

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

July 2014

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Sharing by the FAITH Disciple Group

The FAITH DG, an "Obeying" stage DG, began our first baby steps of obedience to Christ when we met for introduction to the DG journey on 1 September 2013. We shared the expectations and the "code of conduct" to uphold so as to foster an environment of openness, trust, love, and purpose, that is crucial to any DG.

Our Mission, on this obeying stage "is growing in obedience to Christ and demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in service and character formation."

FAITH DG comprises eight sisters spreading the whole spectrum of ages between the twenties to sixties. Despite this age differences, we thanked God for each person has so much to learn from one another. As a DG, we aspire to:

- Continue to remain in Christ through Word and Prayer,
- Step out in faith and loving obedience and
- Trust God to bring glory to Himself by bearing fruit in our character and sharing our faith.

We studied "Walking with Christ", Design For Discipleship (DFD) Book 3 and now "The Character of a Follower of Jesus" DFD 4. Here are some sample reflections from our DG members:

"The topics in the materials used for our DG study are not new to many of us but the questions invite us to think and search deeper into our hearts, e.g "Growing in Character" (DFD4, chp1),"How does the condition of our hearts influence the other parts of our lives?" "The scripture verses help us to identify the

several important areas of life that reveal our true character, and made it clear to us that our thought processes, our attitudes determine our responses toward others' insults, offences, etc.

Jesus pointed out to his disciples plainly, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit for out of the overflow of a man's heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:43,45). God desires to develop in us godly inner qualities that will be demonstrated outwardly. But we often try to do it through our own strength. What should we do? While acknowledging that God is transforming our character to be more like Christ; as a group we took time to look into some practical ways in this passage that we can partner with God to grow in Him."

"DG has been a fun and enriching experience as we learn to grow together in our Christian faith. Personal sharing by fellow sisters in Christ had encouraged me in my walk with Christ. I thank God for a nurturing and caring leader too. I have been greatly blessed."

"I have gained insight into the biblical teachings that were discussed. I appreciate the openness in the sharing of thoughts and burdens and the support through prayer and the readiness to help were edifying."

"DG has helped me grow in Christ in the sense that I could be authentic in my sharing and egging one another on to continue putting our faith and trust in God, despite trials and difficulties in life."

“Having gone through DFD3 and now in DFD4, I found that these two books helped me tremendously, especially on Growing in Character. It helped me to lean more on God and not on my own wisdom and emotions to trust God and have faith in Him.”

“The 1st chapter of DFD4, titled ‘The Call to Fruitful Living’, reminded me of the need to remain in Christ. Christ, the Vine is the Source of my existence, which I can depend on and grow into Christ-likeness. As I reflected on John15:1-5, I thought about what Christ meant when he called his disciples to ‘remain in Him’:

1. To be inseparably linked to Christ and God's will in all areas of my life
2. To look to His Word for instructions on how to live a faithful and purposeful life
3. To depend on His grace and power to enable me in obeying His commands
4. To submit to His authority over my life
5. To praise and adore Him in all circumstances, with the aim to give Him glory in all that I do.

These aspirations are easier said than done, but I can hope in my Lord's tender mercies and everlasting love to lead me one step at a time as I endeavour to walk in His ways.”



“Becoming a believer begins a lifelong adventure of knowing God better, loving Him more, and being transformed into the likeness of Christ’ (DFD3). It is an adventure of knowing God better when I spend time to read the Bible, to know more deeply about God and His character. He is a promise-keeping God and I learn to grow my faith in our Almighty God as I know him to be true to His Word through prayer, and committing my life into His hands. It is also an adventure of inward searching of oneself, seeking areas that need to be pruned, especially my inner thoughts, speech and actions, as the Word of God enlightens,

convicts, and corrects me. I have learned to fear God and love Him for this life He has given me. My prayer is for CCBCians, myself especially, to develop a deeper relationship with Christ and to grow in spiritual maturity with Christ as Lord of our life.”

The DG has committed the third session of each month to sharing and praying. May God enable us to apply what we learn to our daily living, that we may be walking testimonies for Him.

2014 June Retreat: Reflections by our guest Lydia Chuah

Venturing out from the cocoon-like safety of her parents’ arms and the gentle hubbub of “big people” conversation in the dining hall, little Kirsten tottered around with her flower-bud, hand clasped around the wrist of a fellow valiant adventurer—an indulgent, beaming pastor. With fingers too tiny to fully grasp his wrist, and a smile big enough to make the sun-soaked lawn glow, she led the search for her elusive feathered friends called “birds”, last spotted in the uncharted territories of the resort lawn.

From the side, I watched these luminescent moments of an ordinary miracle quietly unfold. Suddenly, the cell phone in my pocket buzzed—an interruption. A news update had popped up: a world of blood-soaked soil that despairs for and despises the presence of ordinary miracles summed up in the cold conciseness of a headline. I struggled to describe what it had felt like then, in that surreal instant as I looked up from my phone and paused at the threshold of re-immersing myself in the charming scene before my eyes. How does one describe a re-awakened sense of how fragile and fleeting our existence is?

