

C L O SER.
Church Camp 2016

Church We're 46 Anniversary

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### Pastor's Message

Rev Reuben Ng



amily. That seems to be the recurrent theme these past few months.

First, Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) went for a Family Camp in June, a camp which, I have to say, was tremendously well planned. We went to encounter God together as a family and He used two wonderful speakers, Rev Edmund Chan and Rev Edmund de Souza (our District Superintendent),

to minister and build us up. Not only did we as a family encounter God in word, we also encountered God through His tangible presence and His healing grace.

Secondly, as a family, we bid farewell to a family member, Pastor Joshua Loo. He has been with us for slightly more than two and a half years and has now been appointed to

another Methodist Church. He will be remembered for his easy-going nature and we do wish him all of God's best in his new appointment.

Thirdly, we welcome a new family member! Pastor Eddie Ho joined us on the 1st of August. A friendly, warm and capable person willing to go the extra mile for God and His people — we are indeed pleased that God has blessed us

Finally, as a family, we celebrated our Heavenly Father's faithfulness and blessings during our 46th Anniversary Service. We had Pastor Michael Wong, our Founding Pastor, share the word. And, in his usual booming voice, he reminded us what it means to be One Body and to love as such.

May TPMC continue to live out our call as God's Family. And may that lead others, who do not yet know Jesus, to join His family. ₽



FAMILY NEWS FAMILY NEWS

## Newlyweds



Terence Lee ♥ Claire Lim 3 September 2016

### **Newborns**



12 April 2016

Parents:
Myren Mak
& Ruth Woo

Ezra Mak



Tyler Teoh - 31 May 2016
Parents: Shaun Teoh & Michelle Cher

## Evangelism Made Simple



The session, held on 10 July 2016, covered a new perspective to evangelism. The speaker, Mr Wallis Sultan, presented a toolbox of conversation starters, with practical examples that have been tested and proven to be effective and simple for all to use during gospel sharing.



#### **New Assistant Pastor**



e welcome Pastor Eddie Ho, who has been appointed to Toa Payoh Methodist Church with effect from 1 August 2016. Find out more about him on page 4!

## New Pastoral Team Member



We also welcome Ms Jane Gan as part of the Pastoral Team! Jane begins a new season of her life and ministry at Toa Payoh Methodist Church in the area of Discipleship & Nurture. Before joining us, Jane served in the youth ministry and in the marketplace.

## **Seniors Ministry**

By Adrian Lum





















Our seniors are active participants in the Seniors Ministry and we enjoy ourselves tremendously. There is much fun and laughter each time we meet.

Weekly meetings are held on Thursdays 2-4pm for games and Bible Study. On Seniors' Sunday every quarter, there are health talks by specialists.

Our activities are organised at two levels: Under the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) Glowing Years Ministry (GYM), and at our local church level under Toa Payoh Methodist Church.

Outings we have participated in:

- 1. Annual GYM Thanksgiving Dinner
- 2. Chinese New Year Shopping
- 3. GYM Dedication Service & Outing to Punggol for seafood dinner
- 4. Overnight Stay at Melaka
- 5. Picnic at East Coast

Look out for more activities and join us!



## Youth Leaders' Retreat

By Isaiah Tee

The Youth Leaders' Retreat took place over two sessions (24 June and 5-6 July 2016). It was an enriching yet restful time for our leaders. We conducted a workshop for our Secondary One and Three youths on Christian fundamentals, and also planned for future Youth Fusion (YF) events like the YF Ministry Fair.

