

## Our Church Builders

As we approach our 125th Anniversary, we introduce a column titled “Our Church Builders”. Through many years of ministry, they are part of the community that has brought our church to what it is today. This column aims to document their oral history and inspire a new generation of church-goers.

In this issue, we interview Mr & Mrs Tambyah as well as Mrs Veronica Poore

*Interview conducted by: Ryna Mahindapala*

### Responses from Mr & Mrs Richard Tambyah

*Ques: How many years have you been a member of SSTMC?*

Mr: Slightly over 60 years. Mrs: Slightly over 50 years

*Ques: What were your areas of ministry over the years?*

Mr: At Short Street Tamil Methodist Church (SSTMC)

-Member of the LCEC during which he was treasurer, vice chairman and chairman. He initiated the Senior Citizen's Fellowship and was an active contributor in the area of Social Concerns.

At Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference (ETAC)

-Finance Chairman and Vice-President, ETAC.

Others

-1<sup>st</sup> Chairman and Founding Member of MWS. 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of Navajeevan

Mrs: At SSTMC

-Member of WSCS Committee and WSCS Choir pianist.

At General Conference

-Treasurer and active volunteer with ESN ministry

*Ques: How have you been a testimony to your families/fellow church members?*

We believe our testimony to our children and wider family has been through the way we have lived our lives and demonstrated Christ's love through our actions. To us, there is no better place for our children to develop their love for our Lord than at home. Thus, as parents and as teachers, we were actively involved in our church and in the lives of our children (and grandchildren) in nurturing this love.

*Ques: What is your favourite Bible verse/ word of encouragement?*

*We would also like to share our favourite hymns*

-Psalm 46: 1- 2 and Lamentations 3:22-23

The Hymn, *Great is they Faithfulness*, as it speaks of God's faithfulness in providing strength each day, come what may, forgiveness of our sins and hope for tomorrow.

-Another favourite hymn, *How Great Thou Art*, as it reminds of God's majesty.

*Ques: What is your vision for SSTMC in the next 10-20 years?*

SSTMC will be vibrant and welcoming – reaching out to all.

With this project completed, plans are underway to renovate Vestry 2 on the 2nd floor to create proper storage space for worship materials and resources and to cater to the needs of various church groups.

Be rest assured that we will continue to do our best to make our church safer, more conducive and better equipped as we come together to bond and grow spiritually.

*Article contributed by: Edwin Ramakrishnan*

### Responses from Mrs Veronica Poore

*Ques: How many years have you been a member of SSTMC?*

- I have exceeded the, "three score and ten" by a couple of years.

*Ques: What were/are your areas of ministry over the years?*

-Simply to say that I have never been one of the church organists, neither participated in the foreign workers ministry nor in the Senior Citizens' Fellowship. Today, I play a minor role in the areas I once served.

*Ques: How have you been a testimony to your families/fellow church members?*

-Perhaps the answer lies with them and not with me. But I await God's thoughts about me.

*Ques: What is your favourite Bible verse/word of encouragement?*

-Micah 6:8. It encompasses my relationship with God and man. There are over 2,000 verses on poverty and justice in the Bible; have I helped someone today to see social justice?

*Ques: What is your vision for SSTMC in the next 10-20 years?*

-Just as my peers and I inherited a rich legacy of commitment to Jesus Christ and Christian service from the two past generations who worshipped at TMC, this baton is now in the hands of a younger generation. May their faith in Jesus Christ empower them to carry on God's mission for TMC: to focus on God; develop the ministries that we have and be ready to pass on a richer heritage to the future worshippers of TMC. The church without vision and mission will fail!

### Making Our Church Safer & Better Equipped

We constantly strive to ensure the safety of our churchgoers and security of our church premises and equipment. On that note, we are pleased to share with you that we have installed a CCTV Security Surveillance System at our church premises as some of you may have already noticed. The surveillance system became operational on 23rd February 2012 with 16 cameras installed in key areas within the premises.

