

Parents' Night Dinner

A Newsletter by Fairfield Methodist Church

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The Parents' Night Dinner held on 24 August 2013 at Bountiful Restaurant, was jointly organised by our English, Mandarin and Cantonese services. It was also the last event of celebrating our 65th Anniversary of Fairfield Methodist Church in 2013.

A total of 40 tables were sold and many church members used this opportunity to invite their parents, family members, relatives and friends. Besides a sumptuous dinner, guests were treated to entertainment such as dance, instrumental performance, magic show and testimonies. The Gospel message was also presented on that night and six guests accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

Many expressed interest to visit our church and attend our Sunday worship services.

Mr Yap, who is a regular worshipper shared: "I really appreciate the church organising this parents' night annually. It is much easier to invite my parents and in laws, who are pre-believers to attend this evangelical event rather than inviting them to attend our church services. They are more opened to Christianity now because they have seen many people of their age group in the banquet, joining together to praise and enjoy the fellowship in Christ."





A Word from the Pastor's Office

Rev Leslie Lim

The Charisma Or the Character of a Disciple?

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by a man's face or height, for this is not the one. I don't make decisions the way you do! Men judge by outward appearance, but I look at a man's (heart)." —1 Sam 16:7, LB

It is a disciple of Christ with a difference that will truly make a difference in this world. Why? Because no matter how charming or charismatic our personality may be, it is our character that finally makes us count for our Lord Jesus.

The Bible clearly shows us the dealings of God in the lives of His people, especially His leaders. Even King David's sin was not censored from the Bible. It is meant to show how sin is dealt with. That is how much God truly loves us. He will discipline us. To God, the shaping of a person is more important than the ministry itself.

The building up of godly character is of paramount importance in our discipleship journey. That is why the Bible depicts us as clay and God as the Potter (Jer 18:6; Isa 29:16; Rom 9:21). God takes His time to shape a character. There is no short cut. God values us for who He wants us to become. When personality and charisma fail, godly character must prevail.

Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 spells out the nine qualities that God wants us to develop in our character. Suffice to say human efforts/ ways can never fully develop these qualities. Only the Holy Spirit can help us to fully develop these qualities in us. Only the omnipotent God can empower us from within to live out these qualities so that we can be impactful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In my pursuit of spiritual maturity in Christ, I want to briefly share with you how you too can build up a godly character:

1. Desire to be more like our Lord Jesus in order to reign with Him (1 Pet 2:21; Rom 8:29). How?
 - a. Look for good Christian role models to emulate (1 Cor 4:16; 11:1; Heb 6:12; 13:7);
 - b. Put yourself in a position to receive instruction and correction (2 Tim 4:2; 1 Pet 5:5);
 - c. Have a more reflective thinking in life (Ps 119:15; 2 Tim 2:7; Phil 4:8);
 - d. Participate in ministry and missions (Matt 28:19-20; 9:38).
2. Desire to belong and be committed to a local church. Why?
 - a. A local church is a conducive environment for growth and maturity (Acts 2: 42-47; Eph 4:21-13);
 - b. It is a positive influential atmosphere to shape your behavior (Heb 10:24-25);
 - c. The Word of God is preached, received and applied in daily living (2 Tim 3:16,17, Phil 4:9).

In view of what our church is embarking on, a Disciple-Making Church, let us take heed of what E. M. Bounds once said, "*People* are God's method. The Church is looking for methods; God is looking for better *people*".

May we place ourselves in the Potter's hands and be disciples of character to fulfill His purpose. After all, we are responsible to make disciples of all nations for Christ. We can only reproduce after our own kind. My prayer is we will develop and grow disciples who are of godly character over attractive personalities.

牧师的话

林牧师

一个信徒的个人魅力或是品格？

耶和华却对撒母耳说，不要看他的外貌和他身材高大，我不拣选他。
因为，耶和华不像人看人，人是看外貌。耶和华是看内心。——撒母耳记上 16: 7

与众不同的基督门徒，才能真正使这个世界变得不同。为什么呢？因为不论我们多有魅力或性格有多吸引人，最终使我们成为主耶稣里的，是我们的品格。

圣经清楚地告诉我们，神掌控着祂子民，尤其是领袖，的生命。大卫王所犯的罪，也被记录在圣经中，其目的是要显示罪是如何被处理的。神会管教我们，这就是上帝爱我们的方式。对神而言，塑造一个人比传道更重要。

在我们的门徒生涯中，建设敬虔的品格是很重要的。这就是为什么圣经将我们描绘成泥土而上帝就是窑匠。（耶利米18: 6；以赛亚29: 16；罗马9: 21）上帝用时间来塑造一个人，是没有捷径的。上帝使我们成为祂想要我们成为的人，祂看重的是这点。当个性和魅力缺失时，敬虔的品格必须存在。

保罗在加拉太书5: 22 – 23指出九种神要我们培养的品格。我们靠人的力量是不能完成的，唯有圣灵才能帮助我们真正地培养这些品格。唯有独一的真神才能使我们活出祂的样式，让我们成为耶稣基督福音的见证。

1. 如何更渴慕象主耶稣，并蒙福于祂。（彼得前书2: 21；罗马书8: 29）；
 - a. 将好的基督徒视为榜样，并向他学习（哥林多前4: 16；11: 1；希伯来6: 12；13: 7）；
 - b. 把自己放在接受指令和改正的位置（提摩太后4: 2；彼得前5: 5）；
 - c. 有一个反复思考的生命（诗篇119: 15；提摩太后2: 7；腓立比4: 8）；

