Interact

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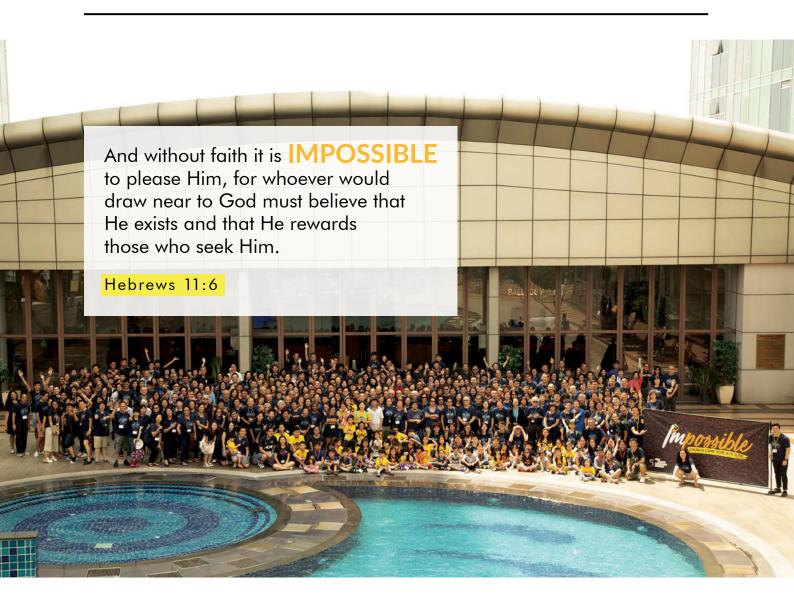
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FAITH PLEASES!



Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Why?

Because faith is not just about believing something not seen; more importantly, it is about trust. Faith is us telling God, "I trust You, I put myself in Your hands even though it feels like You have abandoned me."

Even when it feels like You have abandoned me!

This was exactly how Elijah felt.

Elijah lived in a time when if you believed in God, you would certainly lose your life. King Ahab, under the influence of his wife, Jezebel, not only led the whole country to idolatry but persecuted those who worshipped God.

Elijah felt alone. He felt like he alone was battling 850 wizards. At one point, he felt so alone that he begged God to let him die. (1 Kings 19:4)

Elijah might have felt alone, lousy, spent and abandoned, but the fact is: God never left him. Elijah was never alone. God provided him with food and water; God defeated 850 wizards; God showed him that He was not just present in spectacular ways but also in still and small ones; God never left but stayed behind for the generations to come, even us.

Sometimes we may feel like Elijah asking God: Why me?! Where are you?!

Following Jesus is not a bed of roses. Jesus warns us that we will go through trials, temptations, tribulations, and even persecution. But God also says he will not abandon us and he gives us a solution: Trust Him. Put your faith in Him.

We have passed the halfway mark of 2018. It may have been a difficult year for some of us. You feel like you are at the end of your rope. Your situation seems impossible. For you, it may be impossible, but for Him, it is possible. He is not a God of Impossible but a God of I'm possible!

Faith is trust in the One who is able to keep you from falling, the One who wants to usher you into His glory, the One who wants to fill you with great joy (Jude 1:24).

Yes, my friends, faith pleases God, but the end of faith is also our great joy.

and

Pastor Eddie Ho Assistant Pastor



Can you tell us a bit more about how you got the job here at church?

- D: Two years ago, my response to working in the church office would have been a 'no'. God, the Master Planner, has been gentle in working to change my perceptions, and building my faith by planting opportunities.
- A: There was an opening. I applied and got the job =)
- the Pastor-in-Charge in the planning and implementation of programmes in line with TPMC's vision and strategic direction.

What were you doing prior to joining the church office?

- D: I was in the arts marketing industry for about 15 years before deciding to stay home and support my two children through their PSLE preparations. During this time, I served as a befriender to pregnant single mothers, and with the Girls' Brigade.
- A: I was working in the healthcare industry for operations!
- **J:** I served in the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) for 22 years, which I believe has equipped me to contribute meaningfully in my current appointment.

