



PROJECT SMILE* :

Spreading Meaningful and Inspiring Love Everywhere

A testimony by Nina Naidu

Early last year I found a burning desire to get more involved in reaching out to the poor and helpless. I had no idea what to do. I felt incapable and lacked resources. The burden however did not leave me; it only intensified every time I chanced upon old folks struggling to earn a decent living. My heart breaks for them and I knew that I couldn't just sit by the sidelines and play the ignorant card.

An opportunity presented itself in AMKMC – the Young Adults Zone (Zone 9). The leaders were looking to start a community service project and wanted someone to run the programme. It struck a chord within me and I willingly grabbed it even though I did not know what to expect. God led me to Matthew 10:8 "... Freely you have received, freely give". As simple as it may seem, this verse it is what drives me on to make this project happen. The good Lord also led me to like-minded individuals filled with ideas and enthusiasm on how to reach out to the needy. This contagious desire sparked off the birth of Project S.M.I.L.E (Spreading Meaningful and Inspiring Love Everywhere). Our vision is to spread the message of God's love to the poor and our mission is to establish strong and lasting

relationships with the poor in our neighbourhood.

Brimming with excitement, we unanimously agreed that this should not be a one-off project. We wanted an on-going project so that relationships can take root and from which we can share the message of Christ more effectively. We engaged deeply with the Ministry of Social Concerns to identify needy residents in our community. We also came up with a master plan to visit the same residents every quarter.

In June 2008, 20 of us set forth to change the lives of 5 families. We brought fresh groceries to them, cleaned their homes and befriended them. In October 2008, we had lunch with them and attended to their immediate needs. In December 2008, we expanded the number of homes from 5 to 17 as the number of our volunteers grew. At this stage, we wanted to share the true message of Christmas to these residents through song and scripture. We were trained hard by solid choir directors we did not know we had in the zone. We were also blessed with a lovely scriptwriter who beautifully penned the story of Jesus. With God's help, all these

resources were made readily available. That day itself, we were able to bless homes comprising shut-ins; residents under the Church Financial Assistance Programme and two nursing homes.

Tears were shed and lives were touched. One resident raised her hand wanting to be healed; others wanted to find out more about this Jesus we love so much; and there were still others who just appreciated company and a good hug. The get-together also allowed the residents, who normally lead very solitary lives, to make more friends. Upon looking back, we see how we have been so immensely blessed by these experiences. So many prayers have been answered and our faith renewed. The powerful lesson I have learnt is to be obedient to God when he prompts. In spite of ups and downs along the way, things end well when we heed His call.

We are now geared up for the next event that is to happen tentatively in April 2009 during the Good Friday/ Easter period. We aim to invite all these residents out for a group party in Church and share the resurrection story of Christ.

Join us in the harvest.
To God be the glory! 🇸🇬

Nina Naidu worships at AMKMC's contemporary services and is an active member of a young adult cell in Zone 9. She also serves as a support singer.

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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

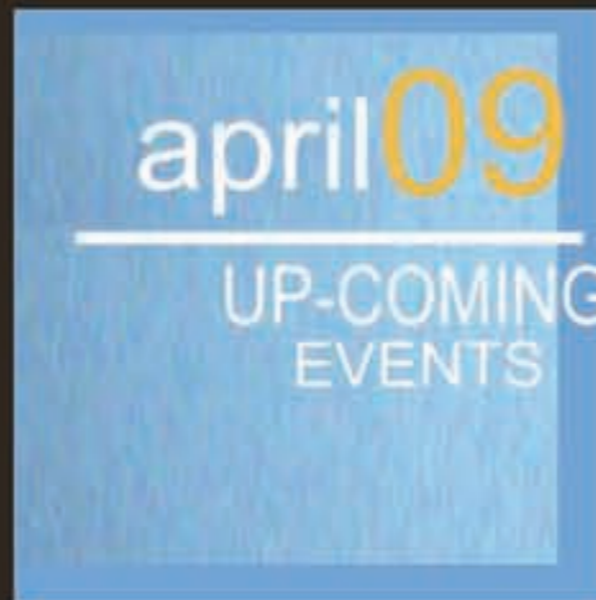
Email us now at thejourney@amkmc.org.sg!

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. We'd love to hear from you!

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7 [Tues]
Holy Week Services
Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary
Speaker: Rev Dr Christopher Creech

9 [Wed]
Holy Week Services
Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary
Speaker: Rev Dr Daniel Koh
Communion will be served during Maundy Thursday Service

12 [Sun] Easter Service
Time: 6am (Sunrise service) @ AMKMC
8am (Traditional celebration service) @ AMKMC
10.30am (Contemporary celebration service) @ AMK Hub

18 [Sun] Church Wide Corporate Prayer Meeting
Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary

20 [Mon] Lahu Mission Trip (17-20 Apr)
Date: 17 – 20 April 2009
More details will be made available in the bulletin.
Interested parties may contact the church office for enquiries.

