

Interact



ISSUE 2
APRIL
2016

**Using My
Encounter Journal**
Testimonies from Members

**Encounter
To Love**
Visualising Our Vision

**Resurrection
Sunday**

What's Inside?



2

Family News

Fish & Company
Newlyweds
Terrarium Workshop
Baptism and Membership
March 2016
YF Bash
YF Nerf Wars

4

Children's Ministry

Chinese New Year
Blessings
AV Training
Baking Time
How to do well
in your studies

6

Filipino Ministry

Relationships Unite!

7

Reflections

Reflections
from Israel

8

Resurrection Sunday

10

Encounter to Love

12

Toa Payoh Methodist Church Logo

13

My Encounter Journal

Using My Encounter Journal

14

Missions

Welcome to Term Fun Home
Praying for Emmaus
Women's Centre (EWC),
Cambodia
Partnering TPMC
in Missions

17

Worship & Music Ministry

What's Your Love Story?

18

Boys' Brigade

Recruiting
for BB76J
Recruiting for
BB 10th Company

20

Book Review

The Return of The
Prodigal Son - A Story
of Homecoming

21

Puzzle

EDITORIAL TEAM:
Rev. Reuben Ng
Kristal Chan
Amy Ong
Shirin Wun
Angelito Mojico
Ruth Khoo

CONTRIBUTORS:
Audrey Ong
Azmi Azeman
Clement Sim
Eryll Salanga
Gabriel Ong
Ivan Xiao
Jenny Koh
Sandra Lye
Sarah Hoi
Thiruselvam

INTERACT is published
on a quarterly basis by
Toa Payoh Methodist Church.
All views in Interact are solely
the contributors' and do not
necessarily reflect those of the
Church or the Editorial board
or the Methodist Church
of Singapore.

An online copy is also
available at www.tpmc.org.sg.

TOA PAYOH
METHODIST CHURCH
480 Lorong 2 Toa Payoh
Singapore 319641
Tel: 6259 8644
Fax: 6259 2091
Email: admin@tpmc.org.sg
www.tpmc.org.sg

MCI (P) 078/03/2015

Pastor's Message



Encounter To Love. That's TPMC's vision statement. Not for the next three, five, or even ten years. But for as long as TPMC hasn't fulfilled it — for as long as the Church leadership and members sense that we haven't yet arrived; that there's still progress to be made as a Church. Why? Because this isn't meant to be some short, smart, and slick statement for us to pay lip service to. It's our vision; it's our aim and objective as TPMC. It's so that everyone who considers himself or herself as being a part of this church, will live seeking an 'Encounter To Love'. Always.

That's the reason why it wasn't a statement birthed by any one individual — a Church vision has to be bigger than just one person. Which is why the pastors, leaders and staff worked, discussed and prayed through different ideas, emphases and statements, before arriving at this which resonated with the greatest number of people. This is from all, for all.

I do hope that in time to come, TPMC will NOT merely be known as that Church with that short catchy three-worded vision statement on colourful banners in the Sanctuary. What I DO hope for, is that there will come a day where there will be no further need for any banners with the vision statement, but non-TPMCians will still be aware of it. How? Because TPMCians by then, would be living out the statement; they will be walking TPMC vision statements. That's the hope. That we will be a people who are always seeking a fresh new 'Encounter' with the living God. Always knowing that He truly, is all, and without Him we are nothing. We need Him. 'Encounter', that's the starting point. And then, 'To Love'. Nothing can be simpler, and yet more complicated, than 'To Love' others. But that's the call. It's not easy but it's achievable, because whenever we feel that we just can't 'Love' any more, it's merely a reminder that perhaps we haven't been having enough of an 'Encounter' with Him. Because God is love, any 'Encounter' with love will only transform and strengthen us 'To Love' others as well. After all, isn't that the mark of a Christ-follower?

'Encounter To Love'. Let's journey together. ✠



Watch a short video on
TPMC's new vision.



Fish & Company

19 March 2016



Newlyweds



Benjamin Fong ♥ Peace Choi
9 January 2016



Russell Teng ♥ Tiffany Ng
16 January 2016



Nick Tan ♥ Michelle Wan
30 January 2016



Victor Tan ♥ Cheryl Tan
5 March 2016

Terrarium Workshop

19 March 2016



The Gardening Ministry conducted a Terrarium Workshop on 19 March with the purpose of reaching out to the community. 18 people came for the session.



Baptism and Membership

20 March 2016

Baptism Candidates

Children:

1. Samuel Levi Arun
2. Abel Arun
3. Darrel Arun
4. Dylan Choy Zong Hao
5. Nicole Tan

Adults:

1. Vicky Wong
2. Frankie Tan Pang Kwang
3. Diana M. Tanigue
4. Chloe Zheng Huibin
5. Esther Chew Yin Hui
6. Priscilia Lim Chye Hoon
7. Wesley Lim Zhi En

Reception & Confirmation of Membership:

1. Alan Goh Chek Chye
2. Eryll Salanga
3. Eunice Tan Tze Xin
4. Gaius Tan Yong Chuan
5. Janet Ng Swee Cher
6. Karen Lee Wai Lung
7. Koh Lee Nah
8. Lim Siew Chin
9. Michelle Sim Hui Wen
10. Sandra Lye Hui Wen
11. Wesley Lim Zhi En
12. Tan Swee Kim
13. Grace Tan Ee Joo

Transfer of Membership:

1. Edwin Soh Eng Teong
2. Lucilla Tan Mui Kiang

Faith Independent Baptist Church

YF Bash

31 December 2015

To cap off an awesome 2015, Youth Fusion gathered for our annual year-end event, YF Bash. The youth had an unforgettable night-long New Year's Eve party, filled with lots of food, exciting games and great music. We thank God for all His blessings in 2015 and for the opportunity to kick off 2016 in the company of one another.



YF Nerf Wars

12 March 2016

Some of us gathered on a Saturday afternoon to play Tribal Wars: Nerf Revival. Nerf used to be a big thing in Youth Fusion and it was brought back. The games were unlike the ones that were played back then. This time it was packed with much more intense running, interesting strategies and of course, flags. It was a fun-filled afternoon.



CLOSER.

Come to our camp briefing on 15 May to find out more!

We have not 1, not 2, but 3 theme nights!! So get ready to dress up:

1
Blood of Christ - Red

2
Royalty of God's kingdom - Purple

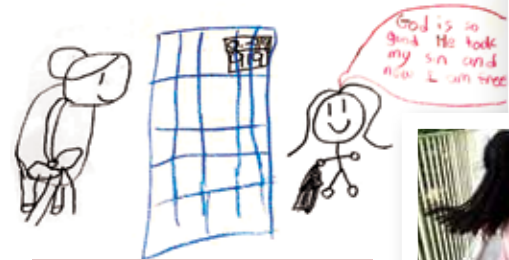
3
Going to the King's Banquet!

Let your creativity flow...

Chinese New Year Blessings

By Sarah Hoi, Pastoral Team

We praise God for the generous spirit shown by the children and members of the church! We initially planned to bless 100 households in Toa Payoh, but with the abundance of gifts, the teachers and children could bless 155 households!



'One aunty cried as we sang and I felt that God has touched her.'
Tasha, P6



'We managed to learn more about the community and I like to see the smile on the residents' faces when we bless them.'
Claire, P5



'We should learn to appreciate what we have as there are some people who are underprivileged and we should help them more often.'
Alison, P6



AV Training

By Sarah Hoi, Pastoral Team

Our AV & IT Executive, Mr Soh Kok Tong, conducted an AV training for some of the Primary 5 children. The purpose of the training is to equip the children to provide AV support for the Children's Ministry programme. Our children are now currently scheduled to serve and they are of great assistance to the teachers! Praise God!



Baking Fun

27 February 2016



How to Do Well in Your Studies

By Sarah Hoi, Pastoral Team

The session "How to do well in your studies" was conducted by our church member, Mr Ng Teng Joo, an experienced educator. The children had a meaningful time of learning and interaction as they learned how they should set smart goals as well as acquire the right attitude towards their studies.



Interested to serve in Toddler's Ministry?

The Toddler's Ministry is more than a baby-sitting session. Join us to help our children (18 - 36 months) develop a relationship with Jesus!

Commitment:

Once a month
from 10am to 12.30pm

Requirements:

Christian worshipping in
Toa Payoh Methodist Church



Relationships Unite!

By Angelito Mojico, Church Member

In our Filipino Ministry (FM) we work with the slogan, 'relationships-unite; religion-divides'. This serves as a reminder as we reach out and minister to those who have yet to know God, hoping that through the FM we will be able to bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is how the

slogan came about. There are so many Christian denominations divided by different beliefs and doctrines that instead of uniting Christians to work together in strengthening the Church, it causes conflicts and division. Therefore, we focus less on establishing which doctrine or teaching is correct, and

more on building a strong foundation of faith through the simplicity of the gospel founded in God's love and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In our commitment to reach out and minister to Filipinos primarily in the area of Toa Payoh, the FM has the following programmes in place:

1 Know the Truth Sessions

- where we scrutinize the Word of God and learn how we can apply it both practically and spiritually in our daily lives. The sessions are held every second and fourth Sunday at 1.00pm in Hall 3 (03-03).



2 Basic Guitar Lessons

- for those who are interested to learn to play an acoustic guitar. Open to all, lessons are conducted every first and third Sunday at 1.00pm. There is no fixed venue.



3 Outreach Events

- FM Family Fun Day in July and Christmas gathering in December are two main events confirmed to be happening this year. The aim of these events is to invite Filipinos hoping to build a relationship with them through activities like group games, fellowship over food, entertainment, or just simply having fun in general. ✝

If you are a Filipino, we invite you to join us as we worship together in our Filipino Ministry every Sunday (except first Sundays and combined services), 10.30am at Hall 3 (03-03). Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/TPMCFM/



Reflections from Israel

By Jenny Koh



The trip to Israel from 21 November to 3 December 2015 with Toa Payoh Methodist Church was one of my best, most memorable travel trips. I had been putting off plans to visit the Holy Land for many years. Despite being new to the church, I felt that this year was the right time to visit the Holy Land, and so even though I knew just two persons in the entire group, I decided to just have faith in the Lord that everything would somehow work out... and sure enough, the Lord did not fail! For me, this trip was about 3Es:

Eye-opener

This trip was an eye-opener, not just about the awesome beauty of Israel, but also a great discovery of God anew. Rev Reuben Ng (TPMC Pastor-in-Charge), who accompanied us on the trip, made it a point to explain and teach about the heart of God in the context of Scripture at each venue we visited. For example, in Kursi (a Gentile region) he explained how Jesus chose to travel across the Sea of Galilee just to free a Gentile man from the legion of demons that were possessing him.



The visit to the Holocaust Museum was another eye-opener too. History puts the blame on the Nazis for the annihilation of the Jews. Yet upon closer investigation, believers would be put to shame with the realization that Christians actually had a hand in perpetuating the events in history, and how many chose to be silent when the evil was done – the wisdom of Scripture to “not judge lest we be judged!”

Experience

Miracles aren't just records in the pages of the Bible. God is always and still actively working and watching over us even in our day-to-day affairs.

The group had the best weather every day during the trip – the Hippodrome in Caesarea still had puddles of water from the heavy rain the week before we arrived but the weather was just perfect for us!

Our local guide also kept telling us how the situation in Jerusalem was volatile and that sites could be closed to tourists without warning. Having heard how stringent the checks were at the entry to Temple Mount, our group were thankful for gaining entry on the day of the visit. In fact, an incident happened minutes after we were in the Temple Mount and we thank God for His protection. The site closed very shortly after that, even though it was only around 9am then.

Encounter

God's presence was strong during the entire trip. In both the Church of St Peter's Primacy and the Garden Tomb where we had Holy Communion, there

was an overwhelming sense of the strong love of God and the reminder of the extent of His love for each one of us! When the group had our time of worship during the Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee and in the Church of All Nations (ie Gethsemane), I was especially touched by how the God of Majesty who created the beautiful sights before me would choose to tread the earth and leave His footprints as He mingled with fallen creatures like us – how a holy awesome God would choose to sit amongst the lowly and unworthy. Yet such is God's love – the teardrops He chose to weep for stiff-necked Jerusalem and the drops of blood He chose to shed in the Garden of Gethsemane for YOU and for ME! ✝



Resurrection Sunday

By Clement Sim, Pastoral Team

Worshippers of Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) who attended Resurrection Sunday service this year experienced something slightly different. The event was primarily focused on visitors and those invited by worshippers, especially non-Christians. The purpose was to provide a creative introduction to the Christian faith; specifically why we celebrate Resurrection Sunday.

<http://tinyurl.com/angelasng>

The service featured a vibrant hip hop dance by the 'Urban Terrain Groovers', a heartfelt testimony from Ms Angela Sng (a TPMC missionary), and a stirring spoken word presentation, which was a collaboration between Mr Chew Jay Ee (from Youth Fusion) and the Worship and Music Ministry. It was followed by a powerful message by Rev Reuben Ng on the purpose of Christ's resurrection.

The next part of the experience was the 'Easter Bazaar', which gave worshippers an opportunity to host their friends. Fellowship took place all over the courtyard, and the celebratory atmosphere of Resurrection Sunday continued even after the service ended.

These things were done not for our own amusement and pleasure as worshippers of TPMC, but to provide an opportunity to impact the lives we come into contact with. ✝



ENCOUNTER

**We continuously pursue the presence of God;
we draw from Him for everything we do.**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands,
you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. - *James 4:8a*

ENCOUNTER TO LOVE

This pursuit births a hunger
to know and fulfill His desires.

**Our pursuit translates into love, extended to
any and every person, in what we say and do.**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will
know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
- *John 13:34-35*

T

L



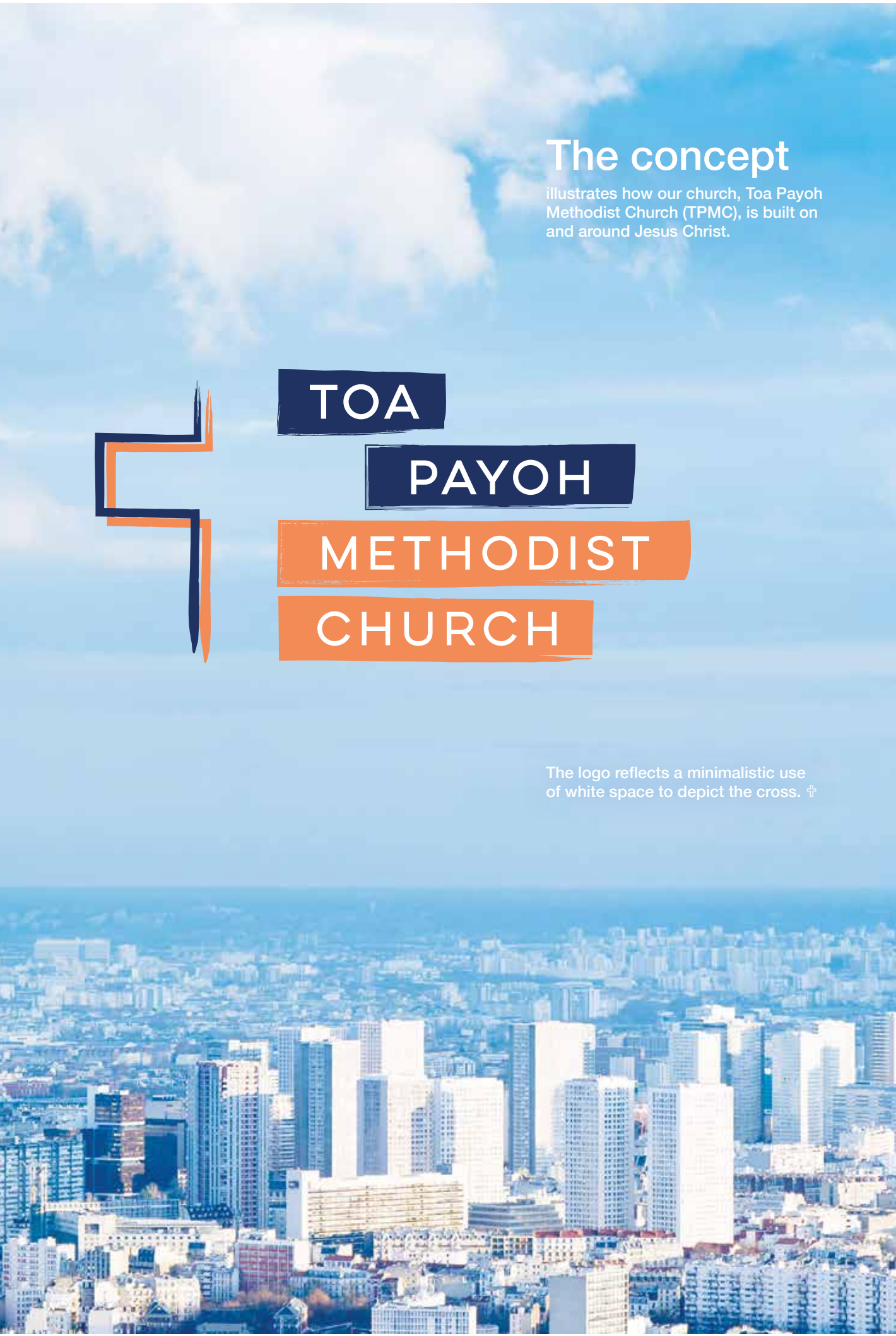
U

The graphics represents
the 3 components of
'Encounter To Love':

God, Self and Others.

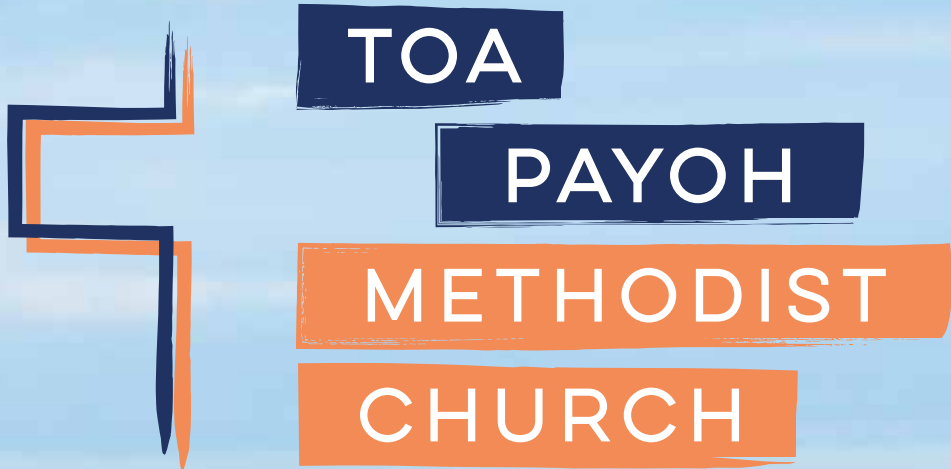
The encounter starts with God; when
God's love is known and experienced
with oneself, the love can and should
then flow to others. It shows a cycle of
love that is a reminder of how we cannot
love others if we don't encounter God;
neither can we merely encounter God's
love but then not love others. ✝

V



The concept

illustrates how our church, Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC), is built on and around Jesus Christ.



The logo reflects a minimalistic use of white space to depict the cross. †

Using My Encounter Journal

Testimonies from members

I have found My Encounter Journal a very productive way of reading the Bible more. The way it has been structured appears simple at first glance, but after trying it out I've realised that it is actually much deeper and more intricate than it looks; in fact, it has been able to spur me towards more conversation with God than the Bible reading plan which I had been following. Also, because of its relative simplicity, it is something that can be done in addition to existing quiet time material. There's no excuse even if one is too busy, it is really as easy as R-O-A-D. There's beauty in its simplicity.

Terence

I found My Encounter Journal a good way to start journaling. Using R-O-A-D, it provides guidance to a better and in-depth writing of my observations and thoughts and the application of the passage. Quiet time now is not only reading the particular passage but also dwelling on the message and spending more time having a conversation with God.

Serene

First Entry

The blank page stares up taunting me
I pray to God to hear my plea
To start to write the first entry
Into my journal, Lord, help me

Aah, what's this Psalm that my eyes meet
It says "Your word is a lamp for my feet"
A light! on my path, ignites my heartbeat
I feel...words flow, and my worries retreat

This is not about filling a page
It's not my conscience I need to assuage
It's about my Christian coming of age
It's seeking God who takes centre stage

Shirin

My Encounter Journal is not a new thing for me because I have been regularly doing a similar activity, journaling being one of my daily spiritual disciplines. At first, I thought that this would just be another devotion and recording exercise, only with a different approach. But God has proven me wrong. What I thought would be the same as usual instead brought me to a new level of experience as I read His word using the Bible Reading Plan provided. On many occasions during my reading, the Lord would speak to my heart even through familiar verses. He would reveal truths from Scripture that would often bring tears to my eyes as I meditate and write my observation. Indeed, the word of God is alive and active!

Angel

Recruiting for BB76J

By Thiruselvam G, Pastoral Team

The 76th Singapore Boys Brigade Company (BB76J) participated in the First Toa Payoh Primary School Recruitment Fair on 15 and 22 January 2016.

Mr Thiru, Mr Iain Wong (teacher-in-charge), along with the Primary 5 and Primary 6 BB76J Boys engaged potential Primary 3 students on 'What Does BB Do?'. BB76J also plans outdoor activities for the boys such as camping, field trips, and community services.

The BB76J gives glory to God for this year's successful recruitment campaign. We are blessed by the Lord with a total of 12 new recruits this year. They consist of eleven new Primary 3 Boys, and one Primary 5 boy. We look forward to nurturing them in the next three years.

We also would like to acknowledge Primer officer Jonathan and Primer Shane, Eric, Kai Xuan (from our sister Company BB 10th Company) for coming down to assist with the recruitment.

We invite more volunteers to come on board as helpers, befrienders to help us nurture our BB Boys. For more information call Thiru at 62598644. ✚



Mr Thiru, Mr Iain Wong and BB Primer going through BB activities with Primary 3 classes



BB Officer Jonathan assisting in demonstrating BB Drills to the Boys



Smiling with their goodie bags

Goodie bags given to new Primary 3 recruits



Recruiting for BB 10th Company

By Azmi Azeman, BB Officer



The BB 10th Company participated in the Beatty Secondary School CCA Carnival held on Saturday, 9 January 2016. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the varied activities that the Boys' Brigade offer to the students and the Company went all out to impress.

For a start, we designed a special BB helium balloon door gift to welcome visitors to our booth. The balloons proved to be a big hit with the new Secondary 1 students and also other students from Beatty Secondary. Students who showed interest in joining the Boys' Brigade were also given a gift pack consisting of exclusive BB stationery and souvenirs.

The entire BB Booth was planned out to showcase the wide range of activities. We had on display bagpipe band equipment, three kayaks, model airplanes and a flight simulator running on a 24 inch display for students to try their hand at aero-modeling. All the BB Boys present at the fair made us proud by giving the very best to make the Secondary 1 students feel welcome and showing them around the booth.

The BB 10th Company is thankful to Toa Payoh Methodist Church for their unwavering support to the Company over the years, through both material and prayer support which have played a significant part in all BB activities. Through this recruitment, we were blessed by the Lord with 13 new Boys, and we look forward to nurturing them in the next four years. ✚



Specially designed helium balloon door gift



Our adventurous kayaker in the making



Mobile advertising



Busy engaging our potential recruits

TPMC Recommends

By Ivan Xiao, Library Team

The Return of The Prodigal Son – A Story of Homecoming

Synopsis:

