

JUNE 2014

# interact

*Creating a*

*Culture of*

*Welcome*

*Inside:*

BB &  
GB AWARDS!

*the* EVIDENCE  
of love

the power  
of SMILING

MISSIONS  
in thailand

# interact

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## 710. 242. 960.

Written by Reverend Reuben Ng  
Pastor-in-Charge

What's so special about the numbers above?

710 is the number of visitors we had in 2013. No, that wasn't a typo. We, TPMC, had a total of 710 visitors joining us for all our services last year; the Filipino Ministry had 95, Youth Fusion had 60, and the Main Services had 555. Those are not small numbers.

In fact, '710' is based on the number of Welcome Packs that were given out, and we all know that not everyone who visits a church will walk up to the Welcome Booth to collect a Welcome Pack. Furthermore, couples or families who visit usually share a Welcome Pack. Based on those factors, there would, in all probability, have been a greater number of people who visited us. That's not too bad for a simple, unsophisticated, sans-glitz church situated in the heart of a residential town.

"What about this year?", you may ask. The answer to that is found in the second number. 242 is the number of visitors we, TPMC, have received as of 25th of May. Again, that's not too shabby a number. It breaks down to an average of 47 visitors a month.

Now, it is really easy to look at these figures and think: "What did we, TPMC, do so well to attract so many visitors last year? We've got to do more of whatever it is that we were doing!"

That trajectory in thought wouldn't be wrong, and there is certainly value and merit in that kind of thinking. But I would like to approach this set of figures from another perspective and therefore ask different questions: "What are we as TPMC doing to welcome all these visitors? What can we do better in our reception of these hundreds of people?"

The reason I find myself approaching the figures from this perspective is because I believe, that for every reason there may be for this encouraging number of visitors, we need to realise that ultimately, the reason is that God, being His usual gracious self, is leading and guiding all these visitors to us. And that is why we have had close to a 1,000 visitors since January last year. That's grace right there! TPMC is experiencing God's amazing grace in terms of the

visitors He's bringing to us!

From this influx of visitors, it is evident that God wants to do something momentous in TPMC. Our part is to offer an appropriate response to what He is doing and wants to do. Which then begs the question, what are we doing about it? How should we respond to what God is doing?

It's simple: we prepare ourselves to step out of our comfort zones to welcome visitors. We show hospitality by going the extra mile to make people feel 'at home' at TPMC. In fact, that is what the Bible teaches and it isn't stingy in its mention about being hospitable. Here are just three portions where it speaks about welcome and hospitality.

"For an Overseer...must be blameless...not greedy for money, but *hospitable*..." - Titus 1:7 - 8

"Don't neglect to show *hospitality*..." - Hebrews 13:2

"Be *hospitable* to one another without complaining."  
- 1 Peter 4:9

Good and genuine hospitality would be the basic expectation of any visitor who walks into our church. As Christians (or people who follow and represent Christ here on earth), it is our calling to extend welcome all who walk through the doors of our church. The world is a cold and cruel place for those who live without Christ in their lives and people are looking for a place of refuge where they can be welcomed and accepted. As followers of Christ, let us be the extension of His love to these people.

So what do we do when we spot a visitor in church? Here are two easy steps to follow when this happens. The first step is this. (And this is really important!) *Do not* wait, hope, pray and expect someone else to welcome and be hospitable to the visitor. By virtue of you spotting the visitor, it is most probably you whom God wants to use to be the answer to the visitor's hope, prayer, and expectation that someone would welcome and be hospitable to him/her in this church.

The second step? *Please do* walk up, smile, introduce yourself and enquire if he/she is new. Then simply lead the person to the Welcome Booth or an usher. The leaders manning the Welcome Booth and the ushers will take care of everything else thereafter.

That's all. Two simple steps are all it takes to be welcoming and hospitable as a church. That's what we want to do and that's what we ought to do as an appropriate response to what God is doing in leading all these visitors to us.

And no, I did not forget about the 960. That's the number of members TPMC has as of Easter 2014. Surely with 960 of us, we can make the 710 and the 242 visitors feel welcomed. Surely, we can be hospitable. It's time that we, TPMC, step up and embrace a culture of welcome.

"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." - Romans 12:13








## MUSICAL CHILDREN

*Written by Pamela Pan*  
Pastoral Team (Worship)

Music is a gift from God, as are children. It is right that children are taught to identify, own, and cultivate their instinctive musical awareness and expression through song and music. Singing helps children to develop their natural singing skills and increase in musical knowledge and grow spiritually. This year, I have had the opportunity to collaborate

with the Children Ministry Kids and JOY Voices (Children's Choir) for a combined anthem on Missions Sunday. This is to encourage the little ones to use their voices as a tool for praising God with rhythm and movements as well as to teach them to be aware of declaring God-given talents and rendering their voices in joyful praise!

