

FAIRFIELD COMPASS

A Newsletter by Fairfield Methodist Church

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Chinatown Blessing Day (CBD)

After taking a break for some years from the Blessing Project, the pastoral team and leadership have decided to embark on the journey of blessing Chinatown again.

The preparation for CBD began on 24 January. After the delivery of the goodies by various suppliers, the volunteers were divided into different groups to pack the blessing bag. Every blessing bag was packed with two Mandarin oranges, one box of Salonpas medical patch, one packet of rice vermicelli (mee sua) and one gospel tract. To facilitate an easy collection on the actual day, we arranged the blessing bags according to the groups. The preparation went smoothly

as everyone was cooperative and served with Christ-like attitude.

Everyone was very excited on the actual day of CBD. After our 67th anniversary service, the congregation were dismissed according to their pre-assigned groups. Together with Preaching Point, Mandarin and Cantonese services, we visited the residents staying in Block 4, 5, 333, 334, 335A and 335B. Most of the residents were surprised to see us and they were happy to receive our blessing bags. Some residents could even recognise the church members. It was a joy and fulfilment for those who have participated in CBD.



Michael Lee, Ministry Staff,

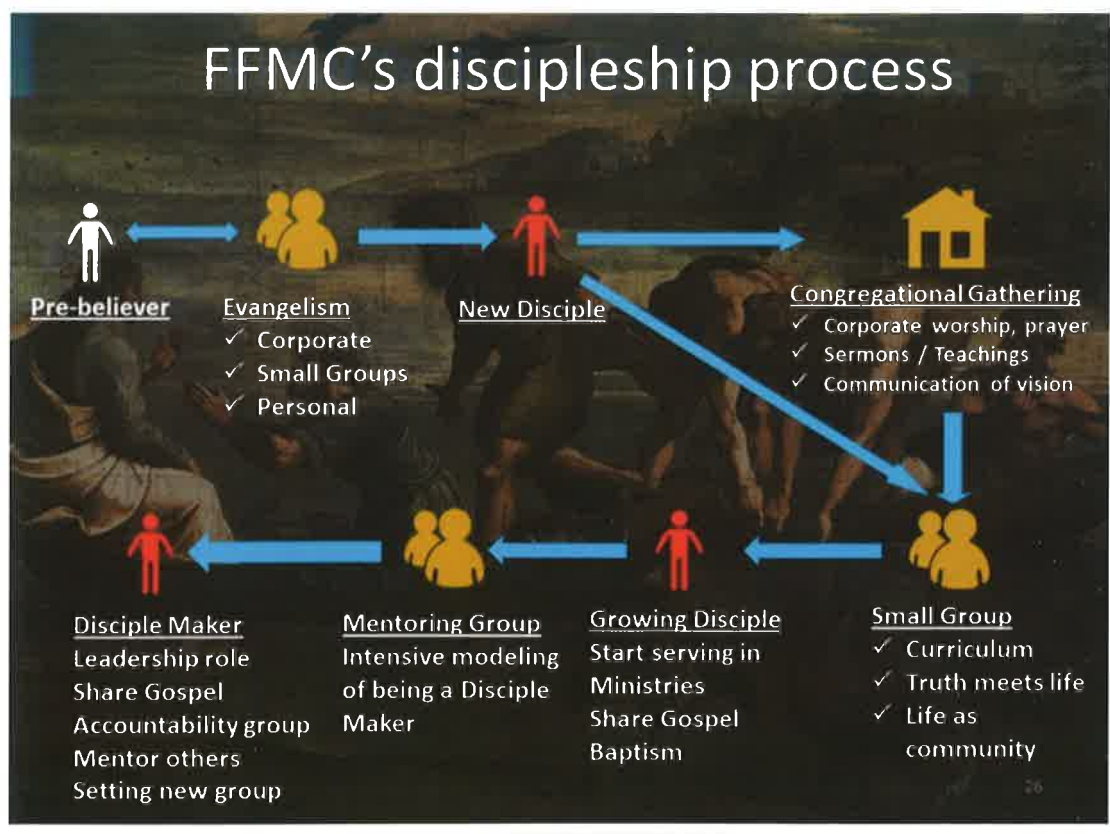
A Word from the Pastors' Office



In his book "A Certain Kind", Edmund Chan describes disciple making as *"the process of bringing people into right relationship with God, and developing them to full maturity in Christ through intentional growth strategies, so that they might multiply the entire process in others also"*. Indeed, following Jesus and helping others to follow Him is a process or a life-long journey of anyone who claims to be a Christian. During one of the sermons in our Disciple Making Sermon Series, we shared that Fairfield Methodist Church (FFMC) has adopted a disciple making process which is summarized as follows:

Briefly, the below diagram describes Fairfield's disciple making journey as:

1. All of us started out as a **pre-believer**. Our journey as a disciple begins when someone shares the Gospel with us. The sharing of the Gospel can occur when the church (individual or a group of persons goes to the pre-believer or when pre-believers seek out the church (events / Sunday worship). When a pre-believer commits his or her life to the Lord Jesus, he or she becomes a **new disciple**.
2. The **new disciple** then seeks to be a **growing disciple** through congregational gathering such as receiving



God's Word through sermons preached during worship services, participating in membership class and other mass based teachings. Currently, FFMC is working towards a more systematic Christian Education roadmap; where disciples can seek to grow further in their understanding and application of God's Word through foundational as well as more advanced course modules.

3. Very importantly, the **new disciple** should also seek to be a growing disciple in his or her relationship with God and with one another through participation in small groups. To date, FFMC has a total of 25 small groups. Potentially, these are communities where disciples share life with one another. This is also the platform where the truth from God's Word meets life.

