

**Nehemiah 4:6:** So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



**July 2015**

**Vision: CCBC, Toward Healthy Growing Disciple-Making Church**

**2015 Theme: Building and Bringing**

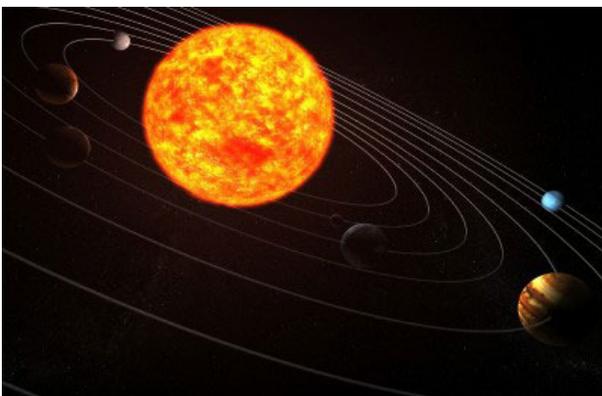
## Half Time Review of CCBC Disciple Making's Journey

A reflective account by Various DG & DGL

### By Can Do DG

In 2013, we caught a vision from the Lord to let it be known that this church is a Disciple Making Church. In 2014, we got down to the ABC of following Christ. In 2015, our DG aspires to help one another achieve our goal to build our lives around the Son. We no longer desire that all things revolve around our "self" but to help one another maintain how it was supposed to be. To Love Christ and Christ alone, nothing else matters, or more accurately to say that all matters will fall into its proper orbits.

The journey will be long and arduous, our human nature wants to take short cuts and easy paths. When boulders and difficulties block our way, we want to give up. Will this be our story to share in heaven? Will it be recorded in heaven's books that we did not play a part to help anybody or will we be like Peter (Apostle not CCBC Peter☺), whom Jesus declared that upon this rock He will build the church? Will it be recorded that we gave the same answer as Peter did when the Lord asked "Do you Love Me more than these?", "Feed My sheep". Stay tuned for what will our DG actually does & become by end 2015.



### By Patience DG

The 1st half of 2015 we saw small progress in our DM journey as we embark in our studies from DFD book 5 Foundations for Faith. We managed to complete 3 chapters of our studies. "Who is God", "The Authority of God's Word" and "The Holy Spirit".

There are 2 questions which were put forth that set us thinking, "How should our life reflect our worship of God?" And "What attitude does God long to see in us?" which should serve as constant reminders in maintaining our spiritual walk with God. In the recent church retreat Ben So's devotion shared about the 3 structures of life. "Substructure, Structure and Super Structure". These 3 images bring to my mind about our mission in our DM Journey.

First, our "Substructure" rests on establishing a strong foundation of Faith in God and that would mean anchoring deeply in God and in His Word: John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing"*.

Second, our "Structure" is our spiritual life journey where we continue to maintain our spiritual well-being by active participating in DG meetings.

Third, the "Super Structures", what we hope to achieve at the "Empowering Stage": seeing a new generation of leaders rising up to continue God's work in CCBC.

### By Rainbow DG

Periodic review is like doing a health screening;

reflecting the hits and misses. If it is a hit, good practices to continue; or else to improve on the areas that have misses.

Though there isn't an official evangelism ministry in CCBC, one of the desired outcomes is to have our members share Christ with pre-believers. Thus, DM and evangelism go hand in hand.

DG goals: Nurture, Worship, Community, Mission  
Currently most of Rainbow DG meeting were spent on study of the WORD with occasional outreach activities like the Christmas event.

Should Rainbow DG re-prioritize by spending more time on outreach/evangelism? We felt that to continue to study the WORD is fundamental. Though most DG ladies are equipped to lead a new Discovery group, not all will be effective. Thus, it would be more appropriate to identify CCBC members who are good at: (1) making people feel welcome and at ease, (2) gospel-sharing, and (3) follow-up.

