

ANNUAL RETREAT ON 14 JANUARY 2012

During our Annual Retreat, we divided ourselves into five groups to discuss the various parts of our Mission Statement.

OUR MISSION

*As a faithful steward of Jesus,
with humility, gentleness and self-examination,
I live a holy life,
reaching out to those beyond my circle,
sharing the gospel in season and out of season,
edifying the brethren,
serving others,
ever praying with a heart of a servant.*

Here's a summary of the discussion by Group 3 (led by Jason Lee)

IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

Our group's mandatory phrase was "in season and out of season". What comes to mind when one thinks of the word "season"? Well, in the case of Group 3, the idea of a farmer popped into our skulls. For a farmer, seasons are to do with timing. He sows his seeds when it is sowing season and reaps during harvest season. Different grounds are ready for sowing at different times. Can we control the time to sow? Anyone with adequate intelligence would be able to tell that

it is simply impossible to sow when the time is not right. Apply this analogy to our friends, parents, colleagues, etc. How can we share the soul-saving message to them when they are not ready? Should we wait for them to ask us, or should we take initiative and approach them, hoping for the best? Our group believes that it is our duty to share and sow the gospel to others, even if we face discouraging consequences.

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COME WORSHIP WITH US !

Sunday – Worship: 9.30 am | Bible Class: 11.15 am

Wednesday – Midweek Service: 8.00 pm

On the topic of consequences, it is inevitable to face disappointments. This, as pointed out by one of our members, could be Satan's way of tempting us to give up spreading the gospel, and eventually end our faith. Instead, we should remember the magnificent wonders of God's doings and blessings, to spur us on and never lose steam. God's word can be sown anytime; we just have to pray that God grants the receiving end a heart of acceptance. Just a simple "I'll pray for you" might touch a non-believer's heart, and compel him to learn about the gospel.

Our optional phrase was "reaching out to those beyond my circle". It was said, that if one were to be able to reach out to those in his circle with 100% success, hundreds would turn up to church. Reaching out to those closet to an individual might just be the toughest. Have you ever tried convincing your Chinese parents or grandparents that Jesus is the only way to eternal life (John 3:16)?

One of the most common replies would be, "Christianity is an *ang moh* (western) religion. I'm Chinese. I believe in Chinese gods." That comment might be disheartening, but we must remember that we should never give up. Try and try and try again. One day, with God's help, we will succeed.

We had several homemakers in the group who gave their opinions on the issue. They posed the question: how do you tell a vegetable seller the gospel? A starting point would be talking to taxi drivers or insurance policy sellers. Another question: Did we meet those people out of coincidence? A verse in Esther tells us that we are where we are because God wants us to be there.

In conclusion, we should pray for God's help and share the gospel to those in and out of our circle, in and out of season, with humility, gentleness and self-examination. Despite facing setbacks, we must persevere to let all know and believe in the gospel, such that all may receive eternal life.

EDIFYING THE BRETHREN

- by Group 4 (led by Alfian Lim)

Leverage existing programmes

- Sunday service to worship and strengthen members
 - Song worship, preaching, Lord's supper
 - Reach out personally to members and visitor after service
- Agape Care Teams to reach out to members and share with one another
- Expand beyond personal circles to include other church members for meals and other social activities
- Annual events to edify and get to know members better
 - Church Camps
 - Annual Retreats

Explore new ideas

- Leverage technology/social media (eg. Facebook) to coordinate activities and update members

- Daily scripture sharing and reflection through email group
- Mentorship program to provide guidance/training for members who aspire to become song leaders, teachers, bible study teachers
- Buddy program, in which we pair different members of church for doing activities (eg. meals and social events)

The final summary from Group 5 will be published next week.



The best and most reliable way to garner information is to “go to the source”. Such is certainly the case concerning the creation. The only way we can know about the creation is from God, who did the creating. God, the source, supplies us with this information: “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**” (Genesis 1:1).

Everything was created by the power of God. He created light and “**called the light day, and the darkness He called night. So the evening and the morning were the first day**” (Genesis 1:5). Every day, including every day of the creation – has light and darkness. All six days of creation had both an evening and a morning (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31). Later God told Moses in Exodus 20:11, “**For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them**”. God said that everything He created was created in these six days of creation.

Then we read, “**And God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind; and it was so**” (Genesis 1:24). God, the source, is so powerful that all He has to do is to speak and it happens. Each living thing He created produces after its own kind. There is no evolution from one kind to another because God said that each was to produce “according to its kind”.

Then we read, “**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... and man became a living soul**” (Genesis 1:27; 2:7). Humanity is created in the image of God; this is what makes us so special. All people have a soul that will live on forever in eternity either with God – or without Him. This is how we differ from the animals.

Finally, Psalms 33:8-9 shows the Psalmist saying, “**Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him, for He spoke and it was done**”.

A Warm Welcome

We like thank our friends and visitors for coming. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and beneficial.

Midweek Service

Our midweek Bible Class will continue this coming Wednesday at 8.00pm. Yeo Teck Chwee will be sharing another lesson from the book of Revelation.

Prayer Requests

- Physical and spiritual health of Lee Ah Ping's father.
- Slick Topping is suffering from severe back pain, which is affecting his sleep.
- Sergius Wat away in Nepal.

Evangelism Workshop by Richard Lee

24-26 Feb 2012 (Friday to Sunday)

Dinner will be provided on Friday evening, and lunch on Saturday afternoon.

Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Church Camp 2012

Date : 6-9 Jun 2012 (Wednesday to Saturday)

Venue : Lotus Desaru Beach Resort (Johor)

Cost : S\$200 (adult) / S\$175 (child)(4-12 years old)
S\$100 (child without bed)

Please submit the registration form next Sunday.

EEE Agape Care Team

EEE meets this Saturday, 11 February 2012, 5.30pm at 9 Rosewood Drive #09-20. Devotion, planning and potluck dinner. We welcome you to our Care Team.



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- Feb 04** – Lim Soon Jong **Feb 25** – Stephanie Woo
Feb 09 – Patrick Khoo **Feb 29** – Tan Tian Huat

LAST WEEK'S NUMBERS

29 January 2012 Attendance : 104 Contribution : \$3,918.20

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	05 Feb 2012	12 Feb 2012	19 Feb 2012
Song Leader	Peter Low	James Lim	Joseph Ho
Preacher	Roger Hiew	Roger Hiew	C K Lee
Ushers			
Scripture Reader (OP)	Ivan Ho	Chew Wai Soon	Teo Cheng Heng
Lord's Supper	Joseph Ho	Patrick Khoo	Lee Ah Ping
Assistants	Fun Jin	Louis Loh	Mervin Wee
Announcer (CP)	Fun Wui Siung	Wat Tat Chuen	James Lim
Premises Steward	Katheravan Ramasamy	Fun Wui Siung	Roger Hiew

LORD'S SUPPER **Preparation** : Karen and Esther Lee
 February 2012 **Washing** : Kah Gek, Dionne and Claire Low