and buy handphones or computers for them. Most of the time, we give in to what they want, and not what is good for them or what we should desire for them.

It is not unusual to see your child grow tired of the toy you have bought. Every now and then, new things must be given because a desire for material things somehow generates a desire for more of such things.

My wife and I decided early on in our marriage that we would not raise our children with gifts of material things. All these years, our children and grandchildren have never received Christmas presents from us. We tell them that it is because material things will generate more desire, without satisfying inner needs.

There are two gifts which are essential to every child – the gift of roots and the gift of wings. In Isaiah 51:1b-2, Isaiah tells the people of God who were in exile to remember their roots.

"Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth." -Isaiah 51:1b-2

While you may see a tall and strong tree before you, you may not see what is beneath the tree. The tree is standing tall and strong because there is an excellent root system beneath the earth. The roots go deep beneath the earth to store and deliver nutrients to the tree, providing stability and support for the tree. So it is with us. We need to teach our children to get in touch with their roots as a source of support and nourishment as they go through life. With an excellent root system, our children will receive guidance and direction, inspiration and instruction for their lives, and do well.

We can tell our children stories of their forefathers, and of our own experiences. When our children look upon their family roots, and are told the stories of their ancestors and where they came from, they can learn lessons from the past. We trace our roots, not to boast of our origins or pedigree, but to inspire and instruct us and our children in their faith.

More importantly, we want to be able to give our children spiritual roots as people of faith. We should help our children trace their roots all the way back to their Heavenly Father.

That's what we do in Children's Ministry as we help children to worship, pray, testify, read the Bible, and attend church on Sunday – to deepen their spiritual roots. The church alone is not enough to develop your children's spiritual roots. The home must do its part. Church and home must combine to grow spiritual roots for our children.

O Lord, may church and home combine to teach thy perfect way, with gentleness and love like thine, that none shall ever stray.

(verse 1 of O Lord, May Church and Home Combine, UMH 695)

In Heb 12:1, the great cloud of witnesses referred to are the fathers and mothers of our faith who have gone ahead of us to be with the Heavenly Father. They continue to surround us while we are on earth and they are the ones from whom we can tap on for our spiritual resources, as we learn about their lives and testimonies.

The great cloud of witnesses does not merely refer to our spiritual roots but also our spiritual wings. They are our wings to cheer us on and encourage us as we journey on to run with perseverance the race that was marked out for us.

When eagles teach their young to fly, the mother eagle puts her young on her back, and starts flying. In a sudden manoeuvre, the mother eagle will pull away, and her young are left trying to fly on their own, with mother eagle watching closely from a distance. If one of her young needs help, she swoops under and catches it on her back. She repeats this until her young learn how to fly on their own.

We too should teach our children to do things for themselves, to be responsible and independent so as to have more freedom. Many of our Singapore children are brought up with the help of domestic workers and are therefore developing wings rather slowly. Are your children old enough to tie their own shoelaces but nevertheless relying on their helpers to do it?

This is a divine calling - to develop wings, to be free, to make decisions, to learn to relate to people, to develop emotionally, socially, physically, mentally and spiritually. We should give our children freedom to roam and to grow, monitoring from a distance like the mother eagle. If the child manages and copes well with the freedom given, we give more. But if the child does not cope well and cannot manage, then we have to pull him back, draw boundaries and set limits, and let him take on another round of learning.

The writer of Hebrews also exhorts us to fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:2), our Root and Wings. As we fix our eyes on Him, we are connected to that Root that will never end. Jesus is our Root, the pioneer of our faith. Jesus is our pair of Wings, the perfecter of our faith. He is seated on the right hand of the throne of God, watching over us, encouraging us and cheering us on.

Nick Vujicic who was born without arms and legs nevertheless lives as if he has wings. He writes with two toes on his left foot and a special grip that slides onto his big toe. He knows how to use a computer and can type up to 43 words per minute using the "heel and toe" method. He has also learned to throw tennis balls, play drum pedals, get a glass of water, comb his hair, brush his teeth, answer the phone and shave, in addition to participating in golf, swimming, soccer, and sky-diving *. His parents decided that they would teach Nick to fix his eyes on Jesus, the Root and Wings of his life. Nick runs with perseverance the race marked out for him, despite being limbless, and inspires others throughout the world to rise up and to fly.