8 [Wed]
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Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary
Speaker: Rev Dr Christopher Creech

10 [Fri]
Holy Week Services
8am (Traditional celebration service) @ AMKMC
10.30am (Contemporary celebration service) @ AMK Hub
Speaker: Mrs Ng Moh Ying

17 [Fri]
Lahu Mission Trip (17-20 Apr)
Date: 17 – 20 April 2009
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19 [Sun]
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Date: 17 – 20 April 2009
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Ang Mo Kio

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church in Singapore.



APR 2009

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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

Servants for Christ

: a reflection by Ru-Tian.

It was in the 1800s and slavery was still legal in the United States. The slaves worked on farms and plantations growing rice, tobacco and cotton. A story was told about a particular black slave who was badly treated by his white master, whipped and starved. He thus made up his mind to escape.

One day while out in the field, the slave bolted and ran for his life! Unfortunately the master saw him and with a shout, grabbed his rifle and gave chase, determined not to let his slave get away.

Finally he caught up with the slave and took aim with his rifle! Just at this moment a white man came by. The slave dashed behind him and hid in fear. The master shouted angrily at the slave,

"I won't let you go till I see blood!" He took aim and fired!

The bullet hit the white man in the arm! Blood soaked through his sleeve. That white man calmly warned the master, "You've seen blood, now let this man go." The master was afraid because he had hurt another white man.

He left quickly to avoid trouble with the law. The white man turned to the slave and said gently, "You are now free to go."

The black man fell to his knees in gratitude and exclaimed, "Thank you for saving my life! I am willing to be your slave for the rest of my life."

This story really impacted me. As I heard it being narrated in Mandarin, my heart melted as I realised that it told us about how Jesus had saved us sinners from our bondage. Our rightful response was to kneel before him and pledge allegiance to him for the rest of our lives. The bible tells us, "... You are not your own; you were bought at a price..." (1 Cor 6:19-20 NIV). I wondered whether my heart was responding to the Lord in the right way.

I mentioned that I heard the story in Mandarin. It would sound strange as I am currently in Guildford, England, for a year of studies.

Actually I was at a Guildford Chinese Christian Fellowship (GCCF) meeting, and I feel really blessed to be able to fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ even when far away from home. They are a group of about 25 Chinese Christians, consisting both working adults, and students at the University. These brothers and sisters in Christ are filled with a holy passion to reach out to the local Chinese community, and to prepare and equip Chinese Christians to serve God back in their home countries.

I'm really grateful that God prepared this place for me to be able to witness God's hand at work, and even to partner Him in it! I would like to share with you some of these experiences and what I have learnt from them.

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God at work, in us and through us

In the first week of school I had a glimpse of God at work amongst the Chinese students in the University. The GCCF organised a big welcome party for all Chinese students. Praise the Lord for a good turnout, there were more than 100 newcomers and more than 150 people in total. Many stayed on after the programme ended to ask questions about the faith. Some had heard the gospel before, but for others, this was the first time they had heard about who Jesus was.

How God brought so many people is amazing in itself. Some of the students I spoke to said that it was "by coincidence" they saw a lot of Chinese gathered and came in to see what it was all about. In this way we were able to befriend them and subsequently invite them for our fellowship meetings, movie nights, and sports outings.

From the event, I saw the passion that the GCCF had for reaching out to students and sharing the gospel with them. It was not an easy event to organise. Due to limited resources, the Chinese meal provided had been home-cooked by some

of the local Chinese Christians. They literally transported the rice, meat and vegetables, enough for 150 people, in many pots and pans from their homes to the university campus!

The effort that everyone had put into planning and executing the welcome party touched my heart. I could see that they were driven by the desire to share Christ with others. Over the next few months, many other things happened that opened my eyes to see that God's fingerprints are all around, that He is always at work around, in us and through us.

Servants for Christ

I saw that many in the Chinese community here are seeking Christ. The Chinese Christians here recognise that too and fervently reach out to

them by extending friendship to them, showing care and concern for their studies and life, inviting them over for meals, planning outreach activities, conducting small group discussions for seekers, etc.

On top of that, they sacrifice much time and effort supporting fellow brothers and sisters to grow and mature their faith, spending time guiding new Christians in bible study, praying with and for one another, looking for resources to help grow the fellowship...

I believe they are so compelled because they recognise and understand with their hearts the price that God paid for us through Jesus Christ.

Because He has redeemed us, we are no longer our own but are

servants of Christ. Like the slave in the story, they have pledged their lives to Christ. They want to share this life and joy with everyone else too!

From this group of brothers and sisters I could see in application what serving Christ wholeheartedly, and loving and serving one other meant.

I am truly inspired by their example. Looking forward, I do hope that I can live in the same way – in gratitude each day, serving and blessing this community, and ever ready to do the good works which He prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2:10) 🇸🇬



Ms Sun Ru-Tian is a member of Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church and is part of Matt2237 cellgroup. She is currently studying in Guildford, England.