4. The **growing disciple** should then be mentored and be involved in accountability groups to grow further as a **disciple maker**. This disciple maker would ideally receive God's call for him or her to be a small group leader to lead new or existing group, LCEC member and any other leadership positions in the ekklesia. The disciple maker would in turn share the Gospel and disciple others in the community of believers.

No matter where you are now in the discipleship process, we pray and hope that you would participate actively in FFMC's journey to be a disciple making church. As a Body of Christ, let us journey with one another "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," (Ephesians 4:13).

牧师的话

Edmund Chan 在他的书, "A Certain Kind" 中把塑造门徒形容为一个旅程: 门徒来到上帝的面前, 在基督里成长。借着学习与培训, 他们也能塑造其他的信徒成为在基督里成长的门徒。事实上, 基督徒都应把跟随耶稣和帮助他人跟随耶稣当成一个人生的旅程。我们曾在“讲道制作系列”分享, 花菲卫理教会 (FFMC) 已实行以下门徒培训过程:

总得来说, 以上图表的说明如下:

1. **非基督徒成为新的门徒** - 开始的时候, 我们都还未信主, 可是当有人向我们传福音时, 而我们也认罪并接受耶稣为个人救主时, 我们便成为新门徒。
2. **新的门徒学会不断成长** - 新的门徒通过参加教会的礼拜和证道学习并成长。现在, 花菲卫理教会正往一个更系统化的基督徒教育蓝图前进。这能使门徒在主里更积极地成长。

3. **新门徒常参与活跃于小组** - 当门徒加入小组, 神的道在群体中渐渐地改变门徒的生命。花菲卫理教会现在有25个小组, 而门徒们能在小组中分享彼此的成长经历。这也时门徒们领悟神话语的平台。
4. **培养门徒塑造其他门徒** - 经过系统化的培训和辅导, 门徒若听见神的呼召, 便可开始带领小组, 甚至成为教会的领袖。如此一来, 门徒们便可以神的真道为重要基础, 向更多信徒分享福音。

不论你现在处在哪个阶段, 让我们来一同祷告, 来参与塑造门徒的过程。教会是一个肢体, 让我们一同走完这个旅程 - 直等到我们众人在真道上同归于一, 认识神的儿子, 得以长大成人, 满有基督长成的身量。(以弗所书4:13)

Audrey Che worships in the Mandarin Service.

不見你，觸不到你，
 en though I can't see you, nor
 touch you,
 是我知，
 正在對我低語，
 now you are speaking softly to me.

2015新春布道會

2015年2月13日晚上在二楼圣堂举办了唱响在爱的天空里新春布道会，本次布道会有169人参加，其中7位新人接受耶稣为救主。我们邀请了台湾原住民诗班呈现精彩的表演，歌声美妙感人，唱出天父长阔高深的爱，现场台上台下多人流出感动的眼泪。



2015年4月5日 复活节布道会

参加本次布道会的有186人，其中6位新人接受耶稣为救主。另外3人接受了洗礼。



2015年6月21日 双亲节布道会

本次布道会共有184人参加，第一次来的新人14人，其中4人愿意接受耶稣为救主。



Three Evangelistic Events in 5 Months!

From February to June, the Mandarin Service had organised 3 evangelistic meetings in Chinese New Year, Easter and Parents' Day. All these events were well attended and 17 pre-believers accepted Christ.

A total of 169 participants attended the Chinese New Year Evangelistic Meeting which was held on the night of 13 February. A children tribal worship group from Taiwan performed at the Meeting; and several children shared their moving testimonies. Thank God, seven pre-believers accepted Christ.

On Easter Sunday, another evangelistic meeting was held. We had 186 participants and six persons accepted Christ. We also had three persons who were baptised that morning.

We organised a Parents' Day Evangelistic Meeting on 21 June and we had 184 participants. Out of the 14 newcomers, four of them accepted Christ.

Lydia Sha, Ministry Staff, Mandarin Service.

Small Group Leaders' Connect

Disciple making and your role as Small Group Leader

On 18 April, the Small Group Ministry (SGM) in partnership with the Disciple Making Team (DMT) organised a Small Group Leaders' Connect (SGLs' Connect). The SGLs' Connect aims to provide a platform for SGLs and Co-leaders (CoLs) to learn, dialogue and share experiences in their disciple-making journey. On that day, 46 leaders turned up for the event. Samuel Soh and team led us in a time of worship and Daniel Chiam did an icebreaker with the leaders.

Pastor Jason Phua opened the event with a presentation on "Disciple-Making and your role as a SGL". He spoke about what it means to be a disciple-making church and described FPMC's disciple-making process. He encouraged the SGLs that their roles in the disciple-making process is to be equipped for leadership, help SG members to connect truth with life, cultivate spiritual accountability and communicate the vision of discipleship and disciple making to the SG members.

The following session was led by Daniel Poon, who shared about the challenges of discipleship and disciple-making in today's context. He mentioned that in the context of Singapore, each of us face four challenges to discipleship: (1) fatigue (2) consumerism (3) narcissism (4) pragmatism. He then provided four "shifts" in our thinking about discipleship which might help us tackle these challenges: to shift from (1) spiritual exhortation to spiritual direction (2) programme-oriented to person-oriented (3) superficial conformity to theological content (4) ministry management to life management. Daniel concluded by sharing about the upcoming training package for SGLs, which takes into consideration the four "shifts" as discussed.