So come, all ye children, if you have a voice to sing, join the children's choir every Sunday from 9:45-10:25am at Room #02-11. ■

## A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

*Written by Wilson Koh*  
Pastoral Team (Youth)

At our first quarterly Church Corporate Prayer meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May, we saw 104 people coming together to pray as a church. It was our privilege and honour to have David Cole from Y.W.A.M. to share with us on the heart of God for global and local missions. We are trusting God to bring the church to a new level of breakthrough in prayer and missions. Thanks to all who have made a difference by coming to pray! ■



## A HEART FOR MISSIONS

*Written by Sarah Hoi*  
Pastoral Team (Children's)

Missions Week this year began with a Corporate prayer meeting where members of the church prayed for our missionaries and their ministries. Then on Sunday, Pastor Reuben, through his powerful preaching, and Florence through her engaging testimony, encouraged members to participate in short-term missions trips. We thank God for the members who have shown interest in going for future trips. We pray that more from our church will come forth to join these trips and experience God's mighty power working through them to bless the nations! ■





## UNITED BY LOVE

Written by Clement Sim  
Pastoral Team (Worship)

On Good Friday, the Combined Choir led the worship service and rendered an offertory item, 'Crucifixus' by Antonio Lotti. There was great joy in making music together in the spirit of excellence. But even beyond that, the journey was far more meaningful. Made up of singers from every service (Traditional, Contemporary, Filipino and Youth) and even church members who volunteered, there was an initial unease about the atmosphere.

But each evening as the choir came together, everyone brought with them positive energy and humble attitudes, even when they were tired. We could see God at work not only through how He accelerated everyone's learning capacity, but how His love was evident amongst the choir members. Many of the choir members are anticipating the next opportunity to come together as the Combined Choir again. I asked, "What about Christmas?" ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Sunday**  
6<sup>th</sup> July @  
8:30am & 10:30am  
Venue: TPMC Sanctuary

**44<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**  
(One Family Service)  
17<sup>th</sup> August @  
10:30am  
Venue: TPMC Sanctuary

## TYING THE KNOT



Congratulations to Myren Mak and Ruth Woo who were wed on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014! The best is yet to come!



Chia Tai-Yu and Andreana Ng made their vows on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014! May love reign in their lives forever!



## A BLESSED CEREMONY

*Written by Allan Ben*

Chairperson for BB/GB Enrolment Service 2014

The Boys' and Girls' Enrolment and Dedication Service is a time for the boys and girls together with their officers to dedicate themselves for a year of service.

I was privileged to serve as Chairperson for the ceremony this year. I saw God at work through the planning when committed Captains and officers stepped up despite heavy commitment in other areas.

Our boys were truly excited as they prepared the bagpipe and drums band and creative drills performances over many weekends.

As such, this year, there were many parents and supporters who turned up for the Enrolment Service and a lot of them were in church for the first time. This was a great opportunity for us to get to know them better.

We are thankful to God for being our Provider and using the Brigade Ministry to be an outreach to the boys and also their families. There were countless occasions when we were faced with challenges however the steadfast love of our God held us through. ■







## *Awards 2014:*

### **10<sup>th</sup> Company:**

- JM Fraser Award 2014 - Silver Honour Roll
- BB Blaze 2014 - Silver Honour Roll

### **76J Company:**

- JM Fraser Award 2014 - Silver Honour Roll
- BB Adventure Quest 2014 - Gold Honour Roll (1st Runner Up)
- Gold Award - Six of our Primary 6 boys were awarded the highest award for the Juniors' programme

## WHAT AN ADVENTURE!

*Written by* Isaiah Tee  
Boys' Brigade Office

The Boys' Brigade Adventure Quest (Junior) is an annual event where the Junior companies from all over Singapore come together in teams to compete in a series of physical and mental challenges, as well as to learn about values such as teamwork and endurance.

In the weeks leading up to the actual event, our boys from 76J went through extensive training, ranging from physical activities like knot-tying and tent pitching, to learning about the history and knowledge of the Boys' Brigade. Their enthusiasm and excitement did not falter, as they proceeded to give their all during the actual event.

In the end, their hard work paid off and our boys made us proud, with one of the teams clinching 2nd place overall! Well done boys! ■



## A WELL-PLANNED RACE

*Written by* Paul Liew  
Pastoral Team (Boys' Brigade)

On the morning of 12th April, nine boys from the 10th Singapore Company gathered with 120 other teams from other Boys' Brigade Companies in Singapore at the Outward Bound Visitor Centre in Punggol End. They were there to participate in the annual BB Blaze Adventure Race.

Flagged off by the honorary Dr. Winston Choo, the teams started the 35-kilometer race, running and cycling through park connectors, forested trails and canoeing off the coast of Punggol and Seletar.

10th Singapore Company has always valued the importance of this race. The boys succeeded through well-planned strategies and vigorous physical training weeks before the race itself. Our two teams returned with not only the Silver Honour Roll, but also stronger friendships and comradeship. ■



## RECOGNITION

*Written by Annabel Lye & Elsie Goh  
Girls' Brigade Officers*

The 16th Primary and Secondary GB Companies participated in the National Creative Drill Competition on 22nd March 2014.