Give Jesus our Root and our pair of Wings - the Perfect Gift – to our children.

* Source: Wikipedia

The Birth of Jesus

Say: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



The Green Spot

BONES FOR COMFORT



by Koh Shuwen

Leftover meats are great the day after a party. Slap them in between slices of bread or load them onto a crusty baguette for an easy meal.

If you're sick of cold sandwiches and want something warm instead, try making congee the next day. If the carcass or bones are kept clean (I'm not advocating that you salvage bones from the pile that was licked clean!), they make a great stock base. The secret to making your congee taste incredibly flavourful? Dried scallops or dried shrimp.

Turkey / Chicken / Ham Congee

Ingredients

Leftover turkey / chicken / ham bones or stock base
1 bulb garlic, minced
1 shallot, sliced
2 carrots, diced
3 stalks of celery, diced
2 tablespoons dried shrimp (optional)
6 whole dried scallops (optional)
9 cups water
2 cups cooked rice
2 cups cooked turkey/chicken/ham meat, shredded
Fish sauce or soy sauce to taste

- 1 Soak dried scallops and shrimp in 1 cup of hot water for 15-20 minutes. Separate the bones into large pieces. Brown garlic and shallot in some cooking oil. Add carrots and celery and cook for 3-5 minutes until soft. Add turkey/chicken/ham bones and water to pot.
- 2 Shred the scallops into small pieces. Add scallops, shrimp and the soaking water to broth. Turn heat to high and bring to a boil. Immediately turn heat to low and add cooked rice. Simmer uncovered or partially covered till rice is cooked to preferred consistency. Stir in cooked turkey/chicken/ham meat.
- 3 Add fish sauce or soy sauce to taste.

And for those who love spice, here's something to add some kick to your leftovers.

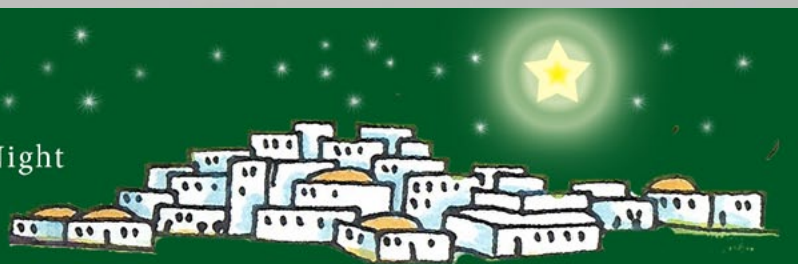
Turkey / Chicken / Ham Tom Yum Soup

Ingredients

Leftover turkey / chicken / ham bones or stock base
1 litre water
2 lemongrass stalks, bruised and cut into 5cm lengths
1 teaspoon brown sugar
2-5 fresh hot chillies, sliced
1-2 cups leftover cooked turkey/chicken/ham, shredded or chopped
150g button mushrooms
8-10 cherry tomatoes
4 stalks spring onions, washed and sliced (optional)
1-2 tablespoons soy sauce (to taste)
Juice of 2 limes
3-4 whole kaffir lime leaves
4-5 slices fresh galangal
4 tablespoons coconut milk (optional)
Few sprigs of fresh coriander to serve

- 1 Put the stock, bones, water, lemongrass, kaffir lime, leaves, galangal, sugar and chillies into a saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15-20 minutes.
- 2 Add the leftover turkey/chicken/ham, mushrooms, tomatoes and spring onions if using. Simmer for a further 5 minutes.
- 3 Add the soy sauce and lime juice. Taste and add more soy sauce or lime juice to your preference. Stir through the coconut milk (if using) and serve topped with fresh coriander.

Sing: Silent Night, Holy Night and O Holy Night



A

Star Recipe



by Amy Cheong

Bake this beauty

and use it to invite a friend to The Star of Christmas! It promises to be a conversation piece at the table. If you only have the usual Christmas decorations, you can also use them as a springboard to talk to your friends and family about the real Star of Christmas.

Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients:

140gm butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
2 tsp cinnamon powder
2 tsp ground ginger (or to taste)
1 tsp salt
1/2 cup honey / golden syrup
2 eggs
4 cups plain flour
1/2 cup self-raising flour
extra flour for dusting
coloured icing, coloured sprinkles, decorations

Method

- 1 Cream butter, sugar, cinnamon, ginger and salt till light and creamy
- 2 Beat in honey/golden syrup till well mixed
- 3 Beat in eggs till well mixed
- 4 Sift in flours and mix till a soft dough results
- 5 Turn out onto a smooth surface dusted with extra flour and knead lightly
- 6 Divide dough into palm sized balls and work with one at a time, keeping the rest in the fridge to chill
- 7 Preheat oven to 160° C
- 8 Roll out dough, cut out shapes
- 9 Bake for 12 – 15 minutes or until golden brown
- 10 Place on wire rack to cool
- 11 Once completely cool, decorate with icing and sprinkles



To Assemble the Cookie Christmas Tree

- 1 You will need star-shaped cookie cutters in various sizes (6 different sizes would be ideal. Cookie cutters are available at Daiso). Cut 4 cookies of each size and bake as above. Once cool, pipe icing on the tips of each arm of each star and decorate with sprinkles or buttons and leave to set.
- 2 Affix the largest size cookie star on a serving plate with a bit of icing. Affix another large size cookie star on top of it at an angle so that the arms of the two stars can be seen clearly. Repeat with all the cookie stars, using cookies of every decreasing size.
- 3 Top the cookie tree with the smallest cookie stars, leave to set and you have a pretty centrepiece for your Christmas buffet table!

The Shepherds and the Angels

Say: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." ...



IN AND ABOUT TMC

Missions Fair



57th Anniversary



...Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."



Sing: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing and Angels We Have Heard On High



YOUTH SUNDAY AND BAPTISM



CHURCH CAMP





By Noelle Yong (Photo: First row, centre)

NEWNESS, BIRTH AND STARTING FRESH

Formed this year, it is one of the newest – if not the newest – small groups in TMC. The small group had its first session on 1 May 13. It doesn't even have a name yet! It is temporarily known as Small Group @ Green Lane as it is held at Desmond and Sophia Loh's (photo: first row, left) apartment at Green Lane.

It all began when Desmond and Sophia heeded God's call to start a small group and everything fell into place. The group was formed in a very organic manner through a series of divine encounters. Each member has his or her own unique story to tell about how they eventually ended up in the small group. *(You'll have to join the small group to find out!)*

YOUTH

With the exception of the small group leaders, Desmond and Sophia, who are in their 30s, the group comprises members who are mostly in their 20s.

HARVEST

Spiritual Food

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19

With Ephesians 3:17-19 serving as the group's central verses, the group seeks to discover God's love, to love one another and to bring others into the knowledge of the saving grace of God.

Members are reminded to "Stay Humble, Stay Hungry", to participate in each session with an open heart (Humble) and to come Hungry for God's word and presence.

A Family That Eats Together Stays Together

Feeding doesn't just take place spiritually but physically too. The group makes it a point to have dinner together every time they meet as they believe that sharing a meal together facilitates the sharing of their lives.

Spring, summer, autumn or winter - whatever season in life you may be in, we welcome YOU to walk with us.



HEAR FROM US

"I was invited to attend a young adults' retreat at another church and was impressed by their network of small groups. As I talked to the other young adults at that retreat they shared how their small groups had helped them in their walk. At that point, I had not been in a small group for a few years. I asked God to show me a small group for me and I told Him I would accept the first invitation to join a small group made to me unconditionally. That weekend, Daniel Hum (photo: second row, left) invited me to join this small group. Being in this small group has given me a bunch of people to share my life and prayer concerns with. In addition to that, we spend time diving deeper into the Bible than I would in my personal quiet time."

