

C⁺MPASS



A Newsletter by Fairfield Methodist Church

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Becoming A Disciplemaking Church

Disciplemaking in Fairfield

The pastors and leaders of Fairfield Methodist Church believe that when we take the truth found in the Bible seriously in our personal lives as well as our local church, we will experience joy and blessing from the Lord. Because we want to be obedient in this way, the LCEC has gone through in-depth discussions as to what Scripture teaches about what it means to be a Christian and what our church is supposed to be and do. At our end-of-year retreat in 2011 we expressed together that our vision is that Fairfield be a disciplemaking church.

This vision is based on Matthew 28:18-20: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing 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."* This last command of Jesus is the "Great Commission", and there are two parts to it. Baptism involves a one-time public profession of faith in and loyalty to Christ. Teaching, however, is a lifelong process. We can see here that disciplemaking is more than making converts. Jesus commands us to make disciples who will obey Him in every way. In FPMC, our mission is that, through the disciplemaking process, we make mature disciples of Christ who:

OUR VISION

To be a disciplemaking church

OUR MISSION

That every member be committed to magnify God, multiply disciples and minister to all peoples in Singapore and beyond.

A. Magnify God (have a close personal walk with God)

- grow in knowledge of God's Word and applies it rightly to life situations
- worship God sincerely and whole-heartedly
- yield to the lordship of Christ, demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit and live by faith in God's provision and goodness
- have a healthy prayer life

B. Multiply disciples (take an active part in the disciplemaking process)

- have learned to effectively share the Gospel
- have discovered, developed and uses his or her spiritual gift(s)
- minister willingly to other believers
- faithfully contribute to FPMC by his or her prayers, presence, gifts and service.

C. Minister to all peoples (look out for the good of those in and out of the church)

- are a positive influence on society as light and salt to a lost and broken world
- are concerned for the spiritual and physical welfare of his or her family



A Word from the Pastor-in-charge

– Rev Lilian Ang

Small Groups in John Wesley's days

God has given us discipleship tools, known as "means of grace" in the Wesleyan tradition. These include worship, prayer, bible reading and study, fasting and Christian conferencing (confering together about matters of faith and spiritual growth).

To provide regular support for the early Methodists, John Wesley organized small groups called "classes," through which members "watched over one another in love," helping each other learn the craft of discipleship. Each small group of about 12 persons met weekly for mutual accountability, bible study and prayer. Each person reported on his or her spiritual progress, or on particular needs or problems, and received the support and prayers of the others.

As far as John Wesley was concerned, mutual accountability was an essential part of Christian discipleship. Such class meetings became a cornerstone of the early Methodist revival. Those classes were not just "feel good, fellowship and feasting" without discipline, on a deeper level, they were the discipleship "bands," where individuals met for more rigorous confession and mutual exhortation.

Small Groups in Fairfield's history

Small groups in Fairfield have progressed over the years. In the mid 1970s, many bible study groups were started with the purpose of nurturing converts. These groups were initiated by the Committee of Membership and Evangelism ("COME") which many of our older members may fondly remember. In 1986, the first Care-Group was started under the Membership Committee. This was a different form of "discipleship" group where members met in the homes for worship and studying of God's Word beside reaching out to the neighborhood. The Small Group Ministry took off in 1990 after the LCEC decided to make the goal of discipling through the small groups in 1988. Undoubtedly, each small

group has served its function and many lives edified over the years.

Disciplemaking In Small Groups

What would our small groups be like as we celebrate our 65th anniversary in 2013 and in the years to come? How are we growing towards "Following Christ, Making Disciples"?

Under the Methodist Book Of Discipline (2009 Edition, Para 112), participation in disciplined groups is an expected part of personal mission involvement. As put forth by Jeffrey Arnold in his book, "The Big Book on Small Groups", the question is not whether we have small groups in the church, but whether small groups in the church are discipling in nature. Small groups can make a BIG difference by encouraging individual growth, strengthening the church, and involving the community!

Do we have a small group ministry that sees someone as having a "standing in grace," where he or she is not condemned, even in failure? Take a look at discipling in your life and in your small group – whether to disciple or to be disciplined – and ask yourself if it could have more of a role. In whatever small group setting that we are in how beautiful it would be if everyone could experience what Paul said of his ministry with others, and then pass that on to others as well. *For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.* (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

Our LCEC chairman, Dr Ho King Hee, has highlighted some of the characteristics of small groups we hope to see in Fairfield. These were agreed on at the October 2011 retreat. We envision Fairfield's small groups helping their members experience spiritual transformation into the image of Christ; growing in authentic relationships and well-balanced group shepherding. Come, join us in this spiritual endeavor!

