



witness



God Showed Up

A look back at Pastor Vincent's journey in CMC.



The Warmth of CMC, Unleashed Once More

The importance of community



Prayer-Powered Pastor

Get to know our Pastor-in-Charge, Rev Dr Edwin Wong!



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Witness is a magazine of Christ Methodist Church.
The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect
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in Singapore.

Contents



God Showed Up

A look back at Pastor Vincent's
journey in CMC.

6

God is Real

8



The Warmth of CMC, Unleashed Once More

The importance of community

10

Reap What You Sow

14



A Bag of Food and a Hand of Friendship

Spreading love and care, one life at
a time.

16

A Tutor, a Friend

20

Find Rest: Young Adults Retreat

22



Prayer-Powered Pastor

Get to know our Pastor-in-Charge,
Rev Dr Edwin Wong!

24

Psychologist Turned Pastor

28



Welcome to the Family!

We rejoice with all who were
baptised and received into
membership over Christmas!

30

Our Servant Leaders

32

A word

Our words and deeds should be filled with love so that others can see God through us and understand that the God who created the concept of light itself, loves them.

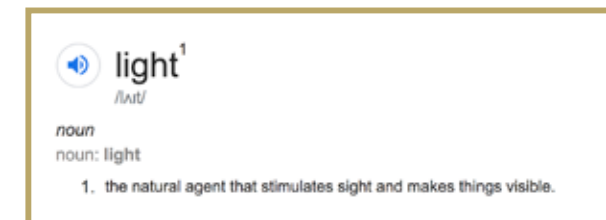


REV DR EDWIN WONG

from your Pastor

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16



The presence of light may not indicate an absence of darkness but it certainly mitigates its negative effects.

We often take light for granted. Only when there is a lack of light, do we realise how important it is in our daily lives. Darkness hinders us. It causes us to be filled with uncertainty and distress because we are unable to see what is around us.

By being agents of light, we can chase away the darkness from those around us by pointing them to God. Our words and deeds should be filled with love so that others can see God through us and understand that the God who created the concept of light itself, loves them.

As we reflect on the year that has passed, let us honestly evaluate ourselves – have we truly invested in loving those around us? Regardless of your answer, strive to live in a

way that goes beyond ourselves in the New Year to meet the needs of others instead. Sincerely pray for opportunities to do so.

2020 will be the final year in our three-year direction of “Deeper” and we will be marking the year by going Deeper in His Mission, focusing on the “Loving the Community” aspect of our Vision. This means heading out from the four walls of our church to engage and assist. We are calling this, Church In Action (CIA).

My prayer is for all of us to be on board for what is to come; together, we can be the church that God intends us to be – always looking out for the least, the last and the lost.

Let us be of one mind and heart as we prepare ourselves to be worthy representatives of our amazing God in the community.

God Showed Up

our congregation over the past three years. Before he began his six-month sabbatical in January 2020, WITNESS sat down with him to look back at his journey here in CMC.



Pastor Vincent was appointed to CMC in January 2017, unaware that he would need to take on the role of Pastor-in-Charge in August later that year. “I was quite surprised and wasn’t mentally prepared, so I really prayed that God would show up. And He did! It is evident that God was involved throughout. Truly a humbling experience,” he reflected.

This was especially so during the period of January to July 2019 when we only had two pastors to hold the fort. Not only did God sustain our church and maintain its vibrancy, He allowed us to do much more than expected. One example was when we held seven weeks of prayer meetings on consecutive Wednesdays (and with pretty good attendance too)!

“It’s offering time!” – three words that were once met with silence, now invoke a reaction of cheering and applause. This will remain as one of the many things that Pastor Vincent passionately introduced to

“I don’t know how to lead the church, but God is leading it. He is the Pastor-in-Charge.” Be it over the pulpit or in smaller group settings, this was something that Pastor Vincent mentioned time and time again as it was a statement he held true. It is also an example of how he never failed to point us to God and remind us to have faith.

Lessons Learnt

What were his takeaways from his time here? Firstly, **less is more!** He shared that he learnt to simply focus on what he was called to do and what needed to be done – cutting away anything peripheral. Secondly, **be value-principled** as your time and resources will go into what you value most.



Hoist Up Your Sails

“One strong aspect of CMC that I have witnessed is the increased fervency in prayer and exuberance in worship,” said Pastor Vincent. As we dove into our three-year theme of DEEPER, there has been such a shift in our services. But Pastor Vincent encouraged CMC not to stop here. “Always remember to grow deeper in God in relationship through prayer and worship; in knowing God’s truth through the study of His Word with obedience; and bearing witness of God’s glory through our service and good works.”

Looking Forward

During his sabbatical, he plans to spend more time with his parents. He will also be spending three weeks in Israel with his wife. Besides that, he looks forward to catching up on his reading.

His subsequent posting will be subjected to TRAC appointment.

Messages from the Congregation

Dear Pastor Vincent,

Your infectious laughter and smile are already legendary. But what we will miss most is your warmth and generous spirit to everyone. You taught us what it truly means to be CHRIST Methodist Church – to serve in spirit and in truth to each other and in the community. Your tireless spirit, led many to rise up. Today, many are serving in more ways than they could imagine, including ourselves! Pastor, we know that you will continue inspiring believers to step out and step up wherever you go, and we wish you every blessing in your next adventure with Him.

Patricia & Albert Wee



Thank you, Pastor Vincent for leading and pastoring us these past three years. Your humility, uninhibited passion and love for God and his people are truly inspiring to me. May the joy of the Lord always be your strength and His favour rest upon you and establish the work of your hands. Shalom.

Phyline Yeo



Dear Pastor Vincent,

You are a very good pastor. I pray that God will always be with you. Thank you for sharing God’s words with me and Ada.

Marc Ong
(7 years old!)



Thank you, Pastor Vincent for your Holy Spirit filled leadership at CMC and your fire for God in all that you did!

As a church, I think we were all blessed by all the new initiatives you rolled out in such a short period of time. I pray that our Lord Yeshua, will refresh your soul and body and continue to encourage and empower you for His glory as you seek Him. You will be missed! Shalom.

Veronica Groom



Dear Pastor Vincent,

I am encouraged by your selfless acts of love for others. May you and your family continue to be refreshed by the loving joy of Christ.