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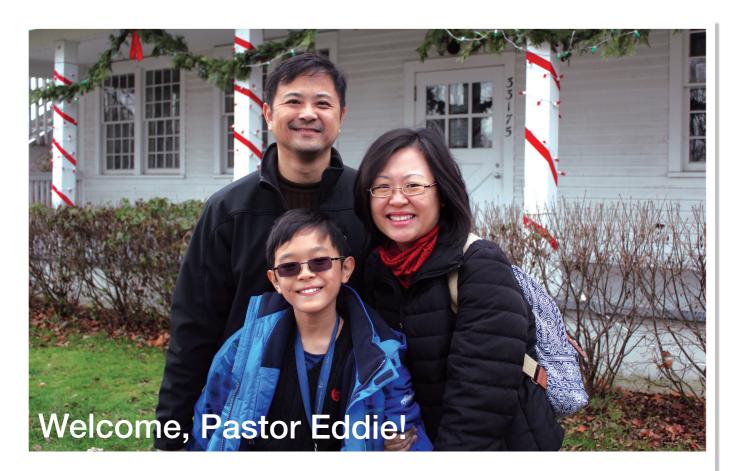
FAMILY NEWS MISSIONS

#### Farewell, Pastor Joshua!



t is a great privilege to have served the people in Toa Payoh during the last two and a half years of my pastoral appointment in Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC). Many of whom I met and knew in church were from humble family backgrounds and had been living in Toa Payoh even before the church was built in the early 70s. It is heartening to know that some still come back to TPMC for worship and fellowship even though they have already moved to other estates to live. Indeed, TPMC is where they call 'home', no matter how far away they stay.

Encounter to love begins at home. More importantly, it is experienced in God's family. The love and warmth of the people reflect the state of the church and many chose to stay in TPMC because they encountered God's love through the Body of Christ. May God continue to bring more people who are living in Toa Payoh and from all walks of life to TPMC. It is my prayer that through TPMC, people are drawn closer to God through the love shared by His people. ₽



astor Eddie became a believer at a very young age, "the good deposit entrusted" to us (2 Timothy 1:13,14). in Christ Jesus" and "by the Holy Spirit," he prays to be a is married to Elaine and has a 11-year-old son Nathan. 1 good steward in proclaiming the good news and guarding

but he admits he has never fully appreciated the glory Pastor Eddie had been working in the marketplace for of God until God opened his eyes to the sweet truth of His almost 20 years before responding to the call to full-time Word in his early thirties. God placed a burden in his heart ministry. He recently graduated from TTC. He says the three for the ministry of teaching. He took the charge to "follow years there was like an extended church camp with theme the pattern of sound words" very seriously and enrolled at talks, workshops and worship. In his free time, he enjoys Trinity Theological College (TTC) in 2013. "In faith and love a good read, a good swim, or a good nap. Pastor Eddie

#### **Manado Missions Trip** 22-27 June 2016

By Eunice Tan



We met people

A team of nine from Toa Payoh Methodist Church, led by Rev Reuben Ng (Pastor-in-charge), were in Manado, Indonesia to minister at various churches and meetings. We joined in their worship and fellowship, and we also preached and prayed for them. As we sought to bless others, we found that we ourselves were blessed.



We did many things









We blessed others

And we were blessed in return







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REFLECTIONS

## Congratulations!















n 2014, I was encouraged by my cell-group leader, Irene, to bring my husband (who was not a Christian) to participate in Alpha. Looking back, I am glad that we attended the course. It has indeed been a blessing.

At Alpha, we are introduced to the fundamentals of Christianity that we need to comprehend in order to be steadfast in faith and to hold on to the truth we believe. Through the interaction and sharing, participants have a better and deeper understanding of the Christian faith. I agree that Alpha is a good platform for witness and evangelism. So in 2015 and 2016, I volunteered as a co-facilitator to share my personal experiences in my journey with Him. It is a great joy whenever we have participants who became Christians at Alpha.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). It is amazing!

All praise, honour, glory, and power belong to God, our Heavenly Father! †



#### What is Alpha?

Each year, usually between April to July, Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) conducts Alpha, a series of 10 interactive sessions (3 hours on Saturday afternoons), to discuss the Christian faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment.

Alpha is a course suitable for those interested to find out more about Christianity, new Christians, and those who want to be reminded and equipped on basics of the teachings and revelation of Jesus Christ.

