



AMKMC FUND RAISING DINNER

21 March 2009
1800 Hrs

Suntec Convention Centre Ballroom

-By Derrick Koh-

Suntec City's Convention Centre Ballroom came alive night of the 26th of March with art pieces by Van Gogh, acapella performances and a celebrity hostess. No it wasn't the Oscars, but our very own AMK MC's fund raising dinner. Church members and their guests came dressed up in smart casual attire, ready to join in the exciting line up of activities and of course, a splendid Chinese dinner!

The highlight of the evening was the auction, which included a hotel stay, exquisite carpet, watch collections, reprint of King James Version Bible manuscripts from the middle ages as well as a faithful (no pun intended) copy of a Van Gogh art piece were auctioned off to add to the church building fund. A total of over 240 thousand dollars was raised from this event.

Food is best savoured with great music being performed and this was certainly the case when a sumptuous 8 course dinner was served amid an engaging performance by guest sister church members, many in their national service crewcuts. This acapella group performance got the crowd chiming along, familiar favourites and oldies among the numbers performed.

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AMKMC Fundraising Dinner CONTINUED...

Creative items like 'human beatboxing' wowed the audience as seemingly impossible rhythms and sounds emanated from the vocal chords of one of the young men from the group.

Envelopes for fund raising were passed round and many guests, convicted by the Holy Spirit (and possibly the fund raising video), took the opportunity to open their wallets or make out cheques to add to the fund raising coffers. Members from all four services, across the whole spectrum of age range, gathered with one heart and one purpose: To Enlarge Our Church for the Glory of God. And that they did accomplish.

And who was the celebrity I mentioned earlier? None other than Amy Cheng, one of the stars of the popular Channel 5 series 'Growing Up'. Articulate and polished, she flawlessly stitched the various eclectic entertainment and auction items together with her emcee skills and humorous banter.

When the evening drew to a reluctant close, TRAC President Rev Wee Boon Hup gave the benediction. Every guest left with a light heart knowing they have done their small part to help the Lord's work in AMKMC's new church construction efforts, the bigger purpose being better equipping our church for the eventual enhanced outreach efforts to the neighbouring community.

Church? Why Bother? CONTINUED...

hurting. It is true (and I will not deny it) that in many areas, we are not yet what God intend us to be. We are far from perfect, and really it is only by the grace of God that we are called His people, His body and His temple. It is only through Christ that we can be presented as a radiant church, "pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle or any other imperfection." (Eph 5:27, GNB). Our Pastor, Rev Stanley Chua once shared an illustration in his sermon: the church is to be a place where "no perfect people are allowed". Indeed, we as the church are called to be holy and distinct, to be the light and a visible exemplar to the world. Yet it is not shameful to proclaim this along with our imperfections. It is only through our loving acceptance of every imperfect person within this body of Christ, that the world will see the grace and mercy of the Cross in action. We must know that the Christian walk is never intended to be a single and lonely walk. It is alike a heap of hot coal - together we can create much heat; together we can glow brightly over a sustained period of time. But when we remove one piece of coal from the heap, that coal may glow for a short while but surely that glow will quickly fade away.



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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

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. We'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming in June...

- 1) Church Camp 2009
Date: 11 - 14 June 2009
Venue: Marriott Putrajaya Hotel
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2) Church Wide Corporate Prayer Meeting
Date: 17 June 2009
Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary

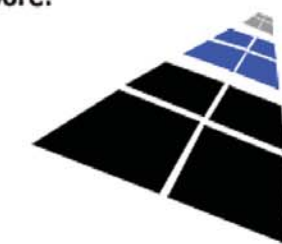
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THE JOURNEY

Refreshed

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

An article published in the January 2005 issue of the Christianity Today magazine reported that there were about 10 million born-again Christians in the United States who have not been to church in the last six months, apart from Christmas or Easter. A more recent report released in 2007 by the Barna Research Group reported that there were about 15 million born-again Christians in the United States who have not attended any religious service over the past six months. Yet in another article by the same research group published in February 2008, it was reported that increasingly, Americans in the United States now believe that there are other biblically legitimate alternatives (e.g. listening to a religious radio broadcast/TV, faith activities at home) than to participate in the services and activities of a conventional church. The statistics are alarming, and my gut feel is that this trend may not be restricted to just the churches in America; it may very likely be the situation in Singapore as well.

