

interact

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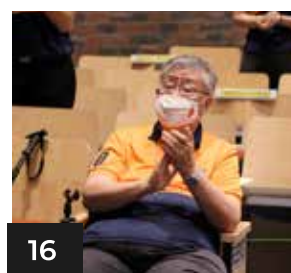
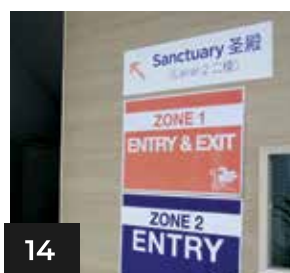
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In the blink of an eye, we find ourselves in December once again. With the pandemic, this year does certainly seem to have zipped by faster than previous ones. And soon, we welcome Christmas again.

Talking about “eyes”, I wonder how many pairs of eyes were looking out for the coming of the Messiah. The prophecies concerning Jesus were surely known to the Israelites. Micah 5:2 is one such prophecy:

*As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah,
from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf,
one whose origins are in the distant past.*

Yet there did not seem to be special attention given to Bethlehem or to children born in that town. For that matter, the population of Bethlehem during the birth of Jesus is believed to be below 1,000, with 300 being suggested. Looks like the town itself was not popular as a dwelling place ... despite the prophecy. And of course, for those familiar with the Christmas story, only the shepherds came to welcome Jesus the Messiah on the night that He was born. Going by all of that, it is probably safe to say that not many pairs of eyes were focused on the birth and coming of Jesus on that very first Christmas.

Perhaps that is understandable. The Israelites had many distractions during that time. For one, their land was under Roman occupation. Their king not being fully Jewish was another. On top of these, they had the usual complications that life brings. It was tough to keep their eyes trained on the coming of their Messiah when there were so many distractions.

I wonder ... what about us?

It will be Christmas soon. But we too have issues at hand, don't we? The pandemic. Scuttled holiday and travel plans. A seemingly declining economy. Distressing distractions are aplenty.

But perhaps, it is precisely in moments like these that we ought to keep “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ...” (Hebrews 12:2)

What say you?

Here's a Merry Christmas to all. Regardless of our situations, it is always Merry because we have Christ.



Rev Reuben Ng
Pastor-in-Charge



REV REUBEN NG

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU

Rev Reuben Ng worshipped in Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) from his childhood years before God called him into the pastoral ministry. After a pastoral appointment to Paya Lebar Methodist Church, he was appointed to TPMC as a pastor in August 2012, and then Pastor-in-Charge (PIC) from 2014 to date. On 26 November 2020, at the close of the 45th session of the Trinity Annual Conference, he was appointed as a District Superintendent, and also posted to be the PIC of Faith Methodist Church (FMC). His ministry in TPMC has left such impressions:

We will miss your leadership – how you, in your kind ways, bring out the best in the people who work alongside you to serve God, serve the church, and make TPMC our home; how you, in your unique way of preaching and interpretation of the Word, bring about fresh insights and wisdom through the pulpit, making the Word alive, penetrating, and warm all at once; how you, in your generosity, are always willing to make time for those who need your counsel, your consideration, and your pastoral care.

We will also miss your fellowship – how you, in your casual ways, weave in gentle humour and mischief into conversations; how you, in your disarming charm, nudge us along when we are not in our best moment, and keep things on an even keel; how you, with the shared history of friendship that goes way back for many of us in TPMC since the days of our youth, stay humble and affable.

Thank you, Pastor Reuben. May the Lord make His face shine upon you in your new season at FMC. (Numbers 6:25)

**Dr Gabriel Ong, Chairman,
Local Church Executive Committee**



Pastor Reuben came to TPMC at a time when we had been through an unusual period in our history, and what a breath of fresh air it was! His sermons just connected with us, and the Word of God came alive and inspired us. His arrival signalled a new chapter for TPMC, and we were ready to move forward.

Pastor Reuben was always accommodating yet persuasive and quietly decisive, never arm-twisting, threatening or in any way negative. I think a lot of us serving in the church leadership have been persuaded through our personal relationships with him. He motivated us through his own example of always putting the church first.

We will miss him a lot, his leadership has been a very important chapter for TPMC... I can think of no better mental picture of Pastor Reuben being the humble servant obediently and lovingly carrying out his duty to God to lead us at TPMC.

As he begins his new journey at FMC, we wish him all the best and we just know that the congregation there will be richly blessed just as we have been.