--Daniel Gwee
(Photo: Back row, centre)

"Being in a small group has challenged me to change the way I think in certain aspects. I like how open and honest we can be as a group and I guess that is the only way that we can truly learn. I would definitely encourage all those who are not in a small group to find one. Being able to share my life with my small group has definitely been a very fulfilling and encouraging experience and I look forward more of this for many more years to come!"

--Guo Xiaorong
(Photo: First row, far right)

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.

Small Group @ Green Lane meets every fortnight on Wednesdays at Desmond and Sophia Loh's apartment at Green Lane (Tanjong Katong).

Shepherds visiting Jesus

Say: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger...





by Samuel Wong
黄崇耀著

FRESH from his two-year stint in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he pursued a Masters of Arts (Christian Leadership) at Asbury Theological Seminary, Pastor Alvin Chan, 44, joined TMC in August 2013. After graduating from Trinity Theological College in 1995, he was a pastor at Christ Methodist Church for six years and Wesley Methodist Church for five years. In between he spent five years in youth ministry at The Third Place before he took his two-year sabbatical in the United States.

With renewed fervour and a spring in his step, he is ready to face the challenges ahead of him. At the time of this interview a little over a month into his tenure at TMC, he already feels comfortable in his new role and his new home, welcomed by the warmth and camaraderie of Pastors Dianna, Peter, Ho Soon and all the TMC staff. Nevertheless he aims to become a better disciple of Christ simply because it is the very foundation of the church.

"As Christians we must be disciples first to lead others to Christ. We have to practise and model discipleship ourselves in order to help others become better disciples," said Pastor Alvin.

"As a spiritual organisation, our processes have to be spiritually-driven. As such, even though we currently have a good leadership in place and very good hardware, we can work on and build on the heartware.

ALLO ALVIN

The Alvin Angle – Meet the newest pastor in TMC

"So in the next few years at TMC, we hope to bring up the spiritual environment and our walk with Christ outside of church, whether it is Sunday or any other day. We want to turn our weakness around and to be a witness for Christ and allow God to transform us into a people He has created us to be."

Pastor Alvin said that taking the two-year study leave in the United States and uprooting the whole family was a good decision even though the children had to adapt to a new environment. Only the eldest Gabrielle, then 12 and doing her PSLE, was of some concern and both Pastor Alvin and his wife Carol thought it best that they leave only after her examinations. So instead of starting school in September along with the rest of his classmates, Alvin was allowed to do the online tutorials from Singapore for the first semester. He formally joined his masters programme only in December.

Asbury was also his choice because of its excellent Christian leadership programme. The small Kentucky town provided a very warm and welcoming community to learn and live in. Fellow students from all over the world gave the place a multi-cultural vibe resulting in a rich experience.

Encouraging lecturers sought to bring out the students' confidence, giving them the courage to attempt and try new things for God, and to serve God in the way He had led them to.

"I felt that the lecturers believed in me and what I could do. They taught me to stay rooted in my relationship with God," he said.

"Exponentially fellow students in the seminary also showed me what it meant to serve God sacrificially. Some attended the course with no financial support from their churches and took up personal loans to

pay their way through school because they wanted to answer their calling to go into full-time ministry."

His three younger children, Odelia then nine, Axel, seven and Elliot, five, found it easier to adapt to the new environment as they were still young. (Incidentally if anyone is wondering, all four children's names have the "EL" in them, which signifies "God" in Hebrew). All four children enjoyed themselves and the experiences they had in America. There was also more time for family bonding. This included the opportunity to travel and see some of the country before their return and they had a taste of the four seasons. Back home now, they have eased back into the school system and did not have to repeat anything. They have rejoined their old schools and classes, continuing where they would have been had they not left. As such, Gabrielle is now in Secondary 2, Odelia in Primary 5 and likewise for the two youngest children. As for Carol and Pastor Alvin, they are just glad to be back as Singapore will always be home.

Despite not having spent any of his formative years at TMC, he is comfortable with the structure and organisation of the church.

"I am excited by this new posting and cannot say I am totally unfamiliar with the surroundings as I grew up at Paya Lebar Methodist Church nearby," he said.

