

FOCUS

our 4 5th year

For the Week of 3rd May 2009

From our Minister's Desk:



A
Thoughtful
Look at
the use of
Contemporary
Choruses
at PP

Henry Kong

While it is good to see the renewed interest in singing and the infusion of new Christian songs, the thinking Christian should be aware of these factors:

1. Balance - some churches among the brotherhood have been so intoxicated with these contemporary choruses, that they no longer sing any hymns. We would like to encourage our youths to join brother Daniel's monthly a cappella singing so that they have a balanced repertoire of songs.
2. Corporate worship - while many are lured to contemporary songs by the music as well as lyrics, we need to differentiate the "I" songs from the "we" songs, and be aware of the appropriate ones for worship and private devotion.
3. Personally, I am very concerned that many of today's songs do not spring from churches. Until recently, in the history of the church, our songs come from within the church. Today, the money making music industry is churning out most of the new Christian songs. As these songs by celebrity singers gain popularity and climb up the hit charts, they are adopted by the church at large.

Experiences from the past church camp:



**PP ANNUAL
CHURCH
CAMP 2008**

**By Sister
Dorothy Tay**

What's so great about our Annual Church Camp that nearly 400 people were at it last year? What can we crow about that we can draw even more people to join us this year? As brother Henry said, there were people attending the camp who had never been there before! I may not have seen it all, or done it all, but what I have experienced is sufficient for me to share with you the joy of being in a Christian family.

We had a balanced diet at the camp: purposeful, pleasing and palatable! Our spiritual sustenance was well taken care of through the Theme for the camp: "Devotion, Discipline, and Disciple." As the camp song was sung each time, we could feel that "We are one in the spirit; we are one in the Lord...And they'll know we are Christians by our love..."

And as each lesson unfolded, we reflected on our lives in Jesus. To take us through a better understanding of what "Devotion, Discipline and Disciple" meant, we had our Dean, SIBI, brother Charles Cook who expounded on each D-word so aptly. We could not have had a better evangelist than Charles. After having attended the 3-day Seminar on Servant Leadership taught by Charles, it was a delight to continue listening to him. Through it all we learnt to be more and more Christ-like. In Charles' words: "In spreading God's word, the sky is the limit." Let us spread God's word through our devoted, disciplined life as a disciple of Christ.

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PP FAMILY NEWS

Open Bible study participants enjoying the new, bright and spacious permanent SIBI classroom - thanks to the diligent work of brother Barnabas and sister Annie.

Elder Adrian Teo will speak on the subject of "Cheerful Service" at our morning worships today. Deacon Paul Lim will speak on "Falsehood" at the evening worship.

We urge more youth to join in the a cappella singing today from 1:30-3:30pm. It is so important as we grow together as a church, that the youth learn traditional hymns as well as contemporary choruses.

A cappella singers, please collect your lunch orders from sister Betty at the lobby today after the 11am service.

The SIBI Open Bible Study is back in full swing and enjoying their bright new classroom. Come and join them this Wednesday at 10am in the study of the book of Proverbs with brother Charles Cook. We encourage Care teams to try out OBS for a few weeks - meet at OBS and then enjoy lunch together.

Come back this Wednesday evening for SPC's 2009 major series on "Christlike Characters Development" at 7:30pm. Dinner provided from 6pm onwards.

The number of campers has climbed over the 250 mark. It is heartening to see many signing up as soon as their leave is confirmed. We want to thank brother Tan Wee Meng who designed the beautiful t-shirts for the 2009 camp.



With this issue of the Focus is a special supplement on the upcoming FriendSpeak seminar, 2-5pm on Saturday, 16 May. Members and visitors are urged not to miss this special afternoon where we will be trained and accredited on the use of the FriendSpeak resources. A kit will be given to all participants. Lunch will be served at 1pm. Free to all PP members and regular visitors; \$70 for all others.

