

AG TIMES

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD,
SINGAPORE



A Good Friday
Outreach
Pg 12



Taking the mandate
to the Philippines
Pg 13



God's goodness
Pg 20

ISSUE 014

Jul - Aug 2014

www.ag.org.sg

MICA (P) 130/09/2013

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

BY REV WINNIE WONG, LIFELINE FAMILY CHURCH

The AGM convened on May 28, 2014 with 160 members in attendance at Trinity@Paya Lebar. God's presence was felt strongly through the meeting.

Rev Eileen Lim led the ministers and delegates into intimate worship with the songs Here For You and New Doxology.

God's presence filled the House from start to finish. The audience clearly appreciated General Superintendent Rev Dominic Yeo's address. He spoke aptly from 2 Kings 17:7-16, "When the Brook Runs Dry". He stressed that ministers should not preach sermons to make people feel comfortable, but to challenge them to faith in God.

He emphasized that we challenge people so that change can take place. Without that, there is no transformation in people's lives. The call to realign with God's purpose in life and ministry did not fall on deaf ears. Many ministers came to the altar for a personal time with God.

The election of new leaders for the Assemblies of God followed. God has positioned the Executive Committee to lead the Assemblies of God denomination in Singapore for a new term. It was truly a great meeting when every part of the business session was conducted in the spirit of love and harmony.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OF SINGAPORE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

Rev Dominic Yeo
General Superintendent

Rev Simon Ang
General Secretary

Rev Robert Lum
Assistant General Superintendent

Rev Chia Beng Hock
General Treasurer

Committee Members:

Rev Mark Poh
Rev Gerald Tan
Rev Dr Anthony Phua
Rev Dr Emily Tan
Pastor Tan Hock Cheng

Keep our Executive Committee, their families and their ministries
in prayers as they serve the AG body in Singapore.

AG Ministers' Summit with Dr Michael Brown

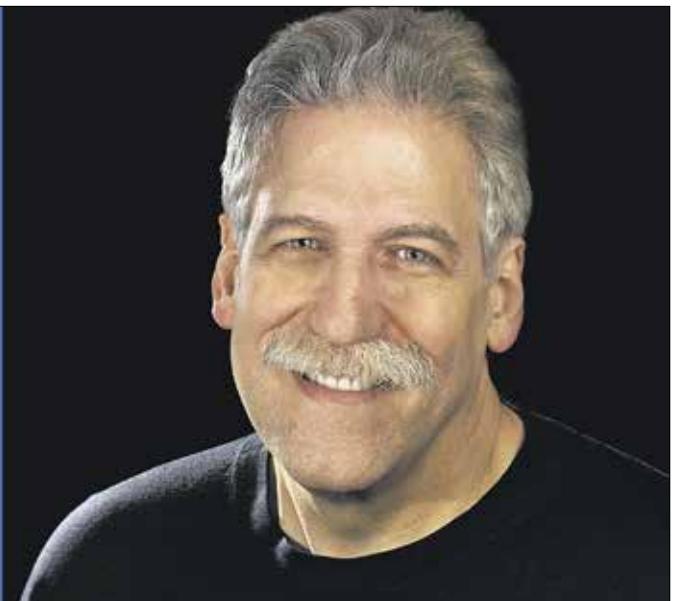
Save the dates: Thursday, September 18, 9.30am - 5.00pm
Friday, September 19, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Venue:
Trinity@Paya Lebar
247 Paya Lebar Rd

Dr Michael L Brown is an internationally sought after speaker and the author of many books on revival, holiness and radical discipleship.

He was one of the key leaders in the Brownsville Revival (Pensacola Outpouring) and is currently president and founder of FIRE School of Ministry in North Carolina.

(Only for AG credential holders. Admission is free. Email admin@ag.org.sg to register)



GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



A few months ago, I was in Jerusalem for Empowered 21, a global movement where Christian leaders from all over the world gathered to pray, plan and seek God for another outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The larger vision of this movement is that every person on earth would have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ through

the power and presence of the Holy Spirit by Pentecost 2033.

As believers in the Assemblies of God (AG) churches of Singapore, what does it mean for us to be Spirit-filled in the 21st Century?

I met a German Lutheran pastor and his wife at the Eternal Life Assembly of God church camp in June. They had travelled to Bangalore, India but were denied entry due to visa issues. Through a series of divinely orchestrated events, they found themselves in the same hotel in Malaysia where I was preaching.

That day, they heard the message about becoming a prophetic people; he was later baptized in the Holy Spirit and experienced the power of God. He shared with me that they always had God's Word in his church, but never had the Holy Spirit. I corrected him saying that it is not that they did not have the Holy Spirit, it is just that they did not walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

WALK WITH CERTAINTY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

Friends, you and I are called to live a Spirit-filled life. It is of utmost importance that we walk with certainty that we possess the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our world is filled with a lot of pain, brokenness and suffering. And as believers who are also living in this world, we can be trapped in this vicious cycle. We need to walk knowing that we have God's power within us. The power of the Holy Spirit is the power that transforms lives and brings hope and love. It is like God giving us a blank check that is the answer to the poverty in our world. But sadly, most of us continue to live in poverty. We keep this blank check neatly folded in our wallets, never cashing in on its value.

Church, let us cash in the value of this blank check and walk in the certainty of the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Acts 2:17 says: *In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* This is the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit.

WALK UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:18 says: Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. When a person is drunk on wine, he or she becomes under the influence of the alcohol. So, instead of being under the influence of alcohol, vices or any other spirit, we should subject ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit.

It is like a wild horse under restraint. A wild horse has a lot more raw power than a domesticated horse, and if it is guided and controlled correctly, it will make a great racehorse. When you are under the influence of the Holy Spirit, you are guided by Him and learn to yield and flow with Him. It means that you will not grieve the Holy Spirit and will be in line with God's bidding.

When this happens, we become better men and women, and also a spectacular vessel of honor for God.

WALK WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Finally, as we walk in the certainty that we possess the power of the Holy Spirit in us and walk according to the control of the Holy Spirit, we must be confident that the power of the Holy Spirit will manifest.

Jesus says in Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Notice Jesus said "You will be my witnesses" instead of "You will do witnessing". This means that the power of the Holy Spirit manifests from within us. The power will flow out of you in a naturally supernatural way. When you walk in faith and confidence that the Holy Spirit will work out of you, then His power will manifest. Just like when someone is ill, you naturally supernaturally lay hands on them and they are healed. You do not even think about what if the person does not get healed, you just naturally pray in faith. This is the confidence that the Holy Spirit's power will manifest.

Church, just as the power of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the Upper Room in Acts 2:4 that transformed them into Spirit-filled people, I exhort you to live as Spirit-filled people in our modern world. Arise in faith and walk in the certainty, control and confidence of manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit today.

With blessings,

REV DOMINIC YEO

几个月前，我到耶路撒冷参加“装备21”(Empowered 21)，一个国际性质的运动。在那儿来自世界各地的基督徒领袖聚集祷告、计划、寻求神赐下圣灵的浇灌。此运动主要的异象是看到每个在这地球上的人都能够在2033年五旬节之前透过圣灵的大能与同在，与耶稣基督有个真实的经历。

作为新加坡神召会教会的信徒，在这二十一世纪，被圣灵充满对我们来说又代表了什么呢？

今年六月，我在神召会永生堂的教会家庭营遇见一位德籍路德教的牧师和他的太太。他们欲前往印度班加罗尔，但却因为签证问题而被拒入境。经过一连串事件的引导，他们最终抵达马来西亚的一家酒店，而我当时就在那里讲道。

那天，他们听到的信息是成为一个先知性的族群，之后他被圣灵充满，并经历神的大能。他与我分享说，他们的教会一直都有神的话语，但从来没有圣灵。我纠正他说，并不是他们没有圣灵，而是他们并没有行走在圣灵的大能之中。

带着信心行走在圣灵的大能之中

朋友，你我都被呼召活出一个被圣灵充满的生命。因此，心中带着确据知道我们拥有圣灵的大能，并行走在祂的大能之中是至关重要的。

我们的世界充满了伤痛、破碎和苦难。作为信徒的我们活在这个世上，我们也可能被捆绑在这恶性循环里。我们必须明白我们有神的大能在我们里面，并带着这样的一个认知生活。圣灵的大能是带有转化生命的大能，为人们带来爱和盼望。这就像神给我们一张无上限的支票，作为对我们世界里贫穷问题的解答。可悲的是，大多数的人都继续活在贫困之中。我们把这无上限的支票整齐的收在我们的皮夹里，从不把它拿去兑现。

