

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

2014 Theme: Building and Bringing

April 2014

A SIX-MONTH DISCIPLEMAKING JOURNEY REVIEW, AND A PREVIEW FORWARD IN THE SAME DIRECTION: FULFILLING GOD'S MISSION-VISION FOR CCBC 2014-16 by Ps Gary

We thank the Lord for sustaining the six Disciple Groups (DGs) as we first begun this faith journey in September 2013. To date, we have been moving along with two DGs at the "Discovering Stage" and 4 DGs at the "Obeying Stage." As a church, we are still at the very formative stage on this journey in disciple-making. The two DGs (Discovering Stage) will be finishing the Growing In Christ series by May, and will begin the Design for Discipleship Series Book 2. Three DGs (Obeying Stage) have completed the DFD Series Book 3, and have just begun DFD Series Book 4.

We've learned a lot about each DG when the DGLs and DG assist- leaders met on March 1, and recently April 6. On March 1, we collated the surveys of how each DG was doing so far, and found many strengths that we have, e.g., open and transparent in sharing personal weaknesses and challenges, desiring to grow in walk with the Lord, serious to do bible study, etc. However, we have to be working on some issues as well, e.g., unwillingness to step out of comfort zone, spiritual shackles, true submission to the Lord, accountability, and shared responsibility. We explored the 5-Gs of disciple-making in each of the DG group life: Grace (evangelism), Growth (spiritual), Groups (care), Gifts (spiritual), and Good stewardship (giving, community outreach). From the six DGs responses, the DGLs and assist-leaders shared a consolidated action plan that CCBC can work toward: (1) To pray for pre-believers; (2) To equip DG members to reach out to pre-believers; (3) To spend time with someone in need; (4) To celebrate a DG Day, Sept 2014 as we commemorate one-year of disciple-making journey; (5) To help everyone to discover their spiritual gifts for service; and (6) To organize some

socials for fellowship and friendship building. We are planning with the 2014 June Retreat Committee as to how best to engage retreat participants to get people involved in the above six consolidated suggestions. We want to get as many people involved in discussions and suggestions to operationalize and implement these six broad ideas as CCBC's shared goals/objectives/themes for 2014-15/16

From April 2014-2015/16, we are trusting the Lord to lead us as we journey toward the Empowering and (Multiplying) Stages. As we pray to do so, a couple of Training/Equipping Classes are necessary in order for at least two DGs to move from Obeying to Empowering Stage. We are planning to begin a Disciple Group Leading Training from July-November 2014. Among other needful subjects, Developing apprentice leaders, Leading the Group Life cycle, Conducting meetings; Shepherding members, Multiplying DGs will be conducted on the second, third, and fourth Friday, 7.30pm-8.30pm. The purpose for this Disciple Group Leading Training is to sharpen the skill-sets of the current DGLs and Asst-Leaders, and through this training, at least two new DGLs will be identified to lead DGs by early 2015. We pray that the Lord will multiply at least two current DGs in late 2014, if not, early-mid 2015.

Another Training is planned for July-November 2014 to equip anyone who has the desire to want to know God's Word and study God's Word to be able to teach others as well. An Inductive Bible Study-Biblical Interpretation-Lay Preaching Training is scheduled for Wednesday nights (7.30pm-8.30pm, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month). By the grace of God, we currently have at least four lay preachers in our midst who were trained in 2009-10, and are preaching at least two-three sermons a year since. For this, we are thankful. However, we want to encourage anyone who might be interested to study God's Word for him/herself and willing to share God's Word for teaching in a DG, or preaching in a congregational

setting, please consider to sign up. We want to equip more people to be able to handle God's Word diligently, faithfully, and responsibly.

We ask you to come alongside us to give thanks for all that He has been doing and continues to do in our midst as I share this short disciple-making journey that we have just begun in September 2013. It's a significant six-month journey so far, but we know God is doing a deep work of grace and truth among many of us who are involved in the DGs. Pray with us as follows: (1) a Youth DG leader from Jul-August 2014. (2) June 2014 Church Retreat where participants will be encouraged toward Following Christ **A**(uthenticity), **B**(uilding deep), **C**(ommunity outreach). At the retreat we are praying that the participants will look at how we can encourage CCBC toward (1) Praying for pre-believers; (2) Reaching out to pre-believers; (3) Spending time with someone in need; (4) celebrating a DG Day, Sept 2014 to commemorate our first anniversary of disciple-making journey; (5) helping everyone to discover their spiritual gifts for service; and (6) organizing some socials for fellowship and friendship building in 2014-16.

Personal Reflections: What Should I do with My Life? by Yuen Chee Meng

After giving much thought, discussions with my family and (some) prayers, I decided to tender my resignation on 4 Feb 2014. As expected, my colleagues' spontaneous response was "You've got a better offer?"

