

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



Vision: CCBC, Toward Healthy Growing Disciple-Making Church

2013 Theme: Be and Bring a Friend to Jesus: Building and Bringing

November 2013

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (DG) by Adelynn Thng

Our Disciple Making ("DM") journey began on September 08, 2013.

There are in the DM journey four stages towards a healthy growing disciple-making church:

Discovery – Discovering and knowing God, characterized by commitment to Christ and a strong foundation in the Christian faith.

Obeying – Growing in obedience to Christ and demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in service and character formation.

Empowering – Equipping and empowering believers/leaders who serve according to their spiritual gifts, characterized by Christ-like, servant attitude in a spawning community of faith.

Multiplication – Identifying, challenging, equipping and empowering potential spiritual leaders who desire to multiply disciples for character formation, ministry formation, and mission.

There are six Disciple Groups (DG), two in the Discovery stage and four obeying stage.

1. Faith DG



Leader: Cheong Mee Ling
Members: Sylvia Yap (Asst), Jenny Chua, Margaret Khoo, Lim Chio May, Janice Ng, Adelynn Thng and Joy Yew

2. Fellovsheep DG



Leader: Cheok Soo Ting
Members: Shannen Toh (Asst), James Tan, Joseph Tan, Caleb Thng, Xavier Toh and Luke Yit.

3. Discovering DG



Leader: Yuen Chee Meng
Members: Peter Thng (Asst), Allan Casabar, Maria Casabar, Wan Chi Keung and Yuen Hwei Ling

4. Grace DG



Leader: Chua Siew Tiang
Members: Cheok Shu Shyan (Asst), Chan Li Li, Jaclyn Kwang and Sally Lim

5. Can-Do DG



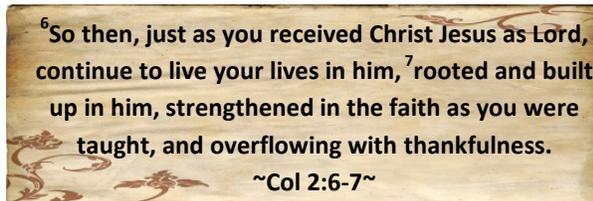
Leader: Chua Soo Hwee
Members: Bennett Wong (Asst), Liew Kok Beng, Ivan Ng, Tan Tin Soot and Alex Yit.

6. Young Men DG



Leader: Dr Gary Choong
Members: David Chan, Samuel Chan, Chua Yee Hao, Jeremy Liew, Ivan Loh, Tang Wei Qiang and Daniel Yeo,

For those who have yet to be part of a DG, we encourage you to join us and let's grow towards Christ-likeness.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH: FRIENDSHIP CHRISTIAN STUDENT CENTRE (FCSC)

By Alex Yit, Secretariat Pro-Tem Committee

OVERVIEW OF FCSC

FCSC is an approved voluntary welfare organisation (VWO) that provides *"Before and After School Care"* as its core business, and enrolled students of the age group of Primary 1 to 6. A VWO is a non-profit organisation that provides welfare services and/or services that benefit the community at large.

FCSC is located at Block 213, Bishan Street 23, #B1-235 (HDB Bomb Shelter). The place is on a 3-year lease with HDB. The current lease started in Mar

2013 and will lapse in Feb 2016, with the renewal notice initiated by HDB. The ministry of 20 years began by Mr. Richard Tan since 1993 has continued in the current location, albeit under a different name initially. ***This provides assurance for continuation of ministry for at least another two years.***

OPERATIONS OF FCSC

FCSC provides assistance to parents of eligible students to apply for the Student Care Financial Assistance from the government (families with income of less than \$3500 per month). The subsidy can vary from 20% to 98%. Currently, three students are under this subsidy scheme with one of the students paying only \$5 per month. The government pays for the deposit and initial cost, up to a max of \$400 per student. ***One of the key strength of FCSC is the assistance rendered to families for application of subsidies. This service is not offered by other centres. Low income families will find the assistance useful. Compared to Joyhouse Learning Centre which charges \$360 per student per month FCSC charges only \$253.***

