

Bethesda Newsletter



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Editorial

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As usual, the new year brings with it much hope and expectations. At the newsletter committee, we are sad to see sisters Rachel Tan and Tan Hui Qian leave the committee. But we are also full of hope, because in 2015, we had a bountiful year in terms of new members joining us. Peter Chow joined us in September, Johnson Chua and his dear wife, See Tho Pik Yee, in November, and Danna Thein in December.

With greater editing power, we hope to serve the Lord and the assembly even better in this quiet ministry.

We also concluded the very first Adobe Indesign training workshop for a group of nine young designers. In the years ahead, these young people will have the opportunity to serve the Lord in the newsletter ministry, as designers for our newsletter.

At the assembly level, evangelism will be the focus for 2016, a theme that was very much the focus of the Workers' Retreat 2016. May the Lord give us wisdom to be effective fishers of men in the 21st Century. The empty seats at the

newly renovated hall in BAMK on Sunday morning should serve as a big motivation for those worshipping at AMK, and the vast number of unsaved souls living in the flats around DW, for those worshipping at BDW.

At the personal level, Susan's poem in this issue suggests that the new year should give us new motivation to deepen our walk with the Lord. It is our solemn duty to do so, as nothing else will please the Lord more than seeing His people read His Word more often and put all the biblical knowledge into practice in our daily lives.

In this issue, we have two major assembly events to report: The Assembly Youth Camp 2015 and DVBS 2015. By the grace of God, both events completed successfully, and many lives were blessed. Energised young lives will bring more hands into His vineyard to do His good work, and little children touched by stories of His love at the DVBS will one day dedicate their lives to Him. Both are causes for much rejoicing.

For devotionals, we have a special piece by brother Chee

Hwee, focusing on service. This is a needful call, as practically all the ministries in our assembly are staffed by volunteers. More hands put to the plough will result in each of us carrying a lighter burden and greater opportunities for every member of our assembly to be involved in one ministry or another. In our regular *Elders' Devotionals*, brother Harry Tan reminds us to "see Jesus more powerfully, follow Him more closely, and love Him more dearly, so as to be able to show Him to others more clearly and boldly".

I want to end his short editorial by encouraging all our readers to follow the urging of the Lord to be His witnesses and to continue as His dutiful disciples in having a closer walk with Him. On behalf of the newsletter committee, I want to thank Nicholas Ong for doing the layout for this issue. This is his maiden layout work for the newsletter. Give him a word of encouragement, if you bump into him. I also want to thank all our contributors for the hours they put into writing their articles, and our photographers for their lovely photos.

A NEW YEAR

SUSAN CHAN

Another year is ending, a new year is dawning.
Time for reflecting and welcoming a new beginning.
What can we do better about things that really matter?
Perhaps some gems from CEP may encourage you and
me:

Read the Bible through in a year –
That the Word of God will become more and more dear;
Memorize chunks (e.g. Psalms) of the Word –
And practise what we have read and heard;
Each night as we lay down on our beds
Let thoughts of thanksgiving fill our heads;
May we all make wise use of time –
And keep TV, computer and phone use in line.

In the new year, let us strive to do what Micah puts so
simply –
To act justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly
with our God!

Blessed New Year!

Getting to Know the Boys' Brigade Officers



Old boys from 43rd Coy during 85th BB Anniversary Celebration



Senior BB Boys with BB teacher-in-charge, Miss Jocelyn Anne-Monique, on Speech Day @ Yishun Secondary School 30 Jul 2014

Brief introduction of yourself

RH: I am Robert Hmar, 57, and was brought up in a Baptist home in the north-eastern part of India. I am married to Pek Yee and blessed with a daughter Rachel. I have been serving the Lord in the Boys' Brigade (BB) since 1996.

AH: I am Andrew He Ren Xiang, 30, and I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ through the Boys' Brigade in 1998 as a student in Yishun Secondary School. I now work as an activity and admin officer in the Bethesda Hall (AMK) office. I have been serving in the BB ministry since I was 18.

Brief introduction of the BB

RH: The BB's objective is "to advance Christ's Kingdom

among the Boys and promote the habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness".

AH: Boys' Brigade (and Girls' Brigade) is one of few ministries that allow churches to reach out to students in neighbouring schools directly.

What led you to serve God in this ministry/committee?

RH: After I returned from serving the Lord in Manipur (India), an Elder asked me to help out in the BB. I was unwilling initially as I had no idea what it entailed. However, it dawned on me: why should I not take this as an opportunity to evangelise to the Boys who are mostly (around 90%) from

non-Christian backgrounds? And I am at peace to this day. The saying goes, "once a BB, always a BB".

AH: I may have been in this ministry for close to 12 years but my actual service only started after I finished my polytechnic studies in 2012. I was asked to serve by Yeo Chee Hiang, the BB 43rd Company Captain then.

During my polytechnic years I stopped attending BB and even church meetings. I had a hard time coming back to church but I thank God for Yeo Chee Hiang, Robert Hmar and Francis Toke's continuous support, encouragement and most importantly, prayer. I managed to find my way back to church.

