

Covenant Community Baptist Church

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Be and Bring a Friend to Jesus: Building and Bringing

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



Relating to the theme of building and bridging, the logo shows a structure of bricks representing the church while each individual brick represents members of the church. The various colours of each brick suggest the differences of each individual, and through sharing their common identity in Christ, they come together to form support for each other. The brick formation expands by reaching out to the 'lost' bricks beyond the community. These 'lost' bricks have a void which only Christ can fill.

July 2013

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A CERTAIN KIND OF BUZZ....by Alex Yit

Every June holiday, a certain kind of buzz surrounds Covenant Community Baptist Church. For the "die-hard fans", it is time to pack our bags, including diapers and milk for some, head for a short break away from Singapore and live amongst a group of people that we don't normally do throughout the year. It's RETREAT time!



This year's retreat was held at the TanjungPuteri Golf Resort, Johor Malaysia from 13 to 16 Jun 13 with the theme being "Taking Root, Bearing Fruit". Our church participants stayed at the five bedrooms Istana Villa, located next to the golf course. Being an avid golfer, it was certainly difficult watching the players drove their buggies by and teeing off into the vast expanse of the beautiful course greenery for four days! Reflecting, I was however not disappointed as I took home from the retreat more than a game of golf could provide. Let me share two key takeaways:

Firstly, it is about Experiencing God at work inCCBC. As the lay leaders from the Disciple-Making Strategic Planning (DMSP) Core Team

took turns to share with us the roadmap of a faith journey – "**Toward a healthy, growing disciple-making church**", I believe it is a work of God's grace and a response which will call for faith of a healthy growing church. The small groups' discussion further enriched our understanding of the roadmap and allowed the participants to pause and ask ourselves of our spiritual walk with God. It wasn't surprising when the "mapping exercise" revealed that most of us were in the Discovering or Obeying stages of our spiritual journey. I thank the DMSP Core Team for your leadership and dedication. It is a challenge from God for all believers in our church. Let's be praying for as many as possible to set aside our time from September onwards to begin a journey of faith together.



Secondly, it is about Experiencing body life. For a start, the retreat arrangement of staying in villas, instead of hotel rooms, certainly brought each of us much closer together. With the programme activities, it made us realised distinct daily living habits of each other. Every morning, even before the sun arose, a group of enthusiasts would gather on the grass field

surrounding the four villas, to participate in a one-hour morning exercise session led by our brother Soo Hwee. I was told a good number of enthusiasts gathered each morning and these were certainly the healthy ones of CCBC! We had our morning devotions together in the villas as each of us took turns to share our lives and thoughts. Almost every late afternoon, you would see a group of youths and older folks, including myself, having a hilarious time in the swimming pool as we pitted our pathetic water polo skills against one another. Many of us suffered scratches and bruises from the games that we had. Last but not least, the Fun Night certainly live up to its hype. The talents from our church were overflowing. The skits and dances put together were fantastic and enjoyable. I could still remember the three skits - "Wong Fei Hung and his Four Disciples", "Mary and Martha", "Parables of the 3 Pigs" as well as the two dances by "CCBC Sisters' DM Dance" or "Daniel and The Brothers Act". From the puzzle quiz put together by our brother Chee Meng, we found out that our ladies are certainly smarter than the men! I believe the joy we have together will continue into the heaven.



The last point I want to make is - CCBC simply enjoy food! From the feedback, the sumptuous meals and local delights prepared by the resort were well appreciated. There was also a feast for the durian lovers in one of the villas. We are thankful to God for His provision. I am sure when a banquet is prepared in heaven, we won't be the ones missing from the tables.

Well, every retreat is unique with fond memories and this year is no exception. I am grateful to Sylvia and the retreat committee for organising the event. It is truly a week of God's love and grace for the church.

By Cheok Shu Shyan.....

(DMS Song, sung to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey")

"We put our whole mind in, we put our whole mind out,

We put our whole mind in, and we shake it all about

*We join disciple groups, we want to **grow in Christ***

*We are **discovering** now.*

We put our whole heart in, we put our whole heart out,

We put our whole heart in, and we shake it all about

*We join disciple groups, we do the **DFD****

*We are **obeying** now.*

We put our two hands in, we put our two hands out,

We put our two hands in, and we shake them all about

*We join disciple groups, we do our best **to serve***
*We're **empowering** now.*

We put our whole self in, we put our whole self out,

We put our whole self in, and we shake it all about

*We join disciple groups, we **share our faith***
*We're **multiplying** now.*

Hey! DM, DM, (3x)

*We are **disciples** now"*

**DFD refers to Designed for Discipleship, a bible study resource from the Navigators.*

This song was performed by one of the groups at CCBC Retreat 2013, at the last evening of the retreat. We amazed (and amused) each other by the creative ways each group presented their take on what "Disciple-Making" is all about. And that about sums up the focus and intent of this year's retreat: to introduce and interact over the "**Roadmap for CCBC's Journey of Faith: Toward a Healthy, Growing Disciple-Making Church**".

The Disciple-Making Strategic Planning Core-Team had over the past few months prayed through, deliberated over, planned and proposed for what God might be leading CCBC towards, 2013 and beyond. We are thankful that through the sharing and discussions, feedback and participation, we as a church are

now more ready than ever to step out in faith, in...

Discovering- A new season will begin in CCBC when we launch the DMS, come September 2013. From bible study materials, to discipleship groups (DG), and ministry opportunities (serving and/or leading), things will start to move and change. It is a time for all of us to *discover* in personal and corporate ways what God is doing in our relationship with Him, and to allow Him to lead us to *grow in the knowledge of Him*.

