

## ISSUE 01/2018

CONTENTS

12

YOUTH

14

SENIORS

15

16

17

CHOIR

18

20

MISSIONS

WIN A PRIZE/

WORDSEARCH WINNERS

**GIRLS' BRIGADE** 

**FILIPINO MINISTRY** 

01 PASTOR'S MESSAGE

02 SAY HALO TO OUR BEYONCÉ

03

**FAMILY NEWS** 

04 **BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP** 

05 **ENCOUNTER JOURNAL** 

06 VISITING THE PROMISED LAND

08 LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

10 CHILDREN

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21 A CELEBRATION OF DEDICATION







Doris Yee

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## A TIME FOR TRANSFORMATION

he anticipation of a Xmas (please do not be offended by this word — it's neither an incorrect spelling nor an attempt to remove Jesus as the centre of Christmas; it's really quite the opposite) that's Merry; the excitement of a New Year that's Happy. What a wonderful time the end of the year is!

The dates come and go, and with them, the merriness and happiness fades. It was nice while it lasted. But everything goes back to being un-merry and unhappy again; it feels like nothing has changed. It goes back to being Ordinary.

And in a sense, it has. In fact, in the Church Calendar, Ordinary Time refers to the period after Xmas (starting from 6 January which is Epiphany) to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent that leads up to Resurrection Sunday (Easter).

Which therefore begs the question: If at Christmas we remember and celebrate the Incarnation — God becomina Human, and at New Year we remember and anticipate the goodness of God, what do we focus on during Ordinary Time?

The answer is that we focus on the life of Christ — His teaching and ministry. And in living out the teaching and ministry of Christ. In other words, Ordinary Time is a time for transformation — to grow and mature into the likeness of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

So as we begin 2018, quickly exiting the buzz of Xmas and New Year celebrations and entering into Ordinary Time, may we intentionally live out Christ in the year ahead. May we be transformed into Christ-likeness.

With that, I wish you a (belated by the time you read this) Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year! And of course, a Transformative Ordinary Time!

Rev Reuben Ng Pastor-in-Charge

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## SAY HALO TO OUR BEYONCÉ



My Favourite Bible Verse **"Thy word is a** 

lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

- Psalm 119:105

## NEWLYWEDS



## NEWBORNS



On **18 Oct 2017**, Victor and Cheryl were blessed with their newborn daughter **Natalie**.

#### This is my favourite verse because

In everything I do, I fall back on the Word. The Word brings me comfort, The Word shows me the way to God, The Word guides me in every area of my life.

#### **Q:** Why did you become a pastor?

**Pastor Ming (PM):** If you're asking me whether it was anything very distinctive, a one-time call, I would say no. The calling got clearer as I walked with God. I only knew, and this was over 30 years ago, that I would serve Him full-time one day.

#### Q: What excites you about working at Toa Payoh Methodist Church?

**PM:** Well.... I have heard that, at TPMC, the pastors remain very youthful over the years, and they seem to lose any excess weight! <sup>(C)</sup> But what really excites me is the vision of the church: a church that reaches out to the lost and the local community at every opportunity; a church that seeks to Encounter God and lead others to that same Encounter of Love.

#### Q: If you could pick only 3 foods to eat for the rest of your life, what would they be?

**PM:** Porridge, Cantonese soup, Pig's trotters in vinegar.

#### **Q:** Describe yourself in 5 words.

**PM:** 5 words? Huggable, cheerful, oh I wouldn't like to say a glutton but I do enjoy good food! 2 more words? Adventurous... Last one? I am... unique and so are you!!

FAMILY NEWS | 3

#### On **20 Jan 2018 Alphis** & Hannah tied the knot.

On **22 Dec 2017,** Shiyi and Yong Qi were blessed with the arrival of second child **Timothy**.



**BAPTISM CANDIDATES & NEW TPMC MEMBERS** 



CHILDREN:

ADULTS: Chew Jay Ee

Adarius Tan Rui Xiang Amanda Ong <u>Song Qi</u>

Bethany Tan Youhui Kayla Ong Min Ru

Owen Ong Xin Fu Phoebe Wong

Wee Sheng En Salvadora

Foo Shuan Meng Leon

Lee Hui Min Elizabeth Lim Puay San Pamela

Ong Khiaw Wei Andy

Teo Bee Hong Anna

Wu Lai Har Mary

Isaiah Kumarakuru s/o Arunasalam

DEC

2017



## and was baptized he saw the h opened and the Spirit **BAPTISED IN ISRAEL:**

Foo Hui Hsien Melissa Lim Bee Leng Helen

#### **RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Altona Widjaja Chew Jay Ee Koh Tong Leng Law Hock Meng Melvyn Lee Hui Min Elizabeth

