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TRINITY
Methodist Church

MCI (P) 056/09/2014

SALTSHAKER

SHOWING YOUR FAMILY THE WAY



MY FAITH IS
NOT NONSENSE
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SHOWING YOUR FAMILY THE WAY

(These testimonies were first shared at Youth Ministry's coffeeshop talk in August.)

Coming from a family with a long history of idol-worship, it was only by God's grace and mercy that I found Him in 2006.



by Emily Tan

As I matured in my faith, God slowly opened my eyes to the reality of heaven and hell... and being eternally together with or separated from God. I started thinking a lot more about the salvation of my family members.

I remember feeling so burdened about it one night that I cried out to God to intervene in the "seemingly hopeless" spiritual situation in my family.

I kept praying for God to show them His love, so that they might taste and experience His goodness and His love and know that He is real. Then one day, the Lord spoke gently into my heart saying: "The way I show them My love is through you."

It was a life-changing moment. All this while, I had been praying for God to show them His love, half expecting that it would be a moment like how Saul fell off his horse when he saw Jesus and immediately professed his faith. I was wrong. I saw how He had included me in His salvation plan for my family members.

"I was the "bible" they would read to discover about God's love."

I have since started on this journey of honouring my family and loving them like I think Christ would have done – helping my mum with her household chores, giving in to my brothers whenever we argue (it's so difficult sometimes!), buying food like KFC for my dad because he loves it, and so on. Things started to change slowly but surely.

As I continued to persevere in prayer for a breakthrough, never did I expect God to also bring other people into their lives to share more about Christ with them – sometimes in the most random ways.

My mum has to interview clients as part of her job and at least three of them have shared about Jesus. One of them even brought her to church. My eldest brother became more interested in Christianity recently because he was walking down Upper Serangoon Road one day and he "just decided" to walk into a church along that road, and was also "just in time" for their service. My second brother entered university two years ago and became good friends with a Christian, whose father is a pastor at St Andrew's Cathedral. My brother started asking more about God. He received Christ into his life in March and was baptised there a few months ago.

All glory and praise to God! He really works in His own mysterious and sovereign ways! I have learnt to be faithful in prayer despite not being able to see immediate results. I also continue to live my life more intentionally in a Christ-like manner at home. I give thanks for all He has done and wait with greater expectation and excitement of how He is going to work.

If you are also praying for your family's salvation, take heart and continue praying. Allow God to transform you, and use you as a part of His salvation plan for your family. Just have faith like a mustard seed and put your trust in God.

Our Saviour can move the mountains.

I live in a family of free-thinkers and the supernatural is often avoided in our daily conversations.



by Daryl Lee

Although my dad is Buddhist by birth, he does not practise Buddhism.

Since I accepted Christ in Secondary 3, I have been actively attending youth service and events in TMC.

My academic results back then were merely borderline, which worried my dad a lot especially when I lacked the motivation to study. I remember instances where my dad would stop me from going to church or intentionally plan events or tuition on Sundays so that I would have to skip church. I will never forget what he once said: "Going to church does not help you. Your god does not help you." No matter how angry I was, he was still my dad and I had to respect him and his decision.

It was only after my 'O' levels that my dad cut me some slack because he saw that there was something different about me. He saw that my attitude had changed, and that even though I spent time in church, I could still do well in my studies.

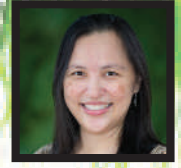
Right now, though my dad still has tentative views about Christianity, he works in a Christian boarding house and has a greater exposure to Christianity and what we do.

The key to reaching out to the people around you is to earn their respect, and that's by being a good representative of God.

Most importantly, pray wholeheartedly for your parents' salvation. The more desperate you are for their salvation, the more determined you will be in showing them the way to receiving it. It can be that few seconds of boldness to share a little about God, or an invitation for them to go to church.

Any small step you take is a large step in God's eyes.

ORGANIC OUTREACH



By Claire Lowe

Organic food? Yes.

Organic farming? Yes. But organic outreach?

Yes! Organic outreach is all about being natural.

Evangelism is a rather uncomfortable topic. The idea of hitting the streets, making cold calls or giving a gospel presentation to friends sits awkwardly with many an earnest disciple. The fear of being labelled as dogmatic, judgemental and self-righteous has, in part, led to Christians backing down altogether from their evangelistic mission. In some communities, the “e” word is taboo.

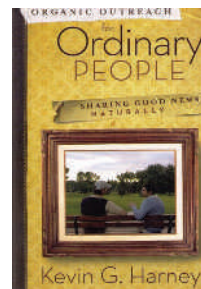
In an effort to give evangelism a fresh touch and renew the evangelistic zeal among the church, Kevin Harney and several other modern-day evangelists have put forth the idea of organic outreach. They call for a return to the simple and natural approaches of Jesus, who “evangelised” simply through the daily occurrences of everyday life and relationships.

Organic outreach is not contrived or manipulative. It is not a regurgitation of a well-rehearsed presentation of the Gospel or a memorised testimony (though this may be a good starting point in learning how to articulate the reasons for our faith). Reaching out organically is not even about organising a one-day evangelistic event or the attendance of a four-week “Discovering Christianity” course.

Harney describes organic outreach as the journey we take in helping pre-believers realise the presence of a loving and mighty God through our everyday being, doing and speaking. It flows naturally out of the ordinary activities of daily life, relationships and connections we make and in our everyday conversations.

Organic outreach involves witnessing for Christ by living out the teachings of our Lord, and in so doing, being distinctively different from the socio-cultural norms of the world. We represent Christ when we restrain our anger, and exercise grace when a colleague bumbles up, or when we demonstrate an act of kindness to a relative who has been antagonistic towards us. In a society which is highly competitive, where productivity and efficiency is heralded and where

time is money, the environment in which people work and live in can be somewhat harsh, ruthless and unforgiving. Incarnating Christ by being bearers of grace – committing an “extravagant and underserved act of loving kindness” – is like a ray of bright light breaking through the darkness.



Harney also describes in careful detail how Christians can engage in meaningful dialogue without using spiritual jargon and how we can bring God into the landscape of our conversations without sounding condescending. Key to organic outreach is listening and understanding where our pre-believing friends are

in their receptivity of the Gospel, and in pitching our conversations at a level they can engage in and relate to. An underlying assumption of organic outreach is that disciple-making is a process, and that we should see our goal not so much as converting the pre-believer in a single leap of faith, but, in a several-stage process, gently ushering them one step closer to the saving knowledge of Christ.

This simple-to-read book, *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*, is organised to be used for personal reading and/or small group study. There are reflective questions at the end of each chapter which help translate our thoughts into practical action points. Several simple and very do-able activities are also suggested. There are also questions for small group sharing and discussion, which are also designed to help group members be accountable to one another.

Harney writes: “Look in the mirror. The person you see is exactly the kind of person God wants to use to bring his love and grace and the message of his Son to the world.” Each of us is uniquely designed by our Maker and placed in a family and workplace He ordained, that we may represent Christ to those around us.

Organic Outreach for Ordinary People by Kevin Harney is available at the TMC Resource Centre.

Other books by Kevin Harney include:
Organic Outreach for the Church
Organic Outreach for the Family
Seismic Shifts

You've Got A Friend

"You've Got A Friend" is the name of TMC's community outreach endeavour to our neighbours living in Serangoon North Avenue 1. This approach centres on friendship.



by Claire Lowe
Lay Executive Staff for
Witness & Evangelism

In John 1:39, Jesus says: "Come and you will see". Jesus invites two fishermen into his house and into his life to experience his hospitality, kindness and friendship. Similarly, "You've Got A Friend" invites others into our lives so that we can share God's love, care and touch through personal friendships.

How can we go about doing this?

The Witness & Evangelism Committee has planned a series of programmes as touch points. It's not the programme itself that is the focal point. It is how we use the programme as a platform to develop friendships and engage the community.

The first of such programmes was a friendship date, organised on the eve of the Mooncake Festival on 7 Sep 14. There was scrum-deli-yum-cious food and fun-tastic games. Children and adults enjoyed walking around Hwi Yoh Garden with lanterns.

But the highlight of the event had to be the fun and laughter between new friends.

Kim Ling, Associate Lay Leader of TMC's Evangelistic cluster, was there together with her husband Tai Keat. She said: "Initially, it felt a little awkward to walk across the room and initiate a conversation with a stranger. However, I really admired the intricate paper lanterns he made and complimented him sincerely.

"This led to an exchange of names and after some laughs, the ice melted away and we chatted for almost one whole hour! We discovered that our new friend was a good cook and Tai Keat jokingly said that he would love to try his cooking someday."

The following Saturday, at the official opening of Youth Avenue, Kim and Tai Keat met their new friend again and were presented with a warm pot of chicken ginseng soup, patiently brewed for hours. "We were truly touched and amazed by his warm hospitality!" said Tai Keat.

New friendships formed for the sake of the Gospel.



What is the next step? Christmas is coming!
We are planning a friendship project called
"Celebrating Christmas Together".



