



**The highlights of this year's
Church Camp:
Nat Cooper, Rahim
and Organisation**
By *Peter Soh*

Of all the church camps that I have attended, (I can't offer an opinion on those I have not attended) this year's is the most cohesive, consistent and invaluable. The planning and execution speaks well of the organisers, in particular, the youthful camp director, Kelvin Koo.

Nat Cooper

But first Nat Cooper. I did not expect to take away so much from his lessons on character building with an emphasis on youth and young children. Usually Christian lessons are expounded from lessons in the bible delivered with much of the speaker's grasp of bible knowledge. But Nat Cooper chose a subject that he delivered with such wisdom, passion and conviction over three days, day and night, that most of us came back after each lesson hungry for more and made lunch, dinner and going late for sessions (a normal occurrence at other church camps) a lesser priority. I have never seen so many taking notes and seeking Nat out after the lessons to ask more questions or clarifications in a church camp session. Nat represented the subject with personal integrity as he illustrated the points with anecdotes of his personal life and contemporary examples. It is easy to find sincerity in his teachings. He lives what he preaches. He has overturned my understanding of values in life. He has redefined for me that values are not relative, but absolute and

anchored in God's teachings. He has even introduced a new meaning for the word "fairness" based on what God would do. He banished man's definition of fairness to the dustbin called "sameness". A whole lesson to be learnt from just one word! He has opened my eyes in seeing character building and development in self and one's children as a lifelong process and part of what God expects from us that is fundamental to being a good Christian. His lessons are like having the cake and eating it too – impossible but desirable. I think most of us came away from the camp thinking about changing how we look at ourselves and the way we conduct ourselves.

Rahim

It took a lot of work and revisions to put together a grouping for the night devotionals, and it shows. Our fellow visitors from Bangladesh, India and Thailand to share our experiences that would surely cross pollinate our cultural prejudices and learn new perspectives from each other. Despite some not being able to speak English we bonded with each other. But when I found out that amongst the group was Rahim from Bangladesh, it was like receiving a windfall. Rahim was the guy whom many spoke about as the Muslim who converted to Christianity through us. I was attracted immediately to know more about this young and courageous man who has decided to leave everything he was with his God to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. What a testimony to PPCOC's missionary efforts! Once part of India and later Pakistan, Bangladesh became a Muslim nation in 1971. Muslims constitute 83% of the population

and Christianity, less than 0.03%. Rahim's action therefore is as rare as a hole-in-one on a par four, in golf. Rahim's decision to convert invites the death sentence in some Muslim countries but in his case, being ostracised by his family whom he still loves and misses. He wept unashamedly when he told us that his mother whom he still loves dearly would refuse to speak to him whenever he phones her. He misses her and his family but his preference and love for Jesus makes him an inspiration for the rest of us. He has no one but his brothers and sisters as he calls us, from our church as he lives alone and works in Singapore. He praises God and the people in church who supported and encouraged him throughout his ordeal but he bears a heavy heart knowing he has a family who wants nothing to do with him.

He did not start out seeking Jesus Christ. He was not even curious about our religion and was not contemplating the thought of ever leaving Islam. But he happened to come across our PPCOC street evangelists who gathered at Far East Plaza, one of whom was Sandra Chan, one weekend. When Sandra saw Rahim walking by, she handed him a leaflet. Rahim looked at her coldly in the eye and said "I am a Muslim" and walked away. I would say that 99.9% of the time, such incidents would have passed away and nobody would have given it a second thought. But Sandra did not want to leave it at that (that's the 0.1%). She ranted and raved at the good Lord to ask why He did not provide her with enough backing to make progress with such people. She was upset and demanded an answer from God. Rahim in the meantime had another 0.1% issue of his own. Although it was an insignificant event, he could not sleep for the entire week. He was bothered and could not understand why. Not knowing whether Sandra would be at Far East Plaza again the following week and wanting to get rid of the cause of his sleepless nights, he went again without knowing what he was going to do when he arrived. But Sandra was there again and he accepted her material this

time. Last week he was at our church camp, praising God, our church and the friends who had accepted him as family and as a Christian! Get to know him. His love for Jesus is electric and contagious. I figured he is destined to do great things by God. What a miracle! What divine intervention! Rahim personified the entire lesson that Nat Cooper brought forth. I was fortunate to witness the juxtaposition of both events during the church camp.