One reason led me to start serving faithfully in the BB: I saw that the BB parade wasn't very appealing to the Boys. So I built up the parade programme by adding sports, games and other activities to motivate the Boys to attend the weekly BB parades. It also provided the opportunity for the Boys to befriend our assembly members, as most of the added activities were conducted by our assembly members: Choong Kit Soon (Floor Ball), Amos Chew and Titus Chong (Touch Rugby), Darren Kui (Board Games), Samuel Ko and Jereme Teo (Music Session) and Desirae Goh.

What have been the most rewarding aspects of serving in the BB?

RH: To be involved in the character building of the Boys in their most challenging and formative years, by sharing Bible-based values.

AH: There are two things I treasure the most in this ministry: preaching the gospel of Christ to the Boys and becoming their friend.

What are some of the challenges or difficulties you have encountered in the BB?

AH: Loving the unlovable, finding the balance between discipline and love, managing the BB parades' attendance

despite the occasional clash of timing with school programmes, sourcing for manpower to run certain BB activities, promoting BB events to church members, promoting church events to BB Boys, looking into the needs of all the Boys, chasing back the lost sheep, coming out with new activities for the parade programme, putting my pride and ego aside when dealing with the Boys.

Preaching the gospel of Christ to the Boys is the hardest challenge of all, because officers sometimes fail to make the gospel relevant to the Boys, making it hard for the Boys to understand, accept or even see the need of receiving Christ into their lives.

RH: First, not having enough youths in the BB ministry, which is a youth ministry to begin with. Second, its a challenge to navigate the 21st century youth culture. And third, the rollercoaster emotions that the youths go through demand a lot of time and effort to engage them.

Are there any interesting incidents during your time in the BB?

RH: I am very encouraged to see Andrew rising from the ranks and now reaching out to the BB Boys with the love of Christ. This motivates me to press on in the BB ministry despite the

many challenges.

AH: Once, a Boy told me to stop talking to him about Christ due to something that had happened between him and a former BB helper (from another church). After hearing what had happened to him, I realised the true needs of this boy. He didn't need the gospel in words again as he had heard it so many times; he needed the gospel in action. Grace and love had not been shown to him. Slowly, I befriended that Boy through parades and other BB events and, to my surprise, the boy even attended a Bethesda Hall Youth Camp. Although the boy didn't receive Christ by the end of his BB years, I was glad that he didn't dislike Christianity any more. We still meet up once in a while.

There was another Boy who went to Youth Camp and behaved very badly. He disrupted his Bible study class and kept talking during class. He was asked to leave the Bible study group. Thankfully an older brother-in-Christ was willing to do Bible study with him separately. I shared that boy's family situation to the camp committee and a few others. The camp committee was very understanding and accepting towards the boy. One brother with whom I shared that boy's story made special effort to play with and reach out to the boy throughout the whole camp.

I was greatly encouraged by the action of the two brothers and the understanding of the committee.

What would you say to one who may be interested in joining the BB ministry?

RH: The BB offers one of the richest youth mission fields for the churches in Singapore. Yet we shy away because the ministry is labour-intensive. The BB work is our Jerusalem (the mission field in our immediate neighbourhood) and it's our call to help the many youths at the crossroads. BB is the only surviving CCA with Christian values that is allowed to operate in MOE schools in Singapore. We do not know how long more this door will remain open. *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."* (Isaiah 6:8)

AH: Please pray very hard and consider joining us. If you are a student 17 and above, consider serving alongside us during your holidays! BB is a ministry that operates outside the church, unseen by many church members. Please don't forget the BB!



Secondary 1&2 BB Boys with YP members during BB Cares event



Two senior boys from 43rd & 51st coy as the flag bearers for 85th Anniversary Celebration

"WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US? THEN SAID I, HERE AM I; SEND ME"
(ISAIAH 6:8)

We wish to see Jesus

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John 12:20-26 (ESV)
²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.

²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵ Whoever loves (*philon*) his life loses (*apollyei*) it, and whoever hates (*mison*) his life in this world will keep (*phylaxei*) it for eternal life.

²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.

1. Introduction

As we set our goals for 2016, my desire is for us as a family of God's redeemed people to "wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21) – to see Jesus more

powerfully, follow Him more closely, and love Him more dearly, so as to be able to show Him to others more clearly and boldly.

How do we do that? Let's ponder how Jesus met the Greeks' request to see Him.

2. Jesus wanted them to first see a Prescient Truth about Himself

John 12:23,24

Whilst the Greeks may have been searching to see Jesus and His Glory, He first points them to the Cross and His Resurrection:

My pathway to glory is through death. Do you want to see that? I will indeed bear much fruit – including Greeks – But I will not and cannot bear this fruit through any way except by dying. Tell the Greeks that I will not come to them now, because I have a hard work to do so that I might bear them as the fruit of my life and ministry. If I leave the road I'm on to go and be seen by men in human glory, I will remain alone and neither you nor the Greeks will be saved. But if I die, then I will bear much fruit - you will be saved and, the Greeks will be saved, and all who believe in Me will be saved. This is

what I want them to see.

3. Then by deflection, Jesus showed a Profound Truth concerning ourselves

John 12:25,26

My dying for your salvation is also My design for you to follow. If you really want to see Me, prepare to become like Me. Prepare to follow Me on the road I am travelling, on the Way of the Cross.

He first reveals Himself to us as a Person who bears much fruit by dying – by hating His life in this world. And then He says, Follow Me. Die with Me. Hate your life in this world with Me. The purpose is so that others may see Him in us: *always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.* (2 Corinthians 4:10).