The event then came to a close with Pastor Jason's workshop on "How to prepare for a Small Group meeting". Having been a SGL and Zone Leader (ZL), Pastor Jason shared some useful tips such as the importance of praying specifically for discipleship moments and having a roster for SG members to assist in various segments of the meeting. There was also a hands-on practice on how to lead through a session of the Omega Series. Pastor Jason ended the session saying that being able to utilise discipling moments for life applications would be crucial for disciple-making in the context of Small Groups.

Post event feedback received from the SGLs and CoLs was generally positive. Many have found the sessions to be useful while some thought that more guided discussions would be good. For future Connects, SGLs and CoLs can look forward to the following topics:

- Conflict management
- Responding to a crisis such as bereavement
- Visiting someone in the hospital
- Inviting and welcoming new members
- People helper – how to provide first-line pastoral care and make referrals for members who need counseling.

Hope to see you there!

James How serves in the Small Group Ministry.

Personal Reflections of our first Cell Retreat

Our first cell retreat took place in Pulau Springs, Johor Bahru sometime last November. Although it was a short trip to a nearby place, I was glad that I took time off to spend time with my family and friends. The first day ended with dinner at Pulau Springs and a sharing on an article entitled "Marriage on the Edge of Eternity". Honestly, I had not prepared myself by reading the article before the sharing session, as I was busying myself with the children. But as the discussion proceeded, the last paragraph of the article caught my attention:

"Picture a nice house with a white picket fence and your happy family lounging inside. Now imagine a full-scale war unfolding just a few blocks away. Your friends and neighbours are fighting for their lives while you are remodelling your kitchen and hanging your new big screen TV. You have contractors installing better windows so you can tune out all of the noise".

"Uh...oh...", I thought to myself guiltily, have I been occupying myself with kids at the expense of the time I should have spent doing my spiritual reflection? Throughout the retreat, I realised, on and off after my children came along, that I have had to struggle with just how tightly I should hold on to my children. As a working mum, I don't spend enough time with my children. This may have resulted in an overwhelming need to be always there for them at every available opportunity. However, too much of a good thing can become bad. I read about how married couples become estranged because the mother is over-involved with the children. I read about how children never learn to cut the strings to their mother's apron because of the mother's over-protectiveness. The discussion that night also reminded me that you shouldn't love your children, or your family for that matter, more than you love God.

My love for my children is instinctive. That was how God made man. To love God, however, is a personal choice. A passage which I recently read from "The meaning of marriage" by Timothy Keller resonated with me in this aspect. It states that to love a person is to make a choice to do so, and upon making that decision, to act as if you do love him. Before you know it, you will realise that you really do love the person. Although this passage relates to marital relationship between husband and wife, it mirrors my relationship

with God. I am not sure whether I have achieved the point where I love God more than I love

my family, but I am trying to because I know that my loving God first is what will protect my family and children, and this spans beyond my lifetime on earth. This comes with the realisation that I, as a mother, am powerless against many forces in life which may rob me of my children. I can only pray that God's will be done in my family, because His will is always the best for us.

The cell also had great fun at Lego Land and precious were the numerous little pockets of sharing sessions in between our meals, swimming and shopping activities. Although the weather was not perfect, the company certainly was! Great times like these remind me of God's provision for those who seek after Him. Mark and myself did not continue with our previous cell group after Julian came along as the timing of the cell group had coincided with Julian's nap time. (A tired baby is an angry baby and we had not wanted Julian's crying to disrupt the bible studies of the other members.) This cell group is, in my mind, no doubt one of the best things that happened to my family. I look forward to many future cell retreats and to looking to grow old with its members.

Our cell is made up of parents with young children and we seek to grow in maturity together and in so doing hope to be a model and disciple for our children. We meet every Saturday morning at each other's homes and various venues (i.e. parks, malls) to study the bible and have time for sharing, accountability and prayer. Every last Saturday of the month, we go and distribute bread in Chinatown as part of the activities of Yong-En Care Centre. We are still learning in our journey together, and in church, to grow as disciples and become disciple-makers.

We welcome other families to join us in our journey.

Mrs Jaime Zhou serves in the Church Choir.



Creatif Hands

Not too long ago, when the church celebrated Mother's Day, all mothers, grandmothers in fact all women above the age of 21 received a pretty travel tissue case from Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). Some of you may wonder where they bought these from. Well, from Creatif Hands of course.

So what's Creatif Hands (CH)?

Sometime last year, a few ladies from Glowing Years Ministry (GYM) came together to learn how to sew patchwork tissue box holders from a volunteer at Yong-en Care Centre. This sparked off an interest in craft work and this is how Creatif Hands, a GYM interest group, was formed.

Creatif Hands hope to gather seniors, retirees and the non-working who enjoy craftwork to come together to fellowship and bond while doing something creative and fun. We also hope to use this platform to reach out to non-believing friends and those in the community. For example, Creatif Hands collaborated recently with

Yong-en to teach the single mums to make tissue casing. It was heartening to see their enthusiasm, and especially gratifying when these mums gained confidence to sew them as Mother's Day gifts for the Dialect Ministry in Fairfield. We are glad for the chance to impart a useful and income-generating skill.

Our Meeting Details are as follows:

Date: Every Friday from 11am to 4pm in Room 102.

The session begins with worship, praise and prayers. The craft session follows and there's a break for bonding over lunch.

The completed craft work would be sold and the money donated to our Church Building Fund.

All are welcome to join us. No sewing experience necessary.

Mrs Cindy Sin serves in the Glowing Years Ministry.

Boat Cruise on Singapore River

Forty adults and 4 young children turned up at the jetty near Liang Court in River Valley Road at 5pm on 11 April 2015. This event was organised by the Women's Society of Christian Service in Fairfield. Excitement was in the air. Some ladies came with their spouses, some came with their adult children and young grandchildren in the tow. All were anticipating an enjoyable boat ride down Singapore River, to take in the sights of our modern city skyline.