கிறிஸ்துவில் புது வாழ்க்கையைக் கொண்டாடுங்கள்

**“நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம் உண்டாவதாகளு அவர், இயேசு கிறிஸ்து மரித்தோரிலிருந்து எழுந்ததினாலே, அழியாததும் மாசற்றதும்வாடாததுமாகிய சுதந்திரத்திற்கேதுவாக, ஜீவனுள்ள நம்பிக்கை உண்டாகும்படி, தமது மிகுந்த இரக்கத்தின்படியே நம்மை மறுபடியும் ஜெநிப்பித்தார்.” (1 பேதுரு 1: 3,4.)**

ஈஸ்டர் - ஆண்டவர் இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலை கொண்டாடுதல், இது அழகான ஒரு கொண்டாட்டம். இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் வாழ்க்கை சரித்திரத்தில், அவர் சிலுவையிலறையப்பட்ட அந்த வெள்ளிக்கிழமை அன்று அவரின் வாழ்வு முடிந்துவிட்டது போல் தோன்றியது. இயேசு சிலுவையிலறையப்பட்டு மரித்தார். அவர் அடக்கம் பண்ணப்பட்டார். சீடர்கள் தன் தன் வழிகளில் சென்றுவிட்டனர். அன்றே இயேசுவின் இவ்வுலக வாழ்வின் முடிவாக இருந்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் அது அப்படி முடியவில்லை. ஏனெனில் அது தேவனுடைய சித்தம் அல்ல.

இங்கு, அழகான காரியம் மட்டுமல்ல, சாத்தியமல்லாததொன்றும் நடந்தது! இயேசு மூன்றாம் நாள் மரணத்தை வென்று உயிருடன் எழுந்தார்! அவருடைய சரீரம் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த கல்லறை காலியாக காணப்பட்டது! அந்த ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை கல்லறைக்குச் சென்ற பெண்களும், ஆண்களும் உயிரோடிருக்கும் இயேசுவைக்கண்டனர்! பின்னர், இயேசு 500க்கு மேற்பட்டவர்களுக்குக் காட்சியளித்தார். இயேசு உயிரோடிருக்கிறார்! அவரே உயிர்த்தெழுந்த ஆண்டவர்! இது உறுதியான அதிசயம். மரணத்திற்கு இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் மேல் எந்த அதிகாரமும் இல்லை.

**“கிறிஸ்து எழுந்திருக்கவில்லையென்றால், எங்கள் பிரசங்கமும் விருதா, உங்கள் விசுவாசமும் விருதா.” (1கொரிந்தியர் 15: 14.)**

ஆதலால் நாம் இயேசு உயிர்த்தெழுந்த அற்புதத்தைக் கொண்டாடுகிறோம். இது இரண்டாயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு நடந்த அற்புதம் மட்டும் அல்ல இயேசுவைத் தனது சொந்த ரட்சகராக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் தன் தினசரி வாழ்வில் நடக்கும் அற்புதமாகும். ஆண்டவர் இயேசுவின் வல்லமையில் வாழும் மக்களாக நாம் ஈஸ்டர் திரு நாளை கொண்டாடுவோம். இதுவே புது வாழ்வு!

ஆகவே, திருச்சபையாக நாம் பெற்ற புது வாழ்வைக் கொண்டாட இது நல்ல தருணம். வரும் ஈஸ்டர் ஆராதனையில் நமது சபையின் பத்து வாலிபர்கள் தங்கள் விசுவாசத்தில் உறுதியடைந்து திருச்சபையின் அங்கத்தினர்களாகச் சேர்க்கப்படுகின்றனர். மாலை ஆராதனையில் பங்கு பெறும் இரு குடும்பங்களும் அங்கத்தினர்களாகின்றனர். ஆவ்வுழிய ஐக்கியத்திலிருந்து இரண்டு வாலிபர்கள் ஞானஸ்தானம் பெறுகின்றனர். இது, இயேசு கிறிஸ்து பாவத்தின் மேலும் மரணத்தின் மேலும் ஜெயம் கொண்டார் என்பதைக் கொண்டாடும் தருணம் மட்டுமல்ல, பலரும் ஆண்டவரும் இரட்சகருமாகிய இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவில் புது வாழ்வை பெற்றனர் என்று களிகூறும் தருணமுமாகும்.

### Legacy, Inheritance & Wills

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Young @ Heart hosted a talk on the topic: Legacy, Inheritance and Wills. This was open to all church members and saw a healthy mix of various age groups.

Do you have a question on inheritance and making wills? What does the scripture say about this? Our church members who attended this talk most certainly had doubts and questions to resolve and benefited greatly by the advice given by our speakers Dr. Mariadass and Mr. S. Gunaseelan.

