

interact

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1ST QUARTER 2015

Look Up



NOT FOR SALE

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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

LOOK UP

Rev Reuben Ng
Pastor-in-Charge

LOOKing UP seems to be an instinctive gesture for humans. A lady sits upon a park bench deep in thought, having to make a difficult decision, looks up. A man in desperate need for a solution as he faces an insurmountable, end-of-the-road situation, looks up. Somehow, while scenarios may differ, the action remains similar, people look up whenever there's a need for further strength, wisdom, and hope.

The first of TPMC's Vision 2015 states the same - Look Up. We understand that this however is not an encouragement for us to engage in the physical act of looking up, thereby exhorting us TPMCians to walk around with our noses in the air.

Rather, it's a call to intentionally and with spiritual eyes look up to God our Almighty Creator. It's a reminder to constantly rely upon Him, to wait upon Him, to draw from Him, to be refreshed by Him and to walk in Him. It's to stress that without Him we are nothing as all things come from Him and He is everything. The wise and appropriate thing to do then, is to look up - to keep our eyes fixed and focused on Him because whatever we require is found in Him.

Perhaps that's why the Psalmist writes about looking at the right thing in Psalm 121:1-2 (NLT) I look up to the mountains—does my help come

“But it's about looking up through spiritual eyes at God who is our true help.”

from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! The Psalmist is aware that it's not about looking up through physical eyes to see what sources of assistance or strength we can find, no matter how massive or majestic they may be. But it's about looking up through spiritual eyes at God who is our true help. After all, why look through physical eyes at created things for help, when we can look through spiritual eyes at the Creator who made heaven and earth?

Jesus exemplifies this for us. Before He fed a hungry multitude with a boy's lunch, Matthew 14:19 (NLT) tells us that Jesus took the food, looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Everyone received more than enough.

Just before He was to be captured and tortured, John 17:1 (NLT) says that Jesus looked up to heaven, prayed and received the very help He needed - He was glorified that God the Father was glorified.

May we heed the words of the Psalmist, the actions of Jesus, and continue to Look Up.



FAMILY NEWS

newBORNS



Gaius Wee and Grace Lim are blessed with their first-born, **NATHAN WEE** on 23 December 2014.



SERAPHINE FOO was born on 15 February 2015 to Jeff Foo and Lydia Fu.



ATHENA WUNADY was born on 20 January 2015 to Charles Wunady and Constance Seah.



John Lin and Nuri are blessed with their first bundle of joy, **ISAAC LIN** on 15 January 2015.

INTRODUCING:

newBORNS

newLYweds

BAPTISMS & new members

newLYweds



RAFAEL TSAI and **FAYE TAN** tied the knot on 25 October 2014. Rev Reuben Ng solemnised their marriage at Vineyard@HortPark.



JOSHUA CHEN & HILDA TOH were married on 8 November 2014. Rev Reuben Ng solemnised their marriage.



CLEMENT SIM & JEAN TEO were married on 14 March 2015. Rev Reuben Ng officiated the wedding at Paya Lebar Methodist Church.

FAMILY NEWS

22 DECEMBER 2014 23 baptisms and 20 new members



*From the Left: (*Baptised and received in membership)*

*Poh Wee Koon, *Ginger Chia Wenqi, *Terence Lee Zhi Min, Tan Boon Fong, *Josephine Low, Tham Li Fun Stephanie, Ho Eng Khoon, Wee Choon Hong Alice, Teng Wenrui Russell, Tiffany Ng, Jansen Koh Kwang Yuan, Jae Gang, Tan Swee Kim, Jayavel Umamaheswari, Khor Guat Cheng Katherine, Lee Yng Jessica w/ son Jerome Lee Zheng Xuan, Lee Shi Jie Kenneth w/ son Kaelen Lee Zheng Rui, Koh Swee Wah Margaret, Perry Lim, Phoebe Poh Shae Qi, James Wee Kwong Yui, Kenrick Samuel Ho Zhang Rong, Joyce Joanna Ho Zhi Yin, and **Natalie Chan Sze Hui (**not in picture)

Received in membership (not in picture):