主任牧师的话

— 洪秀琪牧师

约翰·卫斯理时期的小组聚会

上帝给了我们当门徒的工具，那就是在卫斯理传统中被称为“恩典途径”的工具，当中包括敬拜赞美、祷告、读经和查经、禁食和基督教的会议（聚在一起商量有关信仰和属灵成长的事宜）。

为了给早期卫理公会提供长期的支持，约翰·卫斯理组织了“小组”。这些小组的会员相互关爱对方，并且互相帮助对方练习有关门徒培训的技术；每组大概有12位组员，而他们每周都会见面，一起查经和祷告。每位组员都会在小组聚会时分享个人的灵命成长或是自身在各方面所需的帮助，而组员们也会互相鼓励并为彼此祷告。

约翰·卫斯理认为“相互负责”是作为门徒的重要部分。小组聚会因此成为了早期卫理公会复兴的基石。小组聚会并不只是一种无纪律、纯粹感觉良好的简单聚会，它更重要的是给门徒提供了忏悔和相互劝勉的平台。

有关卫理公会小组聚会的历史

花菲卫理公会小组聚会的发展多年来取得了许多进步。70年代中期，为了培育更多的信徒，教会成立了许多查经小组。这些小组是由教会成员以及福音委员会所成立的。1986年，教会的成员委员会创立了第一个“家庭小组”，这是一个有别于原来查经小组的团契。家庭小组中的成员会在某个成员家中聚会，并进行敬拜赞美以及查经，同时他们还可将福音传给还未信主的广大邻舍。家庭小组的事工在1990年渐上轨道。毫无疑问的，每个家庭小组在这多年来不仅执行了本则，同时也改变了许多人的生命。

通过家庭小组培训门徒

当我们在2013年庆祝65周年纪念以及未来的岁月里，我们家庭小组将会是怎样的呢？我们如何迈向“跟随基督，使人作门徒”的目标前进呢？

依照卫理公会纪律循道书（2009年版，第112段）的规定，参与家庭小组是每个门徒的使命。杰弗里·阿诺德(Jeffrey Arnold)在他的书中提到了关于家庭小组的篇章。他说，问题不在于我们是否属于教会中的某个团体，而是这些小组是否具有培训门徒的性质。小组聚会通过成员互相鼓励来加强教会，并影响社会！

我们是否有一群不轻易谴责或审判他人的小组事工团体呢？请看看你自身以及家庭小组的门徒生活——是否是培训门徒或是被培训成为门徒，并且问自己是否能有更多的角色。无论我们是属于哪个家庭小组，如果我们能经历如同保罗的事工，那会是件多美妙的事啊！

你们也晓得我们怎样劝勉你们，安慰你们，嘱咐你们各人，好像父亲待自己的儿女一样。要叫你们行事对得起 那召你们进他国得他荣耀的神。（帖撒罗尼迦前书2:11-12）。

我们的教会领袖委员会主席，何金喜医生，提出了一些有关家庭小组的意见，而这些意见也在2011年10月的退休会中得到了同意。我们能预见花菲家庭小组事工能帮助他们的会员在属灵成长方面蜕变成基督的形象。来吧，加入我们属灵历程吧！

Fairfield Methodist Church Camp 2012

31 May – 3 June

Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Theme: DISCIPLEMAKING CHURCH

Did you know?

- Total number of campers: 234 (English: 160, Mandarin: 74)
- Age of youngest camper: 3 months
- Age of oldest camper: 85 years
- Earliest camper arrived at 4am on 31 May
- Latest camper arrived at 9pm on 1 June

CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

ENGLISH THEME TALKS

Pastor Dr Philip Lyn is bi-vocational - senior pastor of Skyline SIB in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, as well as a full-time medical doctor. He shared precious lessons on discipleship and also inspired us with amazing personal accounts of how God had worked in his life.



The speaker, Pastor Dr Philip Lyn, with the English congregation.

~ Take home message is on Fear and Faith (Chan Yan Fong) ~ Highlighted the relationship between our spiritual man and the Word of God (Khoo Kay Hin/Sylvia) ~ Made it very clear the importance of Faith + Work (David Tai) ~ Gave us a burning desire to live up to the ABC (Authenticity, Brokenness and Courage) of being disciples of Christ (Michael/Jane Ly) ~ Learnt many things such as "Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not!" and "Treasure the Presence of GOD above all things (David/Joanne Chan) ~

MANDARIN THEME TALKS

Rev Joseph Tong has been heavily engaged in theological education for some 40 years. He spoke about the position, roles and responsibilities of disciples in church in a humorous manner using stories and real-life accounts.



The speaker, Rev Joseph Tong, PhD, with the Mandarin congregation.

~ Now that we are Christians we have been "promoted" and can no longer live like we did previously (Chieu Shuey Fook) ~ Made it very relevant and easy for us to understand with application to real life (Christine Chong) ~ Brought out the best lessons to teach us how to change ourselves first then the church as a whole (Khoo Shun Hui) ~ Rev Tong gladly answered all the questions of my mum, a recent convert (Jack Lee) ~

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

This "Be God's Disciple" programme was anchored by Cornerstone Community Church with the theme : Be a Peacemaker. The children



The children performing at Fairfield Got Talent.

learnt how to deal with conflict in a godly way through lessons as well as stories and skits. They also worshipped, played games and made and brought home a colourful and interesting craft.

~ It was very fun and I enjoyed it (Tai Yoke-Yee) ~ Glad to know some church mates better (Rachel Cheng) ~ Some children really worshipped in spirit and in truth (Yip Siew Wai) ~ Our son looked forward to each session enthusiastically (David/Joanne Chan) ~ Daughter's faith has grown much stronger since the church camp (Michael/Jane Ly) ~

RECREATION

Our youths were the organisers and game masters. The gamut of games ran from simple to strategic to challenging, and bonus points were even awarded for creativity in doing some tasks! This was an activity that brought the English and Mandarin congregations together and everyone had an uproarious time!



What is the best way for 2 people to walk with a balloon squashed between them?



When is the right time to toss the shoe from my plastic sheet to yours?

~ Games were well-thought out and interesting without being too physically demanding (David Tai) ~ Great time of fellowship and making new friends (Cheng Tuck Meng) ~ Provided great relief and laughter to all participants (Jack Lee) ~ Really challenging to manage adults and getting them to follow the rules. I enjoyed my role of a game master, a great learning experience for me (Aaron Heng) ~

FAIRFIELD GOT TALENT

Camp organisers decided that campers should be allowed to showcase their talents. And what a range of talents Fairfield has! Singers, dancers, script-writers, song-writers, actors/actresses, musicians, impersonators.... Considering that most teams did not have much time to practice together, some of the performances were superb for their ingenuity, creativity and coordination. It was a night when people let down their hair and gamely danced, sang or acted as required.



The winning team with their rendition of "I Will Follow Him". The lead dancer with his backup dancers put in a no-holds barred performance.



The 4'33 orchestra was 1st runner up. The whole performance was about silence, so the team just sat there holding their "instruments" without moving or batting an eyelid.



2nd runner up – the team in red, dancing heartily with very well-coordinated movements to catchy music that also got everyone else jiving.

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Holy Communion was served before Rev Tong gave his message on the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, taken from John 6:1-14. His main point: Life is short and we should use whatever we have to help to extend God's kingdom.



Group Photo

~ We are THAT 5 loaves and 2 fishes. When we avail all we have to God and does something great, we have to remember that we are ONLY 5 loaves and 2 fishes (*Jimmy Lim*) ~ I should give whatever little I have so that He can turn them into much (*Selina Wee*) ~

From the HEART

“ I was very excited! I got to know lots of people. Everybody was very close, like a big, happy family. Seeing the manpower involved in planning this camp and how hard everybody worked gave me a very good impression. ” ~ *Chieu Shuey Fook*

“ 我很高兴能参与家庭营的执事会会员。在中，英堂聚集的营会，我能感受到合一的肢体宛如个家。由于我是负责摄影，我捕捉了不同层次的镜头，当中有趣味的、有愉快的、特别是在信息和讨论会中也有严肃的。在营会中，更是会员们彼此联络感情，促进友情的时刻。感谢主家庭营能成功落幕。 ” ~ 志伟

“ We'd thought church camp was going to be a pretty serious affair but at the end of it, we were very glad and relieved to discover it's actually quite fun and really enjoyed all the activities and makan! Camp programme was rightly paced with shopping thrown in. ” ~ *Michael/Jane Ly*

“ I am glad to be part of church camp committee. I could sense the unity of the body as a family, combined Mandarin and English congregation. With the privilege as a cameraman, I could capture various aspects of fun, joy as well as seriousness during the theme talk and ministry time. It was also bonding time where friendships were established. Praise the Lord for another successful church camp! ” ~ *Alan Chou*

YOUNGEST CAMPER (3 months)



Julian Chew, our youngest camper, was too busy sleeping to know what was happening. For his parents, it was a step of faith going for camp. Indeed God was faithful and made it possible for his grandparents to go along and lend support. There were also others who helped carry Julian at times when his parents were busy or during meals.

OLDEST CAMPER (85 years)

Our oldest camper, Mr Chan Hon Lum liked the feeling of being in a big family with all the campers. He also found it enjoyable with his family members around. He was glad for the comfortable bus and toilet breaks - suitable for old people. Other than not participating in recreation because of his weak legs, he faced no challenges. Bravo!!!



Karenza Tai, a homemaker, is a regular at past church camps. She attends 10.30 service with her husband, David and two children.

“ Am touched by the camaraderie among the campers and how many people made the effort to talk to us when they realised we were from Preaching Point. ” ~ *Sonia Lim*

“ Being in the committee enabled us to see firsthand the amount of effort and thought that were put into planning and organising a church camp. We can see that God has blessed FPMC with very committed people who willingly sacrifice their time, energy and even sleep to complete their assignments. ” ~ *David/Joanne Chan*

“ 这是个很奇妙的体验！我第一个印象是大家聚集在一起的时光彼此增进属灵的信心有如大家庭。最深刻难忘的是我父亲接受基督成为他个人的救主。谢谢主办家庭营的执事。我希望两年后的家庭营也同样能让第一次参与的留下美好的印象与经历。 ” ~ 邱顺慧

“ Bravo to the photographers - the group photo was well taken. It is thoughtful to give each camper a group photo and a CD. ” ~ *Chan Yan Fong*

“ The location for the camp is ideal. The shopping centre, recreation and hotel are within the same building and it saves us a lot of precious time. The programme layout is also well paced. Many thanks to the camp committee who have put in so much effort in organising!!! May God bless all of you. ” ~ *Khoo Kay Hin/Sylvia*

Fairfield Preaching Point

The Fairfield Preaching Point is the outreach project of Fairfield Methodist Church established to fulfil the following objectives:

- a) To establish a Methodist Church in Woodlands
- b) To bring the Gospel to the residents in the north of Singapore
- c) To serve the community

Some forty people consisting of individuals as well as about 10 families, led by Dr Roland Chia, chairman of the FPP Steering Committee, made the move to woodlands in 2003.

