

Continue from page 1

4. If I don't live a life of love, nothing I give will matter (verse 3). Can you be in a relationship and give of selfish motives? Yes, of course! Giving is not necessarily always loving. Some people give in order to get back, some give out of guilt, some give to control others, some for glory, prestige and honour. That is not love. You can give for wrong motives. But if we are not giving in love, nothing we give will matter.



5. If I don't live a life of love, nothing I accomplish will matter (verse 3). No matter what I say, what I believe, or what I do, I am bankrupt without love. You can build up a list of incredible achievements, but the Bible says it is all worthless if you do not learn to love. It is the most important lesson in life: learning to love. Relationships are more important than accomplishments.



If love is that powerful, if it is the primary objective of life, and if it is what matters more in life, then what is love?

1. The Bible says love is a command. God commands that we love each other. If we don't do what the Bible says, we're sinning.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. — 1 Cor 13:1-13 (NKJV)

2. It is a choice. We can choose to love, or not to love. Love is not a feeling. It is a choice, and it produces feelings.

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." - 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV)

Love is intentional, we must choose and decide to become a loving person, and we must practice it. It is not our nature to automatically think of other people, but we can choose to love in spite of our feelings and circumstances.

3. Love is a conduct. It is something you do; a behaviour. It is a way of acting.

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." - 1 John 3:18 (NKJV)

4. Love is a commitment.

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." - 1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

God wants us to have community with him so we can have community with others. Our relationship with God is largely determined and affected by our relationship with other people.



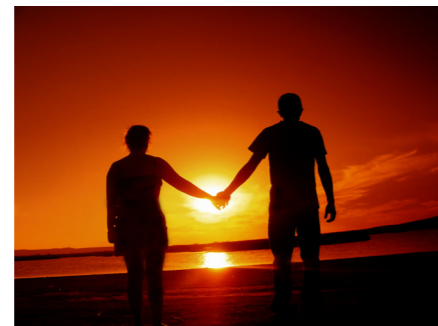
Love keeps on. It is persistent, it is durable and diligent.



It keeps going through trial and tribulation. Mature love is tested love. God is love, and God wants us to become like Him.



God is the only one who can give us a love like that, a love that lasts a lifetime.



Human love is not strong enough to last through the difficulties of life; it will fail. We learn love in and through relationship.

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	520
c.	Amount pledged	\$1,562,927.13
d.	Actual amount recieved from pledges	\$1,518,884.78
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. Sale of Food Items	\$ 6,400.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED	\$ 2,339,692.67
i.	Events In Progress:-	
	1. Fund Raising Dinner:-	
	Table Sales (Gross)	\$242,200.00
	Donations & Auction Proceeds	\$ 85,313.00
	Expenses	\$(81,582.68)

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 19th April 2009**

Publications Team

Rev Stanley Chua
Mr Adrian Ng
Mr Alvin Chong
Mr Andrew Ng
Ms Carol Yip
Ms Clara Lee
Mr Clarence Chew
Ms Cloud Tan Lay Kuan
Ms Dawn Koh Li Wei
Ms Esther Tan Su Cheng
Mr James Teh Cher Hao
Ms Jessica Tan
Mr Rakesh Singh
Ms Vivien Chan

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 March

Church-wide Corporate Prayer meeting (18 Mar)
Fund Raising Dinner @ Suntec Convention (21 Mar)
Network Course #1 (Refer to info in Sunday Bulletin)
Spiritual Formation 101 (Refer to info in Sunday Bulletin)

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!

The Journey is published by:

Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church
1 Ang Mo Kio Street 21
Singapore 569383
Tel: (65) 6452 2791
Fax: (65) 6456 3844
E-mail: admin@amkmc.org.sg
Website: www.amkmc.org.sg

Special Thanks to:

COS Printers Ltd.

Ang Mo Kio  Methodist Church
The Methodist Church in Singapore.



MAY 2009 M.I.T.A.(P) 01/08/2007

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

RECAP: 40 Days of Community- "Better Together"

It all starts with love— Summary of Pastor Rick Warren's video message.

What matters most to God? The answer is in Galatians 5:6—"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." (NKJV)

It is our faith that makes us love others. If we miss this, we have missed the most important thing in life. Let's take a close look at 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter is often called the "Love" chapter.

