

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of stylized Easter eggs and greenery. The eggs are in various colors: brown with horizontal stripes, pink with white polka dots, and light blue with a white scale-like pattern. Interspersed among the eggs are small, green, sprig-like plants with multiple small leaves.

# interact

**MCI (P) 174/03/2017**

**A publication of TPMC | Issue 2 | July 2017**

Good Friday – The Divine Exchange  
Resurrection Sunday – The End Is Nigh  
Extravagant Love Conference

# CONTENTS

**01**  
**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**  
A Cycle Broken

**02**  
**FAMILY NEWS**  
Newborns  
Newlyweds

**03**  
**FAMILY NEWS**  
The Marriage Course  
Seniors



**04**  
**CHILDREN**  
Beacon Outing  
Autism Workshop  
Kindergarten Camp

**05**  
**CHILDREN**  
Beacon Graduation  
Joy Kids Easter Fun

**06**  
**YOUTH**  
Youth Easter Outreach



**07**  
**YOUNG ADULTS**  
Ice Cream Workshop

**08**  
**ADULTS**  
Fish & Company 2017

**09**  
**FILIPINO**  
Training For Ministry Work

**10**  
**BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP**

**11**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
The Divine Exchange



**12-13**  
**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**  
The End Is Nigh

**14-15**  
**MISSIONS**  
Manado Trip  
Emmaus Women's Centre  
Term Fun Home



**16**  
**EXTRAVAGANT LOVE  
CONFERENCE**

**17**  
**CROSSWORD  
COMPETITION**

# A CYCLE BROKEN

By Rev Reuben Ng



Like a broken record that spins continuously, humankind has had, from time immemorial, been witness to a cyclonic cycle. A cycle that is immense in its power, inescapable in its reach and immutable in its consequence. It is the cycle of life followed by death. Whether it is a life filled with more joy than pain, more laughter than tears, or more peace than anxiety, inevitably, the cycle comes to the coda and then the silence of death.

Then Jesus appeared on the scene. Some called Him a teacher. Others viewed Him as a madman. All, however, agreed that His life made a difference in the midst of the ongoing cycle.

But that life was cut short in its prime. The cycle had proven true once again. Once again, someone had been sucked into the cycle of life and death. Whatever difference His life had made, it made no difference as it ended in death.

The End.

Well, "The End" for three days at least.

Three days after, it was **"The Beginning"**.

Jesus did not stay dead. He broke the cycle. For all its power, reach and consequence, the cycle just could not condemn Jesus to what, hitherto, had been the storyline of humanity — life followed by death. Now was the beginning of something else. It was life followed by death, sure, BUT there was now a road called Resurrection breaking and jutting out of that cycle. A road forged and paved by the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Not Jesus the teacher. Not Jesus the madman. But Jesus the Christ.

***As Christians, the cycle no longer holds us. It has been broken. We now have Resurrection awaiting us.***

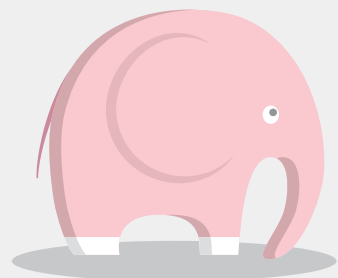
That is Good News.

And it behooves us to not keep such Good News to ourselves, but to share it and to proclaim it. That more may journey with us on that wonderful road that breaks out of the cycle broken by Jesus Christ.



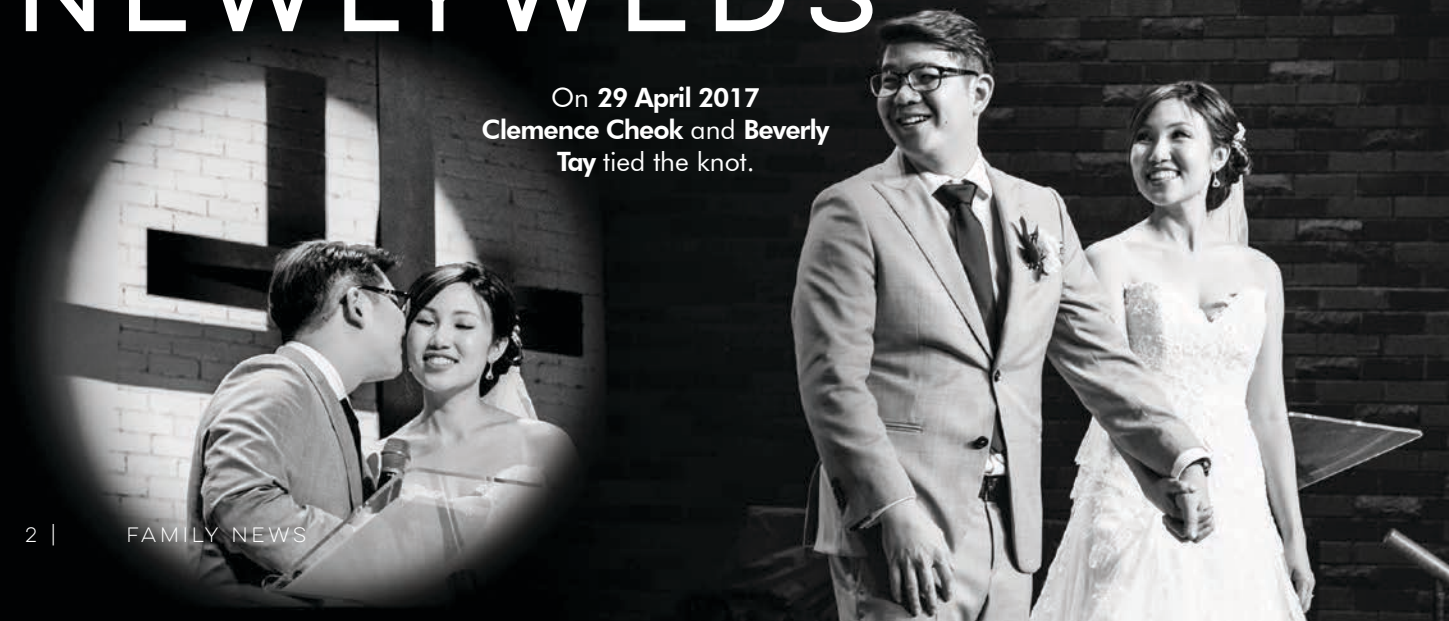
# NEWBORNS

Welcome  
To The  
World



# NEWLYWEDS

On 29 April 2017  
Clemence Cheok and Beverly Tay tied the knot.



# THE MARRIAGE C♥URSE

By Roslyn Sim

The Discipleship and Nurture Ministry, together with the Adults Age Group, conducted The Marriage Course from 10 February to 31 March 2017. A total of six couples participated in this annual course.

One of the seven sessions was to encourage husbands and wives to pray for each other. After that session, a pre-believing husband started to pray for his wife!

**All the six couples shared in their testimonies that "every married couple should attend The Marriage Course"!**



By Adrian Lum

The Seniors Ministry went to Blk 127 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh to **support the Girls' Brigade (GB)** on 2 June to pack goody bags and on 3 June as **Befrienders at the Carnival for lonely, elderly and needy participants from Care Corner.**

There were 16 volunteers packing goody bags. We had a good time helping out, filling the goody bags with lots of things, till each one was full and heavy.

Our twelve Befrienders at the Carnival helped the participants to play games, fill up the forms after each game, and collect goody bags. Some of the elderly had help to carry the goody bags from the younger Befrienders. Alas some older Befrienders could not assist and had the help of the young GB girls.

We were glad that we were able to lend our support.

# SENIORS





# CHILDREN

By Sarah Hoi

To celebrate the beginning of the school holidays, as well as to encourage the deepening of friendships, Beacon Children's Ministry organised an outing to the **Trampoline Park** on 1 June 2017 for children who attend the weekly tuition programme. The children had a lot of fun jumping on the huge trampoline. The outing ended off with a pizza party in church.



Beacon Outing



Beacon Graduation

The Beacon Children's Ministry organised a graduation ceremony for the students who graduated from the programme on 4 March 2017. Most of these children had been with the programme for three years and had been attending the weekly tuition programme faithfully since they were in Primary Four. We were honoured to have Pastor Eddie Ho share a word of encouragement with the graduands. Children currently attending the programme also came to **celebrate with the graduands at the completion of their Primary Education** and their transition to a new phase of life.



Autism workshop

Joy Kids Ministry organised a training workshop on 4 June 2017 for volunteers serving in the ministry as well as interested members of the congregation. A total of about 40 people attended. Titled **"Come into my world", the workshop sought to help participants understand how to better relate to those diagnosed with autism.** The two trainers, Brenda Tan and Lau Lee Fang, are both mothers to children diagnosed with autism. They did a great job in sharing their parenting journeys. The participants were also given time to interact with Brenda's son who was diagnosed with autism when he was three.

Joy Kids Ministry ran a two-day Camp on 18 and 19 May 2017 for children studying in our church kindergarten. The theme of the camp was **"Garden Stories"**. Through the retelling of four garden stories taken from the Bible, the children learnt about the love of God for each of them.



Kindergarten Camp



Joy Kids Easter Fun

HAPPY EASTER

Joy Kids Ministry had a special event planned for the children in church as well as the community at Easter. The children had a lot of fun going around the church looking for **Easter Eggs** based on clues given to them. After finding the eggs, the children gathered in groups and their teachers shared with them the Easter Story.



# YOUTH EASTER OUTREACH

By Isaiah Tee

On 16 April 2017, a group of youths came together to bless some beneficiaries of our Outreach and Social Concerns Ministry. We not only visited them to bless them with gifts, but went the extra mile and offered to help in any way we could, including some **simple house cleaning and a prayer**. While we might have done similar activities in our schools as part of community involvement programmes, what made it all the more meaningful was that this took place on Easter Sunday.

**What better way to spend Easter than showing others the love of God! Praise God!**



## By Audrey Ang & Ravi Cuttilan

# Ice Cream Workshop

Together with familiar faces and new friends, 60 young adults gathered at Udders (Thomson) on a lazy Saturday morning all set to **get our hands dirty and tummies full with an exciting ice cream making class** coupled with pizza and buffet ice cream for lunch.

Ice cream making was, as we would learn, simple but not easy. It involved putting cream, sugar and vanilla (or chocolate/coconut) into a ziploc bag, and sealing it into a larger ziploc bag filled with salt and ice. We would then spend the next 15-20 minutes shaking that all up as a fitting exercise before our feast. As simple as it sounds, the results were variable; some of us ended up with decent ice cream while others sent ice, salt and water flying around the room.

Once we tasted the fruits of our labour, **we enjoyed pizza for lunch and got to sample the various flavours at the ice cream buffet**. It was a great time of food, fun and fellowship.







# Fish & Company 2017

By Matthew Ling

Enthusiastic church members started arriving at the pier on 27 May 2017 half an hour earlier than the requested time! What a breeze for the organizers!



Four boats, twice that of last year, were required to ferry the entire group to Lazarus Island. Theory lessons commenced immediately upon reaching the island. The actual fishing started around noon and in less than five minutes, young Jocelyn Sim hooked up two fishes all at once!

Encouraged and thrilled, the other participants were very hopeful to get their first catch too.

*True enough with patience, the sounds of cheers, laughter and clapping were heard throughout the rest of the day.*

Thank God for the sunny and breezy weather when it was supposed to be stormy!

*Everyone enjoyed the fishing, the fellowship, and appreciating the nature on the island,* without the hustle and bustle of mainland Singapore.

Next year, again?

# TRAINING FOR MINISTRY WORK

By Rosalie Mojico

Music ushers our spirits for readiness in all our gatherings. Whether in a small or a big group, music helps to brighten up the setting. It adds vibrancy in our praise and worship, life to the songs we sing, and it stirs the heart of every person it ministers. **We believe music is for anyone** - or anyone who would ask God for the skill of playing a musical instrument, it can be taught...it can be learned.

It is our deep desire to equip the ministry with people who would do **God's work through the use of music**, so we sent 14 of our worshippers for a Beginner's Guitar Class. The class aims to increase the number of worshippers who can serve and minister through what they have learned both in and out of church.



We were also privileged to have Dr Seow Bee Leng in one of our enhancement/training sessions held on 21 May 2017. The session was titled **"To SERVE with Love"**. Dr Bee Leng in her session highlighted the importance of **loving what you do; not because you have to but you love to.**

These are a couple of the projects of the Filipino Ministry. As one of the outreach arms of the church, we reach out to Filipinos who have yet to know Jesus Christ.





# BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP



Date  
**9 April 2017**

Time  
**10.30am**

Venue  
**Sanctuary (L2)**

## BAPTISM CANDIDATES

### CHILDREN:

Joshua Pah En Zhi  
Yirong Martin Yen

### ADULTS:

Huang Ying  
Shao Li Min  
Leong Yin Fong Linda

## RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Annammal Ruth d/o Gnaniah  
Chua Li-Cheng  
Huang Ying  
Shao Li Min  
Sng Choon Guan Gerald  
Wan Pui Hoong

## RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP (TRANSFER FROM OTHER CHURCHES)

Ng Siak Hwa Dylan  
Kenneth Pah Wei Hsiung

# THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

By Denise Wong

There are many key dates and occasions in the Christian calendar, but none of them are as sombre, or weigh as heavily on the heart and soul, as that of Good Friday. (Only recently did I come to understand why it was even called "Good", thanks to a recent sermon from Rev Reuben Ng). Not surprisingly, upon reading the order of worship, it stated that the Good Friday service was the service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadow".