The first church service started on Sunday 6 April 2003 in a cinema hall in the Cathay Cineplex in Causeway Point. Subsequently, the inaugural service was held on 1 June 2003 and dedicated by Bishop Robert Solomon.

The FPP community has grown to about 80 to 90 people. Some 8 families or more residing in the woodlands area are among the regular worshippers in addition to a good number of youths from the area, many associated with the work of Youth Guidance (YGOS).

The Steering Committee oversees various ministries such as the Worship, Youth, Children, Outreach and Pastoral Care Ministry.

Worship service starts at 9.30 am in Hall 4 of the Cineplex every Sunday with the Communion service held on the second Sunday of the month. The children's ministry is held in Hall 5 in a traditional Sunday school format with the children divided into the pre-schoolers, lower primary and upper primary classes. Classes are run by a dedicated group of adults with a good number of mothers involved. On special occasions like Mother's Day, Teachers' Day, Easter and Christmas, there are combined sessions for all classes.

The youths are an active lot, with foundation teaching on 1st Sunday, youth cells on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays and sports outreach and games on the 4th Sunday. They hold youth retreats in June and a major youth camp in December with emphasis on evangelism and outreach. Alpha courses are also conducted in July through August.



The young adults group - for those above 18 years meets on Sundays and weekdays as well.

There are currently 2 cell groups meeting in the Woodlands area. There are also the active Men's and Women's Bible Study group meetings after Sunday services.

FPP also seeks to place focus on bible teaching and has a church-wide teaching session on the fifth Sundays and other selected Sundays. The church held its first church bible camp in 2011 and a bible conference in August 2012.

The outreach work has focused on reaching out to the community through its Family Life seminars on topics such as Understanding Youths, Successful Marriage, and health-related issues like Diabetes, Caring for the Heart and children's health issues. Christmas outreach projects in conjunction with the Orchard Christmas outreach and Christmas Block parties were organised. The first Alpha course was launched in 2012.

The Pastoral Care Ministry is active in home and hospital visits and extending help and care to the needy.

The FPP community is a small and tight-knitted community and it is our prayer that we continue to minister and grow the people that God sends to us.



Lim Sin Heng worships at the Preaching Point with his wife, Li Yen and two sons. He is also the Vice Principal of Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary).

Fairfield Methodist Church Kindergarten (FFMCK)

FFMCK was set up in 1985 as part of the church's plans to reach out to the neighbouring community in Chinatown by providing pre-school education that also incorporates Christian values. The vision is "Happy and confident children who put their hope in God and are rooted in His love. They will have a life-long passion for learning and become useful citizens."

The philosophy is based on Proverbs 22:6 "Train up your child in the way he should go, so that when he is old, he will not depart from it". It recognizes that every child is a gift from God entrusted to the kindergarten by the parents and in partnership with parents, the kindergarten is dedicated to develop each child to his full potential by providing quality early childhood care and education.

The goals of FFMCK are:

1. To teach children to love and worship God, their Creator and Heavenly Father.

2. To teach children to love, respect and appreciate their parents, teachers and friends.
3. To teach children to respect and care for their environment.
4. To provide a holistic curriculum that develops the children's physical, intellectual, emotional, social, aesthetic and creative, and spiritual skills.
5. To prepare children to be ready for mainstream education.
6. To inculcate social and civic-consciousness in each child by promoting healthy habits and instilling good moral values.

FFMCK operates classes from pre-nursery up to K2 Mondays to Fridays. The first session is from 8.30 am to 11.30 am while the second session is from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm. Presently, the Kindergarten 2 programme has just been extended to four hours. The Kindergarten follows the regular Singapore Primary School calendar of school terms and holidays as determined by the Ministry of Education.

The curriculum is based on a framework as follows:

Large Muscle Development

- Develop basic movement skills
- Develop body awareness
- Gain skills related to the control of movement (stopping, turning, etc)

Small/Fine Muscle Development

- Develop hand-eye coordination
- Practice self-help skills (eating, buttoning, zipping)

Intellectual Development

Subjects:

- Language (English & Chinese)
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Social Science
- To acquire learning and problem solving skills – explore, ask questions, observe and discover, etc
- To expand logical thinking skills – classify, differentiate, sequence, etc
- To acquire concepts and information leading to a fuller understanding of the immediate world – identify, compare, describe, etc
- To demonstrate skills in make-believe play – role-play with various objects, situation simulation, etc
- To expand verbal communication skills – songs, stories, interaction with daily activities, etc
- To develop reading skills
- To develop writing skills

Language Development

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening
- Storytelling
- Phonics (Letterland)
- Flash cards
- Songs, rhymes, finger plays, etc
- Sight vocabulary
- Show and Tell / Picture Talk
- Language Experience Activities

Emotional Development

- Develop a healthy self-concept
- Demonstrate willingness to try new activities
- Show pride in work
- Express emotions appropriately
- EQ

Social Development

- Demonstrate ability to discuss needs, wants, and problems
- Show respect for property and rights of others
- Demonstrate acceptance of others' differences
- Show ability to take turn, share, compromise and negotiate in difficult situations

Aesthetic and Creative Development

- Creative activities and art appreciation
- Music through singing, dancing, dramatizing and playing of percussion instruments
- Rhythmic movement

Apart from the curriculum, other educational activities include Little Art Bug and the Speech and Drama lessons. The Art lessons build a foundation in basic art and design comprising four main artistic disciplines such as drawing, painting, printing and sculpture. The speech and drama lessons provide positive platforms for clarity of self-expression. Children are guided in developing correct speech and accurate articulation of English sounds. They are trained in their vocal and facial expression through activities involving recitation, role-play, presentation skills and mime.

