

*Experiences from the past church camp:*



## PP ANNUAL CHURCH CAMP 2008

By Sister  
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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.

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 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!