I think the church camp has so much cohesiveness and consistency because 1) Nat Cooper chose to stick to one main subject matter that allowed for continuous reflection.

2) The devotional sessions stuck to the themes and there was only one game which was also tied to the lesson but invited much thought in moulding clay as being congruent to moulding character.

3) We had a marvellous MC in Peter Lim, who was consistent and entertaining in announcements and instructions and Winston Chong providing background feeds to the lessons. Seeing the two appear daily and sticking to their roles gave us a sense of comfort and direction. It was a great team with so many selfless supporting individuals that it was fitting to close the camp with a display of gratitude from all by acknowledging the team with token gifts and enthusiastic applause. Nat received a spontaneous standing ovation. The first ever from a church camp audience. If you missed it this year, you have missed a blockbuster event.



CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

MY JAR OF CLAY

I moulded and kneaded my lump of clay under the demonstration of Mimi, the artist from the hearing impaired. I made an **ordinary** looking jar, full of imperfections. In spite of much smoothing to the jar, both inside and out, **cracks** remain. I could not perfect my jar. I reflected that only the Lord is perfect and only the Lord can perfect!

My jar reminded me of the *Story of the Cracked Pot* which became a blessing to all around when water flowed from the cracks, resulting in the blooms by the wayside. My ordinary jar has become **extraordinary**!

Then I put in the Character Values of LOVE, JOY, PRAISE, CARE and GIVE. These **values** influence the way I feel, think and act.

As I **organize** these values I thought of Matt 10:8 "*Freely I have received; freely I give.*" I have **received** much from the Lord, His LOVE, JOY & PEACE; and now I **respond** with PRAISE, CARE & GIVE!

Characterising is making the values I have become a way of life. In this I learnt from Bro Nat Cooper to begin with Teaching, and over time I form an attitude, with Attitude, and over time form a character, with Character, and over time form a conviction, with Conviction, and over time form a destiny. My destiny is to be Christlike, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5:22. See the jar with its blooms!

CHARACTER COUNTS

We sat mesmerized as Bro Nat Cooper took us through 5 lessons on character building, focusing on Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. There are many lessons to learn for parents, children, and all present. We appreciate his wisdom, stature, favour with God and men.

To Bro Nat, it is not, "Sir, I treat you as a gentleman, not because you are one, but because I am one."

But, " Dear Sir, I respect you as a gentleman because you're a great one, and because I am a lady!"



Dorothy Tay

CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

I am sorry for the late reply. I finally got the time to share my reflections from the camp.

As I think back over the camp experience, there are three things I remember distinctly. First are the tears I shed in our night devotions as we talked about our families. At the end we stood, held hands and renewed our commitment to each other.

Second, is the friendship that I formed with the PP youth and overseas campers. I feel truly blessed to connect with mission minded young people. I admired their commitment in helping the church grow. It is my prayer that they will continue to make a difference wherever they go.

Third, the Jar of Clay activity made me realize that our journey in the Christian life is much like the method of making a pottery. Sometimes, the Master Potter has to reshape us and remove our flaws. There are times when I feel as if I am being drenched with difficulties in life but the trial is exactly what God is using to test the level of trust that I have in Him. God never fails! In the words of King David..." Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. 1 Chronicles 28:20.

Finally, thank you PPCOC for a special and most wonderful experience that I will treasure always. Each and every one of you has taught me something special making my life fuller than it already is! :)

**Peace and Love,
Sharon Gonzales**



CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

Every moment that I was with you in the ppcoc Camp 2010 was such a great joy and up lifting moment indeed.

My life will never be the same because I had been with you. I saw a great leadership of the church and unselfish members, who does the work which allotted to each.

I really enjoyed your warm and loving hospitality. My heart felt appreciation to all of you who took the trouble to make my stay with you to be pleasant and memorable.

The lessons that I received are such a powerful, life changing and influential.