As part of the effort by FFMCK to share the Christian values and heritage, joint activities with the church are also organised where the students and their parents are invited to participate. These include the celebration of Christmas and Easter seasons, Vacation Bible School, Power Kids, Bibles stories reading class time and Yongen Care Centre's community projects.

FFMCK has enjoyed God's blessings over the years. It is both the hope and prayer of the management



Dressing up like my daddy in my daddy's shirt.



Fishing in the 'longkang'.



"Role – playing with my friend is my favourite activity!"



"Team work" during National Day Celebration.



Sorting out the number of stirrers in the cups.

Samuel Soh, Lay Leader, attends 10.30 a.m service with his wife, Karen. His favourite munchies – peanuts.

Missions Month

It's August! And it's Missions month for Fairfield Methodist Church. Flags of countries are flying high in the sanctuary indicating places where our church members have been sent on missions in Singapore and beyond. Bright coloured pictures and beautiful articles at the booths display the vast and yet diverse tribes and unreached people group that we are reaching out and sharing the gospel with. Many booths are set up to encourage us to pray and plug into missions. Equally diverse are the different creative means to be engaged in missions such as through sports, business, providing a livelihood, schools, education, community development etc., which are demonstrated through the ministries of our 5 missionaries, 9 Local Ministry Workers (LMW) and 3 Local Professional Workers (LPW). The message of the month is clear – to be in Missions with God.

Fairfield Methodist Church has designated August as Missions Month to focus or refocus our hearts on missions. You may ask, "what does this have to do with us if we are not full-time missionaries?" A lot actually since God has given each disciple the mission of telling others about Jesus, whether it is across the street or across the ocean. We are all guilty of being forgetful people and need constant reminders of how important this mission is and how each of us has a part to play.

Our commitment to missions is in obedience to the Great Commission that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to His disciples in Matt 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8 to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that (He) had commanded" and "to be witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". Rom 10:14 says "How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone

preaching to them?" Therefore, we are committed to raise, train and send out people to serve and proclaim Christ in Singapore and beyond.

We have been organizing Missions Month every year and the Missions committee intends to organize a larger event like a Missions Festival or Conference once every five years. The purpose of Missions Month is to raise awareness about missions, challenge people to full time ministry or as a potential full-timer (PTF), training on missions related areas such as effective sharing of the gospel, provide opportunities for short term mission trips, encourage members to be involved in Missions Care Partner (MCP) programme and much more.

During this Missions month, we will have the opportunity to see what God is doing through our church's missionaries/LMW/LPW in Singapore and around the world and for us to learn to be a part of God's plan through booth displays on 5th and 12th August. We will be able to participate in a Missions seminar entitled "Are we a missional church?" conducted by Suraja Raman on 5th August 2012. This seminar will explore the marks of a mission sending and supporting churches based on 3 John. Testimonies on mission trip experiences will be shared by church members during this seminar.

We are thankful to God for the past 35 years of sister PS's ministry since she first served in Papua New Guinea. A thanksgiving celebration dinner will be held on 18th August and sister PS will speak at our Sunday English services on 12th August 2012. Moreover, a series of sermons on missions will be preached on Missions month by our pastor and invited speakers such as Nicky Chong, the Executive Director of Wycliffe. We look forward to an active participation from our members as we grow in discipleship and move in alignment with God's heartbeat for missions.



MISSIONS CARE-PARTNERSHIP

Missions Care-Partnership allows all members and friends of Fairfield Methodist Church to participate in the ministry and personal development of our missionaries, local ministry worker (LMW) and local professional workers (LPW). 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/LMW/LPW. The **Missions Care-Partner** will commit to:

- ♥ *Intercede* fervently for the missionary/LMW/LPW adopted.
- ♥ *Invest* to support the ministries and needs of the missionary/LMW/LPW adopted.
- ♥ *Involve* yourself through correspondence, cards, calls and visits.
- ♥ *Inform* others to interest them in the missionary/LMW/LPW adopted.



Tan Chee Boon,
Missions
Committee
Chairperson
attends 10.30am
service with his
wife, Vivian and
two children.

宣教月

8月份到了！花菲卫理公会的宣教月份又再次到来了；圣所中也再次飘扬着教会成员所前往进行宣教活动的各国国旗；而使用色彩鲜艳的图片以及宣传册所布置的展览摊位再次印证了许多我们教会成员向还未信主的族群分享福音的使命。这些展览摊位是为了鼓励我们多为宣教事工祷告，并投入其工作而设立的。我们采用许多不同方式来进行宣教活动，例如体育活动、商业活动、给穷困的族群提供生计，并通过学校、教育以及社区发展等，个个创新的方式来进行我们的宣教工作。这些工作是由我们教会宣教事工中的5位传教士，9位当地宣教工作人员(Local Ministry Workers — LMW)和3位当地专业工作者(Local Professional Workers — LPW)积极推广的。因此这个月份的讯息非常清楚地带出了“与神进行宣教”的使命。