- d. 参与服侍与宣教活动（马太28: 19 – 20；9 – 38）。
2. 为什么渴慕属于并投入于教会？
 - a. 教会有使灵命成长的环境（使徒2: 42 – 47；以弗所4: 211 – 213）；
 - b. 教会的环境有好的氛围帮助你培养品格（希伯来10: 24 – 25）；
 - c. 神的话语被传授、接受、应用在日常生活中（提摩太后3: 16,17；腓立比4: 9）。

我们的教会立志成为培训门徒的教会，让我们成为EM.Bounds 所说的“人是神的方式。教会寻找方式，神寻找更好的人。

让我们将自己放在窑匠手中，成为有品格的门徒来完成祂的旨意。我们的责任是使万民成为祂的门徒。我的祷告是让我们培养更象神的门徒。





The Alpha Marriage Course

Studies have shown - and our common sense would likely confirm - that happy marriage is one key to a happy life. Why wouldn't we all wish things would go smoother at home? The Alpha Marriage Course cannot make the problems in marriage vanish, but it can definitely help couples overcome them with more confidence and

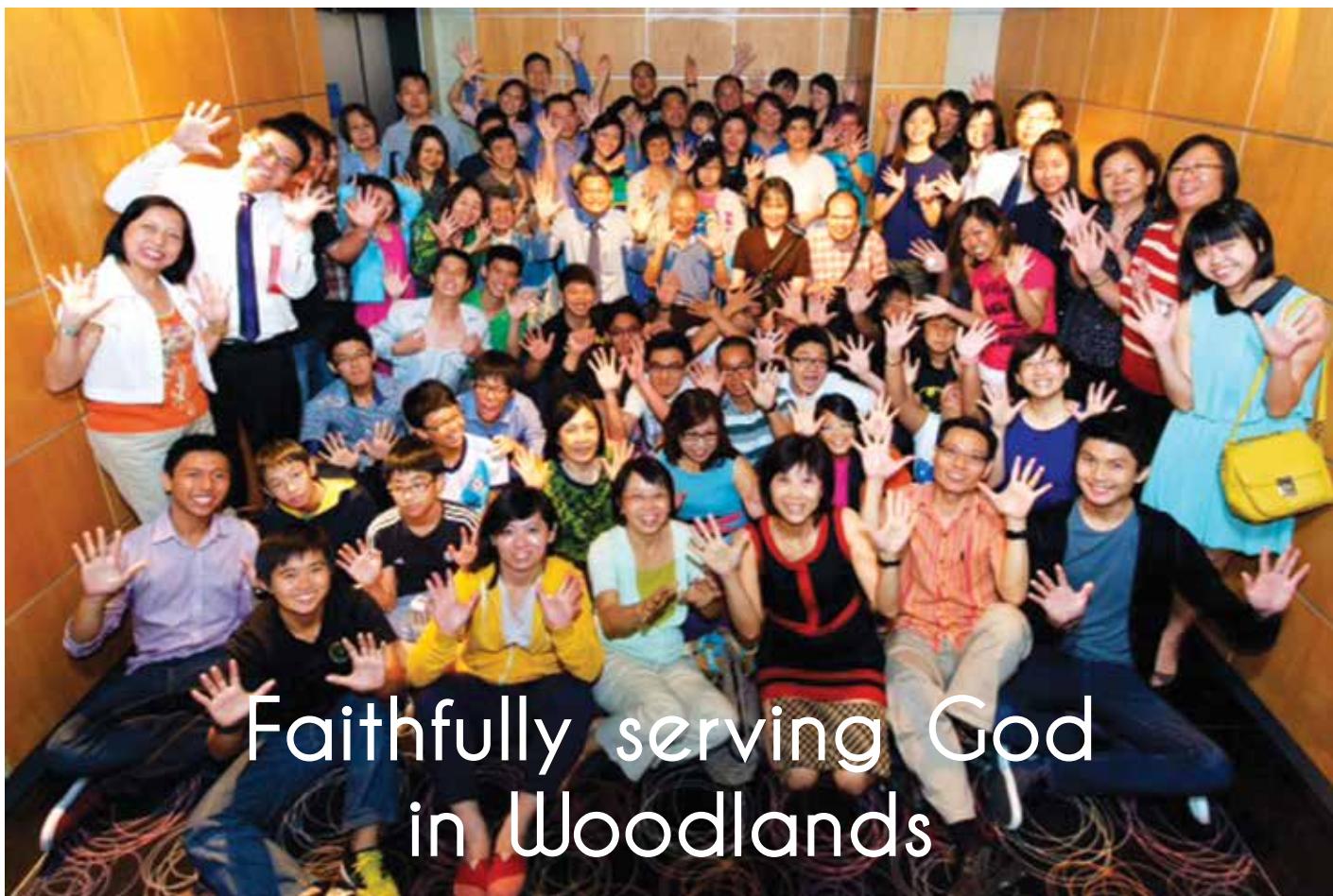
determination. Without any "teacher", the Course is less a teaching course and more a learning experience. Couples learn how to build on the strength and repair the weakness in their marriage; and to do so exclusively with their spouse. There is no teacher/outsider involved.



