

聆听心跳
heart+beat

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Covenant Kindergarten Sunday

誓约幼稚园主日 By Mrs Doris Wong

The Covenant Kindergarten is 24 years old! As an outreach arm of the church, it has been our aim to provide a high quality pre-school education with care, love and concern for the children. We thank God for His faithfulness in seeing us through these 24 years.



Growing in Enrolment

To cater for the high enrolment of the Pre-Nursery classes, the kindergarten has added two more Pre-Nursery classes in January 2010. We want to praise and thank God that the kindergarten is at its capacity of four classes per level and we have a healthy enrolment of 322 children from the two sessions.



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Christian Education (CE)

The syllabus for Christian Education is taken from the Old Testament of the Bible. The children learn of God's creation, Bible characters and the parables of Jesus. Scripture memory was introduced to the children of K1 & K2 classes last year. Participation was good and the children were able to apply the Bible verses in their daily lives. This programme is on-going.



Highlights of Events

Graduation Ceremony & Annual Concert - 5 & 6 November 2009

The theme of last year's concert was "Jesus Loves All the Little Children of the World." The number of children from the K2 classes who graduated in 2009 was 101. Besides preparing the children academically for primary school, we had the opportunity to share God's Word with them.

The two-day concert, which was held in the Sanctuary, was well attended by more than 1200 people. Most of them were parents, grandparents and other family members.

This year, the concert will be held on 28 and 29 November 2010.



Covenant Kindergarten Sunday



Chinese New Year Celebration

The children celebrated Chinese New Year on 12 February 2010. Rev Christopher Chin graced the opening of the celebration. He engaged the children with a story and prayed for them and their families.



Easter Celebration

On 1 April 2010, the kindergarten celebrated Good Friday and Easter with the children. Ms Carolyn Lee from the Children's Ministry told the story of Jesus to the children. When she invited the children who wanted to be Jesus' friends to stand, it was so heart-warming to see many children stood up. She prayed for them and gave them a flyer titled "Jesus Is Alive". The children sang several songs to glorify the living God.

Staff

Staff training to upgrade the teaching skills of our teachers has always been our top priority. We extend our congratulations to five teachers who have finished their training in various programmes which included bachelor degree in early childhood education and diploma in teaching and leadership. The other teaching staffs have already

obtained their teaching qualifications required by the Ministry of Education (MOE).

We extend our congratulations to Chan Mei Lin, Ek Bee Geok and Chin Fong Lin who received Long Service Awards from Bishop Solomon on 2 October 2009.

We thank God for His faithfulness in seeing us through another year. We are also thankful for having supportive pastors who provide spiritual direction to the kindergarten and co-workers in the management committee who are always there for me despite their busy work schedules and other commitments. I would also wish to express my appreciation to our dedicated



Some members of the management committee. Top (from left): Mabel Wee, Margaret Chan, Sum Yoke Ying. Below (from left): Alice Phua, Doris Wong, Alice Yeo

kindergarten staff and the helpful church staff who are always ready to give assistance to the kindergarten when needed.

To God be the Glory!



Methodist Heritage Prayer Journey

卫理公会历史祷告之行 By Andy Toh

Close to 60 persons from various TRAC Churches cheerfully participated in this prayer journey organised by the TRAC Board of Archives & History on Saturday, 21 Aug 2010. Its main objective is to help us recapture the faith and passion of our Methodist pioneers, in a community of connectional bonding amongst the TRAC Churches.



Rev Tay Kay Leong and Rev Christopher Chin acted as tour and prayer leaders as we travelled in a coach, going from one historical and inspirational

site to another. Fanning the flame of thanksgiving to God, they shared how Methodism in Singapore was established and developed, intermittent with short

quizzes along the way. We prayed in pairs for God's work, guided with a special focus, when we came to the historical sites.

Short Street Tamil Methodist Church

The first site we went to was Short Street Tamil Methodist Church. It was recounted that many Tamils from India and Ceylon attended the meetings conducted by Dr Thoburn, founder of Methodism in Singapore. The work was carried on by a young Tamil, GW Underwood.



Former Trinity Theological College at Mount Sophia

We then spent some time praying for the cause of the Trinity Theological College (that people too may be bold to answer God's call) when we came to her original site at Mount Sophia. We were not able to enter because the gates were chained. It now belongs to the state.



Wesley Methodist Church



We all sang "Be Thou My Vision" when we arrived in the sanctuary of Wesley Methodist Church, the first Methodist

Church in Singapore. It was shared that the pastoral and laity often served together to advance God's cause in our pioneering years. Nonchalantly, Pastor Kay Leong encouraged us to continue this partnering which has always been a distinctive of the Methodists. Thus, both Pastors expressed their heartwarming appreciation on our (lay) involvement in this heritage journey.