Following the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our founding father of Singapore, many wanted to take in the lovely skyline, the amazing transformation of Singapore from a humble trading port into a bustling financial hub with tall impressive buildings and world-class iconic structures. The weather was just perfect – it was dry, bright and cool as the sun cast her rays before sunset. Only 2 hours earlier the clouds had threatened to pour!

It was indeed an enjoyable ride in the spacious boat, going past dining pubs at Clarke Quay, people waving from modern shopping mall the Central, the sturdy colonial bridges, the stately old Parliament building, the beautiful Fullerton Hotel, into the Marina Bay ringed by the spanking tall office blocks, imposing Marina Bay Sands hotel, the distinctive open hand of Singapore Art Museum, the Helix, the Marina Barrage and the unique iconic roof of Esplanade.

We completed the cruise outing with a hearty tuck-in of Italian fare and warm fellowship among friends. We gave grateful thanks to our LORD for a memorable outing spent together.



Mrs Yap Soon Eng, President, Women's Society of Christian Service.



Surprised by Grace

On 7 June this year, Fairfield Preaching Point celebrated its 12th anniversary in a joyous service at Hall 4 of the Cathay Cineplex at Causeway Point, Woodlands. Inaugurated in 2003 with the full support of the leadership, the Preaching Point is an outreach project of Fairfield Methodist Church, whose mission is to establish a Methodist presence in the north.

This anniversary service was a celebration of thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to the small congregation of about 35 members who received His call to be a witness to His saving grace in Woodlands more than a decade ago.

In these past 12 years we have been, time and again, surprised by His grace!

Through the years, the Lord has brought many new believers to the Preaching Point, especially young people in and around the Woodlands estate. Many of these youths came from troubled families. It is truly amazing to see how their lives have been transformed as they participate in the life and ministry of the Preaching Point.

We are also amazed to see how our children have grown and matured in the Lord through the years. Although many of them were very young when they came to Woodlands with their parents, they are now actively serving in the different ministries of the Preaching Point, some of them even taking up leadership roles.

Although we are a small congregation of about 80 worshippers, we are committed to the mission of the Preaching Point. This is evident in the generosity of the congregation in financially supporting the mission. Although the rental of the halls at Cathay is high, by God's grace we have been well able to cover all the expenses with our pledges and offerings.

The commitment of the congregation is also evident in its high level of participation in all the ministries and events of the Preaching Point. For example, about 60 percent of our congregation members are either in a Bible study group or small group.

The grace of God is seen in the faithfulness of the members of the Steering Committee - most have been serving tirelessly since the inception of the Preaching Point. For obvious reasons, leadership renewal in a small congregation like ours is always challenging. But we praise God that in the last few years, some young people were ready to take up leadership responsibility and are now serving on the Steering Committee.

Although we have seen the marvellous hand of God at work in the lives of many members, the Preaching Point continues to face enormous challenges. The recent URA regulations have made securing a place that we can call our own very difficult. The departure of Rev Leslie Lim and that fact that it is very unlikely that Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) is able to send another pastor to replace him means that we will once again be without a pastor to oversee and guide our work.

But despite these challenges, we will continue to be true to the calling we received 12 years ago, and we will continue to serve the Lord faithfully in Woodlands. We do this with the assurance that God has a purpose for the Preaching Point, and that He will continue to guide us as a congregation if we remain faithful.

We believe that His grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9). And we count ourselves truly privileged to be able to participate in His mission in Woodlands.

Soli Deo gloria!

Lee Kai Meng, Steering Committee Member, Fairfield Preaching Point.

Apostle Paul's Journey – Tu

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We thank God for His protection and grace that saw the team of 30 tracing the footsteps of the Apostle Paul through Turkey and Greece from 7 to 20 June 2015. The 14-day pilgrimage not only taught us first-hand about the places where the gospel of Jesus Christ was first preached, the struggles that

My wife and I had planned to visit my brother-in-law in the USA but after learning about this Turkey-Greece tour led by Rev Lilian Ang, we were attracted by the itinerary that included the visit of the 7 churches in the book of Revelation and also other churches mentioned in the book of Acts. We literally walked through where Apostle Paul preached during his missionary journeys and we can feel that it is not an easy task for Paul given the challenging weather conditions and the danger of attack by the wild life - It is really about having faith and trust in God's leading. Although all seven churches have been destroyed and Turkey is now a Muslim country (open to Christianity) blessed with rich natural resources, we trust God will turn the people back to Him.

- Yap Eng Khong, 2.00pm Cantonese service,
Committee Member of Cantonese Ministry

I really felt for Paul on all his traveling when I see the distances we covered. He had to walk long distances up and down the mountains. The 150 steps up Varlaam monastery nearly took my knees off my legs. For church members, thank you we could have a closer bond and those from other churches, I thank God He brought us together in His love. I nearly cancelled my trip if not for His intervention. He cured me. I am blessed because I went.

- Annie Wee, 10.30am English service

The high point for me was being in the hot air balloon looking at the vast expanse of sky, the kaleidoscope of colours of the sunrise and equally vast but just as beautiful, the terrain underneath the hot air balloon. Our God is truly an amazing Creator who holds the vast expanse of time and eternity in His infinitely wise control. He was with the Christians of the early centuries and He has our lives in his sight today. I must learn to take hardship & be prepared to make sacrifices and have the courage to get out of my comfort zone when I serve Him, just as Paul and the early Christians did in putting up with persecution & even death under the Roman rule.