Topics covered:

Is There More To Life Than This?
Who is Jesus?

Why Did Jesus Die?

How Can We Have Faith?

Why and How Do I Pray?

Why and How Should I Read the Bible?

How Does God Guide Us?

#### Who is the Holy Spirit?

What Does the Holy Spirit Do? How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit? How Can I Resist Evil?

#### What About the Church?

In each of the 10 sessions, a video by Nicky Gumbel on the above-mentioned topics is shown. The presentations are interesting, easy to understand, and occasionally humorous. After each video, there will be a discussion in a small group during which everyone is encouraged to ask questions, delve into different issues, find out what others think, and share our respective views on the topic presented. Ask anything! Alpha is a great opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

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# Channa Mary's Singapore & Church Camp Experience

ello, my name is Channa Mary. First of all, I really want to say thanks to Auntie Ruth and her family for sponsoring this great new experience for me. I also give thanks that Uncle Timothy and Auntie Ruth even took leave from work to bring me around, and Rachel too. They really took care of me. I am so blessed.

During the trip, I experienced so many "firsts". It was the first time that I had been out of the country, it was the first time that I had taken an aeroplane, it was the first time for me in Singapore, and it was my first time in Malaysia too. Oh, and I remember the first time that I had to take the lift alone too; it was scary and funny because I didn't know how to take the lift when I came out of the hotel room alone in Malaysia. It was me alone up there because I had not been feeling well, so when it was time for me to go down, I prayed, "Oh God, I don't know how to take the lift, so please, when I get there, I hope to have people taking the lift at the same time too". But when I reached the lift, no-one was there, so oh! I had to take it alone. I felt scared: what if I got stuck in the lift? But I really thank God that I got out at the right place.

When I was in Singapore, I really enjoyed taking the train. It was the first time in my life taking the train. Even though I was not feeling well all the time, I really enjoyed it.

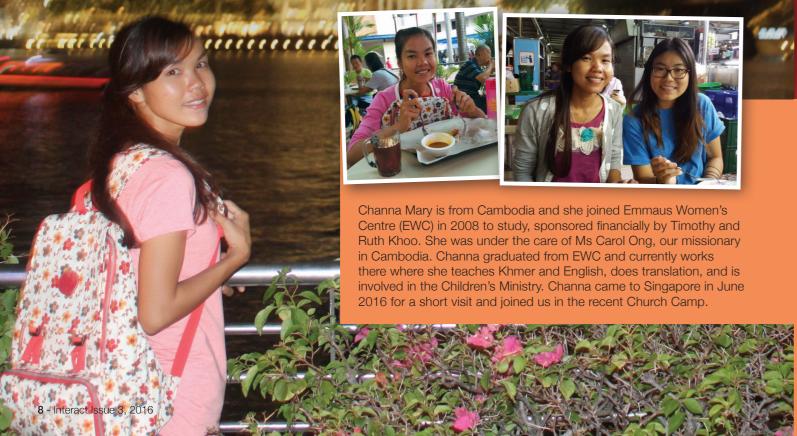
I really thank the church that allowed me to join in the camp. I learnt a lot from the camp too. I really like and still remember two things that the pastors said. One was that sometimes we need to stay with the Lord (soaking). I like to set aside time and just be with Him. He is the one that

gives me strength and hope to move on. He likes it and we need it. The other thing I remember is about finishing well. Sometimes, to carry on in what God wants us to do is difficult but we need to continue because the Father is waiting for us in front!! Amen!!

At the camp, I was the only Cambodian, but I thank God for the friends that I have made. Thanks to Pastor Reuben and Brother Daniel who invited me for lunch, and made me eat raw fish for the first time. Haha! Thanks to Sister Cheryl and Sister Audrey too for spending time with me at dinner and ordering the beef that I like. Sorry I couldn't finish it because I was not feeling well, but I had a good time with you two, thank you.