It is worthy to note that a family from PLMC (Eddie, Nancy, Charlene & Delwyn Ooi) actually made this Prayer Journey to be their family programme. Somehow they could not find a date where all their schedules could match, except on 21 Aug. Divine appointment? Don't rule that out!

Victoria Concert Hall (Singapore Town Hall)



"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty (Zech 4:6). It was at the Victoria Concert Hall (known as Singapore Town Hall then) that Dr Thoburn preached the above text that later saw the beginning of the

first congregation of over 20 persons. He himself testified that the work was done neither by human eloquence nor human persuasion, but by the direct pressure of the divine upon their minds and hearts" (*From Thoburn: Called of God, W. F. Oldham, The Methodist Book Concern, 1918*).

What was interesting to note was that it was a non-Christian Council member that casted the deciding vote allowing the Hall to be used for the services. This again inspired us towards greater amazement and awe of our God. We committed all the Methodist Churches to God.

Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church/ Amoy Street



We then proceeded to the place where the second revival wave took place, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. Led by Dr John Sung, assisted by Rev Chew Hock Hin of PLMC, these revival meetings saw scores of people responding to the gospel message, with fervent and spontaneous cries of "Olo

Choo, Chan Bee Choo" meaning "praise the Lord." They were relentless in their evangelistic pursuit.

From there we took a slow walk along Amoy Street to visit the place where the Anglo-Chinese School started. Apparently the small place had turned into a pub. Nonetheless, a plaque hung at the side wall publicly reminded all on the origins of the site. It served to tell us too that Methodists played a pivotal role in Singapore's education in the early years.



A Journey To Remember

The nostalgic and insightful prayer journey ended with lunch at Cathay Restaurant. Sitting with new friends, we exchanged our reflective thoughts as well as updates on our lives, ministries and how sister Churches are getting on. We were all encouraged to participate in the Methodist Heritage Day on 31 October.

My Life for Her Life...

(Post Missions Trip Reflection)

我的生命给予她（短宣后的反思） By Zhon Yun

I was shocked at the words that came to my head as I was praying for my “cousin” friend, A, seated opposite me. I had been sharing the gospel with her for over an hour now, and it was amazing how we were able to discuss deep topics such as God, life and death, judgment day, heaven and hell etc, despite having only known each other for less than a couple of hours.

It suddenly became apparent to me how difficult it was for a “cousin” in Central Asia (CA) to become a Christian. In fact, it is almost unthinkable, impossible! Most of them believe in Jesus, however, they have difficulties believing that He is the Son of God and the Messiah, Saviour of the world. It required a miracle for a “cousin” to come to the Christian faith.

I felt a flood of compassion and love as I prayed for A silently in my heart. There was much urgent desperation in the intercession. It wasn't the first time I had felt that way in my three-week long trip to CA. There was another girl, B, whom I had befriended at a birthday party in CA. While we were talking about our future, she brought up that she would like to work as a translator in Turkey and at that moment, God gave me two visions of B. The first vision was that she would go to Turkey and become more pious in her own faith. The second vision was that she would be His Light-bearer in a land that desperately needs the gospel. She was only 13 years old! There is so much that God wants to work in and through her life, if only she knew!

It was a real spiritual battle we were waging in our three weeks in CA. Many

of the university students whom we had befriended were very open and friendly; however, when we began to initiate spiritual conversations or talk about Jesus, something would happen to break the conversation e.g. somebody would enter the room and they would be distracted, or they would suddenly change the topic, as if they never heard our questions at all. My team thought it very strange at first, yet, as we shared during our team meetings and found the occurrences of such incidences too frequent to be a coincidence that we realised it was the devil who was trying to prevent the gospel from being spread to the university students of CA. We began to pray.

God taught me much about prayer and intercession in this trip. I remember one morning, after group devotion, I suddenly felt an overwhelming sense of sadness over the land of CA, and in desperation, my friend and I began to cry out to God to have mercy and save the land. We cried out verses of the bible, particularly the promises of God and the character of God, and it became a time of petitioning for the people of CA, as we cried out “unless You do something about it, O God, nothing is going to happen/change” kind of prayers. It was an amazing time of tears, worship and intercession.

Before we finished praying, we felt the sense of overwhelming bleakness and barrenness lift. It was as though something broke through in the spiritual realm that manifested in the physical. The heaviness was gone, and we were able to rejoice and give thanks, knowing



that God heard our prayers, and something had happened, and that the victory is ours in Jesus Christ!