- Lee Siew Lian, 8.30am English service,
Usher Ministry

Our almighty God is the same yesterday, today & tomorrow.

- Katherine Kang, 10.30am English service,
GYM and WSCS Ministry

God's love is magnanimous. Nothing can be compared to His love for us.

- Neo See Eng, 8.30am English service

What we tolerate in this generation, the next generation embraces. Speak the truth in love.

- Eugene Neo, son of Neo See Eng

God is really awesome not only in nature, but also in His involvement in the lives of men throughout history.

- Penelope Hui, 8.30am English service

The high point was the challenge to my faith in Jesus - I was informed that my mother suffered a heart attack and had lung infection. I called home the next day just when she was going through a second heart attack. This made it really difficult for me. The struggles I went through would be small compared with what Paul faced. Even if I was with my mother in Singapore, I could not do anything - All depended on Him. So I turned to my cell members and some of the trippers who knew about the news to provide the prayer shield for my mother. I realised this was precisely what the early Christians did; to provide the prayer shield as Paul did the work in the frontline. God uses all His willing people for His Kingdom work. The 1st century Christians must have prayed so much that Paul and the other apostles could do so much for the Lord. I learned that obedience and heeding the Holy Spirit will accomplish all that God wants to do in and through me. To be a fruitful tree, I need to abide in Jesus and walk closely with the Holy Spirit. The Turkish guide said his history professor made them write their notes in pencil only because historical facts could change whenever more archaeological information was found. I was reminded that facts can change, but God's truth never changes. Halleluia!

- Sophia Chia, 10.30am English service

Our Lord gave us lovely weather, three rainbows and wonderful fellowship on the trip.

- Serene Chan, 10.30am English service,
WSCS Ministry

I needed a break from work and it would be more meaningful for it to be a biblical tour. I almost didn't make it because a 2-week leave from



Climbing Colossae Tel – The book of Colossians, addressed to the church there, was believed to have been written by Paul from prison in Rome.



Rev Lilian Ang serving Holy Communion to the trippers at Pisidian Antioch where Paul's first recorded sermon was preached. (Acts 13:13-52)

Turkey & Greece Biblical Tour

the early Church faced and the tremendous courage of the first Christians as well as the religious underpinnings of later Reformation, more importantly, many found rich communion in this journey of faith and took away precious lessons that the Lord had for each.



Corinth Archaeological Site - Paul visited Corinth in the 50s AD and later wrote two letters to the Christian Community there. (1 and 2 Corinthians)

work was beyond imagination. But with God, nothing is impossible! We travelled by coach and ferry crossing over from Turkey to Greece while Paul had to walk for miles across the two countries. Such perseverance in Paul! Indeed, God is faithful and we only need to trust and obey. He is timely in His provision and care – the sunshine & rain, the assurance & comfort through songs played in coach ride, free wifi on nights I needed to work and lots more.

- Chang Mui Yin, 10.30am English service

At Laodicea, I was touched by what was said (Rev 3:15-16). I do not want to be a lukewarm Christian. I asked God for forgiveness in areas I have failed Him. May He grant me strength and perseverance to be his obedient and faithful child - diligent in studying His Word and willing to be used by Him for His Kingdom work.

- Tan Mee Nguek, 8.30am English service, Usher Ministry

The one thing that caught my attention was when our Greek guide mentioned that the older an olive tree is, the better fruit it yields. I was reminded this morning again when I was reading Psalm 52, Verse 8a which reads, "but I am like a green olive tree in the house of God." We have seen the ruins of the seven churches in Turkey and the rest in Greece which the apostle Paul had stepped foot on. Being there and learning the cultures and practices helped me realise why and how Paul taught the things of God in his epistles. I pray that I and the rest of us will strive to be like the green olive tree in the house of God; that as we age, we will be stronger in our faith and produce the fruits that God would be pleased and not let our faith be left to ruins. Our lives have its ups and downs, but with God's help and each other's encouragement, we can prevail and be like the green olive tree.

- Yu Heng Kong, 10.30am English service, Church Administrator

More than 20 years ago, I started praying for Turkey, and finally this year came the opportunity to visit the land where Paul and the other apostles and disciples walked, lived, spread the Gospel and planted churches. As we travelled from city to city

and from ruin to ruin, many conflicting thoughts swirled through my mind. The words of the Lord that he will dwell in each believer, not in basilicas or churches came to mind. As we walked among those ruins and remains of former glory, we could see the ruins of those buildings that were destroyed by fire, toppled and crumbled by earthquakes, invaded and plundered, their interiors destroyed by the weather, the tapestries eaten by worms - Past glories. Rightly did the Lord of Heaven, the "Hagia Sophia" (Holy Wisdom) say, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me...?" (Isa 66:1) He said to generations of believers through Paul, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?" (1 Cor 6:19) In his Great Wisdom, our Lord chose to live in each of His children, so that His church/temple is not limited by space nor structures. Buildings testify to men's arrogance, not to God's grandeur and might. He had used wars and natural disasters to destroy those that vaunt man's power. God wants to dwell in the hearts of men and women who love

Him. They are "shrines" to Him. I pray for myself and my friends that our bodies will truly be His temple.

- Sister K, 10.30am English service

God is faithful. Whilst many past Christian sites no longer exist, the gospel has spread beyond these sites.

- Joseph Tang, 8.30am English service

I wanted to trace Paul's missionary journeys after our Israel trip in 2007 where we followed Jesus' footsteps. Having Holy Communion at the site of Basilica of St Paul in Pisidian, Antioch where Paul preached in a synagogue now buried underneath this Basilica was a meaningful experience for me. Indeed, God loves us so much that He called Paul and the disciples to bring the Good News to all people (the Gentiles). As His child, I just need to learn to trust and obey Him.