This was a national competition to instil self-discipline and build resilience in the girls through drills. Our girls put in a lot of effort and time in the weekly practices, which spanned between ten to twelve weeks. They not only learned basic drills but also performed the drill movements to music.

For the 16th Secondary GB Company, the challenge was having to combine with two other schools to form a contingent in order to meet the minimum number of girls to participate. The coordination work among the three schools for the practices and rehearsals was not easy but by God's grace we pulled through.

The girls did their best and expected only participation points but God rewarded both companies with Bronze Awards!



Then on 12th April the Girls' Brigade companies excitedly attended the Award Ceremony 2014, an annual event held in recognition of the achievement of the GB companies in Singapore.

Together with their officers and teachers, the 16th Primary and Secondary GB Companies girls went to the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) with excitement to receive two awards for 2013.

The first award was the GOLD Company Award. This award was to commend the girls for their faithfulness, and commitment in the weekly GB meetings and active participations in National Competitions and GB HQ events. The second was the 'Top 10 Companies' award in recognition of their fund-raising efforts during the GB fortnight. ■







## GO GREEN!

Written by Elsie Goh  
Girls' Brigade Officer

As part of the badge work of the Girls' Brigade Junior programmes, the Primary Girls' Brigade embarked on a journey on 9th November 2013, a sunny Saturday morning, for a tree-planting activity.

The event was in line with an initiative by the National Park Board to plant 1,963 trees to commemorate 50 years of Greening Singapore. The girls were reminded that this island-wide, tree-planting campaign was initiated by our former Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew when he first planted a tree on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1963.

I shared with the girls from Psalm 1:3: *"...like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, whatever he does shall prosper."* I explained that a plant needed sunlight, soil and water and took years to grow into a tree and bear fruits.



I encouraged them to be like the tree rooted to the source of life by applying God's Word in their lives. They must inculcate good Christian values in character building and put into practice what they had learned by serving the community and becoming responsible citizens. Then as they grow up, their lives will be fruitful and they will be lights shining for Jesus.

The friendly NParks staff gave a brief introduction of the native species, tips on how to plant the trees and some safety precautions. After that, our girls enthusiastically dug holes and potted saplings along the Lower Seletar Reservoir. They found the tree-planting activity very educational and enriching because they had never planted a tree before and had now done their part for conservation awareness. ■



## ► PURSUED 2014 MOMENTS

**interact**

look up      go deep      reach out







"BUT HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS;  
HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES;  
UPON HIM WAS THE CHASTISEMENT THAT  
BROUGHT US PEACE,  
AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE **HEALED.**"  
- ISAIAH 53:5

## BY HIS STRIPES

*Written by Sharon Leong*  
Member of TPMC

For the last three years, I've had pain in my left knee and couldn't squat. I consulted doctors on the pain and even had an X-Ray taken. The doctors diagnosed me with osteoarthritis, which is inflammation and joint damage caused by degeneration. They told me that nothing much could be done.

Then on 18th April, a Friday night, I was listening to a recorded sermon preached by Pastor Reuben on "Two Aspects to Surrendering". He was talking about the need for both external and internal surrender to God as well as depending and trusting that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28).

At the end of the sermon, Pastor Reuben invited those in need of God's healing for different infirmities including cancer, tuberculosis and pain in the left knee, among others, to come to the front so that he could pray for them.

It was at that moment I remembered the pain in my left knee and so I laid a hand on my knee and prayed for God's healing in the name of Jesus and believed for a miracle.

The next morning, as I was going about my daily routine, the Holy Spirit suddenly prompted me to squat. I did and was overjoyed that I could squat and get up without pain! Hallelujah! ■

## IN THE SECRET PLACE

*Written by Elaine Yeo*  
Member of TPMC

I remember times of darkness in my life when I was bewildered by God's silence. Where is God? Is He angry with me? Why can't I hear His voice? Some questions have gone unanswered.

When my beloved dad passed away in February 2012, I was shocked, depressed and lost. Being the only child, I was always close to my dad. Our home was always filled with laughter and warmth when he was around. But when he left us, my world fell apart.

One day, I told my grandma about my decision to become a Christian. She was taken aback but was very pleased with my decision. She encouraged me to attend Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) as it was very close to her home. I walked into TPMC and have never regretted my decision since.

I began to realise that God has a specific and special plan for me and He is calling me forward to fulfil it. I can sense a stirring in my heart – the Holy Spirit is drawing me closer so that my desires and actions agree with God's plan for my life.

God has special things to share with me and in order to receive them, I need to draw near to Him. I am growing in intimacy with God by allowing Him into my heart and sharing my secrets. He is the One I go to – He shares my joys and sorrows, and I can confess my sins to Him, receiving forgiveness and healing. ■



## THE EVIDENCE OF LOVE

Written by Clement Sim  
 Pastoral Team (Hospitality & Worship)

It is the Church's desire to reach the lost. How would we respond if the broken came through our doors just the way they are – a homeless beggar coated with dirt, a prostitute who is scantily clad, a gangster covered in tattoos or a person infected with HIV, stricken with sores? Most of us would judge them at first glance, some might even be offended, but how many would respond as Jesus did?

