

FOCUS

our 4 5th year

For the Week of 13th September 2009



From our Minister's Desk:

Growing Interest at our Sunday Evening Worship

One of the great joys of each Lord's Day is the Sunday evening worship. It is a great time of the day to come together in the serenity of dusk to worship God.

No hustle and bustle of the busy and exciting Lord's Day morning. In its place is a slower pace of worship where the crowd is smaller and the tone, less formal and rushed.

While most congregations find it difficult to maintain an evening worship, PP's service seem to have held out on its own quite well over the years. In recent months, there is a good consistent attendance, with more coming on and enjoying a second worship; ending the Lord's Day in the Lord's house in true dedication of the day to Him. In fact, amongst the brotherhood, PP is the only congregation that conducts an evening worship.

A year or two ago, a monthly potluck was informally organised after the evening worship. It was an instant success and a really lovely way to enjoy good home cooked food and great fellowship, and cap an already wonderful evening. This year, the youth have joined in and now there is a monthly youth emphasis night. Parents, families and more youth are present on these sessions, giving the evening worship a nice boost all around.

Recently there has been a suggestion to move the worship hour earlier by an hour. PP's original evening worship was 7:30pm. It was moved to 6pm when the congregation moved to Pasir Panjang. What do you think? Will 5pm be more suitable than 6pm? Will members who attend the a cappella singing and SIBI classes be more motivated to stay back and attend? If you are planning to attend the evening worship or are already attending, share your feedback on the attendance card.



The first cut off date for bookings for the 45th Anniversary Grand Dinner is 30th September.

There are 3 ways you can reserve your table:

1. Use the attendance card. You can book a table or one or more seats.
2. Sign up at the lobby. We have a team stationed at the lobby to assist you in this task.
3. Sign up on the notice board. This is especially useful if you have specific people you want to be seated with.

Please help us do a better job by signing up today.



Sign early to avoid disappointment.

PP FAMILY NEWS

Photo on the left: Brothers Siow Hwee and Ming Hui helping with the Let's Start Talking programme at Wangsa Maju, Malaysia. Read brother Siow Hwee's report in today's supplement.



We warmly welcome each and every visitor today. If you have a special need or request, our elders and deacons will be happy to assist you.

Brother Lee Hock will exhort the congregation at our morning worships today. Come back at 6pm for our monthly youth emphasis night with brother Irvin Wan as the speaker.

We have started the countdown to our 45th Anniversary celebrations with less than 40 days to go. Take a look at our "Blast from the Past" photographs in our supplement. Also check out the reports and invitations of our past anniversaries at the notice board.

The first cut-off date to reserve your table for the Grand Dinner is the end of the month. We have a team at the lobby who will assist you in this task. Sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Join us this Wednesday at 10am for SIBI's Open Bible Study. Many members (from other congregations as well) and visitors are enjoying brother Charles Cook's lessons from the book of Romans. Care teams are encouraged to schedule their sessions here.

The new SPC series on "Anchors for the Soul" by brother Seah Siow Hwee got off to a great start this past week. We highly recommend this series to all members and their families who are struggling with health, finances or relationships.

Thanks to the diligence of our staff, we were able to secure 80% funding from the government (BCA) for the new chair lift. The need to carry a wheelchair person up the steps for worship is over.

Members who are attending or planning to attend our evening worship, you are invited to join the poll to give your views on the best time on the attendance card.

House Helpers' BC: This 9:30am Bible Class is especially set up for domestic helpers who are working in Singapore from various countries. It is not the former Filipino Bible Class. Filipino members and visitors who are not house helpers should not attend this class, unless they want to. This class is strictly limited to ladies except for the teaching team.