*For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.
Philemon 1:7*

Florence Nathan



God is Real

BY KOH CHIEW ENG

I was born into a non-Christian family. From childhood up to my adult life, I would follow my family to pray, without knowing the true significance behind the prayers. It was just rituals that I went through.

During those years, I had Christian friends who wanted to bring me to church. I was, in fact, studying in a Methodist school during my pre-university days. But for some reason, I was never open to the idea of being a Christian and often shut off when the topic of Christianity came up with my peers.

In the 1970s, I was diagnosed with carcinoma in-situ of my left breast. I only had some of my lymph nodes removed as no further treatment was required except for annual monitoring by the doctors. One day, I discovered a small lump on my right breast. Fearful, I confided in my Christian colleague who continuously prayed for me. I was so thankful for her prayers, especially when at the next medical appointment, the lump had disappeared! This incident made me consider the possibility that the God she was praying to is real.

As the years passed, I started to learn more about God. I felt convicted that God is real and chose to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I became more conscious of my actions and behaviour; whatever I did must be for the glory of God. Throughout the years and even after my retirement, I was blessed with a good life, despite having rheumatoid arthritis. I believe that the Lord has always been watching out for me.

In September 2013, I was diagnosed with lymphoma and cancer of my left breast. I had to have a mastectomy of the left breast and had two different chemotherapy treatments for the lymphoma and the breast cancer. Again, I sensed that the Lord was with me. He helped me through the surgery and chemotherapy, and I was blessed with more good years. During this time, I attended CMC's Healing Service and was very grateful for the team that prayed for me, as it gave me much comfort and peace.

In April 2018, as a result of a stomach endoscopy done (due to frequent stomach pain), I was diagnosed with stomach and gall bladder cancer. It was a shock to discover that I had to fight the cancer battle again. I prayed and sought the Lord continuously for healing. He was with me through the surgery to remove my gall bladder and two-thirds of my stomach, and I recovered from the surgery faster than expected. Once again, He helped me through the crisis.

I have since been monitored through a CT scan and gastrointestinal scope and am thankful that there is no trace of cancer cells in the body. A biopsy done on a mass tissue behind the nose discovered during the CT scan also turned out to be non-cancerous.

I wondered many times why I was afflicted with these various cancers. My thoughts were that God was testing my faith. He helped me accept what I was facing and showed me that despite all these difficulties, I needed to trust that He was and is with me, and will not forsake me.

I used to worry incessantly whenever I had to go for reviews with doctors; always fearing the worst. Whenever I started worrying, I would talk to our Lord Jesus Christ and read His Word. When I did, I feel His presence and His peace enveloping me. This has helped me grow in my faith and has given me hope. He has helped me grow spiritually; to see things from a better perspective and not to be as self-centred as before. I began to spend more time understanding the Scriptures and I use it as a guide to life and to grow in character. It has helped me realise the need to spread the Good News to my pre-believing friends and to use my experiences as a testimony of God's presence.

*I believe
that the Lord
has always
been watching
out for me.*

CHIEW ENG comes for our 8.30am service and has been attending CMC for around 20 years.

The Warmth of CMC, Unleashed Once More

BY CHEOK MEY ZHI, SANDRA

It has been close to five years since I attended CMC with Papa. CMC is special. Our community is warm, genuine, authentic and highly encouraging – an answered prayer, indeed. (Psalm 130:5). God touched me through our church.

When I first attended CMC, I was a total wreck. On 6 September 2014, I lost my Mother (“Mama”) to leiomyosarcoma (LMS), a rare form of cancer. At that time, everything felt hopeless to me, and I was hungry to rebuild my life and seek closure.

Weeks after Mama’s passing, our family friends, Pastor David Ho and Auntie Yeo Chew Kheang, brought us to CMC. Initially, I went grudgingly – my family, though Christian, had almost given up on God after seeing Mama suffer through her illness. Feeling the warmth and sincerity of our church touched my heart. I felt a peace and calmness that transcended all human understanding. This became increasingly assuring as I continued attending church.



Through the genuine efforts of many individuals who reached out to Papa and me, I firmly believe that God works through His people. God used my grief over losing Mama to enable others to exemplify compassion that I never imagined would have been possible.

Galatians 6:2 came alive for me: *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.”* This was evident in the random acts of concern and kindness of my friends, and their words of encouragement. Their sincerity is something I will treasure for life.

Crafting my Legal Identity

On 31 August 2018, I returned to Singapore for good. A new set of challenges arose but God used them for the greater good.

I knew that multiple challenges would come my way as I embarked on becoming an advocate and solicitor. Being in the legal industry is significant to me because it is a calling, not a mere profession. Having been verbally and emotionally abused in primary and secondary school, and having suffered much trauma during my adolescence, upholding justice and representing the voices of vulnerable parties became important to me.

However, when I embarked on my six months of Relevant Legal Training (RLT), the struggles that I faced seemed too much for me to bear.

A key challenge that I had faced was in crafting my “legal identity”.

It was difficult being in Court. I knew how to be prim and proper, but I wasn’t used to this heightened sense of vigilance. A paralegal once told me, “法庭没有朋友” (there are no friends in Court). Sadly, that phrase is relevant, in light of scheming and manipulative opposing counsels whom I had encountered so far.

This constant state of guardedness was something that law school never prepared me for. I’m highly extroverted, so not being able to be my usual cheery, bubbly and warm self was difficult.

I knew that this struggle had to be addressed and that there could only be spiritual solutions to such an issue. What I realised was that these spiritual solutions could not have been premised on my own knowledge or wisdom. God was in the picture once again. He chose to encourage me through our church community; my CG, Papa’s CG and Glowing Years Ministry (GYM) friends, as well as my DISCIPLE facilitators and classmates.

I joined the Bible study class, DISCIPLE in February this year. Through exploring God’s Word in a structured manner, I gained strength which I never had before. The wisdom of my DISCIPLE group gleaned via the close study of God’s word, helped me to craft my “legal identity” purposefully. I realised that human justice must be tempered with God’s mercy – God’s perspectives are what mattered most. All these enabled me to gain greater confidence in the legal world and increasingly see things from God’s perspective.

The Power of Community

When I was preparing for the 2019 End-April Part A Singapore Bar examinations, there were times when I felt very lost, as most of my peers had already been called to the Bar. This was a result of the gap year that I took because of Mama’s passing, and the additional year for my postgraduate degree.