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. — 1 Cor 13:1-13 (NKJV)

When a speaker wants to get your attention, he or she often uses repetition. And in this chapter, God says the same thing five different ways. He wants us to understand that the most important thing in life is learning how to love. That's what 40 Days of Community is all about. Your relationship, my relationships, and how we love each other. If that is what matters most to God, then that is what should matter most to us.



Bible makes 5 radical statements about love in 1 Corinthians 13.

1. If I don't live a life of love, nothing I say will matter (verse 1). Words without love are empty; they are just noise. We love eloquence, we love charisma. But God says that those things don't impress him at all, He wants to know if we love. Do we love the people we speak to? Living a life without love means nothing.

2. If I don't live a life of love, nothing I know will matter (verse 1). What God is saying is this: you may be a Mensa member, graduated summa cum laude or be a walking Bible encyclopedia, but if you do not have love in your life, all you know is worthless. Brilliance without love equals zero. All the knowledge in the world cannot compensate for a lack of love.

3. If I don't live a life of love, nothing I believe will matter. (verse 2) There is a myth that being a Christian is just a matter of believing certain truths. That isn't true. Following Christ is far more than believing intellectual facts or understanding doctrinal truths. It is living a life in community. It takes more than belief to really please God. Religion without love does not matter. What matters is how I love God and how I love other people. That's the great commandment.

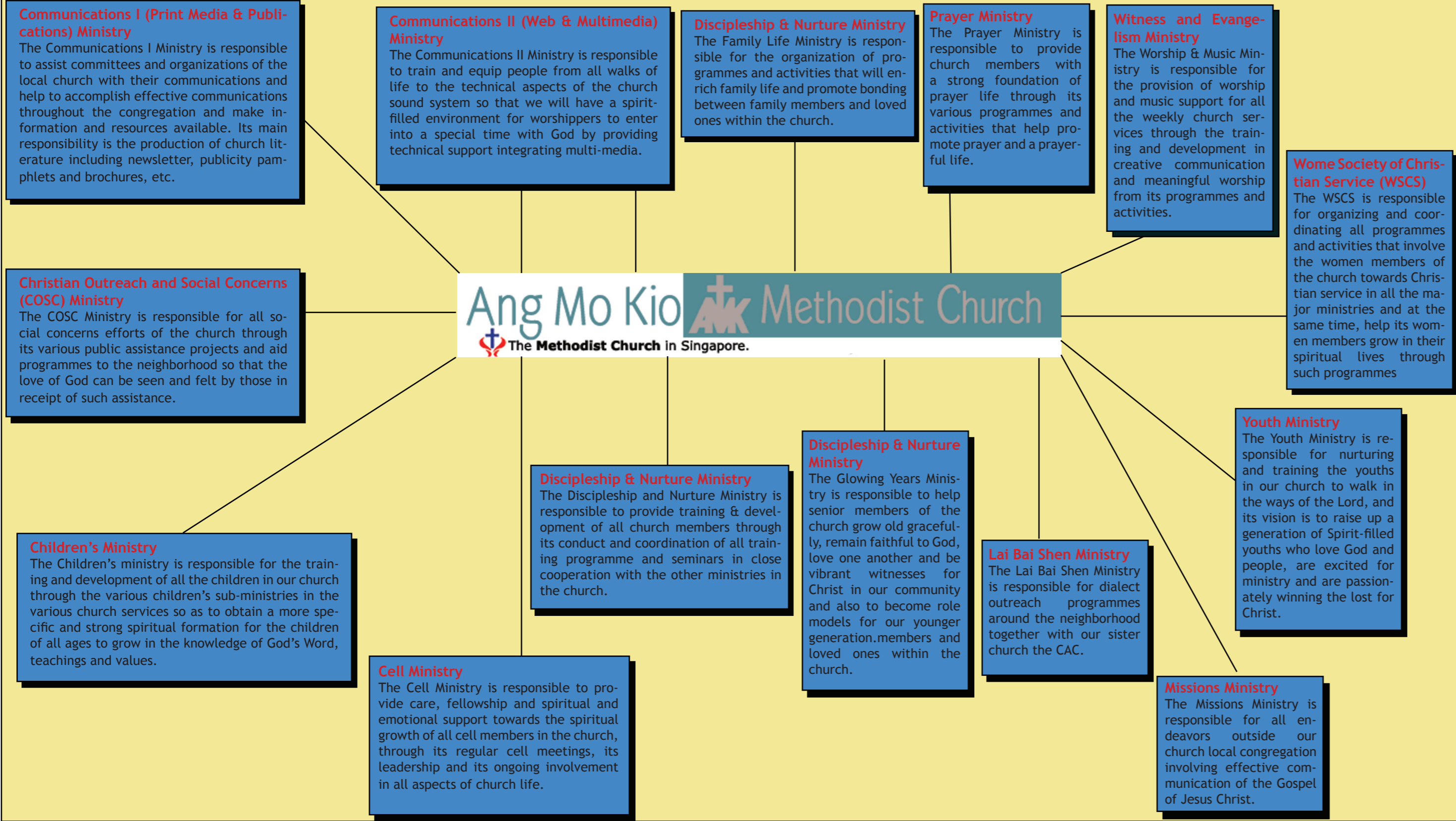
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." - 1 John 4:8 (NKJV)