花菲卫理公会将8月设定为宣教月是为了让我们在宣教事工上集中并重新调整心力。你或许会问：“如果我们不是全职的传教士，那这与我们有什么关系呢？”上帝给所有门徒的重要使命便是将福音带给未信主的人们。我们都是健忘的人，必须不断地自我提醒这项使命的重要性，并且我们应当在宣教事工上尽一份力。

我们的任务是服从主耶稣基督在圣经中给门徒们的大使命——“所以你们要去，使万民作我的门徒，奉父子圣灵的名，给他们施洗。我所吩咐你们的，都教训他们遵守，”(马太福音28:18-20)，“并要在耶路撒冷，犹太全地，和撒玛利亚，直到地极，作我的见证。”(使徒行传1:8)。罗马书10:14说：“然而人未曾信他，怎能求他呢？未曾听见他，怎能信他呢？没有传道的，怎能听见呢？”

因此我们致力于培训门徒前往新加坡各区甚至以外的国家宣扬耶稣基督的福音。

我们每年都在宣教月主办许多相关活动，而宣教委员会都会计划每5年举办一次类似于“宣教节”或“宣教会议”等较大型的活动。教会主办宣教月的一系列活动主要是为了提高人们对宣教事工的认识，并挑战人们投入全职事奉，另外，宣教月中的活动也给门徒提供相关的培训，使他们能更有效地与人分享福音。宣教月中的活动也给门徒提供短期宣教行程的机会，并鼓励会员积极加入宣教关怀伙伴的计划(Missions Care Partner — MCP)，以及更多的宣教事工。

今年的宣教月将在8月5日和12日的展览上，让我们看到神是如何通过我们教会的宣教工者在新加坡和世界各地进行神的宣教工作。同时，我们也将能在8月5日参与一项题为“我们是否是个致力宣教的教会？”的研讨会，而主持此次会议的培训员是苏拉惹·拉曼(Suraja Raman)。本次研讨会将在约翰三书的基础上讨论有关致力与宣教事工的教会，同时，参与者也能在此次研讨会上听到参加宣教事工的教会成员的见证。

我们感谢上帝在过去35年通过姐妹，PS，在巴布亚新几内亚所作的事工。我们将在8月18日举行感恩庆祝晚宴，而她也将在8月12日英语堂中进行分享。此外，我们的牧者以及受邀发表的演讲者，如Nicky Chong(Wycliffe的执行董事)也会在宣教月针对宣教事工的讯息上发表布道。我们期待会员的积极参与，并朝神所赐予我们宣教事工的使命一同前进，同时也随着我们一起成长。



宣教关怀伙伴

宣教关怀伙伴(Missions Care-Partnership)让花菲卫理公会的所有成员和朋友有机会参与并关怀和支持教会宣教工作人员的宣教事工。宣教关怀伙伴以早期教会委派宣教士的精神为主导，给教会成员和朋友对某组宣教团体在各方面提供关怀与支持。宣教关怀伙伴的主要宗旨如下：

- ♥ 热切地帮助、关怀所属的宣教团体；
- ♥ 在各方面给予所负责的宣教团体支持；
- ♥ 通过信件或邮件、卡片、电话联系以及探访等，对所负责的宣教团体给予关怀；
- ♥ 给广大教会成员和朋友宣传有关宣教事工的相关宣教活动，并激起人们对于宣教的热情。

35 years in Retrospect – An Interview with KPS

"The most essential part is our relationship with God, to know the Lord's calling for us and to listen to His voice and leading," spoken by one who exemplified these exact words through her faithful service to the Lord. It has been 35 years since PS first stepped into Papua New Guinea (PNG). It all began with God calling and her listening.

Actively serving in Fairfield since her younger days, a still small voice within her prompted PS to ask herself whether there could be more in her service to the Lord. Following the Lord's leading, PS left her 10-year teaching career and went to Singapore Bible College (SBC). It was not long before she and others around her discovered her affinity to languages and exegetical studies. It was clear that her niche was in Bible translation and through a specific leading from the Lord through one of her respected lecturers, she knew this was what the Lord had planned for her. So in less than a month after graduating from SBC, she was on her way to linguistic training with Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT).

She met Liisa Jarvinen in a field orientation training. PS had specifically prayed that if the Lord was leading her to PNG, He would provide her with a teammate. Liisa was the answer to that prayer. Liisa became a confidante and trusted teammate in her ministry with the Mauwake people in PNG. She is thankful for Liisa's friendship and their partnership lasted the 24 years in PNG.

Looking back, PS could see the different phases in her 35 years of ministry. There was the initial struggle to learn the Mauwake language and getting to know the people better. Upon receiving the vision of helping with Bible translation for the whole PNG, Liisa and PS began to devote more time to help train local Bible translators in other areas of PNG. It was also during this time that PS developed a desire to help train and mentor younger Bible translators. Even now after she has moved on to ministry work in Asia, she finds joy mentoring the local people, and seeing her younger colleagues grow in their skills so that they will eventually work independently, and also to develop themselves further to train others.

There had been many valuable experiences over the years but one of her most memorable experiences was when the JESUS film was shown to the Mauwake people. PS and Liisa had used the translated Luke's Gospel of the Mauwake New Testament to dub that film. PS shared how several young men gave their lives to Christ at the first screening. The Gospel of Luke was presented to them visually and listening to the Words of Jesus spoken in their own language had a great impact on them.