An avid sportsman, he counts swimming, running, cycling and golf among his favourite pastimes. He hopes to use this passion to reach out to more people. Recently, he had the opportunity to play a round of football with some of TMC members, an experience he found enjoyable. No doubt more of such opportunities will arise in the coming months. If you have not had the opportunity to meet our newest member of the pastoral team, do pop by and shake his hand soon.

...When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



嗨！曾牧师！

过去两年，曾宝发牧师在美国肯塔基州，威尔莫尔的阿斯伯里神学院攻读基督徒领导文学硕士。今年八月，刚毕业回国，便加入卫理公会三一堂。自从1995年毕业于三一神学院，他就一直当任牧师，前六年在卫理公会基督堂。接着五年，在卫理公会卫斯理堂。中间，他在“第三集会点”（The Third Place）负责青少年事工有五年之久，然后他便到美国进行为期两年的休假。

以新的激情和轻快的脚步，他准备好迎接接下来的挑战。这次采访时，曾牧师到三一堂已经一个多月了，受到邱牧师、江牧师、吴牧师和同工们的温暖、友爱欢迎，他已适应了他的新角色和新家。尽管如此，他的目标是成为一个更好的门徒，因为做

个好门徒是一个教会的基本基础。

“作为基督徒，我们必须率先成为门徒才能带领他人认识基督。我们必须从本身开始练习和模拟门徒的品行及纪律，以便帮助别人成为更好的门徒。作为一个属灵的组织，我们的过程是由圣灵驱动的。因此，即使我们现在有好的领导就位和很不错的设施，我们能在心态上加工。在本堂未来几年，无论是星期日或其他任何一天、教会内外，我们都希望培育一个充满属灵的环境与基督同行。我们希望转弱为强，为基督作见证，并允许神改造我们成祂要我们成为的人。”

尽管孩子们得应付和管理新环境，以为期两年的研究在美国休假并举家迁居是个好决定。曾牧师与太太林

芬蓉（Carol），唯一担心的是大女儿儀慧（Gabrielle）。当时她12岁，正准备小学会考。他们认为最好是等考试完毕才动身。因此，不按正常美国学期在9月开始，学校批准曾牧师第一学期做在线教程。12月才正式加入了他的硕士课程。

因它卓越的基督徒领导课程，曾牧师选择了阿斯伯里。这肯塔基州小镇非常热情好客。同学们来自各国，包括韩国人，非洲人和美国人，给予一个多元文化的氛围，导致了丰富的经验。讲师常鼓励、肯定使所有学生有信心为神尝试新事物。以神带领的方式事奉祂。“我觉得讲师相信我尽我所能。他们教我如何牢牢地扎根于与神的关系。神学院的同学也向我展示了什么叫牺牲地事奉神。有些同学在没有教会财政支持的情况下并以个人贷款方式参加了课程，只为了回应神对他们的呼召进入全职事奉。”

当时其他的三个孩子，儀磊（Odelia）9岁、儀阳（Axel）7岁和儀溪（Elliot）5岁，因为年轻，很容易就适应过来了。（顺便说一句，如有人好奇，注意到四个孩子的英文名字里都有“EL”的字母，这是希伯来文“神”的意思）。所有孩子尽兴地体验在美国的生活。我们家庭关系更密

切。这包括趁返回新加坡之前，在美国四处旅游并尝到四季。现在回国了，他们轻松地融入学校系统，无须重复，重返他们的旧学校和班级，从他们停顿的课程继续读。儀慧现在进入中二。儀磊，小五。两个小儿子的学业也同样毫无影响。至于夫妻俩，很高兴回来，毕竟新加坡永远是家。

尽管他不是在三一堂长大的，他安于这儿的结构和组织。“因为我从小在附近的卫理公会巴耶利巴堂，所以对这儿的环境不陌生。对这新的工作岗位，我很兴奋。”因“第三集会点”的任期，他有青年牧师的名誉，拖着四个孩子，相当年轻，44岁，可以涉及到的一些青年人的问题。他很高兴曾有过那样的机会，然而在三一堂，这不是他的工作重点，他关注全体教会。“肯定要细看和查验更多范围。在大计划中，青年事工是其中一部分，与其他事工没两样。”