**Mr Johnson Lee, Chairman,
Pastor-Parish Relations and Staff Committee**



Thank you for all your heart and hard work all these years at TPMC. Your ministry here has helped us to gather as a people who have encountered God and now eager and committed to love others. While we know we are all part of the bigger Methodist family and our paths will cross in time, your close partnership in ministry at TPMC will be dearly missed. We pray for God's continued guidance as He leads and equip you abundantly in your next local church appointment and higher calling to serve Him in larger capacities.

**Mr Kenneth Yeo,
Lay Leader**

I had one of the best times serving the Lord together with you in TPMC during your leadership here. Thank you for making serving fun! When you first returned to TPMC as a PIC, I remembered wondering "how is this TPMC 'boy' going to lead everyone?". With God's anointing, you led the church to greater heights. You will definitely be missed in TPMC. I am going to miss the walk-past-my-right-and-tap-left-shoulder move from you. I am sure FMC will love you and grow under your leadership.

**Mrs Roslyn Sim,
Associate Lay Leader**

STAY
SAFE!

MISS YOUR
TEACHINGS!

THANK
YOU!



ENCOUNTER
TO LOVE!

GOD
BLESS!

I always look forward to your sermons... They are always very clear, well researched, full of biblical insights and practical. Your sermons were never boring or dull but clear with great illustrations as well practical steps to follow.

In LCEC meetings, you respect everyone's opinion such that everyone is eager to contribute to advance God's Kingdom. There is a great harmony between pastors, leaders and the congregation. This unity together with your great sermons are the reasons for our church's growth.

Your strong leadership in the office is very evident with no staff turnover as you are a fair and great boss who looks after the interests of your staff.

While I am going to miss your sermons and leadership greatly, I wish you all the best and may God continue to use you mightily for His Kingdom. May God bless you and your family.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR STAY WITH TPMC.

**Mr Francis Cheang,
Associate Lay Leader**

This is not a goodbye, but a thank you. Thank you for being part of TPMC, and for leading and shepherding us all these years. You have inspired us through your sermons, and we are always amazed how you can preach without notes. We are grateful for all the care and concern you have showed us. This is not a goodbye, but a way of saying that we will see you soon, just like the words from the song "Friends" goes:

*"Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends"*

**Mr Winston Wong,
Associate Lay Leader**

The unity and bond that the TPMC staff team shares are really to your credit. We thank you for the time and effort that you have taken to nurture and journey with each team member, and also to invest in building bonds through fun and fellowship. It is the fun times that have helped to pull us together in times when we need to dig deep and work through seemingly impossible challenges. On behalf of the team, a big thank you, Pastor Reuben, and may God bless you as you continue to fulfil His purpose and calling.

**Ms Dinah Ng,
Operations Manager**

(The Tan family, Israel Trip, 2015)

My family had the privilege of visiting Israel led by Pastor Reuben 5 years ago. He is a godly man who dwells deeply into the word of God. At every important site, he never failed to enlighten us with his sharing, highlighting the important significant events and relevance. Even our Jewish tour guide mentioned that he enjoyed listening to Pastor Reuben's devotion sharing and was inspired.

Mr Tan Chit Tee

We were at Mt. Carmel. I observed something of the scene and how it related to an event in the Bible, and Pastor Reuben said that I made a good observation.

Mr Daniel Tan

Pastor Reuben's posting to us as a pastor in 2012 and then Pastor-in-Charge from 2014 was such a proud moment for us as a congregation. He has this gift of teaching which helped me grasp the Word of God better. I have gained and learnt much from many of his sermons.

Mrs Tan Li Hwa

The Tan Family

Your return to TPMC brought with it a determined, dedicated, enthusiastic and better prepared pastor with a heart to lift up the members' spiritual life, helping them to develop a better understanding of who God is, and being encouraged to walk consistently close with and stay true to Him. TPMC had yearned for years to experience this change. With your emphasis on the Word, the church grew and it became a more united, harmonious church, where trust and confidence were rebuilt amidst the challenges that TPMC faced. God bless you in His new mission for you. Blessings.

Mr Andrew Tan

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thess 1:2-3

It has been fun, and a joy serving alongside you these past 3 years. Will definitely miss your jokes, but not your pranks. God's grace and strength as you move into a new season.