Cheryl Chan Sze Hung, Jasmine Wong Kum Peng, Karen Chan Siew Lee, Karina Ong Mei Pheng, Magdeline Wong Pek Yoke, Serene Er Kim Hoon, Jenny Oh Boon Hong, Roy Keuk Chee Kiong, Wendy Poon Tze Leng, Yu Sheng Sin, Anthony Ho Tin Keong, Karine Goh Yoke Tin, Eunice Wee Bee Suan, Henry Tan Chin Tuan, Wendy Ang Lay Lian, and Mark Tan Yeok Hwee

22 MARCH 2015 10 baptisms and 10 new members



From the Left: (Baptised)

Emma Grace Seet, Jonathan Chai Kiat Ming, Josephine Lai Wai Yee, Tong May Kuan, Seah Chin Chin, Sebastian Seet Wei Xian, Jackson Matthias Phua Yih Kiat, Scarlett He Huiling, Eli, and Eugenia Margaret Samburnam

*From the Left: (Received in membership (*not in picture))*

Betty Lim Lai Yan, Kenneth Lee Shi Jie, Jessica Lee Yng, Magdeline Wong Pek Yoke, Leslie Ding Yew Sun, Roy Keuk Chee Kiong, Jenny Oh Boon Hong, Alphis Tay Xin-Wang, *Tan Swee Kim, and *Charon Yap Li-Chien



BOOK REVIEWS



THE BIBLE (DVD miniseries)

Nominated for three Emmy Awards and created by Mark Burnett (creator of the Survivor reality TV programme) and Roma Downey (of Touched by an Angel), this television series brings iconic characters and stories from Genesis to Revelations to life. It's a great tool for starting conversations about God and Jesus at home with your non-Christian family members and friends.



COURAGEOUS (DVD movie)

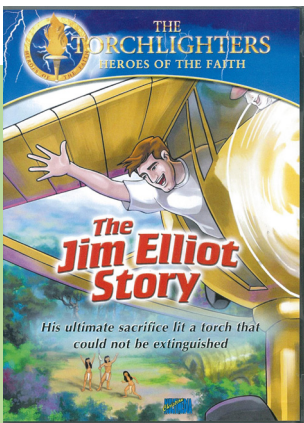
If you missed our Courageous movie screening at TPMC in 2012, you can still catch this powerful movie in the comfort of your home. This movie underscores the importance of fatherhood, but weaves in the message of the gospel as well. The movie takes you on a ride with action, humour and a rallying call to live a courageous life. When watching this DVD, keep your tissues or handkerchiefs nearby.



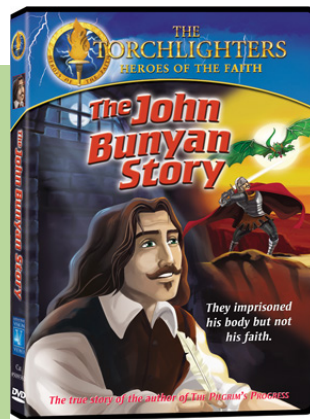
THEO (DVD series)

These animated short stories teach children God's word and how they should live in the light of it. Topics like abiding in Christ, the Fruit of the Spirit, salvation, forgiveness and much more are explained in a simple yet engaging way. Use these DVDs for devotion with your children or even for your children's program during cell group meetings.

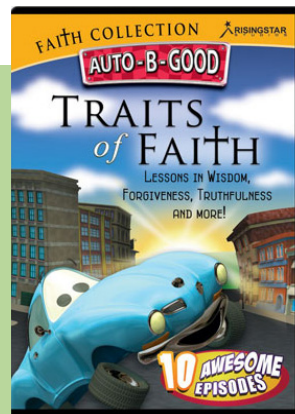
RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:



The **JIM ELLIOT STORY** An animated biography of a missionary and martyr.



The **JOHN BUNYAN STORY** An animated biography of preacher and author of Pilgrim's Progress.



AUTO-B-GOOD SERIES
A computer animated series to teach children on faith and values.



VEGGIE TALES SERIES
A witty computer animated series for adults and children on faith and the Bible.

Reviews and Recommendations by:
Agnes Kok - Discipleship & Nurture Chairperson

UPCOMING EVENTS

April to June

THE LEARNING ACADEMY

The New Covenant, the Law, & Righteousness

Dates : 6, 13, 20, 27 May 2015 (Every Wed)

Time : 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Venue : Worship Hall 1 (L3)

No registration required. FREE-OF-CHARGE.

Corporate Prayer

Dates : 29 May (Friday)

Time : 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Venue : Sanctuary (L1)

Corporate Prayer is held quarterly.