教会，我吁请各位把那张支票拿去兑现，并带着信心知道圣灵的大能与我们同在，并活出这样的生命。使徒行传2:17说道：神说：*在末后的日子，我要将我的灵浇灌凡有血气的。你们的儿女要说预言；你们的少年人要见异象；老年人要做异梦。*这就是圣灵大能的彰显。

行走在圣灵的掌控之下

以弗所书5:18说道：*不要醉酒，酒能使人放荡；乃要被圣灵充满。*当一个人醉酒时，他或她就受到酒精的影响和掌控。与其受到酒精、各样陋习或其它灵的掌控，我们应当把自己降服在圣灵的掌控之下。

这就像一匹受控制的野马一般。一匹野马比起畜养的马拥有更大的能力，若能好好地引导并掌控它，它就能够成为一匹出色的赛马。当你在圣灵的影响之下，你将会得到祂的引导，并学习如何顺服并与祂一同运行。这也表示你不会使圣灵担忧，能够按照神的旨意运行。

这样，我们就能够成为更完备的男女，同时成为神荣耀的器皿。

带着信心行走在圣灵的彰显之中

最后，当我们带着信心行走在圣灵的大能之中，并活出一个由圣灵掌控的生命，我们必须有信心，知道圣灵的大能必会彰显。

耶稣在使徒行传1:8说道：*你们…并要在耶路撒冷、犹太全地，和撒玛利亚，直到地极，作我的见证。*

注意这里，耶稣说的是“你们…作我的见证”，而不是“由你们做出见证”。这表示圣灵大能的彰显来自我们里面。能力会自然地以超自然的方式从你身上出去。当你行走在信心之中，相信圣灵会透过你运行，那么祂的大能就必彰显。就好像一个人生病时，你自然的会做出超自然的行为，按手在他们身上使他们得医治。你根本不会去想说如果那人不被医治那该怎么办，你只是自然而然的带着信心祷告。这就是知道圣灵大能必会彰显的信心。

教会，就如在使徒行传2:4里所看到的，圣灵的大能充满屋里的门徒们，把他们转化为圣灵充满的百姓，同样的，我也勉励你在我们现今的世界里活出一个圣灵充满的生命。今天就带着信心兴起，带着这样的认知—相信圣灵的能力，降服于圣灵的掌控，知道圣灵必会彰显—来活出你的生命。

祝福你！

杨德文牧师

TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

COUNCIL ORDINATION NIGHT

BY REV WINNIE WONG, LIFELINE FAMILY CHURCH

Thunderous applause rumbled through the hall at the closing refrain of the song 'My God Reigns'. It was a night to be remembered, especially for 36 candidates who received Exhorters, Licensed and Ordained credentials from the Assemblies of God of Singapore on May 28, 2014.

As each candidate's name was called, a rumble of applause filled the 1,000-seat hall. Cheers burst from different sections. Family and church members jumped to their feet to capture the moment on their cell phone cameras. Some supporters rushed to congratulate the candidates with bouquets and hugs.

A hush descended when General Superintendent Rev Dominic Yeo solemnly charged the new Licensed and Ordained ministers to be faithful to their calling.

Rev Dr Robert Lim, founding pastor of Evangel Family Church, preached on "Rising Asia and the Asian Church Responsibility". Quoting Acts 1:8, he stressed that the power of the Holy Spirit is given to enable Christians be witnesses for Jesus.

In a world of transition, Christianity offers an unchanging Savior. Where there is strife, the Gospel offers hope. Where there is sin, Jesus Christ offers forgiveness.

Rev Dr Lim challenged each one to reach out to the people in Asia where 60% of the world's population resides. "Our task in Asia has to be about urgency. Philosophy captures the minds and hearts of the young. We must reach them fast."

Conviction burned within hearts and many rose to make commitments at the altar call.

The Ordination night ended on a joyful note. The happy crowd filtered out to the foyer where they mingled and posed for photographs with the new ministers. The event might have ended but the Holy Spirit will let the Word take root and germinate in the hearts of His people.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MINISTERS FOR RECEIVING THEIR CREDENTIALS

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Lim Chong Huat, Shawn - Full Gospel Assembly
Heng Kim Meng, Samuel - New Horizon Church

Teo Soon Guan, Terence - The Harvest Force

Wong Choon Fah - Bethel Assembly
Lim Mun Chuan, Alvin - Grace Assembly

Choo Yin Hing, Monica - Elim Church

LICENSED MINISTERS

Lim Siang Kwee, Charles - Emmanuel Assembly

Choo Ai Fen, Edina - Bethel Assembly
Koh Bok Tze, Dennis - Bethel Assembly
Wee Hwee Teck - Bethel Assembly
Wong Mei Yan, Mavis - Bethel Assembly
Eu Kok Leong, Timothy - Calvary Assembly
Lee Soh Wan, Amy - Calvary Assembly
Ng Kek Huay, Rosemary - Calvary Assembly
Ong Howe Tjuan, Jay - Calvary Assembly
Siau Peck Kim, Jeannie - Calvary Assembly

Lim Siang Kwee, Charles - Emmanuel Assembly

Wong Yew Fei, Benjamin - Grace Assembly
Kok Wai Yin, Esther - Living Spring Fellowship
Lau Wai Ling, Lillian - Living Spring Fellowship
Grace Deborah Samuel - Smyrna Assembly
Jenny Lau - The Harvest Force
Lee Hor Seng, Paul - The People's Church
Mary Lim - The People's Church
Hee Yik Lan, Melina - Trinity Christian Centre
Tan Yunyun - Zion Full Gospel Church

EXHORTERS

Teo Xue Ting, Lyanna - Calvary Assembly
Ong Jway Syn, Terence - Centre of New Life
Ang Siew Liang, Lily - Emmanuel Assembly
Low Aye Lan - Emmanuel Assembly
Pang Sze Chong - Emmanuel Assembly
Yeo Yong Boon, Jason Chadrick - Eternal Life Assembly
Isaiah Fadzlin - Faith Assembly of God
Chan Keng Kaw, Eugene - Grace Assembly
Tan Chong Yi, Joey Asher - Grace Assembly

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

BY EMMANUEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD



An Easter event to bless and be blessed.

It started out with a simple objective to reach the community and make the presence and name of Jesus known.

Easter EGGstravaganza, our very first initiative, was the result. A fun-filled family day event before the Passion Weekend—for one and all, families and residents to gather at the East Coast Park area—to bless and be blessed.

The date was set and the entire church, young and old, played their part in putting the event together and executing it. Fliers were distributed in Bedok South and Bedok North. The church actively invited neighbors, friends and families to this event. We thank God for favor with the community center across our church, who allowed us to place event fliers as well as a banner outside their center.

Care cells adopted eggs to stuff for our main event, while the Youth, Campus and Young Adults ministries took charge of the carnival booths and the bouncy castle. The Royal Rangers and Children's Ministry planned the egg hunt activity. We committed the event to God's blessing and were ready on April 12, 2014! There was even a fun run planned after the event!

The morning of April 12 dawned upon us along with rain that poured mercilessly. Just hours away from our set-up time, the entire church prayed for the weather to clear. As usual, God showed up! God, whom we've



come to know and whom we love dearly, gave the rain in order that we would have perfect weather for the event! The skies cleared and the weather for the rest of the day remained cool and absolutely perfect for everyone to have fun and to enjoy a great time of bonding. The estimated turnout was 400, of which 120 were our guests.

The event ran smoothly from set up to having fun at the carnival booths. The main event was the Easter Egghunt. Approximately 6,048 eggs were scattered in the park. The children screamed with excitement and everyone, young and old, had fun collecting the eggs.

While the church had planned for the event to go ahead in the event of a wet day, we were unsure if the community would turn up. But God is a God who goes before man and prepares the ground. He is God who makes all things work for good. Through the registration for the egg hunt, we managed to identify and engage with walk-in families. We also got to know families who heard of the event through the community center or fliers distributed at their doorsteps.

God made all of these possible. He used the weather to position our hearts toward Him in prayer for the event and He united the church. He opened our eyes to see the wonder of His works in creating the perfect weather and He brought the community to this event. Most of all, His name was lifted up, and we hold fast to His Word that says He will draw all men to Him, when His name is lifted up high. Praise Jesus!

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

A SIGNIFICANT EASTER WATER BAPTISM

BY REV SAMUEL HENG, NEW HORIZON CHURCH



The Lord rose from death to power. For the baptismal candidates, this Easter saw them rise in faith and obedience to the Lord.