Will we hate our lives in this world?

Will we follow Him on the path to Calvary?

Will we let the truth about the Son of Man become a truth about us?

And if we do, we show Christ 'to be seen' to the world.

4. To see Jesus you need to walk a painful journey – The Paradox of Losing Yourself to Save Yourself

John 12:20-26, Matthew 10:37-39, Matthew 16:24-26, Mark 8:34-37, Luke 9:23-25, Luke 17:32,33

"Finding oneself" has always been a common motivation in life: Some people come to church hoping to find themselves. Others use this as an excuse for sinful behaviour. But the more we try to find ourselves, the further we get away from ourselves. The search ends in confusion, frustration and depression. Jesus has the solution: "Do you want to find yourself? Lose yourself!"

In verse 25, the word *apollyei* translated here as "lose" is related to *apolesei* which means "to destroy". Someone has translated it as, "throw away". Jesus is asking us to throw away our lives. Many people see Christians giving up fame and fortune in this world to follow Christ, and say, "You are throwing your life away." The Christian says, "Exactly!"

The truth of the matter is, everybody throws his life away (spends his life away) for something. If you throw your life away living for yourself, you will lose everything, but if you throw your life away living for Christ's sake, you gain everything.

But sadly, we live in an era when

living sacrificially for others is frowned upon by many, while living for self is considered the chief of virtues. But eventually, we will look at all these things – wealth, fame, honour, riches, pleasure – and see that all is vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 2:11). Then we will think back on the times we could have spent serving our families, communities, churches and realise that we didn't really live at all. The things that really make life full and abundant passed us by while we were pursuing our own selfish dreams.

When Jesus says, "Lose your life," we are tempted to think, "Oh, no. How painful. How awful." But after we lose our lives in living for Christ and for others, we discover that it is the most wonderful thing that we can ever do. The happiest people in the world are not those who are trying to make themselves happy, but those who have forgotten their own personal desires to follow a cause they believe to be more important than their own lives.

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. Jim Elliot

5. But the Way is Full of Promise and Glory

The promise and glory compensate for the difficulty of the journey.

Although the seed must die, but if "it bears much fruit"

(verse 24), the death is not in vain. Jesus said "And where I am, there will My servant be also." (verse 26a) These words were used one other time in John 14:3, referring to heaven. So we are assured if we follow Him to Calvary, we will enjoy His presence with us here for now, and in heaven for eternity. As we become His servants, the Father will also "honour" us (verse 26b)

So whilst we "hate our own lives" (verse 25) and lay them down for Christ, the grace and generosity of the hope and promise of His resurrection surpass our sacrifice.

So let's ask ourselves at the outset of 2016:

- What in me must die in order for me to see Jesus more clearly?
- What must die for my life and ministry to bear more fruit?
- What in our assembly must die for us collectively to bear more fruit?

There was a day when I died, utterly died – died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends – and since then I have only to show myself approved to God. George Müller

An Exhortation to Serve the Lord

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It was an amazing coincidence to be asked to contribute an article on 'Serving' by the Newsletter Committee as I was studying the Gospel of Mark. The whole gospel account of Mark can be divided into two parts: First, revealing who the Lord is, and secondly what His Purpose is. Mark 8:29 provides the pivotal point for reflection: *Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."*

If we, like Peter, acknowledge with the Spirit's help that Jesus is indeed the Christ, then we ought to know who He is and what His Purpose is, and, like Jesus' disciples, give our lives in service to Him and for the Gospel. We are not to be ashamed of following the Lord and His word for Mark 8:38 reminds us that "if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." We are to proclaim through what we do that the Lord Jesus is the Christ and the One who came to serve. How then is our service for the

Lord? Does it come close to what has been vividly described in Mark 8:34-37 as losing our life in exchange for our soul, denying ourselves, and taking up our cross and following the Lord?

Mark 10 further gives us 3 other points to consider on serving the Lord:

1. Coming to the Lord in childlike faith (Mark 10:13-16)

In the incident where the Lord rebuked the disciples for forbidding the children to come to Him, why did He also comment that to such (the little children) belongs the Kingdom of God?

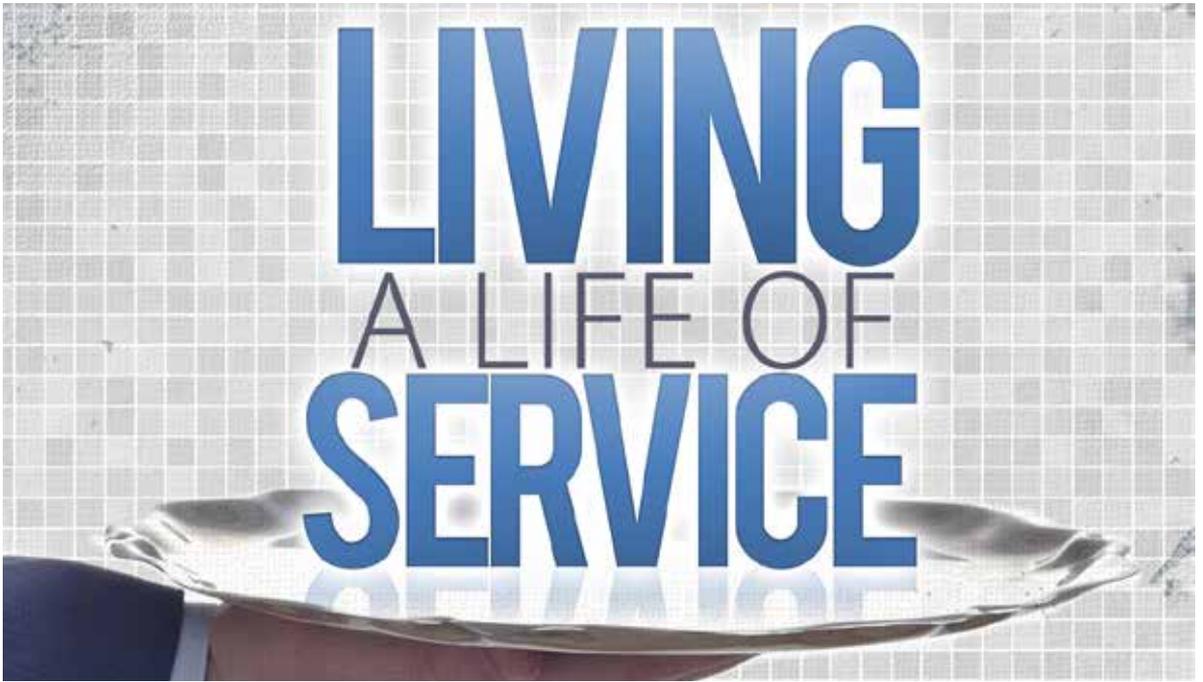
In general children depend on their parents and come under their authority. Similarly, as believers we come under the Lordship of Christ and under His authority, doing His bidding and denying our own interests. This is our position in service.

2. Going away from the Lord in pursuit of the world (Mark 10:17-23)

Why did the rich young ruler who had carefully obeyed religious laws end up going away in sadness? Scriptures tell us he was not willing to give up all that he possessed; his wealth became a hindrance to his quest for eternal life and the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately, this is also the case today with many young and middle-aged adults caught up in financial pursuits, such that they are not ready to give up these pursuits even when the Lord calls, and thus remaining in a state of sorrowful seeking. Is there anything that prevents us from fulfilling our desire to serve the Lord more until we become glad to bear His cross? The Lord had looked at the "poor" fellow with love and offered him the best path to satisfaction and eternal joy but the rich young ruler chose the world.

3. Giving it up in order to gain Christ.(Mark 10: 28-31)

The disciples saw what transpired between the Lord and the rich man and they asked "Who then can be saved?" Apparently even they themselves had something they still had not given up.



The wonderful promise of the Lord to those who have left everything for Him is that He will reward them many times more. Is this possible? Yes, with God all things are possible. But first, have we given up ALL for the Lord?

Whilst we are often pre-occupied with our own gains, have we considered what the Lord and others will gain from our fervent service to the Lord? We must remember that in the Kingdom of God, it is what counts for the Lord that matters. Are we ready to obey Christ and be His followers in service, even when we are in the lowest of positions? Mark 10:31 reminds us that the last will be first and this is exemplified by Christ who came to serve, gave His Life as a ransom for many (Mark

10:45) and is now glorified.

Based on our assembly's statistics, we have about 255(close to 30%) out of 900 members actively serving in at least one of the more than 50 ministries in the assembly. Where can one begin to serve or extend his field of service? There is no lack of opportunities to serve. Be assured that there will always be a need for volunteers in any area. Currently, some ministries are struggling from manpower constraints or they are run by new and inexperienced labourers. There are other ministries which cannot be started due to a lack of members willing to serve in these areas.

Is the Lord calling you? This is a personal plea to all members:

Do spend time praying on this matter. Seek His will on where He wants you to serve. Then commit yourself to serve Him. Call the assembly office (6458 7474) and let us know where you would like to serve. Alternatively, call me (mobile: 97836205) and I will do my best to direct you to the person in-charge. We are His servants. Call NOW.

Keeping In Touch With Nicola Kan

sixftjump@hotmail.com

1. Tell us about yourself

I am Nicola Kan, 24 years old, and I completed my Bachelor of Laws at Monash University in 2013. I have been in Melbourne for seven years.

2. Why did you choose to read law at Monash University?

I chose law somewhat by the process of elimination: I enjoyed biology but hated chemistry. The thought of going to business school gave me palpitations; teaching was not for me. There weren't many options left. Melbourne University did not have an undergraduate programme for law so I chose Monash University because I had already been in Melbourne for a year.

3. Tell us about a day in your life

As a lawyer, I get to meet and help many kinds of people. I help them buy a business, purchase a property, draft a will, or advise them on documents.

Good days are when I am able to meet my clients' unspoken



With a group of church friends, after we did a choir performance in church

needs: to bring comfort to those lonely or far from home; to speak peace to a worrier; to give direction to someone who does not know where to go.

Some days are more difficult than others, for example, when I missed something out on a contract or I stressed over how to break bad news to my client. I am starting to be more thankful for the days when I run to the toilet to pray in the middle of a client meeting, because the lessons learnt from these difficult days are so precious.

4. Tell us about your church

I attend Lygon Street Christian Church in Carlton. The congregation consists mainly of international students and young working adults. There

are also families, elderly people and enough church aunties to provide some diversity to the congregation.