In this age and time, where one can simply log-on to Youtube to get their worship 'fix', the situation raises the 'million-dollar' question: Church? Why Bother? Why go to church when I can worship with Darlene Zschech and Paul Baloche, and their fantastic bands on DVD? Why listen to my pastor's preaching when I can listen to internationally renowned pastor-theologians such as John Piper and John Stott over the internet? Why go to church to meet or serve imperfect people, and end up being disappointed and hurt? And since the Christian faith is our personal relationship with God, I can

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Church? Why Bother?

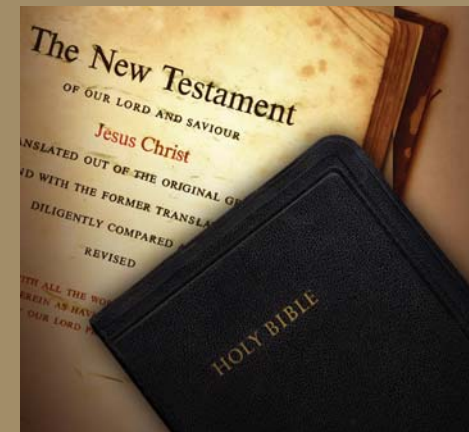
-By Calvin Lim-

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still offer genuine worship from my bedroom, from my computer, via the internet, so...why church? Before we draw any conclusions, we ought to first understand God's intent for the church from what He has revealed through the bible.

Church in the Bible

A study of the bible tells us that the term church is best understood in the light of the New Testament term *ekklesia* ("assembly," "gathering"). According to the Diction-



ary of Biblical Imagery, this term, while used extensively throughout the Old and New Testaments to refer to the people of God, had its origins as a common everyday term in the Greco-Roman world "where it applied to the "calling out" of citizens for a civic meeting or of soldiers for battle". In the New Testament, Paul is recorded as the person who used this term church or *ekklesia* more than any other NT writers. In his references to the church, he employed a Trinitarian imagery.

1) The Church as 'The People of God'

Paul wrote of God's position in 2 Cor 6:16, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." As a people of God, we belong to God, and are cared for and protected by Him. We are kept "as the apple of His eye" (Deu 32:10); and in return, we are to be God's people

"without reservation and without dividing (our) loyalty". Along the threads of this imagery, the bible clearly points out two distinct identities of the People of God. They are to be a Priestly kingdom and to be a Holy nation. This was first recorded in Exodus 19:6 and subsequently echoed in 1 Pet 2:9 and Rev 5:10.

This reiteration, especially its revelation at key spiritual points (Old Covenant, New Covenant, and the End Times) tells us that God had placed a huge emphasis on these dual-identities. First, to be Priest, liken the Old Testament priesthood, he is called to represent God to the people by bringing the word of God to them. At the same time, the priest is to represent the people before God by bringing their atonement sacrifices before the Almighty. It is richly significant that God confers on His people this role of being his priesthood; this means that as a people, we would have the dual task of bringing the knowledge of God to the nations, and bringing the nations to the means of atonement (peace) with God.

Second, to be Holy is an intrinsic requirement of the Priesthood. Holiness does not mean that the church is to be characterised by extreme religiosity. The Hebrew word used here is "qâdôsh", meaning "sacred, set apart or be consecrated". This shows that the kind of holiness required by God is not "religiousness" but "distinctiveness" (apart from the world). A survey of the bible affirms that God's holiness is not ritualistic, but is thoroughly practical, social and very down-to-earth (Micah 6:8). Christopher Wright explains God's holiness in his book *The Mission of God*. He wrote, "being holy meant living lives of integrity, justice and compassion in every area of life - including personal, family, social, economic and national life." In essence, God is saying that His command "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (Lev 19:2, 1 Pet 1:16) really means "You must

be a distinct people, because God is a distinct God".