Obeying- This journey of faith is a journey of *obedience* towards God's call, so clearly given from Matthew 28:18 – 20. Transitions can be painful, or stressful. May there be an environment of loving encouragement as we choose to *deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow Jesus* as His disciples.

Empowering- DG leaders are at the thick of action as we launch the DMS. These are people whom we believe are led by God to give of themselves to the ministry of shepherding and teaching in small groups. They are also people with demonstrable qualities of responsibility, teachability, and biblical literacy. As they are *empowered to serve*, let us pray for and support them in their work for the Lord.

Multiplied- The vision of the DMS does not stop at CCBC; it goes beyond the walls of CCBC to *the community and the harvest field of the world*. DGs do not exist for themselves, but for the purpose of *multiplying* so that more people will be touched with the gospel of Christ.

We are praying that EVERYONE at CCBC will find a meaningful place of participation and growth in the DMS. I urge every one of us to be part of a DG, to own our walk with God and growth in Christ, to take steps of faith to serve the community of faith and beyond. Like the words of the above song go, we need everyone's HEART, MIND, and HANDS to collectively fulfill God's purpose for CCBC. Please join us in building up the future of CCBC into what God intends it to be!

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



*My Prayer
penned by Yuen Chee
Meng*

Gracious Father, 1 Chronicles 16:14-15,34 reminds us of your faithfulness to your covenant people. We exalt Your Holy and majestic name.

We give thanks for Your protection, provision and favor throughout our retreat at TanjungPuteri. You gave us insights to Your purpose and plan for CCBC. You gave us a meaningful bonding amongst your people and You.

We are thankful to You Lord, for the organizing committee – particularly Syl Via and Alex for their planning, organizing and due diligence given to the retreat from start to finish. We are thankful for the safe-journey, warm and cosy home-setting villas, heart-to-heart sharing and fellowship and sumptuous meals (the best I had tasted among all our past retreats) and the team-building games. We thank you Lord for giving the DM Core Team Your wisdom, creativity and humor in sharing the Disciple-Making strategies in such a simple and fun manner that your people so readily received and embraced them.

We are grateful to You Lord for infusing so much interest and excitement among your people and their ownership of the DM strategies, mission, objectives, timeline, self-identification of DM stages and groupings, and the nomination and affirmation of DM group leader, culminating into creative songs, dances and skits by the 5 discussion teams at the FunNite of Buzz and Puzzles! To God be the Glory!

We are thankful for Mee Ling and David sharing their life-journey and setting the pace for the rest of us to share and reflect. Everyone is thankful for Pastor Gary and Pastor Siew Tiang for their spiritual leadership, guidance and sacrificial contributions in facilitating the DM Strategies discussions and crystallizing the missions, objectives, time-line, materials etc. We were indeed richly blessed by them.

We covet Your continuing guidance for the DM Core Team as they review the feedback and suggestions, team-share the DM strategies and roadmaps to the congregation in August, we ask the Lord to prepare the hearts of the non-retreat participants – to embrace and own the DM strategies, roadmap, grouping and leadership and to grow in the Lord to bear fruits.

We acknowledge disciple-making is the heartbeat of our Lord and it is His commission to His people.

We trust as the Lord reveals and calls us to just take a step of faith and obedience TOGETHER to begin this new journey.

So Lord, prepare our hearts, our hands for Your kingdom work. Give us the courage to step out of our comfort zone and dare make a difference for You today.

We ask in faith and victory because we ask in Jesus' Triumphant Name. Amen.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Ministry Teachers' Fellowship

The Sunday school teachers will come together for fellowship and lunch in September to encourage and share ideas.

Children's Day – Oct 06

The Children Ministry will be planning a celebration for the children to enjoy the day together.

MISSION TO MANIPUR : AUG 12-19

Ps Gary will be teaching at the Manipur Theological College at the invitation of the Manipur Baptist Convention. We are thankful that CCBC can play a part in this partnership.

PULPIT SERIES - REVELATION 4-22

Pray for God to use the Revelation series to draw hearts closer to God.

S/N	Date	Scripture Ref	Title
7 th	Jul 14	Rev 10:1-11	Second Interlude
8 th	Aug 11	Rev 11:1-14	Two Witness, the Beast, and God's Victory
9 th	Aug 25	Rev 11:15-19	The Triumph of God!
10 th	Oct 06	Rev 12:1-17	Satan has a field day
11 th	Oct 13	Rev 13:1-18	Satan's Co-workers
12 th	Oct 20	Rev 14:1-20	Justice Served!
13 th	Oct 27	Rev 15:1-16:21	Showdown!
14 th	Nov 24	Rev 17:1-18	A tale of Two Cities: Babylon...!
15 th	Dec 08	Rev 18:1-24	Fallen!
16 th	Dec 15	Rev 19:1-10	Hallelujah!
17 th	Dec 22	Rev 19:11-21	Jesus, Our Heroic Saviour!
18 th	Dec 29	Rev 20:1-15	The Coming "New" Millennium
19 th	Jan 12, 2014	Rev 21:1-22:5	City of Gold: All Things New!
20 th	Jan 19, 2014	Rev 22:6-21	Come, Lord Jesus!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income & Expenditure from Jan-Dec 2012

Income:	\$153,497.34
Expenditure:	\$133,886.79
Surplus:	\$19,610.55