# INTERACT

MCI (P) 087/03/2024 | A Publication of TPMC

I Issue 1

Mar 2024

01 PASTOR'S **FOREWORD** 

14 ONE MORE NATION **TO LOVE 2023** 

16 MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

18 A SERVANT'S **TESTIMONY** 



### CONTENTS

#### ISSUE 01/2024



- **PASTOR'S FOREWORD** 01
- 03 **EDIFY**
- **EVANGELISE**
- **ENERGISE**
- 12 **EXTEND**

- **ONE MORE NATION TO LOVE 2023**
- MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS
- A SERVANT'S TESTIMONY
- **BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP** 20

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

Rev Benjamin Lee Rev Ming Feong Ching Rev Poh Zhi-Hui Melvyn Tan Frankie Chee Ellisha Lim

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Jerome Sim Agnes Goh Alan Goh Jonathan Choy May Garlitos Audrev Ona Pamela Pan Christopher Tsoi Rachel Chew Eunice Tan Jeremy Book Sarah Hoi

INTERACT is a publication by Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC). All views expressed in Interact are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Church, the Editorial Team or the Methodist Church in Singapore. An online copy is also available at tpmc.org.sg

### PASTOR'S FOREWORD

#### THANKSGIVING TO GOD

Dear Toa Payoh Methodist Church, shalom and blessed new year in the Lord who continues to Encounter us with His Love!

The year 2023 saw us completing the three years of our One More Campaign, beginning with One More (in our Spheres of Influence) in 2021, One More Neighbour to Love in 2022, and One More Nation to Love in 2023.

We have seen our church grow to bless, to love and to make a difference in One More, in the community around us (blocks 152, 153, 154, poor & needy families, hawkers and bus captains), and in the missions fields. All these have been possible only because God enabled and empowered

#### LOOKING BACK

With the focus of 2023 being One More Nation to Love, we went out on 28 missions trips with 211 church worshippers going forth to the various missions fields - including Batam, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Taiwan, Japan and Bhutan - to bless, to love and to make a difference in One More Nation.

In this regard, the highlight for many of us is, of course, Go Camp in June 2023. Almost 450 of us went to 35 different fields in Batam on a Saturday afternoon to bless others. In turn, we were also richly blessed, and returned with our hearts full and thankful.

This was the same experience of our trippers on the many other missions trips. Many have come back being blessed themselves, and we have teams who have already committed towards continuing going on missions in 2024. Thanks be to God.

A big thank-you also to the Missions Committee for working so hard, liaising with the missions fields and missionaries, and preparing and equipping the teams to go on missions!

Though the three years of the One More Campaign have come to an end, these acts of blessing, loving and making a difference in One More (in our Spheres of Influence, Neighbour and Nation) must continue as we continue to live out God's call for everyone of us to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. These 3 years have helped us to grow in knowing why and how we can do so, and now we must continue to live that out.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The focus of our church in 2024 is "Serve One Another". God has brought TPMC on a journey since 2018 to help us to grow in the various aspects of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in TPMC.

Beginning with growing in what it means to Love God in 2018 through the Encounter Journal, and then learning to Love One Another in 2019-2020 through Authentic Relationships. The years 2021-2023 saw God helping us to grow to Love One More. In 2024, we will grow to Love the Church as we learn to Serve One Another, as Christ loves and builds the church, we too, as His Body and disciples, ought to love and build the church by serving one another.

As a church, we can look forward to growing in this area of Serving One Another through the sermons preached at our Worship Services, Ministry Fairs that will be conducted, Courses that will be rolled out, and opportunities to try out serving whether in the ministries of the church or in the Connect Groups.

#### CLOSING

#### Prayer Request

It is my prayer that in 2024, our church will grow in our understanding of what it means to "Serve One Another", thereby growing to be more like Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). May the good Lord help us and empower us to be able to do so. Amen.

I am really looking forward to serving all of you and serving with all of you in 2024!