2) The Church as 'The Body of Christ'

One of the most common imageries used to describe the church is the Body of Christ. As His body, the church is called to be the extension of the work and ministry of Jesus Christ where it would carry on what Jesus had begun to an amazing degree (John 14:12). On this body, Paul also teaches that Christ is the head of the church (Col 1:18), and "each one...is a part of it" (1 Cor 12:27). Here we see the inter-connectedness of the body, of which each one is a part. This implies that each believer is important, as the body cannot be whole even if there is one less person - physically or in spirit. This also means that the church is not to be a place of mere social interaction, but rather one that is characterised by genuine fellowship and mutual submission, filled with "an intimate feeling for and understanding of one another". In the same passage of 1 Cor 12, Paul brings out this inter-dependence of each believer upon every other when he wrote,

"Your body has many parts--limbs, organs, cells--but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body" so "If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body--that's who you are! You must never forget this." (v.12, v.26-27a; The Message),

3) The Church as 'The Temple of the Holy Spirit'

The book of Acts clearly tells us that with the baptism of the disciples and the conversion, it was the Spirit that brought the church into being at the Pentecost. Henceforth, the church is the dwelling place of the Spirit, both individually and collectively (1 Cor 3:16-

17, Eph 2:21-22). In 1 Peter 2:5, the apostle Peter describes this perspective beautifully.

"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

As the apostle described, each individual member is a 'living stone'



and collectively they are 'a spiritual house'. If so, the church as a whole, being the temple of the Holy Spirit must display those qualities of the Spirit's nature, specifically the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, good-

ness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal 5:22-23). With the Holy Spirit, it should also heighten a sensitivity to the Lord's leading (Matt 28:20) and submission to the Lord's teachings (John 14:26). With the Holy Spirit, there should also be heightened evidence in the dispensation of the various spiritual gifts and talents (1 Cor 12:11) throughout the body of Christ. Of these Mil-lard Erickson wrote, "The presence of such qualities is indicative of the activity of the Holy Spirit and thus, in a sense, (indicative) of the genuineness of the church". Just as in the creational accounts, Man remains as 'dust on the ground', Man remains a non-living thing, until the moment God breathed life into him (Gen 2:7). Similarly, as Jesus so declared in Acts 1:8, it is the Holy Spirit that conveys power to the church, without which the church is no different from a social club.

Why Church?

What Paul has attempted to do through these imageries is to teach us the different aspects of being church - a people of God, a body of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. What is interesting here is that Paul had consistently implied that the church is a singular entity made up of many. This means that while our personal walk with God is important, it is only the first step in Christianity. Paul had pointed out to us that our faith is to be set in the larger context of the church. Our Christian faith is not a lonely walk but a communal faith that lives out Jesus, and carries on His work, as a collective entity. In other words, Christians cannot fully become what God intends for us, and cannot fully glorify him unless we are an active and living part of this entity called church.

Some who compare what the bible says to the real-life situations at hand, may find disappointments and may be found

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"The wise may bring their learning; the rich may bring their wealth
And some may bring their greatness; and some bring strength and health.
We, too, would bring our treasure, to offer to the King
We have no wealth or learning, what shall we children bring?"

From the Hymn "The Wise May Bring Their Learning", Author unknown, from the "Book of Praise for Child-ren", 1881

Creative Ways to increase your giving

-By Jessica Tan-

The church redevelopment project has been ongoing for almost a year now. It has been really heart warming to see many groups as well as individuals coming forth to contribute through their talents and financial contribution.

While some of us may feel we can't bring large amounts of finances or lack great talents to generate massive income, here are 8 simple ways to "Earn all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can" to the church redevelopment project.

1) Dish out that good old piggy bank and save a dollar a day. [For those who have regular income, you might wish to set aside a regular amount in a bank account just to save for this purpose. You might even earn a little interest that will add to your giving.]

2) Give in small amounts, but

give regularly. (e.g.: Giving \$5 a week is a much more manageable goal than aiming to give \$50 at the end of each month. However, please place your giving in an envelope and indicate that it is for the purpose of church redevelopment.)

3) Lower the budget on your meal expenditures. (And save the rest for the redevelopment project.)

4) Bring your own water (instead of buying drinks during meal).

5) Start an old books sale/garage sale.

6) Ask your parents/relatives if you could do extra chores for them in exchange for financial reward. (e.g.: \$5 for wash your dad's car, \$1 for mopping the floor, etc.)

