

FAIRFIELD COMPASS

A Newsletter by Fairfield Methodist Church

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65th Anniversary Service and Lunch



Our theme for celebrating Fairfield's 65th Anniversary was Celebrating As One Family (一家同庆). Along this theme, there are three events to magnify God, multiply disciples and minister to one another.

The first event to kick off the year-long celebrations was a Combined Service held on 27 January 2013. With one voice and one accord, members and worshippers from the English, Mandarin and Cantonese service gathered to magnify God and thank Him for his faithfulness.

Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup was our guest speaker at the service and he spoke on ONE. Other guests at the service include Mrs Catherine Wee, Rev Dr Gordon Wong, Mr Kim Seah, Vice President of the Trinity Annual Conference as well as former pastors.

After the service, 650 worshippers and guests proceeded for a sumptuous lunch at Ban Heng Pavilion Restaurant. Over lunch, guests mingled freely and were entertained by songs and dance items put up by members of the Church.

Fairfield Methodist Church
65th Anniversary

一家同庆
Celebrating
as ONE family



The second event to celebrate God's faithfulness in Fairfield was the Food & Fun Fair held on 30 June 2013. This event was jointly organised by Women's Society of Christian Service and Family Life Committee. A net amount of \$19,059.10 was raised and given to Fairfield's Church Building Fund.

The Fair started from 8.30am to 3pm, worshippers were treated to a galore of makan and fun activities. There was even a sandwich making contest held to foster family relationships! Indeed through this event,

we have somehow ministered to one another – both spiritually and physically!



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Understanding the role of the PPRSC

How are PPRSC member elected?

In the Methodist Church we have a Pastor-Parish Relations and Staff Committee (PPRSC) of not fewer than 5 nor more than 7 laymen and women. The members of the PPRSC are elected annually at the Local Conference which is usually held in Sep/ Oct in Fairfield. The members of the Local Conference are:

- members of the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC),
- local preachers,
- diaconal ministers (currently there are none in Fairfield),
- honorary stewards (currently there are none in Fairfield),
- retired ordained ministers attached (currently we have two)
- and the chairperson of PPRSC.

The nominations are made by members of the Local Conference during the Local Conference and nominations are not restricted to members of the Local Conference. The pastors may appoint one person to the PPRSC (which we informally called the Pastors' nominee to the PPRSC). The lay leader of the local church in Fairfield and the first lay delegate of the Annual Conference are automatic members of the PPRSC. In the past, Fairfield has resolved that the LCEC Chairperson shall be the first lay delegate of the Annual Conference; as a consequence, the Chairperson of Fairfield LCEC is a member of the PPRSC.

The Local Conference decides if we were to have 5 or 7 members in the PPRSC. From past practice, Fairfield chooses to have 7 members in the PPRSC and if there is no Pastors' nominee, we will elect 5 members as the Lay Leader and the first lay delegate will have taken up 2 seats. In the event that there are more than 5 nominations from the floor, there will be a confidential balloting. After the count, the nominees with the 5 highest votes will be announced and they will be elected as PPRSC members.

The members of the PPRSC will elect their own chairperson and secretary. We will usually have a vice-chairperson and one of the

PPRSC will be chairperson of the Personnel Committee (more on this at later paragraph). The PPRSC meets once in a quarter with the knowled

What are the roles of the PPRSC?

The duties of the PPRSC are spelt out in paragraph 170.2b of the The Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church in Singapore. One of the duties is to confer and counsel with the pastors in making an effective ministry, keeping the pastors advised concerning conditions within the congregation and the relations between the pastors and the people. Another duty is to consult on matters relating to effectiveness, comfort and well-being of the pastors and their families. Thirdly, to confer with the pastors if it should become evident that the best interests of the church and pastors will be served by a change of pastors.

What does the Lay Personnel Committee ?

The Personnel Committee is a sub committee of the PPRSC formed by lay members of the church and is chaired by a member of the PPRSC. The Personnel Committee functions like a Human Resource Dept which supervises matters relating to administrative and professional staff in the church office. The Personnel Committee advises the PPRSC on the policies and procedures regarding the process for hiring, evaluating, promoting, retiring and dismissing staff. Under the advice of the Personnel Committee, the PPRSC makes recommendation on staff matters to the LCEC for final approval on staff matters.



David Tang, Chairperson for Pastor-Parish Relations and Staff Committee. He worships at the 10.30am service with his wife, Susie and four children.

WSCS Fellowship Lunch with Fairfield Women Missionaries on 17 Mar 2013



Everyone enjoyed the warm fellowship over a delicious meal. The women were enlightened by the sharing of the missionaries such as Suraja, Jasmine, Wai Leng, May Lan and Dorothy. WSCS presented a love gift to each of them. WSCS is committed to uphold these missionaries in prayer on the first Sunday of every month during the WSCS' prayer meeting.



Dr Pang Soon Eng, President of WSCS. She worships at the 10.30am service with her husband Mr Richard Yap Wah Ann.



A Word from the **Pastor's Office**

Rev Edmund Koh

Small Change

We carry small change with us, at least when we remember. There will be some small notes and coins tugged away somewhere. They come in useful when we prefer not to use big notes for small priced items. When we are in hawker centres, we avoid using big notes for an 80 cents drink. When we do that, we may be scowled at. It takes time to count the exact amount to return to us and we would probably use up quite a bit of their small change.

But small change is part and parcel of our lives. Some of us would even buy coin purses because they come in handy. Even in a city like ours where the cost of living is skyrocketing, we try to stretch our dollar by going for the smaller priced item. We choose a cup coffee that cost 70 cents even if it means walking further than the one that sells for 80 cents. We go for the one priced less. So small change has become part of our lives.

Here is the problem. When it comes to God and the people whom we are supposed to care for and support in the church, we do the same thing. We prefer to use small change in our relationship with God and His people. We carry those very practices we are so used to and we bring those same practices to church. We keep the big notes for ourselves and we use small change for God and His people. What is more embarrassing is we pray that the Lord will stretch that small change. So God has to work miracles because of our stinginess.

We may thank the Lord for His lavishness. However, we may also get upset with Him when He doesn't give us what we want. The irony is all along we are not giving Him what He deserves. What we are saying through this attitude and practice are these:

1. We are only prepared to give a little to build one another and the church.
2. We expect God to bless and stretch the little we give for the furtherance of His work.
3. When He blesses us, it must be in abundance.
4. When we give, it is in small change.

The practice of Christian discipleship encourages us to correct this practice. It is not right for us to say that because God is Sovereign, He will provide when all along we are doing little to help. We have to stop expecting Him to be generous with us, while we are stingy with His Work and His Cause. If we genuinely believe in eternal values expressed through the services we give, we have to start being more generous with God and His Kingdom. Since we know that God has lavished on us, even given His life for us, let us not hold back and only give to Him and His Church small change.

牧师的话

许牧师

零钱

我们通常都会随身携带零钱，也会有一些小的纸币和硬币收藏在某一角。当我们不喜欢用大钞票购买小价格的物品时，零钱就派上用场。我们在小贩中心，都会尽量避免使用大钞票来购买八毛钱的饮料。如果我们用大钞，可能会应起不满。因为小贩需要花时间换零钱给我们，而且会用掉他们许多的零钱。

零钱是我们的生活中不可缺少的一部分。我们当中有些人甚至买硬币的钱包来放这些零钱。即使在一个像我们这样生活成本暴涨的城市，我们尽量利用我们的一元买廉价物品。我们选择花费七毛钱的咖啡，即使这意味着我们得走更远的路来避开那档买八毛钱的。我们选择交便宜的物品，所以零钱已经成为我们生活的一部分。

这就是问题所在。当谈到上帝和在教会我们都应该关心和支持的人时，我们以同样的态度来对待。我们把利用零钱的做法带去教会使用。我们对自己很慷慨，但对上帝和他的子民却很吝啬。更尴尬的是，我们祈求上帝为我们的吝啬创造奇迹。

我们可能会感谢主的慷慨。然而，当主没有给我们想要的东西时，我们也可能生主的气。具讽刺的是，一直以来，我们都没有给主他所配得的。通过这样的态度和做法，我们表达了：

1. 我们准备付出太多来建造彼此和教会。
2. 我们希望上帝伸展我们所给他的小小奉献，来促进他的事工。
3. 我们希望上帝满满的祝福我们。
4. 我们的奉献很吝啬。

要做基督的门徒，我们就要纠正这种做法。我们不能因为上帝有主权，就认为他会供应一切，但我们自己却一直没献上帮助，这是不正确的。我们对神的事工吝啬，就必须停止期待他要大方的对待我们。如果我们真正相信通过我们的服侍能表达永恒价值，我们就必须开始更慷慨地对待上帝和他的国度。既然我们知道神大大的赐给我们，甚至献上他的生命，就让我们毫无保留的，而不是吝啬的献回给神和教会。

Mother's Day Gathering

On May 4, 68 ladies attended the first Mother's Day Gathering organised by Family Life Committee. The ladies were fed spiritually by Pastor Valerie Chan, a Pastor overseeing the Women-in-Covenant ministry at the Covenant Evangelical Free Church (Bukit Panjang); as well as a delectable High-tea spread. Besides Pastor Chan's sharing, Mrs Christina Chew from Fairfield Methodist Church also shared with the ladies her parenting experiences. Before the session ended, several ladies came forward for prayer and ministry. While sipping tea and coffee, and nibbling on cakes and sandwiches, the ladies also had a good time in catching up with each other.