It was April 20, 2014. As the church gathered in one place, dark clouds also loomed above us. As the Baptismal Service was in progress, a slight drizzle started to fall. Thank God it was only a very light drizzle. It very much resembled showers of blessings that fell on the six baptismal candidates and their families and friends.

Though the candidates were young in age, they already experienced the reality of God and were now affirming their commitment to God by following the Lord in water baptism. We thank God for their affirmative and inspiring testimonies. They also talked about their desire to be used by the Lord to spread the Gospel. Their testimonies served as a reminder to more mature believers of their own commitment to Jesus.

Close to 100 people comprising church members, family members, friends and children made the special effort to witness the baptism and encourage the baptismal candidates. We thank God for His goodness and mercy that all went well that day.



Social research has shown that what matters in building faith is that the parents have a deep love for the Lord, and they talk about their faith with their children.

This seminar will equip parents to be intentional about discipleship and establish their home as the primary place where faith is lived, nurtured and expressed.



About the Speaker: Rev Mark Holmen is an international consultant and founder of the Faith At Home movement. Mark served as senior pastor of Ventura Missionary Church for 7 years until 2009, when he stepped down so as to dedicate his time fully to the Faith At Home ministry. He has spoken at numerous conferences over the world and is the author of numerous books including *Church + Home*, *Impress Faith on Your Kids* and his ever popular *Faith Begins At Home* line of books for parents.

SEMINAR FOR PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 (SAT)

2.30PM–6PM

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCE THAT CAN BUILD LASTING FAITH IN YOUR CHILD IS YOU, THE PARENT.

Organised by:



—NEW HORIZON—
A PLACE OF HOPE & FUTURE

Venue:

New Horizon Church
2nd floor Main Sanctuary
5A Guillemard Road, Wing Fong Building
Singapore 399685

Fee:

S\$8/person (Fee includes snacks)

Closing Date for Registration:
August 30, 2014

Registration via email:

Brenda at info@newhorizon.asia
(Please furnish details: name and contact number, as well as number of participants)

Enquiries:

Peter at peterkohes@gmail.com

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

“BE A BETTER LOVER, TODAY” – LOVERS’ RETREAT

BY STEVEN CHAN, GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

A wonderful Lovers' Retreat saw couples strengthen their love and commitment to each other, learn to be better lovers and have fun together.

March 22, 2014 was a typical Saturday morning. While most couples either sleep in to recover from a tiring work week, or prepare their children for enrichment classes, 20 couples made their way to Bayu Marina Resort in Johor Bahru. They were on a different mission that morning – going to a 2D1N Lovers' Retreat organized by FamilyLife@Grace, a ministry of Grace Assembly.

Each couple made a deliberate decision to learn how to be better lovers. They committed themselves to attend the retreat in spite of many plausible “excuses”. One couple even experienced a breakthrough in leaving Singapore without their children for the very first time in 14 years. Others arranged for babysitters so that they could attend. Such was their commitment, all because they were deeply interested in their marriage. After all, the central message of the retreat was, “Be A Better Lover, Today”.

Pastor Benjamin Wong, head of FamilyLife@Grace, kicked off the weekend by asking participants to introduce themselves. That was a great session in itself as participants openly expressed one thing they loved or appreciated about their spouse. At the same time, they also shared about their expectations for the weekend.

Steven and Michelle Chan then facilitated many

sessions of learning and sharing. They have been in love since 1975 and had made their vows to each other at the altar more than 32 years ago.

The retreat focused on helping couples to become better lovers. There were intense discussions on:

- Understanding intimacy as the key to fireproofing one's marriage
- Knowing the different levels of intimacy
- How to fuel intimacy

Steven and Michelle told many personal stories about the challenges, pains, victories and joy they went through in their own marriage. They shared how strengthening their spiritual, emotional, sexual and recreational intimacy helped them to overcome their differences and build a strong loving relationship. Along with those stories, they shared practical tools that they use to fuel their relationship.

Ample time was allotted for the couples to discuss things that really mattered to their hearts and to practice using the tools to become a better lover. Experiential games that reinforced learning also generated much laughter and fun for all. There was a Q&A-cum-Forum session where panelists answered questions on emotional and sexual issues that couples frequently have to contend with.

The highlight of the weekend was the ‘Candlelight Dinner for Two’. It was each couple’s private date for the weekend. The couples were not allowed to talk

to anyone else in the restaurant but to give all their attention to their spouse over a 4-course dinner. After dinner, the couples enjoyed the rest of their romantic evening together.



Hear what the participants have to say about the retreat:

“Many participants shared honestly from their hearts and even common sense matters became revelatory. Away from our everyday routine, and be together as lovers, we talked about husband-and-wife issues for two days.”

- Alvin and Fumi Lee

“It has been a very fruitful retreat and I have benefitted from it thoroughly. The sessions were very enriching and will bring your marriage to a new level with continuing effort.”

- Francis and Carol Tay

“This is a love-life-changing retreat that needs to be experienced. You are equipped to fireproof your marriage.”

- Lydia and Vincent Ong

“The retreat has been enriching and uplifting. It has rekindled the spark of love for us to grow together. This event helped us to rediscover our commitment and vow to be (in) one flesh (as) husband and wife.”

- Anthony and Grace Lim

“The lessons, together with the practical sessions, helped us be aware of what we can do together as a couple. The cozy setting and open sharing are very much appreciated and the candle light dinner was refreshing.”

- Janelle and Kenneth Kwan



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

EBENEZER ASSEMBLY DEDICATION CUM 6TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

BY REV K JEEVANANDAM, EBENEZER ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Thus far the Lord has helped us - 1 Samuel 7:12. On Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 6.00pm, we held our Dedication cum 6th Anniversary Celebrations at the new "Ebenezer Assembly Worship Centre", situated at No 18, Boon Lay Way, Trade Hub 21, #04-148, Singapore 609966. The church premises were attractively decorated for the occasion.

It began in September 1991 as a mission church under the Assemblies of God, Singapore. God's ways are mysterious; yet, clinging on to His promises and unfailing faithfulness, Ebenezer Assembly was determined through its 'Days Of Wilderness'. In His perfect time, He made everything beautiful for us (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Ebenezer Assembly has matured as a church in May 2008. We stand in reverence at His leading and His works of Ebenezer Assembly.

It was a great honor to have Rev Dominic Yeo, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Singapore, as our Guest of Honor; other VIPs: Rev Lawrence Koo, Ps Benjamin Chew, Ps Kelvin Tay, Rev Chng Mui Yong, Bro Vincent Chan (Teen Challenge), Ps Guna (Community of Praise Baptist Church), overseas pastors and well-wishers who joyfully graced this occasion. The celebration opened with a vibrant praise and worship.

The congregation was given a presentation of the church's humble beginning and its present ministries. Rev Dominic preached the word of God with a passage that was taken from Isaiah 60:1-3. He pointed out to the church that people are living in the bondage of sin: broken marriages, financial difficulties, abuses, pains and sicknesses, which were widespread in our society; he stressed that spiritual darkness has kept many in captivity. His bold declaration and challenge to the church:

- 1) Stand up and make a declaration of faith on the basis that the Light was here. (Isaiah 60:1)
- 2) Let the world know that they needed the Light. We too need the Light so that we can live in this Light and that the community would be able see the Light in us.
- 3) God has greater purposes. When we stand up and declare our faith in God, God's purpose will be realized in our lives as mentioned in Jeremiah 29:11. We sustain a hope and future in God. We need to engage the community where God has placed us. God's time will arrive, and

then we are capable to influence over the Indian community in Singapore. God will guide us when we inhabit a spirit of faith declaration. We need to declare the truth of God in our lives and start living, as the Light has already come.

God spoke clearly through Rev Dominic to the church. His holy presence was evident that day, and His word stirred up the hearts of all present. Rev Dominic then called all the pastors to the stage to join hands to bless Ebenezer Assembly and the work in progress. Prophetic impartations were received, one of which declared that a "new birth of intercessory prayer to impact the world" is in place.

All guests were honored with a plaque; whilst Rev Dominic was exclusively given our traditional Indian honor of garnering him with a shawl. We crowned the celebration with sumptuous Indian buffet dinner.

Owning a premise entirely is crucial for us now: in recent months, the membership has increased; the continuing outreach ministries based in Tuas and Penjuru have expanded; our women's cell groups in Bukit Batok and Jurong are also effective. Personal evangelism our main focus is also picking up results. A three-day Deliverance & Healing meeting, which was held on April 25-27, had attracted an enormous

crowd to our premises. Consequently, 52 new souls were identified, and are now being followed-up on.