Rev Ming Feong Ching

Pastor Reuben, your ministry among us has been inspiring and humbling. Thank you for sowing into our lives for God's kingdom. We thank God for you and pray with you that you will always be God's channel for "the Kingdom and will of Heaven to be upon earth" wherever He sends you.

CONGRATULATIONS REV ZHI-HUI & OUR NEW LOCAL PREACHERS



Congratulations to **Rev Poh Zhi-Hui** who was ordained as an Elder of the Methodist Church in Singapore.



Congratulations to **Ms Agnes Goh** and **Mr Angelito Mojico** who received their Local Preacher's licenses.



NEWBORNS



On **10 Sep 2020**, Keng Sing and Angeline were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, **Yung Naomi**.



On **2 Nov 2020**, Victor and Cheryl were blessed with the arrival of their second child, **Tan Matthew**.



On **4 Oct 2020**, Clemence and Beverly were blessed with the arrival of their second child, **Cheek Min Yi Deborah**.

NEWLYWEDS



Loh Sue Lyn & Lee Yong Ling
tied the knot on
16 Dec 2020



BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

16 AUGUST 2020



BAPTISM BY SPRINKLING

Goh Ling Wei Mille
Ng Phooi Yan
Ong Ai Ling
Tan Kian Hong Rayson
Tan Yong Swee Lance
Tay Puay San Emilyn
Wee Say Choon Cecilia



CONFIRMATION

Evan Choo Qi Jie



RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Chua Hwei Fang Evelyn
Elijah Choo Qihong
Josiah Foo Jie Herng
Lam Wee Soo Alan
Lee Wee Ting Shina
Low Soh Lin
Ong Ai Ling
Tan Pang Yeow Eddie
Tan Yong Swee Lance
Tay Yak Hong John
Timothy Lim Chee Peng
Wee Say Choon Cecilia



RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP (TRANSFER FROM NON-METHODIST CHURCH)

Edmund Choo Boon Chin
Keng Wei Li
Ngoh Eng Eng
Reginald Kuan Yong Meng
Tan Ai Leng



RECEPTION OF MEMBERSHIP (TRANSFER FROM METHODIST CHURCH)

Brian Teoh Swee Sin
Diana Chua Hong Ghee
Lee Shih Hsia Elina
Leow Zi Xiang Zac



MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

LANCE TAN YONG SWEE

Hello!

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I am a simple man with a complex mind, and have a beautiful wife and two lovely kids.

WHAT HOBBIES OR LEISURE ACTIVITIES DO YOU HAVE?

I enjoy cooking for the family, exploring nature and visiting other countries. I used to play badminton, table tennis, squash, golf and chess but nowadays, mopping the floor is my regular workout.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Well, this has to be the Word of God. It is gracefully sweet, peacefully warm, humbly sour, brokenly bitter, and disciplinarily spicy. And I also like quesadilla with guacamole.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS? WHO INVITED YOU TO TOA PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH (TPMC)?

Many years ago, I was browsing in a Christian bookstore ran by Bethesda Bedok Tampines Church and I met someone called David who shared the Gospel with me. That started my journey with Christ. After I moved from Simei to Toa Payoh, I got a hunch to join TPMC while exploring the vicinity. So here I am.



HOW HAS KNOWING JESUS CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

The application of biblical truth guided by the Holy Spirit constantly sets me free from mobile addiction, social media platforms and other indulgences.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"
(1 John 2:16)

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST?

There are 2 important days in our lives. First, the day we are born and second, the day we find out why. So, let us seek and ask the Creator of life why we are here.

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."
(2 Peter 1:10-11)

YF ASSEMBLE: THE COVID CHALLENGE

By Rachelle Sim

2020 started with many exciting plans for the youths at TPMC. However, our plans were quickly brought to a halt with the implementation of the nation-wide “Circuit Breaker.” But we rallied and adapted quickly to continue engaging our youths.

Thankfully, most of our youths were already adept at using Zoom due to its common use as a teaching platform in schools and we were able to move our activities online without much trouble. Here are some ways we continued to engage our youths in this season of disruption!



YOUTH FUSION (YF) ON ZOOM (EVERY SUNDAY)

On 19th April, approximately 2 weeks after the start of the circuit breaker, we had our very first YF on Zoom. We decided to continue with even though the main service was also being streamed online at 8.30am and 10.30am online as we wanted to retain this major touchpoint with our youths.