Worship Service	Today (13 September)	Next Week
8am Scripture Text:	Psalm 104:24-26	Psalm 105:1-4
11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Alvin Tjipto Jeremy Tng Peter Lim Kuek Lee Hock Elder Winston Chong	Elder Tan Beng Chuan Kenneth Kuek Matthew Tng Lam Chern Woon Charles Cook Elder Adrian Teo
Ushers Balcony	Ivan Kuek HI Team	Richard Leow HI Team
6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: SR/Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Psalm 104:33-35 Youth Emphasis Night Irvin Wan Elder Simon Goh	Elder Tan Beng Chuan Psalm 105:5-7 Liu Ming Hui Charles Pang Elder Simon Goh Immanuel Elder Adrian Teo

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 13th September 2009

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am First Morning Worship
Speaker: Kuek Lee Hock
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
Combined Adults Class Series
- 11am Second Morning Worship
- 1:15pm Shuttle Bus Service ends
- 3:30pm New SIBI course on
"Living in a Pagan World"
by brother Charles Cook
- 6pm Evening Worship - monthly
Youth Emphasis Night
Speaker: brother Irvin Wan

Wednesday, 16th September 2009

- 10am SIBI Open Bible Study
on the book of Romans
by brother Charles Cook



- 7:30pm SPC new series on the
"Anchor for the Soul"
by brother Siow Hwee
at the auditorium

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

Leaders of all nations that they will acknowledge and seek God, so many will be blessed and have hope - Nancy Goracke

Immanuel and Kumar. My family and my work - David Dass

My family in India and my Bible study - Immanuel

My son, Timothy's coming birthday and my English lessons - Kumar

My mother, sister and brother to have faith in God - Angela Teow

God guidance for my left eye to get well after the operation - Lilian Kok

My family's health and salvation - Maria

Health of sister Phay. Chen Kuo Wei who is in Chiangmai - Nat Kong

Dorothy Low's travels in Taipei on 16-20 September. Grant her travel mercy and safety - Li Li

Caleb to turn his heart towards God - Victor Soh

Travel mercy for my employer's travel from 9 September - Maribel

My son, Eddie to walk the Christian life and to encourage his sister and brother - Milagros Aquino

My backache - Ivy Tan

Nat's and Nancy Zhang's backache - Henry Kong

Salvation of my family in Philippines. My physical and spiritual strength - Amparo

Me to understand my study of God's word. My family's safety and health in Bangladesh - Rahim

Thank God for:

Elder Adrian Teo's sermon - Henry and Nat

Brother Jason Mok's sermon - Patrick

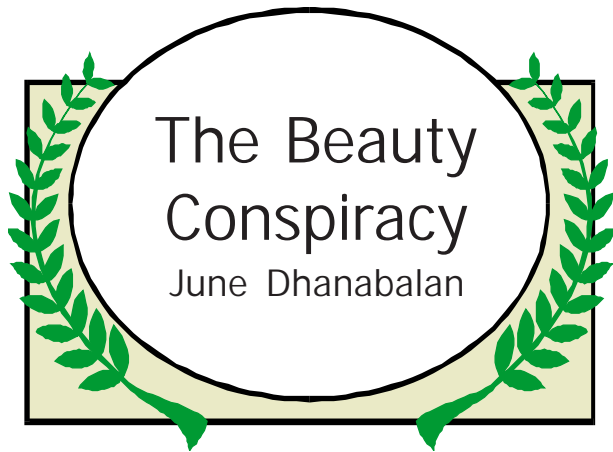
FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	133
11am Worship	215
6pm Worship	55
Total:	403
Morning Giving	\$10,760
Evening Giving	\$ 1,385
Total Contribution	\$12,145



Receipt No. Donor Amount

Get together with your family or Care team to plan for your 2009 Missions Gift



"Every woman has the right to be beautiful" is a quotation attributed to Florence Nightingale Graham, better known as Elizabeth Arden, who established a cosmetics empire listed today on the NASDAQ.

She was right. But there are lies the beauty industry and the media have told women for decades, that have made women strive by the use of cosmetics or surgery, to attain a goal that is mythical. Here are four:

Myth #1 You either have it or you don't.

The good news is: You may not have been born with a perfectly proportioned face (Google 'the golden ratio'!) or hourglass body – or should I say 'bone thin' frame as anorexia made popular by runway models is the new ideal. However, we can all choose to be beautiful. Because the foundation of True Beauty is a Godly center, and not about genes or a gym body, we can all be beautiful.

Prov 31:30: *Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

Myth #2 Beauty is show-stopping and impactful.

True beauty is not a billboard in Times Square. It is not loud, flamboyant or necessarily head-turning. A quiet spirit shines the brightest.

1 Peter 3:3-4: *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

Myth #3: Your talents and abilities accentuate your beauty

The truth is, having strengths and abilities doesn't make you beautiful unless you use them to benefit



others. The parable in Matthew 25 reinforces that everyone is given talents - some one, some more. They may not be the skills favoured by society - sporting ability, performing arts, leadership in business or monetary success but they might suit us better as individuals and have more practical uses (how often do you need to sing in public anyway?)

Got a beautiful smile? Are you a whiz with the whisk? A natural at putting people at ease? Use these gifts to touch lives!

#4 Beauty Fades

An entire anti-ageing industry thrives on the insecurities of people losing their grip (a song by Savage Garden intones, "I believe that beauty magazines promote low self esteem") on youth and vigorously fighting it with potions, plastic surgery and other procedures. The Bible mentions Sarah, Esther, Rebekah, and Abigail as being beautiful but we don't really have a clue as to their physical appearance – whether they were blonde, brunette, petite, statuesque.

What we do know is that Sarah was a submissive wife ('obeyed Abraham, calling him lord'), Esther a courageous risk-taker, Abigail had 'good understanding and a beautiful countenance' (notice which is mentioned first! 1 Samuel 25:3). These are qualities that are not time-sensitive.

True inner beauty grows and matures with age and defies the ravages of time.

This article is adapted from a lesson given to the Hearing Impaired Ladies fellowship on 23 August 2009.

Blast from the Past: Photographs of PP's Early Days



WANGSA MAJU Church LST Trip (June-July 2009)



Introduction

Wangsa Maju Church LST Graduation July 2009

On my first casual visit to Wangsa Maju (WM) Church in March 2009, a leader from the church requested for personnel from the PP Church to help them in the Let's Start Talking (LST) program. I responded to this request in June and July, and stayed in Wangsa Maju for a period of 5 weeks.

The WM Church recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of its LST ministry. This work was started by a few leaders who were then worshipping at the Petaling Jaya Church. About 3 years ago these leaders moved out of PJ Church to establish the WM Church in order to be closer to the Tunjku Abdul Rahman Universiti (UTAR) and Kolej (KTAR) students they are targeting for the LST ministry.

In the last two years, this LST ministry was spearheaded by Dino, a full-time staff recruited from the Philippines. He was assisted by American LST teachers who go to KL once a year for about two weeks. There were quite a number of students learning from these American teachers, but the numbers dwindled quite a lot once they returned to USA.

In June this year, the WM Church re-energized the LST ministry again with the availability of two American LST teachers and myself. A major recruitment of students was started, using contacts obtained last year at the two campuses by our PP youths. This recruitment re-

sulted in almost 50 students coming for the LST lessons. This time the program was more successful as nearly 30 students stayed on after the Americans left. A proper record of the students' static data and LST reading history was also maintained. The person in charge now is Phillip Loh.

How the LST ministry is now run at WM Church

1) Periodic Recruitment

Phillip goes to the campus periodically to get new students. He makes friends with them, gets them excited and tries to register them on the spot.

2) LST reading schedule

Phillip and Doreen (church staff) are responsible for calling the contacts/students to schedule them for the LST reading. A weekly timetable of the scheduled LST readings is produced for each week. They also handle any rescheduling or cancellation as the need arises. This is very normal as the students may be busy with their assignments and/or tests.

3) LST teaching

The teacher's job is to teach the students using only the FriendSpeak books. He/she helps the students to improve their English reading and comprehension. He/she also tries to establish friendship and a good rapport with his/

her students. The teachers do not get involved with the scheduling of the LST readings – this is the work of the church staff (Phillip and Doreen) as the students may call at any time (even when the teachers are busy teaching) to re-schedule or cancel their appointment. The teachers are available from 10 am to 7 pm every weekday.

4) Bible lessons for the students

The ultimate goal of the LST ministry is to reach out to the lost and convert them to Christianity. So there must be a way of finding out which students are coming merely for English classes, and which ones may be interested in learning the Bible too. At WM Church a weekly 'cell-group' session is conducted on Wednesday nights for those students who want to learn the Bible in addition to their English lessons. All LST students are invited to these meetings. Transport and food are provided.