The meaningful service walked me spiritually through the last few hours in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am reminded that despite being God, He was also human, and because He was human, He had feelings just like you and me. He loved, He felt betrayal, loneliness, injustice, temptation, pain, and finally, death. The passages read during the service resonated powerfully with me. Just two years ago, I had visited those very places: Via Dolorosa, the Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the Garden Tomb. These helped paint a vivid picture of the biblical scenes being described.

From deep within me, questions were brought to the surface: Can it be that my God would love me so much (even me, after all that I've done), to be willing to endure all this pain, betrayal, shame? Why? Why would He do it?

The answer is Love. It is a love that does not let us go. Despite knowing that going to Jerusalem meant that He would die, He went. Despite knowing that Judas would betray him, Jesus loved him and washed his feet. Despite having heard the crowds shouting to crucify Him, He prayed for their forgiveness while He bled on the cross. Amazing Love! I couldn't help but silently cry in my heart, in shame for my own wretchedness, and in thankfulness that my God would love me so much.

Sin is present in everyone's life. Sin comes in to kill and destroy. As Rev Reuben said, "Either the lamb dies or you die!" At the cross, many years ago, Jesus Christ hung as the sacrificial lamb - perfect, without sin or blemish, for you and me. On that very first Good Friday, divine exchange happened. My life was redeemed at the cost of God's Son. On that cross, He bore my pain and my shame. In return, death passes over me as I wear the robes of His righteousness. It was apt that the choir sang the hymn "His Robes for mine":

***His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!  
Clothed in my sin,  
Christ suffered 'neath God's rage  
Draped in His righteousness,  
I'm justified! In Christ I live,  
for in my place He died***

***I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:  
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.  
Bought by such love,  
my life is not my own,  
My praise - my all - shall be for Christ alone***

How would this encounter change me? Unlike Christmas, where there is much merrymaking, Good Friday is a heavy and sombre occasion. However, on this Good Friday of 2017, I did not leave the service depressed and gloomy. Instead, there was a quiet sense of assurance, peace, and hope: assurance in God's love, coming to peace with my past and my sins, and hope because He now lives in me. No matter what life circumstances I may face in my future, in poverty or in plenty, in illness or in health, in loneliness or in good company, He will be with me. I can now face tomorrow with courage and strength. It was beautiful that the string ensemble closed the service with "The Holy City"...indeed, "Hosanna in the highest, hosanna to your King!"



# THE END IS NIGH

By Grace Koh

Say the words “Easter Sunday”, and hardly anyone will associate this with modernity. However, the playwright, Juan Toong, managed to take a fresh twist on the ever-familiar story of **Jesus dying on the Cross and subsequently rising from the grave**. Starring a cast of local in-house (or in-church) talent, this musical attempts to recast the conquering of the grave from a different perspective. For the everyday folk witnessing such a situation, what are their feelings and thoughts as they struggle whether or not to believe in this seemingly ludicrous truth?

We start with the protagonist, Sam Seng (William Ho), a private investigator lounging in his office. Suddenly a mysterious lady, Annie Ting (Amanda Aw Yong) appears and offers Sam Seng an attractive proposal: if he disproves the rumour circulating about the townsfolk that Jesus has risen from the dead, he will receive a handsome sum of money. Sam agrees, and sets off on his journey to find out more about this “Jesus” from various characters – Mary Magdalene (Shikaye Yap), a singer belting out songs, and two men from Emmaus (Ravi Cuttilan and Maria Selvam), rappers throwing out words in rhythmic succession. The more Sam discovers along his journey, the more he starts to contemplate: is this Jesus person real?



Just as Sam finds the evidence to prove that Jesus was real, Annie Ting makes her re-entrance. Sam reports his findings, every single word dancing with his excitement. However, Annie remains unimpressed and drops the bomb on Sam: it doesn't matter whether it's real or not. Accenting every word harshly, she demands Sam destroy the evidence and take it that Jesus never existed. Flabbergasted, Sam wonders: is this the right thing to do? The musical concludes then, in open-ended fashion, leaving viewers to contemplate this with Sam as well: is Jesus real?

All in all, the performance was a relatable retell of the story of Jesus' rising from the dead. **Focusing on the inner struggles to believe in a God who died for our sins, and the resulting internal confusion, definitely reflects on what many pre-believers and even believers grapple with – trust. This ends off the story on a contemplative note for every one of us: what would we do if Jesus were to die and rise from the grave in this day and age?**





# MANADO TRIP

By Kristal Chan

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8



Recently, Rev Reuben Ng (TPMC Pastor-in-charge) shared the passage from Acts 1:8. What he said really struck me: **we are not called to be witnesses in Jerusalem and THEN in Judea and Samaria; we are to be witnesses to Judea, AND Samaria, AND to the end of the earth. There is no 'and then'. It is now.**

I went on my first mission trip to Manado on 11-15 March, together with Rev Reuben, Daniel Lee, Clement Sim, Don Chee and Roslyn Sim. There was a day conference on church growth strategies where Rev Reuben, Daniel and Roslyn shared their experiences with pastors and leaders from the local churches. Over the five days, we visited ten churches and ministries to share the Word of God and our testimonies.

Prior to this trip, I was challenged to share a message with one of the ministries. For some reason, I agreed to it. The panic kicked in later because I am not comfortable with public speaking and have not shared my testimony before. I wanted to make sure my sermon would not have any mistakes. In preparation for it, I shared my script with the team and was tweaking it all the way till that evening itself. No surprise, I was extremely tense and caught myself wishing for the session to be cancelled. I was reminded that this was not about me, but about God. Then, it was my turn. I went up on stage. As I spoke, the anxiety did not go away, and I kept perspiring. I glued my eyes to the screen and nervously shared my message. I also didn't know how to link my sermon to ministry time. Thankfully, Daniel came up and saved me.

The local pastor shared that he wants to challenge the youths to preach because I stepped up and preached. That was when I truly understood how God intended to use me during this mission trip. God did not expect me to deliver the best sermon, the way I wanted to. All He wanted for me was to just be there and to share.

I was blessed by the trip - listening to the messages and testimonies and seeing how God can use us. Mostly importantly, **my greatest takeaway is that when you avail yourself, God will do the rest.**



# EMMAUS WOMEN'S CENTRE (EWC)

By Shyama Cuttilan

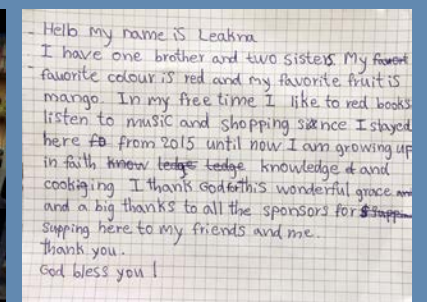
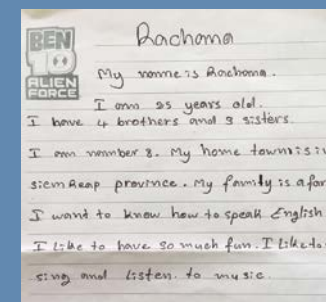
One and a half years ago when the church was looking for volunteers to teach English through Skype to a group of girls in Cambodia I readily signed up. Being a kindergarten teacher, spending one extra hour a week teaching was something I thought was easy. The lessons were given to us and we had to prepare the slides to deliver the lessons. Sometimes the internet connection was not good and we were unable to conduct the lesson.

It was challenging. The girls were eager to learn, but their English knowledge was limited. Luckily there was

Channa Mary with the girls to translate what was said. Many a time I felt like giving up wondering whether the girls were able to grasp the language. Now the girls are able to read simple sentences.

Still I prepare the lessons every Wednesday and try my best to teach these girls. What is most satisfying is at the end of each lesson the girls say **"May God bless you, Teacher"**.

A group of girls from a faraway country blessing me for giving a little bit of my time for them. How wonderful!



# TERM FUN HOME

By Angela Sng

Hello everyone, as a mother of 12 in Term Fun Home, I can only thank God for His joy that gives me strength to face each day. I love each of them, but they drive me up the wall many times too. Today, I would like you to hear from two of them on their thoughts of Term Fun Home.



Sawadeekarp, my name is Tawan. I am nine years old and I have been in Term Fun Home for three years. I feel that dad and mum scold me all the time. But I know each time I get scolded, it's because I have done something wrong. Even though it's my fault, I still think dad is very fierce. But I am very happy as I have the opportunity to do many things here. I get to go to a good school and I am developing in different areas. Even though dad and mum in Term Fun Home are not so nice, I am still very happy.

Sawadeekarp, my name is Tong. In a few months' time, I'll be 15 years old. I came to Term Fun Home when I was nine years old. I have been here for six years. I want to thank God that I'm able to be here. It has changed my life very much, whether in terms of my daily life, or in terms of knowing and serving God. I am very happy here. Ah chan John and ah chan Angie are like dad and mum to me. They take great care of the ten of us. Sometimes I don't understand why they do this and that, or why they insist we do this and that. But there's one thing I do know, and it's this thing called 'love'. And it's their love that has enabled me to be here. If not for them, I wouldn't be what I am today. I really thank God very much.





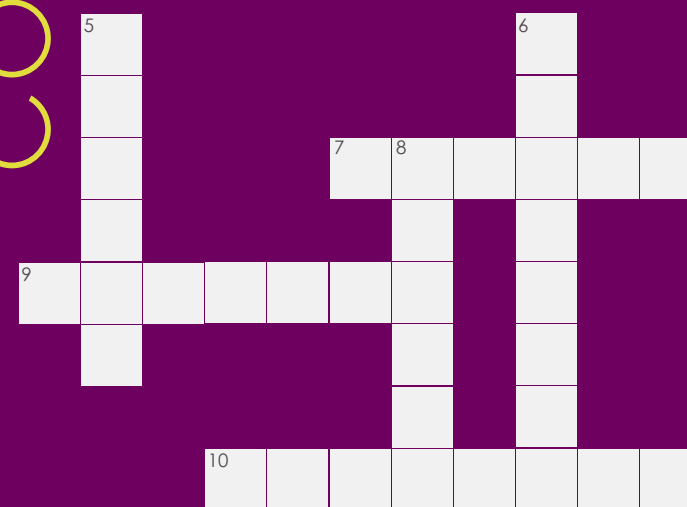


Mary entered the room full of chatter and laughter, clutching tightly an alabaster jar in her hands; something precious. The men - of whom included a healed leper, a resurrected person, and Mary's beloved Lord Jesus - were reclining for supper. Chatter and laughter resounded in the room. A force so great propelled her forward with what she was about to do - pour a whole bottle of expensive and genuine spikenard ointment onto Jesus' feet while everyone else watched in surprise. (John 12:3). Though the world may dismiss this as impractical, Jesus said, "She has done a beautiful thing to me...wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Mark 14:6, 9).

17 June 2017 saw 300 TPMC members and friends gather for a day of learning and interaction at the Extravagant Love Conference. The four keynote sessions from the various speakers dived deeper into the various aspects of what it means to and how to love extravagantly. With the speakers' different styles, testimonies, and teaching, God spoke and worked through His children in reaching out to all present at the event.

During lunch, conference participants got a chance to show love to each other through words, food, gifts and photos from photo booths. We hope this is a kickstart to how TPMC can encounter to love God and others - a no-holds-barred, beyond-logic, radical, extravagant type of love.

# CROSSWORD COMPETITION



Please email answers to  
commsmedia@tpmc.org.sg  
(put "Interact Crossword Competition"  
in email subject line).

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Love Conference was held on 17 June at the Sanctuary. (11)
7. In Pastor's Message, three days after The End is The \_\_\_\_\_. (9)
9. There was a fishing expedition to \_\_\_\_\_ Island on 27 May. (7)
10. Tong, from the Term Fun Home, is now \_\_\_\_\_ years old. (8)



**INTERACT** is published on a quarterly basis by TPMC. All views expressed in Interact are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Church, the Editorial Team or the Methodist Church in Singapore.

**Editorial Team:**

Rev Reuben Ng  
Pastor Eddie Ho  
Kristal Chan  
Grace Koh  
Lim Pei Chia  
Hu Huimei  
Shirin Wun

**Contributors:**

Adrian Lum	Isaiah Tee
Agnes Kok	Matthew Ling
Angela Sng	Ravi Cuttilan
Angelito Mojico	Rosalie Mojico
Audrey Ang	Roslyn Sim
Denise Wong	Sarah Hoi
Eunice Tan	Shyama Cuttilan
Eryll Salanga	Peter Lim

An online copy is also available at [www.tpmc.org.sg](http://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](mailto:admin@tpmc.org.sg)

Website: [www.tpmc.org.sg](http://www.tpmc.org.sg)