While Mr. S. Gunaseelan gave us the hard facts and the legal aspects of estate planning, Dr. Mariadass contrasted the discussion with scriptural understanding on this.

It was an enriching session for all present. As with all YAH events, the session ended with a sumptuous dinner.

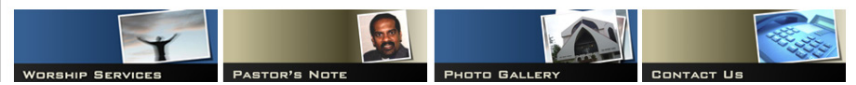
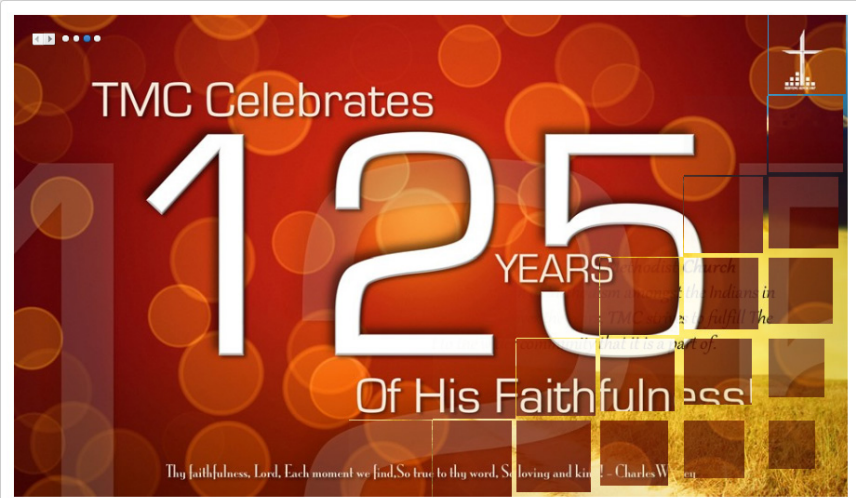
*Article contributed by: Isaac P*





# Church Website

The Church website underwent a massive revamp with the help of Melvin Dineshraj and Praveen. The website will be officially launched on Easter 2012. Many interesting features and articles have been included for your reading pleasure. You could even browse through the pictures of recent events that had taken place. Do visit the website frequently for updates on church services and calendar of events. Along with the new website, is a new email address that would be used for all general enquiries. **Mark this website on your browser today.**



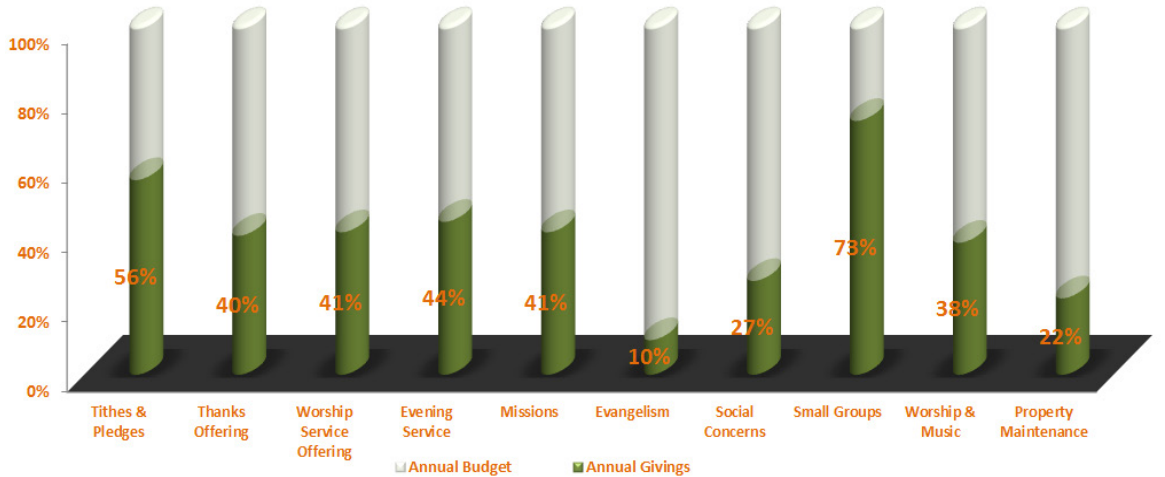
**Website: [www.tamilmethodist.sg](http://www.tamilmethodist.sg)**  
**Email: [info@tamilmethodist.sg](mailto:info@tamilmethodist.sg)**