Everything was new to me, so I really had a lot of new experiences, and I really thank God that Mother Ong (Carol Ong) chose to do a very great thing for me. She changed her flight because of me, haha. I got into some difficulty at the airport and that was also an experience for me. So to me, all these are really really good experiences. I discovered new things and learnt new things. I really thank everyone for being a part of my life and helping me to take the first step to experience and grow. I thank God that even though I was not feeling well all the time, from the day that I went to Singapore until the day that I came back to Cambodia, I felt comforted because of all of God's blessings and all the people that I met. Amen. Thank you and God bless you all!!

Love, peace and joy. +





While the church's biennial camp is always a regular fixture in the church's calendar, no two camps are the same. God leads and moves the church through various seasons, and it is the committee's belief that church camp is an important avenue for the congregation to re-focus and align to His purpose for us. In line with the church's vision to Encounter to Love, our camp in Johor Bahru in June 2016 was centered on being Closer, both to God and one another.

We were very blessed to have not one, but two anointed speakers with us. Rev Edmund Chan and Rev Edmund de Souza both shared their thoughts and expounded on what it meant to be Closer. Many were touched and ministered in both physical and spiritual ways. We were also very thankful for our 'in-house speakers' who helmed the different breakout sessions, a new segment tailored to help campers think about specific ways to put the various biblical lessons into

Having spent a couple of days together, it was very heartwarming to see campers making new friends and strengthening existing relationships with each other. Of course, apart from the family games (remember the shake off competition?!), I'm sure many had fun bonding over noodles at the little coffee shop opposite the hotel, as well as durians outside the mall. Speaking of fun, I'm sure many of us still fondly recall the three themed nights that we had, which revealed the creative, humorous and sporting sides of many in our midst.

Each camp ends on a high, and it is always important (in my opinion at least) to try and keep a portion of that experience and fervour present in our everyday lives. It is our wish for each and every camper to continue to draw closer to Him and to build on the friendships forged this camp as we return to our daily routines.

Looking forward to the next camp in 2018! 🕆



t was our very first mountaintop experience with TPMC for our inaugural church camp as a couple. It was a fun and wonderful experience, one that helped us grow spiritually, filled with God's blessings and grace. It allowed us to get closer to God, and to know our brothers and sisters in Christ better. We made a lot of new friends, learnt a lot from the two pastors who spoke, gained practical tips from the morning devotion, and absolutely loved the worship session!

We can't wait for the next church camp. God Bless!

- Eng Khoon & Lee Wen

had heard lots of sermons on miracles and His power always sounded so awesome. However, deep down in me, I knew that one part of me didn't believe in miracles because I had yet to witness one. During this camp, in the six back-to-back services, I heard God speaking the same sentence to me over and over again: 'In order to BELIEVE in miracles, I needed to strengthen my FAITH'. I give praise and thanksgiving to every church camp committee member for organising such a powerful camp (while having to juggle work and daily life). I am thankful that I was able to learn to walk CLOSER with God during and after the camp.

- Loh Sue Lyn

Coming into this church camp, I was more apprehensive than usual as I wasn't confident that I could fulfill the job of the camp commandant well. Just before the camp, I committed myself to God and asked Him to use me in this camp, since He had given me this opportunity. In the end, the camp surpassed all my expectations. I give God all the glory for the great experience and thank Him for allowing me to be a part of this special camp.

- Sandra Lye

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BOYS' BRIGADE GIRLS' BRIGADE

## Boys' Brigade 10th Company Annual Camp

By Choo Ming Liang



The BB 10th Company held its
Annual Camp at BB headquarters from 3 to 6 June 2016. This year we included something new that many of the boys had never tried before: an air rifle range shoot. The Secondary Three boys were also given the opportunity to lead and run the camp with the guidance of the officers. This 4-day 3-night adventure, based on learning life skills and Christian values, allowed the boys to step out of their comfort zones and to try things they usually would not. It was a great camp enjoyed by all. 4



## **Blessing Others**

By Elsie Goh

Our GB girls were taught the service attitude "A Caring Member" to the community. On 1 April 2016, they had the opportunity to apply what they had learnt when we visited United Medicare Centre (UMC), a nursing home near the school.