曾牧师也是出名了的好动。他狂热地参与游泳、跑步、骑脚踏车、打高尔夫球等等。他希望用这种激情与更多人联系。最近，他便有机会享受和一些会友踢了场足球。毫无疑问，未来几个月内会有更多这样的机会。如果你还不认识我们这位新牧师，快找个机会与他握个手。

<start>Makeover our Website</start>

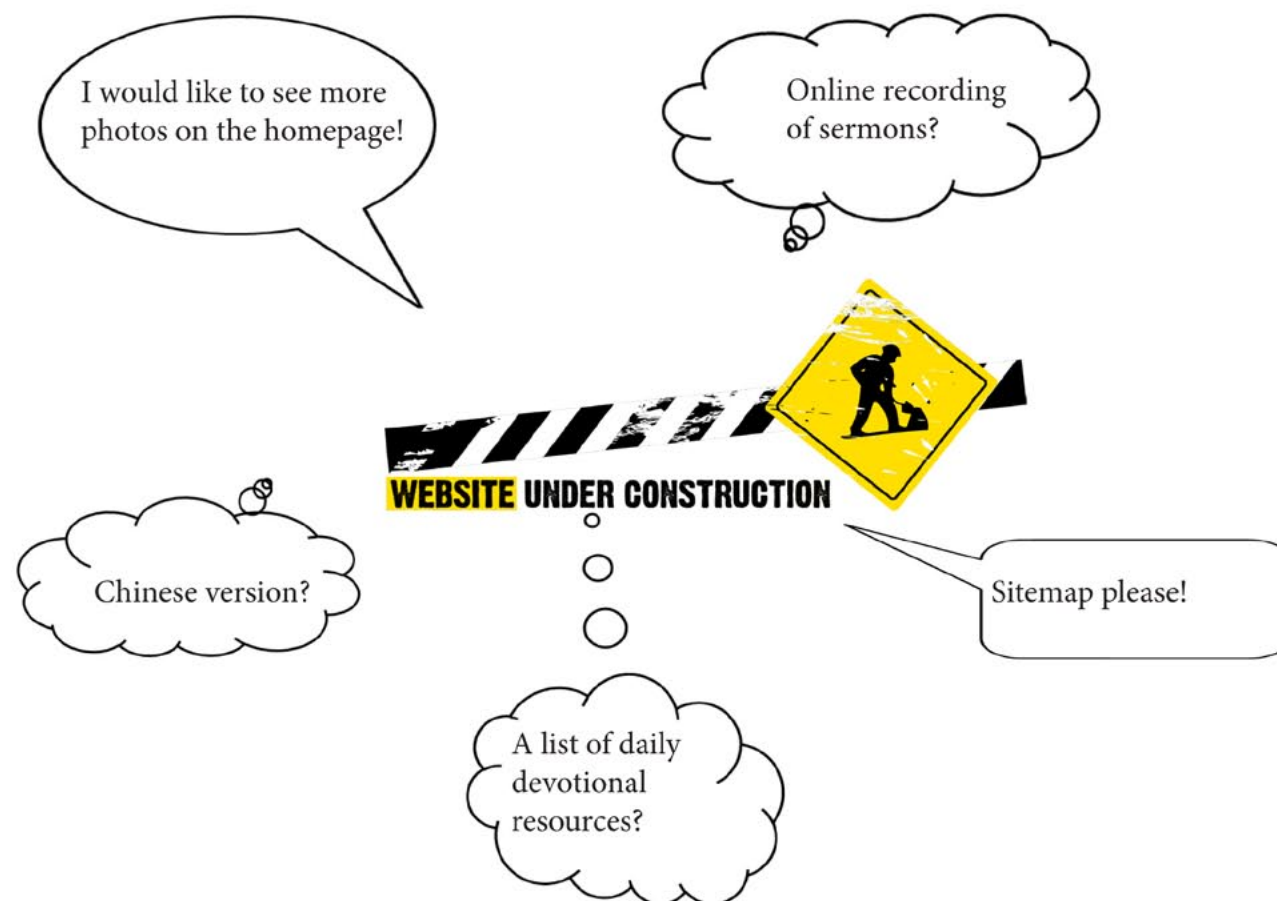


By Vinitha Jayaram

TMC's official website - www.tmc.org.sg - will be undergoing a revamp.