There is a strong emphasis on Bible-based teaching. Music-wise, the young people have introduced contemporary hymns to the repertoire. Each week, song leaders submit their proposed songs and speeches for review – an onerous but necessary process.

5. Do you have a strong and supportive church family?

In my earlier years at this church, there were times when I felt lonely or misunderstood. I am grateful for many church aunties who were very sweet and compassionate to me. Thankfully, I have been able to integrate a bit better over

the past two years, and have found a handful of kindred spirits to whom I can relate.

I realise that many people can feel overlooked despite having attended church for years. I try not to forget those discouraging times so that I will remember to look out for those who don't feel completely comfortable in church.

6. Tell us about some of the challenges you have faced

You have to learn how to provide for yourself. The lesson is particularly acute when you wake up to a dark and cold house after a nap on many a winter afternoon, and realise that dinner will not cook itself. There are only so many packets of instant noodles you can eat before you feel terrible.

You also have to learn how to be by yourself. I have come to appreciate the time alone to read, write, run, draw or do nothing after a whirlwind week at work.

You also have to learn how to find a community. Finding people who understand you can be really hard. It is sometimes easier to be on your own. It takes a lot of time, perseverance and courage to find a friend, but what a difference it

makes when you find even one friend who listens to and cares for you. More and more I realise how much I need the prayers, thoughts and conversations with my family and friends to strengthen and encourage me and how we can show the love of Christ by bearing one another's burdens.

That said, the trials of living alone overseas have increased my faith, trust, and reliance on God. As much as I deeply treasure my friendships, I have begun to realise that God alone can give me "the peace that surpasses all understanding", which carries me through trials of various kinds.

I am also more appreciative of Singapore and of my family. I am beginning to see the merits of coming from a place like



An outing to a nature reserve with some believers from the youth fellowship



At a football game with some church friends. That's me, front row, fourth from the left

Singapore, and to recognise that I am who I am because of how I was raised.

7. What do you miss most about Singapore?

I miss being able to be there for my family and friends, to see how they grow and change, and to meet with them more than once or twice a year. That's hard.

Also, I really really really miss roti prata. And mee pok. And... MCSPICY BURGERS.

8. Are you looking forward to coming home?

I am looking forward to coming home for the holidays! But in God's will and perfect timing, I will be home for good, and I look forward to that adventure.

9. How can we pray for you?

Please pray for me:

1. To be thankful and joyful in the different trials and difficulties that come my way and to be strong and honest when I am lonely.
2. To trust in God in the everyday and in the long-term.
3. To be obedient to the Lord and sensitive to His voice, and to go when He says, "Go.", and
4. To be the salt and the light of the world, no matter where I am, no matter who I meet.

Assembly Youth Camp 2015

Aden Cowell (a.c.tozer13@gmail.com)

As a member of the Australian team, I had no idea what to expect when we signed up to be part of the Bethesda Hall Youth Camp. Little did we know that God had a week of life-changing experiences and incredible blessings planned for us. We were blessed with good food, great friends, lively games and the opportunity to grow closer to God. This week was truly an eye-opening experience for both the Australian team and myself, as we were thrust into a different country and culture, yet welcomed by an unforgettable, loving, God-fearing group of young people.

The greatest blessing for us was the people. I was deeply moved by the selfless and welcoming attitude each person in the camp showed to the entire Australian team. We entered as strangers, but left as life-long friends. I found myself being pointed to God countless times when people shared their stories and experiences about their personal walk with God. I often completely lost track of time as I conversed over lunch with the smiling faces at my table. In these ways, the entire Australian team was blessed beyond measure and we cannot wait to see all our new friends again.



The Australian Team (L to R) Ainsley Jackson, Jade Cowell, Rhiannon Cowell, Kiah Marlow, Eamon Marlow, Ashley Waller, Aeden Cowell, Andrew Cowell



Camp Speaker Andrew Cowell

We were also thankful for the well-designed camp programme, which helped to remind us to always keep our focus on God. Every morning, we spent some time in quiet prayer with our quiet time buddy and after breakfast, we would have a worship session before the speaker began his message. Later in

the day, after the games and free time, we would come back to God during dorm devotions. This was a great time to reflect on the day, what we learned during the activities, and God's blessings. This God-centred environment was a personal blessing for me.

This camp was truly a wonderful experience for us all, and we want to thank each and every individual involved in making this camp happen, for their labour of love. We would also like to give thanks to God for giving us the opportunity to renew our relationship with Him through this camp, as well as for the many new friendships that we have formed. It is my prayer that we will continue to grow as believers in Christ. Thank you and God bless.

Koh Jiaqi (kohkaikee@gmail.com)

Walking into church on a Monday morning with my luggage in tow, I couldn't help but sigh. Year after year, I was always that timid and idle group member who never stepped out of her comfort zone. However, this year, it was time for me to serve as a leader. This was a prospect which scared me. Leading a group enthusiastically was



Assembly Youth Camp 2015

definitely a struggle, but by God's grace and with His help, we pulled through! From the first day of camp all the way through to the final day, I learned so much from my fellow group-mates and group leaders. Although I probably wasn't one

of those outgoing and ultra-enthusiastic leaders, I'm sure God was able to use me in His own way!