## Give And It Will Be Given To You (Luke 6:38)

Let us thank God for his continuing gracious provision of our financial needs for the financial year August 2011 to July 2012. It has been another encouraging year to see an increase in the givings from our members in the first six months, especially so in the areas of Tithes & Pledges. As we are only into the first half of the financial year (Aug 11 – Jan 12), we would exhort our congregation to continue to give as it is “blessed to give than to receive”. The areas to focus your givings are highlighted below (missions, social concerns, evangelism & property).

- God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7)
- but the righteous give without sparing (Pro 21:26)
- blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)
- Freely you have received, freely give (Mt 10:8)

Article contributed by:  
Dhanaraj Premkumar



# KOINONIA Tamil Methodist Church

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## Did You Know?



The TMC logo was refreshed in 2011 to reflect the renewed priorities and objectives of the church. The logo is made up of the symbol of a cross, with nine blocks at the foundation.

The colors used, traditional royal blue and old gold, are reflective of the grand and royal nature of the God-head. The colors also serve as a constant reminder of TMC's rich heritage even as the church continually reinvents itself to remain relevant to the changing times.

The cross is made up of four dissimilar shapes, indicative of the diverse make-up of the congregation, and our charge to remain united as one body in Christ (1 Cor 12:12).

The nine foundational blocks represent the fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22- 23) – that we strive to weave into our daily living as we journey towards Christ-likeness. These foundational blocks are seen as enablers in our Christian living. The asymmetric gradients that the nine blocks make on either side of the cross is to reflect that while our common purpose is in Christ, it must be recognized that each individual of the congregation journeys at varying paces of spiritual growth.

[Source: <http://www.tamilmethodist.sg/about-us/logo.html>]



## Church

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> May: Tamil Evening Fellowship – Sports Evangelism
- 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May: Evangelistic Rally
- 26<sup>th</sup> May: Sunday School/Parish Group/YAH Combined Outing

### July

- 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July: Mission trip to Ipoh

Ongoing Programmes:  
Friday Praise & Prayer session  
7.30pm to 9pm

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Editor: Aaron Isaac  
Advisor: Rev James Nagulan

## Celebrate That New Life In Christ

***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," -1 Peter 1:3***

Easter is a beautiful celebration. It is celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The life story of Jesus seemed almost to have reached its climax with His crucifixion that Friday. Jesus died on the cross; He was buried; and the disciples went their separate ways. That may have been the end of Jesus' life on this earth. That was not to be so. There was not going to be a sad ending to God's plan for His Son and Man. Not only was something beautiful going to happen, the impossible was to happen! Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day! The tomb in which His body was laid was empty! The women and men who went to the tomb that Sunday morning witnessed an “alive” Jesus! Later, Jesus appeared to more than 500 hundred people. Jesus is alive! He is the resurrected Lord! This is it the ultimate miracle. Death had no power over Jesus.

All but four of the major world religions are based on philosophical propositions. Only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder. Jesus died but came back to life appearing to 500 people over a period of 40 days. [Source: McDowell, Josh. Evidence that Demands a Verdict. Page 180. San Bernadino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1979.]

***"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."- 1 Corinthians, 15:14.***

Thus, we have a beautiful miracle to celebrate. It is not a miracle which happened two thousand years ago. It is a miracle that happens every day when someone receives Jesus as his/her personal Saviour. True followers of Jesus Christ know that they were ***once dead in sin but now are alive in Jesus Christ.*** We celebrate Easter as the kingdom's people who live in the resurrected power of our Lord Jesus. This is new life!

Therefore, we have great reason to rejoice as we witness and receive new lives into the fold of our church. During this Easter Service, ten youths will be confirmed in their faith and received as members of the church so will two families who have been worshippers at the evening service for the past two years. Two young men of the migrant workers fellowship will be baptised. This is an opportunity not only to celebrate Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death but to rejoice that others have received a new life in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Your Pastors in Christ,  
Rev James Nagulan  
Rev Anil Kumar Samuel