God is amazing. In that season, I experienced the power of our church community once more. Although most of my church friends are highly introverted, I could feel the spiritual connection that I shared with them in Christ. My friends enabled and encouraged me to be vulnerable with them. Most significantly, they allowed me to reach out to them.

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2



But God and my friends taught me that in strengthening God-ordained relationships, vulnerability is inevitable.

Exhibiting any form of vulnerability, no matter the degree, was exceedingly difficult for me because of my traumatic background. I strove to regulate my emotions and put in conscious efforts to ensure that none of my peers bore any emotional responsibilities for me.

But God and my friends taught me that in strengthening God-ordained relationships, vulnerability is inevitable. God made me realise that, especially in church, I must and can let go of the “court-attire mode”. To be free to be me, regardless of what the world at large says about what lawyers should be, is one of the greatest opportunities that God had ever given me.

My heartfelt prayer is that you too will experience the love that God has for you through our church community. Let those whom God wants to bring into your life reach out to you, run life’s journey with you and let Him do his transformative work. You are not and will never be alone.



SANDRA is a member of Y2K CG. She is a Legal Trainee who completed her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at School of Law, The University of Warwick and Master of Laws (LLM) (Litigation & Dispute Resolution) at Faculty of Laws, University College London. Sandra is also a contributor of THIR.ST, a Singapore-based Christian website. She is dynamic and filled with energy, so do not be surprised when she says HELLO!

Reap What You Sow

BY MATTHEW HOWDEN

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

2 Corinthians 9:6

I believe that you only get out of life what you put in. I can't sit still and I have to be involved in everything (it drives Adeline, my wife crazy most of the time!) Adeline and I joined our first Care Group last year (one of the best decisions we've ever made!) Our CG is led by two amazing people: Junie and Wee Hiong, who have made a huge impact in our lives with their selfless Christian values. They invited us to join them for the Christalite Methodist Home KFC outing and we quickly



said yes (we love KFC and we know the more we sow, the more we reap, so *winner-winner chicken dinner!*)

The big day arrived and we met at CMC, 10:45 am on a Sunday, to board the bus to Christalite Methodist Home in Woodlands. Adeline and I knew many of the people from church, but only by sight, so it was a great way to make new friends. When we arrived at Christalite Methodist Home, a group of residents had lined up to join the bus.

Only some abled residents can attend such outings, so a number of volunteers usually stay back at the Home to spend time with those who are not able to go. As I've been ushering at CMC for quite some time, ushering the group on to the bus felt like a church day all over again.

When we arrived at KFC, we ordered food and drinks for the residents, then sat down and mingled with them.



Many of them were a little shy, and it was a little difficult to strike up a conversation when I don't know a lot of Chinese or Tamil. I blundered through and started chatting with an Indian gentleman who told me about his family and what he used to do for work. As we sat there eating, I looked around the room and gave some of the residents a smile and a nod. I was making new friends and it felt good. I hoped, in some small way, my actions positively impacted someone that day.

Our second visit was fantastic. Many of the same residents who had attended the first KFC outing attended the second one and it was good to see the familiar faces. Since then, Adeline and I have been on four of the Christalite Methodist Home outings. Each time, many of the same residents join the outing and we are now building friendships. I'm getting hugs, warm handshakes and huge smiles from many of them.

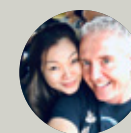
I leave every outing with an incredible sense of joy and purpose that comes from giving just a little of my time. I receive a real sense of fulfilment from thinking my actions may

have sparked joy in someone's life. Perhaps it's the simple act of sharing a meal or offering a warm smile. I feel great just for showing up and if you are reading this now, I encourage you to come and share this feeling.

I am deeply thankful and blessed...for the special, unique, amazing people in my life and for the gifts God has given that allow me to help others.

WE NEED YOU!

We are currently looking for volunteers (individuals or in groups of 2 to 3) to befriend one resident each at MWS Christalite Methodist Home. If you can dedicate at least three Sundays a year to give some love and joy to the old and destitute, do come and join us.



A Kiwi with wings! **MATTHEW** is a hyper curious, control freak who's trying hard to be a better person every day. His optimism is infectious, and he believes that life is short, so smile while you still have teeth.

A Bag of Food

and

a Hand of

Friendship

BY MONICA LIM

“Reach up as far as you can!” a chirpy voice encourages. The elderly residents chuckle and gamely follow the actions of Joelle He, a regular volunteer with the Starfish group.



It's a Friday morning and the exercise session is part of a weekly Friday morning social gathering at the WeCare centre at Marine Terrace.

Meanwhile at another table, volunteers sort out and pack that week's groceries into bags. And it's not a mechanical distribution of identical bags either. A resident who loves bananas gets an extra piece of fruit, and a family with many children receive extra portions of vegetables.

Every week, some 15 needy families from the Marine Terrace rental flats enjoy a supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, specially prepared for them. Such a thoughtful process can only come about with personal knowledge of the specific beneficiaries...and one that underscores the evolvement of Starfish.

“We’re here not only to give groceries but to befriend them,” shared Shirley.

One Life at a Time

Starfish had a simple start. In 2014, CMC member Shirley Yong, who was also vice-chair of her Residents Committee at Marine Terrace, shared the plight of some needy families in the two rental flats that she oversaw. Spurred by compassion, a group of five ladies from CMC swung into action. Armed with fresh food and groceries, they paid visits to a few households identified as needing help. The intent was to spread a token of love and care from the church.

Over time, the number of households included in the weekly visits grew, as more families were identified—the elderly, widows, single parents, low income families. Hence, Starfish was born, named after the perennially popular starfish on the beach

tale. “As the story goes,” explained original member Sharon Lopez, “we can’t help every needy household, but we hope to make a difference to each household that’s referred to us.”

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,”

Starfish member Linda Sethi quoted from Matthew 25:40. “As Jesus’ followers, we should be concerned about the needs of the poor, homeless and sick.”

In 2016, the group’s efforts became more concerted when WeCare@MarineParade was set up as a one-stop centre for residents to

seek help in all areas. It formed a practical conduit by which suitable cases could be referred to Starfish. WeCare also invited Starfish to use its premises, which provided a convenient location for the ladies to pack the groceries each week before doing the home visits.