Eleven newcomers were baptized on May 13, 2014. Thankfully, two couples in our church, who were childless, miraculously became proud parents after waiting a long time.

Ebenezer Assembly now is united, not because of who we are, but because of Him who called us. He has always been faithful to His church and has been our Guide all these while. He has given us a place, which we can now call our own—an identity too—for many to see us in the Light. Feeling absolutely blessed, we are indebted to God for what is happening at Ebenezer Assembly. Numerous AG churches have been so caring and supportive to us during these times. God bless all of them. The Executive Committee of the Assemblies of God, Singapore has also been an encouragement to us. Special appreciations must go to Rev Dominic, Rev Lawrence Koo, Rev Mark Poh, Rev Chia Beng Hock and Ps Benjamin Chew for standing with us through this journey.

Much is needed to be done for His Kingdom.

All glory, honor and praise go to our Almighty God alone!



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

TRUE COLORS

BY DANIEL KOH, TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

The Sanctuary was packed to the brim. The vibrant atmosphere was palpable. You could feel the excitement in the air once you stepped in.

In true-blue Trinitarian tradition, the audience was treated to a musical extravaganza, entitled True Colors. The next three days from Apr 17 to 19 saw close to 13,000 people coming to hear the true meaning of Easter with close to 300 making the decision for Christ.

"It's my first time attending an Easter musical. I thoroughly enjoyed the songs and drama. I felt that the message was very clear and powerful and I finally understood what Easter is all about. I have asked my friend to invite me to Trinity's next presentation."

— Sophia Liu, visitor

"I invited my Filipino ex-colleague, Eilily, to True Colors by sending her the video invitation. It attracted her and she came. She was so touched that she teared up during the show. When I asked her if she would like to accept Jesus into her life, she said, "Yes!" Now, she is happily connected to a carecell."

— Grace Hee, South district

"I've been trying to invite my baby-sitter and her family to Trinity's events over the last few years, but they hadn't been able to come. This Easter, I invited them again, and my baby-sitter's two sons Edmund, 14 and Adrian, 13 came. Both of them were touched by God's love that day, and decided to accept Jesus!"

— Chew Shin Jye, West district

"The scene of Jesus carrying the cross left an impression on my friend, Sooling. When my friend and I asked if she wanted to respond to the altar call, she agreed. At the altar, tears of joy streamed down her cheeks uncontrollably. Now she knows that she no longer walks alone. Jesus is with her."

— Charmaine Thiang, North district

"Our carecell stepped out in faith to reach out and invite our loved ones to True Colors. And over 35 people came and heard about God's love!"

— Richie Choo, South district



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

WHAT'S REAL?

BY JUNE TEH, TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Easter bunnies? Easter eggs? Are they real? Trinity's Children's Ministry set out to quiz children on what they think is the real story behind Easter.

Over the years, Easter has been propagandised with chocolate eggs and cute bunnies for commercial purposes. Due to this, how many of our children actually understand the real meaning of Easter?

At our Children's Ministry's Easter event 'What's Real?', children got a chance to be a part of a live television audience, who followed our special reporters to unravel great mysteries. A message was shared on the authenticity of Christ through various findings such as the mention of Jesus in the modern-day encyclopaedias and how the methodology of era differentiation, A.D. (Anno Domini; in the year of the Lord) is acknowledged worldwide and still in use today.

I saw how the children fixed their attention on the cast as the cast performed a skit of how Jesus healed the bleeding woman instantly when she touched his cloak through the crowd. The skit brought across a point so real that we serve a God of miracles and power. The children caught onto the gist of the sharing and understood that the God of them is real and powerful.

However, the children were not the only ones blessed by the event.

Irene, a Children's Ministry teacher shared how she was impacted by the atmosphere during the altar call and



how she was touched to see how the children were fully immersed in the presence of God during worship.

Andrew, a first-time committee and cast member for a Trinity event, was greatly blessed by the event.

"Though it required my commitment, time and effort, while concurrently for his university exams, I am thankful to have been able to sow into the lives of the children with

the gifts God has given me," he said.

Jayne, who helped at the event shared that it was heartwarming to see children as young as four years old wanting to know more of what Easter is all about.

Out of 966 children who came for *What's Real?*, an astounding 299 children gave their lives to Jesus. Praise God!



"It made me realize that God can minister to anyone, regardless of age," she said. "It was my first time to Trinity. I learnt that Jesus loves us and cares about us and we can always count on Him. I want to continue coming to Trinity!"

- Lee Ying Tong, 10

"I enjoyed the show. It taught me that Easter is about Jesus and Easter bunnies and eggs are not real."

- Toby Panhans, 6

"My favorite part was hearing the stories that Easter bunnies are a myth. I learnt that I can turn to God even if I have sinned."

- Evelyn Phua, 8

"I learnt that Easter is about Jesus rising from the dead after three days. And He is alive today!"

- Elissa Goh, 5

"This was my first time to a Discoveryland event. I liked everything about the event!"

- Hin Zong Xuan, 6

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

OUR FIRST YOUTH CAMP

BY REV TAY HEY TONG, GRACE CHRISTIAN CENTRE



Grace Christian Centre Youth Camp from December 12 – 14, 2013 was a powerful time of ministry and learning about putting God first in our lives.

More than 20 youths turned up with their adult mentors. It was the first youth camp in our church. We rented two double-storey units at Aloha Costa Sands resort. The theme of the camp was ‘Good Stewardship of Time’.

Ninety percent of the youths in our church are new converts who are young in the faith and have to deal with many activities and issues in their lives. We want to instill kingdom priorities in their lives, and teach them that God’s Kingdom should come first, above their worldly pursuits. We hope they can be regular in attending the youth service other than coming to church for tuition. They must not be called “physical bread Christians”, but rather be youths who hunger for God’s word at all times. When that happens, they will come and listen to the weekly sermons preached during the youth service.

Through the camp, we hoped to help them cultivate the habit of reading and learning God’s word during their private devotion and be blessed by it. The



message that “when they put God first in their lives, they would be richly blessed by the Lord” (Matthew 6:33) is an important value we wanted to impart. With examinations out of the way, the camp was a good platform for the youths to learn God’s word through three sessions of teachings and discussions with their mentors following the preaching sessions. Activities like barbecue, a steamboat dinner and group games helped to foster fellowship. In addition we also conducted a water baptism for two candidates on one of the days.

It was one of the most exciting camps in the history of Grace Christian Centre. The youths bonded not only with one another but also with their mentors.

Fast forward a few months into this year: the youths are now more regular in attendance at the Youth Service. We now have close to 30 committed youths and this number is growing. We are definitely looking forward to a greater turnout at the next youth camp this December!

“Students who were involved in the organization of the games and the display of talents during the Talent Night showed good leadership skills and commitment. Good job! Well done!” shared Mentor, Sis Wan Foong Sim.



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

ONE EASTER, TWO SERVICES, MANY BLESSED FAMILIES

BY JUAE PARK, FULL GOSPEL KOREAN CHURCH

It was more than a memorable Easter. We had two services to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. Many hearts were blessed and stirred by the passion of Christ.

During the festivity of Easter Sunday, Full Gospel Korean Church came together to remember one of the most important events—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In that location were two worship services of two different concepts: the first was the adult service; second, the youthful-adult service.

For the adults, Easter opened with our thoughtfulness on the true significance of Easter including a Special Early Morning Prayer during Lent. It centered on the resurrection of Jesus Christ through worship and praises. We desired to see the great passion of our Lord, Who died on the cross for our sins.

Rev Lee Yong Bang preached a sermon on Luke 24: 1-6, entitled, “Evidence of the Resurrection and After”. Afterward, our Sunday School children ages three to twelve sang a song accompanied by a simple dance. Everyone was thrilled to see our children sing and dance.

During the afternoon young-adult service, we had an “Invitation to Happiness” service which was the finale of the continual one-month relationship-evangelism program. This service was special and significant as it focused on evangelism: bringing the lost souls back to Christ. Each cell group presented dances, songs, videos and food for the occasion. For the second part of the service, we engaged in a “black bingo” game, which encouraged newcomers to participate; and through the game, they would get to know each other.

Every service was well-coordinated, which turned into a blessing to the attendees. Each person could feel the love of the risen Christ and His presence in our midst. It was a memorable Easter, because all of us contributed our effort and time immensely to put this event together. It was a beautiful sight when we saw families gathering to worship God and enjoying fellowship as a church. As Easter Sunday passed, we could not help but contemplate on Jesus’ sacrifice and love for us – when we receive Jesus’ love in our lives, we are changed and have eternal life.