Prior to the visit, the girls had packed toothbrushes, toothpaste and items contributed by Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC towels and fans) into TPMC tote bags as goody bags for the elderly residents.

At UMC, our girls presented a splendid flag-twirling dance performance and played bingo with the residents at the multiple-purpose hall. This was followed by a craftwork session, where

each girl was paired with a resident to create a work of art using icecream sticks, markers and sequins. This provided the opportunity for close interaction with the elderly, who really relished the chance to chat and engage in arts and craft. Our girls then distributed the goody bags personally to residents. The residents were happy to receive the goody bags and had a meaningful afternoon with our girls.

This community service activity left a deep impression on the girls. They had learnt to be patient and giving, especially towards residents with special needs. Many girls shared that they hoped to be able to return to bless the residents again. 🕆





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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Outing to KidZania

The Children's Ministry organised an outing to KidZania in June. This outing provided an opportunity for the children from Beacon Ministry (children who come for our study groups on Saturday) to interact with the children from Joy Kids (children who come for our children's programme on Sunday). Though the waiting time was super long, the kids enjoyed themselves thoroughly, participating in the activities and experiencing what it feels like to be in different occupations through realistic role-play.

























The Joy Kids organised a Mother's Day event in May. The purpose of the event was to encourage worshippers to express love and appreciation to our mothers.









## Kindergarten Camp

The Kindergarten Camp was held in May. The theme of the camp was 'Overcoming in Christ'. Using the life of David, values such as kindness, faith and courage were taught to the children and the lessons were reinforced with fun and interactive games and craft work.



## **Class Bonding Activities**

Our Church's Kindergarten organised a day of bonding activities for the students in April. The purpose of the event was to encourage bonding among the children and to foster friendships. The younger children (Nursery and Kindies) had a class party, while the older children (Primary) were brought to HDB Hub for breakfast/brunch.





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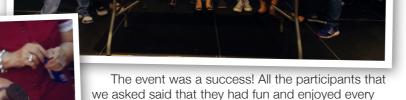
FILIPINO MINISTRY GARDENING MINISTRY



With great anticipation and excitement, we held our FM Family Games Day on Sunday, 14 August 2016 at 1.30pm. Five teams with six members each gathered for three hours of classic team games that turned out to be one of the best outreach events we have ever had.

Five games were played: Act the Message, Charade, Mission Impossi-BALLS, Eat the OREO and Serve it Fast Relay. Teams did their best to earn as many points as they could in each game until the final championship round, which was the

Serve it Fast Relay. Each member of a team had to participate equally and actively for a better chance of their team getting into the top three. Cash vouchers and medals were given to the winners.



minute of it. To God be the glory!

FILIPINO MINISTRY

Similar to past outreach events (e.g. Pinoy Olympics), the purpose of this event was to reconnect with each other in an environment of fun and camaraderie. Our ministry's utmost desire is to constantly strengthen relationships with anyone who chooses to be part of our family at Toa Payoh Methodist Church. &





The Gardening Ministry at Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) serves by providing a place for individuals who enjoy urban gardening. We believe that gardening is both a physically and spiritually beneficial activity that fosters a healthy connection to the land and cultivates within us a respect for God's creation. At our weekly Saturday morning gatherings, we cultivate the church garden, exchange urban gardening techniques, organize gardening courses, and encourage each other's walk with Christ. By God's grace, the TPMC and Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church gardens have been presented awards and our latest is the Gold in Community In Bloom Awards 2016. Praise be to God! So if you

enjoy gardening come join us! We would love to have you be a part of our Gardening Ministry.

#### Who can join?

Gardening is for everybody, men and women, young and old.
As long as you do not mind the dirt and some sunlight, come join us! It is a great way to exercise and an healthy way to escape from a hectic week at the office.

