

# A Testimony

by Elsie Wee

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I stand here today to share with all of you the glory and grace of God. When I was told by my cell leader about studying Rick Warren's 40 days of community in January 2009 for 6 weeks, I was very downcast. I can only come to cell meeting whenever my sister or daughter takes over to take care of my mum. She's got dementia for 7 years now. My daughter was scheduled to leave on 4/1/09 for 6 months attachment to Macau. I can now only rely on my sister if her off day happens to be on Thursday the day of our cell meeting. I must also confess that I have not been attending church service for quite sometime.

I could not make it for the first two lessons and when I came for the 3rd lesson - I felt lost during the discussion. Everyone was referring to the church sermon and Rick Warren's video. But I had faithfully read up on my own book that was given to me.

I prayed hard and ask God to help see me through book. Then after Chinese New Year, sometime mid Feb. Joanna my sister's friend came to visit me and told me that I could go to the church website to listen to the sermons. I only learn IT about barely a month. Had no choice as I had to learn to skype and communicate with my daughter. Google of whatever was new to me and Joanna was kind enough to upload it to bookmark for me and I only had to click bookmark and go to AMKMC website. I was really overjoyed. Praise God, he heard my prayer and when I completed listening to the sermons that I missed, I was so excited and shared the good news with Belinda my cell leader. We must be faithful in our prayer and God answers our prayer in his time and not our time.

From Rick Warren's book, I learnt that we can each do community sharing in our own little ways e.g. check wardrobe and give to missions our clothes that we do not need, check our children's stationery - somewhere there's definitely unused pencils, erasers etc., collect our drink cans and give it to the old folks that collects them at food centres, share our food with friends and neighbours. There's so many things we can do if we put our mind into it. Can you imagine how much joy the receiver will feel.

I remembered once I gave some of my used but still usable queen size bedsheets to my sister -in-law in her outreach work in Malaysia. She told me that the kampong folks were so happy that they made curtains out of the bedsheets. I was filled with joy when she told me.

Remember Rick Warren's 6 practical reasons for giving:-

1. Giving makes me more like God.
2. Giving draws me closer to God.
3. Giving is the antidote to materialism.
4. Giving strengthens my faith.
5. Giving is an investment for eternity.
6. Giving blesses me in return.

We must never say cannot, it is more we don't want to do it (there is a difference). Remember what Rick Warren said - we want to store up treasures in heaven. Just a joke - do you want to build a bungalow on earth and only an attap house in heaven. Surely we want to build up a big big mansion in heaven, When we give 10% to God now we definitely want to give him back 90% in the future - take Rick Warren as an example.

So go back today and pray to God for his direction to do your part for the community and to share our love.

*\*\* Elsie is a regular worshipper at AMKMC and attends Living Water 1 Cellgroup.*

## CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### PLEDGING TOWARDS OUR CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A big thank you to all our members & friends who have pledged and given to our Church Redevelopment. The following details are the updates of our progress:-

| No. | Title                               |                        |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| a.  | Target amount to be raised          | \$7 million            |
| b.  | Total No. of people pledging        | 566                    |
| c.  | Amount pledged                      | \$1,854,789.93         |
| d.  | Actual amount received from pledges | \$1,810,013.91         |
| e.  | Other fund raising projects:-       |                        |
|     | i. Movie (June 2008)                | \$22,390.00            |
|     | ii. Golf game (August 2008)         | \$165,600.00           |
| f.  | Previous donations received         | \$529,795.59           |
| g.  | 1. 30th Anniversary dinner          | \$ 18,292.30           |
|     | 2. Commemorative book:-             | \$ 34,0040.00          |
|     | 3. Movie tickets:-                  |                        |
|     | 141 tickets sold                    | \$ 7,050.00            |
|     | 4. Sale of 2009 Calendars           | \$ 35,610.00           |
|     | 5. Sale of food item                | \$ 1,630.00            |
| h.  | 2009 Events:-                       |                        |
|     | 1. Fund Raising Dinner 2009         | \$ 245,706.66          |
|     | 2. Sale of Food Items               | \$ 8,580.00            |
|     | 3. Donations from Cells             | \$ 1,060.00            |
|     | <b>TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED</b>          | <b>\$ 2,339,692.67</b> |
| i.  | Events In Progress:-                |                        |
|     | 1. Fund Raising Dinner:-            |                        |
|     | Donations & Auction Proceeds        | \$ 5,970.00            |
|     | Expenses                            | \$(1,430.35)           |