(For more enquiries, please contact the church at 64522719 or write to admin@amkmc.org.sg)

40 Days of community

Community Service Projects available

Organization	Brief Project description
Alzheimer's Disease Association - New Horizon Centre (Toa Payoh)	Befriend a group of elderly people; organize a party with games, songs & light refreshments; or organise an outing to the park.
Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA)	
AWWA Community Home	Befriend the residents in this home, plan & organize games & tea parties for the residents. Help to re-paint parts of the home or help in general cleaning of the premises.
AWWA ReadyCare Centre	Assist or conduct art & craft classes.
AWWA Seniors Activity Centre	Befriend the elderly; plan outings to places of interest; organise tea parties; cook meals for them; sing with them (karaoke); assist in activities at the centre such as Bingo, Dominoes, Uno, etc.
Assis Hospice	
Day Care Centre for Adults	To interact and conduct activities for the patients (only on weekdays; between 1pm - 2pm)
Day Care Centre for Children	To interact and conduct activities for the children (only on weekdays; between 1pm - 2pm).
Autism Resource Centre (Singapore)	To assist in library administration, computer data entry, PC systems maintenance, desktop publishing and in fund-raising events. To assist the early intervention team in tasks such as making game boards, taking photos, cutting out pictures, laminating resources, plastic-wrapping and covering books, collating material and photocopying.
Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled	To be an Outing Buddy during visits to places of interest and participation in community events. To help in the resident's daily activities as various classes, therapy, karaoke, arts & craft, etc.
Bright Hill Evergreen Home	To assist in organising tea-party for the seniors; bringing cheer to them.
ST. Theresa's Home (formerly managed by The Little Sister's of the Poor)	To assist in organising monthly birthday parties & games for the residents; assist in the home's music & dance therapy on Friday mornings; assist the residents at the physiotherapy sessions; help with the home's laundry or feeding the residents.
Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home	To befriend the children & teenagers, interact with them through games and activities; organise an outing & general housekeeping of the premises.
Food From The Heart	To assist in distribution of bread at the various centres; provide administrative support; and packing of the bread at the warehouse.
Handicaps Welfare Association	Plan & co-ordinate activities to promote social integration among the members and with their families and help the members such as feeding, pushing their wheelchairs, using the bathroom etc. during the activities.
All Saints Home (Poh Huat Road)	To be a friend to the residents; assist in ad-hoc outings; engage residents in handicraft makings and share your specialized skills, e.g.: Hair cutting, Cooking, etc.
Christalite Methodist Home	To befriend the residents by organising social & recreational programmes; assist in physiotherapy activities; provide hairdressing & grooming services & conducting language classes for foreign workers.
Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre	Provide reading and academic support (ie tuition) to the children at the centre or go into the residential homes to read to the children (only during office hours). Plan & organise outings for families, children or the elderly to places of interest or hospital checkups.



church redevelopment: fund raising updates

"Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work of the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, man and women alike, came and brought gold jewellery of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun - blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do." Exodus 35

ENLARGING
OUR CHURCH BY
God's
GLORY

We praise and thank God for His gracious providence for our church as we embark on the journey to redeveloping the church building. Here are the latest figures:- Statistics from bulletin dated 22 Feb09

No.	Title	Amount	Remarks
a.	Target Amount to be raised	> \$7 million	
b.	Total No. of People Pledging	> 481	
c.	Total Amount Pledged	> \$1,279,920.85	
d.	Actual Amount Received from pledges	> \$928,191.17	
e.	Previous Donations Received	> \$529,795.59	> Funds rec'd from members/friends over last 2 years; due to a posting error, the amount should be \$529,795.59 instead of \$530,795.59
f.	2008 Events:-		
	1. Movie (Jun08)	> \$22,390.00	
	2. Golf Game (Aug08)	> \$165,600.00	> Balance of \$34,400/- Being pledges to be received over 2009 & 2010.
	3. 30 th Anniv. Dinner (Oct08)	> \$18,292.30	> From Sponsors & Table
	4. Commemorative Book	> \$34,040.00	
	5. Movie (Dec08)	> \$7,050.00	
	6. Sale of 2009 Calendars	> \$35,610.00	
	7. Sale of Food Items	> \$1,630.00	
g.	2009 Events:-		
	1. Sale of Food Items	> \$5,897.00	
	TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED TO DATE (d, e, f & g)	> \$1,748,496.06	
h.	Events in Progress:-		
	1. Fund Raising Dinner:-		
	62 Tables & 4 Seats Sold	> \$163,800.00	> Gross receipts before exp
	Donations	> \$1,300.00	
	Expenses To Date	> \$(71,501.50)	

- **Pledge towards the church redevelopment.**
 - Pledge envelopes can be obtained from our information counter after service each week. You may also contact the church office for more details.
- **Fundraising Carnival (Aug 2009)**
 - This is a great opportunity to include your friends and family! Invite them for the carnival and have a great time building relationships while giving to build the house of God!
- **Music CD for sale (Nov 2009)**
 - Start saving for Christmas! Our AMKMC maiden album with our very own musicians and composition, as well as your old-time favorite hymns will be ready for purchase in November 2009. Spread the cheer and the message of God's love through music to your family, friends and colleagues this Christmas!
- **One time donations**
 - You can also get a donation envelope from the ushers and drop it into the offertory bags or send in your cheque to the Church, making it payable to "Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church (TRAC)" and indicating at the back that it is for the Church Redevelopment Fund.

And if you're wondering how else you can contribute, here are some ideas and upcoming events for your prayerful participation: