

ETAC Youth Camp

It was indeed an eventful December for some of our youths from Tamil Methodist Church. From the 8th to 10th December 2011, 11 of our youths made their way to Le Grandeur Palm Resort in Johor, Malaysia. They joined other youths from the six ETAC churches to participate in the year-end youth camp organized by the Conference Youth Ministry.

The theme for this year, ‘Get on Board with the Lord’, was explored through engaging theme talks, workshops, heart-wrenching worship, and meaningful fellowship. Dr Mathew Mathews, Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies at the National University of Singapore, helped to bring the theme alive and covered relevant topics like the need to have a vision and core values for our lives, and how to weather the storms of life that we are faced with. The youths were given the opportunity to network with youths from the other churches.

Kudos to Anna, Clarissa, and Jon for helping to organize a spectacular camp that has left us with fond memories for a long time to come. We definitely look forward to more camps of similar nature soon.



Young @ Heart & Parish Group Celebrate Christmas 2011

The Young @ Heart (YAH) and the Parish Groups held a combined Christmas party on the 11th of December 2011 after the Sunday service. After a brief address by both the coordinators, Mr Isaac and Mr Prem James, a short video titled ‘True Christmas’ was screened. Through the video, those present were taken back in time more than 2000 years ago to Jerusalem. The video also compared the 2 kings, King Herod with all his riches and power and the King of the Jews, Jesus who was born in a manger who’s mission still lives on to this day.

The highlight of the day was the Nativity Play reenacted by the members of YAH and the Parish Groups. All participants eagerly awaited their turn to act and put up a fantastic play for the audience. It was indeed a refreshing change to have adults and most importantly the seniors participate in the play as most of them might have done so a long time ago when they were in Sunday School. Not to be left out, the audience was also engaged in the play by lending their voices to sing familiar Christmas carols during the play.

To follow on with the Christmas and acting spirit, a game of Charades soon followed after the play which brought much fun and laughter.

What better way to end the party then with food!! A sumptuous spread of Christmas goodies and briyani was served to all present.



Carollers



CHURCH CALENDAR

January

- Covenant Pledge Sunday
- ETAC Thanksgiving Sunday

February

- Ash Wednesday
- Discipleship & Nurture Sunday

March

- Trinity Theological College Sunday

April

- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday

Ongoing Programmes

- Friday Praise & Prayer session 7.30 to 9pm

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Issue One
January 2012

A quarterly publication by Tamil Methodist Church



2012

A Blessed Hope

God has blessed us with His presence during the last year and ushered us into New Year with His new mercies. His promise – I will never leave you nor forsake you, Hebrews 13:5, reminds us of His faithfulness and love for His people. His promise remains binding even in uncertain times. We may not know what the New Year holds for us, but knowing the fact who holds the future gives us courage to face the future with grateful hearts. This is the blessed hope to each one of us.

We have just finished celebrating Christmas. The birth of Lord Jesus Christ brought the message of hope to the world and not the message of condemnation. Most of them love to be with their family and extended families and dear ones during Christmas to share the love and renew their faith in Christ in a special way. Times of reunion and exuberance are worth experiencing with Christ at its centre. The reason is a Saviour has been born for us to save the humanity from sin and death; and teach the way characterized by forgiveness and love. That gives the hope of living with God forever. This message when believed brightens the soul and makes everyone shine forth with much joy during this season.

During the first Christmas, the news of Christ’s birth was announced by the Angels to the shepherds who were watching their sheep at night. Though the appearance of the Angel and the heavenly host frightened them, the message that came was “... Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.” Luke 2:10. . They are given the message, that “..Christ the Lord” is born for them.

Though the birth was obscurity, the first people to hear were shepherds. The news came to the simple folks of those days. The Lord chose to appear to them in bright light and through His glory. It was a great surprise to them. God still breaks into our human realms in an unexpected way to give hope and courage to face the future.

One of the most fascinating things Shepherds have ever witnessed would have been the Angelic host speaking to them and singing the songs praising God and announcing His goodness. They responded in a wonderful way. The scriptures say that they had seen the Christ, and they told/ testified everyone what had happened to them.

Even as we entered the new God given year, when we look back we can but surely say, that God has brought us thus far with His caring hands upon us and around us. We could testify of His Lordship and faithfulness which would have touched us/ our families in a different but wonderful fashion. He is always with us as a Saviour and Lord. When we remember that good things have happened in the past and believe that the One who made those good things happen is still at work in the world, then we can face each new day of this year with great hope and expectancy.

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

Something Exciting Is Coming

The revamped Tamil Methodist Church website would be launched very soon and is currently undergoing its final design phase. Many interesting features have been added such as a photo gallery, TMC history, the theme and vision, information on the various ministries and much more.

Check out in the upcoming bulletins/newsletter for more information on website details.

Carolling 2011

The day started off with heavy rain, but this did not dampen the mood of our 18 youthful carollers who brought Christmas cheer to 15 homes of members of Tamil Methodist Church on 23rd December 2011. The carollers, armed with some musical instruments and their voices, started off the journey at 6pm and journey through the island in a mini bus while practicing the carols on the way to the houses. It was indeed an experience for each caroller as they were welcomed by the warm hospitality of the members, which helped boost their spirits throughout the night, which ended at 3am on the eve of Christmas.

Members also contributed generously, which totaled to \$1,600. This would be donated to Chen Su Lan Methodist Children’s Home. We would like to thank everyone for their support in making the event a success and welcoming the carollers. We look forward to Carolling 2012.