



IMPRESSIONS OF THE JUNE CAMP

One day, Henry and I bought ourselves the latest PDA phone called the HTC Touch Diamond. To quote Henry "It has everything but the kitchen sink". It is small, thin, light and looks gorgeous. The phone has Bluetooth and Wifi and 3.5G. You can send email, SMS, MMS, surf the website, listen to FM radio, store 3,000 songs, has a 3.2 MP camera, calculator, calendar, address book for a few thousand names, weather check, GPS, watch movies, a special Youtube programme and can play games. You can do all these by touching the screen and scrolling with your fingers. Naturally it has become a hot seller. It fulfils a consumer's varied needs. To create an object of desire, the manufacturer must know what consumers want, design something to meet it and sell it at a price that they are willing to pay.

The Church Camp this year is much like the Touch Diamond. It meets the needs of members and visitors as well as achieving a purpose. The organisers have achieved the same level of wisdom and skill as the manufacturers of the Touch Diamond in meeting expectations and needs.

My personal criteria for a successful church Camp are:

1. It must be spiritually uplifting.
2. It should be fun and relaxing.
3. Participants should be able to bond and forge closer relationships.

Spiritually Uplifting

The daily lessons expounded by Charles Cook were deliberately kept brief but achieved their intended purpose of stimulating thoughts on the subject which were skilfully expanded to be included at devotionals, which allowed for purposeful sharing. In fact, some of us continued to debate the lessons after a late night meal over coffee at the hotel lobby. The delivery of the lessons set the tone for the relaxed atmosphere and Charles' cool dressing and demeanour reinforced the atmosphere. As a result of

the lessons and discussions following the lessons, I got to thinking about modifying my speech and actions amongst my non-church friends so as to reflect more of Christ's ways and not to slide into unbecoming behaviour and mannerisms and speech. I associate mostly with business people and their ways sometimes rub off on you, so the camp helped pull me back on track. We all need this as we immerse ourselves in work and forget what we are.

Fun & Relaxing

Prior to going to Malacca I had misgivings about the choice of Malacca and the hotel in the city as a venue with many distractions. I envisioned such camps to be a way from areas of distraction and with a quiet ambience suitable for quiet contemplation, prayers and fellowship. (Much like a monastery?) I was proven dramatically wrong as the organisers managed to leverage on the venue through appropriate planning and adaptation. First, the hotel, a five star one, was comfortable, able to accommodate a large group and support its activities. This set the tone for a hassle free stay. The Amazing gRace was a clever choice of physical and mental activity that forced those in the team to bond. Malacca with its quaint

narrow streets and shops and great food was the perfect setting for this activity. It was fun and I got to know my team members quite well, some of whom I see every Sunday but hardly spoke to. As there was a lot of time to complete the race and the rules were not punitive, everyone took diversions to shops and food outlets. Although it was a competition, everyone took it in the right spirit of fun. The durian feast was another highlight that underlined the fun element at this year's camp. There was also plenty of free time to cater to individual needs.

Including the youths in our activities and devotions was a very good move as we were able to interact at close quarters and achieve a balance of thinking between young and old. The spontaneous call for all during a lesson to shake hands and hug each other warmed up the entire camp as kind words and loving comments were exchanged. Even meal times were relaxed and because of it very few took advantage of it by not being late for lessons and activities.

Like the Touch Diamond, there was some serious thinking and planning behind the event to make it (device and camp) fun, fulfilling and enjoyable. I am sure there will be a desire to want more of the same

Bonding

There was true bonding – at meal times and at devotional sessions, between foreigners and locals, between young and old. This was made possible by not only the relaxed setting but also the clever threading of lessons and activities - another Touch Diamond feature that allows the user to have fun using it but on a highly technical and serious device. I spent meal times with different people but had the privilege of sharing and discussing the day's lessons at devotionals and fun and games with my devotional team comprising two husband and wife teams and some juniors and other adults. The ladies in my group were more impressive than the men, myself included, for their knowledge, enquiring minds and the desire to get to the crux of a subject.

Like the Touch Diamond, this year's church camp met the needs of what people have been hankering for. To win over their minds and hearts

permanently there must be consistency of purpose, meeting of expectations and recognising the needs of a diverse group of people bound together by its belief in God and His love for us. I am quite sure next year's camp will exceed this year's in attendance and enthusiasm.

I have asked my daughter and her friends in church to sign up next year. I hope, like them, those who stayed away because they did not feel it worth their while to spend a few days of their precious annual holiday quota with members & visitors of the church I would urge them to reconsider and place it above all the other holidays planned for the year and make it part of their yearly quota. It's worth it, like the Touch Diamond! But like the Touch Diamond, planners must ensure consistency in maintaining a successful formula to ensure a constant following.

- Peter Soh



I thank God for the Camp. When I first realized the camp would be in Malacca, I cringed at the thought of prayer walks in the city. But I think it worked out really well.

Based on the feedback I received, I think many described the camp as "a relaxing family camp". Having said that, the room devotions and Amazing gRace exceeded my expectations in its effect. I had the opportunity to bond in a meaningful way with several individuals including Peter (Linda's husband), Dr Lim, Thames (Serina's husband), my own children, and a few others outside my group.

Many thanks to each facilitator and those who were right in the thick of planning the Amazing gRace – Ting Chew, KC, Adrian, Chern Woon, and Kelvin in particular.