About 8-10 students go to these weekly 'cell-group' meetings, together with WM church leaders and LST teachers. The total attendees for these meeting sometimes exceed 20. The students are taught the Bible and encouraged to become Christians. These meetings are very important as they give the church leaders and LST teachers the opportunity to know the students better and to evangelize. This is friendship evangelism at work. The cell-group is not run by the LST teachers but by the LST Ministry Leader.

5) Invitation to worship services

Former LST students who are now church members, and WM church leaders and LST teachers make great efforts to invite the LST students to the church worship services every Sunday. It is heartening to note that about five LST students who are not converted yet have been attending WM church worships on Sundays.

6) Building Rapport with the students

It is extremely important to build this rapport, not just between the teacher and his/her assigned student, but also between all the students and the church members – even those not directly involved in the LST program. To facilitate this, the church office is open everyday of the week to allow any of the students to use the church office for their studies. Some students use the opportunity to seek help from the teachers in their studies, e.g. helping them their homework. The students also get to interact with other students who have been converted, and also the teachers. This presents a chance for evangelism by church members. Church members also come to the mid-week cell-group meetings to study the Bible with the students. There are also informal social events for the teachers and students, such as our outing to the Twin Tower Sky-bridge on a Saturday. Friendship is built through these interactions.

One-to-One LST Session



Factors in Favor of Success in WM Church's LST Ministry Work

There have been more than 10 baptisms directly attributed to the LST ministry. The WM Church has several factors in their favor:

- 1) The WM Church is located near to two tertiary institutions – UTAR and KTAR – with over 10,000 students. Recruitment is done by going to their campuses periodically and enrolling them in the LST program. Each year WM Church can conduct about two major recruitments to enroll students for American LST volunteers to teach in WM Church's LST ministry.
- 2) These students were all educated in schools using Mandarin as the first language, and so their standard of English is poor as they embark on their tertiary education. They desperately need help in the English language.
- 3) These students come from poor families, unlike many Singaporean youths who are rich (materialistic) and more sophisticated. They are rather simple-minded, friendly and eager to receive FREE help. Some are very receptive to learning the Gospel.

Factors that may Hinder Success in WM Church's LST Ministry Work

- 1) Poor supervision/execution of the LST ministry. This has occurred in the past.
 - a) There was a lack of follow-through of the LST readings soon after the American teachers returned home. The number of students dropped dramatically
 - b) Once there was no proper planning regarding when to bring the American teachers to WM. Last year, four American teachers came to WM right smack during the students' exam period; very few students turned up, giving the American teachers plenty of time to twiddle their thumbs.
 - c) No proper records were maintained regarding student data and learning progress.

Fortunately these problems have now been rectified. American LST teachers in future will be invited to come outside the periods of exams and semester vacations, when the students are either too busy or are back in their hometowns. Much effort has been put in to

carry the momentum past the returning home of the American teachers. When they returned home in July this year about 30 of the initial 50 students carried on their LST readings. Finally there is now a central register of all the students containing their static data and learning progress.

- 2) Lack of LST teachers
WM Church needs volunteer teachers to conduct the LST readings. This requirement is not throughout the year, but seasonal. There is a total of about five months of slack periods, during which not many students are able to attend LST lessons because of exams or semester vacations. Volunteers are only required only during the other seven months. American teachers will be invited to come, together with volunteers from other churches. The best candidates for volunteers are retired couples and tertiary students aged 20 and above, who can stay at WM for a month each time (limited by the 30 days visa).

- 3) Lack of funds
For the program to be successful, WM Church requires a full-time paid staff who will manage all aspects of the program – enrollment, scheduling of LST readings, getting volunteer teachers and conducting the cell-group. He will also need to be a LST teacher himself, during peak periods together with volunteers, and during low seasons by himself when volunteer teachers are not required or available. In addition funds are required to provide food for the students attending the weekly cell-group meetings.

Conclusion

There is great potential for evangelism through the LST Ministry at WM Church. A working model is now in place for the program to succeed. Every year there's a new batch of students available for enrollment. All that's left to be done do is for WM Church to seek volunteers and to raise funds to run the program. I have been privileged to be part of this great evangelism work at WM Church, and intent to go back again to assist them in the future. Our brother Ming Hui was there on a casual visit and was called upon to teach on some days when there were too many students, and he felt the same way too about their LST program.

Reported by Seah Siow Hwee