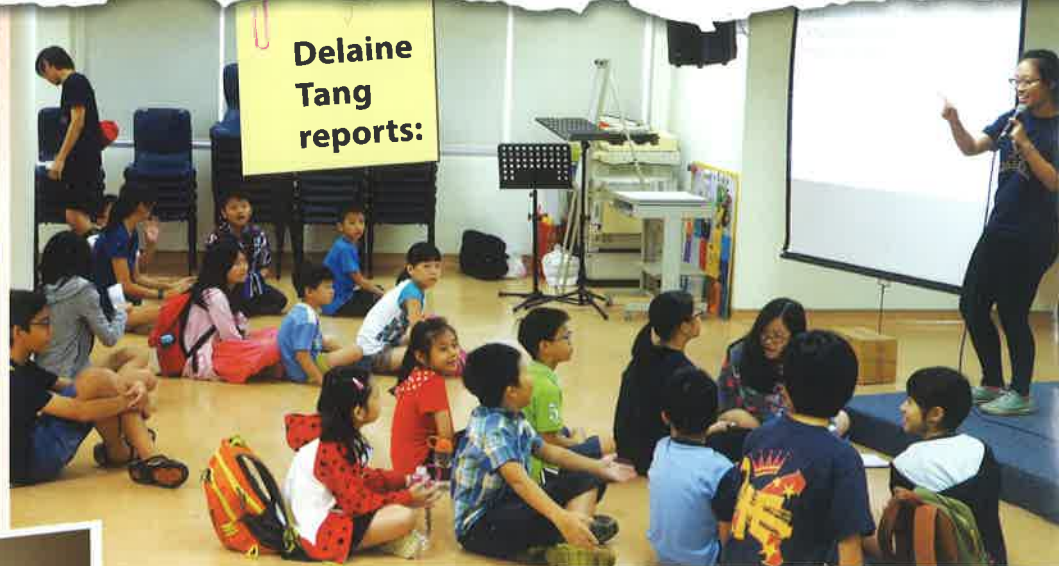
- Lillian Yu, 10.30am English service, Family Life and WSCS Ministry

Compiled by **Rev Lilian Ang** and **Mrs Shermaine Tang**, President, Yong-en Care Centre.



St John's Church in Sardis – The fifth of the seven churches of Revelation (Rev 3:1-6) described as being "dead". It appeared to be alive – had "a reputation of being alive" – looked spiritually vibrant on the outside – but was spiritually lifeless. (Matt 23:27)

Youth Ministry March Camp



During the March holidays, the Youth Ministry embarked on our very own version of the Chinatown Blessing Project. It was the very first time our youths led a community project together. Our Chinatown Blessing Project involved a games day for both the young and senior beneficiaries of the Yong-En Care Centre.

As this was a youth-led program, we spent a whole day preparing the games and testing out the stations to ensure that the Yong-En Care Centre beneficiaries will have a truly enjoyable time. In order to get the youths to realise the importance of service, they had a night talk session where they uncovered the value of service to God. They realised that serving others went beyond obtaining service "points" but rather understanding the importance of loving God and loving others through service. With that in mind, they were all set and ready for a day of service.

Knowing that many of the seniors spoke only in Cantonese, some of our youths were taught basic conversational Cantonese phrases. During the seniors' programme, they were quick to practise the Cantonese phrases they had learnt, bringing a smile to the faces of the Yong-En seniors. The youths were eager to guide the seniors in a time of mass exercise, bingo and some station games.

At the same time, another group of youths were leading the children's programme. Initially, the number of children who turned up was fewer than expected. However, rather than feeling disappointed, the youths were happy to chat and play games with the few who had arrived on time. Thankfully, our programme managed to run smoothly with a good number of children turning up. Some of our youngest youths (Primary 6's) had to take on roles as group leaders for the children's program. Despite being only a few years older, they gave encouragement and displayed love for their younger group members throughout the games.

After a long day at work, the youths were rewarded with a home-cooked dinner provided by the parents. They ended off the night with a session of prayer and had truly enjoyed themselves at the very first youth service camp. Once again, we would like to thank all those who had provided support to the youth ministry.



Trackers 2015

Rinnah
Chua
reports:

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." - Luke 9:23

Trackers is a 3-month discipleship programme for youths in transition and it exposes them to the richness of the Christian faith.

My journey through Trackers was one that provided me with new insights and experiences. And best of all, it brought me closer to God.

Choosing to do something meaningful in my gap year, I decided that some action had to be taken regarding my walk with God. I went into Trackers wanting to realign myself with God - to grow closer with Him and to set myself on the right path before heading off to university.

Since none of my friends wanted to join me, it took some courage for me to make the decision to join knowing that I would be alone and would have to make new friends. I thought so many times about pulling out, but God knew my fears, and on the first day of Trackers, surprised me with old friends, and provided new people with whom I could relate with.

Biblical Training Phase

The first phase of Trackers consisted of a six-week lecture session. Truthmin (the youth ministry arm of TRAC) did a good job of inviting knowledgeable and engaging speakers. I did not usually have the opportunity to attend talks and workshops, so I benefitted from the many lectures. We were also introduced to leading daily morning corporate devotions, worship, and personal devotions.

Overseas Mission Phase

The Trackers youths were split into mission teams on the last day of boot camp, and I was assigned Nepal as my mission trip destination. Ideas for fundraising for our trip were brainstormed, and we came up with several suggestions. Again, God provided, and we managed to raise more than what we had planned for.