What excites you most about working here?

- **D:** TPMC is family I count it a privilege to return the favours I've experienced in Sunday School in my youth by serving God and His people at TPMC.
- A: Influence. Being in a position to influence the that they are loved by God.
- J: First, the people working with this fun bunch of colleagues to impact our churchgoers and coming up like the redevelopment project, and our 50th Anniversary in 2020, I'm excited to see how the next few years will pan out for us in TPMC.

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

- D: Assam Fish, Tom Yam Soup & Chicken Rice.
- A: Foods which start with the letter 'D' Dark chocolate, Durians, Dim sum.
- I'll trade one dish for good ol' coffee to finish off

NEWLYWEDS







On 18 Feb 2018, Clemence and Beverly were blessed with the arrival of their first child Asher.



On 23 Apr 2018, Moses and Yoong Yit were blessed with the arrival of their newborn Jonathan.



On 15 Mar 2018, Terence and Claire were blessed with the arrival of their first child Samuel.



On 18 May 2018, Kok Loong and Qing Yue were blessed with their newborn Travis.



On 12 Jul 2018, Myren and Ruth were blessed with their second son Efrem.



Congratulations!

BAPTISM CANDIDATES & NEW TPMC MEMBERS







CHILDREN:

Esther Tan Yee Moses Tan Hee Sathish Nadav Tan En Yi Natalie



Chew Hui Ting Adeline
Denise Chan Chee Heeng
Han Qiao Xin Pearly
Joyce Tan Yu Hui
Matthew Roy Ho Jianen
Neo Say Ghee Edwin
Ng Jun Kiat Jonathan
Phua Gek Jing Nancy
Tan Zhi Zheng Varen
Tan Gin Wei Victor
Yau Wai Pieng Stephanie
Yeo Cheng Feng Keith





RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Chen Sisi Choong Lee Wen Han Qiao Xin Pearly Ho Eng Khoon Matthew Abdullah Neo Say Ghee Edwin Ngin Chor Hong Phua Gek Jing Nancy Tan Gin Wei Victor Wong See Yee Lynne Yau Wai Pieng Stephanie Yeo Cheng Feng Keith

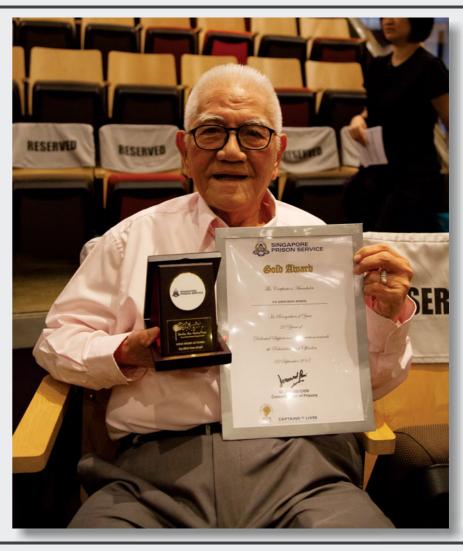






NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE

By Shirin Wun



What if I told you a member from our congregation here at TPMC went to prison over 25 years ago? And he continued to go in and out of prison.

Now I must confess to not giving you the whole picture. I am not writing about a hardened criminal, but a volunteer. Someone selfless, steadfast, and truly inspiring, who made weekly visits to Changi Prison in order to help fellow humans who had strayed and needed guidance. His name is Joseph Tay Khim Soon. He is 82 years young. You can find him every Sunday at the 8.30am service, seated beside the AV booth. Do not be afraid or shy to say hello to him, as he is chatty and approachable!