云柱火柱带领我们进入应许之地

——花菲卫理公会华语堂以色列圣地游记

我们一行21人，在2013年3月6—16日，如愿以偿，重温耶稣的脚步，经历了终生难忘的圣地之旅。从开始组团到凯旋归来，一路充满神迹奇事。上帝是信实的，他无所不知，无所不能，无所不在，他是使无变有的神！他用云柱火柱带领我们进入应许之地，主和我们同工，用神迹随着，证实所传的道。阿们。（可16：20）

渴想圣地，冲破障碍

“作为基督徒，一生至少要去以色列一次”，这是我一直坚持的观念，不知何时这个愿望会成真，我翘首巴望着这一天的到来。

2012年8月一位刚刚从圣地回来的牧师鼓励我带领会友去以色列，并介绍了新造教会的圣地旅行社俄梅嘎的经理苏天香给我认识，与她见面谈论两次之后，我们就敲定的日期2013年3月6—14日9天以色列圣地图。我与洪主任牧师谈论想法，原来她也准备在2013年12月带领英语团去以色列，这样华语和英语明年去圣地将作为花菲成立65周年的献礼。2012年9月2日主日开始在华语堂报告，报名截止日期是12月2日，后来延迟到12月16日，并先交定金1500/每人，如果我们组成25人团，每人需要3990，2013年1月15日必须交完全款。

经过三个月的主日报告，多位去过以色列的人主日见证等推动，到截止日期时正式报名交定金的是13人，还有3人在摇摆不定。与旅行社商量后，延长到12月16日，最终以不成团告终。经信徒介绍，我联络了豪华旅行社，他们说15人就可以成团，日期仍然定于3月6—16日，比前次多两天，而且价格更好。迪拜约旦以色列11天游，如果够20人，每人是3688，加150机场燃油费，另外每人100美元小费，先交定金500/每人，出发前二个礼拜交完全款，我们一共21人，其中3人需要先办理签证，两个马来西亚人，一个中国人，直到出发前一天，他们才交全款出机票，因为三位所需的迪拜以色列签证才拿到，他们的费用比我们多加300是4262。其他18人是每人3962。我们经历了耶和華豈有难成的事！

进入圣地，恩典无限

2013年3月5日晚上10：30我们聚集在新加坡国际机场，难掩兴奋之情，出发前，我们举着自制的旗帜，拍了第一张集体照。

第一天迪拜，紧张刺激而又轻松愉快的一日游（航空公司附送的日程）。

第二天我们到达了约旦，站在尼波山上，望着对面的约旦河、耶利哥、以色列以及左侧的盐海，我们思绪万千，回想当年神的忠仆摩西，历尽千辛万苦，带领百姓经过漫长的跋涉，终于到了约旦河，很遗憾，摩西不能进入应许之地，他到此止步了，但他是第一个以信心的眼睛看到迦南美地的人。上帝厚葬了他，至今无人找到他的坟墓，上帝要他永远留在百姓心中，而不是手可触摸、甚至被人顶



礼膜拜的偶像。伟大的人毕竟也是人，难免瑕疵，并非无懈可击。作为律法时代的代表，他已经完成了任务，他不能带领人进入真正的安息之地，只有约书亚，只有充满恩典的耶稣基督才能给人真正的安息！

第三天清早，我们在下榻的旅店阳台上，遥望对面高高山顶上亚伦的坟墓，我的眼泪夺眶而出，作为摩西的同工、见法老时的口、旷野中的大祭司，他先于摩西离开人世，摩西带领百姓为他哀哭了数日，把他葬在那一带最高的山上，让他可以日夜远望心中的迦南地，并目视着朝向目的地进发的渐行渐远浩浩荡荡的队伍。。。

我们进入了世界文化遗产特佩拉（PETRA），昔日的辉煌依稀可见，易守难攻的宝地成为废墟，异教崇拜，多神信仰的以扫后裔；在耶路撒冷受害时袖手旁观、幸灾乐祸、甚至落井下石的以东人，今日应验的先知俄巴底亚的预言。

我们畅饮摩西的水，经过肥沃的约旦河平原，理解了当年罗得挑选这地的理由，凭人意谁都会这么选择，但神赐给亚伯拉罕的是以信心的眼睛望见的迦南全地。我们进入了应许之地，沿着加利利湖，映入眼帘的是蓝蓝的湖水，绿油油的原野，到处点缀着飘香的野花，好一个流奶与蜜之地！听着博学多才、年轻气壮的导游从历史到地理的讲解，我们听出耳油了，以色列啊，我们为你倾倒！

第四天、第五天，我们下榻在加利利的旅店，游加利利湖，团员们所属国家的国旗在湖上飘扬，国歌在湖上奏响，我们在欢快中肃然起敬。耶稣仿佛走在湖面上，与我们同游。

第六天到第十天我们住在耶稣的出生地伯利恒，一个五星级的古城堡酒店。我们每一天早出晚归，每个早晨都有晨钟叫早，每晚饭后都集中唱诗分享祷告，报告明天行程。每天踏着耶稣的足迹，感动、流泪、蒙光照。团友彼此相爱，互相搀扶，结下了深厚的情谊。

登上橄榄山眺望耶路撒冷全城，耶稣的哀哭在耳畔回响。进入客西马尼园，耶稣的祈祷得胜成了众人的榜样。背起十字架在苦路上默想，拒绝两侧物资的诱惑，耶稣是唯一的标杆，前进的方向。站在哭墙下与以色列人同哭，切望弥赛亚的国统治万邦。

走在耶路撒冷的街道上，一股祥和舒适的灵风吹进心房，我心中升起一种奢望：若能长久在此居住该有多好啊！这是灵里的归属感，是对永久家乡甘美的预尝。

在以色列的日日夜夜，数不尽的恩典，品不尽的甘甜，这不是导游好，不是领队强，从始至终，是耶和華神的手拉着我们，使我们每一天经历他的伟大奇妙！



尼波山上远眺迦南美地



我们站在橄榄山上



每早有吗哪供应，
每餐有启示临到，
生活靠耶和華以勒！
心中充满哈利路亚！

每晚有恩膏膏抹，
每天有能荫蔽。
工作满了以马内利！
和撒那高高在上和撒那！

圣地归来，日夜思念

我们离开以色列境内的那天是15/3/2013年，正如约翰福音书记载复活的主向门徒所行153条鱼的神迹，显明耶稣是神，他是主！这次以色列之行，让我们实实在在地经历了他是神，他是主，是永活的真神！我们一生要感谢赞美他！

耶路撒冷啊，想你我无法入睡，念你我时常流泪！

"耶路撒冷啊，我若忘记你，情愿我的右手忘记技巧。我若不纪念你，若不看耶路撒冷，过于我所最喜乐的，情愿我的舌头贴于上膛"。(诗137: 5-6)

"你们要安慰，安慰我的人民；要对耶路撒冷说安慰的话，并且对她大声说，她争战的日子满了，她的罪孽赦免了。她为她的一切罪孽，从我手中加倍受罚。"(赛40: 1-2)

"我又看见一个新天新地。因为先前的天地已经过去了。海也不再有了。我又看见圣城新耶路撒冷由神那里从天而降，豫备好了，就如新妇壮饰整齐，等候丈夫。(启21: 1-2)

"上帝给人间十分美，其中九分给了耶路撒冷。"——以色列谚语

Mandarin Ministry Israel Trip

On 6 to 16 June 2013, 21 members from the Mandarin Congregation had realized the dream of walking the path of Jesus in the Holy Land of Israel. It was an unforgettable and miraculous journey. Through it all, we had experienced firsthand for ourselves the omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence of faithful God. By the grace our God, we set our feet on important places in the Bible. Standing on Mount Nebo, we looked across the Jordan River, Jericho and the left side of the dead sea to recount the trials and triumph of God's servant Moses. Entering the promised land, we strolled along the Sea of Galilee, and behold the land flowing with milk and honey. Waking up at Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, we meditated about his love for us from his birth and beyond his death. On the Mount of Olives, the agony of Jesus touched our hearts as our spirits relived the betrayal at the Garden of Gethsemane.

The experiences in the Holy Land had revived our souls and spirit. Our team now holds a strong common bond to live a life worthy of Jesus's calling. Today, our team has evolved into a small group called Friends of Israel. It is a family where we encouraged one another to live an intimate and victorious life with Jesus here in Singapore. May our testimonies move your hearts and compel you to walk the path of Jesus.



Lydia Sha, Pastoral Staff

A Whoceanarium Adventure!



On 10th March 2013, the Youth Ministry visited the S.E.A Aquarium at the newly opened Marine Life Park, Resorts World Sentosa. It promised to be an exciting one and it certainly did not disappoint. We were all wowed by the magnificent beauty of more than 800 species of marine animals, fishes and corals. The S.E.A Aquarium is also the world's largest aquarium which made it even more memorable. At the same time, we could view the marine world through the planet's largest window to the ocean.

We were split into small groups so that we could get to know our fellow youth mates better and also to bond with people from another cell. Inside the S.E.A Aquarium, there were different sections for us to explore and learn. Shipwrecks were displayed at the bottom of the ocean through the glass panels and we saw how the fishes used them as their homes. As we continued our adventure, we walked across a glass floor and watched small sharks swim right beneath our feet. We also had the opportunity to touch some starfish at the Discovery Touch Pool and had the chance to learn their names and where they were from.

As our ocean journey continued, we were mesmerized by the fishes, how they seemed to be synchronized as they swam in unison. We especially enjoyed looking at the giant spider crab and we were so tempted to eat them! Jellyfishes also floated around and they were of different shapes, colours and sizes. Our jaws dropped when we saw the world's largest window to the open ocean. Giants of the sea, which include leopard sharks and stingrays, swam across us.

All in all, it was indeed a fulfilling time spent with our fellow youth mates and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it!



Charmaine Lau and Aaron Heng have been worshipping in Fairfield since birth and they are active members of the Youth Ministry.

The Value of Discipline in Discipleship

1 Timothy 4:7-8

"...Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

The apostle Paul's exhortation to his protégé Timothy is an empathic call to discipline. Like the discipline of the body that athletes put themselves through, the spiritual disciplining towards godliness also comes with hard work and repetitive rigor. One may contend that the process of achieving godliness is through sanctification, attributed to the work of God by His grace. However, Paul is not being contradictory here. In his address to the Philippians church, he exhorts them to **"...work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is **God who works in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13). The process of sanctification is not a one way process, where God transforms us without any effort expended on our part, but a two way process where God works through our efforts. This 'working out' is a process of spiritual discipline that the church today often neglects, and fails to value in light of a comfortable, consumerist Christian culture.

The call to discipleship is a call to obedience, and a call to die. Jesus' very own words were, "If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and **take up his cross daily** and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24). Here Jesus is not calling us to a religious fanaticism that emboldens us to celebrate martyrdom, rather he invokes the paradoxical nature of His kingdom, where true life is attained by first dying. To die to ourselves is to obey Jesus by daily denying ourselves and taking up our crosses. Paul in Galatians says that "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**" (Galatians 5:24), and that we have been crucified with Christ, and are not living for ourselves but for Christ (Galatians 2:20).

So how do we discipline and train ourselves? Paul often used the analogy of an athlete to talk about the Christian life: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it" (1 Corinthians 9:24). The prize of the Christian life is surely becoming fully conformed to the image of Christ and through the process, to be able to say, like Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith", awaiting the crown of righteousness from God the Father himself (2 Timothy 4:7).

Just as physical discipline leads to great physical form (to win races), so spiritual discipline leads to great spiritual form (to win God's race for His glory and to become like Him). In the same way that students study in a disciplined fashion in order to obtain good results, so also our daily spiritual disciplines will build foundations for godliness. This is done through daily reading, meditating, memorizing of the Word and immersing ourselves in prayer. All of these practical disciplines will yield for us a mind that is constantly renewed spiritually (Romans 12:2). We are products of what we consume and expose ourselves to. What are we consuming daily, and how does it affect your worldview? Are we feeding enough from Scripture, or are we feeding more from worldly sources e.g. the internet, television, movies etc. that constantly distract us from our spiritual goal?

Paul clearly underscores for us the value of this discipline. Going back to the opening passage, he reminds us that godliness is of value in every way, because of its worth both in this present life, and for our life in eternity. There are many things for which we intensely labour toward in this life, and the reaping of the fruit of this labour is limited to our temporal reality. The call for us today is to be wise about our 'investments' - what are we investing our time and efforts in? Let us remember that which is most important, and invest our time and efforts into spiritual disciplines, that we may be formed into godliness, reaping the rewards of our training not just for now, but for eternity.

Such discipline, therefore, should be a central focus not just in youth ministry, but also in all other ministries in the church, since as a church community we are always working toward building each other up spiritually. The church is far from an individual enterprise but is instead a communal affair, and the author of Hebrews calls us to **"exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called 'today', that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end" (Hebrews 3:13-14). Let us then take heart and spur each other toward growing in godliness, till the end!



Joshua Loke is the Chairperson of Youth Ministry. He worships in Fairfield with his family.

Yong-en Care Centre



Mr Willian Chua, Executive Director

“ Lifestyle Evangelism is tangible.
It is not a theory.
They can see you as well as feel you.
That makes the Message real. ”

You can ride on God's wave!

What God sees is not how many songs we can sing or how many pages of the Bible we have read.

He is concerned with how many children we have encountered in our life; how many lives we have walked together with; how many needy families we have touched through our evangelistic lifestyle.

PARTICIPATION

- Adopt a Bag on Flag Day
- Advertise in Golf Magazine
- Provide Tuition Support
- Help once a month on Saturday Power Kids
- Adopt a Family

CALL
**YONG-EN
CARE CENTRE**

*To experience
touching lives*



WOH HUP believes in providing healthcare to elderly and donated generously.



Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore donated financially and contributed to volunteering in distribution of ration.

Blessed Assurance

There has been countless blessings in 2013 and we thank the Lord for it. Besides food ration supplied in abundance, finances also rained down and filled us with awe. Media has begun to elevate our work publicly and our centre-based volunteers have increased substantially. These are indeed blessings that God has poured onto YCC.

The Lord has shown us that Chinatown is close to His heartbeat. The beacon is the church and YCC is the link that He endorses. As He has said, "Take care of my sheep." This statement is a reminder that His sheep truly exists. When He comes back, He is not going to check on how much academic knowledge we have accumulated intellectually, rather how we have taken care and mend His sheep.



SMU students donated 6,000 kg of rice. BB donated 4 vans of can food.

Kreta Ayer Community Centre

"Blessed Chinatown."

As Cool60 program meets on every Wednesday afternoon, participant has grown from 40 persons to 80 persons. YCC Event Hall could not accommodate further growth. KACC has offered a 300-persons hall to be used free-of-charge. Hence FPMC has greater opportunity to expand.



Capacity for 300 persons

In 2013, YCC is recognized as one of Nanyang Polytechnic approved Training Centres for Dementia.



Blessed Publicity

The Bible says that at His name, every knee must bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

God once again overwhelmed us with the works of His hands. Have you heard of a company or organisation of worthy news every month? YCC has truly been blessed with favourable publicity in the different mainstream media: Straits Times (in June 2012), TODAY (in July 2012), The New Paper (in August 2012), Straits Times (in September 2012), My Paper (in October 2012), Tamil Murasu (in November 2012), 联合早报 and 联合晚报 (in December 2012), and Channel 8's 前线追踪 (in March 2013).



God's heartbeat is to always care for people and this is worthy of favourable publicity.

It is like watching the waves at the beach. We can see it but unless we get into the water, we can never experience the waves. Experiencing the wave is different from just seeing it. God's favour is upon those who swim in the waves and feel the breeze. These blessings will rejuvenate the person, the family and the church.

