

AG TIMES

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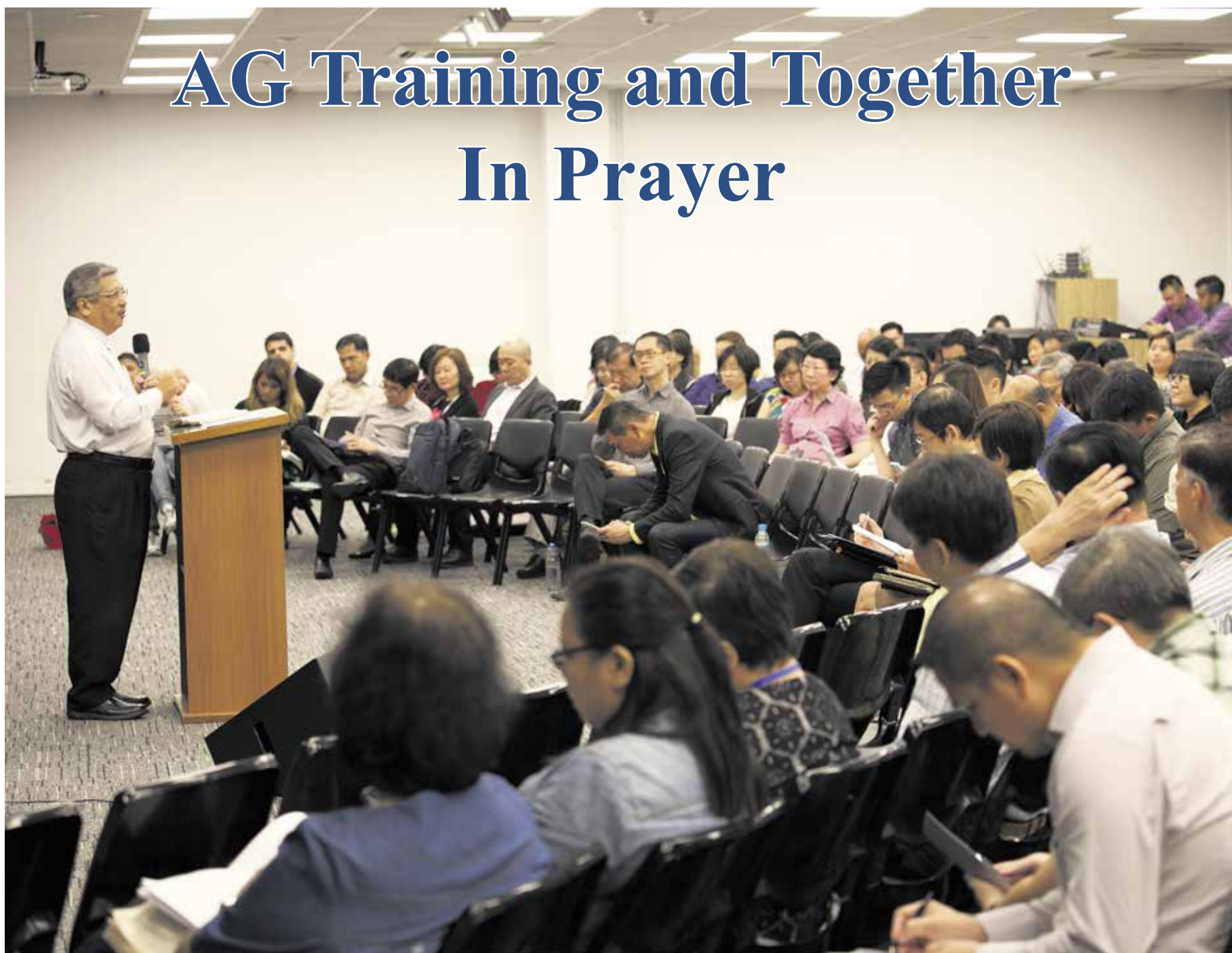
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AG Training and Together In Prayer



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"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4

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GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Revelation for Revolution



More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus issued a call for all believers, to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

This is a call to a revolution, a shaking of the status quo. Every believer was called to turn the norms of society on its head and create a new normal.

Every revolution requires preparation. For Jesus' disciples, that preparation involved coming together and waiting patiently for the promised gift (Acts 1:4). On the day of Pentecost, that gift came – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In that moment, the disciples had a revelation: this revolution was not about overthrowing governments but one that started from within every person: a transformation of our human heart to a heart that is committed to following and serving Jesus Christ.

With this revolution revelation, the disciples became devoted to one another – learning, eating, praising, and praying together. Those that had little found help as men and women sanctified their possessions for the good of the community. Their every word and action demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, so much so that “the Lord added to their numbers daily” (Acts 2:42-47).

Fast forward to today, we are still a church living in exciting times! Our denomination, the Assemblies of God (AG), records over 68 million believers in more than 365,000 churches around the world.¹ It is estimated that one salvation takes place within an AG church every 29 seconds and one AG church planted somewhere in the world every hour.²

Church, God is moving powerfully through the nations. Therefore, it is so important for us to recognize the times in which we live in in order to move forward in His plans and purposes.

As Pentecostals, we must remember that our traditions are founded and grounded on the Holy Spirit. In order to move forward, we must come to a place of Pentecostal encounter – to be led and emboldened by the Holy Spirit. That all starts with a download from Heaven: a **revelation** from God.

Revelation is a reflection of Heaven for it is God's voice. As God decrees in Heaven, it is carried out on earth. That is why in Jesus declares, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Without revelation, there's no direction and, ultimately, no results. Though we may be very busy (even in the ministry), if we move in the flesh instead of in the Spirit, it is entirely possible that all our efforts will bear fruit that doesn't last.

Friends, God works on a different paradigm than us. When we lean upon fleshly, human ways and methods, it will only result in earthly outcomes. Today, God is inviting each of us to experience His ways and methods so that we will produce everlasting fruit.

If we want a revolution to take place in our lives, it starts by asking ourselves how much revelation we are getting from God. Are we tuned to hear God's voice? How is our proximity with God?

Let's choose to live Spirit-empowered lives so that we can unlock Heaven's miracles and breakthroughs in every arena of our lives.