PROGRAMME OFFERED BY FCSC

The centre offers an avenue for the students to complete their school homework under supervision. No additional teaching is provided. Some of these students have tuition classes in other centres and will leave as necessary. One-on-one tuition is provided to one of the students by Mr. Richard Tan. In addition, Art workshops are being organized which is open to the public. These have served as income for FCSC. ***Assessment Books can be provided to enrich the programme beyond supervised study. Tutorial sessions on specified topics can also be explored if deemed helpful with volunteers from the church or nearby established Junior Colleges as part of the students' CCA.***

FINANCES OF FCSC

The current financial state of FCSC will necessitate an approximate funding of \$61K (\$56K+\$5K) from CCBC over 27 months. ***There is a need to increase awareness of FCSC through publicity to attract new students to the centre and to allow for FCSC to be self-supporting. The publicity should commence in the last quarter of the year (Oct to Dec) as families are getting prepared for their children schooling and before/after school arrangement for the coming year.***

MOVING AHEAD

The church has decided to adopt FCSC as an outreach arm of CCBC. This is premised on the following considerations after establishing the state of FCSC:

- a. Good infrastructure of FCSC.

- b. Potential of enhancing enrolment and reaching out to a targeted group of lower income segment of the community.
- c. Programmes can be enhanced to benefit overall development of the students enrolled, including teaching Christian values. CCBC can also initiate Good News Club (GNC)-alike programme during the holidays as outreach activities.
- d. Funding required from the church at a cost of approximately \$24K annually through the reserves of CCBC.
- e. As the rental renewal is on a 3-yearly lease (expires Feb 2016), CCBC will be able to have a meaningful ministry of at least 2 years through FCSC, with an exit strategy to be considered before current lease ends. This is necessary given the uncertainty over the current low enrolment as well as the Ministry of Education's implementation of single-session schools in 2016, and the set up of student care services within the premises of primary schools.

For the immediate, CCBC will need to consider the following:

- a. Set up a management committee to oversee and strengthen the governance and administration of the centre for the next 2 years.
- b. To hire a Centre Manager while retaining the services of Mr. Richard Tan (tenure to be determined) for proper transition. A proper Term of Reference (TOR) will be drafted by CCBC HR.
- c. To commence publicity for enrolment in FCSC, Oct 2013.
- d. To plan an outreach event during year-end school holidays to introduce CCBC and to bring Christmas joy to the students. Christmas gifts in the form of book gift vouchers or reference books can be considered.
- e. To carry out minor repairs of FCSC signboard and shower heater (for hot shower after school).
- f. To plan for CCBC outreach programme and activities for 2014, especially during the school holidays (with youth participation). FCSC can serve as a source of inflow of pre-believers into the Children and Youth Ministries.
- g. To address the current lease of Friendship Baptist Church using the premises on Sunday. We may consider a yearly renewable contract (non-written) subject to an appropriate end to the rental.

For the longer-term (beyond current lease), CCBC can consider the following:

- a. Leverage on nearby reputable JC students as part of their CCA requirement to offer tuition as volunteers.
- b. Review of manpower and consider additional full/part time staff.
- c. Purchase of vehicle to transport needy family students from schools to centre.

REFLECTIONS ON DAILY LIVING: "Help me God...I am very busy and have no time!"

by Chua Yee Hao

Do you regularly use this statement in your daily conversation or thoughts? If so, you are not alone. Like the crafty snake in the garden of Eden, this phrase has crept into my daily vocabulary that I have been using it so regularly that it has become my favourite "escape route" whenever I needed a good reason to whisk my way out of a situation. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Through a series of events and reflecting on God's word, He granted me a new perspective.

This journey of self-discovery began one day while I was watching the news on TV. The interviewer asked many Singaporeans about their views on Singaporean athletes who were participating in the 2012 London Olympics. Some Singaporeans shared that they followed our local athletes' performances in the Olympics, others responded said that they did not manage to watch our local athletes performances despite being shown daily on TV. There was this particular young lady in her twenties whose response struck me, she said as a matter-of-factly "No, I did not watch any of it because I have no time, I'm very busy at work" she giggled to herself, as an aft-thought looking somewhat embarrassed. The reporter looked rather shocked by her response. I remarked sarcastically within my heart, "Give me a break. Did she really mean to say that she did not have 1 minute over the last few weeks to catch a snippet of our local athletes competing in the Olympics? Wow, she must be s-ooooo busy".