The jar making and family gathering after evening service gave me such a great insight and warm feeling. Words fail me how to thank you adequately for all you have done to me and for the cause of Christ. To God be the glory.

With a lots of thanks.

Philip



CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

It is nice to have your mail, and we appreciate very much for all your (from you, from Henry Kong, from others elders and deacons, and from all the peoples working for this camp) efforts for this camp. Yes, we have learned much about how to develop our inner characters like trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and the more important things for us is how to apply all what we have learned to our ordinary life, to serve our Chinese local churches, to encourage brothers and sisters, so that we can have a good example to others, and to glorify Him through our behave and efforts.

During making the jar, I have a vision came from my jar compare with the jar made by Tom, please see the picture of Tom's jar (the left one) and my jar (the right one) bellow:

As you can see that Tom's cup is almost finished with smooth surface both outside and inside the cup, but my cup is just have the cup shape with the clay strips clings together, there are still some small holes between the clay strips.

The left one is like the PP COC, that has developed for decade years, and has become a stable and mature church with big numbers of brothers and sisters, with many elders and deacons; of course, it is still not a perfect one; the right one is like HangZhou church or the China COC in different places, which just have developed for several years, and just forms the church frame, yet are still not so stable and mature now, and have some troubles and problems in it(just like some small holes in the cup); we know that the foundation of the cup is our Lord, and the clay strips of this cup are made up of the Chinese brothers and sisters, also made up of and have been built up by all the teachers from different countries who come and help us, through the clay strips we can see the teachers from Singapore, like Eric Tan, K.C. Cheang, Belinda Yam, Lilian Kok, Yiu Huat & Alice, Vincent, Tony Yeung, Pang Foon Yoong, Siow Hwee, Lim Soo Lang..., the teachers from USA, like Darrell, Nat Cooper, Mike Rosser, Collin, Durell, Ed Mosby, Nancy Buswell, Dan & Joneen, Michael O'Brien, Edward short, Roger Campbell, Gene, Bob Buchanon, Garry & Linda, Robert, from Canada like Larry & Karen, Don, Simon Hui, from China Hong Kong like Stephen, K.M. Siu, from China Taiwan area like John Yo, Wang Yung Siu...

Just because the helps from so many teachers from different places for so many years that the Chinese church in different places can form the church frame, and can develop gradually and constantly, but they still need more helps and encouragements, and need to grow bigger and to become more mature and stable, hope more PP members will be one of the clay strip of this "Chinese church cup", and can do anything you can to help the growing of China church, I am sure that, someday China COC will grow up and become more mature like PP COC now.

As most of Singapore citizen are Chinese, and their elder generations were come from China; some of you have visited China for many times, we still welcome you, especially for the young generation to visit China in the future, to see the land where your ancestors once lived, to find your "root" in China; there are different kinds of landscape in China, from the north to the south, from the east to the west parts of China, and from the plains to the high mountains, this is our land, and this is also your land. I am sure that someday in the near future China can catch up with Singapore, and also can catch up with the world.

May God bless Singapore!

May God bless China!

May God bless all the countries in the world!

In Christ

Andrew from China

CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

The Camp was very very good for us. We learned a lot. We discovered a lot about ourselves. We discovered our maturity through the different values tackled during the discussions as well as during the room devotions.

Our group was very helpful and friendly. We had a fun learning experience with the other group members.

The Character Counts theme help us evaluate up to what level we are in terms of the different values or if these values are already evident in our daily life especially as Christians. We've learned that we have a lot more to do to become of good character, a character that God wanted us to be. The SIBI class was also very helpful to us especially that just like the Bible character, we too have our struggles and knowing that we are not different from them. It gave us more hope that we can also surpass the trials we have and trials to come.

Overall the entire Camp program was very good already. A special mention to the blessing part, is a very nice idea. Perhaps the only suggestion that we can think of would be a game for the families (just like what the YP did). And also if possible, for each group, have one family to perform or present something about what they learned on their discussion. So everyone after discussion there will be represented.

Aside from these, the camp was perfect.

Thank you for this big opportunity that the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ gave to us. We are really grateful for the every moment and experience we have with each and every member of the PP. Thank you so much.