Towards the end of their translation of the Muawake New Testament, PS almost died of asthma. The prayers of her colleagues revived her enough for her to be evacuated to Cairns, where she was in intensive care for several days. She was without asthma when she went to PNG, but became asthmatic there, and it was a constant struggle for her to deal with this chronic illness. In spite of that she continued with her work, trusting the Lord to keep her well through the years.

In recent years, PS does consultancy work and mentoring younger Bible translators in Asia. Having been affirmed her gifts of teaching and creative communication, PS continues to look forward to seeing how the Lord will use her for His work. She is also thankful for the support Fairfield and other friends have shown towards her and her ministry over these years.

Just two years after her 60th birthday celebrations, PS was constantly feeling physically drained and tired. Unknown to her then, she was at the beginning stage of diabetes. One night, during her quiet time, she asked the Lord for the cause for such tiredness, and a clear inner voice told her to read Psalm 71. Feeling unsure but being obedient, she opened her bible and began to read. She was struck by such words that applied to her in verse 9: "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone." Verse 18 was exactly what she would have prayed: "Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." It was as though God was reminding her to trust in him to provide that strength to train and prepare the next generation of consultants and translators.

When asked how we can run with perseverance, in our Christian journey or our ministry, PS has this to say, "Remember that it is His call, and to listen to only His voice and not look to others or our own emotions."



Jimaia Wong, our Local Ministry Worker, works with Girls' Brigade Singapore in community development.

What is Laity Sunday?

Every year, the Board of Laity (BOL) in our Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) would meet and discuss the plans for the year which include coordinating the date for observing Laity Sunday and the recommended scriptural text. For this year, the date planned is Oct 14 and the theme is "Being a caring and loving community". The Board has provided the option for the recommended bible text to be either from Luke 4:18-19 or Mark 12:30-31.

As we plan to observe Laity Sunday, it would be useful to understand the background as to how Laity Sunday started. In our Methodist Book of Discipline, Laity Sunday has been identified as one of the annual Special Sundays that is to be of churchwide emphasis and to "make clear the calling of the Church as the people of God and to give persons the opportunity of contributing offerings to special programmes" (reference: Methodist Book of Discipline Section 173.2b).

According to Reference.com, "The first Laity Sunday was in 1950. This is acknowledgement of the very special ministry role in which all congregants can share... Laity Sunday, then, sort of reverses the roles of laity and clergy, at least for one day each year. The hope is that congregants can take advantages of opportunities to minister regularly to their fellow men".

Based on "A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press", Laity Sunday is "a special Sunday established by the General Conference to be observed on the third Sunday in October. Laity Sunday focuses on the celebration of the ministry of all lay Christians. In many local churches, Laity Sunday is observed by having lay persons lead all parts of the worship service. The General Board of Discipleship has the responsibility to provide the general supervision and resources for Laity Sunday."

While the observance in Singapore of Laity Sunday is organised by our TRAC BOL and is held on the second Sunday as compared to that which may be practised by the United Methodists, the purpose remains unchanged i.e. to highlight the call for lay persons to participate responsibly in the life of the church.



Samuel Soh, Lay Leader, attends 10.30am service with his wife, Karen. His favourite munchies – peanuts.

Parents' Night – The Presence of God in our Midst

28th July, 2012 at Raja-Inn Seafood Restaurant

"I am thankful to the church for organising such an enjoyable and fun-filled night where the presence of God was so strong. The atmosphere was relaxing and comfortable. From the praises, various performances to the preaching of the word, the principles of God's love was evident," says Mui Noi, sister-in-law of Mdm Chooi.

"This is my second year of attending the parents' night. It's special this year as my three aunts and two cousins have all willingly agreed to attend the event this year together with the rest of my family members. They all have enjoyed the dinner and were very relaxed throughout the evening with the programme and the message on filial piety by the speaker. In fact, it really touches my heart that, my aunt and cousin have even come and attended the Cantonese service a few Sundays after the Parents' Night," says Ling Choo, daughter of Mdm. Woo.





Our very own Miss Hee Piang Chin received her 45-years Long Service Award from President Tony Tan Keng Yam during the Girls' Brigade Singapore 85th Anniversary Dinner in July.

Miss Hee first joined the 8th Singapore Company of the Girls' Brigade in 1959, was commissioned a Lieutenant in 1967 and became Captain of the Company for 12 years. Following which she was appointed the Brigade Commissioner in 1984, a post which she served for 26 years. During her tenure as Brigade Commissioner, she inspired the GB Executive Committee to envision making every girl a leader and every officer a servant leader, a vision which has become synonymous to GB Singapore's Mission. In 2005, in recognition of her service in The Girls' Brigade, she received the Public Service Medal from then President SR Nathan. On the international level, Miss Hee also served as the International Vice-President from 1993-2002 and as International President of Girls' Brigade International from 2002 to 2006.

Notwithstanding her faithful service with GB, Miss Hee has also been actively serving in Fairfield's leadership in various capacities. She is currently serving in the Pastor-Parish Relations and Staff Committee.

This is what she has to say when asked how she feels about receiving this award, "The 45 years doesn't seem long as I believe God calls one to a ministry and He tells us when to let go."