Instead of us – Christians – standing on stage to perform items for the community to watch, we are going to do a collaborative Christmas project.

Carolling groups comprising church members and our new community friends will be formed in the next few months. We will practise Christmas carols in English, Chinese and Hokkien together in the karaoke lounge at the Serangoon Community Centre (CC). These items will then be presented at the CC organised Christmas Celebration on 21 Dec 14.

We also plan to bring this Christmas cheer to the residents of the Institute of Mental Health and St Luke's Eldercare Centre (Serangoon).

However, the key objective is not the performances themselves. Instead, in the course of the rehearsals, we hope to nurture our new friendships, forge more new friendships while sharing the spirit and love of Christmas to our neighbours.

WILL YOU JOIN US in being a friend to our neighbours? Be part of a carolling group or use your talent for the Gospel and initiate another item for "Celebrating Christmas Together". Please contact Claire at claire@tmc.org.sg / 9430 5165.

by Koh Shuwen



Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?



Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

I visited the local nursery and found out that many “temperate” herbs actually thrive well in Singapore’s hot and humid weather. Who would have thought?



I started my garden with a few potted herbs and also bartered other herb cuttings with a colleague who’s a fellow herb garden enthusiast. Today, this is how my unruly garden grows! With

fragrant jasmine, tasty thyme, bursts of basil, delectable dill and luscious lemongrass, though unlike Mary’s garden in the nursery rhyme, there aren’t any pretty maids in a row.

My edible garden venture was not all smooth-sailing. I actually hit many bumps and killed plants that were touted as idiot-proof to grow. There were many moments of doubt about my “green” fingers. But I persevered...

Here is what I learnt from furious googling as well as trial and error in adapting the plants to our tropical conditions.

To propagate herbs such as mint, dill and basil:

1. Snip off a 8-10cm cutting from a healthy plant tip with a sharp pair of scissors or pruning shears to obtain a clean cut with minimal damage.

2. Strip away the lower leaves leaving 6-8 leaves (4cm cutting with 4-6 leaves in the case of mint).

3. Place the cutting in a clear bottle with 2-3cm of the stem submerged in water. Top up or change the water if it gets cloudy.

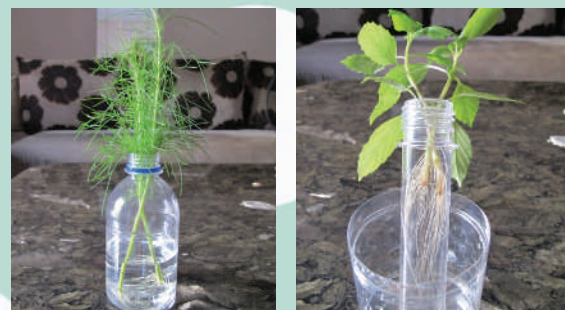
4. The cutting will start to send out roots in about a

5. I typically let the roots grow to 3-5cm before I transplant the cuttings into a pot of soil with sufficient room between cuttings.

6. Newly potted cuttings might droop a little and need to be watered more frequently as their roots are no longer directly submerged in water and “drinking freely”. Taller cuttings may also need some support so they grow straight instead of leaning to one side.

7. I prune my plants once they have stabilised (usually 4-6 weeks after the cuttings are potted). This is to ensure that the plants grow bushy instead of developing tall weak stems. This regular trimming ensures continued harvests of flavourful herbs for seasons to come.

8. I also take some cuttings to grow my next batch or to give away. With some planning, these make great gifts that keep giving (if your recipient also enjoys gardening).



Here are my basil and dill cuttings after 3-4 weeks in water

The current growing conditions of my gardening venture (which can probably be further optimised) are summarised in the table below.

	Soil type	Sun exposure
Basil	Potting*	Full
Lemongrass	Mixture	Full
Avocado	Mixture	Full
Dill	Mixture	Full
Calamansi	Mixture	Full
Mint	Potting	Partial shade
Sage	Potting	Partial shade
Thyme	Potting	Partial shade
Chilli	Mixture	Partial shade
Ginger	Mixture	Partial shade**

* Most herbs prefer potting soil that is easily available from your local nursery. It is “fluffier” than ordinary sand and clay mixtures, which allows better water drainage and space for roots to breathe.

** I’ve been told that ginger plants prefer full sun but mine has been thriving with a bit of shade from the hibiscus tree overhead.

My garden is southwest-facing and all my plants get 6-8 hours of afternoon sun everyday. Partial shade refers to the shade they get from their taller companions, e.g., the bushy dill and basil plants provide some shade for the lower lying mint. My plants are watered once in the morning before the heat of the day sets in and once in the evening when it’s cooler. For nutrients, they get a monthly top-up of all-natural compost from my kitchen food scraps.

A year into tending my little edible garden, I gained a new appreciation for how my Christian journey mirrors my gardening endeavour (so that’s why Jesus had so many sowing¹/vine² parables!).

1. Like many of my herbs, I became a believer as a “cutting” from other mature, loving Christians. The intentional nurture and right growing conditions as well as “painful” weeding and pruning have rescued and restored me from stubborn sin-riddled seasons and dark periods of doubt.
2. Though I like to think of myself as the green-thumbed gardener who makes things grow under my watchful care, it really is God at work. Much like the miracle of conversion and transformation of new believers.

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness”
2 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV)

May we continue to be faithful and propagate the good news of salvation through our “seeds” and “cuttings” and bear the fruit of the Spirit³ that is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

¹ Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20 and Luke 8:1-15

² John 15:1-8

³ Galatians 5:22-23

One Step Closer through the ALPHA course



by Claire Lowe

Lay Executive Staff for
Witness & Evangelism

The ALPHA Course that was held from 3 Aug to 5 Oct 14 was regularly attended by more than twenty participants.

A number were pre-believers, seeking to know the Truth. Others were young believers. Some were regular church-goers desiring to rediscover anew how Christ and the faith can be relevant to them. Others were Christians with many questions.

Jason, an occasional visitor to TMC, attended the ALPHA Course through the encouragement of a friend.

“I found ALPHA to be a deeply enriching and emotional experience, where I managed to learn more about the faith in an open and welcoming environment. The videos and discussions gave everyone enough personal thinking and reflecting space, which was much appreciated.

As a pre-believer (as some would put it), I never felt pressured into accepting Christ, and it made my decision to accept Him much more meaningful at the end of it all. My change experience was a gradual one but Holy Spirit day* was the tipping point, especially during the altar call. ALPHA was a great experience that brought me closer to God and introduced a renewed perspective in my life journey through Christianity.”

Sarah, a daughter of TMC, and baptised as an infant, shares how “the Spirit of Jesus, Himself bore witness with her spirit that she is a child of God.” (Rom 8:16).

(*There is a weekend in every ALPHA course when there is teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit in the individual lives of those on the course.)

“Having been born into a Christian family, I grew up with mostly ‘head’ knowledge about who God is. Over the years, I conditioned myself to brush away questions such as ‘How do I know what is God’s direction for me?’ and ‘Why does God allow suffering?’ I told myself they were silly questions to ask as a Christian. I knew the ‘model’ answers. Yet, somewhere deep inside me, I was longing for explanations and a chance to confront my questions. But I was more than cognitively persuaded. At the ALPHA Course, I encountered God in a personal way and was touched by the Holy Spirit where I experienced tears of love, joy and peace. I rediscovered my own faith and what God really means to me.”

How about those who have not “made a decision for Christ”?

At ALPHA, our objective is not converting people. It is not expecting people to make great leaps of faith. In ALPHA, we pray to usher them **one step closer** to knowing Christ from wherever they are at. Just as accumulative experiences over time form friendships, knowing and coming into a relationship with Christ is also a process. In the course of the ten weeks, we do our best to bear witness to the love, kindness and hospitality of Christ. We identify with the questions that confound our guests and share with them our journey in coming to terms with those difficult questions. In this process, we hope we have helped someone along their spiritual journey, by nudging them **one step closer**.



Prepare for the next ALPHA Course in January 2015

- 1 Commit a pre-believing friend to prayer
- 2 Sow seeds of kindness
- 3 Introduce your friend to your Christian social circles eg. durian party at a small group gathering
- 4 Bear witness of the forgiving spirit of Christ through your behaviour
- 5 Share how our God "showed up" in your life
- 6 Bring God and faith into the landscape of your conversations
- 7 Invite your friend to the ALPHA Course



Be part of Team ALPHA

THE ALPHA TRAINING COURSE

8 and 15 November 2014, 830am to 5pm
at Trinity Methodist Church
Conducted by ALPHA Office, Singapore

Cost: \$80 (first 10 registrants free-of-charge)

Three tracks to choose:

1. The ALPHA Course (main track)
2. ALPHA for Youths
3. ALPHA for Marriage and Parenting



MY FAITH IS NOT NONSENSE



by Ding Ning

When I think about my journey towards finding God, the first thing that comes to mind is a torn picture of The Last Supper hanging on the wall of my Grandma's bedroom.