While I was still mocking her in my heart, the Lord spoke in a still small voice, "Isn't that the reason you usually give for not being in the Lord's presence, for not finishing that parenting book you read halfway, for not exhibiting leadership in your own life? You don't take leadership of your own life and use this as a cliché all the time, for not setting medium to long term goals for your life, for not exercising regularly,

for not encouraging that friend, for not practicing your guitar, for not.... “.

However, the tone of God’s still small voice was affirmative, encouraging and filled with His tender love; never condescending nor condemning me to feel shame and guilt.

Thereafter I spent some time reflecting on the Lord’s impression on me. Let me share the following thoughts.

1. God gives us 24 hours a day and it’s enough to do what He has called us to do.

In Genesis chapter 1, God made the day and the night (v3-5) he saw that it was good (v25). In His infinite wisdom, He decreed the number of hours for each day divided between day and night. He has given us the gift of time, and is enough to do the will of God in our lives. Perhaps we should start declaring the truth of His Word that God is the Author of time, the beginning and the end, and He has given us enough time each day to live it meaningfully (spiritual life, family, work/studies, ministry etc.)..

By lamenting that “I have no time” constantly will not help us become overcomers of our present situation. Saints, take courage and know that His Holy Spirit will empower you to do just that.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the demands of work/studies/life, perhaps you should

- take a step back to REFLECT
- EVALUATE the way you are doing things
- SIMPLIFY your life
- learn to DELEGATE and EMPOWER others
- start the first 5-10 minutes of your work/ study day by visualising and writing down your top priorities
- know the difference between good enough and needless perfection

2. As children of Light, let us learn to make the most of our God-given time (Eph5:15-20).

In Ephesians chapter 5, the Apostle Paul writes about walking in the light and urges us toward “making the most of every opportunity” (v16). In other versions, it says “making the best use of your time” (NASB), “redeeming the time” (NKJV) to encourage us to use our time wisely (contrasted with unwisely in the text) and use it for His kingdom purposes so that we may discern and “understand what the Lord’s will is” (v17). Paul also urges us to “be filled with the Spirit” (v18), not just for an instance but to constantly seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit will help us in overcoming sin and the world, so that you will not be overburdened by the worries of life.

3. Having God’s perspective and declaring the truth of His word.

Time passes by so quickly every day that it is easy for us to forget that every day on this earth is an extension of God-breathed life that He has graciously poured out on us. As Eph 5:19-20 says, “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

It may surprise you that about 150,000 people around the world die every single day. But thank God that you and I are part of the 7 billion people on earth who are still alive this day! God has given you the gift of life so that you can continue to make a difference in this world. Yes, we may face struggles and burdens in our life on earth, but when Jesus ascended to heaven He did not leave you and I as orphans. Instead, He sent the Holy Spirit, who is called the Comforter and Counsellor, to give us God’s power and abiding presence. Let us therefore fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith and run the race for Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).

After these reflections, I still protested to God “but I still don’t have time” which the Lord replied “If I gave you 2 extra hours a day, say 26 hours a day, would you do the thing that you said you had no time to do?”. I retorted “but the fact is I don’t have 26 hours a day. Not fair!”. But I was silenced by God’s final impression, “Even if I sent someone to help you by freeing up 2 hours of your time every day, would you really do those things that need to be done? Your problem is not time, it’s yourself.” That really stumped me, I now realised my problem was not time, but I did not know how to lead my own life but was paralyzed by inaction; instead of leading my own life I was overwhelmed by life itself.

Instead of saying “Help me God...I am very busy and have no time”, my prayer for me and if you feel the same way, maybe you could join me in renewing our mind in Christ Jesus and pray this prayer of response.

Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I have yet to fully appreciate the gift of life and the gift of time you have so graciously given me every day. Fill my heart to overflow with thanksgiving and help me to repent of my complaining spirit that “I have no time”. Grant me your perspective so that I may declare the truth that “I do have enough time” given by God to do Your will every day. Spirit of God, would you unveil the root issues that tangle my heart and rob me of my joy, instead of blaming my problems on the lack of time.

Thank you for giving me the gift of life every single day, from the day I was born till this very day. In your infinite wisdom, You have granted me 24 hours a day so teach me to spend it wisely for Your kingdom purposes and the work you have called me to do. Amen.