Lim Puay San Pamela Ong Khiaw Wei Andy Tan Pang Kwang Thomas Lum Tuck Mun





Vicky Wong Wong Joon Kim Wu Lai Har Mary Yeo Choo Wee Willie





#### "Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."

MATTHEW 7:24

#### #EJReflections from our youths!

Find out more on Instagram @tpmcyouthfusion (2)

Phoebe Tan







**E**JReflections

he purpose of daily journaling is to draw near to God through the studying of His Word. Ask God to help you develop a healthy habit of reading His Word daily.

May your life be transformed as you encounter God through the use of this journal. May you be the salt and light of the world as the Word of God changes you from glory to glory.

VISITING THE PROMISED LAND | 6-7



# VISITING THE PROMISED

By Doris Yee

Sea of Galil

Departing on 24th November, our trip to Istanbul, Jordan and Israel was exhilarating, eventful and challenging.

We had mixed experiences with our guides and some of us fell ill along the way. Thankfully, we managed to remain focused on God as our ultimate guide to learn the history and experience the sights and sounds of Jordan and the Promised Land.

We walked down the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. We navigated the cobbled alleys of the Old City culminating in the Church of Holy Sepulchre, believed to be the site of Golgotha. The Dome of the Rock, a mosque with an impressive golden dome and blue mosaic walls built over the site of the first and second Temple and where it is believed that Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac, gave a glimpse into the land's complicated history.

Golan Heights was bitterly cold, buffeted by chilly winds as evening approached. Overlooking neighbouring Syria, we began to grasp the significance of its position and the ongoing tussle between Israel and her neighbours. Two members were baptised and another ten remembered their baptism through immersion in the Jordan River. Three couples also renewed their vows at Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding.

Those who braved the trek up to the hilltop fortress of Machaerus in Jordan were rewarded with panoramic views but reminded of the sacrifice of John the Baptist who was beheaded there. The view atop Mount Carmel



was also breathtaking as we watched the sunset and recalled Elijah's fiery challenge against the Prophets of Baal.

Over the 14 days, we visited more than 25 churches and chapels. Icons marked every site of religious significance. Atop Mount Nebo, I was similarly drawn to a towering cross entwined by a serpent. I recalled the sermon by Pastor Reuben on the Nehushtan and made a mental note to take a picture before I left. I was disappointed to see that another group of visitors was taking their time posing for photos, oblivious to the many other visitors waiting near the foot of the cross. I grew impatient as the tour guide had given strict instructions, "Ten minutes!". A member of our group urged the group taking photos to hurry. Feeling offended, one of the men who had gotten down from the cross approached wagging his forefinger menacingly at our group member telling him to stop speaking. For a tense moment, I thought that this would escalate to an altercation. Thankfully, our group member responded calmly, shaking his head in disapproval. At that moment, I was jolted out of my complacency and wondered why taking that picture was so important to me. Was the Nehushtan effect similarly taking hold of me?

"Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes but you will not cross over into it."

And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is."

Deuteronomy 34:4-6







Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty years, who performed miracle after miracle, was surely worthy of remembrance. But he had no tombstone, no epitaph, no accolade, hence no Nehushtan or icon. Moses, the bearer of the ten commandments on stone tablets, the very representative of the Law was, after all, only a man.

Admiring the beautiful churches, sites and icons, I was reminded that the line between veneration and worship can easily fade if we do not guard our hearts and minds to focus our vision and worship only our living Lord.

Jerash, Jordan

#### LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS | 8-9













2017's Light of Christmas (LOC) event was held on a Saturday afternoon on 16 December. This year, we took LOC out of our church compound and held it at Toa Payoh Central to amplify our presence and be closer to the Toa Payoh community. Now into its third consecutive year, TPMC worshippers and Toa Payoh residents alike have come to identify LOC synonymously with the Christmas period.

On the day of LOC, many visitors came early, forming a queue even before the event officially began. Our Guest of Honour, Minister Josephine Teo, officially opened the carnival, welcomed by lively drumming from our visitors. Minister Teo stayed on to interact with the community and volunteers at the carnival.

Minister Josephine Teo & Our Leaders



#### By Terence Lee

There was a continuous stream of people throughout the afternoon. About 2,300 visitors attended that day - praise God! With the aim to bless the community and share the love we all know, there was something for everyone at LOC, be it yummy food, carnival games, craft stations, or the exciting children's programme.