Moving online meant relooking certain aspects of YF and incorporating segments for the youths to continue interacting and serving despite being physically apart. Ideas included playing mini games like “I Spy” at the start of YF, or even getting the worship & music ministry and technical team to conduct worship online. It was really encouraging to see the youths “live” again after such a long time of being apart. While it has been over half a year since we started our online meetings, we are continually adapting our programme as we gain more experience and know-how, to better enable our youths to continue in their Christian growth through worship and fellowship.





STAYFIT TUESDAYS (EVERY TUESDAY)

We also quickly realised that the move online allowed us more room to try new initiatives and programmes which led to the creation of staYFit Tuesdays, our weekly Zoom exercise sessions. We even had the “strongest” lady in church, Kristal Chan, pop by to give us a personal coaching session! While the sessions always ended with our youths in a pool of sweat, they had a blast working out together, encouraging and commiserating with each other. After all, friends who sweat together stay together! Even though we eventually stopped this programme as our school schedules picked up, it was a good time for all of us to fellowship in a way that we previously were not able to!



WORD ENCOUNTER (EVERY WEDNESDAY)

YF is not just about having fun together, but also about growing together spiritually. Hence, YF Word Encounter was started to help youths continue building their relationship with God and learn more about His Word. After all, there might not be any better opportunity to seek God than during this downtime. Sessions were conducted every Wednesday evening from 8pm to 9.30pm. From April to July, our youth church staff, Jonathan Choy, and the Youth EXCO covered three New Testament books (Philemon, Titus and Philippians) as well as basic Christian doctrines.

We not only learned about Scripture and our faith during the sessions, but also shared and discussed how we could apply what we learnt in our daily lives. There was even a Bible quiz during the last session on the book of Titus and the top two winners won a free meal delivered to their doorstep! Attendance was consistent and these sessions were very well-received by the youths.



CALL CHAIN

We also organized our very own call chain within Connect Groups (CGs) to encourage the youths to connect with one another. CG leaders would call one to two youths in their CGs, who would then call others in their CGs to catch up with and pray for them. It was a way to teach our youths that caring involves the human touch. One of our youths called a CG mate whom she never spoke to previously and ended up having a one-hour conversation and discovering that they had many similarities!

As for me, I personally liked the call chain as it allowed me to speak to and connect with people in my CG whom I have not seen in a while! Moreover, this activity allowed us to speak to people who had not been coming for physical CG / YF sessions! Following the call chain, more of my CG mates turned up for CG. So that is definitely a plus!!



YOUTH CAMP

The highlight of our YF calendar is the annual youth camp. It is a time where the youths deepen their relationship with God and fellowship with those outside their usual social circles. The theme of our camp this year is GET OUT as we aim for the youths to get out of their comfort zones and share about Jesus with those around them. By the grace of God, we hope that the youths will be able to gather as one ministry for the camp. We also trust God to work powerfully in and through the lives of every youth who attends it.



All in all, YF has managed to overcome the limitations that COVID19 brought about. We may be physically apart, but our faith unites and carries us on. We have learnt the importance of the Christian community, and found ways to meet virtually so that our faith does not wane from a lack of physical gatherings. That said, all of us are looking forward to the day that we can return to the physical church premises, congregate and worship God together as a youth community!