Worship Service	Today (3 May)	Next Week
8am Scripture Text:	Psalm 77:10-12	Psalm 78:1-4
11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer:	Henry Kong Gareth Chan Chen Yi Michael Booker elder Adrian Teo Elder Beng Chuan	Elder Adrian Alvin Tjipto Shawn Li Paul Quek Kuek Lee Hock Elder Winston Chong
Ushers Balcony	Johnsten Wee HI Team	Richard Leow HI Team
6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: SR/Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer:	Henry Kong Psalm 77:13-15 Ban Haw Leong Jason Ng Deacon Li Chhoan Deacon Paul Lim Elder Beng Chuan	Elder Adrian Psalm 84:1-4 Patrick Ong Deacon Paul Lim Elder Simon Goh Charles Pang Elder Winston Chong

Experiences from the past camp Continued from the insert

their experiences on "answered prayers – yes or no, or still waiting." Are we willing to accept God's answer for us? Or are we still longing for God to give us the answers we are looking for?

Eating together allowed for even greater bonding. Last year, with the Chinese congregation in our midst, we had more grand parents at the camp. Several of the grandmothers were on wheel chairs with their personal helpers. It was wonderful to see so many families bringing their parents and grandparents to the camp. You can see the joy on the faces of our "Silver Generation," growing in the grace of God.

Another palatable feast we had was the durian feast, a whole truck load of durians! It was "eat to your heart's content" session where both young and old feasted on the king of the fruits! Even our "ang mohs" had their taste of this "potent" fruit.

We also had our International friends from China, India, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia with us at the camp. The Cooks and the Gorackes from the States are of course ours to claim as they are Deans of SIBI (Singapore International Bible Institute). What a pleasant international company we had!

One highlight of the camp was of course the Amazing gRace which took us through the streets of Melaka, in particular the Jonker Street and the Historical Site of Famosa. We were a motley crew of "tourists" plying along the streets, searching for our "wares."

Led by Edward and first mate Rosalind, Phay and I almost exercised our option of not participating as "Senior Citizens." In retrospect, we were glad we participated, as Henry and Nat joined our group. It was a fun trail as we made our way, first looking for things we could associate with Singapore along Jonker Street. Though we did not win the top prizes, we were winners in having completed the race!

I thought the final sharing by the group facilitators was great to round up the camp. Each team went out with such a gung-ho spirit: the strong helping the weak, the able helping the disabled, and the young looking out for the elderly. I thought my group was handicapped

by so many senior people until I realized that other groups had the weak, the sick and the handicapped! How courageous they were to venture out and complete the race! Indeed we were one in spirit in our walk with Jesus and in our fellowship with one another! The Amazing gRace brought out the Amazing Grace in us!

To top it all were the two baptisms: Shernise and Clarita. Shernise accepted the Lord on Day 2 of the camp and Clarita on the last evening. It was truly a heavenly joy, with two souls added to the church.

Clarita, from the House Helpers' class, on the last night of the camp, walked into our Devotion group. Clarita had felt the calling of God for some time, even before coming to the camp. Her going to the camp with her employer, Judith, was through the providence of God. As Clarita came to our Devotion group, I could sense that she wanted to open her heart to receive God. We spoke with her and she burst into tears of joy that she could now become a child of God. Praise the Lord for her baptism into Christ.

We came out of the camp with our Head (Mind) renewed, our Heart warmed and our Hands ready to serve the Master!





The FriendSpeak team works closely with the church to implement a FriendSpeak program tailored to the members' specific needs. Here is what you can expect:

Initial Needs Assessment – You tell us about your church, your community, your ministry goals and dreams... and we listen. Because no two churches are alike, we pay close attention so that FriendSpeak can work in partnership with what you're already doing.

On-Site Leadership Training – We'll spend an informative evening with the leadership of your church, preparing for logistic and administrative details while providing you the tools and promotional resources you need to get started. At this training you'll receive a comprehensive demographics analysis of your community.