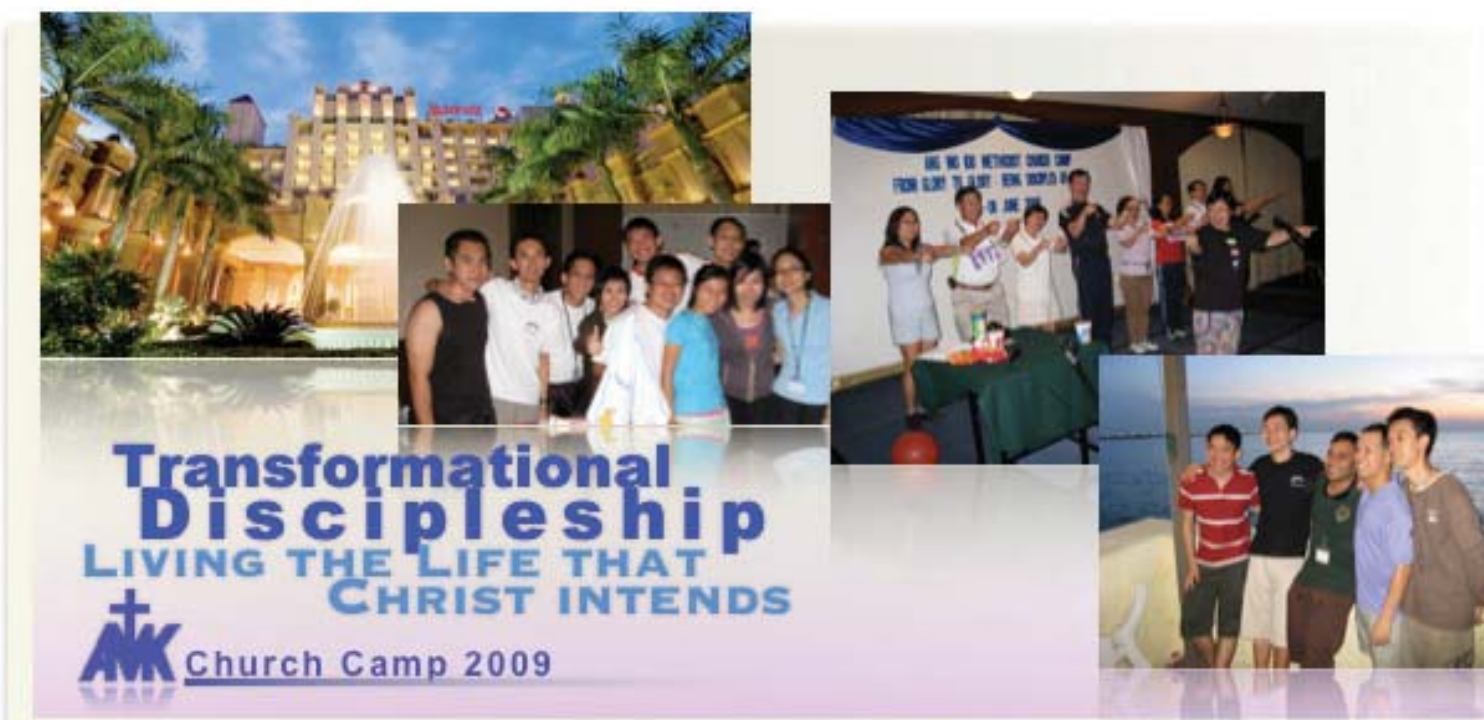
7) Encourage your friends to

purchase the music CD and other products the church will be launching for the redevelopment projects.

8) Request for cash gifts for birthday/Christmas/etc and channel them to your giving.

Of course, the above listed ideas are merely suggestions and are not exhaustive or authoritative. We hope that as you prayerfully seek the Lord on how you can be a part of the community to build His church, you will find more creative ideas which you can explore. We trust that you would have a fulfilling and exciting adventure with the Lord as you obey His leading and step out in faith.

(The above lists were consolidated from various sources and individuals and are meant for your reading and consideration. They do not represent the stand of the wider church.)



when: 11 to 14 June 2009

where: Marriott Putrajaya, Malaysia

camp speaker: Rev Dr Chua Chung Kai