So we want to be a disciple-making church

For the last couple of years, the buzz in Fairfield is the talk that we want to be a disciple-making church. Personally, I thought it is an odd statement stating the obvious purpose of a church, like the owner of a cafeteria saying it wants to be food-serving eatery. An eatery may do whatever it wants to enhance the dining experience of its customers, but offering food will always be its basic purpose. It goes without saying, so why say it?

Some may argue the use of tautology is to help us focus on what we do but I would like to suggest another angle to look at this. Imagine you are a father to a young son and one day your own father pulls you aside and tells you something ridiculously obvious, "Son, you are junior's paternal father, you are not his sister." Something must have prompted the grandfather to make such apparently redundant remark. Either the grandfather has a wry sense of humor, or it is time for you to sit up and reflect on your fatherhood. In our case, I don't think our pastors and leaders have a wry sense of humor.

Let's us consider deeper of what has been said. Does the statement imply there is actually an option that a church can choose not to make disciples? Well, what is disciple-making? Are we saying that in our 65 years of existence, we have not been making disciples? Or is there something else to contemplate?

A church may be expected to do many things, such as evangelism, teaching, charity, etc., but one of the common denominators of all these works is the obedience to the Great Commission to make disciples. Sometimes, we may mistakenly equate the Great Commission to evangelism and conversion of new believers, but in truth, disciple-making includes the whole process of building each believer (new and mature ones) in faith and towards love, good works and salvation (Heb 10:24-25, Rm 1:11-12).

Jesus was very explicit when He decreed (all) His disciples in Mt 28:19-20 to make disciples. He instructed them to make disciples through two means – baptizing them and teaching them to observe what He had commanded them, which are quite straight forward instructions. If we were to appraise ourselves against these 'performance measures', we can say we have been successful; for since 1948 Fairfield has baptized thousands of souls, and taught the gospel through numerous sermons, classes and small group meetings. So then, if we had been faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission, why do we make this redundant declaration now? Is there a blind spot we are not aware of? Is there something missing?

Let's take a look at the 'redundant' statement again: Fairfield aims to be a disciple-making church. If you have been in Fairfield long enough, you would agree that much has been preached about the Great Commission and disciple-making, but I would like to direct you to the last word of the statement – 'church'. To comprehend what the blind spot could be, we need to grasp what 'church' and 'church membership' mean.

Simplistically, church can mean 'a place of worship', but the biblical meaning we are looking for is 'an assembly of believers'. The assembly can be a small group meeting in a house (Rm 16:5; 1Cor 16:19), a larger group in an entire city (1Cor 1:2; 2Cor 1:1; 1Th 1:1), of a region (Ac 9:31), or even the earth's entire population of Christians (Eph 5:25; 1Cor 12:28). Regardless of size, geographical or time boundary, the group has several common characteristics we cannot overlook.

1. The group is organized for a reason

There is a mandate for a proper structure of leaders or overseers and deacons (Ac 14:23, Ac 6:3-5, 1Tim 3) and naturally, followers. The Bible exhorts the followers to listen, obey and honor their elders (Heb 13:7; 1Th 5:12-13; 1Tim 5:17). Equally, the leaders are charged to shepherd and care for the flock (Ac 20:28; 1Pt 5:2-3). The group is organized not for the sake of command and control, but for teaching, discipline and works; but if either the leaders or followers were to slack in these prescribed attitudes, the purpose of being organized would have been meaningless.

2. The group is organized for teaching

The group is organized for teaching (Ac 6:2) and the followers are to be devoted to the leaders' teaching (Ac 2:42). Similarly, the leaders are held accountable to what they teach (Jas 3:1) and are to rightly handle the word of truth (2Tim 2:15). To tell if we have been 'successful' as a teaching church is somewhat similar to how one rates a restaurant, the real verdict is not what other people (food critics and bloggers) say but by the amount of leftovers in the kitchen trash. Are our members adequately fed or are there a lot of leftovers? If there were leftovers, we then ask if the food is questionable or the taste buds bad.

3. The group is organized for discipline

This may be one of the hardest roles of the church because it is somewhat 'un-Christian' to be the 'bad guy', especially leaders. But consider the implications of Mt 18:15-17 and 1Cor 5:12-13, the church appears to be vested with authority as the final 'court of appeal' in matters relating to the affairs of its members. The leaders are expected to exercise judgment and to discipline.

4. The group is organized for works and love

The group is organized for works (evangelism, missions, charity, etc.) and make disciples. The group is like a human body with many different parts and expected to work like one (1Cor 12:12-31). And like a person who takes care of his own body, we are commanded to love one another as Jesus has loved us (Jn 15:12). The early disciples were exemplary in this respect to the extent of selling their possessions for the communal life (Ac 2:44-45).

Look at the list, there are areas we could have done better. To begin, each of us needs to examine our understanding of the biblical purpose of church membership and how we have fared according to the covenantal vow we have personally made as a worshipper in Fairfield. Have we been indifferent to the leadership or unresponsive to serve? Are our leaders men and women of integrity and faithful to the Word? Are we burdened with the affairs of the church? Is our ministry based on secular or biblical wisdom? In disagreements, do we resolve them on biblical basis and doctrines, or personal worldview and disposition?