CCBC's DG journey began in September 2013 and after 1.75 years, our DGs have not made much progress in numerical growth. The manpower resources at CCBC can only do this much as we are stretched between CCBC and FCSC. We wonder whether it's time for CCBC to rethink growth by building synergy with other like-minded church.

### **Half Time Review of FCSC**

**By Alex Yit**

"While we must plan and strategize in business language, we do so in Faith, in Hope, and in Love to understand that our plans and strategies will have no effect if God is not in the picture – ultimately He is Sovereign, even if our best plans and strategies fail!" Quoting Pastor Gary Choong. 5 Jan 2013.

A year later, 5 Jan 2014, CCBC members through an Extra General Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the Friendship Christian Student Care (FCSC) as our community outreach.

Key changes have since been effected at FCSC. First, the Character First Development Program has been anchored through a church couple since early 2014 as part of curriculum enhancement. This had been held fortnightly on Fridays 3.30 to 4.30pm, covering character attributes like attentiveness, obedience, truthfulness, gratefulness, generosity, orderliness,

forgiveness, sincerity and virtue. The scope of the program has been expanded in 2015 with bible stories, songs and verses incorporated in some of the sessions. Kidz Klub has also been formed recently with the purpose of building identity and cohesion. Second, piano lessons have been introduced as enrichment program at the center with five students attending these sessions. Third, dietary improvement has been made with the introduction of fresh fruits three times a week for the students.

Among the key events organized by CCBC, the men from the "Can-Do' Discipleship Group organized and spent a day out at the Lower Pierce Reservoir during the June 14 term break - discovering, learning, interacting and playing with the students. A 3-day Christmas Camp was also held in December 2014 where the character of humility was taught and Jesus Christ's example as well as the gospel message for Christmas was shared. Just recently in the June 15 term break, the church organized outings to SAFRA, Toa Payoh and Garden by the Bay.

Is God in the picture as I reflect on what has been said by our pastor? Given the challenges faced at the center by the committee as well as the resource constraint of CCBC with a small congregation, the outreach ministry with FCSC is truly a journey of faith, grace and mercy of our God. Through the center and organized activities, we have seen parents and students from FCSC worshipping with us and some of them attended the outreach event held at CCBC premises on Labour Day. CCBC volunteers have also been at the center, offering their time and service in different capacity.

Looking ahead....The lease with HDB at Bishan will expire in February 2016. The church will have to decide by the second half of this year if we should continue with our outreach efforts at FCSC. We have to work out the longer term plan with FCSC, including the blueprint of enhancing the facilities at FCSC. The committee has also made recommendations at the recent AGM for a sustained engagement with the students through the DGs and Youth Ministry. Let's remember to commit all our plans with FCSC to God in prayers.

Psalm 27:13-14:

*"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."*

# Retreat 2015 – A Retreat Never Before

By Yuen Chee Meng



My impression of CCBC retreat this year was indeed unusual in many ways – first, we had many more friends among us (i.e. one in every five participants was a non-CCBC worshippers) and there were at least two pre-believers. I prayed that they had wonderful experiences of Christian body-life and had “special encounter” with our Lord Jesus through the three messages “I am the Light of the world” (John 8:12 by Bro Wei Qiang), “I am the Bread of life” (John 6:35 by Ps Seng Yan) and “I am the true Vine” (John 15:1 by Bro David) and Sunday message taken from Psalm 62 by Ps Gary.

This year we had corporate devotions in the mornings instead of group devotions; they were led by two brothers (Erik and Ben So) challenging us to leave our “nets” to follow Jesus (i.e. cost of discipleship) and calling us to build up our faith substructure (i.e. spiritual discipline), structure (i.e. DG, family time and fellowship with believers) and superstructure (i.e. accomplishment in life and kingdom work). It was refreshing and inspiring to hear life-testimonies from two sisters (Ros and Khin Kyi). Ros testified how God brought her back to Himself and His word from her busy corporate life; while Khin Kyi shared how God has been the Author of her love life and marriage.