My Grandma was a faithful Christian. She studied in a church school in China when she was young. But that was before the year 1949 when the Chinese Communist Party took over control not only of China, but also the spiritual life of the Chinese people and forbade all kinds of religion.

After 1977 - the year I was born - the country began to reform and open up, but people were still very resistant to spiritual things. That was why my Grandma's activities (like praying, reading the Bible, talking about God to others, etc) were unacceptable to others, even to her own daughter, my mother.

I was my Grandma's only audience. Although I was not able to understand what she said, the expression of her face when she talked about God impressed me deeply.

When I was in school, I occasionally prayed in the way that my Grandma taught me, when I felt that I might get a bad score in a test. I prayed to God that my teacher would not keep me back after class, and that my mum would not scold me. It "worked" well.

However, one day, one of my teachers saw me praying in the classroom. She scolded me in front of the whole class. She said I should spend my time doing useful things, like working hard, and not "doing nonsense". Everyone laughed at me. I did not dare to pray again after that.

In my twenties and thirties, my days were filled with goals to achieve and desires to fulfill - jobs, boyfriend, marriage, new house, baby...one came after another. I had no time to look inside of myself. Each time after things had settled down, I would start to feel empty. I would change my job, seek new challenges in my career, earn money, buy new dresses, but all I had did not satisfy me.

The turning point in my life came in 2012. While surfing the internet, I came across an introduction to the book "Conversations with God" on a micro-blog. The book inspired me. I thought a lot about what was written. I started to pray again. I then started to doubt what I had learned in school. I began to realise that what I was searching for could not be fulfilled by money or a high position in society, but something spiritual. Faith is not nonsense, contrary to what the teacher had said.

One busy afternoon, I crashed face-down onto piles of paper. I asked myself: "Are you going to end up like this mess of paper? No! What do you want?" I replied: "I want to be somewhere new, somewhere I can meet new friends, somewhere I can breathe fresh air, somewhere without winter." I searched online...and I found Singapore.

A lot of effort, money and uncertainty went into coming to Singapore. After six months' preparation, on Christmas eve in 2013, my daughter and I stepped onto Singapore soil. I had made it with God's help. He was with me.

I met Nancy who invited me to TMC in May 2014. I didn't expect much in the beginning when I first stepped into the church. But the warm welcome of the church surprised me. After the service, people talked to me. The bright smiles on their faces made me believe that this was the place I was looking for.

Although I liked the atmosphere of TMC, I did not dare to think that I could be a Christian and a member of this Christian organisation. In my mind, I felt that I could not become a Christian unless I fulfilled some requirements, like reading the Bible thoroughly, or going through a course and passing a test. So when I was invited to attend the ALPHA course, I was delighted.

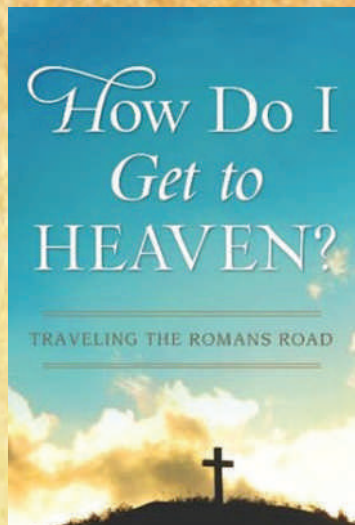
At the ALPHA course, I learnt that God loves me! And I didn't have to do anything to earn His love. The sentence that impressed me most was what Pastor Jeffrey said: "Christianity is summed up by one word – L.O.V.E."

At the Saturday retreat, I felt God's love for the first time. I was so very moved. I could not believe that God could love me even if I was imperfect. But He completely accepts me. I could cry out to Him and He would hear me.

I discovered that God has always been here, whether we know Him or not. We can put our trust in Him even if we do not understand everything about Him. We just need to be willing to use the ears of our heart to hear His voice.

I HAVE FOUND THE TRUTH.
I HAVE FOUND GOD.

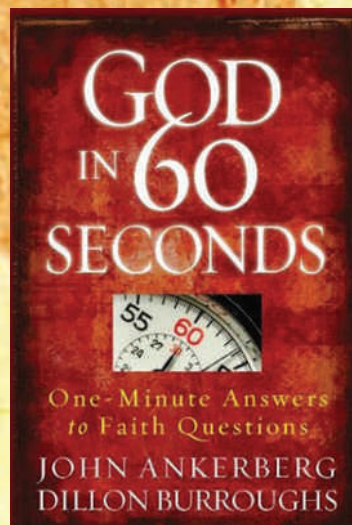
BIBLIOTHEQUE



HOW DO I GET TO HEAVEN?

Author: Pamela McQuade

How Do I Get to Heaven? Travelling the Romans Road makes the way plain, explaining seven key Bible verses from the apostle Paul's letter to Rome. This book provides a clear and easy-to-read explanation of humanity's problem (sin) and God's solution (salvation).



GOD IN 60 SECONDS

Author: John Ankerberg & Dillon Burroughs

In God in 60 Seconds, John Ankerberg and co-author Dillon Burroughs set out more than 100 issues that affect people's beliefs about God. Time-pressed readers will appreciate these impactful one-to-two-page treatments of topics.

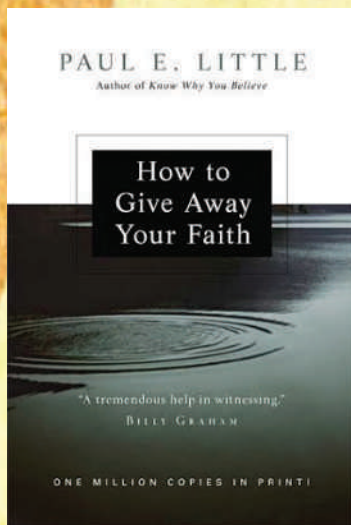


FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE

Author: Mark Greene

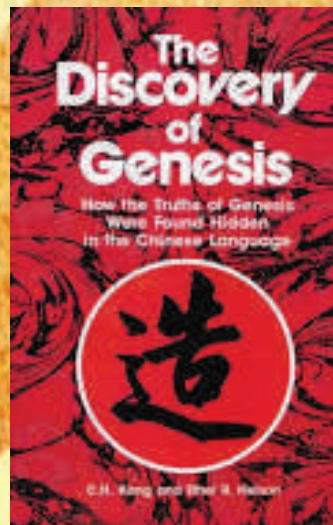
In this horizon-expanding, spirit-lifting, heart-warming book, Mark Greene serves up a liberating view of how God can and does work in and through us in our daily lives. Brimming with true stories, the combination of fresh Biblical insight, humour and practical steps will not only spark your imagination, it will enrich your sense of wonder at the greatness and grace of the God who not only gave his life for us but invites us to join him in his glorious, transforming work.





**HOW TO GIVE
AWAY YOUR FAITH**
Author: Paul E. Little

This book was written to help Christians understand how friendly and natural evangelism can really be. This new edition is designed to answer the fears that Christians have about sharing their faith with those around them. Featuring an accompanying study guide, *How to Give Away Your Faith* is as current as it is classic and will help you to share the most important news with those around you in a biblical manner.



**THE DISCOVERY
OF GENESIS**
Author: C.H. Kang
and Ethel Nelson

Characters in the Chinese language are based on pictography, and through a linguistic analysis of these ancient Chinese characters, the authors show readers the astonishing correspondence between certain characters in the Chinese language and elements of the Genesis account of man's early beginnings. They analyse dozens of the ideographic pictures that make up words in the Chinese language and show how these characters, when broken down into component parts, reflect elements of the story of God and man as recorded in the early chapters of Genesis.



**A VERY VEGGIE
CHRISTMAS (CD)**

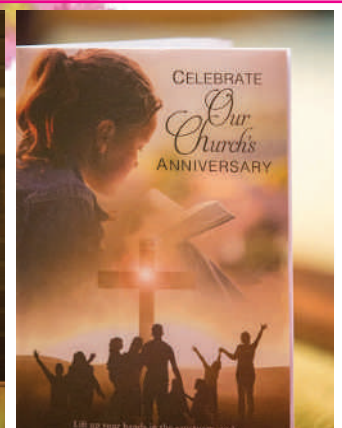
This award winning Christmas album lets kids join the VeggieTales Christmas party at the house of Bob the Tomato! Listen to very Veggie performances of classic holiday songs.

IN AND ABOUT TMC

YOUTH AVENUE OFFICIAL OPENING



CHURCH ANN



LANTERN WALK ORGANISED BY DISCIPLESHIP & NURTURE



ANNIVERSARY



A CONFERENCE ON CONFERENCES



General Conference, Annual Conference and Local Conference – are these large meetings?

What are these acronyms “LCEC” and “PPRSC” that keep tripping off people’s tongues?

The Methodist Church in Singapore (MCS), which consists of 45 local congregations, is organised in conferences:

- General Conference
- Annual Conferences
- District and local conferences

The General Conference meets every four years, and is the highest decision-making body of the MCS. It is the only body that speaks officially for the church.