In early August 2013, five of our couples ranging from a few months to nearly 25 years of marriage participated in an 8-Sunday experience in Alpha Marriage Course. Right after church service on those Sundays, the couples enjoyed an intimate private lunch in an undisclosed venue; as that day's topic begins. The topics help couples to explore the foundation of a marriage, essentials of communication with each other, and how to resolve conflicts when disagreements inevitably arise. The Course also targets the external environment affecting marriage, such as in-laws, family members and other simmering background issues in our lives. Each session provides sufficient time for couples to focus on the subject immediately with hope that a good start will encourage detailed discussion later at home. Experiencing the above not only helps couples to understand the forces working within their own marriage but also helps them to recognize the treasure they already possess in each other.

The completion of the Course in October, was celebrated by a renewal of their marriage vows witnessed by their loved ones. Each couple took away a valuable experience in addition to new tools, fresh ideas, and reinvigorated motivation to build their marriage into an eternal work of art, just as the Lord intends. Please pray with us that the Lord will move more of our church couples to experience Alpha Marriage Course 2014.

David Tai serves in the Family Life Committee



Faithfully serving God in Woodlands

In his sermon at the Preaching Point's 10th anniversary last June, Bishop Wee Boon Hup encouraged the congregation to continue to be God's faithful witnesses in Woodlands. The Fairfield Preaching Point in Woodlands was inaugurated with the full endorsement of the pastors and LCEC in 2003. The congregation of about 30 members conducted its first worship service in April of that year. Today, the 90-strong congregation continue to worship God faithfully every Sunday at the Cathay Cineplex at Causeway Point, a shopping mall in Woodlands.

Looking back at these past years, many of us are amazed, not at our faithfulness in service, but at the faithfulness of God, who has called us to this ministry. We have seen some giving their lives for the first time to Christ, and others renewing their commitment to God. Through the years, the Lord has brought many young people from the neighbourhood to the Preaching Point, and we have witnessed how they have matured in their faith in God. We have also witnessed the Lord working the miracle of reconciliation in troubled families, bringing healing and restoring love, trust and respect.

Although small in numbers, the commitment of our members is evident everywhere. Our programmes and activities – Bible Conference, Bible Camp, Christmas gathering, etc – are usually very well attended, with a participation rate of 70 – 80 per cent. Our youths, who meet regularly after the worship services for fellowship and Bible study, are exceptionally active. Eighty percent of worshippers are either in small groups or Bible study groups. About 70 – 80 percent of the worshippers would attend the occasional Church-wide teaching sessions conducted after the Sunday service. Their genuine interest in learning more about the Bible and the Christian faith is manifestly obvious.

As we look to the future, we are fully cognisant of the obstacles and challenges that lie ahead. Although we thank God for the use of Cathay Cineplex as a regular venue for Sunday worship, the constraints of the current arrangement are becoming more acute as our ministry grows. The recent increase in rental (of 71%) has compelled us to look for alternative venues. But the strict URA stipulations and rules on the use of commercial and industrial buildings by religious organisations have significantly narrowed our options. If we do not explore other routes, such as establishing a centre that provides eldercare for the community in collaboration with TRAC and MWS, the growth and effectiveness of the preaching point will be seriously hampered.

Yet, ambitious plans by the government for Woodlands are afoot that will create exciting new ministry opportunities and possibilities for the Preaching Point. They include transforming Woodlands into a business district, a mini-metropolis and a waterfront destination. There will be greater connectivity to different parts of the island from Woodlands with the construction of a 30km long Thomson MRT line that will run through six interchange stations. And with the proposed construction of the high-speed rail link to Kuala Lumpur, the volume of visitors from Malaysia including neighbouring Iskandar will increase exponentially. Please continue to pray for us as we seek the guidance of our faithful God who has called us to be part of His exciting mission in Woodlands.

Dr Roland Chia is Chair of the Steering Committee of the Fairfield Preaching Point in Woodlands. He is Chew Hock Hin Professor of Christian Doctrine at Trinity Theological College



FFMC Youth Camp: More than Conquerors



Youth Camp this year has been a very enjoyable and insightful experience. In addition to the higher than average number of youths attending the camp, which we are very thankful for, we were privileged to have the Boys' Brigade Company from Gan Eng Seng Secondary join us for a time of fun, fellowship and learning more about His Word.

The camp speaker was Mr Lim Chien Chong. The nightly theme talks were meaningful, straightforward and concise, yet engaging enough so that restless youths like us did not fall asleep. He touched upon the camp theme, "More Than Conquerors", and taught us how we could be conquerors in our own lives as well as resist the temptations of the devil with the help of Christ Jesus, for the glory of God. A clear-minded speaker with a clearer message, Mr Lim truly is a messenger of God, for God.

As a camp committee member, I had to plan the youth camp with the rest of the team. To see the look of joy on the faces of the youths and the BB boys really touched my heart and gave me peace of mind,

especially since no major mishaps occurred. As much as we all enjoyed the games, I am sure that the campers received much insightful knowledge during the devotional and discussion sessions, and learned more about the Word of God. It was a joy to see many of the campers singing their hearts out during worship, and on the final night I was equally pleased to see campers' hearts being touched by a personal encounter with God.

This camp has in some way been like all others before: friendships forged and strengthened, lives and hearts renewed in the Father's name, but I believe it can be more than just these. The camp has done much to keep us youths together, and it is in the potential of each and every one of our young, fiery souls to return Fairfield Youth Ministry to its former glory.

John 15:13 reads, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" If we truly love our neighbours as ourselves we will want to unite this ministry and all its members as one loving family. However, this love does not come from us alone.