改革的启示

两千多年前，耶稣呼召所有门徒：“去，使万民作我的门徒，奉父、子、圣灵的名给他们施洗。凡我所吩咐你们的，都教训他们遵守……”（太28:19-20）。这是一个改革的呼召，动摇现状。每个信徒都被呼召翻转社会的准则，制造新的常规。

每个改革都需要有所预备。对耶稣的门徒来说，这个预备包括相聚和耐心等待耶稣所应许的礼物（徒1:4）。五旬节那天，那份礼物来了 - 圣灵的倾倒。那一刻，门徒得了启示：这个改革不是关乎推翻政府，而是关乎个人内心的变化，将心转化为坚定跟随事奉耶稣的心。

有了这个改革的启示，门徒彼此相爱——一起学习、用饭、赞美和祈祷。为了社区的利益，他们变卖产业和财物使有欠缺者得到帮助。他们的言行举止体现圣灵在生命中运作的大能，以致“主将得救的人，天天加给教会”（徒2:42-47）。

今日，我们仍然处在激动人心的时代！根据记录，我们的宗派神召会在全球36万5千多所教会中已有超过6800万信徒。估计每29秒就有一个人在一所神召会教会决志信主，而每一小时就有一所神召会教会栽植在地球的某处。

弟兄姐妹，神在各国大能地运行。因此，明白我们处在怎样的时代是非常重要的。这样，我们才能按神的计划和旨意向前迈进。

作为五旬宗派成员，我们必须谨记我们的传统是建立和扎根在圣灵之上。我们必须经历五旬节的体验 - 被圣灵带领及壮胆，才能向前迈进。一切始于从天而来的下载：神的启示。

启示反映天上的事，因为它是神的声音。当神在天上发出命令时，它就会在地上落实。这就是为什么耶稣宣告：“愿你的国降临，愿你的旨意成就在地上，如同在天上一样”（太6:10）。

没有启示就没有方向，最终就没有成绩。虽然我们也许很忙碌（甚至为事工而忙），但如果我们倚靠肉体而不倚靠圣灵行事，一切的成果很可能无法持久。

朋友们，神运作的模式与我们不同。当我们倚靠肉体和人为的方式，那只能制造属地的果效。神正邀请我们每一位体验祂的方式，好得到永久的果效。

如果我们要革新生命，我们要先问自己：我们从神得到多少启示？我们的心是否预备好聆听神的声音？我们与神的关系如何？

让我们选择活出圣灵装备的生命，为生活各领域开启属天的神迹和突破。

¹ “World Assemblies of God Fellowship.” World Assemblies of God Fellowship. Accessed August 1, 2016. <http://worldagfellowship.org/>.

² “AGWM Vital Stats.” Assemblies of God World Missions. Accessed August 4, 2016. <http://agwm.com/assets/agwmvitalstats.pdf>.

TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

An Update from Elim Paris

Dear friends,

Europe is at a crossroads of circumstances. With the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the ever looming threat of terrorism and the influx of war refugees, we are more than ever dependent on our Lord for an answer for humanity.

In His invitation to all humanity, our Lord has told us to “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

At this point, I would like to share a few reports and testimonies, and invite you to join us in prayer for France.

In January our prayers were answered – I received my license to minister to patients in France’s health system, and I am now authorized to meet and minister to patients in the hospitals located in the departmental zone of Val de Marne 94, Essonne 91!

My wife Rebecca and I were also invited to join a couples’ retreat to work on relationship skills within a marriage. It was a refreshing time for us, to allow the Lord to once again revive our love for Him and for each another: to love God and man, and make disciples for Jesus! We also celebrated our 12th wedding anniversary during the retreat, and we thank God for His miraculous love and grace towards us as a couple in His mission in France.

Following the launch of our English service in September 2015, the Lord allowed us to connect with a pioneering Ukrainian group who had just started meeting in Paris. It was a joy to see that our presence in France did not just bless those we could reach, but also helped others reach other nations!

We also had a wonderful Easter service. Many friends

and family members were invited to come and understand the real meaning of Easter, and we thank God for a time of refreshing and fraternity, as well as the receiving of the Word into lives drawn to Him!

In April, Pastor Jeanne Sylvestre invited us to minister in the prison of Nanterre 92. We thank God that we were able to minister to the prisoners through songs and with the Word of God. It was also a joy to be able to speak to the Chinese inmates and give them Chinese bibles!

In the month of May, we had our church retreat that focused on “Growing together in UNITY”. For one weekend, our French, Chinese, English and Ukrainian brothers and sisters were bound together as one family of Christ!

Paris experienced her worst flood in 45 years in the same month. Massive flash floods with water levels rising to 6 metres resulted in 24 wounded and four deaths. We truly thank God for His protection over the greater public and especially for the churches in Paris. Churches came together in the towns affected by the flooding and continue to pray for those impacted by the disaster.

As the weather cleared up in June, I was able to lead a team to minister in the hospital of Joffre in Essonne 91, as well as the prison hospital in Fresnes 94. Wang Cong Yu, Steinway’s piano ambassador for Singapore and an outstanding concert pianist with the Conservatory of Alfred Cortot in Paris, performed for the patients, as well as a team from the church association KOINONIA. During the concert, Cong Yu shared how the Lord helped him when he was a struggling 16-year-old artist in Paris, sleeping in metro stations and playing piano in public places. It was divine intervention that brought Cong Yu to the church; he came to know the Lord and was baptized thereafter. Today, God is using his talents

to testify of His grace and goodness around the world.

We also thank God for the continued work of Ursula and Esther with the youths in the church. We believe that God has great plans for His youths in such times of great challenge!

Thank you for taking time to look through our update.

Please continue to pray for us in France!

John and Rebecca Lim, Elim Paris

Prayer:

- For God’s strength and help upon the lives of Rebecca and John, so they can continue to serve God in Paris among French, Mandarin and English speakers.
- For God to touch those affected by the disaster, which has caused many houses to be uninhabitable and many people to suffer huge losses.
- For the refugees in France’s prisons and hospitals and for God to raise up more workers for His harvest.
- For God’s continued guidance upon Elim Paris, the council and ministry committee, the three ministry interns, as well as for God’s direction upon the Bible School graduate Miranda Lai.
- For God’s direction and wisdom upon the leaders who are launching connection groups in 2016 for: French, Mandarin, Youth, Teen, Worship, etc.
- For God’s help and guidance for John, in his new capacity to minister to foreigners in hospitals, as well as his continued ministry in the French prisons. Also pray for God’s provision for the purchase of a ministry vehicle, as there is 300km to cover between church, hospital and prison work every week.

For friends who are interested to follow my blog, please bookmark <https://johnlimkc.wordpress.com/>.





Academic Tracks 学术发展路线



Our CAMPORAMA memories!

What makes Camporama so special?
We look back and hear memories from our campers.

adventure
"The high elements and "Leap of Faith" were most memorable"

The last Camporama was held in 2012 with almost 800 campers!

exploration
"I have been to many different church camps and honestly speaking this camp is a lot different from the others"

friendship
"I got to meet many new friends, other rangers in Singapore and visitors from overseas"

fun activities
"I experienced a lot of fun games and sports at Camporama"

encountering God
"I completely realized and understood my significance in Christ and how much I meant to Jesus!"

awesome events
"I learnt to play a new sport, learnt more about God and most importantly, I learnt how to trust one another"

What New Memories Will You Make At Camporama 2016?

8TH SINGAPORE CAMPORAMA + DECEMBER 7 - 10, 2016 +

TRANSFORMER

TRANSFORMED FROM INSIDE OUT • ROMANS 12:2



REV ONG SEK LEANG

Camporama Guest Speaker

General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Malaysia

Every four years, Camporama brings together children & youth for a time of **fun** and **friendship**, **adventure** and **exploration**, and an **encounter** with God.

This year's Camporama will be jam packed with exciting **activities** and **events** that will thrill and challenge everyone;

Bouldering,
High Rope Challenge,
Flying Fox, Obstacle Course,
Street Soccer, Basketball,
Inline Skating, Water Games,
FCF Village and more!

DECEMBER
7-10
2016

FOR AGES
8-18
YEARS OLD

Early Bird
Registration by
September 25
2016



There will be **life changing messages** by the guest speakers at the nightly services around our camp theme, "**Transformer - Transformed from Inside Out**".

Get your outpost, friends, siblings, cousins, family, neighbours & community to join us at the **Ultimate Royal Rangers Camp**.

Visit www.royalrangers.com.sg/camporama2016 or email us at camporama@royalrangers.com.sg for more information.



Ranger Kids (**Children aged 5-7 years old**) will have the chance to attend a day camp (9am - 5pm).

Activities include **games, crafts** and variety of **events**. Join us and be a part of Camporama.

TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

AG Training and Together In Prayer



After a month's break, 2TiP reconvened on July 7, with Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon speaking on the topic 'Take My Yoke: Finding Restfulness in a Busy Ministry'.

Exhausted and Worn Out Pastors

There are four causes of exhaustion in ministry:

1. Disappointment (Matthew 11:20-24)

Despite the miracles Jesus had performed in the three cities, the people remain unrepentant. In serving God, we encounter our share of disappointments – from being misunderstood to not getting enough support from the committees we lead. But Jesus never allowed disappointments to weigh Him down. Instead, He always responded by praising the Father (v. 25) and by taking comfort in the knowledge that His Father was pleased and His will was being fulfilled (v. 26).

2. Dissipation (Matthew 11:26)

Dissipation happens when we try to do everything that

comes our way because we want to please everyone. Jesus focused on the Father's good pleasure. He lived his life to please the Father, not others.

3. Doubt (Matthew 11:2-4)

When John the Baptist was about to be killed, he had doubts about his ministry. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was really the Messiah. Jesus understood John's doubts and His reply to John's disciples was a message of reassurance. Like John, we too can find comfort in knowing that our Lord understands our doubts and we can be assured that our labors for Him are not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

4. Disturbance (Matthew 12:1-14)

In ministry, it is not uncommon to find people intent on destroying our reputation or finding fault with us. Our Lord also faced intense opposition; His opponents even wanted Him dead (v. 14). In the midst of such disturbances, know that our Lord empathizes with us and gives us peace. Our Lord who called us is also the one who promised to be with us.

"Come to Me"

Jesus invites all who are weary to come to Him. In your disappointments, dissipations, doubts, disturbances, focus on your relationship with Jesus. It is your relationship with the Lord that gives you rest. This relationship is the very source of our lives. Through the discipline of regular prayer, we learn how to come to our Lord Jesus Christ and turn our hearts towards Him in prayer.

"Take My Yoke"

The second part of Jesus' invitation invites us to take His yoke. We take on the yoke of Jesus by submitting and obeying the will of God. Jesus is our model for how true submission and obedience looks like (Luke 2:48-51; John 4). To be yoked with Jesus is to walk with humility.

Prayer Session led by Pastor Chia Beng Hock

With the prayer focus on faith, Pastor Chia shared from Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." He reminded ministers of the importance of faith and how faith is needed to respond to God's calling, operate God's ministry and carry out God-given vision.

Pastor Chia then led a time of prayer for the following areas:

1. Faith for youths

To face their daily challenges and to reach out to their generation.

2. Faith for parents

To step up in building faith in their families and to have the courage to live out their faith, putting God first in their lives. (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:1-7)

3. Faith for the church

To face today's challenges, from terrorism to doctrinal extremes, and to be faithful to God's call to reach the lost and speak hope to the world. (Daniel 11:32)





TEEN CHALLENGE (SINGAPORE)

Celebrating 40 Years of **God's Goodness** **Teen Challenge** **40th Anniversary Dinner**

Oct 17, 2016, 7pm,
Orchid Country Club, Grand Ballroom
1 Orchid Club Road, Singapore 769162

Guest of Honour: Mr Tan Chuan-Jin,
Minister for Social and Family Development

\$1,000 Per Table

Enquiry: info@teenchallenge.org.sg

Tel: 6793 7933

Attention: Yvonne/Jia Hong

About Teen Challenge

Teen Challenge (Singapore) is a registered Voluntary Welfare Organisation set up in 1976. We provide solution through faith based intervention programmes to the pressing needs of the marginalized in our community, particularly to those struggling with substance abuse and alcohol addictions.

Website: www.teenchallenge.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Teenchallengesg

Donation: www.giving.sg/teen-challenge



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Trinity@Adam - Combined Closing Service



August 3, 2016 will be a day to remember for many Trinitarians. Nine years after multiplying into two centers, men and women gathered for the Combined Closing Service of Trinity@Adam.

Trinity@Adam was the first home that we could call our own. Committing to her down payment was an act of faith. If we could not come up with the remaining \$2 million within 3-4 months, Trinity would forfeit the down payment. Nevertheless, our small and young congregation had a faith large enough to proceed. Many gave sacrificially to build a lasting legacy for the generations to come.

The property at Adam Road stands testament to God's faithfulness. Whether it was a humble bungalow with the rambutan tree and round tub baptismal pool or Trinity@Adam with its signature stained-glass windows, it has been a place where thousands have encountered God and experienced His transformation, healing, and restoration.

In a session reminiscent of Trinity's Adam Road bungalow days, Senior Pastor Dominic Yeo invited Trinitarians to a time of spontaneous thanksgiving. Men and women came to the stage to share their memories and testimonies of miracles, breakthroughs, and transformation. (Listen to these testimonies on YouTube – <https://youtu.be/Xp1Ox-PxCbI> or scan the QR code on this page)

Pastor Dominic brought these testimonies together with a sharing from Proverbs 13:22 *"A good man leaves an inheritance for his children"*. Indeed, Adam Road is our inheritance. Physically, the freehold red brick building represents our place of beginnings. Spiritually, she represents the place where our **legacy of faith** began. It was with this faith that we continued and claimed Trinity@Lavender and Trinity@Paya Lebar as our homes.

Adam Road also represents our **legacy of salvations**. Every seat within her halls represents an opportunity for someone to hear the Gospel. It is a place where people met with God in dramatic and miraculous ways.

Finally, she represents our **legacy of service** where generations serve alongside one another. Whether it's the hospitality ministry (The Pantry@Adam), or other forms of Ministry Expressions, serving has always been part of the DNA of Trinity. Wherever there was a need to be met, Trinitarians quickly responded with a "How can I help?" and "Count me in!"

Trinity's legacies will not end when this building comes down. Resident Apostle Rev Naomi Dowdy closed the service by exhorting us to move forward.

"The building can go but the memories will never go. The miracles will never stop. They can take away mortar and clay but they can never take away the results of what God has done in this place. Trinity@Adam has been built out of a fire and passion for God that does not take Him for granted but dares to believe for miracles."

As we close the doors of Trinity@Adam for redevelopment (on August 14, 2016), we persevere in living out our legacies of faith, salvations, and service. Let's continue to build for the generations to come for a good person will always leave an inheritance for their children.



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Teaching English in Thailand - Moriah AG Missions

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

– Galatians 6:9-10

For the past three years I have been part of Moriah Assembly of God’s mission team to Chiang Kham, located in the northern part of Thailand. I’m blessed to be part of a diverse pool of adults who spend their time in Thailand to serve God under the management of Pastor Ronald Tan.

Before each trip, we spend a considerable amount of time praying for and planning the mission’s activities. All of us are grateful for the support of Moriah church members and Pastor Simon Ang, who work in the background and pray for us as we journey to fulfill our church’s mission.

Ban Rom Yen (BRY), where the House of Grace orphanage resides, is our shelter when we visit every year. The children of BRY are very warm and always beaming with smiles. Each year, we have a tradition of sitting down for a Thai mookata buffet meal where we enjoy the company of the children and BRY staff.

We always prepare various activities, but nothing beats the camaraderie of the team as we work together to fulfill our mission; always keeping in mind that our mission is to glorify God.

Teaching English in Thailand is the most important part of each mission trip.

According to the Education First English Proficiency Index, Thailand is ranked 62 out of 70 countries in terms of the ability to speak English. Helping Thais grasp the language can help make the nation more globally competitive and will result in a healthier economy and better quality of life for Thailand’s citizens.

Thanks to our teachers Janice and Amy, the mission team has been able to consistently conduct English class in Bantad Primary School.

Each year, the team plans and prepares English stories delivered through scripts, which later on become the Readers Theatre “The Rainbow Fish”. The school has been receptive to our approach, as the students have been very enthusiastic and motivated to study the English language.

The prayer walk gave our mission team the opportunity to interact with the townspeople of Chiang Kham, who listened to their stories and prayed for them. Sister Ratchanee and the pastor of Chaboribon’s Church guided us as we mingled with the community.

Our mission wouldn’t have been complete without the preaching of gospel to the Chiang Kham community. As believers, our primary mission is to spread the Good News so it may reach and touch the heart of the unbelievers. On a recent trip, we were blessed to witness a brother accepting Christ at Canaan church.

Going on a mission trip is a commitment to God and the community. Though we may get tired, the rewards are worth it when we see the harvest of our commitment. All glory to God for what He can do in us and through us!



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Fresh Fire Conference - Contending for Revival

A power packed conference which saw lives touched and transformed.

Living Spring Fellowship commenced her 4th annual Fresh Fire Conference on the evening of April 29, 2016 with Pastor Timothy Yeung of Ambassador Assembly (HK) as the main speaker. While praying for the theme for this year's Fresh Fire, Senior Pastor Benjamin Chew felt that God wanted the church to contend for revival and a 21-day fast prior to the conference. The fast began on April 9, and ended on the first night of service on April 29.

This year's Fresh Fire was held over a two-day conference and a three-night healing rally. As the church prepared themselves during the fasting period, there was increasing excitement and anticipation for the event as people started sharing testimonies on how God stirred and revealed certain aspects of their lives which they were to surrender to Him.

The prayer intercessors also shared what God revealed to them in their prayers before the conference. God had clearly shown that He would heal certain physical ailments but most importantly, that He would lead the lost to find their way and the 'dry and dull wood' would be touched by His Fire and become altar for sacrifice.

God is faithful! In the night healing sessions, we witnessed the fulfilling of His revelations: people with particular physical ailments were healed. An elderly church member came in on a wheelchair as he could not walk due to a giddy spell and painful joints. God healed him and he was able to walk up and down the stage – something he had not been able to do for months. His wife testified later that he was able to walk to the market the next day. Another lady who could not move her fingers on both hands due to an operation was also supernaturally healed during worship. All glory to our God!

In the day conferences, Pastor Timothy challenged attendees to live a life of faith, hope and love.

Our hope in God is a hope with foundation that enables us to live with joy while persevering in waiting and preparing to do what God has assigned us for His Kingdom.

Our faith in God is a faith with foundation in who God is. When we know God, we will discover our identity and know what He wants us to do.

Pastor Timothy then gave us five practical ways to live out the love of God using the five languages of love.

Pastor Benjamin then addressed the importance of passing the fire of revival from one generation to the next, expounding from 2 Kings 13, where a dead man



was cast into the grave of Elisha. As soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he was revived. The fire of revival must not be 'buried'. It has to be passed on. Addressing the attendees comprising both young and old, Pastor Benjamin called for a prophetic act: the older generation (Generation X) to call out the younger generation (Generation K – Kingdom Generation) to come out and move forward to take over. The place was filled with the presence and power of God as the youths stepped forward and were filled in the Holy Spirit. There was a sense of unity and awe.

Pastor Hanny Setiawan from Solo, Indonesian was asked to pray for the youths. Before praying, he shared that when he heard about the conference, he was prompted by the Holy Spirit to travel down from Solo to attend the conference but did not know why, until the moment he was asked to pray for the youths. He shared that 13 years ago, he invited Pastor Benjamin to share at his church's first Fresh Fire Conference when he had only a few youths attending. A fire of revival came upon his church and continues to burn in every year's Fresh Fire conference in Solo. The Lord brought thousands of passionate and God-fearing youths to his church, and he felt that the Lord wanted him to come for this conference to 'return the favour'. Indeed, the fire of revival must be and will be passed on to the next generation!

This year's Fresh Fire left a strong message to the church: Revival has to be desired and contended for. Every individual must consistently make the daily effort to walk with God intimately and desire to live according to Kingdom perspectives. It is imperative that the older generation must be watchful over the younger generation, interceding and contending for the fire of revival to be passed on to them, from generation to generation.



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

A Mother's Heart Mother's Day Service – English Congregation

A Mother's heart...

A Mother's heart is a beautiful expression of God's everlasting love:

It sees what others don't see,

Does what others won't do,

And sows what no one can take away.

A Mother's heart is always with her children.

~ Sayori Bose ~



On May 7, 2016, New Destiny Fellowship International (NDFI) English congregation celebrated Mother's Day - honoring our mothers and celebrating motherhood. The focus of this year's celebration was on the heart of a mother and the purity of a mother's love.

The two-hour program was packed with a special item, meaningful worship, fellowship, and most importantly, an impactful message delivered by our Senior Pastor, Rev Dr David Chee.

The Youth Ministry performed a beautiful song from a pop-band named 'Parachute', titled 'She is Love'. Although the song was commercially resonated as a romantic song, it perfectly encompassed the true nature of a mother. The congregation erupted in applause as the performance ended; many mothers were brought to tears by this touching performance.



Pastor David's message for Mother's Day was rather special as it focused on 'The Mother's Heart' - looking at Scriptures from Exodus 2:1-10 and Hebrews 11:27. He used the example of Jochebed, Moses' mother to emphasize three main points.

A Mother's Heart:

1) *SEES what others do not see*

- Jochebed saw destiny in her child. All mothers and mothers-to-be have this God given ability to see what others don't see. Pastor David encouraged all mothers to use this capacity to speak destiny into their children.

2) *DOES what others will not do*

- In Exodus 2:3, to save her son's life Jochebed did this, "... she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile..." Jochebed did all that to preserve the life of her son, Moses, because she saw destiny in his life. Mothers sometimes do seemingly strange things.

3) *SOWS what no one can take away*

- Hebrews 11:27 writes, "By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible." What Moses saw was what his mother saw, 'the invisible' - his destiny. The same can be said of Susanna Wesley (mother of John Wesley). Susanna Wesley realized what we as church believe in, 'Parents are the primary faith-trainers'. Mothers build faith by sowing destiny into their children and not just raise them.

Pastor David wrapped up his message by stating, "Today God is saying: Don't give up no matter how overwhelming the task (of motherhood) may be". This heartening encouragement received an applause from the congregation.

After his sermon, Pastor David prayed a prayer of blessing and empowerment over all the mothers and the Youth and Children Ministry presented the mothers with tokens of appreciation.

And no celebration ends without food and fellowship! After giving thanks, the VIPs of the day, our mothers, were ushered to the tables; their children were given the task to serve them. The sanctuary reverberated with laughter and 'chit-chat' as members caught up with old and new friends. A mother who was a newcomer rejoiced and appreciated NDFI for creating the opportunity for her teenage son to present the gift and to serve her food on Mother's Day. By the end of the program, the memories of the day captured the hearts of everyone.

Mother's Day Service – Filipino Congregation

Our mothers were honored in our Mother's Day Service.

As a tribute to the mothers in New Destiny Fellowship International, our Filipino congregation celebrated Mother's Day on May 8, 2016. The Mother's Day Service was graced by Guest Speaker Rev Kevin Gates who established Target Ministries to reach out to people in Southwest China. Our Youth Ministry, called INFINITY, rendered a song to honor mothers who have been their pillar and strength as they grow up. The kids in the Children's Ministry read out their special messages to the mothers. The personalized cards on which the messages were written were later handed to them.

One of the highlights of this service was a poetry reading of "A Mother's Love" by Sis Robina Navato, a single mother with 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Sis Bhing, as she is fondly called, who has worked in Singapore as a domestic worker for more than 20 years, had joined a poem-writing competition where she was among the best 6 out of the 16 participants comprising professional writers, stand-up comedian, students, and performers. Her poems have since been featured in *Poem Haven*, an online site that publishes poems from contributors. One of her poems, "Her Voice", was also featured in *The Straits Times*. "A Mother's Love" tells of the sacrifices of a mother and her selfless love to her child, an apt theme for overseas domestic workers who leave their families back home to provide for their needs.

All mothers present were then invited on stage so the congregation could pray for them – for strength, wisdom, and joy in fulfilling their unique role in Christ's household.



TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Lifeline Family Church's Influence Youth Camp 2016

Through this camp, God's power was displayed in the lives of the youths.

On June 9, 2016, youths began arriving at Chosen Ministry (Youth) Lifeline Family Church for its annual Influence Youth Camp. There was a palpable sense of excitement in the air as campers came expectant to hear God's message over the next three days.

In a series of worship and sharing sessions, the youths came to understand the type and scale of influence they could potentially have on their peers. They learned how to be a positive influence, the same way Jesus did as depicted in the Bible, through acts of genuine love for those around Him. In one of the morning sessions, campers also had the opportunity to hear from Rev David Wong who emphasized the importance of influence through friendship.

The camp wouldn't have been complete without its fair share of fun and games, which happened on the second day. The camp commandant led the youths through an array of classic camp games, helping everyone to connect with each other while having fun at the same time. The highlight of the day was Laser Tag on the rooftop, one of the reasons that attracted some youths and new friends to sign up for the camp.

However, just as everyone was prepared to begin a two-hour non-stop Laser Tag, there was a heavy

downpour – weather forecast was predicting a two-hour long thunderstorm. Many were disheartened at the possibility that Laser Tag would be cancelled. Camp organizers, too, started to explore alternative locations around the campsite but unfortunately none were ideal.

It was then that Chosen Ministry's youth leader Ivan reminded everyone about placing their faith in God. With everyone gathered together, we started to pray and ask God for clear skies and good weather so we could play Laser Tag as planned. The moment we ended our prayer, everyone witnessed the power of God at work. The rain had come to a complete stop! Laser Tag resumed and the entire camp had a wild and thrilling time, with teams attempting to outrun and outsmart each other. Lessons of leadership and communication were also incorporated in the form of modified challenges. All this was only possible by the grace of God who once again showed Himself faithful in all that we asked.

Toward the end of camp, the youth leaders made use of the remaining session to minister to every youth, praying and speaking through the Holy Spirit into their lives. Many felt a sense of peace and some even testified about receiving personal messages from God.

Although this prayer session was unfamiliar to our new friends, they were not deterred from requesting to be

prayed for. One of them even responded to the call for salvation and accepted Jesus into her life. Praise God!

It was a great three days of being refreshed and reminded of God's power in our lives. We believe the campers were definitely blessed and are at this moment applying what they have learned during camp and influencing their peers in a godly manner. All praise and glory to our Abba Father in heaven.



TRAINING

In this issue, we explore #7 and #8 of the Assemblies of God's statements of faith.

#7. The baptism in the Holy Spirit (One of the four cardinal doctrines)

All believers are entitled to, should ardently expect, and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#8. The initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking in tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is in essence the same as the gift of tongues, but is different in regard to purpose and use (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28).

Jesus as our Savior, Baptizer, Healer and Coming King

"Jesus is my Savior, Baptizer, Healer and Coming King!" – The four-fold ministry, commonly known as the Full Gospel. Rev Dr Lum presents.

"Jesus is my Savior, Baptizer, Healer and Coming King!" This was a familiar refrain in the early years of the Pentecostal movement in North America, a declaration that sums up the four-fold ministry of Jesus and commonly referred to as the Full Gospel. It was a catch-phrase that embodied the key beliefs of nascent Pentecostalism. Subsequently, the Assemblies of God enshrined these beliefs as cardinal doctrines within our Statement of Fundamental Truths. What is the significance of these core beliefs to us today? Are they part of a creed to which we are merely called to mentally affirm? How do they shape our churches and mold those within our movement?

I have found a proposal by Pentecostal scholars John Christopher Thomas and Kenneth J. Archer to be useful in understanding the significance of our cardinal doctrines.¹ They assert that the four-fold gospel stands as the center of Pentecostal theology and enables the integration of our beliefs, virtues and practices. Living out each of these doctrines will result in the Pentecostal community of faith bearing distinctive characteristics. These doctrines also form spiritual dispositions in each believer, that I have chosen to describe as Pentecostal virtues. It is even possible to integrate the four-fold gospel with the four functions of the church.² Let us consider how this is possible by examining each doctrine.

First, all Christians readily proclaim Jesus as our Savior. It is through the cross and the resurrection that we receive atonement for our sins and enjoy a new, transformed life. We are not only reconciled in our relationship with God; but we are also brought into a vibrant fellowship with a community of faith. The church forms a community of the redeemed, rejoicing together over our shared new life, and celebrating the *koinonia* within the community. The experience of Jesus as our Savior cultivates the virtue of joy, most evident in our songs of praise and vibrant community

life. The church also bears an apostolic function as a community sent into this world to model Kingdom life, in sharp contrast with the fallen world. The redeemed community proclaims that the Kingdom of God is here!

Second, Pentecostals have restored a biblical understanding of Jesus as our Baptizer. The baptism in the Holy Spirit as a subsequent and separate crisis experience from conversion is our most cherished doctrine. Spirit-baptism is the vocational empowerment for servant ministry and makes us a charismatic community. Our Kingdom life is marked by signs, wonders, miracles, divine healing, prophecy and tongues. More importantly, our experience and encounter with the living God cultivates God's agape love within our hearts. It is this love which motivates and guides our charismatic ministry. This is essential as power without love inevitably leads to abuse. The church as a charismatic community thus performs a prophetic function as it serves as a channel for God's divine love to touch the world.

Third, we believe Jesus is our Healer. Jesus seeks to heal not just our bodies but also our mind and emotions. We preach a holistic understanding of healing, which points towards the perfect healing we will ultimately enjoy. This healing cannot rightfully take place in isolation but must come via integration with a relational community. Thus, we become a healing community where the foretaste of healing begets the *shalom* of God in our lives. For this to be effected, the church must assume its pastoral and teaching functions to drive spiritual growth and maintain spiritual health.

Finally, we proclaim Jesus as our Coming King. Jesus has not abandoned us; He is returning soon for His bride. This present world is not our home and we acknowledge this truth by journeying together as a missionary community. The world may plod along in anguish and despair, but we know that heaven is our eternal abode and our hearts cry out "*Maranatha!*" The vision of our final destiny fosters the virtue of hope and allows us to triumph over temporal troubles and adversity. This truth also leads us as a missionary community to fulfill an evangelistic function, calling

on others to repent, for the Kingdom of God is near.

In this short article, I have tried to present Thomas' and Archer's proposal on the significance of our cardinal doctrines. The four Gospels provide a framework to integrate our beliefs, practices and character virtues. Because Jesus is our Savior, we are a redeemed community marked with joy, fulfilling the apostolic function of the church. With Jesus as our Spirit-baptizer, we become a charismatic community motivated by love, performing a prophetic function in God's Kingdom. The reality of Jesus as our Healer transforms us into a healing community embodying peace, nourished by the pastoral-teaching function of the church. We proclaim Jesus as our Coming King, acknowledging that we are a missionary community, cultivating hope and living out the evangelistic function of the church. Ultimately, all our theology must end in doxology, so may God be glorified as we live out our identity as a Pentecostal community of faith.

Jesus	Community	Virtue	Function
Savior	Redeemed	Joy	Apostolic
Baptizer	Charismatic	Love	Prophetic
Healer	Healing	Peace	Pastoral-Teaching
Coming King	Missionary	Hope	Evangelistic



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¹See John Christopher Thomas, "Pentecostal Theology in the Twenty-First Century," *Pneuma* 20, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 3-19; Kenneth J. Archer, "The Fivefold Gospel and the Mission of the Church," in *Toward a Pentecostal Ecclesiology*, edited by John Christopher Thomas (Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2010) 7-43. Their proposal embodies the theology of Holiness Pentecostal churches and includes sanctification as one of the core beliefs. This article presents their proposal with some modifications.

²The four-fold offices of the church are found in Ephesians 4:11 and these are interpreted here as its functions. While some see five offices listed, the Greek suggests there are only four.

TRAINING

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an important aspect of the Christian faith. Rev Dr Lau elaborates.

1. Jesus taught about the person of the Holy Spirit

Jesus took time to teach the disciples about the person of the Holy Spirit. He wanted them to be acquainted with the Holy Spirit so that when He descended upon them, they would be able to recognise Him and have no doubt about His presence. The Holy Spirit would come to abide with them forever, as well as lead them into the supernatural and in the working of miracles.

“These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:25, 26)

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me... (John 15:26)

But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, “Whither goest thou?” But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:4-14)

2. Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit

Before He ascended, Jesus’ specific command to the disciples was to wait for the promise of the Father – the Holy Spirit. Jesus realised the eagerness of the disciples to go out and tell the world about Him, but He knew that they were not ready. They were still confused over what had happened to Him. They had just recovered from the great shock of His arrest, death and body being ‘stolen’. They needed power to go forth to preach the Gospel of Jesus.

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name

among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. (Luke 24:45-51)

This command was repeated in the Book of Acts:

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” And he said unto them, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (Acts 1:1-9)

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was of utmost importance – so much so that Jesus refused to answer their question about the restoration of Israel, reminding them that their main focus was the provision of power.

3. Fulfillment of the promise

The promise was first fulfilled when the disciples gathered together to wait for the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had promised and commanded them to do. This was the first outpouring.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for anyone who believes in Jesus as their personal Savior

On the day of Pentecost, after Peter and the disciples were baptized by the Holy Spirit, he spoke to the multitude and declared to them that the Holy Spirit baptism was for all.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their

heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.” (Acts 2:37-39)

5. Throughout the Book of Acts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was repeated to many groups at different occasions

Cornelius’ household

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God... (Acts 10:44-46)

The Samaria believers

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:14-17)

The Ephesus believers

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” And they said unto him, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” And he said unto them, “Unto what then were ye baptized?” And they said, “Unto John’s baptism.” Then said Paul, “John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve. (Acts 19:1-7)

6. The Assemblies of God Statement of Faith (See Green Story Lead on pg 16)

Based on these biblical facts, the Assemblies of God worldwide, including Singapore, firmly believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a second experience after salvation. We further believe that the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues. It is a prayer and worship language given by the Holy Spirit.

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TRAINING

The Power of Praying in Tongues

Why is the gift of tongues such a powerful gift? Rev Chew explains.

Every revival movement has restored certain truths that were discarded by believers. The Reformation brought forth the central doctrine of salvation – justification by faith. The Wesleyan revival birthed the holiness movement. The Welsh revival brought forth holiness and purity in the church, as well as the prophetic element. Through the Azusa Street revival the Pentecostals brought with them the defining doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. In the 1990s, Third Wave teachings made their rounds amongst the churches. Also known as the Neo-Charismatic movement, followers believed in a second experience with the Holy Spirit, but taught that tongues is not the initial evidence of this second experience. Many Pentecostals were influenced by this teaching and began to turn away from the gift of tongues. The reason: many who have received the gift of tongues do not fully understand its power. To many Pentecostals, the gift of tongues is merely the “initial evidence” of one’s infilling of the Spirit. Without experiencing its power, the gift of tongues becomes a mere doctrine – no wonder they turned away.

The gift of tongues is more than just “initial evidence”. Over time I have come to learn that it is a very powerful gift. Here’s why.

1. Praying in tongues breaks cultural and language barriers

From the Bible, we learn that on the day of Pentecost, the 120 were in the upper room. I imagine the words of Jesus kept echoing in their hearts and mind: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father... You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” There were expectations, but they really didn’t know what exactly was going to happen. Suddenly the Holy Spirit fell, they heard the sound of a mighty wind accompanied by a great fire appearing and dividing itself into cloven of fire upon each head. They began to stutter and “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). As they came out of the upper room, still speaking in tongues, the different nationalities present were surprised to hear the disciples speaking in their native languages and the unknown tongues declaring the wonderful works of God.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians made this statement: “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels” (1 Corinthians 13:1a), implying that when a person speaks in an unknown tongue, what’s uttered can be either a human or an angelic language. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were speaking in languages known to the different nationalities present. This helped to break language and cultural barriers, and eventually led to 3000 being saved.

Some years ago, I travelled to Mongolia with a team of pastors to minister at a conference. As we prayed for believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the gift of tongues at the altar call, one of the people that came forward was a lady who feared the gift of tongues. As my friend Pastor Kerry prayed for her, this lady heard Kerry say in Mongolian, “Speak in tongues. Speak in tongues.” She was gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues. Pastor Kerry is American, and does not know the Mongolian language. In that moment of ministry, the Holy Spirit must have given her the ability!

2. Speaking in tongues helps you pray according to the will of God

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. (Romans 8:26-27)

While some dispute that Paul isn’t talking about tongues here, I believe this passage refers to travelling prayers as well as praying in tongues. When we pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit gives us the words to utter. When we pray with our human mind, our understanding of the will of God is limited and as such we might not be praying completely according to His will. Praying in tongues is powerful because you can be assured that your prayer is aligned to the perfect will of God, thus producing wonderful results.

There are moments when the human mind doesn’t know how to pray at all. I was once part of a mission team travelling to Surathani, Thailand to minister in a church. We had three days of powerful meetings – people were saved and the sick got healed. We also had a day for relaxation, when our host took us on a boat ride out on a famous lake. Halfway through the journey, the unthinkable happened and the boat capsized. The next few minutes were chaotic. Everyone panicked, but thankfully everyone was wearing life vest – a lifesaver for those who could not swim. But when everyone surfaced, one of the team members realized her three-year-old daughter was missing. Chaos ensued again as people started to panic. It was at that moment when I heard the Spirit say, “Command everyone to stop screaming and pray in tongues.” There we were, floating in the middle of a lake with a child missing and God commanded us to pray in tongues. Doesn’t it sound crazy or even foolish? Not at all! Everyone started to pray loudly in tongues and a miracle unfolded. Within ten seconds the child floated up to the surface, completely unharmed. In that chaotic moment our human minds did not know how to pray, but as we prayed in tongues I believe the Holy Spirit released the perfect prayer to save the child.

3. Speaking in tongues releases the anointing for the supernatural

The first time I preached, I was a college student and didn’t really know what I was doing. So three days before the day, I locked myself in my room for hours, praying in tongues and listening to Reinhard Bonnke’s message. On the day, I arrived at a HDB flat facing a crowd of more than 20 students and preached Reinhard’s message word for word. God downloaded a Word of Knowledge and I spoke it out in faith. A girl came forward with a knee problem. I laid my hands on her, and prayed for healing in the name of Jesus. That moment I felt power released and I declared that she was healed even though I didn’t know about her problem! Some time later, I discovered she actually had a cancerous tumor on her knee. The tumor disappeared after I prayed and I have been led since by the Spirit to pray in tongues hours before I minister to anyone.

I’ve always known that praying in tongues releases anointing into my ministry, but theologically I could not explain it. One day the Holy Spirit instructed me to include this into my teaching. I told the Lord that while I always knew this to be the truth, I had never taught it, because I couldn’t explain it from scripture. For the next 15 minutes, the Holy Spirit revealed to me the mechanics of speaking in tongues.

When a person accepts Jesus, he enters into a born-again experience and his spirit man is regenerated through the Holy Spirit. When the believer prays in tongues, He gives the words in tongues to his spirit man, who then releases the words through our utterance. In other words, when we pray in tongues, our spirit man communicates with the Holy Spirit. This helps us to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit! I finally understood why for years the Lord had been leading me into this practice! When we are sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, and obey His voice, it releases the anointing for the supernatural and miracles to take place!

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:18, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.” It’s no wonder Paul had such a powerful ministry. I urge you to start using this wonderful gift so that its power may work through your life for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.



Ben is the Senior Pastor of Living Spring Fellowship (AG). An evangelist and revivalist at heart, he ministers regularly in churches, camps and conferences both locally and internationally. A passionate and fiery speaker, he desires to see the body of Christ revived and to be prepared for the end time revival and harvest. Ben is married to Lillian and has a son, William.

TRAINING

The Holy Spirit In Our Daily Lives

How do we engage the Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Rev Lim sheds some light.

A man signed up for a cruise to Iceland and packed his suitcases to the brim with biscuits, fruit bars and canned food for his voyage. After several days at sea, he ran out of food.

“Waiter, please tell me where can I get some food?”

“Sir, didn’t you know? Your ticket entitles you to the buffet and entertainment on board.”

Like this clueless passenger, countless Pentecostals appreciate the Holy Spirit’s bountiful blessings, but never actually appropriate them. Their experience is confined to speaking in tongues, miracles, healing and prophecy. They have yet to receive from the Holy Spirit some solace for their afflictions, guidance when they’re clueless, a right word to console the sorrowing, His leading towards winning a soul, and discernment for heresy.

Please don’t get me wrong. The charismatic gifts are vital for the edification of the church, but the Holy Spirit acts in our everyday lives as well.

Here, I wish to present some examples:

1. Evangelism

John is an architect, but he has been committed to prison ministry for several years. When we meet for lunch, he talks about God’s life-transforming work among the inmates.

He told me that though he meticulously prepares his message, he often feels inadequate and unsure about whether his lesson really is from God. So he seeks the help of the Holy Spirit, and the inmates assure him that his preaching has blessed them.

2. Giving

In March 2015, I took an Australian missionary to the Penang Street buffet at York Hotel. I noticed a gaunt waitress topping up diners’ water glasses and clearing dirty dishes. I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to pass her some money.

Later, she testified to me, “I am a Christian; the Lord must have known my needs today!” Our jaws dropped when we heard this. We were both amazed to witness how God used me to provide for His needy child.

3. Education

The Holy Spirit is a creative Spirit (read Genesis 4:21-22; Exodus 31:1-7). He imparts artistic talents to artists and writers, regardless of background. You can expect Him to breathe in you when you mold, draw, paint or sculpt. He has even helped me prepare delightful meals for my family when I forgot the recipe!