Apart from this experience, the camp also served as a period of reflection as I looked back at my walk with God. Andrew Cowell shared how God is not a money-changer who only deals with formalities and exchanges. Rather, He is someone whom we should have a personal relationship with. That struck a chord in me, as I realised how lacklustre my relationship with God was. It prompted me to reflect about how I needed to change my perception of



Jiaqi, extreme right, with some of the campers



who God is and to make a conscious effort to involve Him in my life. During our study on David, we were also reminded of the importance of having a heart aligned with God's purposes and directions, which not only required obedience, but also faith in Him. In order to walk closely with God, we must remember to be like David, a man who kept his confidence in God while abiding by His will every step of the way!



Eating noodles has never been this enjoyable

"WE ENTERED AS STRANGERS, BUT LEFT AS LIFE-LONG FRIENDS. I FOUND MYSELF BEING POINTED TO GOD COUNTLESS TIMES WHEN PEOPLE SHARED THEIR STORIES AND EXPERIENCES ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD"



All the kung fu masters



Camp commy, Kit Soon

IN ORDER
TO WALK
CLOSELY WITH
GOD, WE MUST
REMEMBER
TO BE LIKE
DAVID, A MAN
WHO KEPT HIS
CONFIDENCE
IN GOD WHILE
ABIDING BY
HIS WILL
EVERY STEP
OF THE WAY!



Having a ball of a time at the beach

My Testimony

Chang Siew Khim
 cskhim12@gmail.com

I was born into a Buddhist family. I have two younger siblings and I am the eldest grandchild among my cousins. I was cared for by my paternal grandmother till I was about 7 years old. She treated me like a princess: "If you want the wind, you can get it. If you want the rain, you will receive it" (Chinese saying). Thus I grew up with a strong will and a short temper. However, the "good" days did not last. Things changed dramatically after I went back to stay with my parents.

As the eldest, I was expected to take care of my younger siblings and help with simple housework while my mother worked as a seamstress. I was also expected to give in to my younger siblings. I felt that life was unfair and resented my mother for being unfair and for showing favouritism. As my dissatisfaction grew, little things triggered my temper. I remembered that once I quarrelled with my brother and, in the heat of my anger, threw a small stool at him. There were other times when my fiery outbursts caused my family to go into complete silence until my temper abated. All these pricked my conscience

and I repeatedly told myself to control my anger and "do more good deeds" to clear away my "wrong ones", just like a good Buddhist. I started following my mum to Buddhist lessons to be more "right" with the "god" that I believed in at that time. However, each time I went, instead of being more peaceful, I was more disturbed. The harder I tried, the more I failed and my temper worsened. I felt depressed, useless and angry with myself. I wanted to get out of this vicious cycle and started to question what life was all about. Was there any way out of this sinful nature?

Not long after, I met a primary school classmate. He invited me to visit my primary school's dental nurse who is a Christian. I remember that the visit was on a weekday in September 1991. During our visit, she talked about God and Jesus Christ. She invited us to a gospel meeting in her church that night. Initially, I was reluctant to attend. However, persuaded by my friend, I went to the meeting with him and my sister. It was the first time that I heard the solution to my sinful state: it is through Jesus Christ that my sins can be cleansed. It

is not what I need to do but what Jesus Christ did. He died on the cross for my sins. The only way for me to be cleansed and be at peace with God is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

That night, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour with the help of my dental nurse who shared God's salvation plan. At that very moment, I knew that I was forgiven and was right with the True God.

I am no longer the person that wakes up with nothing to interest me or the one who lays down to sleep with a disturbed conscience. The person that I am today is one who knows that she has a Lord who died for her sins and now she is justified in Him. My past no longer has any grip on me as I am forgiven by God. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5: 17). I believe that no matter what the future holds, my Lord will hold my hand and see me through.

DVBS 2015: God's Masterpiece



Ho Qi An (gmqaho@gmail.com)

The annual evangelistic Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) was held at Bethesda Hall Depot Walk (BDW) from 1-3 December 2015, and the theme was "God's Masterpiece". DVBS 2015 was exceptional because we witnessed a record number of 217 children coming for the camp. Out of the 217 children, 38 were saved and four were counselled for assurance. I am thankful for the opportunity to have been part of the planning committee, with several other young adults from BAMK and BDW. Our ultimate goal was to share the gospel with the unsaved, and I thank God that with this in mind, we were able to work together in harmony despite our different personalities and

ideas.

Being adventurous, the committee decided to do things in a slightly different way. We did away with the usual camp highlight of an outing. Instead, we came

up with an investigative spy concept for the camp program. The children were to be called "Agents", and their mission was to uncover the identity of God's greatest masterpiece. During the messages, Bible studies and



Jeryl Tan, who headed the planning committee



games, the children were given several clues before finally receiving a picture of themselves, which revealed that they were actually God's greatest masterpiece. The camp teachers for the camp were Suzanne Wong and Brandon Chan. Their messages centred on God's creation and the amazing work of God. Through these messages, the children came to know of the great power of their Maker. The gospel message was made plain and simple to the children.

In order to help the children to experience God's marvellous creations, the committee also decided to decorate the entire church. Organised and headed by Constance Chong, the committee worked together with many helpers to transform different parts of the church into a jungle, an underwater world, and outer space. The many late nights put in were all made worthwhile when we saw the excited smiles of the children each time they entered the church for the camp.