On-Site FriendSpeak Training – We'll equip your members with the skills and experience necessary to be effective FriendSpeak workers. At this Saturday afternoon seminar, we'll train your members to conduct well-planned English conversation classes while preparing them to share their faith in a very natural and comfortable way.

Continued Education and Support – Once your FriendSpeak training is complete, you can rest assured that our work on your behalf has only begun. From regular communication and support to more advanced training opportunities, we are deeply committed to the long-term success of your FriendSpeak ministry.

People came back from mission trips, saw that their next-door neighbors were from other countries, and said, 'Why can't we do the same thing right here, right now?'

-- Ben Woodward, Director of FriendSpeak

- [Why FriendSpeak?](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [FAQ's](#)

FriendSpeak trains and equips churches to reach out to our international neighbors with English, friendship, and the Word of God. We got our start in the early 1990's as returned missionaries helping foreign college students practice their English while using biblical texts. Today, FriendSpeak offers a proven set of tools and full range of training that enable all Christians to respond to the changing demographics in our communities.

The FriendSpeak strategy is effective because we offer people something they want but have difficulty finding -- a friend who will help them improve their conversational English. Unlike traditional English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes, language missions, or literacy programs, FriendSpeak is conducted in a one-to-one setting with the emphasis on relationships and meaningful conversation, not on teaching the text. The result is a series of heart-felt conversations about faith, love, and the source of abundant life!

FriendSpeak has trained over 200 churches throughout North America, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. We take great satisfaction in offering the same commitment and quality of service to small and large churches alike, always going the extra mile. Talk to anyone on our team, and you will quickly sense our passion for serving among God's people.



Quote:

"We really appreciate the work you do. A lot of people who were at the training came up to me and expressed thanks for introducing this program!"

Caryn Hunnicutt, SC

"We've been awed by God's work through such a simple, peaceful and serving way of sharing His Word."



New FriendSpeak Website!

We've updated the FriendSpeak website with a fresh look, easier navigation, and several useful tools that I think you'll appreciate.

Free Demographics Analysis - FriendSpeak has partnered with the Nielsen Company to offer up-to-date demographics research for your community. Visit www.FriendSpeak.org to find out who lives in the neighborhoods surrounding your church.

New Promotional Videos - Need some help recruiting your members for FriendSpeak? Click here to watch two new FriendSpeak promotional/recruiting videos.

Training for Existing FriendSpeak Churches - In response to many of your suggestions, we're now offering advanced training for existing FriendSpeak ministries. Click on the link at the website to learn more!

If you have any ideas or suggestions about the website, we'd love to hear from you. Send us an email at info@FriendSpeak.org.



Quote:

"Working together in FriendSpeak and sharing our faith with others helped many of us look beyond our differences and grow closer, helping us become unified as one church doing God's work."

John and Barbara Pickhardt



FriendSpeak Community

The FriendSpeak Community is a collaborative network of thousands of Christians who participate in FriendSpeak. By staying informed with the latest news and working together with others just like you, you'll be even better prepared to reach out to the non-English speaking people in your community.



PP FriendSpeak Workshop

On Saturday, May 16th, FriendSpeak is hosting a training seminar at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ. The purpose of this training is to instruct on how to implement the FriendSpeak kit in the marketplace as we touch lives for Christ. Retirees, housewives and students will also find this useful.

This FriendSpeak Training Seminar will start with a lunch at 1pm. From 2:00pm–5:30pm, participants will be equipped with the skills and practice necessary to be effective FriendSpeak workers. The heart of this seminar is to train participants to share their faith in a very natural and comfortable way.

All attending the seminar will receive a kit to use right away with their contacts. The cost of the seminar is S\$70 per person. There will be participants from Malaysia and other congregations in Singapore. Since this event is sponsored by PP, members and visitors at PP will attend for free. Mark your calendars now.

