

----Continue from page one

in their serving when they may perceive that "I am indispensable and I have to do everything".



The truth is: "No one is indispensable or needs to do everything." Since every one is gifted in some way by the grace of God, then within that community that you are serving in, there are others whom you can encourage to serve along with you.



Sometimes it calls for humble delegation of tasks to others, loving encouragement for others to step out in faith, and at other times, it requires one to patiently bear with others while they learn through mistakes and imperfections.

Paul exhorts all believers in his letter to the Ephesians that in keeping with the unity of the body, to be "completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2) and he goes on to explain that the Lord Jesus, who is completely humble and descended to the lowest of all depth is the Christ who gave each one of us the grace to serve.

".....completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love"

To those who do not hold specific roles in the church ministry, they often carry with them the false sense of humility that says "there are others who are better at the job, and therefore I don't have to do anything." Jesus himself rebuked such a servant in the gospel of Matthew 25.

In the parable of the talents, the master distributed talents to each of his servants according to the ability he knew they had and could manage. He returned to find that two of his servants had been diligent and faithful in putting the talents into some use that was beneficial to his household and business. But to the one servant with a single talent, he was angry with his laziness and irresponsibility.

Did the master not know that this servant was "not as talented" as the other servants?

Yes! But the master also knew that according to this servant's ability, he was still able to serve and manage the one talent he had been given.

Returns and profit aside, this servant did not even try to put that one talent to any use! Jesus called this servant "wicked, lazy and worthless" and removed this servant from his service completely. (Matthew 25:14-28)

### 3. We have no excuse.

The question should not be whether or not we have been called to serve, but rather how we have been graced to serve? We have no excuse not to serve if we profess to have the Holy Spirit living within us. As Christians, we are called to be part of the community of faith and children of God in this family called the church.



And in family, everyone matters and everyone is called to be involved. A wife cannot say that the family is the responsibility of only the husband, nor can the children say that their parents are alone responsible to make the family work. The wife has to serve in her capacity and children have to play their part to fulfil their responsibilities to the home.

Similarly in the church, while the elders and staff work to serve the people, each and every believer is called by our Heavenly Father to also serve one another.

And every provision has been given through the grace of God by the Holy Spirit and through Scripture so that we have everything



we need for living a godly life and for every good work. (2 Peter 1:3, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### Conclusion

In His grace, God has chosen to work through His children to bring about the purposes of His Kingdom. And to that cause, He has sent His Holy Spirit to empower each believer with gifts so that together, as each part does his work, the body of Christ might be built up, and completely effective in His power to accomplish all that the church has been called to do.

"...He has sent his Holy Spirit to empower each believer with gifts..."

## 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	467
c.	Amount pledged	\$1,266,720.85
d.	Actual amount received from pledges	\$831,146.84
e.	Other fund raising projects:-	
	i. Movie (June 2008)	\$22,390.00
	ii. Golf game (August 2008)	\$165,600.00
f.	Previous donations received	\$530,795.59
g.	1. 30th Anniversary dinner	\$ 18,292.30
	2. Commemorative book:-	
	a. Adverts placement	\$29,800.00
	b. 422 copies sold	\$ 4,220.00
	3. Calendars:-	
	3561 copies sold	\$35,610.00
	4. Movie tickets:-	
	141 tickets sold	\$ 7,050.00
	5. Fund raising dinner:-	
	41 tables & 9 seats sold	\$116,800.00
	6. Sale of food item	\$7,527.00
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED</b>	<b>\$1,769,231.73</b>

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 cry 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 25th January 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 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](mailto:thejourney@amkmc.org.sg). We'd love to hear from you!

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

## Gifted for service

written by Jessica Zhuo

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27)

Scriptures clearly teach us that within the body of Christ every believer is given the gift of the Holy Spirit and each person manifests that gift in various forms of ability like teaching spiritual truths with clarity, having divine insights to certain situations through prayer, having an extraordinary ability to lead others, etc as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Today, we have termed these manifestations "spiritual gifts". These are gifts from God, given by grace through the Holy Spirit, for the good of the church. These gifts are not meant to benefit the believer alone in his/her private communion with the Lord, but rather, when used faithfully, they benefit the church and the body of Christ.

The writer of Romans reiterates this truth, exhorting the church to humbly assess the grace of God that has been given to each one in the area of his/her spiritual gifts, and to serve one another cheerfully, diligently and generously. (Romans 12: 3-8)

As you reflect upon this truth, I pray you will embrace the three following responses:

### 1. We ought to have hope:

The bible does not qualify the giving of spiritual gifts to persons based on their level of faith, degree of devotion, amount of prayer, or even the duration of time they have been Christians.

Instead, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians that "each one" is given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Every person who has been born again receives the Holy Spirit and is therefore a recipient of His grace to manifest His presence through some area of gifting.

Paul also writes his letter to the church in Ephesus reminding them that "to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it," and he goes on later in the same chapter to list the various roles that the people of God have been called to, in order to build

up the body of Christ that the church may attain the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7, 11-13)

Thus this truth offers us hope. All who are born again and profess Jesus as Lord are able to serve by His grace. No one is forgotten or left out.

It may be that your "spiritual gift" lies dormant and undiscovered. There are resources\* available to help you identify what it is that the Lord may have graced you to contribute to His body. So do not be discouraged.