Taking the theme verse from this camp, "*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*" (Romans 8:37). We love because he first loved us, and because of His great love we are then able to love others. This is the vision I have for our Youth Ministry, and I hope many of you also share my view.

If you are a youth reading this, I know how tired and lazy we can be on Sunday mornings, but let us put in a little effort in loving our neighbour whoever he or she might be. The devil might tempt us to take the easy way out, be it just sitting back or being indifferent. I am not immune to this temptation as well. However, I believe we can be more than conquerors in our own youth ministry and even the whole church. I pray that the loving unity that we have after this camp will not just last for one year till the next camp, but through the generations to come as well.

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17) Let this verse be a constant reminder of the One who is truly sovereign over all, and who has the power to keep this ministry together as one loving, patient and honest family, to His glory.

Joshua Tan JunQing serves in the Youth Ministry

“Even The Rocks Cry Out 4” Songwriting Competition

Inspiration for the song, “In Your Presence”

Joshua Loke

This song was written as a meditative and reflective song as a reminder of what it means to be in the presence of the Lord. It came one evening this year when I was just doing my quiet time and strumming a guitar with some chords. I had first begun with a melody then filling in the words, which came very quickly and naturally from the Psalms. Most of the words come straight out of Psalm 23, which is an incredibly reassuring psalm with many of God’s promises to us. I had completed parts of the chorus with some thoughts from Psalm 16. In the busyness and stresses of our daily lives let us remember the importance of spending time resting in and waiting upon the Lord. There is power in the presence of the Lord – let us not forget that He is the source of our strength in times of need.

The link to the song can be found below:

<https://soundcloud.com/mejoshua/in-your-presence>

GYM 15th Anniversary Celebration

As part of its 15th Anniversary celebration, GYM organized a trip to Medan-Lake Toba in Northern Sumatra from 21 – 24 August. It was a great opportunity to witness God’s glory in nature. The highlight of our visit was the majestic Lake Toba - largest volcanic lake in the world, stretching to 100 kilometres with a surface elevation of 905 metres.

The Bataks form the majority of people living in North Sumatra. Described by Marco Polo in 1292 as “wild idolators”, more than 90% of them are now Christians, converts of German missionaries who came in 1861. Their honour of God is reflected in the many impressive churches we saw, in contrast to their own dilapidated houses.



There was great bonding among us as we ate every meal together and had fun sampling various unique Indonesian fruits and local snacks.

We thank our God for His protection and blessing our fellowship. It was indeed a sweet treat from our loving Father.

Marian Goh, Chairperson of Glowing Years Ministry (GYM)

Together in the Footsteps of Jesus Holy Land

4 - 17 December 2013

① How God first brought me to Israel

Visiting Israel was something that never really crossed my mind until July 2012, when God gave me the opportunity to step foot on this Holy Land through my work. The short visits made before and after work each day to some of the sites mentioned in the Bible gave me a glimpse of where Jesus walked more than 2000 years ago. I was overwhelmed by God's amazing love for His people. The short trip also opened my eyes to Jesus' life and ministry in complete obedience to His Father's will that we may have salvation. I was greatly inspired by what I saw and experienced. I asked the Lord to let me walk on this land again with fellow followers of Christ as a pilgrimage together as a family.

② How God led me back to Israel

The privilege to visit this Holy Land again came a year later under our Pastor-in-charge Rev Lilian Ang's kind leadership of a FFMC Holy Land team. Although scheduling the trip in December would mean that there would be no special festivals that the trippers could look forward to participating in and there would be shorter daylight hours with colder weather, I was very grateful when the trip was eventually planned for early to mid-December. Educators like me and families with school-going children could go for the trip together as it is during the year-end school holidays.

③ What God showed me?

Back in Israel via Jordan

Being back in Israel on this trip was different. For one, I landed and started my journey in Jordan, the Biblical Land (instead of Israel, the Promised Land). For another, it was a trip with my 82-year-old dad and other believers, 39 in the team. Standing on Mount Nebu, I could not help but marvel at the greatness of our almighty God who showed Moses the Promised Land for his descendants. Our God who created heaven and earth is holy and faithful to His promises. He loves and blesses His people. We are His creations and He alone has the authority to direct the past and the future. One of the wonders of the world, Petra stands testament to God's mighty works of nature through the ages. What an almighty God we serve!

From Jordan to Jerusalem

Each site visited, whether it be the Ein Gedi (where David took refuge when he fled from King Saul), Qumran (where the dead sea scrolls were discovered), Beit' Abara (where Jesus was baptized by John, Bethany in NT), Wadi Qeit, Valley of Elah (the battle of Philistines and Israel - David and Goliath), Road to Emmaus (where Jesus appeared to his disciples and opened the scriptures to them concerning Himself), Temple Mount (Mount Moriah where Abraham sacrificed Isaac, and Jesus was presented in the Temple by his earthly parents), Western Wall (retaining wall from the Second Temple), Southern Temple Mount (steps to the main entrances of Temple Mount, ruins of Solomon's tablets, and 3000 were baptised on Pentecost) reaffirmed what was told in the Bible. The archeological remains stand to tell the world that our God reigns over heaven and earth and Jesus is alive! God's gift of salvation through Christ speaks deeply of His immense love for us who are all created in His image. The renewal of our baptism vow at Beit' Abara where our Lord Jesus Christ was himself baptised by John the Baptist (Bethany where Joshua, Elijah and Elisha crossed the large loop in the Jordan River opposite the ancient city of Jericho) was a most meaningful experience for me. Given the privilege to be God's children, we are to walk in complete trust and obedience to God as followers of Christ – no turning back.

From The Mount of Olives to the Garden Tomb

This was supposedly the longest and most challenging day of our planned trip but God provided each of us the strength to complete the day (especially my dad and those of us who doubted we could complete the long walk) and a personal encounter with Him. Thanks be to our loving heavenly Father who never fails to watch over each of His children every step of the way! The view where we started at the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem, was spectacular. The Mount of Olives was also where Jesus was believed to have wept over Jerusalem, ascended to heaven after His resurrection and will enter Jerusalem (via the Eastern Gate) when the Messiah returns. The tranquility of the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed so hard that He sweated great drops of blood and was betrayed and arrested by those whom He loved was one of my favourite sites. Jesus pleaded to His Father to remove the cup from him, yet was in total surrender to do His Father's Will, not his own. Jesus was



and Trip



tempted but He remained focus, single-minded in His total surrender to do His Father's will. It spoke of Jesus' intimate relationship with His Father and complete obedience in seeking to do what pleases His Father. He sought His Father earnestly and walked in rested assurance according to His Father's masterplan for man's salvation. It is also here that Jesus reminded that as His disciples we need to watch and pray, that we may not enter into temptation as the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak when we earnestly seek to do our heavenly Father's will. An overwhelming sense of gratitude filled my heart as I walked through The Via Dolorosa (also known as Jesus' Way of the Cross) where Jesus was believed to have walked on the way to His crucifixion after being convicted by Pilate. It is only by His grace that we can enter God's kingdom; not by our human endeavor but by the blood of the Lamb. He initiated the reconciliation with God and drew us back into His presence because we are His beloved. How can I ever thank you enough, Lord!

Jesus shared God's word with His disciples and the people whom God brings to Him with boldness, clarity and authority from God. He travelled to many places and shared God's word with many people. He was authentic and sincere in his relationships with the people, led with conviction and compassion, performing miracles and caring for those who earnestly sought Him regardless of their appointment or position in the community. He went beyond Bethlehem and Nazareth to share God's word, reached out to the people from all parts of the world, touched their hearts and transformed their lives with the love of God. The empty Garden Tomb served to remind us of our Lord's ministry on earth, death and resurrection. Christ is risen today – He has given us victory over death and we must live victoriously as followers of Christ. We also have the privilege to pray for the people of Israel who do not yet know Jesus to receive Him as their personal Lord and Saviour. May they each have a personal encounter with our real and living God to experience His love for them!

From Jerusalem to Tiberias

We were told by our local guide that Jerusalem started snowing the day we left for Tiberias and we would be expecting thunderstorms for the remaining days of our trip. But our gracious heavenly Father kept the skies cheerfully sunny wherever we visited. Seems unbelievable but in God, all things are possible! All Praise and Glory to Our King of

Kings and Lord of Lords! Caesarea Maritima where Peter preached the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to Cornelius' household, paving the way for Christianity to spread to all nations was a magnificent experience of God's beautiful creation of nature. The fine weather that took us through the journey on *Faith* across the Sea of Galilee where Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea, and walked on water, as well as the reflection on attitudes and values that God desire of me as a follower of Christ (Matthew 5 – 7) on the Mount of Beatitudes also provided us an intimate and meaningful time of worship and praise to our God. What a faithful God we have!

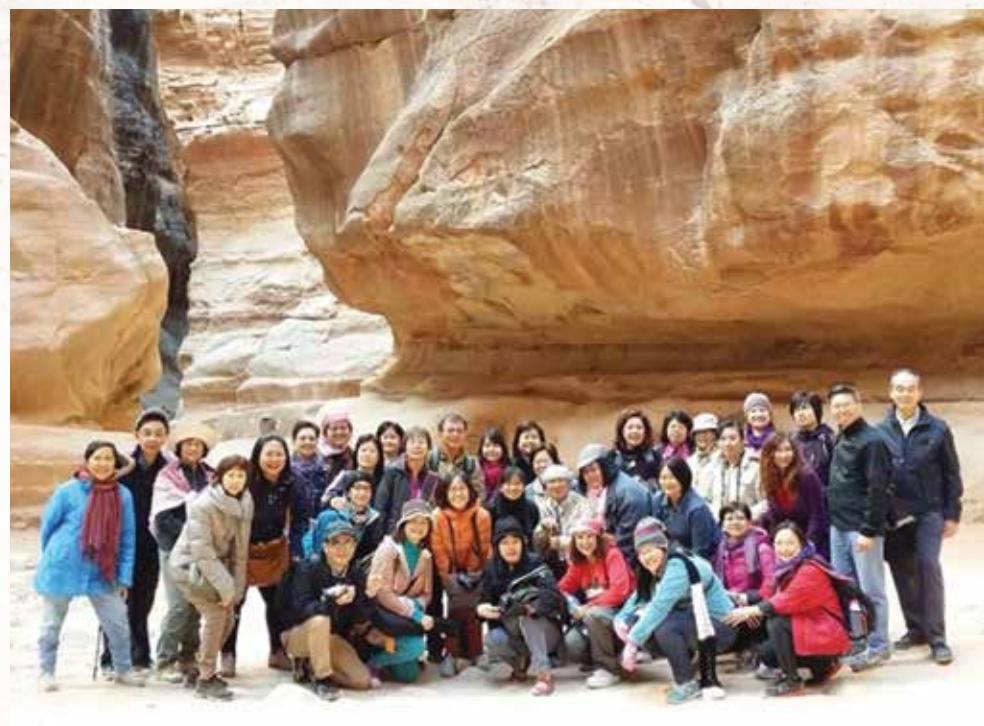
From Israel-Jordan back to Singapore

When we asked for an experience of snow, God not only answered but provided us snow in abundance, which gave us an extended time at Amman to rest, build snowmen, throw snowballs, worship and praise God and enjoy fellowship with one another. Although the unexpected blizzard disrupted the travel plans for our return flight back, it opened our eyes to God's perfect plans for the team as He maneuvered the bus and team skillfully through the blizzard and obstacles at the airports. He taught us to trust and patiently wait upon Him to clear each obstacle in His own beautiful way and time to bring each of us safely back to Singapore. Indeed, nothing is impossible for our sovereign God and He will make a way even when there seems no way.

This is a trip where we experienced the love of our almighty God in a personal way and through the care and kind leadership of our Pastor and wonderful team members; one where we witnessed God's protection and many miracles to testify of His goodness and faithfulness as we journeyed together in the footsteps of Jesus through our 14 days in the Holy Land.

To God be all Glory, Honour and Praise!

Shermaine Tang serves in the Missions Committee



Missions Month

"And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- ESV, Matthew 28:18 – 20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."
- ESV, Act 1:8

Missions Month 2013 organised in August aimed to sharpen Fairfield's focus on identifying with God's heartbeat for mission. God has given every believer the responsibility of telling others about Jesus - a privilege of being God's ambassador given not just to full-time workers and missionaries but to every follower of Christ, i.e. You and I.

Our commitment to Missions is in obedience to the Great Commission that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to his disciples (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). The theme for this year's Missions Month, *Mission in the Marketplace*, saw the month's pulpit message delivered by not only our missionaries but also guest speakers such as Dr Tan Lai Yong, and Mr Daron Tan, who have walked the journey in China and Malaysia respectively. Mr Daron Tan also conducted a workshop to provide practical tips on strategies in marketplace ministry. It was a delight to have Rev Tan Cheok Kian share on the ministry that God has called him to in China. The Missions Exhibition Booths organised

by the Carepals and Care-partners created a buzz for those in the Children's Ministry, and among the youths and young at heart. Flags of countries which God has brought our church missionaries to serve, and colourful and interactive booth displays containing information on what God is doing through our church missionaries overseas as well as our local ministry workers and local professional workers raised our awareness of mission. It also reminded us of God's faithfulness, everlasting love and amazing grace. We are thankful to God for providing Carepals and Care-partners who are committed to supporting and caring for the missionaries, local ministry workers and local professional workers for 2013/2014.

It is our hope that the heightened awareness in Missions driven through platforms such as Missions Month and Missions Festival or Conference will challenge believers to full time ministry and missions training to be better equipped to partner God in fulfilling the Great Commission.



Shermaine Tang serves in the Missions Committee

Characterising the spirit and means by which the Early Church sent out her missionaries, **Missions Care-Partnership** provides opportunities for all members and friends of Fairfield Methodist Church to adopt one or more of our missionaries. The **Missions Carepal / Care-Partner** will commit to:

- ♥ *Intercede* fervently for the missionary adopted.
- ♥ *Invest* to support the ministries and needs of the missionary adopted.
- ♥ *Involve* yourself through correspondence, cards, calls and visits.
- ♥ *Inform* others to interest them in the missionary adopted.
- ♥ *Plan and organise* MCP gatherings for the missionary adopted and facilitate the organisation of teaching workshops and sharing at different services by liaising with the ministries concerned when they are back in Singapore/FFMC.

If you would like to find out more about being a Carepal or Care-partner, please email missions@gmail.com

If you missed out on the quiz at the Missions Exhibition Booth in August, here's another chance for you to test your Bible knowledge.

1. The Old Testament in the Bible was mainly written in _____.
2. The New Testament in the Bible was written in _____.
3. Another language that is used in the original Bible is _____.
4. The Vulgate Bible is in _____.
5. The first Bible translated into English was done by _____.
6. The letters of Apostle Paul were written in _____.
7. The Old Testament has _____ more books than the New Testament.
8. The last book of the Old Testament is _____.
9. The fifth book of the New Testament is _____.
10. The Apostle Paul wrote _____ letters to individuals.

WSCS 56th AGM

WSCS celebrated another successful year and held her 56th AGM on 18 Aug 2013. Fifty women were present to affirm WSCS ministry in Fairfield. Reports were received at the meeting; there was no election. Worship was led by Kristalynn Yue and Christine Tan. Miss Hee Piang Chin, the guest speaker remarked that it was good indeed to see 2 young faces among the senior ladies in WSCS.

Referring to Isaiah 54:2, Miss Hee challenged the WSCS committee to embrace and impact select women groups within the church and in the community. *Enlarge the place of your tents, stretch the tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.* She urged the ladies to stay strongly connected to the Lord GOD even as they move out of the comfort zone to serve specific women inside and outside church.

President Dr Yap Soon Eng paid tribute to the WSCS ladies for their spirit of unity, generosity and diligence. Without their strong support and commitment to the vision of a body of women united in service

in Fairfield, it would not be possible to achieve so much during the year in office. WSCS had organised a sightseeing outing, a ukulele class, a lunch with women missionaries and a cooking workshop for the ladies to bond in Fairfield. The Filipino Fellowship has grown in size and maturity under the WSCS (W & E) watch. WSCS also made a significant impact to the young single women at Residence@St George Home by providing dental treatment, fee sponsorship to the 1st National Christian Women Conference in Feb 2013, participating at the fund raising charity dinner in June 2013 and donating to R@SG 40% of WSCS blessing bags collection. An equal sum was donated to Yong En Care Centre to help designated low wage women with single parent families.