Popular

**Rev Benjamin Lee** Pastor-in-Charge

## **EDIFY**











The EDIFY Huddle seeks to build the church up in love by caring for, and nurturing, our TPMC congregation so they can grow in Christlikeness. It consists of ministries such as the various Age Groups, Family Life, Connect Groups, Discipleship & Nurture (D&N), and Prayer and Healing. These ministries develop our people in different ways through different platforms.

Our Age Group ministries generally function quite independently in catering to the different age groups, but they also come together to Serve One Another - an essential and natural part of the church family in TPMC. For example, our youths have served the young children by acting as chaperones during outings; and the young adults have served the seniors by teaching and equipping them with skills in technology.

Family Life ministry connects across all age groups and meets the needs of those at significant life stages and milestones, such as marriage and parenting. Our Prayer and Healing ministers can be seen at worship services every Sunday, tirelessly praying alongside, and ministering to, people after services.

2 | Pastor's Foreword



Meanwhile, our Connect Group (CG) Leaders are examples of individuals who have been faithfully serving their CG members by helping them learn, live and love as a small community within the larger church body.

The D&N Ministry meets the discipleship needs of the church, and has a line-up of equipping programmes in 2024.

This year, the church's focus is on serving, and we do so because Christ first served us and gave His life for us. If we hold to Christ's commands and walk as His disciples, then our response is to also serve others.

We have many opportunities within the Edify Huddle for members to serve. These include Children's Ministry teachers and helpers; Prayer/Healing team; ActNow writers for the CG ministry; chaperones for our shuttle bus service that ferries our church members who have mobility issues, and many more.

This 2024, let us seek to Serve One Another with joy.

#### THE YOUTH PROJECT

Last year's highlights for The Youth Project were the various youth missions trips and Youth Camp 2023. Through the missions trips, our youths got to participate in worship with Christians in other countries. They were taken out of their comfort zones and challenged to lay down their rights in service of others many times. Their eyes were also opened to other expressions of worship, seen in the contexts of the countries they visited.

The year ended with the annual youth camp where Discipleship was the theme. We had four full days of games where friendships were made, pleasures were shared, and lessons in teamwork and communicationswere learned. On top of that, there were six speaker sessions with guest speakers sharing how we can be faithful disciples in the various areas of our lives. Our youths left the camp challenged to a life of faithfulness, and of denying oneself daily for Christ.

We look forward to a new year where we continue to strive daily to carry our cross, and to love one another as Christ commanded us to.





#### **FILIPINO MINISTRY**

#### What has been done in 2023

2023 has been a challenging yet meaningful year for Filipino Ministry. We can still declare that indeed it has been a year of God's favour! Our Filipino Ministry remained faithful in serving the Lord. We welcomed a total of 74 visitors this year. We have seen our leaders grow in their respective ministries.



#### a. Events/activities

1st Sunday	Worship at Main Services	
2nd to 4th (or 5th ) Sundays	Filipino Ministry Worship Service	
2nd Sunday	Know the Truth session for Connect Groups	
3rd Sunday	Guitar Training	
19 November 2023	Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration	

b. Number of people/newcomers involved through the year Per record, we welcomed 74 newcomers or visitors last year.

#### c. Some memorable moments

The highlight for 2023 is the Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration. We had a well-attended Worship Service with 89 worshippers, the highest so far within this year. Right after the service, we had our lunch fellowship at the courtyard. The celebration continued after our lunch fellowship with fun-filled activities (games), singing Filipino Christmas songs, dancing, exchanging of gifts, and the blessing draws. The afternoon outreach event was attended by 111 participants. It was a delight to note that our Pastor-in-charge, Rev. Benjamin Lee, opened the event with a prayer and powerful message that Jesus, our Saviour is the main reason we are celebrating Christmas.

We thank our dedicated leaders and those serving with us.