Hope to see you again, Lord willing. Best regards to everyone! God bless and to all the good things, to God be the glory!

Dan and Lala



CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

I thank God for the opportunity of joining the church camp. And we thank the PP brethren for making us feel at home by receiving us warmly, and most of the time, going out of your way to make sure we were enjoying our stay there, before and after the camp.

Your hospitality and generosity brightly reflects the christian qualities every believer should possess. Even without saying, you are professing Christ in deed.

The theme of the camp: "Character counts" is a fitting confirmation of what we've experienced in the camp and how much more we can be able to build up and strengthen a Christ-like character.

I saw "Character counts" as beneficial in our everyday dealings with the world and especially in our family affairs.

Your love for the Lord's work is reflected in the success of the camp; from its preparations, to the cooperation of everyone involved through the exercise in good leadership in the church.

Truly, it was an enriching experience spiritually (and gastronomically) for me and my family.

May God bless you richly!

Lemuel Glori



CHURCH CAMP REFLECTION 2010

First, deep thanks to Pasir Panjang Church of Christ for the invitation to this wonderful camp.

A lot thanks to deacon KC who help me much. Especially for dinner on June 15, lunch on June 16 at Yong Peng, lunch on June 19 at Bukit Indah mall.

Thanks to brother Terry and sister Emily for nice breakfast on June 16

Thanks to brother Herbin and Winston Bolt who support me to attend this camp

Thanks to brother Michael and sister Belinda Yam who sent me back to Harborfront on June 19

Thanks to brother Henry and sister Nat Kong for their hospitality during the camp

Thanks to all who made me involved in this camp

Thanks God for a nice and beautiful journey from church building to Bangi Equatorial hotel and for protecting all campers so can arrived safely at the hotel. Although we didn't pass by the city but it's very nice to see the oil palm plantation a long the way. Our purple bus group was very comfortable that captaining by brother Terry wan.

I also thank God for brothers and sisters who came to this camp from many countries. It's very grateful to have them all. Roberts Dhayalan and Rabea from India, Philip VanBiak and Winsome Vertannes from Myanmar, Srinakorn Wisoon and Taweesak Boonyuen from Thailand, Nguyen TH Diem from Vietnam, George Hu and Andrew Liang from China, Lemuel family and other brother and sister from Philippine, David, Rahim, Amparo and all others that I can't say one by one.

Character counts

I really enjoy this 2010 camp since the first day after the last day. There were so many knowledge and experiences that I can get through all of programmes that set nicely by the programme team. Character counts were a best lesson for all Christians. Because how can I say that I'm a Christian if I have not a good habit and character that I can show to the world and how can I say that I'm a good Christian if I can't be a good example to all people.

I really thank God for brother Nat Cooper for his good lesson of character counts. Even though I can't follow all his lessons because for me he delivered them too fast but frankly I say that this lesson was very touchable for me to apply in my life as a good Christian. Hope all campers have the same thought like me so day after day we can show the fruits in our life

A LOT OF FOOD

God blessed this camp with lot of food so every body can fitly attending all programmes since arrival to departure. I know that food was not our main purpose to come to this camp but food also important to boost our energy and strength to attend all programmes that have set up well. Thanks for nice and various and abundant foods. Hope every one enjoy the food that prepare by the hotel.

DURIAN FEAST

Every body enjoying the Durian feast that taste very nice. Thanks to all brothers and sisters who donated to this event. Gathering as one in Christ with joy.

ROOM DEVOTION

One of important program is room devotion. Because through this lesson, we can share what we got from the main lesson. Opinion and thought of every one was essential in this discussion. Thanks to brother KC who can lead us well in this room devotion. Also thanks to all in group A6, even brother Richard Wee who's in his 80's still fit to listen and pay attention in this group.

All of these thoughts for reflection were very important to exhibit in our day life so all people surrounding us could see that Jesus our Lord live in our life. As a good Christian we need to be trustworthy, respect, responsible, fair, caring and citizenship. No more doubt who we are in God Kingdom if we could show or exhibit all above from the deepest of our heart. At last thanks again for exciting PP COC camp 2010.

Agape,

Muller