Growing Beyond Groceries

By 2017 as the number of households grew to more than 10, however, it became unfeasible for the home visits to continue. Apart from the housebound, a new arrangement was made for most of the beneficiaries to collect their groceries from the WeCare office instead. This opened up a new opportunity for interaction with the residents. Breakfast is prepared every Friday morning, and is open to all residents, not just the beneficiaries.

“We’re here not only to give groceries but to befriend them,” shared Shirley. “Many of the seniors are lonely, and want someone to talk to. We hope they know that CMC is a friendly neighbour, someone they can approach. It’s a privilege to know them and to share their lives. Our role is to spread the fragrance of Christ.”

Befriending residents means meeting them at their needs, which often translates into being there for the long haul. Sharon Tan, a Starfish member, shared an anecdote: “One of the families couldn’t pay their PUB bill and would have their electricity cut off. Out of good intentions, a bunch of us pooled together funds to pay the bill. But we quickly realised it’s not a long-term solution because the same thing is likely to happen again the next time. Instead of just paying the bill, we need to teach them how to budget their finances. It’s a long process.”

Linda agreed. “For many of these families, we need to help them become financially independent. We spend time counselling them, help them find jobs, and educate their children so they can get out of the poverty trap.”

Discovering the Heart of God

Today, the scope of Starfish has expanded. Member Winnie Cheng accompanies some of the residents for their medical checkups. Starfish also responds to requests for donations of furniture and household appliances, and offers bursaries to needy school-going kids under the umbrella of CMC’s Outreach and Social Concerns.

And the Starfish ladies discover over and over again that when they show God’s love, God shows up.

Shirley recounted Mdm Ong’s case which was referred by WeCare. “Her bed was completely covered with bedbugs, so we arranged for a new bed to be delivered to her.” On the day of delivery however, when the delivery men knocked on the door, they heard a sound but no one answered. Shirley was called and when she entered the house, which was unlocked, she saw Mdm Ong lying on the ground. “If we hadn’t arranged for the delivery, no one would have known she had fallen,” said Shirley. “We brought her to the hospital and Starfish member Evalyn Tay visited her regularly with Pastor Alvin Teh, bearing her favourite foods.”

After Mdm Ong had recovered, Shirley brought her to CMC’s Saturday service only to discover two of her relatives attended CMC! They were connected and now the two members regularly check in on Mdm Ong. “I was just blown away by how God is watching over her,” Shirley mused. “When we avail our time, God will allow people to come for us to reach out to. It’s His amazing love and grace.”

Sharon Tan echoed this sentiment. “God always provides, even when we have little faith. It is not difficult to make a difference by showing love or doing an act of kindness for one person. We just need to take that first step of faith to touch one life.”



MONICA is an author, blogger, and runs her own copywriting agency. Yeah, she writes a lot. She has been attending CMC with her husband, Kenneth, since 1993, and she’s mum to two kids—Lesley-Anne and Andre.

A Tutor, a Friend

BY YAO YU XIE

I have seen God's hand at work on several occasions in my life, but the clearest was in the way I joined the CMC Tuition Ministry, which provides learning support for underprivileged children. I had been giving tuition as a volunteer with a VWO, but they had not engaged my services for the past couple of years. So, when I heard about the Tuition Ministry in a Care Group session, I considered stepping up to serve.

However, I forgot all about it for a few weeks, until one day over lunch, my memory was triggered when I overheard the conversation of a group of elderly ladies from another church. I contacted Audrey who is in charge of the ministry and found out that she had been praying for someone to replace a teacher who had just left. To be a part of God's answer to someone else's prayer is a humbling experience.

So far, it has been an exciting eight months teaching a student who is in Secondary 3 this year. Though I mostly teach Maths, he would sometimes



surprise me with requests for help in other subjects, ranging from English Literature and Chinese to Biology and History.

I am excited by this opportunity to reach out to the underprivileged, which God has burdened my heart with after reading the book *Good News to the Poor* by Tim Chester. Through the book, I came to understand that evangelism must come with loving actions. The first responsibility of the church is to be a community of love and inclusion. We

are to welcome people to the community, especially those who are marginalised by society. Through the Tuition Ministry, we do our small part to address the inequalities that exist in our society. We help underprivileged students receive the academic support that they need, but cannot afford.

I find it especially meaningful that the Tuition Ministry allows those of us who are more academically inclined to use our intellect, in addition to other God-

given gifts and talents, to serve Him. After all, we have been called to love our Lord not just with all our heart, soul and strength, but also with all our mind (Mark 12:30).

For me personally, teaching also offers the opportunity of redeeming education for His glory. Nowadays, education has become some sort of passport to a good career, as if its sole purpose is to prepare students for the workforce and future economic demands. However, education is fundamentally about understanding our Creator's world, both the physical realm and the human condition. In teaching, I am able to share these perspectives with my students.

Of course, there is also the aspect of building relationships with students and investing in their lives. Over time, I sense that my Sec 2 student comes to class not only because he needs help with his school

work, but also because he enjoys the company. I make it a point not to be just a teacher, but also a friend.

This year, there are plans to expand the Tuition Ministry, so that more CMC Bursary Award recipients can benefit from this programme. It is my prayer that more would be led to join this very meaningful ministry.

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for committed tutors who are comfortable teaching Math or Science to Primary 6s and/or at Secondary Level. If you are interested, please contact our church office at 6345 3934 or email josh@cmc.org.sg.



YAO YU has been in CMC for 15 years and is a member of WAH Care Group. He enjoys photography and volunteer work in his free time.



CMC's tutors

Find Rest: Young Adults Retreat 2019

BY MEGAN SOH

A little over a year ago, our resident YA Zone leader Jono approached me with the idea of leading a Young Adults Retreat in September 2019. The only previous YA Retreat was held in 2013, which I didn't attend because I wasn't even in the Young Adults Zone yet! I didn't know what to expect and wondered if I would be able to plan a successful retreat that people would want to attend, but with the assurance of the Zone leaders, I formed my committee and began planning.

As the months passed and we started registration for the retreat, we faced weeks where we had a grand total of two sign-ups. I was really disheartened and nervous because I knew it was too late to cancel the retreat (*our contract was signed months prior!*) However, with the support of my family and CG, I decided to commit the sign-ups to the Lord. My sister Samantha also texted me during this period and told me she was fasting and praying for the retreat, giving me a much-needed reminder that ultimately, God was in control.