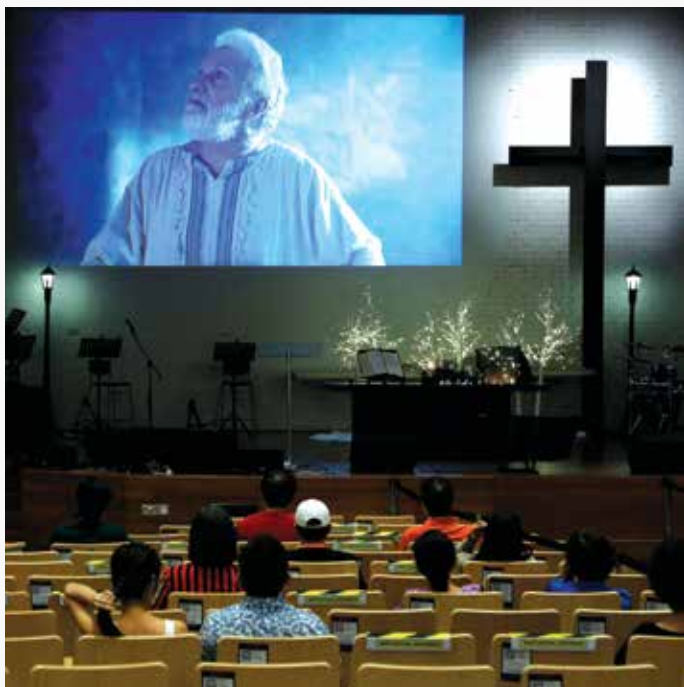


RETURN TO IN-PERSON SERVICES

By Jerome Sim

In-person worship services limited to 50 worshippers resumed at Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) on 19 July 2020. The number of worshippers at each service was increased to 100 on 20 September 2020 as the local COVID-19 situation remained under control. Two in-person services are conducted at 8am and 11am every Sunday, while online services remain at the original timings of 8.30am and 10.30am. The change in timing for in-person services is required to segregate the worshippers in TPMC from those in our sister church – Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church, as the national advisories for religious organisations limit the number of worshippers present in our shared premises.

The pastors and staff had been looking forward to and planning for the resumption of in-person services. Processes to ensure safe distancing and hygiene were documented in our Safe Management Plans which had to be approved by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), before in-person services could resume. One of our main concerns was to ensure that the permitted number of worshippers was not exceeded. To do so, we employed the “Events” function in the Church Center App to facilitate the reservation of seats. This function also greatly helped us in managing the increase in number of worshippers in September 2020. Going forward, we will continue to work closely with the authorities to comply with the requirements for in-person services.



Sermons are preached “live” during in-person services. The sacrament of Holy Communion is also conducted, but with strict procedures to ensure hygiene. Although full congregational worship is currently still not allowed by the authorities, they have informed us that if the COVID-19 situation remains stable and under control, “live” musical worship with a choir or band (under specified safe distancing measures) can return as a first step, while restrictions on congregational singing will be reviewed.

The pastors and staff have been greatly encouraged by those who have returned to attend in-person services since its resumption. Many worshippers had been looking forward to the day when they could return to the sanctuary as well. The warm greetings at the registration point, joy of seeing one another physically and brief catching up underlined the community and connectedness within the TPMC family. Although they could not connect in the church premises after the service, many worshippers continued their fellowship in small groups over breakfast at the HDB Hub and nearby eateries.

So, have you joined us for the in-person services yet? You can register for the services using the Church Center App. Registration opens every Wednesday at 9am. See you in church soon! (Please remember to download the TraceTogether (TT) App or bring your TT token when attending in-person services).



TOA PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

By Alan Goh



Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) celebrated her 50th anniversary on 16 August 2020. At the start of the year, many had looked forward to a service to honour God's faithfulness over the years. However, the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic that spread to Singapore in January 2020 meant that plans for the service had to be adapted and most of us could only commemorate at home. Nonetheless, as the local COVID-19 situation came under control and in-person services with a limited number of worshippers resumed in July 2020, some of us could gather in our church's sanctuary for this momentous occasion.

Before the service started, pastor-in-charge Reverend (Rev) Reuben Ng shared a short message that God's faithfulness would carry us through these uncertain times as He who began the good work in us would carry it on to completion (Philippians 1:6). The service commenced with the sounding of a ram horn's (jubilee), similar to God's command to the Israelites (Leviticus 25:8-10). The worship team, decked in the orange and blue 50th anniversary polo shirt, then led in the praise and worship of God.



The next segment of the service began with an explanation of the word “Jubilee” and its significance as a reminder of God’s forgiveness and redemption of His people. This was followed by a short video clip where founding pastor Reverend Michael Wong shared that TPMC exists as an expression of God’s love for the community. Members who have been with TPMC since the 80s, 90s and the turn of the millennium also shared their favourite memories of and places in (and around) TPMC, and how God had impacted them. There was also a recollection of how COVID-19 has affected Singapore. Amid this uncertainty, it is important to remain hopeful, with snippets from the recordings of online services providing light-hearted moments.



The President of the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) Rev Dr Gordon Wong (now Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore) was the guest speaker for the anniversary service. In his message, Rev Dr Wong reminded us that God speaks to all of us, not only those who have been blessed but also those who are barren, bereaved, or betrayed. He urged us then to enlarge our tents, despite our circumstances, by showing God’s love not only to those within the church, but also to those outside, so that more people may be blessed.