The hotel's handover on Wednesday was not ideal, but we got through it. The quality of the rooms made up more much shortfall in food. Thank you Chern Woon for all the organization here.

Overall, I thought the show of love and level of interaction in the Camp was exceedingly high.

Best regards
Deacon Winston Chong



I agree that this is definitely one of the best, if not the best camp at PP.

What made this camp really unique and different (to me)...

1) Relaxed pace that allow people to focus on relationships and spiritual reflections, instead of rushing from discussion to devotions like in previous years. There was more "heart" sharing vs "head" sharing.

2) Amazing gRace went way better than I expected. To be honest, I was a little "too" worried about how it would go and was "splitting hairs" over how it could have been better managed. But sometimes, we limit God's providence and power with our planning and best intentions. Indeed, Amazing gRace could be a permanent highlights in future camps.

3) Revised groupings along family lines. This I believe was a masterstroke. It was refreshing seeing how Christian families work together in both games and devotions. That said, I felt leaving the youths out on the last night was critical and important to allowing the adults to open up more. My group had both Doreen Lum and Cot Espinosa sharing their confessions and rededications. There were tears and heartfelt prayers.

4) Having Charles handle the lessons allowed the elders and deacons focus on the "bigger things" like feeling the pulse of the campers and knowing the hearts on the ground.

Of course, there were "issues" that will need to be worked on for next camps but in the grand scheme of things, I believe that the camp went as well as God intended it to.

Thanks Chern Woon for all the hard work and long hours. Could see more white hairs on you

Kelvin Koo

Yes, this year's camp is a family camp, both for our spiritual and physical family. Plenty of time to talk to each other.

My wife and me were blessed with opportuni-

ties to talk and know several church members better, especially brother Tay YG and his wife; brother Tay is very friendly and warm. I came to know Iris and Ronald Leow better, we shared about our common Christian life and goals, their interest in mission, and our family.



-- The room devotion is so far the best I had experienced. no rush, every one take time to share; my family and I have learned a lot from others. 100% attendance at all sessions.

-- Getting to know the group better. Brother Peng Liam shared wonderful insight, and his prayers honor God and touches our lives, sister Catherine, brother CC Teng and sis Hong Siok shared too. Many good things happened. The sharing were very frank, honest, encouraging and enlightening.

-- Many brothers, e.g. like Richard Leow, Henry Tang & their spouses served well and they enjoyed it. Sister Mee Hoe was called 'Captian' by some sisters on Sunday.

-- Elder William's, Amy Wu's and Connie's rededications moved the heart of God and souls in us.

Praise and glory to God for His grace and encouragement to us.

My family and I like to show our appreciation to all who serve, helping us to grow closer to God, and to our family, also to the members of the body of Christ.

In Christ,
Elder Eric Tan



Our HI group had a different devotion from the hearing.

We used object and activities plus games to bring out the 3Ds camp theme lessons.

It was a 100% attend-

ance participation from every member (13 of them including Siew Gek's husband, Soon Yong).

Devotion begin with writing and collecting of prayers from each individual member. These prayers were later separated into two category: acceptable and unacceptable.

A game on how the devil used 'sin', 'selfishness', 'my way', 'disobedience', and 'doubt' block our prayers from reaching God. The church members come in to block the devil from interferring.

On discipline, we put on an act by two HI members behaving in Christian and unchristian attitude at various situation. The HI were excited because they felt related to their real life. We had an intense and active discussion. At the end of the lesson, we had a confession session.

Discipleship began with a game collecting worldly needs and wants. These wants tied them up so that they are unable to serve God. By cutting off those worldly wants, we are free to pick up the cross and serve God. This is followed by adhering to Jesus' teaching -- washing of one another feet (live demo).

The camp is a success because the HI members understood the 3Ds camp theme this year.

To God be the glory!

We want to say a big thank to the Camp committee for job well done.

God bless all,
Patrick & Judy Ong

This year's camp is by far one of the best.



For me it was the most relaxing camp - I had no duties - simply sat back and enjoyed the fruits of labour of the committee.

I tried to sit with different folks at each meal time - to get to know them better.

The program is well designed and thought out.

I am so encouraged by all those who worked towards the success.

Am sure there were lots of sacrifices and the Lord has blessed them with wisdom in the planning.

It is also very wise of the committee to involve members like Henry Tang , Mee Hoe, Richard and Linda Leow - as bus captains.

I have personally witnessed the spiritual growth of Mee Hoe and Linda - and they in turn encouraged their husbands.

Mee Hoe was made a facilitator in the Ladies class discussion group - and she did a very good job.

The lesson we learn is to engage them and they will rise to the occassion.

On Sunday morning , Mia Cher was distributing thank you cards - which showed how much work had been in put in by this couple.

GOD has been so kind and gracious - He has blessed us abundantly and took care of us every step of the way - the weather was in our favour all the time

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Hedy Wong



This year's camp was really, really good. I will go as far as to say, the best so far.

Most congregations in Singapore go to resorts for camps, so PP's camp is no different except for the great hospitality of overseas guests. I am so touched by the outpouring of hospitality that I wrote a cover article in today's Focus. Now there is a SIBI sector at the camp period, the June PP camp is really value added.

Henry Kong