My committee began fasting and praying as a team, and week by week, people started to sign up. Eventually, we hit our goal of 60 attendees!

During the retreat, we made sure groups had a wide range in ages as well as vocations, so that we could have sharing from different perspectives. Our Retreat Speaker Dr Tan Soo Inn from *Graceworks* hosted three incredible Speaker Sessions that challenged our ideas of what it means to be a steward of Christ in the marketplace, and how to

deal with failure – a taboo topic even in the church. His candour and vulnerability in sharing his personal struggles made it easy for everyone to share openly about their everyday problems. Our final session – a World Cafe hosted by our very own Pastor Ben – also allowed for more practical sharing about vocational ministry, and we capped off our final night of the retreat with a surprise Korean fried chicken feast!

All in all, the three-day retreat in Johor Bahru was a much-needed break from the daily hustle every young adult in CMC goes

through. I was so moved to see strangers become friends, and the YA Zone becoming close-knit. I'm so blessed to have been a part of reviving CMC's YA Retreat, and I am excited to see where the YA Zone is headed from here!



MEGAN A lifelong member of CMC, Megan has been raised by 597 East Coast Road's essential principles: Manchester United or bust, and Good People + Good Food = Good Times!

Reflections from our Young Adults

Cassandra Teo, 25

Not knowing what to expect and only knowing a few people personally, I decided to go for YA Retreat with a leap of faith. It was during this time that I got to know other people whom I saw weekly in church. It is comforting to connect with others and make new friends. Especially in this highly broken and distracting world, the transitions that go through our lives as young adults often challenge our faith. The sessions by our guest speaker have also shed light on how to live in the light of walking with God. Overall, I am encouraged to see the number of young adults having the desire to follow Christ while embracing our own weaknesses.

Christine Chan, 24

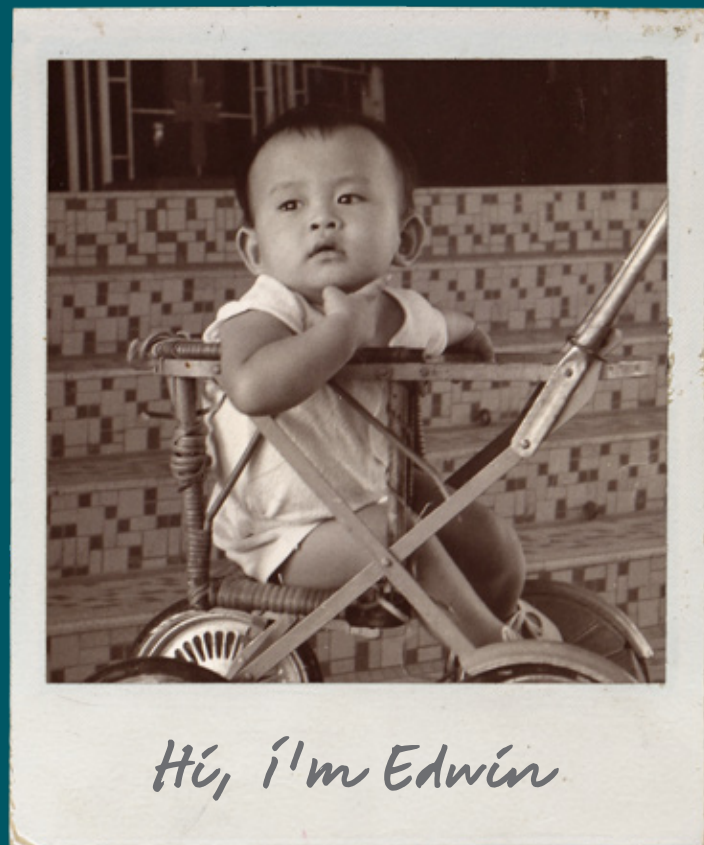
I was asked to be a group leader but went for the retreat with quite a bit of apprehension as it was my first time leading a group. I knew that this would involve me stepping out of my comfort zone as well. In group settings, I'm so used to being one of the quieter ones who'd be the last few to share, but this time I'd have to share first and encourage others to share after that. However, I surrendered all these fears to God as I knew He had plans for me. I was blessed with group mates who were not only very encouraging, but also willing to openly share insights, their struggles, and things on their hearts. Praise God for making my first group leading experience a great one!

John Kwok, 26

My CG mate, Megan, was the camp commandant and I was asked to help with logistics for the retreat. I decided to help as I had the capacity to serve. However, before the retreat, work got a bit busier and I was slightly worried as I had to go earlier as part of the planning team. Thankfully things worked out and I had peace of mind. Throughout the retreat, I was glad that I was able to spend quality time with other young adults from church. I felt that it was a much needed time of rest and recalibration. I thank God that I was blessed greatly during this time and I hope that YA Retreat can be a regular feature in the future.

Prayer-Powered Pastor

BY MONICA LIM



Pastor Edwin Wong had a troubled youth, to put it mildly. The youngest child of a pastor, he learned early on that his mother had dedicated him as a servant of God at birth, in gratitude for giving her a son. He resented this and resisted the label of “pastor’s kid”. Growing up in the parsonage of Queenstown Methodist Church, Edwin acted out his rebellion by using the church as his playground. Six-year-old Edwin’s behaviour was so unruly that 70 church members once wrote a letter to his father complaining about him.

What his father told the members was something Edwin never forgot. “He told them: ‘if you can’t accept my son, you can’t accept me. My son is part of me.’ My father’s unconditional love made a lot of difference to me. It looks a lot like God’s love for Christ.”

When Edwin was 12, his mum became critically ill and he made a bargain with God: “Heal my mum and I’ll take up the cross to follow You.” God did heal his mum indeed, but as Edwin has shared on the pulpit, he was a typical kid making rash promises he couldn’t keep. Moving into his adolescent years, he grew more and more wayward. He didn’t do well enough in his ‘O’ levels to enter junior college with his friends, and enrolled in a pre-university centre instead. Unmotivated in his studies, he didn’t even bother to turn up for his ‘A’ level exams, and as a result, received five ‘A’s—for Absent.

After serving National Service, Edwin continued to bum around aimlessly, completely uninterested in life. Both his older sisters had gone to the US for further studies, so he expected to do the same. However, he was so indifferent that his father had to fill up the university application forms for him! All the initial responses were rejections.