As Jesus ministered to people, there was an instance where a leper fell before Him and cried out. Considering the symptoms of leprosy, and with the understanding people had about it in those days, everyone avoided lepers at all cost. Except Jesus.

***"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."***  
 - 1 John 3: 18

Jesus could have healed the leper with a spoken word, but He chose to touch him. He recognized that the leper needed more than physical healing – he also needed acceptance. Jesus met that need when He

demonstrated love not just with words, but with action.

Scripture points out that when we decide to love someone, there must be a visible evidence of that love. It is not about making that decision inwardly and then doing nothing about it outwardly.

***"You will be the only bible some people ever read."***  
 -William J. Toms

Imagine if someone thought to himself, "I love the newcomers of our church", but stood around and did nothing, what good would that do? Each time our leaders humble themselves and serve visitors drinks at Kopi Time, or our ushers step out of their comfort zone and engage in a conversation with a stranger, these actions make God's love visible and tangible.

Some may feel that this is a responsibility exclusive to people like Pastors, church leaders or ushers, but that is far from the truth. What are we reflecting through the way we live our lives?

The call to love the world, even the unlovable, is for the body of Christ; *you and I*. What are you going to do differently, to make love evident in your life? ■



## WITHOUT LOVE, WE ARE NOTHING

Written by Rosalie Mojico  
Filipino Ministry Representative

In the Filipino Ministry, we believe that welcoming people in Church is the same as welcoming friends into our homes. Therefore, welcoming is more than just handshakes, hugs and kind words. It is more than just having fellowship, praying or following up with a call or a text message to know how to help them further. All these things are necessary but meaningless if we don't have love.

We believe that a culture of welcome in every church must flow from the outpouring of God's love in our lives. Romans 12:9 says, "Love must be sincere... Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves... Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality (or extend hospitality to strangers)."

Our goal in the Filipino Ministry is to serve and give everyone a tangible Christ-like love experience. But no matter how knowledgeable and equipped we are, if what we do is not founded in love, we will never be able to serve effectively.

*...welcoming is more than just handshakes, hugs and kind words...*

May every culture of welcome flow from a heart driven by love; rendered through the service that is led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. ■

## THE GOOD & THE BAD

Written by Vivien Ho  
Children's Ministry Teacher at TPMC

The good experiences that I've had at church would be those where there was an atmosphere of welcome and acceptance. The people from those churches that we visited welcomed and chatted with us. We were shown to an area where there was free coffee, tea and snacks before the main service started.

The ushers noticed that we were newcomers and attempted to talk and find out more about us. They were familiar with what was taking place in their church and were able to tell us more as well as answer our queries.

*Everyone went about their 'own business', sat with their own friends and no one extended any form of welcome.*

However, we've also had bad experiences while visiting churches. One instance was where no one bothered to talk to us even though the church was a small one. Everyone went about their 'own business', sat with their own friends and no one extended any form of welcome. After the service, everyone left and went on their separate ways; they were oblivious to visitors and did not attempt to reach out.

I believe for TPMC to be a church that is welcoming, we have to be intentional in reaching out. We have to be aware of the reason why we are in church which brings us to God's commandments - love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. ■

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained  
angels without knowing it!"*  
*Hebrews 13:2*



## CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Written by Sarah Hoi  
Pastoral Team (Children)

It seemed to be a great church. It had a huge building with professional security guards who stood watch at the entrance. There were comfortable seats in the sanctuary, a passionate worship ministry and the speaker preached a dynamic message. However, I never went back to the church after that.

The reason? My girl who was three years old then was not welcomed in the church service. The church had a policy that parents with children were not allowed to sit in the main auditorium but were asked to sit in the gallery. Still, when I was sitting in the gallery with my girl, we received a few 'dagger' stares from the usher when my girl was not able to keep quiet during the service.

The whole experience set me thinking, 'Where is the place for children in church? Should our children be relegated to worshipping in a separate children's church setting so that adults can have a peaceful time of worship without being disturbed?'

Let's see what the Bible says about children participating with adults in worship. In Old Testament times, the children of Israel were not only instructed to participate in different festivals, but were also encouraged to attend and hear the words of the law.

*'You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant...'*  
- Deuteronomy 16: 13

*'Assemble the people, men, women and little ones, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law and that their children who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God...'* - Deuteronomy 31: 12 - 13

In Paul's letter written to the churches at Ephesus and Colossae, Paul specifically addressed the children:

*'Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.'* - Ephesians 6: 1

*'Children, obey your parents in everything...'*  
- Colossians 3: 20a



Paul's letters were to be read to the Christian gatherings in these cities and it is reasonable to conclude that children were part of the Christian gatherings and they were present to hear the instructions from Paul.

I would like to believe that the children during Moses' and Paul's time were not too different from our children today. Babies pooped and wailed, young toddlers crawled as they explored different parts of the room and restless children moved about in their seats.

If the early church could make room for children in their worship gatherings, couldn't we too? Of course, parents definitely need to play the important role of disciplining children when they get too rowdy. And they should also encourage the children to participate in the service.

As members of TPMC, if we say that our church is indeed 'No place like His home', can't we make room for children in our services too? Besides the importance of families worshipping together, children learn through role-modelling - when they see adults worshipping, they are encouraged to worship too.

In the gospels, when some parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples tried to push them away. Maybe in their minds, children were considered too unimportant for Jesus to pay attention to. However, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid His hands on them. Jesus welcomed children and did not find them a nuisance. Jesus' loving and embracing attitude towards children should encourage us to embrace children in our church too. ■



## IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY

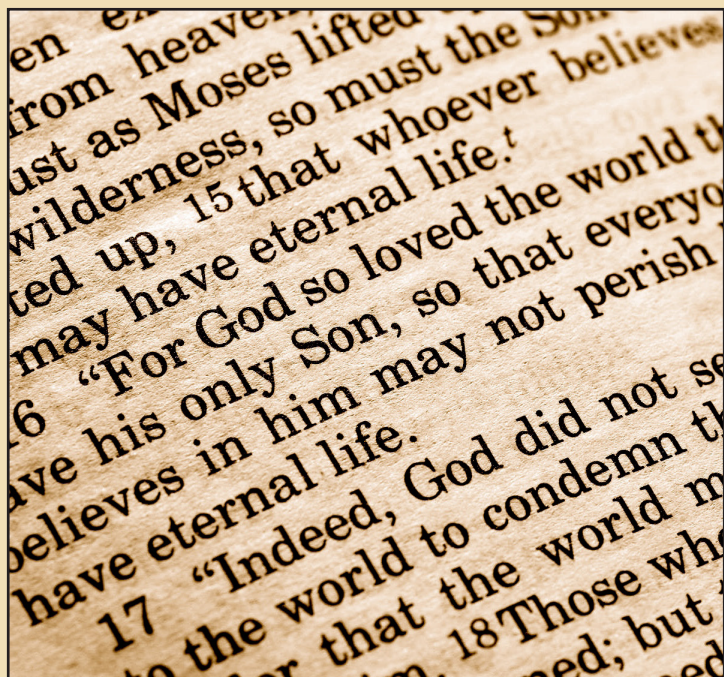
Written by Wilson Koh  
Pastoral Team (Youth)

The Good News is what Jesus preached and demonstrated. He paid a huge price for us by dying on the Cross. As Christians who are recipients of the Good News, it is imperative for us to share it with those around us who have not yet heard or believed.

In this spirit, our services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday were focused on boldly proclaiming His death and resurrection. By the grace of God, we saw a significant number of visitors on both days. When the Good News was preached, some received salvation; some re-committed themselves to Christ; some were reminded and touched by His unfailing love. Praise Jesus!

*As Christians who are recipients of the Good News, it is imperative for us to share it with those around us who have not yet heard or believed.*

There are many more who are waiting to hear the Good News. You and I can play a part by inviting our friends, colleagues, family and neighbours to Church. By taking the initiative to invite someone, he may be the next person to be transformed by the power of the Gospel. Heaven is always ready to celebrate the life of one more soul! ■



## WE ARE FAMILY!

Written by Quan Yi  
A youth from Youth Fusion

The family unit is the bedrock for love, support, strength and encouragement. In the context of the Church, family extends beyond that of flesh and blood, to all believers of Christ; the Church is a place where family member, young and old, come together, to worship God on a regular basis, and to grow together.

This provides for strong ties and relationships amongst members, allowing for the establishment of a cohesive support system. However, being extremely comfortable with one another could potentially serve as an impediment to welcoming newcomers into our midst.

The strength of Youth Fusion (YF) lies in its cell groups, and the strong bonds between cell group members. Having a stronger culture of hospitality provides a stepping stone for newcomers, who have considered and decided to stay, to experience the warmth and close-knit relationships that being part of a cell group has given to each and every one of us.

I myself can testify to that, being a late joiner myself. Although overcoming the initial awkwardness during my first few times in YF and cell group sessions were not easy, I am extremely thankful that I persevered and subsequently became part of this family in YF. It was then that I managed to have so many joyful and fruitful experiences with my cell group, as well as with God. ■



## SUPERPOWER!

Written by Shonali Rice  
Admin Team (Media & Communications)

We were all born with a God-given superpower: the gift of smiling! Much research has gone into studying why, when and how we smile. This article will explore the different effects that smiling has on others as well as yourself.

According to research conducted at Yale University, smiling helps us improve the quality of our social connections and helps reduce conflicts. It makes us appear more competent too – there is nothing like a brilliant smile to boost a first impression!

Smiling has also been found to work from the outside-in by increasing brain activity and even dulling the sensation of pain. In studies that were held at the University of Cardiff in Wales, it was found that smiling helped enhance the emotional state of the participants.

When they were exposed to pain, it was found that the people who smiled during the test felt significantly less pain than the people who frowned. This phenomenon is especially useful when we're going through a difficult time or situation in life.

It's clear that smiles are powerful! Proverbs 15:30 says, "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart..." The easiest way to make someone feel warm and welcome is to flash them a smile. It's as simple as that! ■



## Smile Facts:

Babies smile in the womb.

Smiling releases endorphins which in turn helps reduce stress and improve overall immunity!

Baseball players who smiled in the photos taken for the *Baseball Register* lived an average of 4.9 years longer than the players who did not smile.

There are cultural differences when it comes to reading people's smiles. In the United States, the mouth is the centre of focus whereas in Japan, the eyes are the centre of focus. For example, the emoticons used in the US: :) :( versus emoticons used in Japan: (^\_^) (;\_;) .

## A SERVANT'S HEART

Written by Janet Lim  
Usher and Member of TPMC

Ushers are gatekeepers in the house of God. They are the first point of contact for regular worshippers and new comers at the church. In a sense the ushers are representatives of the church who make the first and usually lasting impression to a new comer.

At TPMC our ushers are trained to extend 'Kingdom Hospitality' by creating a friendly and comfortable atmosphere for the worshippers. Our mission is to 'Love-Grow-Serve' together as we serve in the hospitality ministry.

The congregation too can play a part in making TPMC become a home by offering the love of Christ to our guests and by welcoming one another. I have witnessed the transformation of strangers seated near each other every Sunday and who through the years have become friends. They interacted with kindness and love by looking out for each other.

Recently, I chatted with two worshippers who happened to come to church together. One of them who was quite elderly had a fall and needed assistance to move around. She was gushing about how the worshipper next to her went all the way to her house to accompany her to church. Both of them looked at me with smiling faces. My heart felt warmed by their friendship and Christlike kinship. ■



## BASED ON THE PERFECT ROLE-MODEL

Written by Dr Seow Bee Leng  
Author of 'To Serve with Love' & Member of TPMC

Frankly, I started writing this book because I wanted a break from my 'can die' wordy thesis writing. Thus, the idea of sharing my ideas in a different format – a light-hearted book for a target audience such as service professionals – came about.

I wanted to write a simple and inspirational book capturing key tips for major areas in service delivery – a book of sharing and giving to the service employees. I hope to capture the attention of the service employees to enjoy service content with free and easy reading.

If there was one aspect of God's heart that I hope readers will catch onto, it would be love. God is love. Thus, when we 'Serve With Love', we glorify God through our service.

This book will challenge and give readers handles on how to love the 'not-so-lovable' people in a corporate setting who may demand everything, anytime and anywhere.

'To Serve With Love' is relevant to Christians in the church today because the perfect role model for service is our Servant-King, Jesus. He is love and the overflowing love and joy we extend to people around us is an extension of who He is. ■

## MUST-READ, MUST SHOW!

Written by Dr Andrew Goh  
Management Consultant, Platform Speaker and Editor of Impact Magazine

Quality service is no longer an added bonus. Expectations have risen in tandem with living standards and disposable incomes, whereby customers, buyers and shoppers require a certain level of service and regard. In this book, Bee Leng shares from the breadth of her involvement and depth of her understanding of what true service entails. And she does this in simple and straightforward ways that can be immediately comprehended and applied. This book is a *must-read* for those in the service sector. It is also a *must-show* to share with others. ■

*Bee Leng shares from the breadth of her involvement and depth of her understanding of what true service entails. And she does this in simple and straightforward ways that can be immediately comprehended and applied.*

## A READ FOR EVERYONE!

Written by Alison Lim  
Principal Consultant, El-Shaddai Resources

Bee Leng is an in-depth person who does not believe in superficiality. This book is a true reflection of what she embodies, as it explores the essential core of excelling in service. I believe that the application of these skills will not only help service personnel in their professional careers, but also in their personal lives. This easy-to-read book certainly makes for a worthy read. ■

*This book will challenge and give readers handles on how to love the 'not-so-lovable' people in a corporate setting who may demand everything, anytime and anywhere.*



## HOSPITALITY TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOP

Conducted by Dr Seow Bee Leng, the Hospitality Transformation Training was held over four sessions during March and April this year. Approximately 60 participants, comprising both Ushers and members, attended the course to learn what "Kingdom Hospitality" means. It was extremely well received, and here are what some participants have to say about it.

"The course not only filled us with useful, practical information, but Dr Seow also made it very interactive, light and fun. I particularly enjoyed the application of what was taught in the different role-play studies.

I have learned how to serve professionally by being sensitive and respectful to each individual's need. The course showed us how to pick up the different character traits, habits and so forth through a person's body gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice so that we may apply the correct approach. In this way 'both hands clap' and the work is effectively done." -Connie Goh

"The concepts taught and articulated through the God-gifted trainer, Dr Seow Bee Leng, are easy to understand, simple to learn and practical to execute.

We learned different terms and skills that were very beneficial towards career development, community work and applicable in home-management too.

Immediately after the sessions, many participants were inspired and signed up to serve. I have never encountered such high numbers of 'applicants' committing to serve! I highly recommended the Hospitality Transforming Training to all who have to come in contact with people and deal with all sorts of people." -Angus Thng

*"... to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. To serve with love through our acts of great service and the main driver of all we do is for the glory of God..."*

"I learned about ways to extend Kingdom Hospitality by creating a friendly and comfortable atmosphere for newcomers and regular worshippers to feel welcomed and valued when they entered our church.

I felt that I have been transformed to serve with great joy and a thankful heart. The learning sessions gave me a new perspective of my duties as an usher. The trainer shared with us 'to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. To serve with love through our acts of great service and the main driver of all we do is for the glory of God.'" -Josephine Ong





*"I* truly enjoyed the course because the trainer presented new ideas and approaches which were very refreshing, applicable and more importantly pleasing to God.

I have learned the meaning of hospitality from Romans 12:13: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality." Many of God's children when they come to worship, will come with different needs, problems, fears or worries because of life, relationships or maybe financial hardships.

Ushers should present themselves in order to make God's children feel comfortable and ready to worship Him and embrace His presence." -*Simon Tan*

*"I* enjoyed the course very much because of the trainer, Dr Seow, who was very engaging and the participants who were very enthusiastic and spontaneous. No one had the chance to feel sleepy because we were having fun and laughing (of course, we learned a lot too).

Now I am more conscious of my body language and the words I say to others. I also try to look at people in their eyes/face when I speak to them. Whenever I have the chance, I would like to observe what other service industry workers are doing and to pick up

their plus points so I can learn from them." - *Sherry Chua*

*Dr Seow was very engaging and the participants were very enthusiastic and spontaneous. No one had the chance to feel sleepy because we were having fun and laughing (of course, we learned a lot too).*

*"T*he course set-up for every lesson was always very inviting. The beautiful post-it notes, drawings and lovely appreciation cards prepared by Bee Leng really made the environment for learning very colourful, cheery and relaxing. The lessons were very well structured and the pace and duration of classes were great!

The first lesson made me think about the mindset of serving, the "want to" versus "have to" mentality. This had a big impact on how we serve. I also learned how non-verbal cues played a very important role in our interaction with people, and how we can enhance our non-verbal cues. We were also introduced to service language and how to communicate more effectively with others." -*Sharon Chong*



## A CHURCH WITH OPEN DOORS, OPENS HEARTS

Written by John Burke

Pastor of Gateway Church, Texas, USA

“Let’s just go for fun! We’ll see how much we can push their buttons,” Amy teased her girlfriend, who didn’t like the idea of hanging around a bunch of Christians.

“Come on,” Amy insisted. “I hear their motto is ‘Come as you are.’ I just want to prove that they’re ‘come as you are ... unless you’re gay.’”

“I came on a mission to shock people,” Amy admits. “Rachel and I would hold hands in front of people, but instead of the disgusted looks of contempt we expected, people met eyes with us and treated us like real people. So we started coming to church weekly. We kept moving closer to the front each week, trying to get a reaction so that we’d be rejected sooner rather than later. When we couldn’t shock people, we stopped trying and started learning.”

“Not long after that, Rachel and I stopped seeing each other, but I kept coming to church because I was searching for something,” Amy admits. “I definitely wasn’t looking to change. It wasn’t my lesbian lifestyle that I was bringing to God, but I wondered if God had answers to my deeper longings. Problem was, I didn’t trust God at all!

“The more I listened and learned about the teachings of Jesus, the more I started to actually believe that God really did love me. I heard more and more about being His masterpiece, and in time, I actually started to believe it. The more I believed God actually could see something of value in me, the more I trusted Him.” Over time, Amy slowly opened her heart and struggles to Christ.

“It took several years, but as I moved closer and closer to Christ, He gently took me on a very surprising journey,” she says. “First, I found out my father had nine affairs while I was growing up—a secret that rocked my world. Jesus began to show me how the roots of my sexual issues tie together with my dad’s—I was just like him, using people to find comfort, life and love outside of God.”

Amy continued to grow in her knowledge of the Scriptures, falling more and more in love with the Lord. The following year, God had another surprise for her: “I went to the seminar called ‘To Be Told,’ hosted at Gateway. I wanted to see how God could put closure to my brokenness, but what He showed me shocked me.”

“As Dan Allender was telling a story of a bully,” Amy recalls, “I suddenly had a flashback of getting off the school bus. I lived down the street from Jimmy, a boy who had bullied me all year. But this particular day, Jimmy acted nice to me as I got off the bus. He apologised for being so mean, and he invited me to come to his house.”

That day in the seminar, all else faded to black as this vivid nightmare crept back to life. Amy saw herself walking through Jimmy’s front door, noticing all the shades pulled down. Startled, she spied two teenage boys eyeing her with a ravenous look as the door slammed shut. Her screams never escaped the evil darkness that enveloped that house. They pinned her down and raped her. She was only 9!

Amy swam in a pool of tears as the seminar continued. Others were oblivious to her divine epiphany. She realized the Lord had been drawing her near to strengthen her for this revelation—to show her the source of so much sexual struggle hidden for years beneath layers of protective mud.

“After that, I realized God knows more about me than I know about myself,” Amy recalls, “and He wants to bring healing to these wounds, so I fully gave Him my heart and body—everything. As I continued to seek intimacy with Him, the lesbian struggles fell away. I’m not saying that’s how God works with everyone, but it’s how He’s healing me. The more I focus on God’s intimate love for me and try to see His masterpiece emerge, the less I want anything to get in the way of His work in me.”

Seven years later, Amy leads our ministry to help people find healing and wholeness from all kinds of sexual and relational struggles. She’s helping others become God’s restored masterpiece. ■

*Note:* Excerpted from *The Mud and the Masterpiece* Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, Copyright 2013. Used by permission.





## STRENGTHENING THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE

*The Marriage Course is designed for married couples, even if they have been together for a long time! It is a seven session course set in a fantastic atmosphere where couples are served a meal at a romantic table for two while listening to practical talks. There is no group work and individuals will never be asked to share anything about their relationship with anyone other than their spouse! The Marriage Course can be a good start for those wanting to take initiative to maintain their marriage. We can all learn how to make even the happiest marriage better with the Marriage Course!*

**"W**hen my husband asked me to attend the Marriage Course, I was reluctant. I kept thinking about what I could possibly learn after already being married for twenty years. Our marriage was nothing to boast about, but it wasn't on the rocks either.

Both of us experienced numerous conflicts arising from staying together as a couple and raising children. On many occasions, the conflicts remained unresolved and bottled up within us. One of the exercises in the classes asked the couples to list and share some of the conflicts we had experienced during marriage.

The sharing helped ease some of our unsettled emotions and I learned that it was wiser to forget, especially since the other party might be unaware and not even remember the conflict!" -Billie Ooi

**"M**ake no mistake, marriage is tough. Entering a marital relationship is the easy part, but staying connected and committed requires a whole lot of effort, wisdom, and trust. Marriage, it turns out, is a marathon, not a sprint.

When we joined the Marriage Course last year, Hwee Leng and I were celebrating our tenth wedding

anniversary that year. One might think that ten years is plenty of time to develop an understanding of each other, but the Marriage Course showed that there would always be new areas to work on, new skills to acquire, new depths of appreciation.

The Marriage Course allowed Hwee Leng and me to spend time with each other without the children around. It allowed us to talk about issues important to us, and made us a stronger team." -Gabriel Ong

**"W**innie and I are glad to have attended this course as we have never sat down to seriously look into our 36 years of marriage.

The course led us gradually through short discussions and exercises to recall memories of events that happened during our marriage. It helped us examine and understand why we had behaved the way we did and how we could fine tune ourselves to be more gracious to improve our marriage together.

On the topic covering art of communication, we were able to identify our own shortcomings and were prepared to change. We have improved and are now better able to talk about our feelings with each other. Previously, miscommunication led to many conflicts in our marriage." -Jimmy Ong





## THE HARVEST IS PLENTY

Written by Florence Leow

Missionary in Chiang Mai, Thailand

I want to thank God for his faithfulness in leading, guiding and protecting me these past 12 years while serving among the Shan people in Chiang Mai, Thailand. God has blessed us with five Shan preaching points and churches as well as providing faithful local co-workers to serve with us!

I also want to thank God for the partnership between TPMC and OMF as well as the TPMC pastors and leaders. I am grateful to the church for supporting me financially and for sending missions teams to assist with our ministry. I'm also thankful for their faithful prayer intercessors and partners!

Please pray for wisdom as our co-workers bring the Gospel not just to Thailand but also to Myanmar and China. Pray that more Shan people will mobilise so that we can reach more villages for Christ! ■



*TPMC Primary 6 and Secondary 4 mission team distributing gifts to the children in a Shan refugee camp.*



## PLANS FOR GROWTH

Written by Angela Sng

Missionary in Thailand

Term Fun Home is dedicated to helping orphans, children from broken families and disadvantaged children across the Thai provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son. The Home was established in 2011 and has 8 boys aged between 6-12 years old. The vision is eventually to be able to purchase a plot of land and build a home that can accommodate 30-50 children.

We seek to provide a homely and conducive

environment so that these children will be able to develop to their full potential intellectually, socially, physically and spiritually. Every child is unique. 'Term Fun', in Thai literally means 'pour dreams'. In this 'family style' children's home, we hope to play a part to help these children to fulfil their dreams.

Please come and pay us a visit, or simply partner us through prayer! We would appreciate your prayers for the following:

1. The boys will grow up in wisdom, stature and in favour with God and men.
2. Members of cell groups will mature in faith.
3. Wisdom, love and patience for John and myself in nurturing the boys and reaching out to the adults. ■





# 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ONE FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday, 17<sup>TH</sup> August

10:30am at the  
TPMC Sanctuary







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