The fun that the children had and the smooth running of the camp would not have been possible without the various DVBS helpers. Having heard of the previous committees' struggles to recruit helpers for DVBS, I was

initially worried that we would face the same problem. However, God was faithful in answering the continuous prayers of the committee, and we saw about 110 helpers coming forward. The



Children displaying their agent skills by trying to get out of a laser trap during game time



Children made and decorated their very own spy wallets which could be used to put money and cards



Children enjoying a cooking game

joint effort put in by both young and not-so-young helpers in carrying out their different roles was especially encouraging to me. Through their support for the DVBS committee and their unity in wanting to make DVBS an exceptional experience for the children, I saw a picture of what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12, where he described the church as a body, made of different parts working together to build the church up and glorify Christ the Head.

DVBS is an evangelistic effort to reach out to children who have not heard the gospel, with the hope that when they receive Christ, they will in turn bring the gospel of salvation to their families. The committee is thankful to have been given the chance to plant the seeds of salvation in the hearts of the children, and it is our sincere prayer that these



Meet our very own spy agents, Jia Le and Constance

seeds will bear fruit. We thank each helper for their labour of love. I pray that our church will continue to bring the gospel to the unsaved and be a shining light for God in this world of darkness.

**OUR ULTIMATE
GOAL WAS TO
SHARE THE
GOSPEL WITH
THE UNSAVED**



Singing led by Samuel Tay



Brandon Chan supervising the maze



Children enjoying a tea break lovingly prepared by the kitchen team

Dec 2015-Feb 2016 Assembly News

BIRTH

16 Jan 2016 – God’s gift of a baby boy, Jeremiah (1st child) to Tan Shengjie & Mei Ling.

WEDDING

16 Jan 2016 – Wedding of Yeo Shun Quan & Jeannie Chiam En Ping at Aldersgate Methodist Church.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest condolences to:

- Teo Tai Hoon & Helen Teo on the home call of their mother on 26/11/2015.
- Shirley Gan, Sean Gan, Ian Gan & Nancee, Doreen Tai, Irene Choa, Eric Choa & Geok Eng, Lydia Choa, Lois Choa, Salome Choa & Apphia Choa on the home call of their Uncle/Grand-uncle, Tan Geok Seng on 23/12/2015.
- Karen Chee & Chee Siok Chin on the home call of their father on 26/12/2015.
- Foo Kim Soon on the passing away of her mother on 31/12/2015.
- Jimmy Seow & Angie and Yuhan on the passing away of Jimmy’s brother-in-law on 2/1/2016.
- Edwin Lai & Lisa on the home call of Lisa’s mother on 11/1/2016.
- Tan Kian Huat & Akiko and

Izumi on the home call of Akiko’s father in Japan on 18/1/2016.

NEWLY-BAPTISED MEMBERS

We thank the Lord for the following who obeyed the Lord through the waters of baptism on 24 January 2016: Sheryl Chan Si Ern, Melinda Hoe See Woon, Rebecca Kwan Kait Lyn, Lee Wen Ying, Ng Shao Qi, Amanda Tan Kai Hui, Melody Wee Shi Qin, Ruth Wee Yong Ann, Wong Hui Xin, Ryan Chan Wei Ern, Jeshar Kum Cheng Kit, Lee Yue Ming, Joel Lim Kuan, Ng Jia Le and Samuel Tay Kai Han.

RETURNED FROM ABROAD / JOINED IN FELLOWSHIP

Naomi Tan Wern Yi who returned to us on 17 Jan 2016 after completing her studies in France.

Yong En Haur & his wife, Lai Choon Sheen from Sg Nibong Gospel Hall, Penang, Malaysia who were received into fellowship on 24 Jan 2016.

FAREWELL

23 Dec 2015 – Ng Jia Ning left for a 4-year Bachelor's Degree (Honours) Programme in Music Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.



Front (L-R): Rebecca Kwan Kait Lyn, Ruth Wee Yong Ann, Wong Hui Xin, Lee Wen Ying, Melody Wee Shi Qin, Sheryl Chan Si Ern

Back (L-R): Melinda Hoe See Woon, Amanda Tan Kai Hui, Ng Shao Qi, Jeshar Kum Cheng Kit, Ng Jia Le, Ryan Chan Wei Ern, Joel Lim Kuan, Lee Yue Ming and Samuel Tay Kai Han

30 Jan 2016 – Amos Chew left for a 9-month CrossConnect course: Cert IV in Christian Ministry and Theology at GLO College of Ministries, Smithton, Tasmania.

11 Feb 2016 – Kenneth Khong

left for a teaching position in Chongqing, China, for a period of one year.

EVENTS

1-3 DEC

DVBS 2015 @BDW

Theme: God's Masterpiece

Speakers: Suzanne Wong & Brandon Chan

Committee: Tan Hee Chin (Chairman), Dora Tan, Ho Xin An, Constance Chong, Ho Qi An, Andrew He, Nicholas Ong, Noah Ong, Esmond Phua, Wee Swee Kee, Samuel Ten, Nicholas Kan and Robyn Tan. More than 200 children attended with 43 children being counselled for salvation and assurance.

2-4 DEC

3-DAY SPECIAL MINISTRY BY ANDREW COWELL

Topic: Corporate Worship & The Lord's Supper

Chairmen: Daniel Skelton, Linus Tan & William Chew
An average of 90 attended each night.