2014년 4월20일 부활주일을 맞이하여서 오전어른예배와 오후청년예배의 컨셉을 다르게 잡아서 진행하였다. 오전 어른예배시간에는 부활하신 주님을 온전하게 찬양하고 경배하는 시간을 통해서 오직 예수 그리스도의 부활하심에 초점을 맞춰서 예배를 진행했다. 지난 주 동안 고난주간특별새벽기도회를 통해서 단순히 부활하심만을 찬양하기보다는 우리를 위해 고난 받으시고 십자가에 못 박히셔서 우리를 대신해서

죽으신 예수그리스도의 사랑을 깊이 만났기 때문에 부활주일의 부활의 진정한 의미를 더 깊이 생각할 수 있었다. 이용방 담임목사님께서 누가복음24:1-6을 본문으로 부활의 증거와 이후라는 제목으로 말씀을 전해주셨다. 후에 이선재집사님의 특송과 유.초등부 아이들의 예수, 예수 부활하셨다 & 천국은 마치의 곡에 맞춰서 율동으로 하나님께 영광 올려드렸다.

오후 청년예배에서는 1달 동안 진행된 관계전도의 결실을 맺는 “행복으로의 초대”(새가족초청예배)를 올려드렸다. 무엇보다도 하나님께서 가장 기뻐하시는 잃어버린 영혼을 예배의 자리로 초청해 드리는 예배라서 더 의미가 있었다. 청년들이 셀 별로 수화찬양, 유통 및 합창, 영상, 식사준비 등등 파트 별로 준비하여서 다 함께 만들어가는 하나되는 예배의 시간이었다. 2

부 순서로는 서로를 알아가는 블랙빙고게임을 통해서 처음교회 나온 사람들이 잘 적응할 수 있었다.

부활주일을 맞이하여서 진행된 예배 속에 하나님의 임재하심과 우리를 위해서 부활하신 예수그리스도의 사랑을 느낄 수 있었고 고난주간 새벽기도회, 관계전도 등을 통해서 미리 준비되어진 은혜가 부활주일예배를 통해서 모든 성도들에게 부어짐이 느껴져서 너무 은혜로운 예배가 되었다. 부활주일은 지나갔지만 우리 안에 있는 부활의 영성으로 날마다 삶 속에서 승리하는 그리스도의 자녀의 삶을 살아야 할 것이다.

TRANSLATED BY JONGHYEN KIM, FULL GOSPEL KOREAN CHURCH



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

ANOTHER DIFFERENT GOOD FRIDAY

BY REV TIMOTHY POON, NEW LIFE CHURCH

Remembering last year what the New Life Church did in reaching out to their community: Breakfast Outreach. This year, we are continuing the good and 'appetizing' work.

A DIFFERENT GOOD FRIDAY

BY REV TIMOTHY POON, NEW LIFE CHURCH

This Good Friday was not just another Good Friday for the residents at MacPherson. It was special, meaningful and full of life. The seeds of the gospel were sown into the hearts of the residents.

Life Edu Centre, a community outreach initiative by New Life Church, was proud to host a Breakfast-cum-Outreach for the residents at MacPherson on Good Friday morning.



Our Good Friday outreach in the Circuit Road community, a second year running...

Good Friday begins early morning for the dozens of volunteers and members of New Life Church. The community is familiar with us and know us as Life Edu Centre.

We want to give the coffee stalls in the nearby market a run for their money. We have the wire gauze over the charcoals to toast "white roti" in the most traditional way. Not forgetting the "kopi" to go with the toasted bread, of course. This style of toasting bread is rather slow and painstaking; even so, it definitely brought warmth to the people in the community.

We like to assume that the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and toast really drew some early birds to our center. Slowly and surely the crowd began to swell by late morning. There must have been over a hundred people with whom we served based on how fast the loaves of bread were going.

We overheard some people saying they hardly experience this sort of traditional breakfast anymore, and this pleasant surprise brought back that "old town" feel and smell. This was our way of telling them *The Old, Old Story* that Jesus loves them, and came to die for them on Good Friday.

FLASHBACK

ordinary
Free Tuition and Kids-
their friends and neighbor... Our hearts were warmed
just serving the people, knowing that the Lord came
and died for them all.



TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

TAKING THE MANDATE TO THE PHILIPPINES

BY COMMANDER SYLVIA SEAH, ROYAL RANGERS SINGAPORE

Taking the mandate that the Lord has given to Royal Rangers Singapore (RR), a team of five leaders; Chia Eng Kiat (National Commander), Mark Sng (Outpost #11, Faith A/G), Sreedharan Denesh (Outpost #07, Emmanuel A/G), Lim Wen Kang & Sylvia Seah (Outpost #05, Harborlight Church) were sent to train churches in the North Eastern Luzon District and Manila, Philippines from May 19 – 24, 2014.

The objective of this mission trip was to share and equip them with the basic understanding of the Royal Rangers ministry and empower the Filipino leaders to start RR Outposts within their communities, locally known as a “barangay”

The trip kicked off in Santiago City, Isabella, North East Luzon, where the sweltering heat of 40 degrees Celsius overwhelmed the team. Pushing on despite the discomfort, the team trained over 50 trainees from 29 churches to grasp the vision and heartbeat of Royal Rangers. The team also showed how a typical 10-point outpost meeting can be exciting and engaging for the youngsters.

Through the training sessions, Jam Ezra Manango, from Cornerstone Church, Santiago, discovered first-hand how the RR program is an effective mentoring platform to disciple young children: to give them the opportunity to be effective leaders for the Lord. She stated, “I can use the outpost meetings to mentor our children to be leaders through patrol systems and forward motions. We love that idea because we really need leaders in our church and Royal Rangers get them started at a young age.”

Rev Lilian Ambojnon immediately concurred. As the District’s Christian Education Director of North East Luzon District Council (NELDC), she shared her views, “The children in the Philippines are easily engrossed in video games and social media; so, the variety of activities and the advancement tracks will appeal to the children.”



The Royal Rangers ministry is always filled with songs, cheers and laughter. Patrols of 6 to 8 people are formed and lasting friendships are forged.

We are confident that Royal Rangers will inspire and pull in more children and young people for the Lord.”

In Manila, the team went on to equip an extra 15 trainees with the fundamentals of the RR program. Realizing the benefits of the RR program and what it could convey to her barangay, Marivic Dichoso, from Jesus Christ Light of All Nations is eager to start RR at her church. She stated, “We are a little church of about a hundred and we lack leaders. We are directly interested in the availability of leaders, who will come along to be a godly example and mentor to the kids”

Much is still required to help the churches in the Philippines to see the vision of the RR ministry to evangelize, to equip and to empower the children to become future servant leaders. Exciting plans are underway for more collaboration with our Filipino counterparts to assist them in obeying the Lord’s mandate of reaching out to children and their families.



The “HEAR, SEE, DO, TEACH” method is an excellent way to guide the children when helping them learn a new skill. Here the trainees learn basic sign language.



Games - An integral part of the Royal Rangers program.



Sunsets as the graduates from the North Eastern Luzon District Council leave for their own barangay. The new dawn will emerge as they bring back all they have learnt to reach children for Christ.



Graduates from the Manila training. We look ahead to see them grow more leaders and reach out to their barangays through Royal Rangers.



INSPIRE THE JOURNEY!



Royal Rangers equips and empowers men and women to serve in the unique program for children and youths aged 5 to 18 years old. If you would like to know how to start a Royal Rangers Outpost in your church or would like to understand how this ministry can complement your church growth, email us at info@royalrangers.com.sg or visit us at www.royalrangers.com.sg



FRIENDS for Life!

Join us for some carnival fun with your friends

rangers@play

Monday, July 28, 2014 (Public Holiday)
8.30am to 1pm

Bethel Assembly of God
81, Aljunied Avenue 2, S(389957)

To find out more, log on to www.royalrangers.com.sg
www.facebook.com/Royal.Rangers.Singapore Email: info@royalrangers.com.sg

TRAINING

“LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN...” CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

BY REV CHIA BENG HOCK, BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

A church entrusted with an awesome responsibility to engage the community, and with empowerment from on High, we see His church shine for God.

Entrusted With A Responsibility

In 1986, Bethel rented the New City Theatre at Aljunied Avenue 2 for Sunday Services. I was the Administrator, and I met with the Theatre Manager one afternoon to collect the keys to some rooms. Right before my eyes, I saw an usher asking an elderly man for an admission ticket; the latter turned around and spilled mouthful of vulgarities at him instead; and then proceeded to enter the hall for a free movie. The usher couldn't do much, except to shake his head. The Theatre Manager saw the incident, turned to me as he gave me the keys, and said in Mandarin, “你们来了很好，你们可以改变这里的人 (Your presence here is timely; you are capable to change the people in the community.)” Getting the keys from him was like taking over a new responsibility—not about the rooms, rather about transforming the people in this community.