#### What is planned for 2024

January	Leaders' Retreat	
February	Amazing Race (Teambuilding)	
TBD	Music Ministry (Teambuilding)	
TBD	Alpha Course	
19 November 2024	Christmas Thanksgiving	

#### How can members get involved

We have various ministry opportunities where our members can serve:

a) Worship Service f) Social Media/Publicity

b) Music Ministry g) Missions
c) AV Tech h) Outreach
d) Ushering and Hospitality i) Discipleship

e) Member Care j) Connect Groups

4 | Edify | 5

## THE YEAR IN DISCIPLESHIP & NURTURE

In 2023, TPMC received 28 new members, and we celebrated with them as they stepped up in faith to be baptised. Our hope is that, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we continue to support and nurture our new members (as well as our current members) to grow as disciples of the Lord.

To accomplish this, the Discipleship & Nurture Ministry's (D&N) framework and programmes aim to support TPMC's mission for everyone to Encounter to Love. The following programmes were run in 2023:

- · Step Up
- · Inductive Bible Study Method (34 pax)
- Biblical Insights on the Book of 2
   Corinthians (37 pax)
- Precept Upon Precept Book of Jonah(18 pax)
- Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others (8 pax)
- To Serve with Joy (10pax)
- · Seasoned with SALT (59 pax)
- Holy Week Mid-Day Prayer and Fasting (online)
- Online articles on a Biblical Perspective of Work
- · Disciple 1 (15 pax)





D&N rolled out two new programmes in 2023 – To Serve with Joy and Seasoned with SALT. They are aimed at helping those who serve in TPMC to grow in resilience, joy, and holiness as we interact within the church community and serve alongside one another. The programmes are intentionally designed to be highly interactive, conversational and reflective. Participants appreciated the safe space for sharing and learning.

Many from the Disciple 1 course also valued the rigour of studying the Bible weekly, and enjoyed the authentic relationships that were built within this small community of faith as they journeyed together in the Word.

#### Programmes for 2024

For 2024, D&N has planned the following programmes:

	Discipleship	Servanthood
Core	<ul> <li>Encounter Journal Bible Reading Plan 2024</li> <li>Step Up</li> <li>Inductive Bible Study Method</li> <li>Essential Disciplines: Daily Quiet Time with God</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others</li> <li>To Serve with Joy</li> <li>Seasoned with SALT</li> </ul>
Intermediate	<ul><li>Disciple 1</li><li>Topical Insights: Servant Leadership in the Marketplace</li></ul>	
Advanced	· Precept Upon Precept: Galatians	

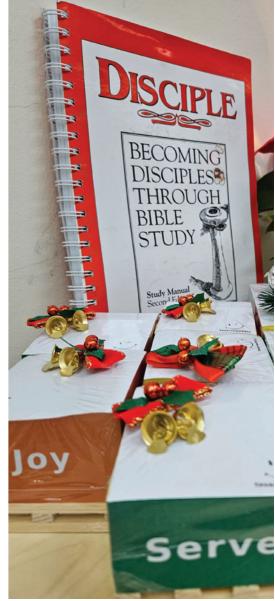
#### **Connect Groups**

Connect Groups (CGs) play a critical role in fulfilling TPMC's mission to Encounter to Love. Our CGs continue to Love, Learn and Live out their calling as disciples in a community. This is done through loving one another in an intentional fellowship, learning God's word together, and living out their faith through serving as a CG.

We are encouraged that many of our CGs supported the One More initiative by reaching out to the Toa Payoh community through Block Blessings, and to the ends of the earth through missions trips as a group during the church camp in June 2023 and throughout the year. Connect Group members shared how their respective groups were able to grow spiritually and in their relationships with one another as they served together.

Let us continue then to live a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10).





 $6 \mid$  Edify  $\mid$  7

## **EVANGELISE**



The Evangelise huddle helps our congregation encounter God through the worship services in our church. As such, it has never been businessas-usual for the ministries within the huddle as they explore new ways to improve the services and devise creative ways to galvanise those worshipping with us.

The Worship and Music Ministry can be said to be the anchor ministry of the huddle, and comprises talents such as the choir, pianists/ organists, vocalists, musicians, bell ringers, and tech crew. The ministry brought us some memorable moments during the special





services, such as those during the Holy Week, our church anniversary and Christmas. The skits, visuals and interesting array of musical instruments - including brass and string instruments - lifted the services and our worship, helping us to encounter the spirit of God in our midst.