#### What sort of activities will I be doing?

We cultivate the church garden. This includes planting, weeding, tilling, harvesting, and other work necessary to maintain the garden.

#### When does the Gardening Ministry meet?

We meet every Saturday from 9.30am to 11.30am, unless otherwise announced or when it rains.

#### How do I sign up?

Email the church office at info@tpmc.org.sg. ₽



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## What's Your Favourite Hymn?

The Dentist's Hymn:
Crown Him With Many Crowns

The Weatherman's Hymn:

There Shall Be Showers Of Blessings

The Contractor's Hymn:
The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn:
There Is A Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn: Standing On The Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn:

Open My Eyes That I Might See

The Taxman's Hymn:

I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn:
Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn: Send The Light

The Shopper's Hymn: Sweet By And By

The Realtor's Hymn:

Mansion Over The Hilltop

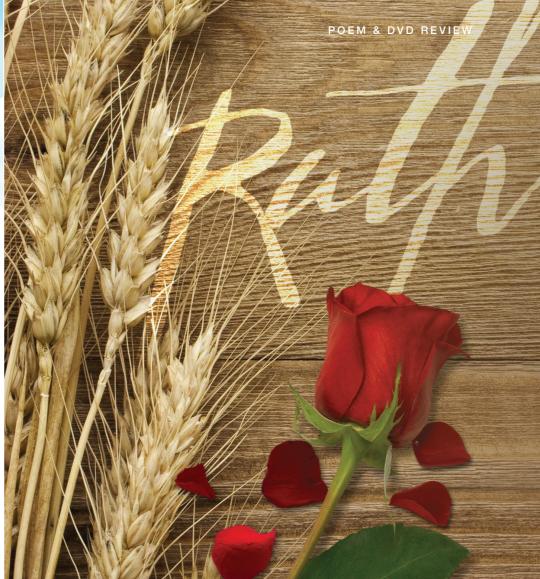
The Massage Therapist's Hymn: **He Touched Me** 

The Doctor's Hymn:
The Great Physician

#### ...AND for those who speed on the highway...

90 km/h: God Will Take Care Of You 100 km/h: Nearer My God To Thee 125 km/h: This World Is Not My Home 150 km/h: Lord, I'm Coming Home 180 km/h: Precious Memories





I became a wife
I became a widow
I'd make a new life
With Naomi I'd go

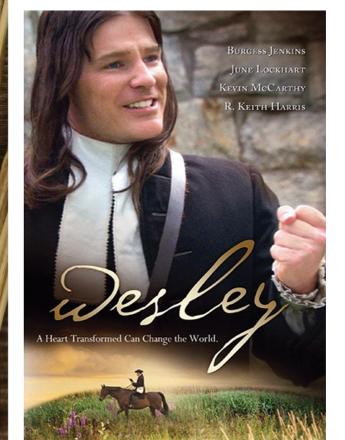
A Moabite and a Jew
To Bethlehem we went
To start our lives anew
To live out God's intent

The God of my husband Had now become mine The God of my husband Is truly divine

Who could have known The son He would bring The seed He had sown In the line to the King

God has His ways
That we'll never know
Just trust Him always
Believe and follow

By Shirin Wun



## Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World

By Deanne Aathar

Running Time: 117 minutes Production Year: 2010 Producer: Foundery Pictures

This movie, based on John and Charles Wesley's private journals, plays out the spiritual struggles of John Wesley. John Wesley, well known as the founder of Methodism, and Charles Wesley, a prolific and beloved hymn writer, together transformed England with revolutionary ministries to the poor and downtrodden, and created a movement for the eventual abolishment of slavery.

The movie covers John Wesley's struggles with his own doubts and insecurities; he worked hard to earn salvation, but could not find peace. It shows his heart-wrenching journey through tragic love, failure, and shame, a journey which finally brought him to a discovery of God's grace and mercy in a way that allowed him to change the face of England.

A good watch! ₽

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