To support the makeover, we would like to hear from YOU! Yes YOU! If you have

something to **suggest, add, or change** on the TMC website, we want to hear from YOU!



Write to tmccomms@gmail.com to join a focus group discussion on the TMC website revamp, or just to provide suggestions!



Sing: The First Noel



The Meaning of Christmas

Say: The Christmas story, therefore, reminds us of the miracle of Jesus's birth, that God became a man like us and yet He was still God. Christmas also reminds us that Christ is a gift to us - the gift of new life and salvation.



CHANGES



Story of Change

My name is Ouk Srey Neth (photo: left). I am the third daughter in a Christian family. Even though I grew up in a Christian family, I believed in Jesus Christ only because my mother believed in Him. I myself had not made a personal decision to believe in Christ.

But things changed one night when I was 13.

I was singing my younger sister to sleep and, at the same time, listening to a sermon by Rev Taing Vekhoung. In the sermon, I heard him say this: "By accepting Jesus with just a desire we will be able to go to heaven, but if you just say 'I believe' yet not from the heart, we cannot go to heaven".

I was suddenly awakened because I had not believed from my heart. In that moment, I knelt down and asked for forgiveness from God and I made a personal decision to accept God with my heart. I made a commitment that even if all my family members stop believing in God, I would never forsake Him. Even if there were others who discouraged me or banned from believing in Christ, I would continue in my faith.

Two years later, I was baptised by my father who is a pastor.

Since then, there have been miracles in my life. I used

to be a very shy girl who lacked courage, got angry easily and found it hard to forgive others, but God changed me and gave me courage so that I could teach the children in the villages with my father every Sunday. Moreover, I became very patient. I no longer get angry easily. I am also able to forgive others more easily.

I thank Jesus who changed my life so that I could become a new person. Through this change, I have a better life. Through everything that God has done for me, I am able to say with thanksgiving - having Jesus, I have everything I need and my life is meaningful.

Life Changes After Knowing God

My name is Sokny (photo: centre). I would like to share about changes in my life after knowing God.

I am not sure whether I am a real Christian or not because I have not been baptised nor have I offered my life to Him. But when I hear the Word and I apply it in my daily living, I find comfort and strength. I always think of God especially during the times when I face struggles and experience loneliness.

It is during the times when I am most hurt that I feel Him near me most and I know that He is beside me and is comforting me by saying "That's ok" and He says it many times. During these times, I feel better

Testimonies from the Teachers of The Methodist School Of Cambodia, shared during morning devotions for teachers held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the school.



and my hurts are released. I have also tried to tell myself: "That is enough. Stop it because He needs to help others as well."

My time with Him helps to curb my anger and pain. There is a scripture verse that always encourages me and that is Ecclesiastes 7: 14 - "When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future".

He is my great Comfort and I put my trust in Jesus' name. Amen.

Trusting Jesus

My name is Smong Lay (photo: right). I would like to share my testimony about how I came to put my trust in Jesus Christ.

I heard the good news in 1995 through my uncle, my mother's elder brother who is a Christian. He preached the good news to all my family members and distributed Bibles, song books and brochures.

When I was a child, I did not know about Jesus Christ at all. At the end of 2004, I furthered my education in Phnom Penh and stayed at my cousin's house which is also a church. My primary intention in going to study in Phnom Penh was to improve my English and computer skills. I had to join in the evening devotions every day and Sunday services every week. At first, I did not open up my heart to receive Jesus Christ. I joined them only because I was required to join them as a guest in the house.

I joined them in all their activities. I also learned to read the Bible and heard explanations on the gospel from my pastor. He also taught me how to pray. I always prayed for wisdom, strength and good health. Every week, I always observed that all the young people and my church members showed care and love to me. I also saw that they liked serving others and I had never seen such a thing before.