We were all smiles and more than conquerors as we marched to the University that morning, knowing we will see salvation that day. It was an amazing day, as God brought divine appointments after divine appoints. This girl, C, who was not a student and had graduated already happened to pass the University at the same moment her friend, D, was about to enter the University. They talked and D told her about the English classes that the Singaporeans were conducting at the University. Now, D was only 13 years old, and still in high school; she had heard about the English lessons through her mother

that morning and had decided to go check it out when she bumped into C at the University! The long and short of the story was that the two of them came for the English class, and the very same afternoon, they came back with us for lunch. We shared the gospel with them and C prayed to receive Christ! Praise the Lord! She was one of the four “cousins” who prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. For many of them, becoming a Christian means being outcast in society, labelled a betrayer of their faith, culture and family, and for some of them, they are disowned by their families, and are threatened by death to renounce Christianity. We know of a friend who was beaten up so badly by his brother when his family found out he had become a Christian. With such strong opposition from family and persecution in society, it was nothing short of a miracle that the four students had boldly decided to follow Jesus despite the high costs of following Him!

I really learned a lot about “cousins” and their faith in this trip, as God poured out His love and compassion for His People, the “cousins”, into my heart. Something in me moved as I prayed the words “my life for her life”, taken from Isaiah 43:4

Since you are precious and honored in My sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life.

God is sounding His call for people to love His people, the “cousins”. He is calling for people to lay down their lives to reach the “cousins”. We are only able to do it because Jesus has already done it - He laid down His life for us. What more do we need?

Will you be that Someone God can use to love His People the “cousins”? Will you fast and pray for this special group of people that has a special place in God's heart?



Reflections from Nigel Ho, on his month-long trip to East Asia:

在东亚长达一个月期间的短宣反思 *By Nigel Ho*

My trip to East Asia was indeed an eye-opener to me as the nature of the ministry was totally different from those of previous trips that I have gone for. As we were reaching out to the Chinese background “cousins”, we could not share the gospel openly. We had to contextualise the gospel in ways which are relevant and understandable to them. It was an awesome experience as we had not only to contextualise the gospel, we also had to know where the Chinese background “cousins” are located in the different areas. We always had to depend on the Holy Spirit through prayer to lead us to men and women of peace who could provide us with accurate information. We also took classes at a university in the area where we were and showed Christ's love to those who were in the hostel with us.

The deepest and most impacting lesson that I learned from God is the necessity to have a firm foundation built on Jesus Christ even though the ministry there often sees few fruits in terms of people coming to know and receive Christ into their lives. But when these people do, they would already be rooted in the Word of God as their mindsets and beliefs are transformed by God's love. For the entire trip, we could see God answer us faithfully through prayer and petition and are still amazed even after we have returned from our trip.

The “Cousins” and I in East Asia

By Edlyn Lee

God’s heart is constantly beating for our “cousins” and He longs for them to return to a relationship with him. I caught a glimpse of that amazing love one instance during the missions trip and it overwhelmed me. I was on the way to the village to meet a friend, Spring. The village was in an inaccessible part of the city and I had to walk through a huge patch of deserted land to reach it. As I trudged through the mud on the way to my destination, my slippers began to sink. It had rained the day before, softening the ground as a result. Before I knew it, my feet were soaked in mud and the rims of my white jeans became brown. There was however no turning back as I was already halfway through the journey. I rolled up my pants, took out my slippers and continue walking while thoughts about whether it was worth going through all this to get to Spring crept into my mind. I prayed and God gave me the peace to know that He will work as I obey. That fateful day, I had a deep conversation with Spring which ended with me sharing about Christ and praying for healing upon her injured back.



As I reflected on the events of the day, I was reminded of the story about how Jesus took a detour to minister to the demon-possessed man in Gadarenes. Jesus found it worthwhile to go to this one man and I believe that he feels the same about Spring. It was worth going through inconveniences to share God’s message of love. God loves Spring enough. If I turned back, when is the next time she gets to hear the good news?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9



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September 2010

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
4, 11, 18, 25	Sonshine Kids Outreach	19	Living Stones Mandarin Service 10th Anniversary Celebration
4, 11, 18, 25	Peranakan Fellowship Meeting (Mand)	22, 29	Youth and Adult Baptism Class
7	Living Stones Prayer Meeting (Mand)	25	Missions Connect
7, 14	Intercessors’ Meeting	27	Last Local Conference 2010 / LCEC Meeting
11	WSCS Week of Prayer & Self Denial Prayer Walk		

Sunday Services

7.30 am Peranakan Service (Sanctuary)
 9.00 am Sanctuary Service / Living Stones Mandarin Service (Chapel)
 10.30 am Filipino Fellowship (Conference Room)
 Except every 1st Sunday of each month
 11.00 am The Next Generation Youth Service, PLMGSS Concert Hall, Lor Ah Soo
 11.15 am Celebration Service (Sanctuary) / Living Stones Mandarin Service (Covenant Chapel)

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