As for me after seven and half years in the job, I am tired and found learning and growth in my job limited. I am hoping to see beyond economic rewards in my next move and I wish to do something which I can be of value-add, benefit to or impact the community which God will lead me to and yet I can be as truthful as I am.

I am now 56 years old, time and age are no longer on my side. I ask, "How many more 56 (for that matter, 15 more years) years do I have?" If I do not submit my letter of resignation, I know I will never bring (or "force") myself to stop, think and plan what I want (or what God wants me) to do in the next station of life.

Bob Buford in his book, "Finishing Well" said 'We have two lifetimes. Life I is what occurs before halftime and Life II comes afterward. Most people have a pretty good plan for Life I, but few can see their forward into Life II'. Halftime is the in-between season that occurs at about 45 year plus or minus a few years. (Finishing Well, Pg iii)

Now that I am (in fact it is late) at half-time and if I do not do something about it, it is going to be "business as usual" for me and family when I am 65 or 75 years old. I will likely stay in my present job and reap further success where the world equates it with money, power, status and fame. (*Beyond Half Time, Pg 31*) *Success has more to do with out-comes I'm in charge of; and it is focused on my action, my control and my outcomes. (Finishing Well, Pg 18)*

Or should I be looking for something to do significantly (I am not trying to be spiritual or philosophical)? Significance is about existential choice (*Beyond Half Time, Pg 31*), not economic incentives, and it is about outcomes I am no longer in charge of, God is.

So am I retreating into early retirement? It may sound dreadful, empty and unproductive as "retirement" literally means "to take out of use or withdraw from active service". No I am not retiring but "re-purposing" and "re-positioning" myself for things I hope or I may like to do in my Life II. My son had affirmably said "Dad, you have been working hard for the last 30+ years to take care of the family and you may not be able to do things you like. So, now go for the things you like to do and those which you do not get to do before."

Trying to do something of significance may not be just quit your secular job and move to a non-profit social enterprise. It calls for more than that. In the same book, Bob Buford added a header "Self Transcendence" to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which is about "Self-Actualization", "Doing Needs" and "Having Needs". He refers to "self-transcendence" as the true joy of being in full alignment with our Creator. (*Finishing Well, Pg 86*)

There is a need for one to "surrender and be aligned to God" before one works towards "significance" as it is difficult for one to really surrender to God when he is enjoying success in his life.

At one of our DG lessons, we learnt of "Doing Good Works". I was reminded of Ephesians 2:10, *to "I am God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for me to do"* and Titus 3:14, *"I am to devote myself to doing what is good and not live unproductive life"*.

"Half-time" is about moving from "success" to "significance" in life. It goes beyond "Planning for my Life II" but "Finishing well and Leaving well (ie. what I want to be remembered for)". This new journey may be narrow, arduous and less travelled for me. I know it is by the grace of God, His strength and provision that I will be running to the finishing line. Galatians 6:9 implores *"Let us not become weary in doing good,*

for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”.

To help those who are considering their “Half-time” and planning for their Life II, here are the [Ten Principles for Life II \(Extract from Appendix 3, Finishing Well\)](#) for your reference. (*Bold Headers from Finishing Well, Pg 279-283*)

#1 : Find out who you are – Repositioning for significance makes more sense when you know who you are and where you belong.

#2 : Reposition yourself for full effectiveness and fulfillment in life’s second half – Life II is often ignored when you achieved a measure of success. Do start praying and planning your Life II.

#3 : Find your existential core – To have faith as your existential core which provides the framework for your work, value system, personal relationship and other things that make you who you are.

#4 : Make your life your endgame – Set your sights on achievements that really matter, that will make a difference in the world.

#5 : Planning doesn’t work – Be flexible, ready to seize the right opportunities when they come. Too much planning can make you deaf to opportunity.

#6 : You have to know your values - Knowing what you value can keep you from making some bad choices along the way.

#7 : You have to define what finishing well means to you – Finishing well and how I want to be remembered.

#8 : You have to know the difference between harvesting and planting – Planting is about building, expanding and tending your careers. Planting season eventually comes to an end, and the time comes to start thinking about harvesting the rewards.

#9 : Good intentions aren’t enough. You have to define the results you’re after - If one does not ask about results, he does not know what results he wants in the first place.

#10 : There’s a downside to “no longer learning, no longer growing” – Look for ways to make a contribution (not just writing cheques). Finishing well are those who help other people in a more positive way.

The writer (who loves travelling) hopes to work as a tent-maker in a Voluntary Welfare Organization or a Christian organization in Singapore or overseas (preferred) for the advancement of the gospel. However, he may return to the marketplace if there is no open doors.

‘Thoughts about Good Friday and Easter’ by David Chan

It's less than one week to Good Friday and Easter. What's running through my heart and mind as I ponder over this very (if not the most) significant occasion in the Christian calendar?