The bottom line is, Christianity is not an individualistic faith, where one can grow in his own world and only to congregate with other believers for religious activities, but the disciple's life is very much a communal as well as a covenantal one. We are called to be part of a larger body than ourselves to bear each other's burden (Gal 6:1-2), do good to each other (Gal 6:9-10), watch each other's back (Jas 5:19-20) as well as sharpening (Pro 27:17), encouraging

(Heb 10:25), teaching, admonishing (Col 3:16) and loving (Jn 15:12) one another.

It is with this biblical communal and covenantal building block in mind that the pastors and leaders unanimously discerned the way

to shepherd Fairfield is through the small group approach. In the last 10 years, unity among our church leadership has never been in such resonance towards a common biblical goal; the question is, will we simply take a redundant statement at its face value or resolve to obey the Great Commission to be a church?

让我们成为培训门徒的教会

在过去的几年中，我们不断在华菲听到一把“我们要成为培训门徒的教会”的声音。在我看来，这声明相当奇怪。难道培训门徒不是一间教会的主要使命吗？这就如同餐馆给顾客提供的主要服务乃是餐饮一样的理所当然，这显然是不言而喻的。

虽然教会有许多的服侍，如传福音，教学，辅导等，但这些服侍都是以服从大使命为基础，那就是培训门徒。有些人认为我们的最终目的就是为了荣耀和敬拜神，而且，许多教堂也如此行。虽然这是明确的，但是，我想建议我们以另一种方式来看待这项环节。试想一下，你是一个年龄幼小的孩子的父亲，而有一天你的父亲将你拉到一边去，并告诉你：“儿子，你是小孩的父亲，他不是你的妹妹，”爷爷一定是基于某种原因才会说出这种看似多余的言语。

因此我们也因开始思考教会领袖在近年来一直对我们强调，我们应成为培训门徒的教会。这是否意味着在过去的65年当中，我们并没有在积极地培训门徒吗？还是，这当中还有一些我们更应该深入思考的吗？

就如同我在前一段落所提到的，培训门徒乃是教会里所有服侍的基础、是大使命，而遵循大使命是每个基督徒的必行之时。这大使命并不单是各人的，而是我们作为在基督当中，一个团体的。新约(希伯来书10:24-25；罗马书1:11-12；罗马书6:22-23)清楚地告诉我们，这包含了整个以爱、信心、善良和救赎来装备所有信徒的过程。

耶稣是非常明确地指示他的门徒们信徒，要他们使万民成为门徒——给他们施洗，并教导他们耶稣所吩咐的。自1948年至今，已有成千上万的非信徒在花菲受洗，而教会也进行了无数次的证道，并组织了許多圣经研究小组以及家庭小组。我们一直忠实地履行大使命，那为什么教会仍然还有一把鼓励我们培训门徒的声音，不断地催促我们呢？

如果你在花菲卫理公会已有很长的时间，你会注意到，教会不断强调大使命的教导。我想说的是，我们需要掌握什么是“教会”和“教会成员”。

在圣经里，我们寻找的是信徒的团契，而这团契所指的可以是小型的家庭聚会，全程的聚会，亦或是全世界基督徒的聚会；不论人数多少、地域和时间的不同，教会有许多方面是我们所不能忽视的。

1. 组织教会的原因

在教会当中，一个适当的领导或监督和执事架构（使徒行传14:23，使徒行传6:3-5，提摩太前书3章），以及门徒们是必有的。圣经劝勉信徒听从和孝敬长辈（希伯来书13:7，铁撒罗尼迦前书5:12-13，提摩太前书5:17）。相同的，教会领导也应教导以及关怀信徒（使徒行传20:28，彼得前书5:2-3）。组织教会不是为了指挥或控制，而是为了牧导，实行纪律和服侍神，但如果领袖或追随者们态度懈怠，

那组织教会就毫无意义了。

2. 组织教会是为了传道

教会是为了传道而组织的（使徒行传6:2），而信徒要听从于领袖的教导（使徒行传2:42）。领袖应对传道负责并正确处理真理（雅各书3:1，提摩太后书2:15）。如何知道教会是否有效传道，就如同我们以一家餐厅所剩余的饭菜有多少一样。教会的信徒们是否有灵命的饱足感？若教会有许多剩余的灵粮，我们应反省是否灵粮或是人们的味蕾出现问题了？

3. 教会中的纪律

执行纪律或许是最难的工作，在教会中也可能是以最低调的方式来处理的，因为很少有人愿意成为“坏人”。马太福音18:15-17以及歌林多前书5:12-13所提到的，教会看似所赋予领袖权利来处理信徒的有关事务，领袖也应作出正确的判断并管教他们所负责的领域。

4. 教会里的服侍和爱

教会有各项服侍（传福音等）和培训门徒弟子的事工。教会就像一个人的身体一样，头部、眼睛、鼻子等都应互相帮助（哥林多前书12:12-31）。一个人爱护自己身体的各部位，就如同耶稣爱我们一样，彼此相爱，早期的门徒便是我们的模范（使徒行传2:44-45）。

我们有可改进的地方，我们每个人都应以圣经的教导来检讨自己成为花菲教会成员的意义。

基督教并不是个人主义的信仰，相反的，基督徒应有群体意识，并遵循圣经里的圣约。我们并不是单一的个体，而是属于群体的一部分，是一通遵循神所喜悦的方式前进，互相承担（加拉太书6:1-2），互相磨合（箴言27:17），互相行善（加拉太书6:9-10），互相鼓励（希伯来书10:25），互相学习和诚勉（歌罗西书3:16），互相看护（雅各书5:19-20），彼此相爱（耶利米书15:12）。

花菲的牧者与领袖遵行圣约的教导，以组织小组的方式牧导花菲会众，带领大家朝更成熟的层次迈进。



Eddie Ho worships in Fairfield with his wife Elaine and son, Nathan. He serves as an Associate Lay Leader, worship leader as well as Chairperson of Governance Committee.