The last item of the anniversary service was a video montage comprising photographs from various events that make up TPMC’s history, including the ground-breaking ceremony for the church premises, baptism & confirmation, anniversary and Christmas services, church camps, kindergarten classes, and the Boys’ and Girls’ Brigades enrolment. Accompanying the video montage was our first-ever virtual choir comprising members of our Jubilate Choir and other members of the church. They sang Twila Paris’ song “How Beautiful” to praise God and help us reaffirm that our church is to continue in Christ’s ministry as His body where ever we are.

Rev Reuben Ng then fittingly concluded the anniversary service by reminding us that we have a beautiful redeemer in Christ. We are thereby called to represent His beauty to the world, with the knowledge, assurance, and boldness that God can do much more than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21).





ALPHA GOES ONLINE

By Valarie Yap

The Alpha course (“Alpha”) provides a free and life-changing experience where believers and pre-believers can find a safe space to discuss, learn or revisit the basics of Christianity. Held over 12 weeks, one can forming lasting and transformative relationships — with others and with God. Past editions of Alpha, prior to the COVID-19 situation, were held physically, where a significant activity was the intimate act of eating and fellowshiping together in person. It was a chance to relax, bond over a meal, and form enduring friendships.

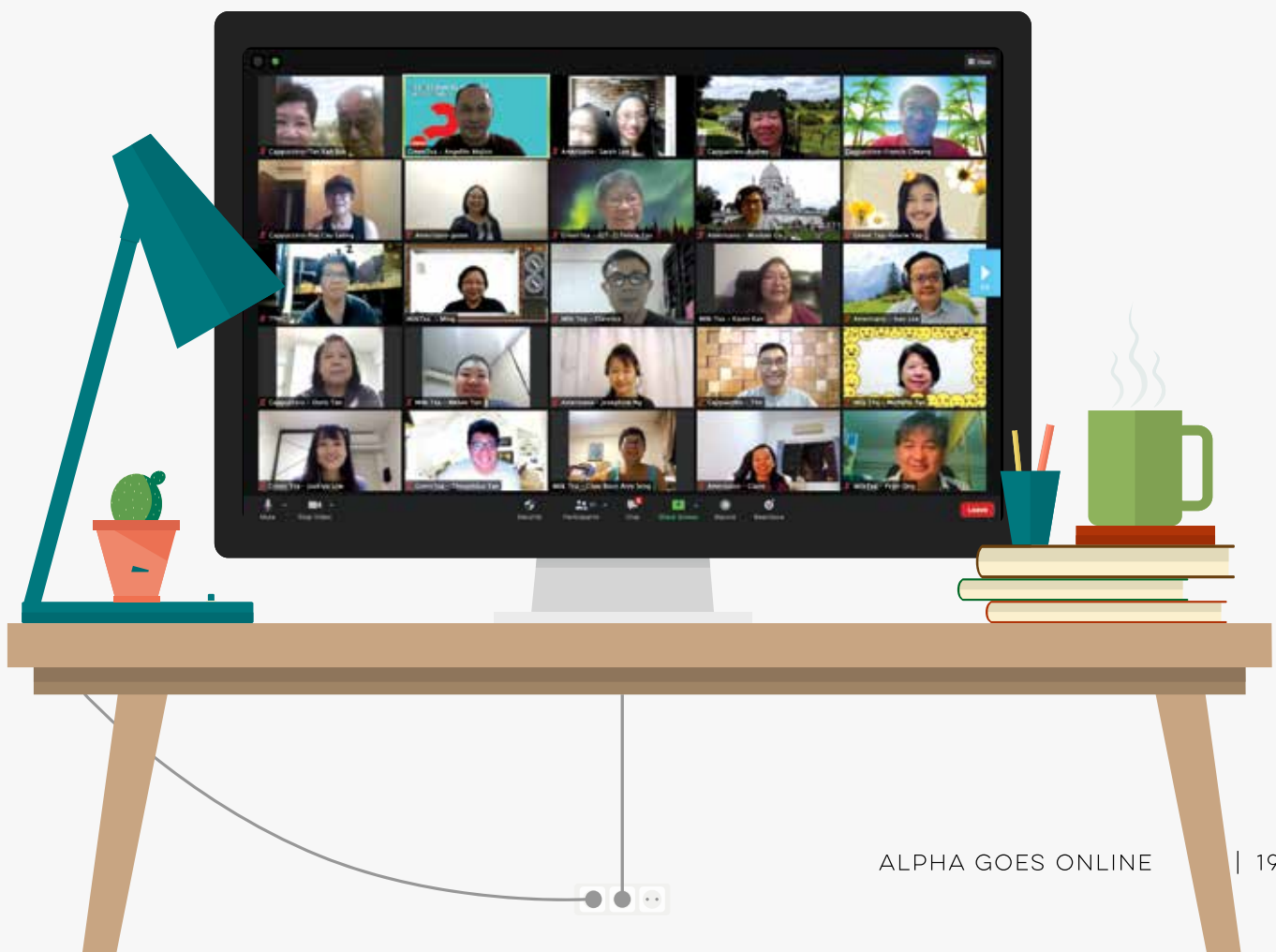
Though COVID may have taken that away, the Alpha team has not been deterred from replicating those connecting moments through other means in the inaugural Alpha Online. Toa Payoh Methodist Church’s (TPMC) Alpha team has lovingly come up with creative alternatives, replacing the meals with a game of Angels and Mortals throughout the course: Participants (“mortals”) will receive thoughtful gifts and personalized postcards from their respective facilitators (“angels”) as they learn weekly about faith, life and God.