The Prodigal Son Returns

Finally, in despair, Edwin’s father dragged Edwin to the church sanctuary, forced him to kneel in front of the altar and told him to apologise to God. “It was then that I realised how full of myself I was,” confessed Edwin. “The don’t-care-less attitude was a false front for my fears because I was too proud to admit I needed help.” The walls came down, tears were shed and Edwin sought God’s forgiveness.

Looking back, Edwin is matter-of-fact. “I broke my parents’ heart. They prayed for me constantly and unceasingly, always believing that God would change me. They’re proof that prayers work.”

After that breakthrough, things began to

happen for Edwin. He wasn’t just accepted into Oklahoma City University, he received a scholarship! He studied psychology, graduating with double honours before pursuing his Masters of Divinity at Duke University. He eventually joined TRAC and became the pastor of Covenant Community Methodist Church, Toa Payoh Methodist Church and Faith Methodist Church.

Living on a Prayer

Throughout his life, Edwin experienced first-hand the power of prayer. At Duke, as part of his Field Education requirement, Edwin served as an assistant pastor in a rural church. On one pastoral visit to the hospital, he met a patient, Ben Johnson who was terminally ill with cancer. Edwin organised a healing service for Ben and together with a group of church members, fasted and prayed for Ben to be healed. “A week after the service, Ben went for a checkup and discovered that his cancer markers had dropped from 90% to 15%!” says Edwin. “His condition improved so much that he could even attend church again.”

Edwin had personal prayers answered as well. He had a strong wish to pursue his doctorate before he turned 50. However, that dream seemed unlikely to come true as he couldn’t leave his position...until his wife, Serene, was seconded to the World Bank in Washington DC for two years. Edwin completed the paperwork and against all odds, he found himself accepted into a two-year intensive doctorate programme at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC. He completed the programme at age 49.

Edwin quotes his life verse: “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matt 6:33). God knows the desires of our hearts. We just need to focus on doing His work and He will provide the rest.*”

And God provided indeed. Just before he left for DC, Edwin injured his leg and could barely walk. When he arrived at the accommodation, he and Serene stared at their heavy luggage and the long, steep flight



Painting done with watercolour and pen



Artwork done with colour pencils

of stairs before them, daunted. He turned to Serene and said, “I think we need a miracle.” Just then, a stocky lady appeared, asked if they needed help and proceeded to carry the two bags effortlessly down the stairs for them. Her name? It turned out to be Miracle!

Edwin’s jaw dropped. “I asked God for a miracle and He sent one. Literally.”

Seasons to Serve

One of the most noticeable changes Edwin has made in CMC ever since he became Pastor-in-Charge is the order of service. However, Edwin is quick to assert that he’s not changing for change’s sake. “It’s not right for communion and announcements to take priority before the sermon,” he explains. “The Word has to take centrestage and communion is in response to the Word.”

Edwin is drawn by the warm hospitality of CMC. “Some churches empty out after the service but here, we sometimes have to chase people to go home!” he laughs. “Seeing the fellowship deck busy is a beautiful sight.” One of the signature characteristics of CMC is our love for food and this is welcoming news for foodie Edwin, who “eats everything except lady’s fingers”. When he was young, he once came home to a dining table laden with cakes and kueh. It turned out that his mother had met an elderly lady at the market selling her pastries, and decided to buy them all up so the lady could go home early to rest. “Food to me represents blessing,” says Edwin.

Edwin takes a lot of inspiration from Nehemiah in the Bible. “I respect his leadership style. When he learned that Jerusalem was in ruins, he prayed, fasted and took action. He was a planner, a motivator and a straight-talker.” Even though Nehemiah never saw the people fully restored in his time, it set the stage for the coming of Christ, and Edwin parallels this to his work at CMC. “I’m only here for a season, to do God’s work. Once the work is done, it’s time to go. I’m not here to build my own kingdom but God’s.”

One of the areas he hopes to cultivate

is a prayer culture. “Without prayer and getting the green light from God, we cannot succeed, no matter how much we plan,” he emphasises. “Prayer is a powerful spiritual weapon.”

Even when Nehemiah faced tough enemies, he remained focused on the people. Likewise, Edwin prays that he will not be distracted in his time at CMC. “I started serving at the age of 28 and I turn 50 this year. The runway to serve is shorter now, and I will give it all I have with a heart of gratitude, because God has always been faithful.”

FACT BOX:

Little known fact about Pastor Edwin

He’s an artist (and a pretty decent one too)! Painting and sketching are ways for him to express his emotions and relieve stress. His favourite tools are water colour and coloured pencils, and he’s equally comfortable using paper or an electronic medium.



MONICA is an author, blogger, and runs her own copywriting agency. Yeah, she writes a lot. She has been attending CMC with her husband, Kenneth, since 1993, and she’s mum to two kids—Lesley-Anne and Andre.

Beneath Pastor Li Ping's serious demeanour lies a delightful and intriguing character. Body Jam, anyone?



Psychologist Turned Pastor

BY AGNES MAHENDRAN

What did your journey with Christ look like as a child?

My parents came to the faith when I was about four years old, and my entire family was baptised. My young faith was primarily nurtured through Sunday School and a children's mail-correspondence Bible course. One thing I remember clearly of my childhood was my little assurance of faith – I would pray anxiously each night for God to forgive all my sins in case I passed away at night! My family stopped going to church when I was about 11 or 12, and it was not

until I was in junior college, that I followed a friend back to church again. I'm really glad that my parents eventually followed me to the same church.

Tell us more about your family

My husband Joseph is the CEO and Co-founder of V-Key, a mobile security start-up. He was my college sweetheart. He's super smart and it used to irritate me that he hardly needed to study but still did so well! My oldest son, Joshua, is 17 and has strengths which are an exact mirror of

his father's – math, physics and computer science. Daniel is in Primary 6 and is an easygoing, goofy, affectionate boy. Gabriel is in Primary 2 – he shares my birthday, makes friends easily and is also very affectionate. He's the child who plays the most with my two foster sons and other foster children whom we host at home. As a family, we bond over movies and games – video and board games alike!

When did you first discover your calling?