The Ushers and Courtyard Connections extended the hospitality of our church to give everyone a holistically positive experience with us.

The Evangelise Huddle will continue to draw up creative and inspiring ways to lift up our services so everyone can Encounter God with us.



#### **WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY (WMM)**



In 2023, we focused on helping those serving with us find meaning in their commitment to serve and more joy in their service to the Lord; as well as having our ministries support the church's efforts in One More Nation to Love.

Among the many memorable events that year were Aldersgate Services in May, which we hosted; organizing our Anniversary Service with brass and strings alongside the contemporary band; and the Choir Retreat in Batam where the choir ministered through songs and instruments in a home for the mentally challenged.

During GO Camp in June, we were thankful that Mr Gaius Wee, a member of the WMM, wrote three original songs which inspired many to look forward to doing missions during the camp.

And some new faces joined WMM in 2023, including five keyboardists, a vocalist, two acoustic guitar players, two Worship Leaders and a pianist.

For 2024, and in alignment with our Church's focus on Serving One Another, the WMM will be collaborating with other Huddles to create opportunities and activities to encourage more of our congregation to come together and "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!"

We are also looking forward to organizing several key events in our church, such as hosting Methodist Church in Singapore (MCS) Holy Week in March; hosting Methodist School of Music (MSM) Worship Symposium in June; and leading worship at the National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) National Day Service on 15 Aug 2024.

#### **USHER**

When it comes to finding an area to start serving in church, ushering is usually one of the first that comes to mind. It has one of the lowest barriers to entry, and almost anyone can be an usher.

Yet, ushers are one of the most important groups of people in church every Sunday.

They are the first faces our members meet as they enter our Sanctuary, and their smiles and greetings often give those worshipping with us a joyful start to the service. They help worshippers find a seat, and spread the warmth and love of our church.

So, it might seem like a very simple role, but ushering is a critical and important part of our worship services.



## **ENERGISE**



**ENERGISE** 

he Energise huddle supports the other huddles by providing security, floral arrangements, media and communications support, and so on.

Last year, the floral ministry took a bolder approach in its floral arrangements on Sundays, and it was immediately noticed by those at our worship services. Many of those worshipping with us noticed the bigger and more vibrant flowers that adorned the chancel, and commented that they beautified the place.

With services back in full swing since the start of 2023, our security team has been actively ensuring the safety of those at our worship services. With God's provision and blessings, they have successfully kept everyone safe, even at bloated services such as those during Holy Week, church anniversary and Christmas.

If you have been following our social media, you would have seen the posts our Communications and Media team has been putting up. The team has been trying to present the content in different ways to keep things interesting and lively. It has also been endlessly churning out creative designs and videos for the worship services. For 2024, the team will be looking to do a makeover to our church website for easier navigation and to keep things fresh.





#### **COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA**

The Communications and Media team keeps an archive of all major events – such as Holy Week services, church anniversaries, baptism and membership services, and Light of Christmas through photographs and videos. It also manages all our social media channels and website, as well as all the public-facing visuals and designs.

The team is always seeking to engage those worshipping with us and keep them updated about things happening in our church. In a bid to keep things fresh, and to attract those just trying to find out more about us, we experimented with various types of content for our social media in 2023.

During GO Camp in June 2023, the team was kept busy capturing all the moments of the camp in videos and photographs, and posting them on our social media accounts.

This year, we hope to expand our team with more photographers, designers and writers; so we can do more and create better materials. We also want more people to hop on to our social media management and inject new and creative ideas.





#### FLORAL MINISTRY

Perhapsyouhavenoticedtheenhancements to the 'backdrop' of the preachers as they shared their sermons in our sanctuary. If so, then you can thank the Floral Ministry for that. They are the ones behind the beautiful floral arrangements on our chancel every

Last year, they upped things by trying out bigger and bolder designs, and these have mostly been well received by the congregation. We are blessed by their creative efforts, and thank them for bringing vibrance and colours to the worship services.