Every weekend, outside our Church, was humming with activities: particularly around the public phones stand, between the hawker-center and the coffee shop at Block 116, where there were illegal race horse bookies. They prompted me, when Jesus saw the crowd: He had compassion on them, because they were harried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

At every Church Prayer Meeting, we did not neglect to pray for the community, we had prayer walks and prayer drives on numerous social functions. We also looked for the Lord's directions to discern what He desired us to do, since He led us in this community.

Several young adults from our congregation offered free tuition to children of needy families in this residential area. It started with only a handful of children, but as the words spread around the community; we saw parents queuing up every January to register free tuition for their children. We shortly had an enrollment of over a hundred pupils.

My Senior Pastor and Church Board assigned me to look into the prospect of setting up either a kindergarten or a child care center. I submitted our findings and proposed that childcare was more appropriate to benefit scores of lower-income working mothers. God granted us favor with the Member of Parliament (MP), and he plumped for our proposal to start Bethel Child Development Centre at Block 111 Aljunied Crescent in 2000.

After Rev Pang Ek Kwan handed his mantle to me on 1 April 2001, my vision for the community became more crystallized. The Lord spoke to me through Matthew 5:16, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*”

Thus, our responsibility, besides praying for and proclaiming the gospel to our community, is to shine through doing good deeds. Jesus assured us that as result of our good deeds our Father in heaven will be praised!

Engaging the Community

There are various needs around the Community, but we need to remain focused. We sense the pulse of the community needs by discerning them through prayer walks, observing them during door-to-door visits, and working with community leadership. We constantly keep in judgment that we do not replicate or compete with what others are already performing well; instead, to complement them and contribute to areas, where God wants us to do for the community. As the community comprises of mostly lower-income occupants, the fees for our tuition are kept down, without compromising its standard and quality.

Engaging with leaders in the community serves to establish relationships: the former MP of Macpherson had appointed me as a Member of Inter Religious Confidence Circle in Macpherson since 2002. In the last twelve years, I have made new friends with grassroots leaders, heads of other faiths and voluntary welfare organizations in our community. This spawns opportunities for our Church to collaborate with them to organize events and services for the community. Good deeds bring forth into good relationships.

We have built such good relationship with one of the homes for the aged, that its Chairman offers our members to take the elderly residents, who want to attend a service, to our Church.

We are indebted to God for His favor; and today, Bethel Community Services is a full member of the National Council of Social Services (NCSS), granted Institution of Public Character (IPC) status, partner of Food Bank Singapore and National Kidney Foundation. Today, we operate these centers for children: Bethel Child Development Centers, Bethel Tots Centre, Bethel Student Care Centre and Bethel Kinderlites. In addition, we also open the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic, Legal Clinic, Tuition Service, Social and Counseling Services.

Empowering from God

As the light to the world, James reminds us, “*Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27).*” We don't shine just by “being”—talking and appearing religious—but we shine by relieving the needy and keeping ourselves unstained by the corruption of this world.

When studying the Bible, we can feel the heartbeat of God for the hapless. In Deuteronomy 14:27-29, God instructed Israel that at the conclusion of every three years they were to bring their tithes and stored in their towns so that the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and widows who lived in

these towns might do and eat and be satisfied; and God promised to consecrate all the work of their hands for doing so. Again, God commanded them, “*When you reap the grapes in your vineyard, do not pass over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow*” (Deuteronomy 24:21).

When John's disciples asked if Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus replied, “*Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear; the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.*” Jesus' credentials were evident in His ministry to the needy and preaching to the poor. Along the way, the rich who were converted did likewise. A definitive example was Zacchaeus who told Jesus, “... now I pay half my possessions to the poor...” (Luke 19:8).

In Acts 10:4, the angel told Cornelius, “*Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.*”

There are numerous passages in the Bible that teach us to care for the poverty-stricken. We don't call for further information, but implementation. Our Lord Jesus has empowered us to shine; in order that our community may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven!



Rev Chia Beng Hock is currently the Senior Pastor of Bethel Assembly of God, Chairman of Bethel Community Services and General Treasurer of the Assemblies of God of Singapore Executive Committee. He also serves as Chairman of Global Leadership Summit, Singapore, Vice President of Festival of Praise and Board Member of Bible Society of Singapore. He holds a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Far East Advanced School of Theology (presently called Asia Pacific Theological Seminary). He is happily married to his wife, May since 1977 and they have two sons Alvin and Mervin.

TRAINING

5 REASONS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

BY REV TIMOTHY POON, NEW LIFE CHURCH

Matthew 9: 35-38 “Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The inspiration for community service is taken out from the above message which offers a summary of Jesus' public ministry. There is a private ministry and a public ministry. The "private" ministry of the church is the teaching and formation of disciples. The public ministry involves sending and commissioning these disciples to serve in the marketplace and their communities. Being will lead to doing, so the private and public ministry is really one.

We can find many reasons to serve our communities. Let's examine five reasons using the acronym **REACH**.

R – REALITY

The reality is our communities that are filled with people and families in distress. They were looking for help and guidance. Just open your eyes when you walk around your neighborhood. What do you see there? What do you hear now? What do you feel now? Ask yourself, what can you do to help. We sing "people need the Lord". These people can only see the Lord through you and me. We must go to them with the true gospel. Someone said life is met with unavoidable illness, unexpected misfortune, and undeserved tragedy. That's a reality. I am sure we can do something to help. Be real.

E – EXERCISE

We are told we need to do three times a week and each time a 30-minutes duration. Serving the community involves physical and spiritual exercise. We will get tired and consider giving up. That's the effect of physical exertion, it is more or less stretching and conditioning so that over time we become stronger and fitter. What is true in the physical is also true in spirituality. When was the last time you flexed your spiritual muscle? What about exercising your faith? Perhaps, we stay too long in our comfort zone. Just get up and get going. Try your hands on some "teaching, proclaiming and healing" in the community.



A – APOSTOLIC

I believe we are called to serve the community, not in a general sense, but in both specific and particular sense. We do not do it because others are doing it. Our confession "Jesus is Lord!" flows from a witness of the Spirit in our hearts. We are not copycats, we are commissioned. The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and those who like them have received the revelation of Christ. We do not walk into any community and start doing "our things". We are sent to a particular community or for a particular cause by the revelation of Jesus in our lives. The people we serve in the community are often puzzled. They want to know why we are doing all these good works and what do we get out of it. Try telling them by your consistent and quality service that "we are sent to love you and help you in whatever ways we can."

C – COMPASSION

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them. Why did Jesus weep when he knew full well that he's going to call his dear friend Lazarus back to life from the grave? It is because of his compassion. What exactly is compassion? The word compassion is derived from two Latin words which together mean "to suffer with". Henri Nouwen in his book by the same title wrote, "Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion asks us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the circumstance of being human." Jesus did exactly that when he became like one of us. People are drawn to Jesus because of his compassion for them. What if our role is really to make people aware of the presence of a compassionate God in the midst of an uncompassionate world?

H – HARVEST

The Bible passage above contains four words beginning with the alphabetic character "H": healing, harassed, helpless and harvest. These words in concert

gave us insight into Jesus' ministry and motive. Our Lord Jesus showed us the way and He is even guiding his church to perform what he behaved when he was here. **"The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."** We can pray and answer the claim at the same time. Let's put our hands into the harvest!

So these are the five reasons to serve our communities. In one sentence, it is to be true and relevant through the exercise of our Christian beliefs based on our apostolic destiny to show compassion in the harvest field.



Rev Timothy Poon is the Senior Pastor of New Life Church. He serves in the Management Committee of the Assemblies of God Bible College. Rev Poon is passionate about reaching the community around him for Christ and he believes that none should perish but all to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He is married to Esther and has a son, Isaac.

TRAINING

THE SLIPPERY PATH: PITFALLS OF INDIVIDUALISM

BY REV KWEK SEW KIAN, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD BIBLE COLLEGE

How is individualism affecting us and the church?

“Don’t we have rights? Must we submit our dreams or desires to a larger entity like the family or church?” Ling wonders. “I don’t want to take over my Dad’s wanton stall!”

Meanwhile, Ariel is upset with her boyfriend. “Why must we attend church weekly? Weekends are for rest, brunch, shopping, and manicure!”