#### It warms my heart to see returning visitors who remember the past years' LOC events, and their appreciation for our efforts to bring the Christmas joy to them.

A big event like this would be impossible without our 300 (or more) big-hearted volunteers. To everyone who helped out, the Committee would like to say a BIG THANKYOU from the bottom of our hearts! I also want to shout out to the Organising Committee, who started planning for the event in May. Thank you for the hard work and love you have poured into the event. As disciples of Jesus, there is no better way to celebrate Christmas than letting the community around us know that Jesus is the Light of Christmas. I look forward to volunteering alongside every one of you at LOC 2018!

Most importantly, we thank God for his providence and guidance. We pray that this community celebration has enabled our church to integrate deeper into the Toa Payoh community.

## CHILDREN'S CAMP 2017

By Chew Jay Ee

hildren's camp 2017 was an animated affair, where children of Toa Payoh and surrounding neighbourhoods came together to experience great joy for two days on 28 and 29 of November. As a Group leader, it was a privilege to witness the birth of many friendships amongst the children.

downfall, and salvation. Our own Mr Spirit. Incredible, Pastor Raymond Sim, had A Nemo-themed basket overflowing erasers!).

The children's endless energy was spent through activities such as a cotton bud painting session, "minute to win it" games, and a treasure hunt across the first two floors of the church. Their delighted shouts after finding a new clue, sometimes even shouting out answers to opposing teams, clearly displayed their enthusiasm!



By God's grace and blessing, 34 camp participants received Christ. We celebrated This year, the camp was named "The their new birthdays in Christ with birthday Incredible Children's Camp", with cakes. I hope these children will continue to focus made on the story of creation, grow stronger in faith, the Word, and the

the floor in stitches with his lively jokes Matthew 18 tells us those who are like and booming voice. His superpower? children are the ones who will inherit the kingdom of Heaven. I thank God for this with sweets, chocolates, and country opportunity to minister to them; to extend flag erasers (oh how kids love these His love to these mini-sized brothers and sisters He greatly cherishes.









#### Jum reap suor! (Khmer for hello)

On the 21st and 22nd of November, a group of Primary 6 and Secondary 4 students participated in a short camp to prepare for their mission trip to Cambodia in December. Throughout these two days, our budding missionaries not only planned and organised their upcoming trip, but also participated in a day of team bonding activities as well.

A round of icebreakers kickstarted the camp, where our campers were separated into groups and competed against one another in a trivia guiz about Cambodia. Thereafter, our campers were taught basic greetings, and also briefed on the traditional Cambodian customs to be observed throughout the trip.

During the camp, our mission team prepared a series of dance performances, led by one of our Secondary 4 students, Felicia Ong. Our campers were also tasked with writing their testimonies about their encounters with God, which encouraged many to step out of their comfort zones to share their stories about how Christ has touched their lives for the better.

The first day ended with a balloon sculpting workshop, where our campers picked up useful tricks on how to shape balloons.

On the second day, our campers set off for team bonding activities at Camp Challenge. They had to complete a series of challenges together as a team, each with increasing difficulty. Along the way, our campers exhibited many admirable qualities, including that of teamwork, communication, and perseverance, in completing the challenges.

After a morning filled with team exercises, each camper had to face their fears as they scaled the high-element obstacle courses on the campsite, encouraged by their teammates' cheering. Amazingly, all our campers, including the young ones, managed to accomplish the obstacle courses which was definitely no mean feat!

After a day filled with intense physical activity, the camp came to a perfect close with a barbeque in our very own church compound. Over the course of these two short but tiring days, our campers grew not only in their minds, but their hearts as well, ready to inspire others to seek an encounter with Christ.

## YOUTH CAMP

By Isaiah Tee

Having much joy was certainly an understatement at Camp Xapá this year! This year's camp was held at the Girls' Brigade Centre from 18 to 21 of June 2017.

The word  $Xap\dot{a}$  means "Joy" in Greek. The camp focused on the message that it is not about the joy found in doing things we like, but about the joy we have in being followers of Jesus Christ. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:11





Our camp speaker Ms Mak Sue Ann helped elucidate what joy really meant, where we could find that joy, and what the basis of joy really is (no prizes that it has to be found in Jesus!). Through the sessions, Ms Mak also reminded the youths that Jesus is the very foundation of our joy.