We recently started on this series in Genesis in the pulpit. Pastor Gary came to the story of the fall of man in Genesis 3, and where God said to the serpent: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (v.15) I cannot help but be blown away by the fact that God had already planned for the salvation of man a long, long time ago. Absolutely no ancient prophet or sage could have guessed how this declaration would be realized; of what shape or form this judgment on evil would take.

Looking back to the days of Isaiah. Even though he wrote so clearly (Isaiah 53) about the Saviour, I think even the prophet himself would not have imagined the form that Christ was to take when he came into this world 2000 years ago. Perhaps to me the song that best describes this best kept secret is the one that goes by the title: *A Strange Way to Save the World*.

Strange or *bizarre* is also the word to describe the way in which Christ went to the Cross. To the disciples, seeing Christ die on the Cross must have been the most mysterious and devastating thing that they ever witnessed in their lives, when they came to believe in Him as the One who would deliver all of Israel. Little wonder then that Thomas and several others could not at first believe when the women folk came to them with the words, *Jesus is Alive!* (Mark 16)

Poring over the stories of Creation to Isaiah's prophecies, to the timeless stories of Christmas, Good Friday and Easter, I come to this conclusion: [That these are not separate stories in the Bible but these are chapters of One Single Story - the story of God redeeming man and draw us all back to Himself.](#) From Creation to Easter, it spanned a few thousand years, but the theme or focus remains unchanged: That God has stretched out His Hand and reached down to us in loving-kindness and grace. And this singular theme continues to be true today, for all who would choose to accept and believe that Jesus is the Way back to God.

THANK YOU GOD, for loving me so deeply enough that You came up with this plan of redemption right at the beginning of History. THANK YOU GOD, that despite all the evil that man has done and grieved You, You have not wavered from your original intention to restore our relationship back to You. PRAISE YOU, my

Lord Jesus Christ, for Your willing obedience to go to the Cross, to endure pain, humiliation and separation from heavenly glory, in order that I can be counted as one in Your eternal Kingdom. PRAISE YOU, the Risen Son of God, to whom all glory, praise and honour belongs.

As you celebrate Good Friday and Easter this year, may this old, old story of Jesus and His love touch and ignite your heart once more, filling you with a deep sense of gratitude and praise. May it inspire your heart to tell this old, old story (to others around) with a fresh sense of vigour and conviction.

Pulpit Schedule (Apr-Jun 2014)

In Feb Rev. Gary Choong began an 8-message sermon series on the book of Genesis (Chapters 1:1 -11:26), titled "Back to Basics".

Apr 06	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 4:1-26 Two brothers, Two hearts , Two roads
Apr 13	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 5:1-8:22 Two ways to living, Two ways to dying
Apr 20	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 9:1-29 The Rainbow: God's promise to mankind
Apr 27	Dr Chua Siew Tiang	TBA
May 04	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 10:2-22:26 Men's Rebellion, God's Reply
May 11	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 11:27-12:9 When Life Confuses
May 18	Ps Bobby Lee	TBA
May 25	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 12:10-13:15 Self- protection, and self- giving
Jun 01	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen. 14:1-24,15:1-21 War, Wealth, Worship God helps those who help themselves?
Jun 08	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen. 16:1-16 Does God help those who help themselves?
Jun 15	CCBC's Retreat	
Jun 22	Rev. (Dr) Leonard Wee	TBA
Jun 29	Cheong Mee Ling	TBA

The second sermon series on the Life of Abraham, Genesis 11:27-25:18 (12 messages) will commence in May 2014.

June Church Retreat

CCBC Church Retreat 2014 will be at Tg Puteri Golf Resort from 12-15 Jun 2014. Come away from the hustle and bustle of work life and join us for a time of bond building and spiritual enrichment during the 4 days/3 nights at the retreat.

Activities @ FCSC, Bishan

Youth Friendship Group (YFG) -Since January 2014 Richard Tan initiated this community outreach activities at the FCSC. YFG is a youth outreach targeting at alumni who once attended FCSC. The activities and games organized every 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month are bowling, badminton and video shows. Our youths are encouraged to be involved to forge friendship building and to invite their friends as well.

After School Student Care - We have attained enrolment of 18 students for afternoon care. Mee Ling and Chee Meng have given 2 Friday afternoons a month to conduct "Character First Education" sessions with the children at FCSC. "Character First Education" would be most useful and relevant in character building of the children.

Margaret Khoo helps out every Thursday to do crafts and games activities, and assist Sharon Tan the staff providing tuition to the Primary One students offered by FCSC.

Volunteered Needed :

There's a need for volunteers to give one day each week from 2.00pm to help the current 2 staff manage the students and organize activities/games, help students in their studies, spelling test preparation. There is a critical need during the June and December holidays as most students will be at the centre for the whole day when more indoor and outdoor activities have to be planned.

We pray for more volunteers who will able to be involved in this ministry giving two hours per week at FCSC.



Games at the centre and day out for bowling