Joseph started volunteering at Changi Prison after retirement. In 2017, he was given a Gold Award at the Singapore Prison Service Volunteers Awards Ceremony for 25 years of "dedicated support and contribution towards the rehabilitation of offenders". What has kept him going through these years? In his words, "the Lord". Rain or shine, God encouraged and strengthened him, enabling him to be patient, persevere and not give up despite the challenges he faced. Today, Joseph continues to, quite simply, "trust in the Lord". Not your average Joe, indeed. So the next time you see him, go ahead and greet him, and let him share with you God's faithfulness and strength.





n the past two years, we experienced the stories of Ruth My favourite was the second performance, where deep and Jonah through drama and dance. This year (the third year running!), TPMC did it again: we immersed ourselves in understanding the ministry of the prophet Elijah through a multi-sensory feast employing four art forms – mime, percussion (music), dance and theatre.

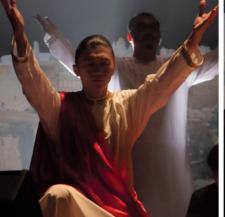
The performances, which spanned across four Sundays, brought us through both the high and low points of Elijah's story: from hiding from Ahab, to triumphing over false prophets, to fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel, and finally to anointing his successor and being taken up to heaven. Each performance concluded with a sermon aligning the performance to God's word, to remind us of His faithfulness, power, and provision.

drum beats and quick percussive sounds heightened the tension in the confrontation between Elijah and the false prophets.

Of course, kudos to our artists and musicians who took time and effort to ensure an impressive performance wowing our audience, which included TPMC members and guests from outside of the church. We mustn't forget those who supported our performers in one way or another too!

Above all, let us remember what we have seen and heard, that God was, is, and will be ever faithful and present. Let us also continue to explore, celebrate, and share our Christian faith through the performing arts.





































After close to eight months of planning, Camp I'mPossible finally happened at KSL Hotel from 8 to 11 June 2018. The camp was attended by 520 campers and had a good mix of food, fun and family bonding. Talking about food, let us not forget our spiritual bread, as we learn about Faith from our guest speaker, Bishop Emeritus (BE) Rev Dr Wee Boon Hup.

By Jerome Sim

In the first few weeks after registration started, the organising committee was staring at low sign-up rates. At times, it seemed that interest for a church camp had fizzled out of TPMC. But God is faithful and I believe that He led many to trust Him with their challenges, and signed up for the camp in faith. Likewise, the prayers and encouragement from our leaders and members kept the committee going in our planning and preparation.

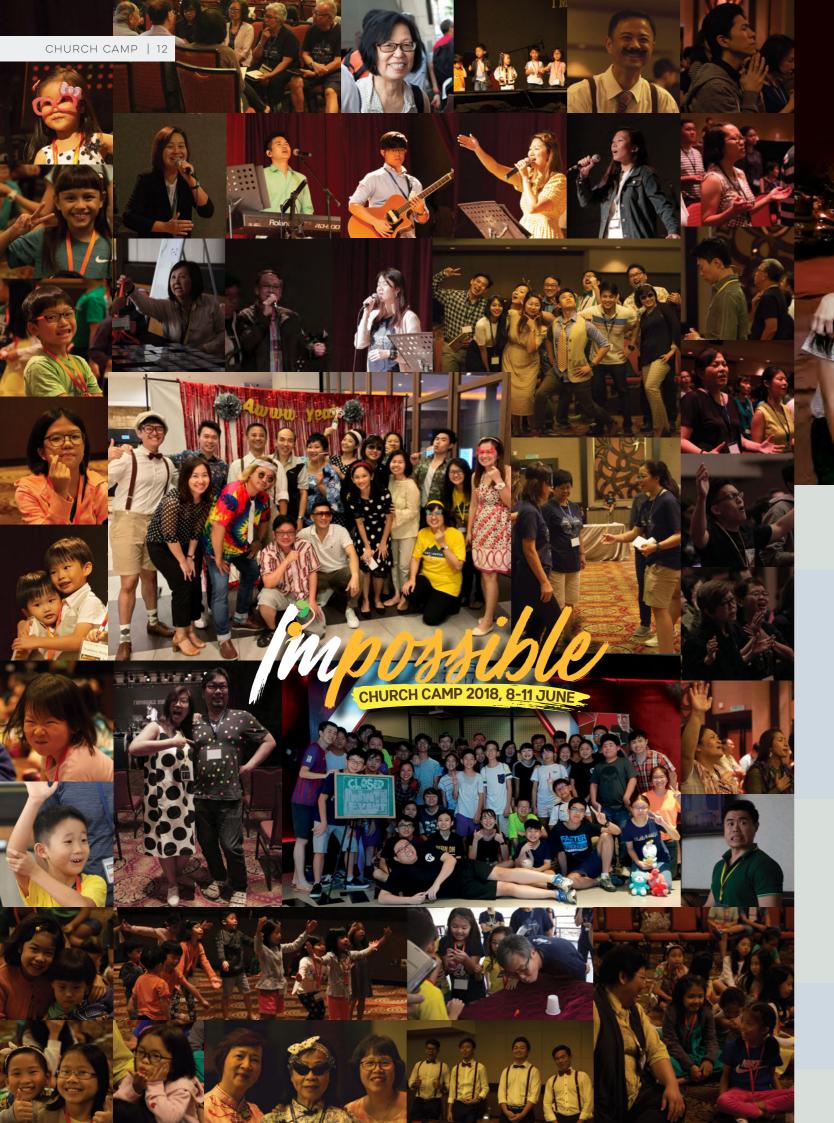
When the time finally came, God continued to bless us, by bringing all the campers safely to KSL Hotel. Although there were delays at immigration and many of us only reached the hotel one hour after the expected time, grace and patience abounded. Nobody was going to let a minor delay marred the start of a great camp! I must say when it comes to working together, the TPMC family can really "play ball" and cooperate very well.