As with any youth camp, it was a time of fellowship and discipleship filled with laughter and activities. There were new friendships formed, and the youths

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

By Elissa Chee

YOUTH | 12-13

Prayer is an indispensable part of the Christian life, in our personal lives and more importantly, within the Christian community. It is needed for spiritual edification, support and to strengthen discipleship. To inculcate a culture of prayer in our youths, Youth Fusion (YF) holds Prayer and Praise on every 5th Sunday of the month, with the aim to set aside time to worship God and pray for one another.

It is a heartwarming sight to see youths actively praying for each other, for YF, and for the church.

We pray and hope that these opportunities for spiritual support will spur YF-ers on to pursue more encounters with God, and to spread God's love to those around them.





had fun interacting with each other through games and sharing sessions. This festive season, our youths also brought great joy to those around them by visiting and carolling at the Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens.

Our youths certainly walked the talk this camp. We pray and ask God to continue giving us more opportunities to exude and give others this great joy we have in Him. Amen! SENIORS | 14

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

By Adrian Lum



On 23 November 2017, the Thursday Fellowship seniors had a thanksgiving lunch at Hall 1. There were about 65 people including guests. The church admin staff were also invited. We were privileged to have some of the ladies cook the food, while others brought food and drinks. There was more than enough food for a second helping!

## **GLOWING YEARS** MINISTRY'S 17TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

By Adrian Lum

he Trinity Annual Conference's Senior Ministry board organised the Glowing Years Ministry's (GYM) 17th Anniversary Dinner on 17 November 2017 at Ban Heng Restaurant in Harbourfront.

The emcee for the evening was none other than our very own Mr Peter Lim. The seniors had a wonderful time fellowshipping with other sister Methodist churches.





## A WALK DOWN GB 16<sup>TH</sup> P COMPANY'S HERITAGE By Elsie Goh

In 2017, as part of Girls' Brigade (GB) Singapore's 90th Anniversary celebration and the Dr Low Guat Tin Challenge, each GB Company submitted their Heritage Board.

It was a formidable task for us initially but our archivist, Li Hwa, provided some interesting material on our Company from her past issues of Interact. We created the design and layout with the help of Dinah, Mui Leng and Penny. With the girls' complementary strengths in working together, we completed the Heritage Board enthusiastically.

We marvelled at God's faithfulness as we witnessed His guiding hand through our journey. Our pioneering Chaplains and Captains were exemplary. We are always thankful to Toa Payoh Methodist Church for her unwavering support to the GB ministry since 1982. To God be the glory!



GIRLS' BRIGADE | 15





## There's Power in Oneness

#### By Angelito Mojico

here's power in oneness that God has empowered His children with. In the Tower of Babel story in Genesis 11:6, God said this, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

The Filipino Ministry prays and hopes to make these words real in the Church in 2018. But this time, not to be united to rebel against God but to be united for Him. To work with one heart, soul, spirit, and mind to reach the lost.

Last December, together with the Network of Filipino Churches in Singapore (NetFil) and a private company, we participated in an event called "Migrants Blessing Singapore" on 3 December 2017. Filipino churches from different groups and denominations worked together to gather migrants of different nationalities to bless the nations, especially Singapore. Our Filipino Ministry anchored the Praise and Worship segments and 1,500 people participated in this phenomenal event.



We also had a joint Christmas Celebration with our brothers and sisters from Faith Methodist Church. Resources were combined to reach out and bless Filipinos outside the church. We gave out gifts and prizes and saw how God blessed the people (some who had not known Jesus Christ) through our united ministry.

There's power in oneness. This power was entrusted to us, the Church. In the story of the Tower of Babel, the people were scattered for uniting to rebel against God, but God had other plans. He scattered them so that in time to come, through His Son, His purpose and glory will be fulfilled through His Church throughout the world.

With our hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Filipino Ministry aspires to walk in obedience and do God's will as we exercise the power of oneness as His children.



## JUBILATE CHOIR ANNUAL RETREAT

By Ravi Cuttilan

he Jubilate Choir went to Malacca from 27-29 October 2017 for our annual retreat. It was a time of rest, fellowship and rehearsal. The trip began on Friday morning with all of us gathered in church. After a short prayer by Pastor Reuben, we set off by coach. In true foodie fashion, we went to Jonker Street on the first night.

On Saturday we enjoyed a morning of games, discussion and rehearsal. We shared our hopes and experiences and prayerfully brainstormed about how to grow as a choir. For some it was a walk down memory lane; for others it was a time of fresh insight about how to face our weekly struggles.

Many have asked me why I join the choir. My reasons are manifold, including a desire to sing old hymns and improve my singing. Being in the choir



CHOIR | 17

has not just taught me to sing in parts, it allowed me to meet a group of Christians whom I would not have been interested in my usual routine, and in doing so, it has showed me a different side of God's kingdom.