WHAZ UP?

New Members

I. RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

A. By Profession of Faith

English Service

28 April 2013

1. Mrs Agnes Cheong-Ng Yet Har
2. Mrs Elaine Low-Yong Sook Koon

II. TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES

English Service

28 April 2013

1. Mr Yuen Chun Keong Sengkang Methodist Church

III. TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Cantonese Service

31 March 2013

1. Ms Chan Yoke Mui Faith Community Baptist Church

Weddings



Solemnized by Rev Peter Koh



(Solemnized by Rev John Benedict Foo)

Children Ministry's Mission Team to Bangkok

A mission team comprised four teachers and four youth from Fairfield Methodist Church's Children Ministry, went to Bangkok from June 18-23, 2013. Together with The Girls' Brigade and The Young Men's Brigade, Thailand; we ministered to children from four schools and a church. We shared the message of Jesus as our good shepherd as well as visited homes in the slums and gave needy families life packs of oil, rice, toothbrush and soaps.



OUR CONGRATULATIONS to:

Mr & Mrs David Soh Siew Kiaw (Sarah) on the arrival of their baby girl, **Abigail Mulan Soh**, on 10 January 2013.

Mr & Mrs AaronTong Kian Ti (Shirlyn) on the arrival of their baby boy, **Samuel Tong Zhirui**, on 23 January 2013.

Mr & Mrs Ivan Chua Tjun Huat (Jeanne) on the arrival of their baby girl, **Karen Chua**, on 31 May 2013.



We congratulate **Miss Ng May Lan** on her graduation from Baptist Theological Seminary on 25 May 2013 with a Bachelor of Theology.

Baptisms

A. INFANT/CHILD BAPTISM

English Service

21 April 2013

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Master Wang Huainan York | s/o Mr & Mrs WangYibing Aaron |
| 2. Ms Patia Cheong Mun Yee (Zhang Minyi) | d/o Mr & Mrs Cheong Keng Wah Richard |



B. YOUTH/ADULT BAPTISM

English Service

7 April 2013

- Mr Goh Cheng Loke, Herman

21 April 2013

- Mrs Agnes Cheong-Ng Yet Har
- Mrs Elaine Low-Yong Sook Koon
- Ms Edna Wong May Khay
- Ms Grace
- Ms Rachel
- Ms Nik

Cantonese Service

31 March 2013

- Mdm Cheong Fong Yen

29 April 2013

- Ms Yau Chung Yu
- Mr Ng Fook Wah

Mandarin Service

31 March 2013

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mdm Chloe Chen Fang | 6. Mr Huang ShiMin |
| 2. Mdm Jiang Jia Jia | 7. Mr Wang Jian |
| 3. Mdm Nie Xiu Ping | 8. Mr Zhang Jia He |
| 4. Mdm Tong Cui | 9. Mr Zhang Pin Qing |
| 5. Ms Li Xuemu | |

Our New Pastor

Pastor Jason Phua has been appointed Assistant Pastor with effect from 1 August 2013.

Jason is married to Belinda and the Lord has blessed them with two lovely children: Ezekiel (5 years old) and Elyse (2 years old). Jason studied at Trinity Theological College and served in Wesley Methodist Church as Pastoral Team Member. Prior to full time church work, Jason trained civil service officers and grassroots leaders on business continuity planning and crisis management. For leisure, Jason and family likes to cycle, swim or meet up with friends for meals.



Coming Up Next:

August 2013

Missions Month

04 August

Alpha Marriage Course

24 August

Parents' Night Dinner

22 September

Cantonese Service 27th Anniversary
Leadership Congregational Gathering
Last Local Conference

4-15 December

Biblical tour of Jordan / Israel

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 Kang Hai Chiew | 24 January 2013 |
| Mr William Chua Chwee Lim | 19 May 2013 |
| Mr James Wan Kok Weng | 26 June 2013 |

Cantonese Service

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Mr Chan Hon Lum | 3 March 2013 |
| Mdm Ng Ah Noon | 27 June 2013 |

Mandarin Service

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mdm Low Wai Yong | 21 January 2013 |
|------------------|-----------------|



Editorial Team:

Rev Lilian Ang • Samuel Soh • Thio Lay Hoon • Jimaia Wong
Audrey Koh • Lydia Sha • Edwina Lim

Photography:

Alan Chou • Lillian Yu

The third celebration event will be the Parents' Night held on 24 August 2013, where we hope to multiply disciples by bringing our pre-believing parents or relatives to this evangelistic dinner.