One of the highlights of the camp was the sessions on Faith by BE Wee. BE Wee's clear and systematic teaching allowed us to understand the topic better and learn how we could grow our faith in God, through His promises. Another highlight was the themed dinners. With the theme for the last evening being "Retro Night", there was a lot of fun and laughter when we came dressed in vintage fashion. It was a time of reminiscence for the seniors and appreciation by the younger ones. We also had the opportunity to vote for the winners of the best-dressed competition! The TPMC family is certainly a sporting bunch.

In closing, the church camp would not have been possible if not for the committee that journeyed with me in the past eight months. I am grateful for their support and encouragement. Finally, I am glad that this key event for 2018 was successfully conducted. We got to know how to have more faith in our daily walk with God. We also made new friends and strengthened old relationships. I know we can look forward to a better camp in 2020! With God, I'mPossible.



WOON BIG HAPPY FAMILY

Ever wondered about that person you see sitting near the AV booth, or hanging out at the courtyard near the information booth every Sunday? Interact aims to feature some of our Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) members here - just to help you get to know our big family a little better. In this issue, we are featuring Edna Woon and her family - a family of three generations who have watched the church's evolution throughout the ages since 1973!

* Edna (E), Charis (C), Robert (R), Linda (L)

First off, could you tell us a bit more about your family and yourself – namely, what do you do currently, and when did you start attending TPMC?

- **E:** Hello! I'm currently in Ngee Ann Poly doing pharmaceutical sciences, in PFP (Polytechnic Foundation Program).
- **C:** And I'm in Secondary Three, studying at Unity Secondary.
- **E:** As for when my family started attending TPMC, we have been attending TPMC for a really, really long time...
- R: Yes, in fact we have been attending since the church started with Pastor Michael Wong in 1973.

 Back then, my children Linda, David and John attended the children's ministry and services.
- L: Back then, I was in the primary school service. Some of the people I grew up with are still attending church.
- **R:** Now, it's me, my wife, Linda, David, Edna and Charis, who attend TPMC regularly for service.

Wow, that's a really long time and also impressive that there're so many members of the family attending TPMC. Which service do you go for, and are you involved in any ministries?

- **R:** I attend the 8.30am service, and I'm currently involved in the choir. We are all involved in ministries in church!
- L: I have been serving in the Children's Ministry since the '90s, and attend the 10.30am service with my mother.
- E: Charis and I attend Youth Fusion, and I'm involved in the Comms, Media and Tech Ministry in church I'm fairly active so you may have seen me ground
- C: I help out as a Youth Service coordinator.