Under the General Conference, there are three annual conferences:

- Chinese Annual Conference (CAC)
- Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference (ETAC)
- Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC)

Local churches, like Trinity Methodist Church (TMC), are organised by conference.

The Local Conference of TMC comes under TRAC. The Local Conference:

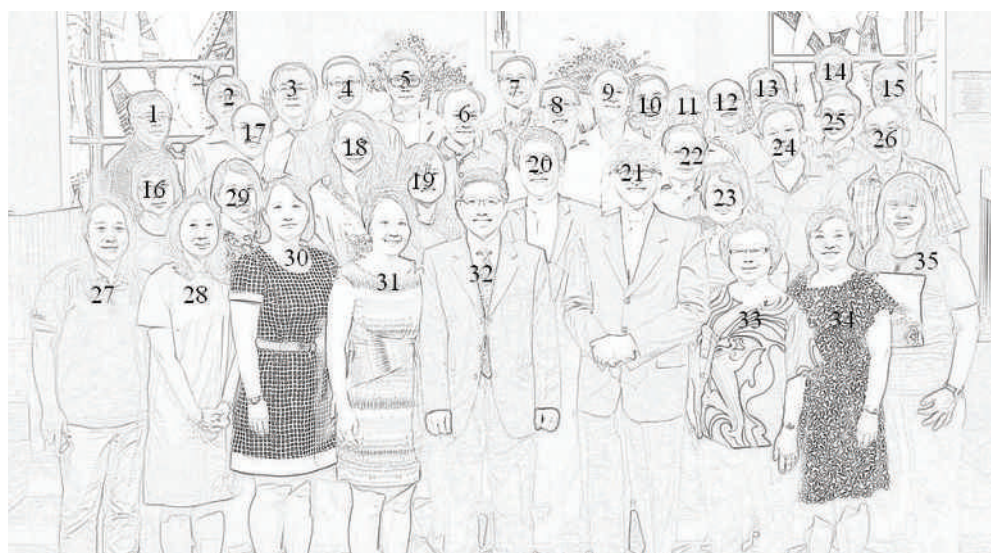
- Is the connecting link between the local church and the Methodist Church.
- Includes the pastors, Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC), local preachers, honorary stewards and the chairperson of the Pastor-Parish Relations and Staff Committee (PPRSC)
- Has general oversight of the LCEC, and elects the officers of the LCEC and the PPRSC

The LCEC has many functions in the local church under the Discipline of the Methodist Church in Singapore, which governs our principles, practices and procedures.

These functions include but are not limited to:

- Having oversight of and responsibility for the administration, organisation and programme of the church
- Initiating and executing the planning process, establishing objectives, adopting goals and programme plans
- Authorising action, determining policy
- Providing ongoing and regular evaluation and review of the mission and ministries of the church
- Making proper and adequate provision for the financial needs of the church

The PPRSC is not part of the LCEC. It looks after all matters with regard to the appointment of pastors and staff employed by TMC.



1. Victor Seah (Archivist) 2. Ronnie Tan (PPRSC member) 3. Keegan Ong (Associate Lay Leader, Mandarin Service) 4. Woon Tai Keat (Church Treasurer) 5. Eugene Koh (Asst Church Treasurer) 6. Hum Sin Hoon 7. (Discipleship & Nurture) 7. Sim Cher Khee (Prayer & Intercession) 8. Lee Park Ming (Lay Executive Staff) 9. Wong Ting Ling (Property Management) 10. Paul Ng (Outreach & Social Concerns) 11. P Sathiasingam (Honorary Steward) 12. Andy Chew (Lay Leader) 13. Kevin Lowe (Local Preacher) 14. Richard Seng (Associate Lay Leader) 15. George Sathiasingam (Children's Ministry) 16. Kwa Kiem Kiok (Local Preacher) 17. Ong Hon Yuh (Finance) 18. Patricia Tan (Worship & Music) 19. Emily Tan (Youth Ministry) 20. Rev Alvin Chan (Pastor-in-Charge) 21. Rev Peter Goh (Pastor) 22. Wee Eng Hock (Pastoral Care Ministry) 23. Lim Leong Suing (Glowing Years Ministry) 24. Colin Yip (Small Groups) 25. Daniel Hum (Young Adults) 26. Khor Tong Hong (Honorary Steward) 27. Denisa Chin (Church Administrator) 28. Lim Sue Yien (Recording Secretary, Reserve Lay Delegate to Annual Conference) 29. Debbie Tng (PPRSC member) 30. Caroline Lim (PPRSC member) 31. Tricia Tong (Communications) 32. William Goh (LCEC Chairman, Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference) 33. Judy Yip (Honorary Steward) 34. Katherine Loh (Women's Society of Christian Service) 35. Pamela Woo (TMC Kindergarten)

(Not in picture)

Rev Dr Kang Ho Soon (Pastor until end 2014), Ang Poh Kit (Associate Lay Leader), Chew Kim Ling (Associate Lay Leader, Witness & Evangelism), Paul Chong (Governance, Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference), Kelvin Tan (Vice-Chairperson of LCEC, Missions), Lim Choo Siang (Capt, 47th Coy, Boys' Brigade), Lee Hui Ling (Capt, 55th Coy, Girls' Brigade), Robert Yeo (PPRSC Chairperson, Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference), Pang Khang Chau (PPRSC member), Alice Lim (Lay Ministry Staff), Eddie Goh (Local Preacher, Lay Ministry Staff), Claire Lowe (Lay Executive Staff, Reserve Lay Delegate to Annual Conference), Jestyn Koh (Lay Executive Staff, Reserve Lay Delegate to Annual Conference), Violet Khor (Local Preacher), Jacob Cheng (Local Preacher), Ang Hern Shung (Local Preacher).

一位弟兄的见证



徐云霞

Xu Yunxia

胡军

Hu Jun

尊敬的伍传道，尊敬的传道娘：

主内平安！你们好！

好久没有给你们写信了。不好意思，非常抱歉！主要是自从担任了诗班男高后又担任了主席。上海的教堂是每个礼拜的六、和礼拜天一共有三场敬拜，礼拜三诗班练唱，礼拜四小组学习，有时还要去外地给以前的客户解决技术上的事宜，所以有些忙碌，就一直拖下来了。但主要还是自己偷懒了，望二位师长原谅！实在抱歉！

其实，我心里非常非常地想念三一堂的所有兄弟姐妹和尊敬的传道及牧师们，就像想念我的娘家人一样。每天祷告时都在向父神祈求父神看顾保全你们。虽然远隔近万里，但我时时都把大家放在我的心中，无尽的思念。

我在上个月13日出差在江苏。就在要吃晚饭的时候，突然感到胸口和心脏闷痛异常，久久不能恢复。当时我意识里感觉到应该是心血管有问题。一直到晚上9点多时就感觉整个心脏像被什么东西揪住拼命拉扯一般疼痛。当时我的朋友发现不好马上就把我送到医院。但是小地方的医院没办法处置就配了一瓶药。

我回到宾馆就开始向主耶稣祷告。我说：

“主啊，我自从信了你的名后就一直把自己全权交托在你手上
你是我的唯一，你也是我的全部。如果你要带我回天家
我会很顺服也非常喜乐地跟你一起去。如果你医治我的话
我向你用心保证：永远侍奉你，直到见你荣面的那一天！”

然后就心里默默的一直祷告，慢慢的心脏似乎平静了，人也有些昏昏沉沉的，居然睡着了。

到凌晨4点多时我醒来，发现自己坐在地上，感觉好像心脏没有先前那样难受了。回到床上又睡到早上7点多，起来后向主祷告，感谢主赐给我新的一天。接着早餐，自己乘车回上海，回到上海后马上到医院。医生吓坏了，马上开了三张病危通知单，告诉我太太很有可能在手术台上就死了，说从来没见过这样的病人，三根冠状动脉血管90%都堵住了，竟然自己一个人长途回上海，神志清楚。

我大声地向医生讲：“我是基督徒！”结果我在病房里是恢复得最好，最快的病人。医学院的学生来医院学习，医院就让我做为特例让他们学习，采访。

尊敬的传道，我知道是阿爸父神和我主耶稣基督的大能彰显在我身上。我要永远事奉主，永远做主的器皿，求主大大的使用我，永远敬拜，永远颂扬赞美主。我的每一寸骨骼、血管，肌肉都是上帝所赐的。他必不抛弃我，我也永远离不开主。我是那样地爱着主，直到永永远远，阿门！谢谢你们为我代祷，主的恩典是那样的长阔高深，一生事奉主是我莫大的荣幸，感谢主！

向大家问好！许大哥，魏大姐，延熙大哥问好，谢谢你们大家！

胡军，徐云霞敬上

18 2014、06、23.

All the Way from Shanghai

Dear Preacher Eddie and Rebekah



Peace be with you! How are you?

Our apologies for not having written to you for a long time. This has mainly been because of our busy schedules. I (Hu Jun) have been appointed as the choir's tenor solo and its chairman, and we practise every Wednesday. In Shanghai, there are three services every Saturday and Sunday. In addition, we attend cell group on Thursdays. I also have to attend to my clients' technical issues overseas. All this busy-ness has contributed towards the delay in writing to you. Nonetheless, the main reason for not writing has been ... laziness! Do forgive me!