There was an old man named Sae. He was about 60 years old. He always travelled to other provinces to preach the good news even during times of storm and rain. Once his motor skidded off the road but he kept going on. I asked him: "Why do you do all these things?" He gave me a short and simple answer: "Because Jesus saved me from my sins and now I want others to be saved like me as well." He inspired me. At that point of time, I reflected seriously on my life and I made a decision to open up my heart to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

That has been the most amazing thing that has happened to me. I changed my view of life and my conduct after I accepted Him. I also decided to serve Him in ministry like Uncle Sae. So I changed my plans - from wanting to learn English and computer skills, I now wanted to study in the Bible College. After making that decision, I started to help teach children in the Puk Reusey commune, Mok Kompul district and Kandal province. These were the places that Uncle Sae used to teach at. I taught the Sunday school children in Phnom Penh church as well. Since that time, I started to study in the Bible College and I also started to serve God, and I have never regretted my decision.

The Methodist School of Cambodia (MSC) is a Christian, not-for-profit Cambodian school serving children of all ages, irrespective of background.

MSC places strong emphasis on Christian teachings. It believes that education, through the teachings of Christ, develops the full potential of our reasoning and thinking. It is our desire, by the grace of God, that the teachings from the Bible will serve as a compass for the boys and girls as they develop into adulthood.

Ms Violet Khor, a member of TMC, is currently serving as principal at MSC.

www.methschcam.edu.kh/

Sing: Joy to the World and We Wish You a Merry Christmas!



EVENTS

Sun 3 Nov

WSCS Good-as-new Sale

Wed, 6 Nov, 4 Dec 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

Sat 16 Nov – Tues 31 Dec

School Vacation

Sun, 17 Nov, 15 Dec and every 3rd Sunday thereafter

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

Sun, 10 Nov, 8 Dec 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, 28 Nov, Wed 18 Dec and every last Thurs of the month (not 26 Dec)

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 1 Dec

WSCS Handicraft Sale

Thurs 5 Dec – Sat 7 Dec

Children's Ministry Camp

Wed 11 Dec – Sat 14 Dec

Youth Camp

Sat 14 Dec

WSCS Gospel Mission for the Blind
Contact Lucy Chan at 9748 2733

Sat 21 Dec

The Star of Christmas - Christmas Carnival.

Field opposite Blk 123 Serangoon North Ave 1. www.tmc.org.sg/xmas2013.html

Sun 22 Dec

10.00am

Combined service and Reception of New Members

Wed 25 Dec

10.00am

Christmas Day combined service

Thurs 26 Dec to Sat 28 Dec

Mandarin Service retreat

Tues 31 Dec

10.30pm

Watchnight Covenant Renewal Service followed by Supper

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry in the Prayer Chapel

Every Sat (not in December)

9.00 – 11.00am

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 (not on 21 Dec)

Contact 123 - Soccer Training at Blk 143 Serangoon North Avenue 1. www.tmc.org.sg/osc.html#c123

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday

7.30 – 8.30am

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

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

CREDITS

Pastors

Rev Dianna Khoo
Rev Dr Kang Ho Soon
Rev Peter Goh
Rev Alvin Chan

Editorial Committee

Amanda Yong
Lim Sue Yien
Samuel Wong
Rose Tan
Shuwen Koh
Terri Koh
Tricia Tong
Vinitha Jayaram

Designers

Guo Xiao Rong
Noelle Yong
Ng Xin Nie
Seah Gek Khee
Ellen Li

Photographers

Andrew Chong
GK Tay
Jason Tang
Raymond Seah
Victor Seah

Resource

All-free-download.com

Printer

Lithographic Print House Pte Ltd

Views expressed in the Saltshaker belong to the contributors and do not necessarily reflect that of the church or the Methodist Church of Singapore. Materials may only be reproduced with permission from the editorial team.

SERVICES

The Communications Committee is seeking regular writers and layout designers for this newsletter, Saltshaker.

This is an area of service for those with a flair for writing, students / graduates of communication / journalism courses, or those working in related industries.

Commitment: 1 meeting and 1 assignment, once in 2 months.
Ad hoc projects on occasion.

Please contact Tricia Tong / tmccomms@gmail.com.