Do you guys have a family 'ritual' you keep to on a regular basis?

- **L:** I usually join my parents for lunch on Sundays, and then do grocery shopping together.
- **E:** We meet up often to celebrate birthdays and special occasions together.





How many years have you been serving in the field and which country?

16 years and in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

How did you become a missionary? What are you doing now? How have things changed since you started working in the mission field till today?

It all started when I went for my first mission trip with ministry. It was there I received my vision from God the church to Myanmar in 1997. We drove four hours into the forest to reach the 'discarded people', and I remember feeling great compassion for them, which ignited a spark within me to find out how to reach out to these people, and to become a missionary.

The journey to become a missionary was not an easy one, as I battled with severe migraines which affected my trainings. I faced rejection several times when I applied for short-term mission trips to Thailand (since I couldn't do long-term ones without the necessary requirements). However, by the grace of God, my migraines were miraculously cured and I was able to study. I was accepted for a mission trip organised by the Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF) to Thailand in 2000, where TPMC and OMF were looking to adopt a village to start the Shan

to be a missionary in the village. After graduating from the course, I went back to the Shan village to serve as a missionary in July 2003. Since then, the church has been slowly expanding - our biggest baptism group was 23 Shan people in December 2007!

Since 2004, we have planted five churches in the Shan state. Our current vision is to 'see Shan Christians multiplying through Indigenous Biblical Church Planting Movement in Northern Chiang Mai, Myanmar and beyond (Acts 1:8)', and our mission is to 'Build Disciples, Equip Shan leaders and Evangelize in a model of a reproducible church planting movement that is simple among the Shan community (Matthew 28:19-20)'. By 2020, we hope to explore reaching out to the Shan in Myanmar.

As a person how have you changed over the vears?

- Deeper in love with Jesus.
- More confident in how God is leading us from
- It is not I that liveth but Christ that liveth in me.
- It's all about Him!

as a missionary?

What were your best and worst experiences

Best: I am amazed by how God sent His handpicked co-workers to us to serve together in love and unity as a family of God for His kingdom's sake.

Worst: Betrayed by close Christian brothers who did it for their own personal gain.

What is a typical day for you?

A day totally committed to God alone. To fast, pray, talk and listen to God. A great time with my Father in heaven.



What advice would you have for people who are thinking about becoming a missionary?

- All to Jesus I surrender Be Available
- Trust and Obey Be Willing
- He leadeth me Be ever ready to follow Jesus

WHAT TO EXPECT

By Peter Khoo

This is the second time that TPMC and Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church (TPCMC) are embarking on a Joint Redevelopment Project, starting in July 2018 for 10 months.

Our plans include:

- new rooms at Level 4
- expansion of Hall 1
- a new room adjoining the Family Room
- two new lift systems
- upgrades to the toilets at Levels 1 and 2
- a new pedestrian gate next to the carpark entrance
- shelters against the rain for the Level 2 common corridor and the pedestrian ramp leading into the church

REDEVELOPMENT + FUNDRAISING

By Agnes Goh

Some may ask why we are going through another redevelopment and fundraising when we completed a major one eight years ago. We are thankful to the Lord, that ever since the first redevelopment, TPMC has grown exponentially in monthly attendance. But as a Chinese proverb goes, 'The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.' In order to better serve and cater to the needs of our growing congregation, and to reach out to more of the Toa Payoh community, TPMC needs to expand its physical space.

We praise the Lord that TPMC has adequate funds for the rebuilding project because of God's faithful provision, the generous giving from our congregation, and prudent financial management. However, we do need to raise funds for furniture and fittings. From July to November 2018, the fundraising committee will be hosting various activities to provide the congregation the opportunity to participate in giving. This includes an auction of very exclusive items from Jordan and fun challenges by various age groups. We look forward to your active participation and giving.

How else can you give? Every second Sunday of the month, the second offering bag goes to the redevelopment fund. If you would like to give directly to the church, please indicate church redevelopment when you transfer to DBS Autosave 005-011970-7.

Now to Him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Upcoming Challenges:



More Info: http://tinyurl.com/TPMCRede



CONGRATULATIONS DEVI AND SERENE!

Devi and Serene are members at TPMC. They are part of the graduating class from Rhema Bible Training Centre. Devi serves in the Toddler Ministry, Beacon Ministry, and in Outreach and Social Concerns. Serene serves in the Children's Ministry and Worship for Kids.

* Devi (D), Serene (S)

What is the name of the course you graduated from?

D and S: Diploma in Christian Education

D: I also attended the Rhema School of Ministry last year. This is a course for those who have a calling to teach and preach, to communicate God's Word effectively to others.

When did you start? Full-time or part-time?

- **D:** November 2016. Full-time, and by God's grace did not miss any lesson.
- **S:** January 2015. Part-time twice a week, on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

What made you decide to start this course?

- **D:** Specifically directed by the Holy Spirit 'Come and sit at my feet and learn the word and renew your mind'.
- S: I would say that it was the leading of God. In 2014
 I tendered my resignation without having a new job. Then, despite all effort made searching on job portals and randomly emailing to companies, there was no response. So I prayed, and one morning, I dreamt that when I woke up, I checked my phone and saw a text message that said 'Rhema'. When I did wake up, I looked at my phone and confirmed that it was a dream. I googled and found out about the Rhema Bible Training Centre in Singapore. After some pondering and asking Him for confirmation, He provided the signs I sought. I signed up for the course.

How did you feel doing the course?

- **D:** Privileged and blessed. Enlightened by what Christ had done on the cross for all of us and our heritage/spiritual blessings as co-heirs with Him seated in heavenly places.
- S: I always felt refreshed by the presence of the Holy Spirit when I was in class, even on a Wednesday evening after work. I recall a Saturday lesson for the module on 'How to be led by the Holy Spirit', taught by Rev Lynette. I went to class after worship practice in church. During class, I was distracted by thoughts about worship practice. At that moment, Rev Lynette paused for a short worship and ministry time. When all of our eyes were closed, she walked up to me, placed her hand on my shoulder and gently said, "I felt God wanting to say this to you: 'I am with you and I am holding your right hand guiding you'." I felt so comforted upon hearing this.

What are your plans now?

- **D:** I know that my calling is to walk in love, teaching, preaching and healing. I have no plans of my own but will follow His leading and be submissive to His bidding.
- S: I feel like graduation is just the beginning of the journey. An instructor said "The graduation baton is there for you to knock you head when you forget what you have learnt." I do not know where this journey leads all I know is just to be faithful as He leads.

NOT BAD AT ALL

By Grace Koh

This new section aims to bring you tidbits about a sport, and how you can participate.

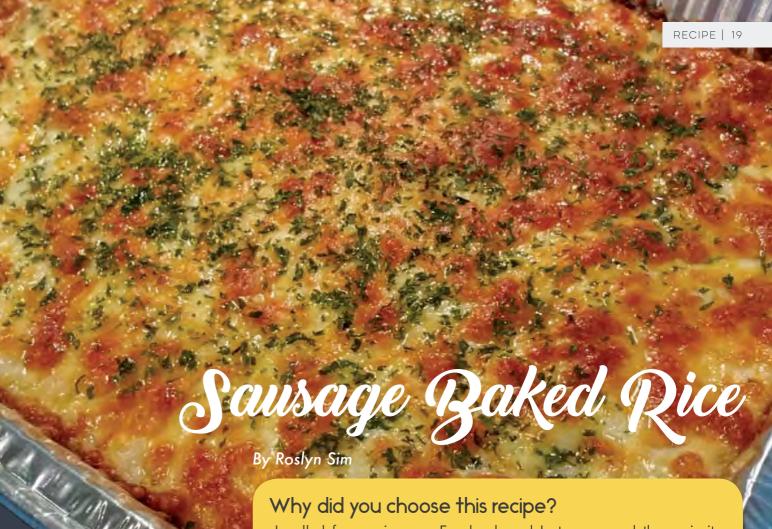
Go on, grab a buddy and try it out now!



With former badminton champs like Ronald Susilo and Wong Peng Soon in our nation's history, Singapore is no stranger to this racket sport. Badminton's origins can be traced to mid-18th century British India, when a bunch of British military officers stationed there decided to hoist a net and bat a ball of wool across the net. What does it do for us though?

- Badminton is an effective form of cardiovascular exercise, which keeps our hearts pumping fine. With all the running, jumping, and grunting, the sport burns 450 calories per hour on an average.
- Badminton builds and tones the quads, glutes, calves and hamstrings these are essential leg muscles to keep us moving.
- In addition, badminton strengthens core muscles. Arm and back muscles get a workout, which supports overall postural stability, i.e. a nice straight back.
- The smacking of shuttlecocks do well for our mental health too. Exercise releases endorphins into our bloodstream, and makes us feel reeeaaally good.

All you need is: two rackets, shuttlecocks, and two willing hearts (or more) to sweat it out and shuffle about the court. Otherwise, the church office staff gather on Mondays at 6pm to deal a mean game of badminton – if you're ready to get served!



Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 2 cups uncooked white rice
- Water to cook rice
- 5 cloves of garlic (peeled)
- 200g sausages, sliced (I use Tay's mini cheese sausages)
- 425g sliced button mushrooms (1 can)
- 15g butter
- Generous amounts of white pasta sauce (I use about 8-9 tbsp)
- Shredded Mozzarella cheese (150g)
- Shredded Cheddar cheese (150g)
- Pepper to taste
- Parsley for garnishing

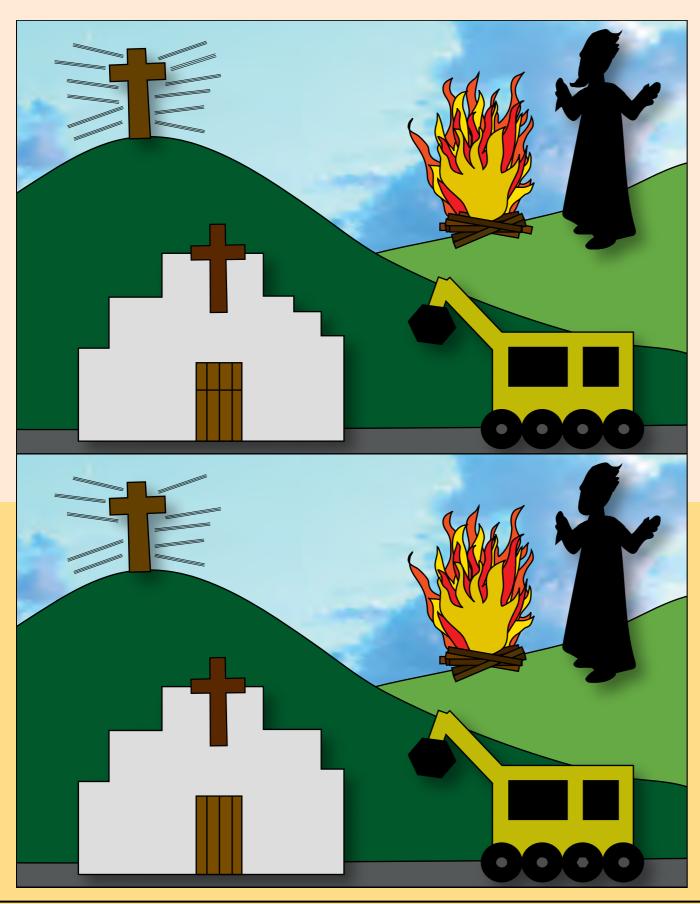
I polled four recipes on Facebook and Instagram and the majority wanted to see this recipe! This is my go-to recipe when my teenage daughters invite friends over for lunch.