Dedication of WSCS Officers and Views from President



Dr Pang Soon Eng's WSCS President for 2012-2014, shares her vision:



"Every woman at Fairfield, young or old, is filled with the Holy Spirit, and realises that Abba Father GOD has a purpose for her life. She will experience a life overflowing with love, joy and boldness to declare the wonderful deeds of GOD in her life; and become an effective witness for the Lord at home and the marketplace.

"These women will stand with the men at Fairfield as Kingdom ambassadors - faithful and anointed. They are true disciples and disciple-makers for the Lord Jesus. And so fulfil GOD's destiny for each person at Fairfield."



We congratulate the **Rev Dr Wee Boon Hup** who was elected as Bishop of The Methodist Church in Singapore on 3rd September 2012 at the General Conference Session.

Cantonese Service 26th Anniversary

"I am so thankful to witness the faithfulness, marvelous work and countless blessings that God has granted to the Cantonese Service through these 26 years. We started from scratch with only a handful of senior adults; but now there are close to 200 worshippers on each Sunday of 2012. I am touched by the care and love of God towards those elderly in Chinatown and beyond. God is faithful, because He always provides:

- * **Manpower** – children of the elderly who not only accompanied their parents to attend our service, but started to serve and became our committee members.
- * **Opportunities** – seniors who are motivated to evangelize to other seniors in each week.
- * **Physical and spiritual needs** – poor and needy come to receive a pack of rice; and ended up attending our worship service on each Sunday.



I am looking forward for another 26 years of blessings from God plus many more to come, Amen!", says Christofer Sham, Ministry Staff, Cantonese Service.



OUR CONGRATULATIONS to:

Mr & Mrs Mark Zhou (Jaime Tey) on the arrival of their baby boy Julian on 24 February 2012.

Mr & Mrs Alvin Ng Loong Kin (Eunice Chong) on the arrival of their baby girl, Hannah Ng Qi Xin, on 8 May 2012.

Mr & Mrs Ronnie Lim Kok Keong (Serene Chan) on the arrival of their baby girl, Rachel Lim, on 1 July 2012.

Mr & Mrs Daniel Chiam Jen Yi (Anthon Kristiana) on the arrival of their baby girl, Johanna Chiam, on 17 July 2012.

Coming Up Next:

24 September 2012

Last Local Conference

30 September 2012

Local Church Executive Committee Dedication
Mandarin Service – Mid Autumn Evangelistic Service

19-21 October 2012

Local Church Executive Committee Retreat

10 November 2012

Yong-En Care Centre Charity Car Wash

18 November 2012

Baptism, Confirmation and Reception Into Membership

19-22 November 2012

37th TRAC Annual Conference

24 November 2012

Yong-En Care Centre Charity Concert

27 November – 6 December 2012

Holiday With A Difference – Dali, China

14-16 December 2012

Youth Camp

25 December

Christmas Services

31 December

Year-end Thanksgiving Dinner
Watch Night 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



The meaning of discipleship

Every one who claims to be a Christian is to be a disciple (Lk 9:23). There is no two-stage Christianity in Scripture where all Christians are 'saved' from hell but where some can choose the option of becoming a more committed 'disciple'. We can be young disciples or new disciples, but all true believers prove their salvation by longing to follow Christ (Lk 14:27), know Him (Jn 10:14) and become increasingly like Him (Mt 10:25, Lk 6:40, 2 Cor 3:18). We strive hard (Phil 2:12) to attain all that Christ asks us to be and to do. At the recent church camp Pastor Philip Lyn gave another view of discipleship and spoke about the 'ABC' of a disciple: one who is 'authentic', 'broken' and 'courageous'.

Disciplemaking and church life

We can define disciplemaking as a deliberate process that brings people into a right relationship with God, encourages them to mature in Christ and provides ministries that help them to disciple others. The pastor and church leader Bill Hull says, *"Discipleship must function at the heart of church ministry. In fact, most programmes should be evaluated in light of whether or not they are in some way contributing towards making disciples."* The outworking of discipleship will manifest itself in worship, prayer, study, fellowship, evangelism, missions, and service to the world. Mature disciples will be people who serve, pray, give and work sacrificially according to God's will in Fairfield. The key to church growth is therefore personal growth in discipleship. The end-goal of the disciplemaking process is a local church where the great majority of the congregation is personally committed to living as authentic disciples and are able to lead others to be authentic disciples of Christ.

The means of disciplemaking

Fairfield has identified 3 pillars of the disciplemaking process. These are small group accountability, strong Word-based teaching and personal mentoring. We see small groups as the key method of building disciples. In a large church like Fairfield, meaningful interaction with other Christians can only occur in a small group context. Mutual accountability, responsibility, teaching, submission and encouragement occur in a small group. We can exhort one another 'daily' (Heb 3:13) not just when we meet on Sundays, because the relationships in small groups are deep enough and real enough to be relevant every day. In a small group we find true fellowship that involves sacrificial love (Jn 13:35) as well as holy transparency (1 Jn 1:3-7) towards one another. One of the realizations we have had is that small group life is not optional – it is *foundational* to Christian life. Small groups therefore are not mainly intended to 'mobilize' or to communicate to the congregation. They are where practical growth for every Christian takes place. So if you are not already in a small group – join a small group! And if you are in one – aim to grow yourself and other group members in maturity through the way the group studies, prays and relates together.



Ho King Hee, Chairman of Local Church Executive Committee attends 10.30am service with his wife, Joyce and three children.

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