Taste & See - Encounter Meeting

Dates : 24 April, 26 June, 31 July (Fridays)

Time : 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Venue : Sanctuary (L2)

Taste & See is held every month except on months where there is Corporate Prayer.

Baptism & Membership Course (2nd Run of 3)

Dates : 8, 15, 22, 29 July 2015 (Every Wed)

Time : 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Venue : Worship Hall 3 (L3)

The next Baptism and Membership Reception will be conducted in August 2015.

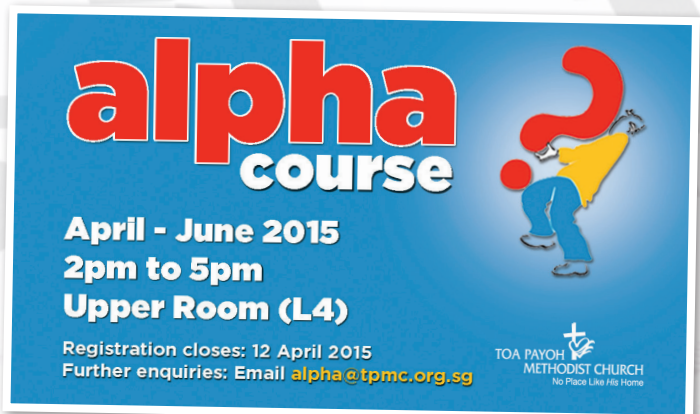
KOPI TIME (For Newcomers & Visitors)

Dates : 29 April, 24 May, 28 June (Sundays)

Time : 9.45am & 12.15pm

Venue : Family Room (L1)

KOPI Time is held every last Sunday of each month except on months where there is Welcome Lunch.



alpha
course

April - June 2015
2pm to 5pm
Upper Room (L4)

Registration closes: 12 April 2015
Further enquiries: Email alpha@tpmc.org.sg

TOA PAYOH
METHODIST CHURCH
No Place Like Home



GO
FEST
singapore

TAKE JESUS OUT
STREETS | COMMUNITIES | NATIONS

Dates: 3-6 JUNE 2015 (Closing Ceremony: 14 June)
Venue: Toa Payoh Methodist Church
Cost: \$30 (For TPMC members only)
Register at the Information Counter on Sunday

WORSHI



It was a Friday evening. I was feeling tired. It had been a long day. I wanted to go home and rest more than anything. Going for Worship Night wasn't one of my top priorities. Sleep probably ranked somewhere higher... Nevertheless, in resigned obedience I went.



I stepped into the Main Sanctuary, and it felt unusual to be in the Main Sanctuary on a Friday evening. Yet, amid that sense of strangeness was a sense of restedness. A feeling of respite from the week's toils came upon me, an unexpected oasis. Resigned obedience yielded to curious anticipation. Shortly after, a video started playing, exhorting us to a time of worship. Contemporary worship anthems followed, taking their place alongside traditional choral exultations. Dancers stirred, complementing music with movement.



But Worship Night would be misplaced if it were simply a show of song and dance. In between worship sets, pastoral team members shared the reason for why we worship - He who was, who is, and who is to come. "He who was" was a reminder of His faithfulness and steadfastness,

P N I G H T

"He who is" spoke of His constant presence and perfect grace, "He who is to come" declared His promises on which our hopes are founded on. Faced with these truths, worshipping Him was the only appropriate response.

Jessica Leah Springer said "As John 4:23 says, it's time, as worshippers of God, to give him all we have. For when He is exalted, everything about me is decreased. So many times we stand in the way of really stepping into the secret place of worship with God. Just abandon tradition and the "expected" ways of praise and worship and get lost in the holy of holies with the sole intention of blessing the Father's heart."

When God is exalted, everything about us - our tiredness, fears, anxieties, frailties, pains, hurts - is decreased. Worship Night is a reminder that when we intentionally seek to bless our Father's heart, it is simply delightful to get lost in His love.

I went to Worship Night tired, and left refreshed.

Gabriel Ong
Worship & Music Ministry Chairperson



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sarah Hoi - Pastoral Team Member (Children's Programme & Beacon Ministry)
PHOTOS: Children's Ministry

Bless the Elderly

To encourage our children to be a blessing to people living in our community, Joy Kids Ministry organised a visit to some elderly households on 15 February. Prior to the event, a total amount of \$2,510 was raised to buy basic necessities for 138 households. On the day itself, close to 80 teachers and children went to the households located in Lorong 1 to bless them with these items. The children brought many smiles to the elderly living in this area!