Energise | 11

## **EXTEND**



**EXTEND** 

#### Who are they?

- The faithful men and women who serve the boys and girls in First Toa Payoh Primary School and Beatty Secondary School through the ministries of Boys' and Girls' Brigades.
- The patient teachers who provide academic help to the children in our community through Beacon Tuition.
- The late-night sleepers who go out every first and third Friday nights to scout for rough sleepers and engage them in conversations.
- The good Samaritans who visit our poor and needy families on a regular basis, providing them with practical help and a listening ear.
- The passionate evangelists who serve in Alpha, seeking to help someone go into a personal relationship with Jesus.
- The generous individuals who commit their time and resources to go, give and pray for missions.
- The passionate ones who serve in our interest groups such as ukulele and gardening, and provide a nonthreatening platform for individuals to experience what it's like to belong to a faith community.

What is one thing that the Extend Huddle is most thankful to God for in 2023?

Those serving with us.

They are the hands and feet of Jesus in this broken world.

They show the world how much Jesus loves them.

Without these individuals, all programmes under Extend Huddle will not happen.

Without these individuals, God's love will not be made visible to the community. St Teresa of Avila once said this:

"Christ has no body on Earth but yours. No feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good,

and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

We are thankful for these individuals who have stepped out to serve God in this broken world.

But we need more.

In the new year, we pray that more will step forward to serve in the outreach ministries of TPMC. Jesus said in Matthew 9: 37-38 that the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Will you come aboard and be Jesus' hands and feet in this world?

## OUTREACH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Outreach and Social Concerns Ministry (OSC) serves as a beacon of hope and service to the Toa Payoh community. Through God and prayers, we have continued or initiated community projects that emulate Jesus and how He cares for the poor and downtrodden. The projects aim to uplift spirits and lend a helping hand, making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve, and spreading the love of God.

#### Financial Assistance

TPMC provided financial assistance to 30 beneficiaries in 2023. With God's help, we hope this gift to each of them will multiply, ease their financial concerns, and encourage them to rebuild their lives.

#### Connect 150

Block 150 is a block of (mostly) rental flats near our church. Most of the families living there are retirees and/or in the lower income bracket. Our befrienders visit them once every two months to present small gifts. This periodic visitation affords us an opportunity to engage and pray for them, if they allow.

Some residents are forthcoming and remember us after a few visits. Through the conversations, we learn about their family, health and other issues. Consequently, we hope our prayers, listening ears and offers of help (e.g. free tuition for schoolgoing children) will provide a breakthrough so they can know Jesus who promises an eternal and abundant life.

#### **Night Missions**

Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, we have two teams walking around Toa Payoh at night. They will hand out bread and drinks, and initiate conversations with rough sleepers (people who sleep in public places). Our objectives are to build relationships with them, find out their concerns, and connect them with social workers to help address their needs.

#### S<sub>3</sub>P

Since September 2019, TPMC has provided temporary shelter to a total of 33 rough sleepers in our Safe, Sound, Sleeping Place (S3P). In 2023 alone, we housed 11 of them. We are heartened that most were able to move on to a permanent home or new career, after a short stay with us.

One of them, Mr T, has an inspiring story to tell. During his stay, Mr T underwent open heart surgery and lost his job due to his health condition. TPMC extended his stay and worked with his social worker to support his needs. In October 2023, he sought prayers for his circumstances and committed his life to Jesus. Since then, his health has improved, and he has found a part-time job. He has also moved into his own HDB flat since February 2024.

Being involved in Night Missions and S3P are challenging but rewarding experiences. We are looking for business owners who are able to provide job opportunities, as well as people to befriend the rough sleepers housed in TPMC.



Our members can get involved in OSC by serving as "befrienders". Being a befriender means building relationships with poor and needy individuals and families, blessing them through our visits and gifts of love, and eventually bring them to church so they can belong to a community to experience the love of Jesus.

Extend | 13

#### One More Nation To Love 2023

## GO GIVE PRAY

he year 2023 started with a clear call to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth. This is the third and last instalment of our three-year outreach effort guided by Acts 1:8

"BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

We were challenged to get involved in what God is doing in the nations. So, we asked our congregation to cross geographical boundaries to Go, to trust in God's provisions and Give to missions work, and intentionally Pray for our missionaries and the missions work. We were expectant since this missions push came after almost three years of COVID travel restrictions. We were not sure how ready people will be but, oh, how God surprised us!