5 DEC

BREAKFAST TALK WITH YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

Speaker: Andrew Cowell
A few couples attended.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (AMK)

Topic: Personal Revival
Speaker: Andrew Cowell
About 40 attended.

7-12 DEC

ASSEMBLY YOUTH CAMP VENUE: LAUTAN BIRU, MERSING

THEME: WHAT IS TRUTH? (JOHN 8:38)

Camp Teacher: Andrew Cowell
Chairman: Chong Kit Soon
Committee: Natalie Ong, Ruth Ho, Clement Tan, Kam Yew Chuen, Jonathan Lim, Choong Seow Fei, Aaron Wong, Tan Kian Huat, Chan Wai Kiong, Matthew Chia, Kerriann Chua, Melissa Fong, Raymond Chan and Ryan Kwan.
141 attended.

17-28 DEC

BMET MYANMAR

Leader: Wong Tuck Keong
Asst. Leader: Mah Lai Yeng
Members: Koh Jiaqi, Charlene Koh, Naomi Chan, Renee Tan, Samuel Ko, Jereme Teo, Tan Suan Yang and Hannah Erh.
Organised three youth camps in Yangon, Myitkyna and Pyin Oo Lwin (POL), conducted some Evangelistic Christmas Programmes (children and adults) at POL and visited the Agape Orphanage in Yangon.

20 DEC

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL SERVICE (DW)

Topic: The Man from the Other Side (John 8:23)
Speaker: Calvin Koh
Chairman: Jonathan Sikhamani
Bethesda Choir presented the Christmas Cantata, "The First Noel" by Russell Mauldin & Sue C. Smith
About 150 attended.

25 DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (AMK)

Topic: "Home for Christmas"

Speaker: Kenneth Wong
Chairman: Linus Tan
Bethesda Choir presented the Christmas Cantata, "The First Noel" by Russell Mauldin & Sue C. Smith
Close to 700 attended.

31 DEC

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE (AMK)

Speaker: Ho Kuang Cheng
Chairman: Gerald Sim
About 300 attended.

1 JAN

WORKERS' RETREAT (AMK)

Theme: Launch Out into the Deep (Luke 5:4)
Speakers: Kenneth Wong & Harry Tan
Chairman: Keith Wan
More than 140 attended.

CANTONESE GROUP ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE (AMK)

Speaker: Raymond Chin
Chairman: Keith Wan
Testimony by Aaron Wong
Programme included song items by the Cantonese saints and a buffet dinner.
About 100 attended.

9 JAN

TUITION REGISTRATION 2016 (AMK)

More than 25 children registered.

SISTERS' MINISTRY (AMK) ORIENTATION & WORKSHOP

Topic: "How Devoted Are You to God?":
Speaker: Ng Swee Choo
About 65 attended.

MINISTRY

GOSPEL SERVICE

Date	Morning Ministry (AMK)	Morning Ministry (DW)	Venue	Speaker	Chairman
7-Feb-16	Linus Tan	Harry Tan			
14-Feb-16	Linus Tan	Harry Tan	DW	Joseph Sng	Clement Tan
21-Feb-16	Tan Chee Hwee	Kenneth Wong			
28-Feb-16	Chan Man Wong	Kenneth Wong	AMK	Gerald Sim	Ng Kim Khoon
6-Mar-16	Chang Chew Kient	Mah Kwok Kin			
13-Mar-16	Chang Chew Kient	Andrew Sng	DW	Thomas Phua	James Yim
20-Mar-16	Andrew Kwan	Bernard Fung			
27-Mar-16	Ernest Chew	Matthew Hillier	AMK	Tan Jin Song	Nicholas Ong
3-Apr-16	William Lee	Ernest Chew			
10-Apr-16	Gerald Sim	Ho Xin An	DW	Andrew Premsundar	Benjamin Chia
17-Apr-16	Peter Wong	Tan Ah Beng			
24-Apr-16	Peter Wong	Choy Boon Yew	AMK	Asher Khoo	Lucius Tan

SPEAKERS FOR PRAYER MEETING FROM FEB-APR 2016

Date	Bible Text	Speaker (AMK)	Speaker (DW)
9-Feb-16	Second Levitical Census 4:1-49	Wong Tuck Keong	Eric Choa
16-Feb-16	Things to be avoided 5:1-31	Tay Kim Swee	Boon Chuan Jian
23-Feb-16	Things to be encouraged 6:1-27	Daniel Skelton	Ho Xin An
1-Mar-16	Offerings for the Lord 7:1-89	Stephen Chang (Combined Meeting @ AMK)	
8-Mar-16	Consecrating the Levites 8:1-26	Andrew He	Samuel Chng
15-Mar-16	Observing the Passover 9:1-14	Wan Yin Chi	Ho Ren An
22-Mar-16	The Heavenly Cloud 9:15-23	Thomas Phua	Francis Chia
29-Mar-16	The Silent Trumpet 10:1-10	Edmund Yong	Joseph Sng
5-Apr-16	Departure from Sinai 10:11-28	Nathaniel Sim (Combined Meeting @ AMK)	
12-Apr-16	The Requests to Hobab 10: 29-36	Lucius Tan	Sum Siew Tak
19-Apr-16	Complaint about the way 11:1-3	Yeo Ann Kian	Ho Kuang Cheng
26-Apr-16	Complaint about food 11:4-35	David Chua	Ernie Abbott