A unique benefit to Alpha Online is the ability to participate from one’s personal space. Attending Alpha sessions from the comfort and security of one’s home, participants may feel safer in their sharing and questions about faith. If they feel uncomfortable, they can withdraw by clicking on the accessible “Leave” button at the bottom of the Zoom screen. Despite this “emergency exit”, it became evident, as the weeks passed, that people were more prepared to open up in Alpha Online, as compared to past physical editions of Alpha.



Churches across different countries have testified how, against expectations, registration numbers have multiplied as the Alpha course went online. At TPMC, more than 20 guests signed up for Alpha Online. The resilience of the programme in spreading God's word to even more people is a sure testimony of God's grace. The Good News cannot be stopped, and His Word will not be hindered, rain or shine. May the Gospel be proclaimed to all nations, despite and because of these trying times.

As a first-time facilitator of Alpha and a fairly new believer, I was worried that my lack of wisdom and experience in the faith would be an issue. However, this did not turn out to be the case. The casual setting and mix of perspectives and experiences from both facilitators and participants contribute to valuable moments of sharing where everyone can learn and grow together in the faith.





FAITH WITH WORKS

- HELPING SENIORS GET CONNECTED

By Jay Fong

This has been a terrible and horrible year with lives being disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, we have been blessed enough to be able to ride out the pandemic at home. And with the help of technology, many of us have been able to stay connected with each other and participate in the worship services online.

However, not everyone has the means or know-how to stay connected during this confusing time. Some of the seniors in Toa Payoh Methodist Church did not have Internet access, did not download the apps, or did not know to use them. As a result, they were unable to hear the Word of God or experience the fellowship of the community of believers. This was not good. Hence, the Young Adults Ministry decided to be the salt that Jesus called us to be. We help the seniors to stay connected online by gifting and setting up tablets that were donated by our

overwhelmingly generous church members, and conducting training sessions in the use of the devices to connect using the Internet.

Several volunteers from the Young Adults Ministry made the trek down to our seniors' homes to show them how to use video conferencing and video streaming apps. This allowed the seniors to meet virtually with their Connect Groups and participate in worship services remotely. The seniors were grateful, not just for the gifts and training, but for the care and patience shown by the volunteers in taking them through the apps so that they can reach their friends and listen to the Word of God again.

I have been asked to add my personal thoughts, and here they are: When a Christian sees bad things, he/she should fix them. I thank God we have been blessed with many charitable partners to fix this bad thing.



HAVE A MEAL ON US

By Sarah Lim

Every year, Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) will organise a project to bless the community on our Church Anniversary. It was no different this year. But what was unique this time round is that we are in the midst of a pandemic and many in our community are affected by it. As the committee deliberated on the recipients of our blessing project, two groups came to our mind: Cleaners and owners of food and beverage (F&B) outlets. Since we gave a care pack to the cleaners earlier in March, we decided to bless the F&B owners, many whose businesses have been affected by COVID-19.

Having decided on the recipients, we invited the F&B owners of several coffee shops in Toa Payoh Central to join us for the "Have a Meal on Us" project. A total of 51 eateries/stalls agreed to partner us, and the project was rolled out on 16th August 2020, the Sunday when we commemorated our church anniversary. Each participating eatery received a token of blessing as well as a commitment of 50 free meals (fully paid

for by TPMC) for needy residents. More than 2,500 meals were fully redeemed within three weeks! The committee was heartened when a few eateries decided to contribute to the project by providing additional free meals on their own accord.