In that year, 211 people went on 28 scheduled and unscheduled missions trips to the nations God has enabled TPMC to be involved in, to make One More Difference to someone who needed to experience the love of Jesus. On top of this, 450 campers went out to bless the people in Batam on a warm Saturday afternoon during church camp in June.

Many of those worshipping with us committed to Give, and they gave generously! We thank God that we received close to \$200,000 in the Missions Fund, challenging our church to do more in giving to where the needs are so that One More may be blessed.

We were also able to love One More through prayer. More than 220 members received

prayer pointers every month, to pray for our missionaries, missions teams and the

There were many God-moments as trippers shared how they experienced God's faithfulness and goodness during the trips, and how God was also working in their own lives as they served Him.

Very often, as we go out to bless the people, God surprises us by blessing us through the experience, instead. For many, going on missions trips helps them see how God is working in the nations, and that helps them pray more effectively.



Our desire is that, as missions teams Go, Give and Pray, every tripper will practise our HIGHER values and bear witness of God who is constantly at work in their own lives.

#### HONOUR

to be able to honour and appreciate one another in the team as we serve together, because we are all created in God's image.

#### INTEGRITY

to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and action. In doing so, may the local community see Jesus in our midst.

#### GENEROSITY

to extend generosity in our gifts and abilities, to be a blessing to the missionaries and the local communities.

#### HUMILITY

to serve one another in humility, not looking to our own interests and needs, but to that of others.

#### EXCELLENCE

in all that we do, may we serve to the best of our abilities, as the Lord leads us.

#### REST

most importantly, may we learn to rest and trust that God's hand is at work even when things don't go as planned.



#### What do our trippers have to share? Here are some excerpts:

- It touches my heart when every child in the home comes forward to shake my hand and thank me for travelling all the way to help.
- On the second night, I received bad news from home. I was devastated. I prayed to God deciding whether I should go back to Singapore. The Lord appeared in my dream and said "Let's finish the trip...." I had the peace to continue the trip.
- God is at work, in us and through us. We are challenged to lay down our rights, and take up our cross as we learn to follow



- I was greatly inspired and challenged by the local pastor who continued with the worship service even though there was close to no one at the worship service. The worship service is ultimately to glorify God, and not about numbers.
- The mission trip benefitted me more than the local people.



14 | One More Nation To Love 2023 One More Nation To Love 2023 | 15

## MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS







In 2023, we worked with our two sister churches, Toa Payoh Methodist Chinese Church and Toa Payoh Tamil Methodist Church, to organise a Christmas celebration event for the first time. The event was open to members from the three congregations.

Titled Miracle of Christmas, the celebration took the form of fellowship over dinner, followed by a worship concert comprising a combined choir and worship team from the three churches. There was also a children's programme that catered to children of the attendees of the concert. Registration for the 16th December concert in our sanctuary was full, and we were blessed to be able to worship God in three languages.

Even though Miracle of Christmas was the main focus for us during the Christmas period, we did not forget about our annual Light of Christmas. We continued to share the love and joy of Christmas with the hawkers, bus captains, some of the social service agencies in Toa Payoh, and the residents in our neighbouring blocks, by blessing them with a Christmas bake.











## LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

#### A SERVANT'S TESTIMONY

# SERVING WITH THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

"Once a GB girl, always a GB girl".

Hi there, I am Rachel, a member of Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC). In 2023, serving opportunities with the Girls' Brigade (GB) 16th P Company (at First Toa Payoh Primary School) were presented to me. I initially joined to observe how uniformed groups like GB are run. But, after some time, I can say that serving with GB is a meaningful use of my time, because I was able to make an impact on the lives of young girls.