Yes, the conflict between the individual’s freedom and the larger group’s need is real. At the same time, many have accepted unquestioningly the “ism” of individualism: “I, self, me”.

What then is individualism? There are both positive and negative aspects. Here, we define individualism as “a social or ethical doctrine stressing the importance of the individual rather than that of the group.”¹

Individualism claims “the right and freedom of each individual to make decisions and implement actions independently of others.”² In other words, individualism means that the individual’s will and actions take precedence over the group’s will and actions.

The individual is important. However, we are not advocating radical or excessive individualism with no limit to freedom which leads to anarchy. Neither are we advocating a view of totalitarianism or collectivism which “submerges the rights... and freedom of the individual,”³ which leads to oppression and brutalization. Nonetheless, because individualism influences society and the church, Christians must be aware of the pitfalls of individualism and they must develop a biblical response to individualism.

The Pitfalls of Individualism

1. Church hopping and no commitment

If the church does not provide what they are looking for, Christians will look for another “brand” or “church mall”. The focus is not “What is God’s will for me?” but “What is my preference?” They do not want to commit themselves to a local church for growth and service.

2. Lack of desire to be part of a local church

Many Christians think there is no need to be a part of the local church. Growing by themselves in the Word of God and prayer is possible. They are independent persons who can best decide what is best.

3. A law unto themselves

Due to the influence of relativism (a view that ethical truths depend on the individuals and groups holding

them), some believe that the church and the Bible do not have the final say; that there are many angles to an issue to look at. Soon, the Christian individual becomes the “sole authority” and may replace the authority of the Bible!

4. Lack of a Christian identity formation

Identity is formed within a family and the community. Likewise, the Christian identity is formed “through the telling of a personal narrative, which is always embedded in the story of the communities in which we participate.”⁴ Without a community, Christians will be unable to develop a strong identity as the redeemed, Spirit-filled members of the body of Christ. The implications for Christianity’s future survival as biblical Christianity are nightmarish.

5. The breakdown of the family unit

Instead of growing together as one flesh or cohesive partners, individualism drives each partner apart to pursue individual ambitions and dreams at the expense of their children’s welfare and their own marriage.

6. Displacement of Jesus as Lord

Individualism can lead to egoism that replaces the Lord Jesus as the center of our Christian lives. Because of individualism’s focus on autonomous choice and personal independence, the “I” will displace Jesus as the center and Lord of our lives.

A Biblical Perspective on Individualism

How then can we respond to individualism?

1. Recognize the relationship of the individual and his worth to God

We are created by God, and thus we are special to Him, and of worth and dignity (Gen 1-2). Since we are created beings, we are not autonomous nor independent of our creator God: there is a Creator and creature’s relationship that entails submission to the sovereign will of God.

2. Recognize the divine design: we are called to be in the community and to be the community

We are individual social beings and we are not meant to live in isolation. Stanley J. Grenz explains: “The fact that God is the social Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—gives us some indication that divine purpose for creation is directed toward the individual-in-relationship.”⁵

We are also called to be the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-26) united by the indwelling Holy Spirit. As a community, we worship God and serve people.

3. Reflect Christ in our relationship

Christ gave up His rights and laid down His life for us. He is our model. So self-centerness and egoism have no place in the community of faith (the church). Christ

charged us to “love one another” (John 13:34-35 NIV); this kind of love includes humble service and sacrifice, and diversity in unity.

4. Recognize our responsibility in relationships

As the body of Christ, we are responsible for one another, not only in the spiritual aspects, but also in the physical areas (Phil 2:4; James 1:27).

5. Submit to the Lordship of Jesus

There is only one “ism” for Christians: “I submit myself” to Christ as our Lord. Only then can we find true fulfillment and significance (John 10:10b). We must understand that our “individualism” will always come under his Lordship and is involved in ‘his body,’ the church.”⁶

In conclusion, we are individuals of worth and dignity, created for fellowship with God and fellow human beings. Because of our fallen nature, the individual worth has turned into radical individualism. Thus, we must watch out for individualism’s pitfalls, and we must develop a biblical response to individualism. Gene Edward Veith explains concisely:

the ideal should be neither conformity to a mass society nor anarchic individualism, but a unity of individuals....[as demonstrated in] the Triune God Himself, in whom the separate Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit co-inhere into a perfect unity, while still maintaining their distinct personalities.⁷

Let us support one another and share our gifts and resources, not for the kingdom of self, but for the everlasting Kingdom of God.



Rev Kwek Sew Kian has been serving as part of the faculty at the Assemblies of God Bible College (AGBC) since 1996. She also serves as advisor to the student committee of the college’s annual magazine. A member of Centre of New Life, Kian is involved in the Sunday School Ministry. She enjoys the learning journey with the curious primary school children as much as with the lively adult learners at AGBC.

¹ The New Lexicon Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language, 1990 ed., s.v. “individualism.”

² David J. Atkinson, and David H. Field, eds., New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology (Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995), s.v. “individualism,” by P. A. Hicks.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Stanley J. Grenz, A Primer on Postmodernism (Grand Rapids, MI:

Williams Eerdmans, 1996), 168.

⁵ Grenz, 168-169.

⁶ Carl F. H. Henry, ed., Baker’s Dictionary of Christian Ethics (Washington, D.C.: Canon Press, 1973), s.v. “individualism,” by W. Standford Reid.

⁷ Gene Edward Veith, Jr., Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture, Turning Point Christian Worldview Series, ed. Marvin Olasky (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994), 89.

TRAINING

5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD STILL GO TO CHURCH

BY REV MARK POH, EMMANUEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

What is church? Does it still have a place in the 21st century given the avalanche of social media? Why do we get up from the bed and head down to a building, worship God and hear a sermon when we can “choose” from hundreds of great churches that are on the internet?

I believe that many people know that there IS a place in the church and it is an institution that plays a crucial role in the growth of the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God!

Let's do a simple definition of 'Church' – it is a grouping of like-minded believers gathered together (with guests included) to worship God, grow together, do life together and to accomplish the will of God in His Kingdom. There are probably more than five reasons why we should still go to church. I would highlight some which are significant.

1. It is a powerful working model for growth

(Acts 2:42-47)

Acts 2:42-47 give us a glimpse into the early church; and more than that, laid down certain key principles how the early believers survived in difficult situations; and yet, grew rapidly! Can you picture this scene where believers, poor as well as the better off, came together to share, and to look after each other? The Gospel of love was lived out! Believers came TOGETHER to learn the Word, to fellowship, to pray and to share. They were so united and surely lived out what it meant, when the body of Christ comes together in unity and focus. The church grew and became strong in the midst of great persecution! God was in their midst and in that setting; and signs and wonders occurred regularly!

2. Stirring up love and good works (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Hebrews 10 exhorts us to hold fast to our confession of our hope without wavering; and then goes to tell the readers “don’t forsake the assembling of ourselves together”! The church was not to just come together to learn, to wait till our Lord Jesus returns, but they were to come together to STIR each other in love and good works! We have been called in a body (I prefer to call it family) to be there for each other, and to challenge each other to live out our distinctiveness! How can we possibly do this without coming together and engaging one another?

3. Exhorting and Encouraging one another

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

If one were to read the New Testament carefully, you will find occasions upon occasions where the writers exhorted the believers to come TOGETHER to be an encouragement to one another. When we come together as church, worship together, learn from the

Word together, gather in care cells together, it speaks of opportunity for each one to speak and to encourage one another. Edify talks about building up – we have been asked to build each other up through words of encouragement, through praying for one another – and when one is down, there is the other who can help walk him or her through the situation together.

4. Teaching and admonishing one another – accountability (Colossians 3:14-16)

Colossians 3:14 calls us to put on love, which will bind us perfectly together. And then in v16, there is a call for us to teach one another, to admonish one another. Ouch! No one loves to be admonished! But when we come together in love, who is better to watch and guide each other in this journey of faith; and when the occasion demands it, to admonish one another? Admonishing is about rebuking, reprimanding and correcting one another. We realize that so often we have blind spots and we definitely need one another to point them out to us. When we do this under the covering of love, it is a win-win situation. And more so, when we are living in the last days, there will be many false teachers, loosening of morals and Christians can easily fall into the trap of temptations. We NEED each other!