I miss both of you, the pastors and the brothers and sisters at Trinity Methodist Church, just as I (Yunxia) miss my maiden family. Every day, I pray for the Father to take care and protect all of you. Although we are separated by thousands of miles, I remember everyone dearly in my heart.

On 13 Mar 14, I (Hu Jun) took a trip to Jiangsu for work. Just as I was settling down to dinner, I felt an unusual pain in my chest. The pain remained for a very long time. I sensed that the pain was related to my blood vessels. The pain lasted till 9pm that night, and it felt as if my heart was being squeezed and pulled. A friend who was with me discovered that I was unwell, and took me to the local hospital. I was merely given a bottle of medicine as the local hospital was not equipped to treat me.

When I returned to the hotel, I began to pray to Jesus, saying:

“Lord, I have put myself entirely in Your hands since I believed in Your Name.
You are the only God, my All in all. If you are calling me home to be with You,
I will go with You gladly. If You intend to heal me, I promise that
I will serve You forever until the day I see Your glorious face.”

I prayed silently after that and I calmed down slowly. I became groggy and actually fell asleep.

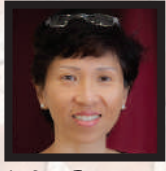
At 4am, I awoke to find myself sitting on the floor. My chest did not feel as much pain as before. I went to bed and slept till 7am. When I woke, I thanked God for giving me a new day. After breakfast, I set off for Shanghai and upon arrival, checked into a hospital. The attending doctor was shocked, and immediately treated my case as an emergency. He told my wife that I was likely to die on the operating table, and that he had never encountered a patient like me who, in full control of his faculties, had endured a long distance trip from Jiangsu to Shanghai, despite 90 per cent blockages in his coronary arteries.

I said to the doctor loudly: “I am a Christian!” I was the quickest to recover in the ward of patients, and to recover well. I became a case study for the trainee doctors who were sent to interview me.

Preacher Eddie, I know it is the power of Abba Father and the Lord Jesus Christ which was demonstrated in me. I will serve the Lord forever. I will be a vessel for His use, and I pray that He will use me. I will worship and praise the Lord forever. He has given me every bone, blood vessel and muscle in my body. He will never forsake me, and I cannot leave the Lord. I love Him very much, and this will be forevermore. Amen! Thank you both for praying for me. The Lord's grace is always so limitless and mysterious. It is my honour to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please send our regards to Brother Xu, Sister Wei, Brother Yanxi. Please thank everyone.

Hu Jun and Xu Yunxia
23 June 2014



by Rose Tan

SG Connect

A FILIPINA FELLOWSHIP

A Filipina fellowship has blossomed in the midst of Tai Hwan residential estate.

On a warm Friday evening, I was welcomed by the members of this care group. Four of them are from the beautiful province of Ilo Ilo, made famous by the award-winning movie of the same name.

Nanette has two teenage boys back home. Rhoda has a boy and a girl, both of whom are in their early 20s. Jolinda and Cindy are single. They have also embraced Chelit, a mother of two young boys, aged three and six, and Rosalinda who has three boys and a girl. This small group used to meet in the park of the Serangoon Garden estate, but it was not ideal as the gathering could be disrupted by inclement weather.

God touched the heart of Jolinda's employer, Auntie Nancy Ng who opened her house for the Filipina fellowship. Auntie Nancy is a spritely 82-year-old who lives alone.

She tells me that, as a pioneer in the estate, she has special privileges. With a twinkle in her eye, she smiles and tells me how she approaches her new and usually younger neighbours to let their domestic helpers share the snacks prepared by Jolinda. Soon after, she gamely persuades these neighbours to allow their helpers to join the Filipina fellowship in her home. Auntie Nancy encourages the group to use her large kitchen to cook their favourite food and to use her home for celebrations too. On these special occasions, they are joined by Filipino pastor Dodjie Cargando.

What gave Auntie Nancy the idea of letting Jolinda and her friends gather in her house? She noticed that some of them would meet in the afternoon on weekends in the park just in front of her house. However, they were at the mercy of the weather and had to disperse if it was too humid, and they were unable to gather if it rained. So she suggested to Jolinda, her helper of 11 years, that she invite her Filipina friends home for fellowship. Whenever Jolinda cooks up a storm, Auntie Nancy would share the Filipino snacks and food with the other helpers. The bonding that takes place is immeasurable and they too become part of the fellowship, with their employers' blessings.

Cindy works for the family next door to Auntie Nancy, and Rosalinda is just two doors away. It is not just the proximity that ties them together. It is the camaraderie and ultimately the passion and love of Christ that brought the group together. They were led by Sister Rowena when I met them. As the small group leader, Sister Rowena is a dedicated servant of God. During our brief encounter, she was focused and refused to be distracted by unimportant small talk. Jolinda updated that the baton will be passed to the new leader, Nemia, who travels by bus from Clementi to the estate. As Nemia needs to be mindful not to miss the last bus, the group starts at 9pm every Friday. However, to take the stress off having to run for the last bus, Auntie Nancy has on occasion offered Nemia the taxi fare for a safe ride back to Clementi.

Do you miss your family? Do you miss food from home? Do you just miss someone to talk to in Tagalog? Join the care group at Auntie Nancy's home at Tai Hwan Grove.

Perhaps you have a Filipina helper who could be blessed by this fellowship. Or have you been touched to open your house to nurture another fellowship? Get in touch with Park Ming at parkming@tmc.org.sg and let us help you get started.

May you be richly blessed just like Auntie Nancy.



Christmas at Auntie Nancy's. Auntie Nancy is in the blue and white floral top.

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



Marks of a disciple

1. Loves God

Matthew 22:35-40, "But when the Pharisees had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked a question to test him. 36 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' 37 And he said to him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And a second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'

DISCIPLESHIP – A DEADLY BUSINESS



by Tricia Tong



“Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.” - Bob Pierce

“Discipleship is deadly.”

One might be forgiven for thinking that many beat a hasty retreat on seeing that opening slide at the Discipleship Conference on 27 Sep 14.

It was certainly not a message for the faint-hearted. But the more than 80 disciples who thronged the Emmanuel Hall that morning hung on to their seats and to every word.

Keynote speaker, Pastor Alvin, reminded the attendees of the crucifixion of the apostle Peter in Rome – upside down; Thomas who was run through by a lance in the East Indies; Matthew who was slain with a sword in a distant city in Ethiopia; Paul beheaded in Rome by the Emperor Nero after various bouts of torture and persecution. There are even more gruesome stories of Christian martyrs.

What are the marks of a Christian disciple?

“Obedience.”

“Follower of Christ.”

“Practise what the Teacher teaches.”

“Walk righteously.”

These were some of the (tentative) calls from the attendees when asked about the marks of a disciple.

Pastor Alvin taught that a disciple loves God, imitates Christ, is Spirit-led, loves others and is a maker of disciples.

It all sounded simple enough but like Colin Yip said: “We all know these things mark us out as disciples. They aren’t new. It is the doing of these things, especially making disciples, that is the challenge.”

As a maker of other disciples, we need one other. We need to be the community and to set the environment for one other. We can also choose to be a companion connected for a season in another person’s life. We can indeed have different companions in different seasons, for our companion

should also go on to be connected to another, to walk with and spur another on to love and good works. A maker of disciples is also a coach, someone who has walked farther down the road of discipleship, and is willing to be present to guide someone else along.

Emily Tan, the youngest Conference panellist, likened making disciples to Lego building blocks. She said: “We are building blocks for one another. We are interconnected in our faith in Jesus.”

“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?... [I have kept the commandments] since I was a boy.”... “One thing you lack,” [Jesus] said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Mk 10:17-22)

Pastor Alvin probably spoke everyone’s thoughts when he outlined the challenges of today’s disciple. No, it wasn’t the sordid end of the Christian martyrs. The battle which today’s disciple faces is that discipleship is not instantaneous, not attractive, not intuitive, not progressive and not urgent. The approach for winning this war? Taking the offensive through patience and perseverance, selfless living, devotional living, simple living and focussed living. These intangible strategies for deepening one’s spiritual maturity, however, sit awkwardly with our instant noodle, I-need-more-RAM-in-my-computer lifestyles.

Will we – like the rich man - simply walk away from a victorious discipleship journey in and with Christ just because the road is hard?

It is encouraging to note that a number of the attendees have already decided to join disciple groups, or help make disciples, or do both. Others are thinking hard about what they need to do next, and plan to talk to someone about their discipleship journey.

Debbie Tng, another Conference panellist, described the discipleship process like exercising to lose weight. The start of any exercise regime is tough, but if the goal is clear, one will persevere towards it. Perhaps one might take three steps forward only to go two steps back, but that’s still a net of one step forward!