Being relatively new, I had lots to learn and became more attuned to GB's practices and culture after serving for a few sessions. One meaningful aspect that keeps me going is the interaction with the GB girls. Some of the GB girls are not Christians, and GB provides opportunities for them to experience the Gospel through word and action. Christian values such as loving others and compassion for the vulnerable are communicated through personal sharing and community projects.

Another motivating thing that I have witnessed is the love and nurture by officers towards the girls. This may not seem obvious from the firm expectations of the officers, but they want the best for the girls. The care for the girls goes beyond their primary school years. The officers always encourage the graduating girls to join GB as a co-curricular activity in their respective secondary schools, or return to serve. The goal is for each girl to have a sense of belonging to the GB family, develop confidence in their identity, and mature as a leader. "Once a GB girl, always a GB girl".

Some may wonder whether serving with the GB requires a lot of commitment. This was also my initial concern. While it is beneficial to have a committed pool of people serving, Mrs Tan, our Captain, is open to working with those who want to try out on an ad-hoc basis. There is also a training workshop to share the objectives of GB and equip them with the facilitation skills to run its programmes.



When asked to share about their experience after the event, the girls admitted to feeling nervous due to language barriers and difficulties in understanding the elderly. However, they did not let those concerns stop them. They persevered, changed their expectations, and found other means to have quality interaction. The staff of the UMC also helped by lightening the atmosphere with their enthusiastic singing and dancing. It was heartening to know that the girls were able to step up in their own ways during the event.

Some might think that this once-off event may not make an impact on the girls or the elderly, but change takes time. As the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." So, for those thinking of serving, we never really know the effect of our little acts and conversations, but they can be the planting of a seed that will come to fruition by God's grace.







A Servant's Testimony | 19



#### Child Baptism

Alexander George Lee Chu Kai Xuan Naomi Jason Fong Chuan Yuan Jedidiah Yeo Zhi Hui Juan Zuriel Francisco Baking Cayanan

#### **Adult Baptism**

Celine Lin Hui Karen Kan Fong Mei

#### Confirmation of Faith

Chong Shau Poh Josiah Eugenia Margaret Samburnam d/o Joseph Augustian Devasitham Fong Kum Meng Jeremy Book Kay Yip Lai Yee San, Tami





#### Reception & Transfer of Membership

Annie Lau Mei Chun Chong Shau Poh Josiah Eugenia Margaret Samburnam d/o Joseph Augustian Devasitham Fong Kum Meng Ho Cheok Chiou Willy Jeremy Book Kay Yip J Marcus Pravin Karen Kan Fong Mei

Lai Yee San, Tami Leng Chee Onn Calvin Lin Weigian Jacqueline Ng May Lee Stephanie Alexandria Raja **Teo Huat Seng Eric** Wong Ying Si Yee Tien Pao Jamie Amanda Yee Yi Qi

MISSIONS TRIP 2024

**Philippines** 

Dental outreach & 10-14 May Children's programme

Batam, Indonesia

Children's 8-9 Jun programme

Children's 21-22 Sep programme

Christmas 30 Nov-1 Dec outreach

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

6-11 Jun Children's outreach

13-17 Dec Christmas outreach

Chiang Mai, Thailand

**English** 13-18 Jun camp

Equipping of church members 19-22 Jul

Community 4-11 Dec outreach

Christmas 8-13 Dec outreach

Christmas 12-17 Dec outreach

**Taiwan** 

10-16 Jul **English camp** 

Japan

**Community** outreach 23-29 Oct



#### Sign up today!



tpmc.org.sg/outreach/#Missions



Details may change, visit tpmc.org.sg/outreach/#missions for updates. For more enquiries, email audrey.ong@tpmc.org.sg

PALM SUNDAY & Holy Week Services





24/3 PALM SUNDAY	8.30am & 10.30am	REV BENJAMIN LEE
25-27/3 ONE MCS HOLY WEEK	8.00pm	BISHOP DR GORDON WONG
28/3 MAUNDY THURSDAY	8.00pm	REV MING FEONG CHING
29/3 GOOD FRIDAY	8.30am & 10.30am	REV POH ZHI-HUI
31/3 EASTER SUNDAY	8.30am & 10.30am	REV BENJAMIN LEE