Continue on facing page

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY - MINISTRY FAIR (15 FEBRUARY 2009)

The 40 Days of Community Programme is all about deepening the fellowship within AMKMC and learning to serve together. Hence, a Ministry Fair was held on 15 February 2009 to present to worshippers the array of ministries where they can consider joining. It also allowed worshippers the opportunity to have their queries regarding the various ministries answered. Ministry members in charge of their booths turned up throughout the week leading up to the Ministry Fair to dress their booths with posters. Excitement filled the air on the day of the Fair as worshippers looked for ministries where they could serve in their areas of interests and gifting.

The Ministry Fair turned out to be a good way to connect the needs and passions of worshippers with the right resources and areas of service. While there are still many areas of service that can be explored, we praise God for the creativity and vibrancy of the existing ministries in our church. Looking ahead, we believe that as God has equipped all worshippers with various talents and spiritual gifts that can be used for His glory, many more will step forth to serve the Lord, and even initiate new ways to bless the church and the community around us.



40 Days of Community @AMKMC Reported by Ms Carol Yip

In line with our church theme for 2009 - "Everyone a Servant for Christ", AMKMC embarked on a church-wide study on the 40 Days of Community Programme (by Rick Warren) in January and February this year. Our pulpit teaching, cell group meetings and church events were centred on this programme. The focus during this 40 Days was two-fold: first, to deepen the fellowship within our Church family, and second, to learn to reach out together in love, to the community around us.

While an earlier curriculum the church completed a few years before - "40 Days of Purpose" - explored the question: "What on earth am I here for?", "The 40 Days of Community" focused on the question: "What on earth are WE here for?" During these 40 days, we learnt that it is God's desire for us to fellowship and worship together as a community. John 17: 20-21 reads, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

As the body of Christ, we recognised that every member of the body is important and necessary for the church to function and accomplish God's purposes for her. Eph 4:16 reads, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work". We help our brothers and sisters by accepting them, supporting them and teaching them in the way of the Lord. (Col 3:16).

During these 40 Days, cell group leaders helped their members discover their spiritual gifts and encouraged them to serve the body of Christ through their talents and gifting. A Ministry Fair was held on 15 February at our church premises where the various ministries showcased the work that they do and invited worshippers of our church to serve together with them.

The 40 Days of Community programme also gave us the opportunity to reach out to those in our community. The various cell groups participated in a community project together and shared the love of Christ to those in need.

Here are the testimonies from some of our members who came forth to share their encounter with the Lord and how they benefited from the 40 Days of Community Programme...

The 40 days of Community group study has truly been a wonderful journey and is one that I am personally very proud to have been a part of. The daily readings never failed to remind me time and again of how great and undying God's love is for all His children. It also taught me that God has plans for all of us - plans that involve us spreading His love and doing His work of bringing joy and purpose to those around us in this fallen world. God's plan for AMKMC involved this study and I am sure He is speaking into our hearts through this project and urging us to go forth and spread the love and good news of Christ our saviour. - Shoba Balakrishnan, Praying Hands Cell Group

During these 40 Days, I'm encouraged to see the enthusiasm of my cell members as we plan for our community project. Many of them came forth with suggestions and ideas, and seeing them work together during the course of our planning has been a tremendous encouragement to me! I'm certainly looking forward to see us serving together and blessing the community around us! - Shoba Balakrishnan, Praying Hands Cell Group - Serene Chang, Forerunners Families Cell 1