I first sensed a calling when I was pursuing my undergraduate studies in the US. I grew a lot in my faith then as I was actively involved in the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship on campus. I just knew I wanted to serve God full time when I graduated. However, I had to serve out a scholarship bond first. It was only six years later, at a watchnight service, that the Lord resurrected my desire.

What's an area of ministry you're passionate about?

I do enjoy teaching and preaching the Word of God. It is my prayer and hope that God will enable me to continue opening myself to His transforming Word, to be sensitive to the Word he has for His people, to exegete His Word accurately and to preach and teach His Word to equip His people for works of service. Another area is hospitality, in terms of offering people a safe place where growth, change and healing can take place.

What are your hopes for the global church?

That it would be a faithful witness for the Lord, by boldly proclaiming His Word, resisting the pressure to conform to the world, yet showing His love in tangible and concrete ways by loving the community and serving the last, lost and least.

What is the greatest challenge facing the church today?

Being a faithful witness and not capitulating to the values and pressures of the world.

If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

Frankly if I met Him face-to-face, I don't

think I would need to ask any questions. But perhaps, if I may, why didn't He give me any daughters?!

Do you have an anecdote of your walk with God that might encourage others?

Going back to God's calling on my life, I thank God that He intervened at the watchnight service. I was actually in the midst of applying for a scholarship to pursue a PhD in Psychology – I even had a shortlist of universities. But truth be told, I was not excited about the work – it was just the next natural thing to do in my career. If God had not intervened, my life would have taken an entirely different trajectory.

FACT BOX:

What would you be doing if you didn't become a pastor?

I would probably still be an Industrial-Organisational Psychologist in the Ministry of Defence.

Describe yourself in three words!

A recovering perfectionist.

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself!

I used to be a competitive canoeist in junior college.

What do you do on your days off?

I go for Body Jam, a dance-based cardio workout to help burn off the stress! I also take time to journal or read fiction.

Who are your favourite authors?

In terms of fiction, Jane Austen, J.K. Rowling (surprise, surprise), Roald Dahl, David Eddings, Jasper Fforde. In terms of non-fiction, C.S. Lewis (actually I like his fiction too) and Eugene Peterson.



AGNES is a fan of cats, equitable access to healthcare, and Jesus.

BAPTISED

SON OF MR AND MRS EUGENE KHOO
MASTER ELLIOT KHOO

SON OF MR AND MRS KEVIN WANG
MASTER EZRA JOSEPH WANG

SON OF MR AND MRS SIMON LAM
MASTER ISAAC LAM

SON OF MR AND MRS JON WONG
MASTER JARED WONG

SON OF MR AND MRS JONATHAN ONG
MASTER JUDE ONG

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS KENNETH CHOO
MISS KAYLEIGH MAE CHOO

SON OF MR AND MRS KENNETH CHOO
MASTER MICAH KAYDEN CHOO

MRS ADELINE HOWDEN
MS ANNE YAP*
MS CHAN JING WEN
MS CHAN YOKE LIN
MS CHARLENE QUEK
MR CHER BO CHYE
MS CHERYL KOH
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MR KEVIN TEE KHER LI
MR KOH SENG CHUAH
MR LEE SIEW HONG
MS LIM YEW KEE
MS LINDA OH*
MS QUAH SOON HONG
MS SERENE CHIANG
MS TEE JIH SHIN
MS YAU MEI YOKE

*Reaffirmation of Baptism

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MRS ADELINE HOWDEN
MS ANGELINE CHEANG*
MS AURELIA TAN
MS CHAN JING WEN
MS CHARLENE LIEW
MR CHEW TEIK BOO
MR KOH SENG CHUAH
MS LIEW HUI SHYUAN

*Reinstatement of Membership

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

CHRISTMAS 2019

14-15 DECEMBER



MR LIM BENG JIT
MR LIM HAN BOON
MR MATTHEW HOWDEN
MS RACHEL TANG
MR SEAN TEOH
MS SHERILYN TAN
MS SOH LAI PENG
MS TEE JIH SHIN
MS VIVIAN TAN
MS WIRASNENY FANGIONO

TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM BLESSED SACRAMENT
MS ANNE YAP

TRANSFERRED FROM BEDOK LUTHERAN
MR DOUGLAS LOE

TRANSFERRED FROM BETHESDA KATONG
MR GILBERT LEE

TRANSFERRED FROM MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN
MS LINDA OH

TRANSFERRED FROM BEDOK LUTHERAN
MS SHERYL NG

TRANSFERRED FROM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST
MR TONY AU

TRANSFERRED FROM HEBRON BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN
MR TRAVIS TEO

TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERRED FROM PAYA LEBAR METHODIST
MS ALICE RAPPA

TRANSFERRED FROM TOA PAYOH METHODIST
MR KOH SOO SENG

TRANSFERRED FROM TOA PAYOH METHODIST
MS SUANNEE LIM

Baptism and Membership ceremonies are held twice a year during Easter and Christmas seasons. If you are interested to make a deeper commitment in these areas, please call our church office at 6345 3934 during office hours, or email info@cmc.org.sg

Do note that joining the membership of the church requires that you have been worshipping in CMC for at least six months and have attended at least six sessions of a Care Group.

OUR SERVANT LEADERS

- PASTORS
- PASTORAL TEAM
- ADMIN TEAM

Rev Dr Edwin Wong
PASTOR-IN-CHARGE



Rev Dianna Khoo
PASTOR



Rev David Ho
PASTOR



Ms Seet Choon Chien
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
(ChristKidz)



Mr Chris Seow
AUDIO VISUAL & INFO TECH



Mr Kevin Wang
MEDIA



Ms Netania Pereira
COMMUNICATIONS



Ps Benjamin Lau
ASSISTANT PASTOR



Ps Tay Li Ping
ASSISTANT PASTOR



Mr Earl Tan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr Rupert Lim
WORSHIP DIRECTOR



Ms Mabel Wat
ADMIN MANAGER



Mr Steven Sim
FINANCE MANAGER



Mrs Alice John
SECRETARY



Mr Shi Kai
OPERATIONS



Rev James Seow
LANGUAGE MINISTRIES



Mr Alvin Teh
LANGUAGE MINISTRIES



Mr Hoi Kok Fu
MISSIONS & FOREIGN
DOMESTIC WORKERS



Mr Amos Yap
FAMILY LIFE & COUNSELLING



Ms Lily Sia
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Ms Christina Poh
PROJECT MANAGEMENT &
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT



Mr Cheong Siew Meng
CONTRACT CARETAKER



Ms Alice Lim
CONTRACT CLEANER



Mr Joshua Tang
COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Mr Samuel Choo
YOUTH (IGNITE)



Ms Tay Mei Ling
DISCIPLESHIP & CARE GROUPS



Mr Edwin Seah
DISCIPLESHIP & CARE GROUPS



**LOCAL
CHURCH
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
2019 – 2020**

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LCEC CHAIRPERSON / TRAC
LAY DELEGATE



Mr Donald Tay
LCEC VICE CHAIRPERSON /
PPRSC CHAIRPERSON /
TRAC LAY DELEGATE



Mrs Tay Poh Luan
HONORARY STEWARD



Mrs Fanny Chiang
CANTONESE MINISTRY



Mr Yip Hin Meng
CARE GROUPS



Mr Stanley Lee
CHRISTALITE METHODIST HOME
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Mr Loy Hein Moh
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH &
SOCIAL CONCERNS



Mr Peter Soh
HONORARY STEWARD



Mr Barry Hung
LAY LEADER / TRAC LAY
DELEGATE



Mr Chan Kum Kit
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Ms Loh Mei Wai
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mrs Winnie Cheng
CHURCH SCHOOL (ChristKidz)



Ms Michele Soh
COMMUNICATIONS



Mr Tan Wee Hiong
DISCIPLESHIP & NURTURE



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FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



Ms Mary Lee
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mr Jonathan Ong
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mrs Junie Tan
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER /
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF
CHRISTIAN SERVICE (WSCS)



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ARCHIVIST



Mr Anthony Chong
GLOWING YEARS MINISTRY
(GYM)



Mr Rodney Chia
HOKKIEN MINISTRY



Mr Peter Chen
MANDARIN MINISTRY



Dr Samuel Ng
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CHURCH GOVERNANCE



Mrs Tan Heem Juay
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Mrs Molly Martel
LCEC SECRETARY



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PRAYER COORDINATOR



Mr Winston Wee
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Mr Steven Lee
WITNESS & EVANGELISM



Ms Diana Hioe
WORSHIP & MUSIC



Ms Chloe Chan
YOUTH MINISTRY



Mr Keith Huang
ELECTIVE STEWARD



Dr Bobby Cheng
ELECTIVE STEWARD



Ms Woo Ti Soo
ELECTIVE STEWARD



Ms Doris Lee
ELECTIVE STEWARD



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Sermon Series

Special Weekends

Special Services

January	-	The Red Letter Challenge (Sermons 1 - 3) Chinese New Year	(11 - 26 Jan) (26 Jan, 8.30 am Service Only)
February	-	The Red Letter Challenge (Sermons 4 - 6) Ash Wednesday	(1 - 22 Feb) (26 Feb, 8.00 pm)
March	-	The Red Letter Challenge (Sermons 7 - 11) Baptism & Membership Weekend Holy Land Pilgrimage	(29 Feb - 29 Mar) (28, 29 Mar) (10 - 22 Mar)
April	-	The True Story (Sermons 1 - 6) Maundy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday (No Service) Easter Sunday Missions Weekend	(4 - 26 Apr) (9 Apr, 8.00 pm) (10 Apr) (11 Apr) (12 Apr) (25, 26 Apr)
May	-	The True Story (Sermon 7) CG Awareness Weekend Mother's Day WSCS Weekend The Names of God (Sermons 1 - 2)	(2, 3 May) (2, 3 May) (9, 10 May) (16, 17 May) (23 - 31 May)
June	-	The Names of God (Sermons 3 - 6) Church Camp 2020 Father's Day	(6 - 28 Jun) (8 - 11 Jun) (20, 21 Jun)
July	-	Stewardship (Sermons 1 - 4) Youth Weekend Pledge Weekend	(4 - 26 Jul) (4, 5 Jul) (25, 26 Jul)
August	-	The Gifted Programme (Sermons 1 - 5) No Saturday Service CMC 90th Anniversary	(1 - 30 Aug) (29 Aug) (30 Aug)
September	-	The Psalms of David (Sermons 1 - 4)	(5 - 27 Sep)
October	-	The Psalms of David (Sermon 5) Laitiy Weekend Jacob (Sermons 1 - 2)	(3, 4 Oct) (10, 11 Oct) (17 - 25 Oct)
November	-	Jacob (Sermon 3) Conference Weekend God Behind The Seen (Sermons 1 - 2) Disciple Graduation Advent & Christmas (Sermon 1)	(31 Oct, 1 Nov) (7, 8 Nov) (14 - 22 Nov) (28, 29 Nov) (28, 29 Nov)
December	-	Advent & Christmas (Sermons 2 - 5) Baptism & Membership Weekend Christmas Service No Saturday Service Watchnight Service	(5 - 25 Dec) (19, 20 Dec) (25 Dec) (26 Dec) (31 Dec, 10.30 pm)

Explore the meaning of life

Alpha

Alpha is a series of 12 sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Here you are free to ask questions, raise concerns, discuss your doubts and dialogue with Christians and non-Christians alike as you come to your own conclusions about whether Christianity is for you.

21 Feb	Introductory Session: Is There More to Life than This?
28 Feb	Session 1: Who Is Jesus?
6 Mar	Session 2: Why Did Jesus Die?
13 Mar	Session 3: How Can We Have Faith?
20 Mar	Session 4: Why and How Should I Read The Bible?
27 Mar	Session 5: Why and How Do I Pray?
3 Apr	Session 6: How Does God Guide Us?
17 Apr	Session 7: How Can I Resist Evil?
25 Apr	Session 8 & 9: Alpha Weekend
8 May	Session 10: Does God Heal Today?
15 May	Session 11: What About The Church?



21 February 2020, Friday 7.15 pm
Introductory Dinner
No further commitment imposed!



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Christ Methodist Church
Fellowship Deck, Level 1

Come on your own or with a friend. We welcome all!
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Email info@cmc.org.sg, call 6345 3934 or scan the QR code to register.



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THAT IMPACTS
THE WORLD**

8 - 11 JUNE 2020
WITH GUEST SPEAKER



JOSEPH CHEAN
YWAM SINGAPORE

PUTRAJAYA MARRIOTT HOTEL