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about FriendSpeak



Why choose FriendSpeak? Because we understand your situation. You've found a mission field right outside your front door and you're ready to act. You need something sensible and appropriate; you need something that works.

How can FriendSpeak help? You'll be equipped to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of your international neighbors. While most churches tend toward one or the other, FriendSpeak combines both in a friendly, one-on-one environment where meaningful conversation, not teaching English, is the goal. Christians meet weekly with their international readers to help them practice their English, discussing the stories of the Gospels from easy-to-read workbooks. In this context, lan-

guage skills improve, friendships are born, and faith is discussed openly.

What results can I reasonably expect?

You will witness the development of genuine faith. You'll observe in your readers the development of genuine faith in Jesus because of their direct experience with the gospel. FriendSpeak fosters spiritual growth and church transformation. As churches focus their attention outward with renewed passion and become more active in real-life, day-to-day evangelism, hearts are changed and lives are transformed.



CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 3rd May 2009

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship
Speaker: Elder Adrian Teo
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
New adults combined series on "God in the Marketplace" with Peter Lim and his team
- 11am Morning Worship
- 1:30pm A cappella Singing
- 6pm Evening Worship
Speaker: deacon Paul Lim



Wednesday, 6th May 2009

- 10am Open Bible Study on the Book of Proverbs with Charles Cook
- 6pm Dinner served
- 7:30am SPC major series conducted by elder Adrian on "Christlike Character Development".

Please go through the notes in this issue of Focus and prepare yourself before coming on Wednesday

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

Travel mercies for Ramesh on work assignment to Norway - Henry and Nat
 More patience while trying to encourage Shan to attend church services. My uncle's well being after his recent surgery - Molly Ponnusamy
 God's guidance, wisdom and presence as I mentor four apprentice teachers - Josephine
 My brother to train his firstborn child in God's Word and to be a role model - Maribel
 Molly's health and my friend, Elizabeth's marriage. Mike's grandpa who is in critical condition in Malaysia - Grace Mariaraja
 God's forgiveness of my sins right from the very beginning. Lord, please help me to forgive those who have hurt me. - Amelyn
 Andy's surgery on 4 May - Julie Wee
 My physical and spiritual health - Amparo

Thank God for:

Elder Winston's sermon - Linda Ching, Fook Weng, Andy Wees
 Vincent's sermon. Thank God for Vincent and his wife Doreen, their labours with the HI and China missions and the humble example they model for all - Henry Kong
 The opportunity to attend the briefing on 'mentorship'. Travel mercy during my recent holiday in Australia - Josephine Seow
 His protection over our family while Peter and I were away - Linda Ching
 Our minister, Henry's successful cataract surgery this past Monday - Paul Quek

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	124
11am Worship	232
6pm Worship	<u>52</u>
Total:	<u>429</u>
Morning Giving	\$9,071
Evening Giving	<u>\$ 818</u>
Total Contribution	<u>\$9,889</u>



Receipt No. Donor Amount

3RsF 1252	Anonymous	\$ 50
3RsF 1253	Anonymous	\$300
3RsF 1254	Chew Chong Lins	\$500
3RsF 1255	Chinese Cong.	\$700
3RsF 1256	Anonymous	\$300



Experiences from the past camp

Continued from Cover

In the sharing by our foreign participants, Dino from Wangsa Maju spoke of his success in using the "LST" model. Perhaps we should extend it to "LSTAG – Let's Start Talking About God" in our conversations. I was also most encouraged by Sam Cariaga from the Philippines, who had given up his private practice to go into full-time Medical Mission for the many poverty stricken people in the Philippines.



The 2008 camp had a light-hearted and pleasing approach in bringing about family bonding. The family devotions conducted nightly in the rooms of the host family brought about closer sharing for each day's study. As we listened to one another, we discerned how the youth, in my case, Shawn, Andrea, and Jacques viewed their confidence level in God hearing and answering prayers. Likewise the "aunties" shared

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