### 2. We ought to be humbled:

Knowing this truth should bring us to humble ourselves and to see others through eyes of patience and love, esteeming them as equal heirs in the grace of God. The seed of pride exists in all of us and often this sin reveals itself in the church in various ways. Here are two examples:

To those who hold multiple responsibilities, they come to times

# Disciple programme...

## Visit to Chyrstalite Methodist Nursing Home

On 8 March 2008, Pastor Leslie led a DISCIPLE class to visit Chyrstalite Methodist Nursing Home, as part of the DISCIPLE programme. The group spent half a morning there singing Christian songs with the residents and blessing them with some daily necessities. Some of the members tell us about their experience.



Rose Tan

Basically we brought joy and gifts to the old, weak and lonely folks, yet these are but a short time of happiness; like the morning dew vanished when we left.

My prayer is that they know Jesus as their Savior, in whom their daily source of help, comfort, strength and companionship lies.

"What a Friend we have in Jesus" will give them the greatest joy, a life of peace and hope in eternity. Amen.

### Sharon Teh:

This is the second time I have visited a home for the aged, with a church group. This visit made me recall the days when my paternal grandfather was also placed in an old aged home - in Johore, Malaysia. He must have felt a sense of desertion then.

I experienced the same feeling at the Chyrstalite Nursing Home. I saw many old folks staring blankly or idling. Some were helpless and needed the attention of the nurses who were around. Their minds must have been filled with lots of recollections, good and bad memories, and some probably harboured thoughts of regret or resentment.

I cannot help thinking how I will be when I'm old. It is not going to be too long now that I will be turning half-a-century old very soon. So, I will just live a day at a time in God's mercies and live this life to the fullest, with contentment in our Lord and, with the Lord's guiding and leading hands.

**"Jesus began His public ministry by proclaiming GOOD NEWS to the poor and the oppressed..."**

There is so much more to do in this life here on earth. So with God's help I will make this my motto in this life - To share and serve wherever and however I can, and leave the future in the Lord's hands.



### Sue Chiam:

I thought it was worthwhile to conduct the visit to a charity home as a group. In a group, we did not feel so helpless and overwhelmed as the dazed and askance faces stared at us. Admittedly, the sense of loss and sadness was pervasive. It made me uncomfortable and conscience-stricken as I thought about my own comfort; and about whether a day would come when I had to ward my own parent in a home.

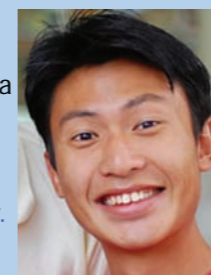
Quite a few residents wanted to chat and a touch. There was this young chap who came to shake my hand umpteen times. He seemed to be seeking assurance. Another old lady gave an account of her family history and her faith journey. It humbled me to be still and lend her a listening ear. One old man kept hiding the goodies we gave him and asked for more.

I learnt to respond patiently but firmly. Yet, we also witnessed the joy and vibrancy of a few old folks who were able to sing with gusto and verve. It seemed to jog them back to happier days. I thought that it must be therapeutic for them.

I must give kudos to the staff, nurses and volunteer helpers at the home - they were guided and guarded by compassion and firm gentleness. I came away thanking God for these angels who were available to toil among the destitute. It's definitely not a bed of roses for them. Pray that our good Lord strengthen and refresh them each day.



The visit to Chyrstalite Methodist Nursing Home brought several thoughts to my mind, but one distinctly lingered. During a conversation with the Supervisor of the Home, he made this comment:



Nelson Goh

"I'm glad you guys are here to help today. When you come, all you see is all you know. But for us, we have seen all that goes on before they are sent here. Rich bankers and lawyers abandoning their parents... there's even one here who was from a top secondary school and college but who cheated on his family and was eventually sent here."

That comment made me think of the reality that goes on outside of the home, in our daily environments. Families are torn down by years of deceit. Pride causes some to look down on the helplessness and vulnerability of others. It reminds me that more needs to be done to redeem society. Some of the folk in the home are here because it is the best place for them. Yet some are here as a manifestation of the pride and deceit that goes on behind closed doors. Lest we guard our hearts, it could happen to you and I.

## Olive For Him, a great success!

By James Teh Cher Hao  
FACT Camp Commandant '08

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" Col 2:6-7*

FACT Camp 2008 "Olive For Him" was a great success!  
**Hallelujah! All glory and praise be to our Father!**

Our Youth Ministry held its annual Youth FACT Camp at St. Francis Methodist School from the 11th to 14th of December 2008. It was 4 days 3 nights of fun filled activities, "from the inside out". This time, we went back to the campsite where the first ever FACT Camp was held in 2005.

A total of 92 youths signed up for this year's camp, with about 10 newcomers joining us for their very first youth camp experience. We are delighted to receive them into our family. The campers had a time for everything, a time for games, a time for great food, a time for sharing and praying for one another, BUT most importantly, a time to listen to God's Word. This year's focus was to share with the youths, the importance of being rooted and established in Christ, to simply sit and listen to Him. There were a total of 3 workshops conducted in the daytime and 3 messages preached in the evenings solely by our very own youth leaders.

### Workshops

Making Godly Decisions  
The Lifestyle of Prayer & Worship  
Importance of God's Word

### Night Sessions

Day 1: Devotion, Desire Encounter  
Day 2: There is therefore no condemnation  
Day 3: Continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him

I certainly look forward to the next FACT Camp! Don't you? See ya there this year!

*\*FACT stands for Forging Ahead in Christ Together.*