From the above figures, we are still very short of our target of \$7 million. If you have not submitted your pledge card, may we encourage you to help us by doing so. If you need a pledge card, please do not hesitate to ask our ushers.

You can either drop your pledge card into the offering bags (fold it) or mail it to our church office.

We pray that you will give to God to enlarge this church for His glory! Remember no amount is too small, as long as your heart is willing, God can use your mite and multiply it for His glory.

*\*\*Figures extracted as of 26 July 2009*

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### About Us

The Journey, official newsletter of Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church, was launched in December 2004. This monthly publication is dedicated to serving the needs of the people by the people.

### Serve with us

We are looking for people within the church who want to serve God with their talents. If you're a budding or professional writer, reporter, designer, photographer or layout artist, we're looking for you! You should also be:

- Passionate about Jesus and love AMKMC
- A regular participant of a cell group in AMKMC
- Willing to work in a team

Email us now at [thejourney@amkmc.org.sg](mailto:thejourney@amkmc.org.sg)

### Upcoming events in September

Church-wide Corporate Prayer meeting  
Date: 16 September 2009

YMLC  
Date: 10 - 12 September 2009

### Write to us!

Tell us what you love, or love less, about The Journey, and what you'd like to see more of! We also welcome your God-glorifying testimonies, so feel free to email us at [thejourney@amkmc.org.sg](mailto:thejourney@amkmc.org.sg). We'd love to hear from you!

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### A GUIDE ON FOR YOU

# THEOLOGY 101



A lot of Christians know little about the bible and even less about the doctrines of their faith. Most think that theology or understanding of God is meant for pastors, church leaders and scholars. However, nothing is further than the truth. Theology provides the framework for which we are able to understand what we find in the Bible. So you ask, what exactly is the-ology?

Derived from two Greek words, Theos: meaning God; and Logos: meaning "the study of", theology can simply be defined in layman terms as the understanding of God. "The fear of the Lord is the start of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One gives a wise mind." (Proverbs 9:10; Bible in Basic English) Why do people still shun theology when understanding of the Holy One is what it means to know the will of God in his word?

Some possible reasons and popular misconceptions:

- Theology is too dangerous!
- Theology is too subjective!
- Theology is too complicated!
- Theology is too theoretical!

Why then, should we still be concerned about theology? Or rather, what has theology got to do with us average Christians?

## Theology

- **is a fundamental component of the Christian life**

*God had said, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6; NIV). It is necessary for us to be equipped with the knowing of God. Paul of the early church had also illustrated the importance of theology to us in Acts 20:27 when he declared the whole council of God to the church of Ephesus.*

- **is a correlation between understanding God's Word and the level of our faith**

*Theology makes us mature and stable in our faith. Faith is dependent on knowledge, as Paul said in Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (KJV), a greater understanding one has of God's Word, one will have firmer convictions of truth and be more stable in Christian experience.*

- **It enables Christians to discern and understand what is believed, so we will not fall prey to false teachings**

*There is a need for clear conception and the message that we are hearing to be balance and consistent with itself. As much as the Apostles had so often warned us about false teachers and prophets (Acts 20:30; 2 Peter 2:1), doctrines allow us to discern from false truths. Armed with the understanding of God's Word, we will not be helpless against the enemy, for the Word of God will be our weapon (Ephesians 6:17).*

- **Doctrine puts emphasis on the accurate interpretation of the acts of God in History.**

*It ascribes a particular understanding to particular events; outlining the response we should have to God's revelation.*

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# Theology

- **There is a practicality in theology that produces relevant wisdom for living in the real world.**

*Doctrine is practical. As we understand the nature and character of God through His revelation in the Scriptures, we share His values and perspectives increasingly. Through this nurtured Christian world-view, we will undertake decisions to live in a way that pleases God.*

*If you still think that theology is some rocket science and is purely for academicians whose IQ is above 180, think again. Remember that God wishes to make Himself known; His will to reveal Himself is never bound by our limited intellect and circumstances.*

*So why not take the first step to understand more about God since He shares the same desire to know you? Sign up for a theology course today? Repeat this after me and make a mental note of it: "Theology concerns me. Find out more today."*

*\*\* Ms Tan Lay Kuan worships at the 5pm service and attends Matt2237 cell group*



## AMKMC Church Camp 2009

### "Transformational Discipleship: Living the Life that Christ intends"

More than 200 members of the AMK family set off for Marriot Putrajaya Hotel located at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for our Annual Church Camp! Our camp theme for this year is titled "Transformational Discipleship: Living the Life that Christ intends". We are privileged to have Rev Dr Chua Chung Kai from Covenant Evangelical Free Church to be our camp speaker! Rev Dr Chua shared with us the 4Cs of being a Disciple for Christ.

- **Celebration of Discipleship...**

Rev Dr Chua shared with us that Discipleship calls for a Celebration! In 2 Tim 1:1, Pauls begins his letter by addressing himself as an apostle (disciple) who has the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus! This brings us back to the foundation of our belief in John 3:16 – "For God so loved that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This promise of life is a glorious possession and hope that You and I possess!

Today, many Christians perceive Discipleship as a tough pursuit, often accompanied by a set of criteria and rules. While it is true that being a Disciple for Christ requires commitment and good effort on our part, it must not become a chore which robs us of the joy and call of being a follower of Christ!

A Disciple is one who grows in Christ and in so doing models and teaches Christians the precepts of the Bible, prayer, doctrine, relationship, Christian living, service, and worship.

- **Commitment to Discipleship...**

Rev Dr Chua goes on to share that discipleship is a commitment! As children of God, we are a royal priesthood, entrusted with the gospel. Hence, we are to remain steadfast in Christ and be firmly rooted in the Word of God. It is through our personal relationship with God that we are strengthened by His Grace. (2 Tim 13:4)

- **Challenge for Discipleship...**

The third C is the Challenge of Discipleship! Just as Jesus who faced trials and tribulations during His ministry on earth, we too will meet with challenges in our walk with God. He urged all of us too remain steadfast in our faith and shared 3 keys in which God can and will empower us:

1. Empowering through our Spiritual Community (i.e. the Church);
2. Empowering through Spiritual Disciplines (prayer, word, etc.)
3. Empowering through the Holy Spirit (Our Helper and Counsellor)

With this glorious possession, we are called to surrender our lives for a mighty transformation to be like Christ, lived out in our actions.

- **Call of Discipleship...**

The gospel is not for us to keep, but is a call for us to pass it on! Rev Dr Chua reminded us that ALL of us are full-time ministers for God. Entrusted with the gospel, we are a royal priesthood and a chosen people belonging to God! (1 Peter 2:9). As disciples for Christ, we are called to live out the gospel daily in our homes, schools and marketplace. The gospel comes 'alive' through our actions, behaviours and attitudes. The preaching of the gospel is an urgent call in light of the Lord's Coming (2 Tim 4:6-8)!

### - Highlights of Church Camp -

- 7.30am every Morning...

While some of us were still resting in our rooms, a group of early birds have risen for some physical and spiritual exercises...

Keeping Fit with morning stretches and walks...

Campers interceding and praying for every aspect of the camp...