The most unique feature of this year’s retreat camp was that the organizing committee was manned by our youth (the first in CCBC history) chaired by Ben So. These youth were committed and absolutely involved from the outset - they brain-stormed the retreat theme, conducted reconnaissance trip, prepared publicity stint, designed the flyer and retreat booklet, coordinated the retreat worship, logistics matters, organizing bonding games and fun-night. The daily programme update and administration briefings were helmed by these youths. The aura, vibe and energy of our youth were

never lacking and were readily felt during the planning and marketing phases, and throughout the 4-day camp.

However, we also want to honor and thank the many unseen hands that made the retreat stress free: the coordination with the resort, the speakers and the transport company; the retreat programme planning and the compilation of the camp booklet. Our unsung heroes were Peter, Adelynn, Tin Soot, Sally and many others.



It was my privilege to have a short chat with some of our youth committee team members, Caleb, Shannen and Joseph. Here is the transcript of our interview:-

**What was your first reaction when you were invited to the retreat organizing committee?**

**Caleb** : Oh hahaha ..... “whoa wait what just happened” I was of course daunted by the huge role but over time I think I got accustomed to it. Credit goes to the rest of the youth who stepped in every bit of the way.

**Shannen** : I was quite surprised because when I was approached, the idea of having the youth form the retreat committee was so different and has never done before from what I know. Then again, I was quite worried due to my lack of planning experience!

**Joseph** : As for me, I was utterly shocked but I just accepted the role. Since I am going to be in this church for a long time, I might as well take on some roles that can help me familiarize myself with the people around me.



**What challenges did you encounter and how have you overcome them in your given roles?**

**Joseph** : I was handling the retreat equipment, transport and logistics and this was my first time. I was faced with challenges like slow responses, flow of information and procrastination, e.g., what are the logistic support needed by various ministries? I overcame these challenges by asking people around for their needs and what the resort offered. What kept me going was to see how well the other members did in their given roles. I was very encouraged and motivated!



**Caleb** : I did encounter a bit of challenges when it came to the “on-site” role of a commandant, because I didn’t know what to say or what to do as one. I didn’t know that the commandant’s role was so important regarding the administrative details. I am thankful to Ben So for his timely and helpful pointers.

**Shannen** : There were quite a number of challenges! One, trying to come up with games that fit the very



wide range of retreat demographics. In the end, I decided we could not cater to everyone so I went ahead with what I thought would be best for all! Second, the location was a little challenging since I wasn’t familiar with the resort and its facilities. Fortunately, I had Ben So and Uncle Tin Soot to assist me with the booking of the locations! Lastly, I had to tweak the games throughout the retreat in order to cater for wet weather plan (and it rained during our scheduled game time) and the change of timing. This last challenge was overcome with the teamwork from the youth! Thanks guys!

**What have you learnt from your roles? Any advice to our future organizing committee?**

**Shannen** : I’ve learnt that everything can be solved through teamwork and staying calm. If the team had not been behind me, I wouldn’t have the games done up so smoothly. Also, remember to always place your plans in God’s hand!

**Joseph** : Agreed with Shannen. For me, “working as a team” is my biggest gain. And I must be courageous and not be afraid to ask questions especially in areas where I am unfamiliar with. There are many experienced and helpful people around who are willing to give me a hand to get the job done. Helps can come in many ways.

**Caleb** : I feel like I’ve learnt to be more responsible and not leave everything to the last minute .... Hahaha, it was indeed a big task especially in “uncharted water” for our whizz-kids. I am thankful to the Lord for all of them taking on the challenge! Despite their age, they have demonstrated that they can be faithful, responsible and passionate in their given task. We saw them grow spiritually during this journey. Kudos to our youth for their fabulous job and they have certainly etched an indelible imprint in the hearts of all the 2015 CCBC Retreat campers. Praise the Lord. Great job and keep it up!