Cheesecake Making Session

Besides helping the children in their academic studies, Beacon's Children Ministry seek to help children develop life skills, social skills as well as character through teaching of Christian values. In February, a cheesecake making session was organised for the children with the purpose of helping them bond together as well as acquire a useful skill. Our church member, Ms Koh Mui Leng was the instructor and under her loving guidance, the cheesecake prepared by the children turned out well!

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH CAMP AFTERGLOW



17 JAN 2015

The youths gathered for a time of fellowship after youth camp ended in December. This was to consolidate what they had learnt and developed; the relationships that were strengthened during the camp. They went out to experience food trails before ending the event with a dinner celebration.

MAIN COMMITTEE BONDING



31 JAN 2015

The youth leaders went to Johor Bahru for a time of bonding and fellowship. They had a few rounds of Go-Kart before ending the day with seafood dinner.

BOYS' BRIGADE NERF WARS



14 FEB 2015

The youths organised nerf wars for the Junior and Senior BB companies in hope of building relationships with them. It was a fun-filled morning as they saw how the BB boys enjoyed the games.

Wilson Koh - Pastoral Team Member (Youth / Prayer)
PHOTOS: Youth Ministry

FAITH AGE GROUP



BUILDING MARRIAGES *on the* ROCK

Roslyn Sim

Faith Age Group Chairperson

Over 30 couples spent a very special and meaningful Valentine's Day this year. The Faith Age Group was happy to have invited Henson Lim to conduct a marriage seminar "Building Marriages on the ROCK". Henson is married to Serene and they have seven children who are all home-schooled. He is a great teacher and was able to engage all 66 participants through all four parts of the seminar which lasted from 9am to 3pm.

Participants were challenged to LOOK UP to God as they discovered God's Design and Purpose for their Marriages, their specific biblical roles as husbands and wives. The seminar ended with Henson leading all married couples into a time of prayer, seeking forgiveness from each other and rededicating themselves to each other and their marriages to GOD. There was no better way to have spent this year's Valentine's Day!

All praise to God!

"What we have been doing is that I have my own relationship with God and Desmond has his own relationship with God. I am so glad that this workshop has helped us realise that we, as a couple, must have a relationship together with God too."

~Neresa Wong, married for 10 years~

"We've been further strengthened in our conviction by Henson's passion for Christ. We cannot be worldly and Christ-like at the same time. Christ must be the only one we looked to in our marriage and our lives!"

~Nick Tan, recently engaged~

SENIORS MINISTRY



SENIORS OPEN SUNDAY

The Seniors Open Sunday for Grace Age Group was organized on 1 February 2015 at Worship Hall 1. The turnout was overwhelming with about 120 church members participated. Most of Synapse cell group members had come forward to help us to coordinate the program for that day and it was very encouraging.

One objectives of having the meeting on Sunday is to attract & gather those seniors who are unable to join the seniors' meetings on Thursdays to mingle & interact with the usual Thursday group. With such great turnout and positive feedback from the seniors for more of such events in future, the committee plans to have the Open Sunday quarterly and will cover topics on health, legal and finance that are of interest to the seniors. Outings to farms & visits to residential homes will also be considered.

We had a lively worship from Thiam Seng and an ice breaking game from Betty Lim to try and get the seniors moving around to know each other. The highlight was the workshop conducted by Pow Look who shared with the seniors how to use the SMART phone and the common

apps available in the phone to improve their communication and productivity. Some prizes were given out to those who were able to answer the questions raised by Pow . It was a pleasant surprise for the four winners who took home prizes like a smart phone, selfie stick, and other exciting prizes.



Pastor Joshua gave a short exhortation on Hebrew 10 encouraging the Seniors to keep a firm grip on God's Word and His promises as well as to reach out to love and help one another in the body of Christ.

Albert Leong
Steward (Grace Age Group)

CELL GROUPS



LIVING WATER CG

In our church's Vision 2015, Cell Group ministry is not under Look Up. So when I began to wonder whether the editorial team had made an honest mistake in requesting this write-up, a prompt from within quickly arrested further doubt: Do you not look up and depend on Me in Cell Group ministry?

Duly chastened, I began to reflect upon the Cell Group ministry since I arrived in early 2013. Indeed, we had made great strides since then, and really, this is a team effort from the pastors and leaders – especially the Cell Group Leaders, who are 'on the ground' to shepherd the flock. But even the pastors and leaders would agree with me that the sum of all our human efforts did not produce the fruit we now see. God was, and still is, at work – in His usual unseen way.

Over the two years, Cell Groups have begun focusing on spiritual growth and care of members, as well as following the sermon series and applying the Word into their daily lives. More authentic relationships and accountability structures are being formed within the Cell Groups, and many testimonies of deepened faiths abound as a result of Cell Group interactions. There is also a renewed interest in Cell Groups across the board, as church attendance continues to climb and



LADIES' CIRCLE CG

shepherding the flock necessarily becomes more decentralised.

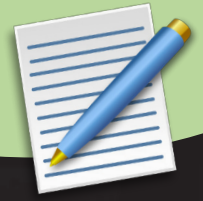
We had about 540 persons in Cell Group about two years back, but now the number has gone up due to almost 100 newcomers – a testament to the increasing openness of our Cell Groups in welcoming newcomers into their midst. About five new Cell Groups were birthed, as leaders responded to the call to multiply and start new groups. Our Cell Groups are also meeting more regularly.

Truth be told, as leaders of the Cell Group ministry, we can only teach and encourage and pray; trusting God for the results. And how He has been faithful in the fruitfulness of ministry we now see! As we continue to busy ourselves over the demands of ministry, may we always remember to **Look Up** and expect His co-labouring hands at work, alongside ours.

Daniel Lee - Pastoral Team Member
Cell Group and Nurture & Discipleship



FAITH@WORK CG



SERVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

Joseph Tay's letter for young volunteers

Joseph Tay is a volunteer serving with the Christian Counselling Service (CCS). He has received various awards and recognition for his dedication and contribution to the community.



My volunteering journey began more than 20 years ago in 1991 as a Volunteer Aftercare Officer. It is a journey that I'll continue until the Lord calls me home.

The Basic Training Course with the Singapore Prison Service sets volunteers off to a good start as they will learn how to interact with inmates and get tips on what the volunteers can do to help ex-offenders reintegrate back into the society.

Serving with the Christian Counselling Service (CCS), I go into the prisons to conduct worship services for the inmates every Sunday. I will always try to give the inmates some words of encouragement at the end of every service because I want them to have hope and to plod on despite facing difficulties in life.

"This is a vicious cycle and some of them will keep coming back to prisons."

The work of a Prisons volunteer does not end when the inmate is released from prison. They actually need more help upon their release.

Ex-offenders often revert to their old ways because they are not able to find the means to support themselves. The sad reality is that some face rejection even by their own family. Many have little option but to seek comfort from the very people who got them onto the slippery road of crime.

This is a vicious cycle and some of them will keep coming back to prisons. Never be discouraged when they do so. Such is life and it is not all a bed of roses. Be positive and have some faith that the inmates eventually will turn over a new leaf one day. I remember meeting a former drug addict who had lost all hope in himself because everyone rejected him after his release. He was so depressed that he wanted to end his life.

Upon learning his plight, some of the CCS colleagues and I spent a lot of time counselling him. We even managed to find him a job.

With the new job, he began to pick up the pieces and persevered through life. Today, he is gainfully employed, married with three children and even spend some of his free time counselling drug addicts in prisons.

I hope to see more volunteers coming forward to join us as there are many worthy causes but few helpers around.

When you do volunteer, do not be hasty and commit yourself to too many organisations at once as you might not be able to cope with the volunteer work and become disillusioned.

Serving with the Prisons' Ministry has been very satisfying and I want to continue until the Lord calls me home.

Joseph Tay
TPMC Member

SUNDAY SERVICES

TRADITIONAL SERVICE
8.30AM :: SANCTUARY (L2)

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
10.30AM :: SANCTUARY (L2)

YOUTH SERVICE
10.30AM :: WORSHIP HALL 1 (L3)

FILIPINO SERVICE
10.30AM :: WORSHIP HALL 3 (L3)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
8.30AM and 10.30AM
WORSHIP HALL 2 (L3)

No Youth and Filipino services
and Children's Programme every 1st Sunday.



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**TOA PAYOH
METHODIST CHURCH**
No Place Like *His* Home