5. Mobilizing the army of God (Ephesians 4:11-16)

I believe that we are entering a season when an army needs to gather for a major task – gathering in the harvest field



Rev Mark Poh is currently the Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Assembly of God. He graduated from the University of Waikato, NZ where he also received Jesus as his Lord and Savior in 1980. He served in the marketplace for 17 years before he was called into full time ministry, joining the church as the Youth Pastor in 1999. He obtained his Masters of Theological Studies in 2005. He is serving in the EXCO of the Assemblies of God, Singapore. Rev Mark Poh with his wife, Aye Lan is married for 31 years and they have a daughter, Faithe.

that is truly ripe. A church working together, with purpose and clear vision, can make inroads into the harvest field. The gifts of the Holy Spirit for the church are intended for growing the Kingdom. Disciples need to be raised, trained and sent forth. An army is only as strong as how united they are and what they are fighting for. It is not every man for himself, but the body of Christ is for each other, in order to fulfil the mandate to go and make disciples of all nations.

Special Announcement



NATIONAL DAY THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2014

Annually organized by the National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) to mark the National Day of the Republic of Singapore, this has become an occasion for clergy and lay leaders of the Church, politicians, government officials, civic and community leaders to unite together in thanksgiving for God's blessings upon Singapore.

This service was initiated by NCCS to coincide with the swearing in of our Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong on August 12, 2004. Christians in Singapore came together and prayed for the Nation, the Cabinet, Members of Parliament and the Civil Service.

Held at the historic venue of St Andrew's Cathedral, the National Day Thanksgiving Service has also provided an informal platform for several political leaders to meet with our church and community leaders.

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014

Theme: Arise, O LORD! (Psalm 9:19)

Speaker: Revd. Dr. Wee Boon Hup
President of the National Council of Churches of Singapore,
Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore

Time: 7.45pm (Worshippers to be seated at 7.40pm)

Venue: The New Sanctuary of St Andrew's Cathedral,
11 St Andrew's Road, S(178959)

Let's gather together in worship and to pray for our nation!

Rev Nick Singh (Chairman) & the Organizing Committee of the National Day Thanksgiving Service 2014.

TRANSFORMATION

A FRESH GOD ENCOUNTER

BY BERNARD NG, TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

When all else fails, God makes a way. Read how God came through for Bernard Ng in a sustained difficult period of his life.

I run an architectural, interior and landscape design consultancy.

For almost two years, new and good projects that came into my office were few and far in between. During this period, I worked extremely hard for a few potential projects, investing a lot of time and effort in making proposals and design studies for these building committees or owners. However, none of these projects materialized. The project owners either abandoned the projects or seemed to be just fishing for ideas without serious intent to execute them. On other occasions, we lost out to competitors in nailing the deals. I felt discouraged that all my work constantly went to waste. Shortly before the God Encounter Meetings (GEM) that started in Trinity last year, I was introduced to the owners of a hotel development. They were looking for an architect and landscape designer for the upgrading of their hotel project. I found the project really interesting and decided to seek God in this matter when GEM started.

Before the first session of GEM, I had visited the project site and by the second session of GEM, I had already made a preliminary design presentation to the owners. On both occasions, I responded to the altar calls and lifted this potential project opportunity into the hands of God.

During the second session of GEM, a fee figure was

impressed on my mind. This figure was not a lucrative sum but it stayed firmly in my head.

As I was preparing a fee proposal to the owners in the following week, my initial thoughts were to submit a lower offer as this would increase my chances of receiving a favorable response from them. However, at this moment, the figure again came to mind. After much contemplation, I decided to respond in faith to God as I believed it was Him who had impressed me with the figure. So, I submitted that exact figure in the proposal to the owners.

A week later, my proposal was accepted! And it did not come with the typical request of a discount.

It was comforting that I was later informed that the owners were very receptive to the design ideas I had presented. I also found out that these owners, who entered smoothly into contract with me, were God-fearing believers.

A few months into the project, I was subsequently approached and offered to provide interior design services for a part of the hotel, as well as take up further responsibility as a Project Manager for the project. These additional roles were literally another new contract for me as the owners improved my fees in accordance to these expanded scopes of work that I took up.

God is indeed a God of provision and faithfulness – bringing in the much-needed breakthrough in my work and granting me the favor of men at a time when I needed it. All glory to God!



**REVIVAL MEETING WITH
PASTOR PHILIP MANTOFA**

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2014

NOVEMBER 21, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, SATURDAY	DAY SESSIONS 2PM - 5.30PM 1PM - 4.30PM	NIGHT RALLIES 7.30PM 5PM
--	--	--------------------------------

Emmanuel Assembly of God
 165 Upper East Coast Rd
 S(455266)
www.emmanuel.org.sg

TRANSFORMATION

GOD'S GOODNESS

BY AUDREY BAY, CALVARY AG

God used different seasons of our life to teach us His truths. For me, it was His goodness I learnt while I was overseas.

Last year, I went to Adelaide to study. Throughout my stay there, God taught me many valuable lessons, too many to share all at one go. But I'd like to share three things I learned.

1. When God calls us to a specific place, He calls us to a place of success, not failure.

When I left Singapore, I was worried because I feared the unknown. A lot of 'What if' questions filled my mind. What if I can't find good accommodation and housemates? What if I fail my course? What if I don't make any friends? My fears were unfounded, thanks to God's amazing providence. Within two days in Adelaide, I found a house to live in. My housemates eventually grew so close that we became like a family. In my class of 16 students, I was the 'odd one out' being the only Asian. Yet God let me find favor with a couple of classmates, and I didn't have to worry that no one would work with me in pair-work or group projects. I also settled down in a church, which is an important source of social support for me. Looking back now, I know God had meticulously arranged everything for me, and he had provided far more than what I could imagine.

2. God taught me to make time for people

Compared to working life in Singapore, I have more free time as an overseas student. So I thought that God was giving me a break in Australia to catch up on lost sleep! But I realized that He gave me a break from the busyness of life, so that I can use the time to connect with people. Over the months, I was able to spend time

with my housemates, local classmates, and other friends who did not know Christ, or were backsliders in their Christian faith. I thank God that I was able to share my personal testimonies with some of these friends. Making time for people isn't always easy. For instance, I had a particular friend who was emotionally very needy, and after spending time with her, I felt drained of all my energy. But the bottom line is, God was teaching me to build relationship with people and to bless them. My prayer is that next year, I will be able to bring more people to Christ.

3. God taught me to appreciate my home church, and to be aware of the needs of newcomers

In Adelaide, I started from ground zero in looking for a church. After visiting a few churches, I tried to settle down in a very modern and 'happening' church. It was great—great sermons, great worship. But something was missing, and that was community. I tried to initiate conversations with people I met in the church, but it was difficult to connect with anyone because they had their own friends, and they seemed to have little interest in talking to newcomers. For weeks, I cried out to God for help. I was very church-homesick, and I missed the close connections that I had back in Calvary. After six months, I decided to visit a particular church. When I was there, the worship and sermon were both simple and sweet. But what was sweeter still, was the warmth of the people. Uncles, aunties, young adults took the initiative to talk to me and made sure I felt at home. That very day, I decided to make it my home church.

This experience is impactful because it makes me appreciate Calvary so much more. I appreciate that we are a church of different generations, and yet so closely-knitted. I honestly thank God for giving me a big family

in Calvary. This experience also made me more aware of the needs of newcomers in church. Now, I make it a point to try talking to at least one newcomer in church after service. It's my desire that every Calvarite can be a blessing to newcomers, just like how I was blessed by my church in Adelaide.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Join more than 190,000 leaders around the world to be challenged, equipped and inspired.



EXPERIENCE THE SUMMIT VIA VIDEOCAST IN OUR REGION AT:

Bethel Assembly Of God | 81 Aljunied Avenue 2, Geylang East Central, Singapore 389957
October 22-23, 2014 | 9.00am - 5.30pm | Singapore

REGISTER TODAY

Super Early Bird
Register by Aug 31, 2014
Group of 4 People S\$400
Individual Rate S\$120

Early Bird
Register by Sep 30, 2014
Group of 4 People S\$500
Individual Rate S\$150

Regular Rate
Register after Sep 30, 2014
Group of 4 People S\$660
Individual Rate S\$200

2 WAYS TO REGISTER

WEB - www.glassingapore.org | EMAIL - info@glassingapore.org

www.glassingapore.org | info@glassingapore.org | +65 84183306 | My Singpost Box 880143, Singapore 919191

twitter.com/wcagls | facebook.com/wcagls | wcags.com

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Chief Editor: Rev Simon Ang

Asst. Editors: Rev David Lim
Rev Winnie Wong

Coordinator: Carol Lim

Design: Infinite Print Solutions

Publisher: The Assemblies of God of Singapore
8 Lorong 27A Geylang
#02-08 Guilin Building
Singapore 388106
www.ag.org.sg



Printer: Singapore Press Holdings Ltd