In Nepal we met up with a MMS missionary, Gopal Sebastian, and his family, who introduced us to the need for local pastors. Later, while in the hilly rural village of Tanahu, we were given the chance to hand out gospel tracts and share the gospel with the Nepalese. I had never done any form of evangelism before and found the proposition really intimidating, but I asked God to use me as a vessel and to grant me boldness, wisdom, and joy.

The experience was one that I found incredible. As we went around sharing about Christ, I felt uncontainable joy and never seemed to tire. Words appeared out of nowhere as I shared about Christ through a translator, and I was convinced by what I was sharing.

That day, God showed me that if we are willing to be vessels for Him, He is more than able to use us in ways we would never imagine, and that we should never doubt His power.

Creative Arts Phase

The last phase of Trackers saw the entire batch coming together and putting up a musical - "Found!" in the short span of 2 weeks. We got to exercise our creative arts talents, and I was given the opportunity to sing, act, and play bass in the band. For me, this was the most stressful time at Trackers because of all the constant rushing to different practices.

Despite many skeptics who did not think we would be able to produce a full scale musical in just 2 weeks, we got to see God's hand in the midst of our preparations and subsequent production. Over the 2 shows, we managed to receive a number of salvations.

Over the past 3 months in Trackers, I have learnt to never limit God, how to discern His will, and how to listen out for Him. I also got to meet people who I am certain will help me in strengthening my walk with God, and I have borne witness to the many amazing things He has done.

Trackers has helped me to find my identity in Christ, and it has been a continuous reminder to remember to rely on God, and to trust in Him.

To everyone who has supported me throughout the 3 months - a big thank you!

Ms Beryl Ng,

Executive Director of Yong-en Care Centre (YCC)



Q. As the new Executive Director, what are your dreams/goals for YCC?

It is a privilege it for me to be given the opportunity to lead YCC – a platform that Fairfield Methodist Church initiated 19 years ago. It takes no ordinary church to have the heart and tenacity to support such a challenging and meaningful work of helping the needy and under-privilege in Chinatown and beyond. I salute the present and past teams and the volunteers who serve God by touching lives. It's very much in line with the bible teachings in Matthew 25:34-36.

My dream for YCC is for us to remain a platform that reminds everyone of God's grace, goodness and love. There are other entities that offer similar services but I pray that by God's grace, may our difference be that His presence is at the centre of all that we do. May people who come our way - be they client, volunteers, or even staff – be so blessed and touched by God's amazing love. Only then can there be a true impact on lives and the community.

Q. Do you see any challenges ahead? If so, what are the possible solutions?

For what I have mentioned to take place - impacting lives and the community - plus the magnitude of our work (which is people-centred), we need volunteers. These are people who can actually assist us in our work. We also need those who are willing to be prayer warriors for us. Ours is tough work requiring a heart of compassion and much grace to work with the needy. There are times where I see a gap between YCC meeting the immediate needs of families and individuals and the absence when it comes to their spiritual needs. Thankfully, we have brothers and sisters from Fairfield and even other churches who have the willingness to take time to befriend and engage our beneficiaries, to be that much needed bridge for their spiritual needs. I hope more will be challenged to commit to this. One does not need a major commitment, it can be as simple as volunteering to befriend or assist our staff once a quarter as a start? Or volunteering to pray

for us once a month? Connecting us to the right partners? We have a few angel volunteers who would come in at least once a week to avail themselves to whatever task there is at hand. We thank God for them and for every single volunteer who has come our way. No help is too small.

Q. Is there any specific area which you hope to major in YCC?

As I came from the corporate world, I hope to introduce some corporate norms which may be of help to YCC. My passion is in leadership development, partnerships and operational efficiencies. My wish is to be of some positive influence in those areas.

Q. Tell us something about yourself and your family

I was in Thomson Reuters for over 14 years, with the last 7 years in leadership roles such as regional management, leading TR Beijing operational site comprising 350 employees (based out of Beijing 2009-2010). I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the corporate world. However, in 2011, I stumbled into the non-profit sector and have been exploring ways to incorporate my skills in a non-profit/charity setting since then.

What gives me pleasure? Spending quality time with family and friends, finding new yummy food places to try out, swimming, long walks, nature, travel and life-long learning. My latest pursuits: learning to play the guitar and painting.

Q. If you will leave YCC tomorrow, what would you like to be remembered for?

Tough one especially since I have barely started! I hope that when I leave, I would be remembered as someone who was value-added and brought about improvements to the organisation.

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

- Matthew 25:35-36

Serving the community

Yong-en Care Centre demonstrates God's love by serving the needy in Chinatown and beyond. Our beneficiaries comprises of low income families and lonely elderly in one room rental flats. We have befriending programmes, monthly food ration distribution, children/youth programmes, support groups, dementia day care services, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities

Individuals and cell groups are welcome to join us to be the bridge to the community.

Upcoming events

Charity Golf Tournament – August 25
Caregiver Talk (Dementia) – June 26, July 24, August 28
Dementia Art Exhibition – September/Q4

Call us at 6225 1002 or email mail@yong-en.org.sg
Visit us @: www.yong-en.org.sg



Elderly Outreach Ministry In Chinatown - Partnership with River of Love

Two years ago, a group of seminary students went to Chinatown praying and searching for lost souls. God opened a house for them to start a fellowship and praying in Block 5, Banda Street.

As they reached out to the units of Block 5, more and more elderly came to join their fellowship until the house became packed with people. The leader of the seminary students then approached Yong-en Care Centre to look for a bigger venue to run their fellowship services. With Yong-en Care Centre's connection, the Cantonese Ministry of Fairfield began to partner them to reach out to more elderly who were living in or around Chinatown.

River of Love ministry gives out one hundred free lunch boxes every Thursday afternoon at the coffee shop of Block 5. The lunch boxes are sponsored by Yong-en Care Centre. At 2pm, the seminary students will lead the participants to worship and praise followed by some sharing at Fairfield. There are around 60 elderly people who have come to join the fellowship each Thursday.

As the seminary students are still studying their theology degree and have no experience in sharing Gospel and leading the participants to know and accept Jesus Christ, Chris Sham, our Cantonese Ministry pastoral staff, regularly meets, guides and plans the programs with the students in every three months. Some committee members from our Cantonese ministry also

assist this program on each Thursday. The purpose of joining this program is to build a rapport and bridge of encouraging the participants to attend our Cantonese Sunday service.

Altar calls are made whenever a preacher comes to lead the group. Nine elderly accepted Jesus Christ and were baptized at our Cantonese worship service on Christmas 2014 and Easter 2015.

To encourage the believers to develop a regular worship habit, some Cantonese committee members assist to escort the elderly from Block 5 to Fairfield for every Sunday worship service, sit together with them at the service and introduce them to attend our Bible study after the worship service.

Participants of the River of Love are invited to every Evangelical rally of the Cantonese service, and most of them do attend.

We praise God who sends his servants to come and partner with us! We thank God for another open door in Chinatown and Fairfield. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

May our Cantonese Ministry and River of Love be the channel of God to reach more lives that are searching for FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. Amen.



Chris Sham, Ministry Staff, Cantonese Service

Baptisms

BAPTISMS

INFANT/CHILD BAPTISM – English Service

8 March 2015

1. Ms Elize Lum Lai Yuet d/o Mr & Mrs Lum Tuck Cheung Elvin

YOUTH/ADULT BAPTISM – English Service

8 March 2015

1. Mr Yeong Wai Sing

Cantonese Service

5 April 2015

1. Mr Wong Keng Chong

Mandarin Service

22 February 2015

1. Mdm Tan Kim Hong

5 April 2015

1. Mdm Yang Zhuo Min
3. Ms Wang Yin
3. Ms Yu Yan Chun




Weddings



(Solemnisation
By
Rev Noel Goh)

**Mr Lim Dewei Amos
& Ms Breanna Chan Qi-Min
7 March 2015**



**Mr Teh Wei Ming John
& Ms Ye Wanting
30 May 2015**

(Solemnisation
By
Rev Lee Yam Kai)

Members Who Left

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS

English Service

17 March 2015

1. Ms Zoe Boon Suan Loy St George's Church

18 May 2015

1. Mr Ong Heng Heng Adam Road Presbyterian Church
2. Mrs Ong-Yuen Coral Adam Road Presbyterian Church
3. Mdm Yip Wai Leng Renewal Christian Church

WITHDRAWAL

English Service

25 May 2015

1. Mr Ng Kim Ho
2. Ms Adeline Tan Tah Cheng





OUR CONGRATULATIONS to:

**Mr & Mrs Daryl Choong Shangwei
(Adelene Chan Shi-Min) on the
arrival of their baby girl, Victoria
Choong Enying on 16 February 2015.**

Alpha Course Season Eleven



Alpha Course Season 11 kicked off with an Introductory Dinner on Friday 6 March 2015 with 16 participants - 7 men and 9 women. The facilitators for the men's group were Richard Yap, Victor Ho and Albert Lim. Yap-Pang Soon Eng and Ivy Choy facilitated the women's group. A typical Alpha programme: dinner at 7pm, ice-breaker and singspiration at 7.50pm followed by watching the Alpha video and group discussion.

Highlight of the Alpha Course was the Holy Spirit Weekend and it was held on 1 May. In that event, three participants - Ken Lee, Chris Mah and Raymond Fong, prayed to receive Christ and participated in their first Holy Communion. At the last session of Alpha Course Season 11 held on 5 June, Nancy Teo prayed to receive Christ as her personal Saviour and Lord.

We thank God for strength to run this Course and we rejoice with all the participants at the Alpha Graduation held on 12 June. All Glory to God!

Richard Yap, Chairman, Witness and Evangelism

Coming Up Next:

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (AUGUST – DECEMBER 2015)

23 August 2015

Family Life - Parenting Talk

25 August 2015

YCC Charity Golf

29 August 2015

Fairfield Maturity Class 301

5, 12 & 19 September 2015

Marriage Preparation Course

27 September 2015

FFMC Connect

Cantonese Service 29th Anniversary

28 September 2015

Last Local Conference

16-19 November 2015

TRAC 40th Annual Conference

22 November 2015

Infant/Child and Adult Baptism

25 December 2015

Christmas Day Service

26-29 December 2015

Combined Youth Camp

31 December 2015

Year End Thanksgiving Dinner

Watchnight Service

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

Death of Members

English Service

Mr Mah Pow Cheng

Date Deceased

27 February 2015

Cantonese Service

Mdm Wong Chui Peng

22 February 2015

Mdm Chew Lin

14 March 2015

Marriage as Cleansing Couples' Talk



On 23 May 2015, 33 couples attended a Talk cum High Tea organised by Family Life Ministry from 2pm to 5pm at Fairfield Methodist Church.

The invited speakers were Pastor Jason Phua and his wife, Belinda. The topic was 'Marriage as Cleansing.' Pastor Jason and

Belinda took turns to address the men's group and women's group.

After the talk and lively sharing among the participants, couples were treated to a sumptuous high tea as well as a special door gift – a nicely mounted photo of themselves.



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Lydia Sha • Edwina Lim

Photography:

Alan Chou • Lillian Yu

Mrs Lillian Yu serves in the Family Life Ministry.

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