Barriers to Discipleship	Remedies
Not instantaneous	Patience and perseverance
Not attractive	Selfless living
Not intuitive	Devotional living
Not progressive	Simple living
Not urgent	Focused living

The Discipleship Roadmap

The new Roadmap which was launched at the Conference offers recommendations of materials for a journey of discipleship in Christ (see excerpt overleaf. The complete Roadmap is available at the iSunday Counter or outside the Emmanuel Hall). It is for the disciple himself, and for the disciple who is ready to make disciples. Its focus is to develop a Christ-centric Spirit-empowered disciple who makes other disciples. It is not about getting a church-goer to complete all the materials within a particular timeframe.

As the panel moderator, Hum Sin Hoon, said: “Discipleship is not about choosing some bible study material, and a few months later, exclaiming a loud hurrah because you’ve finished it.”

“Good is the enemy of great.” – (Jim Collins, “Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don’t”)

The church is judged on her disciple-making. The church may have several programmes and activities, all of which are good. But the Enemy of “Great” is “Good”.

What does this mean? It means that if we have to choose between making disciples and carrying out ten other church events, making disciples should be given priority, however “good” those ten other church events might be. Making disciples is “great”, and therefore “good” needs to take a backseat.

What a refreshing outlook on church ministry from Pastor Alvin!

On who should be your mentor:

*“You don’t have to look for a Michelin-star chef to teach you how to cook.”
– Richard Seng*

*“Leadership (Mentorship) is a two-way relationship – we learn from each other”
– Lim Yuet Lin*



loving · learning · leading

TMC DISCIPLESHIP ROADMAP



Many roadmaps have been written and designed. But none are ends in themselves.


There is no single man-designed method for becoming or making a disciple in Christ.

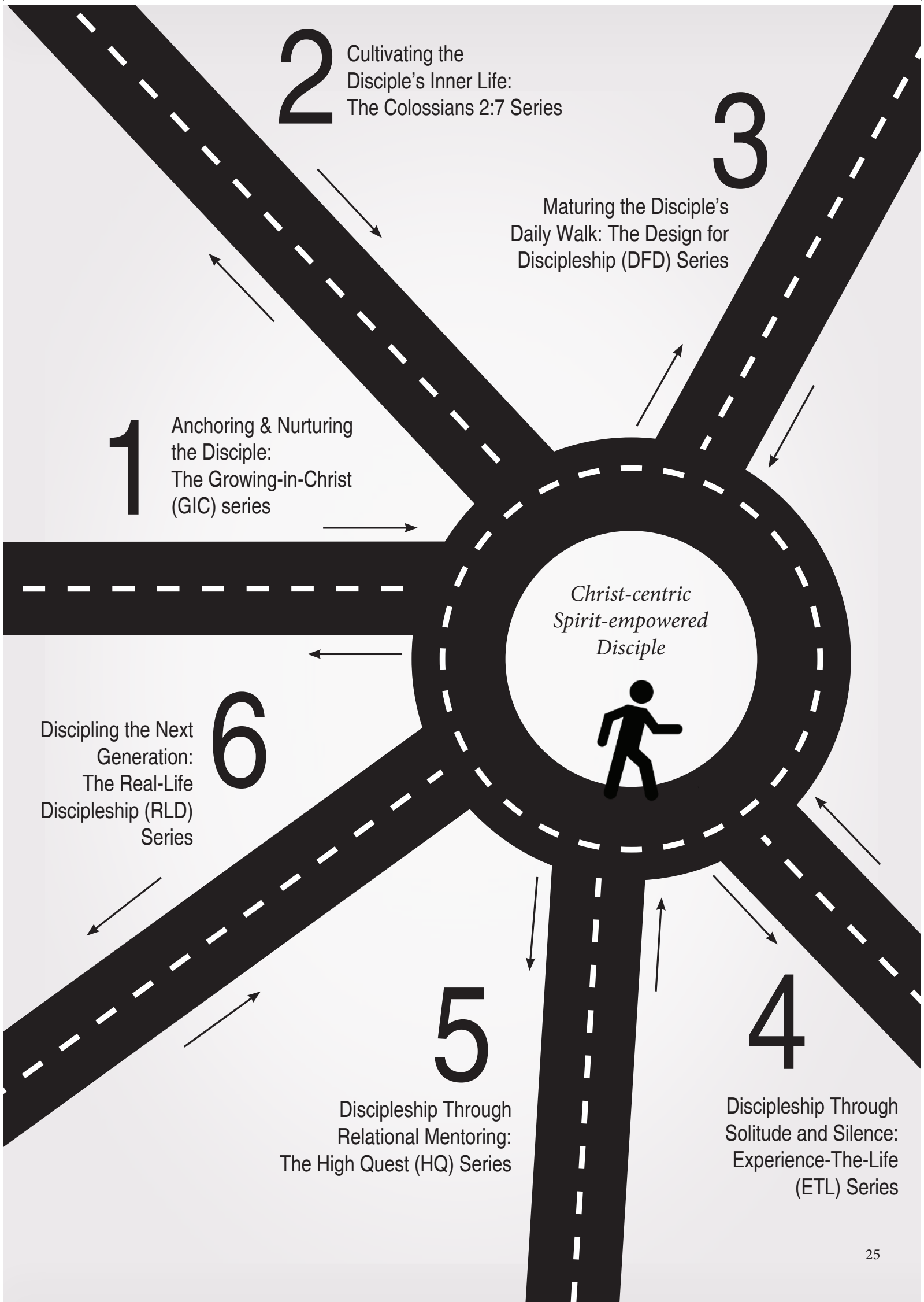
We offer a roadmap for your journey of discipleship in Christ.

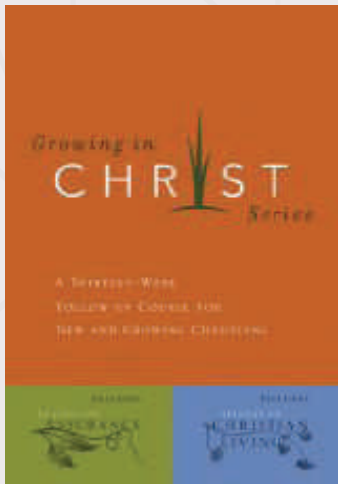
You may be a new Christian in which case you might like to start with the GIC series. Equally, you may have been a Christian for the last twenty years and still feel like you should start with the GIC series.

Likewise, you may be ready to disciple someone. But whilst doing the HQ series, you realise that you need to return to the 2:7 series to refresh yourself on cultivating the disciple's inner life so that you can better help the person you are discipling.

You should not be overly-concerned about completing all the materials within a particular time frame. Your focus should simply be to develop as a Christ-centric Spirit-empowered disciple who makes other disciples.

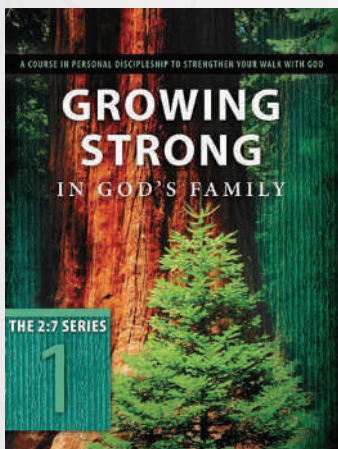






ANCHORING & NURTURING THE DISCIPLE: THE GROWING-IN-CHRIST (GIC) SERIES

For both new and growing Christians, this series assures the disciple of his salvation, and establishes the disciple's foundation in Christian living (e.g. prayer, victory, forgiveness, guidance). In 13 weeks, the disciple will be nurtured through instruction in learning to put Christ first, His Strength, the Word, love, giving, the church, good works and witnessing.



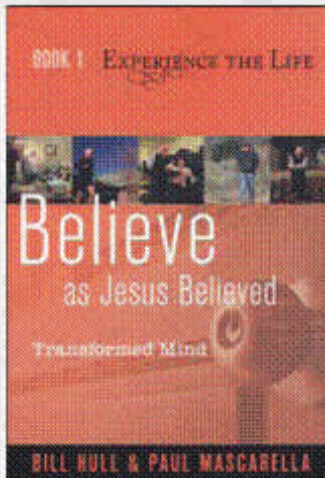
CULTIVATING THE DISCIPLE'S INNER LIFE: THE COLOSSIANS 2:7 SERIES

The 2:7 Series is discipleship training for the disciple who is cultivating his inner life. The disciple will learn spiritual disciplines and practise skills while experiencing spiritual growth. Topics include quiet time options, ways to meditate on Scripture, developing Scripture memory, cultivating a devotional life through prayer, how to sharpen and tell a personal salvation story, and other skill-based topics.