Furthermore WSCS and Family Life jointly organised the Food and Fun Fair in June 2013 to raise \$20,000 for the church building fund. It was a platform to unite many men and women to work together to bless the church as Fairfield celebrated her 65th anniversary in 2013. We give glory to our LORD GOD for WSCS ministry at Fairfield.



Dr Yap Soon Eng, President of WSCS

Kindergarten in 2013

We thank God for seeing the Kindergarten through another year despite the challenges it faced i.e. decreasing student enrolment and increased costs. Set up in 1985, the Kindergarten continues to reach out to the community through the provision of preschool education. Highlights for the year included the Easter Celebration, Vacation Bible School and Power Kids (the last two events being organized by the church's Children ministry). Assemblies are conducted daily with each week featuring a bible story, memory verse, life application and Christian songs. The daily exposure to Christian teaching and Christian teachers modelling of God's love, we believe, has made an enormous impact in the children and their families' lives.

The Kindergarten's website has been redesigned and a Facebook account has been set up to help promote the activities of the kindergarten. There has been improvement in the physical facilities such as the installation of the security gate and controlled access to

levels 2 & 3 thereby raising the level of security. The new playground on the 3rd floor has also allowed the physical development in the children, making our Kindergarten curriculum a holistic one. The parents also welcomed the 4-hour K2 programme. Besides the fundamental requirement, the curriculum included active learning and participation from the children, activities that are child and teacher initiated. There are two interest corners in all classrooms displaying the children's craft thereby making the classrooms an inviting place for the children (giving meaning to 'Kindergarten' which means "Kid's Garden" in German).

The Kindergarten continues to remake itself to cater to the changing needs of the community. We will continue to trust God for His provision while trying to remain steadfast to the call to reach out to the pre-schoolers.



Profile of new Lay Leader, Mr Tan Chee Boon

1 How did you come to Fairfield and how long have you been worshipping here?

I accepted the Lord in December 1984 as an undergraduate in Singapore. I asked a Christian hostelite from the old King Edward VII hostel whether I could follow him to a church on Sunday. He attended Fairfield Methodist Church at Neil Road since it was quite near to the hostel. I was baptised and confirmed as member of FFMC in December 1987. So I've been worshipping in Fairfield for 29 years.

2 How do you feel about serving as the new Lay Leader?

It has always been an honour and privilege to serve the Lord in any capacity. I started serving in the church, singing in the choir, since 1987 when the church moved to Tanjong Pagar. All these years of service in different ministries, committees and leadership roles have certainly helped prepare me for this Lay Leader role. These coming years will definitely be challenging as our church embarks on the implementation towards a disciple-making church. Therefore, it is with much trepidation that I serve as a Lay Leader but trusting and relying on our God who called each of us into obedience and service.

3 In your mind, what do you think are the responsibilities of the Lay Leader?

The Lay Leader is the primary lay representative of the laity of the local church and therefore, the role of Lay Leader is multifaceted. The Lay Leader has an advocacy role to encourage the congregation to serve and grow as disciple of Christ everywhere not just in church but at work, in the home and family etc. The Lay Leader celebrates and recognizes the ministry of the laity. He has regular meeting with pastors (under Pastoral-Lay Leadership Team), serves in various committees such as Finance, PPRSC, Nominations, LCEC and as a lay delegate of the Annual Conference. He informs laity of educational

opportunities, builds awareness of the role of laity, assists in the LCEC, pursues the study of God's Word, etc. Of course, these duties are shared with a team of associate Lay Leaders.

4 What sort of Lay Leader you aspire to be?

Firstly, I hope to make contacts with as many people in the congregation as possible and to listen and understand how they are doing in their walk with the Lord.

I hope to encourage the church to take our role as laity more seriously and inspire the church to grow towards Christian maturity.

5 Tell us something about yourself – family, work, leisure pursuits.

I was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to a large family of 9 siblings (6 boys and 3 girls). I am the second youngest in my family. My father worked as a tin miner when he arrived from Anxi, Fujian with my grandmother when he was a young boy.

I came to Singapore to study at NUS and then worked as a chemist initially. I am currently working as a Technical Manager in a marine paint company.

I met my wife Vivian in the church choir. We have been married for 18 years and have two lovely children, Nicole and Daniel. We enjoy spending time together as a family going for holidays and outings in the parks and with nature. In my leisure, I enjoy cooking, concocting beverages, brisk walking, going on scenic drive and working on my planted aquarium with tropical fishes.

6 How do you plan to encourage church members and worshippers in the process of disciple-making?

The discipleship process takes time and there is no short-cut. It is critically important but can be thought of as being not urgent. We need to have that sense of urgency towards discipleship and be committed to grow as disciples of Christ. The Lay leader with the other leaders of the church are visible in the congregation and we are in a position to exemplify what it means to be a disciple. We, as leaders of the church, have to model to the church as disciple-maker and encourage everyone to journey together as disciples. We have to pray that the heart of the congregation will be moved and be committed to work towards spiritual transformation. The small group is our main vehicle for discipleship. I have been growing spiritually in small groups for many years and thankful to God for my cell members' love, support and accountability. Let's journey together as we fulfil our vision as a disciple-making church.