The choir is in constant need of new faces. While we seek excellence in our singing, being able to sing very well is not a prerequisite. I have found that the choir is an inclusive and encouraging group that welcomes anyone with a love for singing and a teachable heart, and soon enough you too will find your voice blending into the harmony that makes the Jubilate choir.

If you have an interest or are passionate to sing for the Lord, join the choir family and serve God with your voice.

## MISSION TRIP to cambodia

By Audrey Ong

Felicia Ong

Felicia Koh

Deventeen 12-year-old and 16-year-old youths went on a mission trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in December 2017. They were at the Community Outreach Services - Immanuel (COSI) Children's village for six days. It was an eye-opening experience for the youths, who said they will remember this for a long time to come. Here are some of the team's reflections:

The Cambodian children really taught me what it was like to worship God everyday with all that we've got, giving Him our best and nothing less. It amazes me how despite their harsh life situations, they never once let it be a barrier between them and God; how they submit themselves to Him and never fail to turn their worries into prayers.

I am thankful to be blessed with the

opportunity to go for this mission trip,

which was one of the best experiences in

my life. The mission trip not only gave me

time and opportunities to grow closer and

more comfortable with my friends but

also gave me time to take a break from

life and appreciate all of God's works.

The main activities we did throughout our stay at COSI were painting their houses, various workshops, as well as village outreaches. The painting room project made me realise how comfortable staying in Singapore is, and that we should be contented with what we have back at home."

Kong Mei Jia

I would like to thank God for the mission trip, for giving me this chance to interact with the children there. It allowed me to see the innocent faith of the younger kids, and how rooted the older kids were in their faith and trust in God.

**Adriel Soh** 



I feel that GOD has been exceptionally good to us during these seven days, providing great weather which was a blessing during the village outreach with Aunty Carol.

#### Shane Lim

God always provides and is always there with us every step of the way, like when we are trying to adapt to the new environment.

Ivan Low









Date Field

Cost

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Who

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Date

Field

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Proc

Who

expe

#### **UPCOMING TRIPS**

- Planning to go on a mission trip this year? Here are some dates for you to consider. Register at the Information Counter!
- Closing dates for registration: two months before each trip.
- Dates and costs are subject to change.

es	1-6 May	
ł	Chiang Mai, Thailand	
t	\$800	
gramme	Outreach to Shan villages	
at you may act to do	Fellowship with Shan cell groups and believers, teaching, prayer ministry, sharing testimonies	
es	4-8 Sept	
ł	Chiang Mai, Thailand	
ł	\$800	
gramme	Workshops for Shan cell groups	
at you may ect to do…	Share testimonies, Fellowship with Shan cell groups, teaching on cell groups and family life.	

#### **GOFORTH MISSIONS** CONFERENCE

#### Dates 21-23 June

This is a missions conference organised by the Methodist Church in Singapore. Here is the link for more info:

http://www.methodist.org.sg/index.php/component/ rseventspro/event/160-goforth-national-missionsconference-2018

#### LET'S TRAIN UP!

Compulsory for all Mission trippers and open to anyone interested!

Run	Session Dates	Time
n 1	Session 1: 4 Mar (Sun) Session 2: 11 Mar (Sun)	1.00pm - 2.30pm
n 2	Session 1: 15 Jul (Sun) Session 2: 22 Jul (Sun)	1.00pm - 2.30pm



True or False? Answer correctly and stand a chance to win vouchers from Popular!

Answers are all found inside this issue.

Email answers to commsmedia@tpmc.org.sg (put "Interact - Win A Prize" in email subject line).



### Congratulations!

Winners of the Interact Word Search Competition:

- Bryan Theng
- Carol Tia
- Darren Teo
- Elaine LSL
- Ho Chui Foong - lynee Low

- Ho Choy Ling

- Lee Phaik Har

- Ruby Song
- Tan Teck Wee

- Lynne Wong

- TT Teo

Please collect your prize at the Information Counter by 25 Feb 2018.

## A CELEBRATION OF DEDICATION



The precious time you shared with us Patiently toiling without a fuss Your heart is humble but strong and true So here's an earnest and honest Thank You.



TRAC PASTOR (10 YEARS) **REV REUBEN NG** 

**TRAC CHRISTIAN** MINISTRY STAFF (15 YEARS) JAIME HANG IRENE PHUA

## JOIN US THIS EASTER APRIL FOOLS!

#### 1 April 2018

8.30am & 10.30am | Sanctuary (L2) Toa Payoh Methodist Church