My friend is a professional artist. Once, his daughter’s

school invited him to paint a mural on the school outer wall. Instantly, he had artists’ block – he didn’t know what to paint. He told me he frantically prayed, and the Holy Spirit showed him Psalm 8:8: “The fowl of the gentle wind, and the fish of the ocean, all that swim the paths of the seas.” And this became the mural on the school wall.

I still enjoy learning even though I’m a 65-year-old grandfather. This year, to stretch my mind, I am learning Church History, Apologetics, and Philosophy. These subjects use various esoteric terminologies, and it’s demanding on me.

Nevertheless, before I open my textbooks or listen to online lectures, my second nature is to ask the Holy Spirit for understanding, and the capacity to register and recall the teachings. Wonderfully, He even points to me the precise facts in my book, which enable me to grasp the logic of the authors. With the Holy Spirit’s constant aid, my study is stress-free and rewarding.

4. Healing

I have two friends – a Christian pharmacist and a dentist – who both ached to have children, but couldn’t conceive despite fertility treatments.

The Holy Spirit impressed upon me to earnestly and persistently intercede for these two sisters to conceive for three years. The pharmacist often felt depressed, and texted me almost daily for encouragement and prayer.

But prayer works. The pharmacist finally gave birth to a girl last April, and is expecting again this year. The dentist also gave birth to a boy this January. Praise God!

5. Occupation

I have a British friend who works as a sales representative at the logistics company Caterpillar. Once this Pentecostal said he was going to Sarawak to sell his agricultural vehicles. After he returned to Singapore, I asked him how it went, because I had prayed for him. He told me he had also spent the whole morning praying and consequently, the Sarawakians bought the bulldozers from him.

When I was 22 years old, I was a department store manager responsible for a team of 27 saleswomen and five supervisors. I prayed whenever I encountered office politics or had to handle difficult colleagues and customers. Once, the Holy Spirit even guided me to proactively tackle situations to avert an impending crisis before my boss got wind of it. He delivered me from being scolded by my CEO!

My wife has been working as a bookkeeper for Gospel Recordings. She had never studied bookkeeping; in fact I don’t know how she even passed Mathematics in school. But every year, the accounts she submits to our public auditor and Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) always get accepted. Praise God!

6. Language

In April 2013, I was a presenter at the Call2All Global Mission Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where there was a meeting for 700 China delegates. The organizers couldn’t get a Mandarin speaker, so my American friend and conference coordinator begged me to help out. I was nervous, because I am English-educated, and hadn’t spoken Mandarin for some time. Nonetheless, I said yes, rushed into a room to pray in tongues, then went on stage.

I talked about my spiritual rebirth from a Taoist background, and the importance of trusting God for the strategy and finances for ministry. The myriad “Amen” I heard from the audience reassured me. When the meeting closed, countless pastors and leaders dashed to get my name card, and some even invited me to teach in China. I later also received emails from them thanking me for my talk. Today, I am preaching and ministering in Mandarin both locally and overseas.

Conclusion

I am deeply humbled, and thankful that Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit to be a Helper to His disciples.

Here is a list of how the Holy Spirit helps us: giving us artistic flair (Genesis 4:21-22; Exodus 31:1-7), in leadership capacity (1 Samuel 16:13), in administrative competence (Acts 6:3), in linguistic proficiency (Acts 2:3-11), in missions (Acts 8:26-36; 13:2-4), teaching believers the truth (John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 John 2:27), and prayer (Romans 8:26-27), just to name a few.

My yearning is to see every Christian living a Spirit-filled life, constantly aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Life is full of daily challenges, but with the Helper, the Holy Spirit, you can find solace and solutions, whether you’re a student, parent, professional, pastor, church leader or worshipper.

The Holy Spirit, our divine Helper and friend, is here. Reach out to Him, He is always ready to assist you, if you just tell Him your needs.



Rev David Lim is the Founder/Director of Gospel Recordings Singapore Ltd (GRS), since 1981. Their mission: To reach the illiterate and tribal people worldwide. GRS has free CDs in more than 6000 of the estimated 18,000 languages and dialects. He was a pastor in an AG church, a Mennonite Church and two Baptist Churches. He preaches across denominations— local and overseas. His calling took him to nearly 70 countries. He taught Cross-Cultural Communication at YWAM, Perth, and pastoral ministry in Vietnam and Cambodia. He is also the author of the book “My Hand in His”, published by Armour Publishing in April 2014. Rev Lim, a grandfather, is a member of Faith Assembly.

TRANSFORMATION

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Conclusion

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not equivalent to the experience of salvation. It does not mean that if you do not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit you cannot go to Heaven. The only way to Heaven is through Jesus. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is to give power for Christian living. The initial physical evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit helps to utter does not make the Spirit-filled tongues-speaking believer more superior than others. It simply means he has another tool to help him in his spiritual warfare and worship unto God.

The whole purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the power or boldness to be witnesses for Jesus. It is for us to evangelise more effectively to bring more souls into the Kingdom.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

** All scriptures are from King James Version except the ones in the Assemblies of God Statement of Faith.*



Rev Dr Patrick Lau Kim Thiam served as General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Singapore for 31 years and as Senior Pastor of Calvary Assembly for 42 years. He is presently the Founder/Pioneer/Senior Pastor of Faith Fellowship International.

An Encounter with God's Angels

An encounter with God's angels saved our day.

In 2015, I was in New Zealand with my wife Shirley, my daughter Stephanie, and my son-in-law Ben. On December 26, we took an eight-hour coach tour to Queenstown. After traveling for two hours we were given a 15-minute rest stop, but Stephanie thought it was 35 minutes, so we went browsing for souvenirs.

When we got out of the souvenir shop we realised the coach had left without us! We all panicked – Ben and Stephanie ran all over the place looking for the coach, making frantic phone calls. Shirley was praying. We were lost and did not know what to do.

Just at that moment we turned behind and saw three bearded men sitting on the bench far apart from one another. The first man asked, "Are you looking for the coach? They left 15 minutes ago." The second man asked us where we were from. The third man told us not to worry as someone on the coach would inform the driver and turn around to get us.

Just as he finished speaking the coach approached, made a U-turn and stopped right in front of us. Unbelievable! We turned back to thank the three men but there was no sign of them. They just disappeared!

We boarded the coach and thanked the driver. He told us to thank the young French lady who informed him that we were missing from the coach. Who were the

three men? Were they angels God sent to help us? I believe so. God knows we needed help. What an extraordinary encounter with God! Praise the Lord.



BY ALBERT TAI, CHURCH OF PRAISE

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Apelles Poh, a certified Financial Planner with a Master Degree in Financial Planning has more than 25 years of experience in the financial industry.

He is a well sought after motivational speaker and trainer both locally and overseas. He is also a bi-vocational minister and had won the Singapore Financial Advisor Representative of the year Award in 2004.

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