When we spoke to the eateries to obtain their feedback, many of the stall owners appreciated this opportunity to bless the community and encouraged the church to do it again. The owner of a Muslim eatery even told us that if we run the project again next year, he will chip in financially! "Have a Meal on Us" will return next year and our congregation will be invited to participate in this project with us. Do keep a look out for more details on how you can participate!

The committee is really glad that the project has encouraged kindness and love in the community. We are also thankful to God for the friendships established with the owners of eateries through this project. All glory be to God!

INSTALLATION & DEDICATION OF LCEC 2020/2021

The Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) for church year 2020/2021 was installed on 4th October 2020 (Sunday). Due to the COVID-19 situation, members of the LCEC could not present themselves before the congregation during the main services. Instead, they gathered in church on the previous day (Saturday), dressed in the bright orange and blue 50th anniversary polo shirt. Standing apart due to safe distancing but united in spirit, the members declared their determination to be faithful in the performance of their entrusted duties. The dedication ceremony was recorded, and the video incorporated as part of the onsite and online services.

Let us give our fullest support to our pastors and leaders as we work alongside one another in unity to further God's kingdom.



Pastor-in-Charge
Pastor
Assistant Pastor

Rev Reuben Ng¹
Rev Ming Feong Ching
Rev Poh Zhi-Hui

LCEC Chairperson
Recording Secretaries

Dr Gabriel Ong
Mr Jerome Sim
Mr Isaiah Tee
Mr Kenneth Yeo
Mr Francis Cheang
Mrs Roslyn Sim
Mr Winston Wong
Ms Susan Seah
Mr Walter Yeo

Lay Leader
Associate Lay Leaders

Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

AGE GROUP COORDINATORS

Children
Youth
Young Adults
Adults
Seniors

Ms Serene Er
Ms Rachel Khoo
Mr Jay Fong
Ms Karen Chan
Mr Adrian Lum



CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Church Archivist
Church Governance
Communications & Media
Finance
Hospitality
Property Management

Mr James Heng
Ms Grace Ng
Ms Kristal Chan
Mr Low Kay San
Mrs Roslyn Sim
Mr Peter Khoo

STEWARDS

Ms Denise Wong
(Finance)

Mr Joseph Tan
(Finance)

Mr William Ho
(Finance)

CHAIRPERSONS OF MINISTRIES

Connect Group
Children's Ministry
Discipleship & Nurture
Missions
Outreach & Social Concerns
Witness & Evangelism
Worship & Music
Youth Fusion

Mr Wayne Kok
Mr Tan Kee Heng
Ms Agnes Goh
Ms Betty Lim
Mr Panneer Selvam
Church Office
Mr Alan Tay
Ms Eunice Tan

¹ Rev Reuben Ng has been appointed as the Pastor-in-charge (PIC) of Faith Methodist Church with effect from 1 January 2021. Rev Benjamin Lee will be the PIC of Toa Payoh Methodist Church on the same date.



LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS PART 1

By Jonathan Choy



For this year's Light of Christmas, we gave out Christmas packs to the rental blocks in Toa Payoh and also to the PAP Community Foundation (PCF) and Church Kindergartens. Packs to the kindergartens were handed out earlier before the school holidays started so that the kids could enjoy the contents of the pack during the Christmas period. It was really a joy to see the smiles on the children's faces when they received the pack. We hope that even though we can't hold a carnival this year, residents in Toa Payoh would be blessed by the smiles and joy that will be brought to them by our church members as we distribute the packs.



A large, dynamic splash of water is captured in mid-air, creating a crown-like shape. The water droplets are illuminated by the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, which is visible as a bright glow on the left side of the frame. The background shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky's colors.

*A star
is coming!
Keep a look out!*

#Encountertolove #Onemore



**May you and yours experience
Christ's love & joy always!**

**24 Dec (Thu) Christmas Eve
With TPMC Ensemble**

7.30pm & 9.30pm
(In-person & Online Services)

**25 Dec (Fri) Christmas Day
Celebration**

8.00am & 11.00am (In-person Services)
8.30am & 10.30am (Online Services)

**31 Dec (Thu) Watchnight
Covenant Renewal**

11.00pm (In-person & Online Services)

Visit ***tpmc.org.sg*** for In-person Services registration
and Online Services