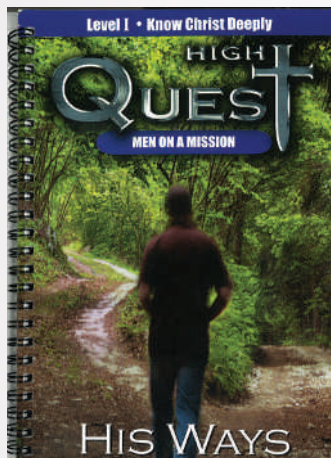
MATURING THE DISCIPLE'S DAILY WALK: THE DESIGN FOR DISCIPLESHIP (DFD) SERIES

This material is being used and continues to be studied by a number of TMC disciples. The series establishes core values for growth and maturity. Topics include identity in Christ, empowerment through spiritual disciplines, priority and Lordship, biblical character, foundations for faith, and biblical perspectives for global vision.



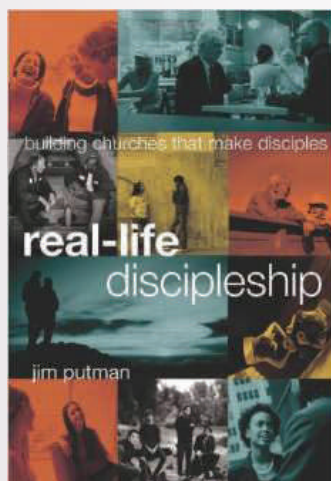
DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH SOLITUDE AND SILENCE: EXPERIENCE-THE-LIFE (ETL) SERIES

It's easy to say we long to become more like Christ. But just how do we make Jesus part of everything we do? This series deals with mature issues like transformation of the mind by dwelling on Scripture, leading to changed behaviour. It gives instruction on how to conquer temptation and instead, pursue deliverance from temptation. The series also teaches the disciple-discipler to love and minister as Jesus did by living in obedience to God, and to avoid leadership traps.



DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH RELATIONAL MENTORING: THE HIGH QUEST (HQ) SERIES

The major themes of this series are: Know Christ Deeply, Reflect Christ Authentically, and Reproduce Christ Intentionally. They represent the essential life-long pursuits of a follower of Christ. They represent our vertical relationship with God, our inner relationship with ourselves, and our outward relationship with those both inside and outside the Kingdom. Discipleship is a direction rather than a destination. These three pursuits establish the direction for a lifetime of following Christ.



DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION: THE REAL-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP (RLD) SERIES

Real-Life Discipleship explains what should happen in the life of every Christian. It recovers the vision for small group ministry, and teaches that, from every small group, there should emerge an army of believers dedicated to seeing the world saved. The overriding goal of this series is to train disciples who know how to make more disciples.

THE GOD OF THE PSALMS



by Kwa Kiem Kioh

We have spent this past year looking through the Psalms especially as a way of deepening our personal and corporate prayer lives. As we struggle with the challenges and questions of life and living, the Psalms help us to articulate our feelings and express them to God. What are the implications of that statement – that we can throw our questions to God? As a Christian I find it deeply comforting and meaningful that I am in relationship with a God who can answer and absorb these emotions. So let us now reflect on who this God of the Psalms is. I will do this by reflecting again on the Psalms that I have discussed previously. However, the principles shared and involved here are applicable to all Psalms.

Imprecatory Psalms “May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion” (Ps 35:26)

To be able to express our honest deep feelings of injustice and anger, and to know that God will be able to absorb these feelings tells us that God is so much bigger than we are. He is not going to be angry with us because we feel this way and that we express those emotions to Him. God’s love for us transcends our human feelings and His graciousness means that He can listen to the cries of our hearts without judging us for having such strong negative emotions as to wish enemies ill. We do not have to be on our best behaviour with God, or just say the pure and holy things. We can let rip, say exactly what we feel and know that God will continue to accept us.

Laments “Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray” (Ps 3:2)

When we are down in the dumps, we are comforted when someone just sits with us, without giving advice or forcing us to get out of our feelings. Even when we are inclined to wallow in our negativity, the Lord is kind, gentle and patient and will sit with us for as long as it takes. However, we also know that the Lord is the best person to sit and listen to

us, because He is also able to act and help us. So we can wail and cry until we are spent.

Wisdom Psalms “Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands” (Ps 112:1)

We can draw strength and courage from the fact that God is all wise, not just over our personal affairs but as Creator of the whole world. Paul says, “Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out!” (Romans 11:33). Reading the newspapers these days can be depressing, as so often it seems as if evil has the upper hand. The wisdom in Psalms remind us that on the contrary, God is very much in control and is sovereign over the whole world.

Salvation history “He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. He divided the sea and led them through” (Ps 78:12-13)

It is a good discipline and practice to remember what God has done for us, both individually and as a faith community. We have God at the centre of our world view; not only a loving and faithful Father, but also a mighty and powerful Creator and Sustainer who wrought miracles and can heal and change circumstances. That is why we can pray, both spontaneously and using the Psalms. The broad, deep and wide nature and character of God is who we cling on to, especially in times of trouble. And indeed because of all these characteristics and his nature, he is the only one who is worthy of praise and worship.



喜乐地事奉

SERVE JOYFULLY



by Rebekah Goh

许多信徒都本着爱主的热诚，很想做一些神所喜悦的事，包括改变自己，加入教会的事奉队伍。能参与各种事工确实是一件美事。使徒保罗也鼓励基督徒，将身体献上，当作活祭，是圣洁的，是神所喜悦的；还说如此事奉乃是理所当然的（罗12：1）

事奉主服事人应当是喜乐，欢欣的，但是往往事奉到一半就觉心灰意冷。似乎这事奉的道路是艰难又孤单；我曾经想过为何会如此呢？我也看到有些弟兄姐妹越事奉越没好见证，甚至有一些打退堂鼓，也因有人事关系而离开教会，这真是件令人感到伤痛的事。为何在属灵的家中频频可见呢？

在约翰福音17章11节向上帝祈求“圣父阿、求你因你所赐给我的名保守他们、叫他们合而为一像我们一样。”主耶稣看到门徒之间的不合一，祂在被捕前，就向天父苦苦地祈求，我们身为耶稣的门徒岂可忽视恩主的心意！

在马可福音主耶稣教导众人与门徒说：“若有人要跟从我、就当舍己、背起他的十字架来跟从我。”（可8：34）现今的门徒不但没有背起自己的十字架，反而把社会许多错误的处事观念和弊病带到教会，使圣洁的新妇，穿上污秽的衣装，真得要求上帝赦免。

究竟什么是社会的弊病？也就是人性的问题。

- 使唤别人，不让人占便宜，顺风转舵，自命清高
- 喜爱别人称赞，不愿接受好的建议，骄傲自大
- 努力事奉，向外传福音，却糟蹋主内的弟兄姐妹
- 以自己和家人的利益为先，让神靠边站
- 为了保持财政数字美观，限制外展的开支
- 体贴肉体的软弱，以属世的眼光来衡量教会的事工
- 纷争结党，自立门户，高举自己，藐视软弱的肢体
- 一大堆怨言，任何事都看不顺眼

其实在教会中也有些信徒是值得我们学习的。他们：

- 尽心、尽性、尽意、尽力忠心的事奉





- 因为爱人灵魂与弟兄姐妹同心合一为传福音而不辞劳苦

- 不图人的赞美，只是一心为主，无论做什么事都是为主而作

- 先求神的国与义，知道神的意念与道路都高过人的意念与道路

- 从来不论断别人，常常说造就人的话，谦卑柔和地与人相处，喜喜乐乐地服事

我们确实无法脱离现实的社会，要弃绝社会的弊病也要有很大的毅力与决心；愿爱我们的主耶稣赐予弟兄姐妹敏锐属灵的心眼，让我们都能三思而后行。将耶稣的教导铭记在心，接着圣灵所赐的能力行出来。好让我们都能是出于泥而不染，为主打胜战，为主作美好见证。

让我们同心为我们的事奉祷告：

亲爱的阿爸天父！求祢赦免我们的过失，求祢监察祢仆人/使女的心，洗净我们一切的不义，引领我们事奉的道路，让我们能尽心、尽性、尽意、尽力地爱祢，转化我们的眼目只单单地仰望主的荣光和祂无瑕疵的榜样。从今时至到永远，奉主耶稣得胜的圣名求，阿门！

最后，愿上帝所爱的每一个教会的肢体，都有以弗所教会的忍耐，像推雅推拉教会持守真理，坚持遵行主的命令到底，如非拉狄非作神殿中的柱子，越发热心，常自我反省，愿每一位事奉的门徒，将来都会得到神所赐荣耀的冠冕。

Many devoted believers desire to do something that pleases God, including changing themselves or joining a ministry team. Although it is a beautiful thing to participate in various acts of service, the apostle Paul also encouraged Christians to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God; Paul said that this was true and proper worship (Rom 12:1).

Serving the Lord and others should be a happy endeavour for the believer. However, it often happens that the believer becomes disillusioned after a period of service, if the path of service is difficult and lonely. I have wondered why this is so. I have also observed some brothers and sisters who have no good testimony to offer despite serving more and more. There are some who give up serving, and others who leave the church because of frictions with others. This is a sad state of affairs. Why is this so common in a community that claims to be Spirit-filled?

In John's Gospel, Jesus prays: "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one." (Jn 17:11). Prior to his arrest, the

Lord Jesus prayed fervently to the Father for he saw that there was no unity amongst the disciples. As Christ's disciples, we cannot neglect Jesus' passionate plea.