And so—we live and breathe and have our very being steeped in the mercy of God. This thought was imprinted upon my heart throughout the many happy and serious moments during the time we spent together. It is with deep gratitude that I consider the innumerable blessings we have received, through the opportunity to spend four days together with the Covenant Community Baptist Church’s 2014 June retreat at Tanjong Puteri Golf Resort.

Through fun ice-breakers and that indeed broke ice and (thankfully) not bones, recreation spaces and comfortable accommodations that afforded us the luxury of long and leisurely conversations. I believe that the hard work done behind-the-scenes to make all these feasible have paid off—and gone a long way to strengthen the bonds of love as we spent precious time together too. To all who have laboured, I am very grateful for all their efforts, which have been undergirded by the provision and mercy of our great Jehovah Jireh.

Although I am one of the few newcomers joining CCBC for the retreat this year, it was not only the sincere welcomes and heart-warming friendships forged that made the time spent together a truly impactful one. We were blessed with four speakers who led us all to a richer understanding of the retreat's theme, "Following Christ: Authenticity, Building Deep and Community Outreach".



Brother Benjamin So got the ball rolling on the first night with his message on Authenticity, challenging us to reflect on "What is faith with action really about?" and asking "Do we need to hide behind a mask, to muster the courage to follow Christ?"



Sister Sylvia Yap carried on the baton and shed light on another dimension of following Christ: to build deep relationships within the context of the church with love as the starting point—"love as a verb", alongside faith and trust.



Brother Yuen Chee Meng helped bring to focus how reflections and convictions stirred up by the previous two sessions could be practically applied by us all in the context of community outreach, especially in CCBC's current partnership with the Friendship Christian Student Centre.



Finally, as part of drawing together the diverse and yet complementary strands of thoughts from our speakers, Pastor Gary led us to consider during the Sunday service before breaking camp, "If there is one thing I must give up to follow Christ wholeheartedly, what is it?"



The theme of this retreat is part of the larger picture of CCBC's unique disciple-making journey, and prompt all on this journey to seriously ask "how do we proceed from here?" I wish to offer everyone along this journey a word of encouragement: What you have begun is worth persevering for, and possible to persevere in—because you heed the voice of our Lord who called out to His first disciples, and now says to you "Follow me, **and I will make you fishers of men**". It is in itself the unfolding of an ordinary miracle—that we in all our weaknesses and frailties should be upheld and sustained by our God, until the day our ephemeral reality becomes transfigured into eternity.



CCBC EVENTS (Jul-Sep):

DG Activities

Jul 06 – DM Team met for Prayer and Operationalise the shared goals and Objectives & curricular for 2015-16.

Aug 03 – DM Team continue to meet for Prayer and Operationalise shared goals and objectives.

Sep 07 – DG Day of activities to be organised by DG groups.

Equipping Class (Jul-Oct 2014)

In the 2nd week of July, Dr Gary began the 2 equipping classes on Wednesday leading the module "Inductive Bible Study/Bible Interpretation" and the Friday module on "Leading a Disciple Group". The equipping modules are part of the Empowering Stage of the disciple-making Journey and each class will be held over 9 evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30 pm. We have 11 participants for the Wednesday class and 10 people attending the Friday class.

We praise the Lord for the high participation rate

Activities @ FCSC, Bishan

Brother Richard Tan plan to have YFG fellowship with worship, bible studies indoor games and with occasionally outdoor activities e.g cycling, badminton as outreach. The Youth Fellowship Group activities will be held on every Saturday with effect from July.

PULPIT SCHEDULE (Jul-Sep 2014)

Having completed his 8 part-sermon series "Back to Basics" of Genesis (Chapters 1:1 - 11:26), Dr Gary Choong continues the second Sermon Series II Chapters 11:27-25:18 to walk us through "Journey of Faith with Abraham" comprising of 12 sermons which will continue till October 2014. Genesis Sermon Series III will follow thereafter.

Jul 06	Tang Wei Qiang	The Soldier, Athlete and Farmer 2 Tim 2:1-13
Jul 13	Tan Teck Jin	Direct Access to God thru' Christ' 1 Kings 18:20-40
Jul 20	Yuen Chee Meng	Vocation- I work for my money or His purposes? Gen 2:15-17; 3:17-19
Jul 27	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 17:1-27 God's Promise
Aug 03	Ps Chua Siew Tiang	TBA
Aug 10	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 18:1-19:29 Angels, demons and destruction
Aug 17	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 20:1-18,21:22-34 Fearing Man, Fearing God
Aug 24	David Chan	TBA
Aug 31	Bernard Chaing	TBA
Sep 07	Yuen Chee Meng	TBA
Sep 14	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 21:1-21 Singing in the rain
Sep 21	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 22:1-19 The Ultimate Sacrifice
Sep 28	Dr Gary Choong K G	Gen 22:20-23 Handling loss of Loved Ones