Recipe

- 1 Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.
- 2 Wash and rinse uncooked rice.
- 3 Place the rice in rice cooker and add water to cover. Add butter and garlic, turn on rice cooker, and let rice sit for 10 minutes.
- 4 After 10 minutes, open lid of rice cooker and fluff up rice, mixing garlic into rice in the process as well.
- 5 Add in sliced sausages and button mushrooms to rice mixture and add pepper to taste.
- 6 Transfer mixed rice into a baking dish or a disposable aluminium tray until about two-thirds full.
- 7 Spread white pasta sauce all over the top of rice. The more you smear, the moist-er your rice ends up!
- 8 Cover the entire top with cheese you can adjust accordingly. My girls really love extra cheesy baked rice, which requires all 300g of cheese!
- 9 Bake for about 20-25 minutes, or until cheese has slightly melted and turned brown.
- 10 Garnish with parsley. Even if you don't like parsley, garnish anyway! It looks great on photos and you don't really taste it! ;p

Spot The Difference

FIND 7 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE 2 PICTURES!





For those who are interested in Interact related tasks such as writing, graphics design, we want you. We want to encourage you to come forward and serve God through this very meaningful and impactful team. The possibilities in this team are unlimited and only restricted by your imagination. Email us at commsmedia@tpmc.org.sg

Desired Traits/Abilities

- Editors & Writers: Creative, Manage time and projects well, Team player and able to work well with others
- Designers: Eye for design, Creative and Adventurous, Team player

Roles	Service Commitment	
Editors	To publish the Church magazine – Interact on a quarterly basis. Expected	
Designers	commitment for meetings and production of magazine at around 16 hours every 3 months.	
Writers	To produce (write) different content/ stories for the Church magazine – Interact on a quarterly basis. Expected commitment for meetings and producing the stories – 4 hours every 3 months.	

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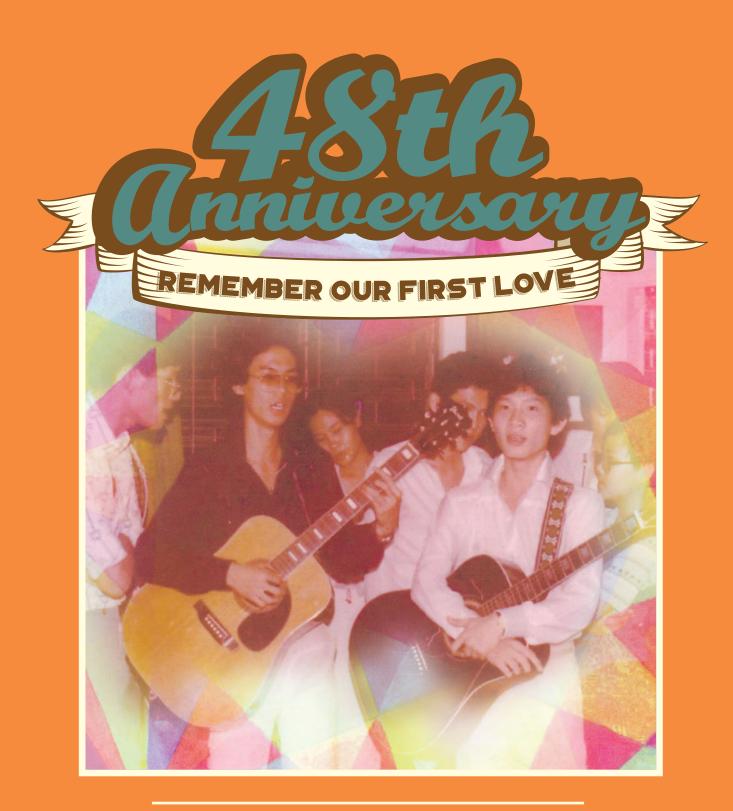
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- 19 AUGUST 2018 -

COME DRESSED IN YOUR BEST 70'S OUTFIT
AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER
WITH A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