Jesus taught the people and his disciples saying: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mk 8:34). The disciple of today not only does not carry his cross, but introduces many of society's ills and worldly ways into the church.

Those who are guilty of doing so are in serious want of God's forgiveness for causing the holy bride of Christ to put on soiled clothes.

And what are society's ills? They are the old wineskins of our human nature.

- Ordering others around, fear of being taken advantage of, blowing with the wind, being self-righteous
 - Desiring man's praise, rejecting constructive suggestions, being arrogant and proud
 - Trampling over one's brothers and sisters in Christ while at the same time purporting to serve and witness for the Lord
 - Prioritising other things including family over God
 - Limiting expenditure on outreach endeavours just to maintain a surplus in the coffers
 - Succumbing to the flesh so as to look at the work of church ministry with a worldly view
 - Forming cliques, isolating oneself, puffing oneself up, despising the other parts of the body of Christ
 - Complaining and never being contented
- There are however some believers who are worthy role models.
- They serve faithfully with all their heart, soul, mind and strength
 - No task is too daunting for them because they love others, and unite with fellow believers to spread the Gospel
 - They do not covet man's praise but serve God wholeheartedly in all that they do
 - They seek first His kingdom and righteousness, and they know that God's will and direction transcends that of men
 - They do not criticise others, but instead often build up others with their words. They are humble

and gentle in their relationships with others, and they serve joyfully.

We cannot help but live in this fallen world. It takes great determination and perseverance to reject society's ills. May Jesus bless us with keen spiritual eyes. May we always think before we act. Let Jesus' teachings be engraved in our hearts. Let us act in the Holy Spirit's power. We shall not be stained by the world, but we shall fight battles for the Lord, and be faithful witnesses for Him.

Let us pray for our service to God:

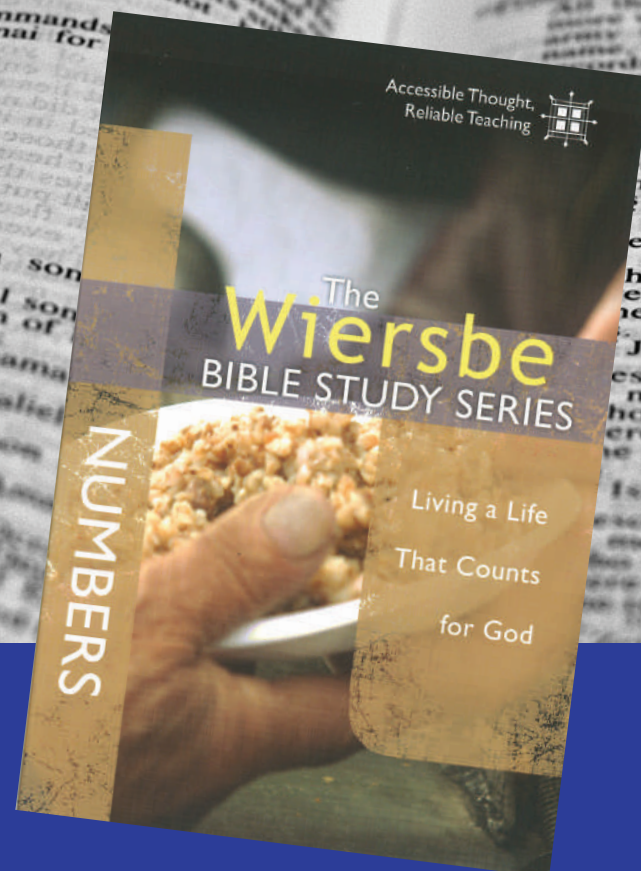
Abba Father, please forgive our wrongs. Please search your servant's heart, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Lead us in the path of service. May we serve with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Change us so that we may have eyes only for Your glory and Your perfect example. We pray all this in Jesus' Holy Name, now and forever. Amen!

May the body of Christ whom God loves always have the tolerance of the church in Ephesus, the steadfastness of the church in Thyatira in holding onto truth and obeying God's commands to the end, the passion of the church in Philadelphia, often in self-reflection. May every disciple who serves gain a crown of glory from God.



Numbers

from Judah, Nahshon son
minadab;
from Issachar, Nethanel son
from Zebulun, Eliab son of
from the sons of Joseph:
from Ephraim, Elishama
Ammihud;
from Manasseh, Gamaliel
Pedahzur;
from Benjamin, Abidan son
from Dan, Ahiezer son of Am
from Asher, Phoged son of
from Gad, Elishama son of
from Simeon, Amihud son of
from the tribe of Reuben



REGISTRATION FOR BIBLE STUDY AND TEACHING ON THE BOOK OF NUMBERS (FACILITATOR: REV PETER GOH)

PURSUE A FAITH THAT COUNTS

God's people were preparing to enter the Promised Land. Yet the book of Numbers holds a big statistic: while God longed for millions of Israelites to enter Canaan, only two people from an entire generation would arrive there.

The study of Numbers explores how disobedience can hold us back from God's best and encourages us to pursue a life that counts.

• Cost of materials: \$10 (UP. \$14.50) after GYM subsidy per participant • Commencement of class: 21 Jan 2015 (every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10.00 am -11.30 am @ The Upper Room) • Number of Bible lessons: 8 sessions • Registration closes on 23 Nov 2014 • For enquiries, please contact: Mrs Lim Leong Siung at 9151-9117 / Mrs Shirley Lee at 9697-6341

GREATER

10 - 13 December 2014

For more info or to register, visit us at <http://greater2014.tumblr.com>

Youth Ministry Curriculum for November and December 2014

DNA of our Faith - a look into the big questions
of our faith/apologetics

2 Nov - Why does God allow suffering/evil?

9 Nov - Age Group Breakouts

16 Nov - Do all religions lead to the same place?

23 Nov - Science & Christianity

30 Nov - Community Sunday

7 Dec - Youth Camp Prayer Meeting (for the camper
and our friends)

10 - 13 Dec - Youth Camp @ GREATER

14, 21, 28 Dec @ Youth Ministry in recess

www.facebook.com/TMCYouthMin

EVENTS

Sun 2 Nov

WSCS As-Good-As-New Sale

Sat 8, 15 Nov

8.30 – 5.00pm

ALPHA Training Course

Conducted by ALPHA Office Singapore

at Trinity Methodist Church

www.tmc.org.sg/alpha.html

Sun 9 Nov

Baptism Service

Sun 16 Nov

Children's Ministry Thanksgiving Sunday

Sun 16, 23, 30 Nov, 7 Dec

2.00pm

Membership Class

www.tmc.org.sg/baptism.html

Mon 17 – Thurs 20 Nov

TRAC 39th Annual Conference

Sat 22 Nov

3.00pm

Retirement Service for Rev Dr Kang Ho Soon

Paya Lebar Methodist Church

Sat 6 – Wed 10 Dec

WSCS Mission Trip to Cambodia

Sun 7 Dec

WSCS Handicraft Sale

Wed 10 – Sat 13 Dec

Youth Camp – Greater

<http://greater2014.tumblr.com/>

Sat 13 Dec

4.00 – 8.30pm

GYM Christmas Function

Please refer to the GYM notice board

Sat 20 Dec

9.00am

Christmas Party at Gospel Mission for the Blind

Contact Lelia Seow / 9037 1482

Sun 21 Dec

Celebrating Christmas Together with

Serangoon Community Centre

Serangoon North

Thurs 25 Dec

10.00am

Christmas Day Combined Service with Baptism of Infants and Reception of New Members

Wed 31 Dec

10.30pm

Watchnight Covenant Renewal Service

with supper thereafter

Every Sun

10.15am

Design for Discipleship

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

Every 2nd and 4th Sun

7.30 – 8.30am

Church Prayer Meeting

www.tmc.org.sg/prayer.html

Every 3rd Sun

10.00am

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

Last Sun of the month

9.00am

Visit to Institute of Mental Health by Outreach & Social Concerns.

Contact Yvonne Tan at 9091 8589 /

yvnn_tan@yahoo.com

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

Every 1st Wed

10.00am – 12.00pm

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

Every 2nd and 4th Wed (in recess until Jan 2015)

8.00 – 9.30pm

Bible App – Book of Hebrews

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

Every 3rd Wed (in recess until Jan 2015)

10.00am – 12.00pm

God's Masterworks: A Concerto in 39 Movements. A bible study of the Old Testament.

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

Last Thurs of the month (except in Dec when it will be held on 18 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

Every Fri

8.00 – 10.00pm

Healing Ministry in the Prayer Chapel

Every 1st and 3rd Fri (in recess after last lesson on 7 Nov)

9.15 – 11.15am

Bible Study on Genesis

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

Every 2nd and 4th Sat (in recess in Dec)

9.30 – 11.30am

Fellowship of Ukulelians

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

Alternate Sat

2.00 – 4.00pm

Youth Avenue - Soccer Training at Kovan Sports Centre, Futsal Courts

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

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

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