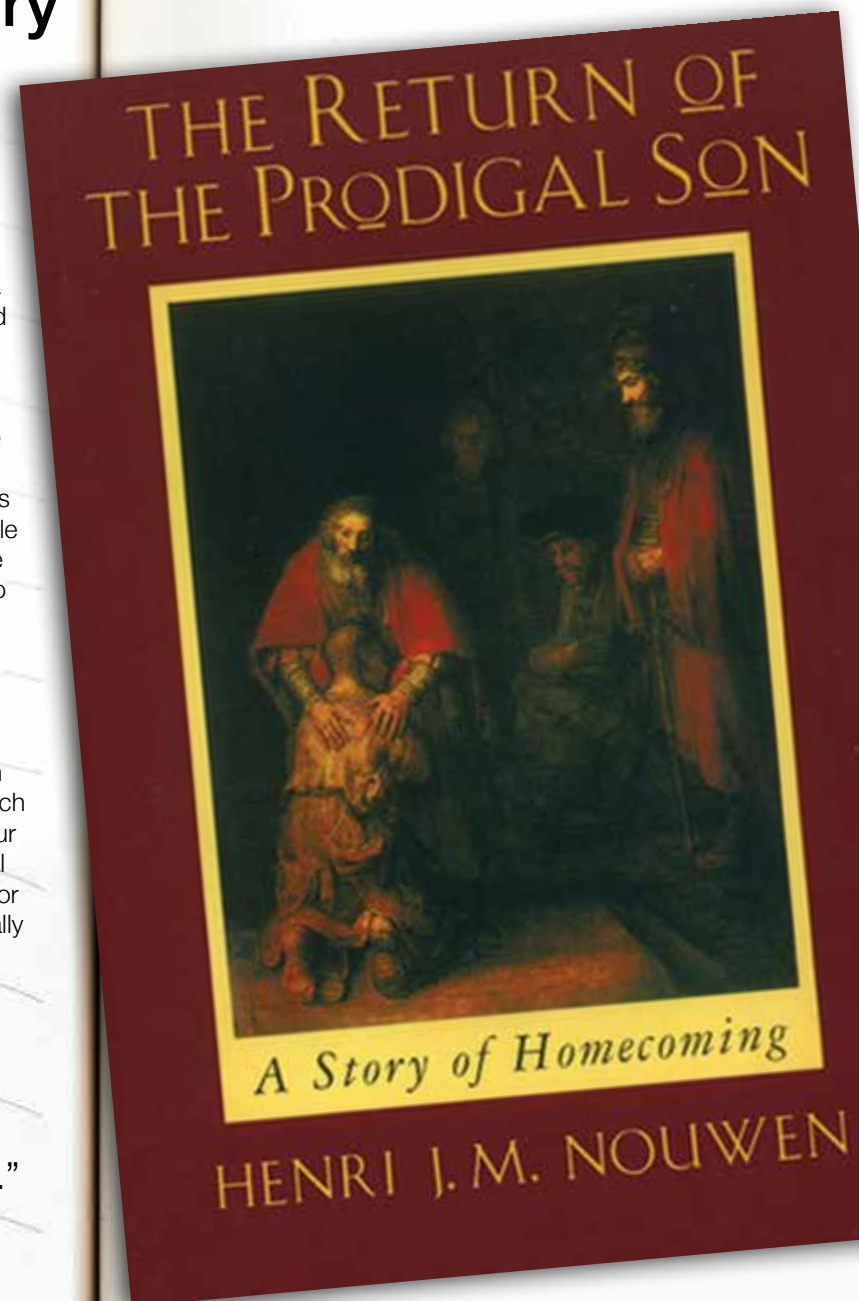
Written by Henri J.M. Nouwen, this book portrays how the author's chance encounter with the famous artist's work, Rembrandt's Prodigal Son, triggered in him a yearning to find rest, reconciliation and healing as depicted by the subjects in paint. And this led him through a long spiritual journey of self-discovery and eventually finding what he sought in the most unlikely of places. This book's revolving themes of homecoming and reconciliation will be re-discovered by all who have known loneliness, jealousy or anger. Its challenge to love as the father and be loved as the son will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time. This book will inspire and provide illumination to those who are on the journey to discover their purpose in life.

Positive elements:

The book is written in a systematic way to illustrate the perspectives from the three subjects in the parable; the Younger son, the Elder son and the Father, and how each character's flaws, sufferings and joys can be related to each one of us. Ultimately, the book challenges us to live out our lives eventually like the compassionate father. Our spiritual life must grow and not remain forever in infancy. The author has also provided a timely reminder to Christians, especially in current society, that safety and security may be found with those who do not boast.

Quotable quote:

"...a true spiritual homecoming means a return to the poor in spirit to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs."



Over several weeks in January and February 2016, our sermons considered the different names used in the Bible to describe God's attributes.

1

Bible verse

Can you remember the names used in the sermons that match these verses?

Leviticus 20:8

Exodus 15:26

Genesis 22:14

Psalm 23:1

Exodus 17:15

Jeremiah 33:16

Ezekiel 48:35

2

Fill in the names

Can you write down the names used in the sermons?

3

Match names with translations

Can you match them to their English translations?

My Shepherd

My Banner

Who Heals

Is There

Our Righteousness

Who Makes Holy

Will Provide

4

Word search

Can you find the names?

J	P	T	V	O	N	M	R	P	E
U	A	N	L	T	E	A	O	J	A
E	M	Y	W	X	P	G	H	K	T
I	F	K	I	H	E	R	I	J	N
H	S	H	A	M	M	A	C	B	W
S	T	S	I	D	K	E	N	U	K
L	Z	U	I	O	D	R	Q	D	M
B	I	A	M	N	Q	E	C	D	P
A	O	H	G	K	R	W	S	S	J
R	T	U	I	C	S	V	U	H	B

ENCOUNTER TO LOVE