WHAZ UP?

Baptisms

A. INFANT/CHILD BAPTISM

English Service

28 September 2013

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Ms Chang Hui Nee Venus | d/o Mr & Mrs Chang Wan Loong |
| 2. Ms Chang Jia Nee Venice | d/o Mr & Mrs Chang Wan Loong |
| 3. Ms Chang Tang Nee Valerie | d/o Mr & Mrs Chang Wan Loong |

17 November 2013

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Ms Chua Keren (Cai Ke'en) | d/o Mr & Mrs Mr Ivan Chua Tjun Huat |
| 2. Ms Marianne Chew (Zhou Si'en) | d/o Mr & Mrs Mark Zhou You Chuan |

B. YOUTH/ADULT BAPTISM

English Service

10 November 2013

1. Mr Ong Lip Hee Alex

12 November 2013

1. Mr Koh Seng Siong

17 November 2013

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ms Cindy Low Minyi | 2. Mrs Seen-Mah Su Zhi |
| 3. Ms Indra Fanta | 4. Mr Victor Ho Siew Cheong |
| 5. Mr Steven Tan Leng Kok | 6. Mr Zhang Xiaotian Kevin |

Cantonese Service

27 August 2013

1. Mdm Ho Kwan Hoe

Retirement

A lunch gathering was held on 29 December to show our appreciation to Rev Tan Cheok Kian as he retires as a TRAC Methodist pastor. Programme for the event included a sumptuous buffet lunch and a sharing session where various members from Fairfield Methodist Church, Cairnhill Methodist Church, Faith Methodist Church and Christ Methodist Church took turns to pay tribute to Rev Tan.

TRAC President, Rev Dr Gordon Wong was also present.



New Members

1. RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

A. By Profession of Faith

English Service

25 August 2013

1. Ms Edna Wong May Khay

24 November 2013

1. Ms Indra Fanta
2. Ms Cindy Low Minyi
3. Mrs Seen-Mah Su Zhi
4. Mrs Gladys Tan-Ang Siok Chuan
5. Mrs Serene Tang-Chan Shu Ling
6. Mr Victor Ho Siew Cheong
7. Mr Steven Tan Leng Kok
8. Mr Zhang Xiaotian Kevin

Mandarin Service

25 August 2013

1. Mdm Poon Choy Keng
2. Mr Wong Wai Keong
3. Ms Zheng Qin

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Members and worshippers at Fairfield came together for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner held on 31 December. After the mouth-watering dinner organised by WSCS, we gathered at the Kuehn Hall to say farewell to Rev Edmund Koh and his family. Words of appreciation and best wishes flowed as Rev Koh takes up his new appointment at Barker Road Methodist Church.





Weddings

(Solemnisations By Rev Lilian Ang)

**Mr Lum Tuck Cheung Elvin &
Ms Wong May Khay Edna**
14 September 2013



**Mr Andrew Tan
Jen Shiong &
Ms Deanne Soh See Leng**
25 October 2013



New Born



OUR CONGRATULATIONS to:

Mr & Mrs Mark Zhou You Chuan (Jaime) on the arrival of their baby girl, **Marianne Chew (Zhou Si'en)**, on 8 October 2013.

Coming Up Next:

26 Jan

Fairfield Methodist Church 66th Anniversary

27 Jan

First Local Conference

21 Feb to 30 May

Alpha Course

2 Mar

Communion Lunch

9 Mar

Baptism

27 to 29 Mar

Encounter Weekend

17 Apr

Maundy Thursday Service

18 Apr

Good Friday Service

20 Apr

Easter Sunday Service

1 Jun

Fairfield Preaching Point 11th Anniversary

8 Jun

Baptism

19 to 22 Jun

Church Camp at Johor Bahru

Members Who Left

1. TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS

English Service

09 October 2013

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Derek Choong Shang Xian | The Crossing Church Singapore |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

2. DEATH

Cantonese Service

1. Mdm Tung Ah Lin
2. Mdm Lim Lai Choon

Date Deceased

- 30 July 2013
- 15 November 2013

Do you have
a story to tell?

We welcome contributions to Compass. To avoid duplications, please let us know before writing your article or story. Articles should be kept within 1000 words. Submission should include the writer's profile, photo and any accompanying photographs in high resolution format. These can be sent to Mr Yu Heng Kong at hengkong@fairfieldmc.org

华语堂圣诞夜布道会

请耶稣现在进来
尊贵国度 权柄荣耀
归于至高神 天地主宰

迎接耶稣进来



难忘的2013年12月24日，华语堂首次举行圣诞夜布道会，晚上七点多节日庆典拉开了帷幕。

你看，我们的敬拜团、舞旗手，身着节日盛装，精神抖擞，信心十足。在他们的带动下，全场高歌，群情激动。

特约芦苇艺术团契呈现舞台剧《生命列车》，把百姓生活搬上舞台，精彩感人，深入人心。证道主题“平安”，促人深思，领人进入真正的安息。天上荣耀归真神，地上平安归与人！

当晚192人出席，8人蒙恩得救，感谢赞美，荣耀归给全能真神！



Editorial Team:

Rev Lilian Ang · Samuel Soh · Jimaya Wong
Audrey Koh · Lydia Sha · Edwina Lim

Photography:

Alan Chou · Lillian Yu

Lydia Sha, Pastoral Staff