

Church Retreat 2011

G.R.O.W: Get Real; Overcome the World ran the theme of this year's church retreat held from 16th-18th June 2011. Set amidst the lush and serene Le Grandeur Palm Resort, Johor, participants gathered to relax, recharge and spiritually rejuvenate. Camp speaker Rev. K Vasudevan graced the occasion with 3 talks titled Joyous Christian Living, Practicing the Presence of God and Intimacy with God. A workshop, Spirit Mind and Body was also conducted by him. Apart from these lively sessions, time was also set aside for reflection. Team leaders of Underwood, Blackmore, Doraisamy and Oldham (yes, founding fathers of the Methodist Church) led participants in a daily discussion of what they had learnt.

A slew of activities like a bowling competition, paintball match and swimming in the afternoons allowed young and old to interact amidst rising cheers and good-natured laughter, peppered with a healthy dose of competition. Mealtimes saw everyone gather at the buffet table for of course, good food. The highlight of the night was a Special Night where a Bible Quiz and Talent Show saw groups put together their thinking caps to impress the audience. Truly, it was a night to remember.

As camp drew to a close, participants dispersed with tummies filled, minds fresh and Christian hearts aglow. The general consensus: to turn this into an annual affair. With that, let us look forward to the next Family Retreat with glee.



The theme talk and workshop were very beneficial, interesting and meaningful. It enabled me to reflect on my personal life journey with God and relationship with others. It gave a deeper experience of God's love and presence while teaching us to enjoy life abundantly in the midst of trial and tribulation. Not forgetting the bowling and special night. These build up our fellowship with each other and enhanced our various talents. - Mdm Rasagani S

I like the retreat theme "Get Real, Overcome the World", which was very relevant to current context. In the current world we will face many challenges and difficulties and it may not go your way, but it's important to belief that "God's grace alone is sufficient". The speaker was very inspiring and did an excellent job to ensure the message touched all age groups. The three days had everything from Good Speaker(message), Entertainment and games, Good food, Time to relax for good bonding and a good response. Well, we are organizing this after more than 12 years and one cannot ask for anything more than just praising and thanking GOD for this church retreat. - Dhanaraj

It was a refreshing experience for us. Keeping lessons and teaching to the morning and leaving the day for leisure and refreshing activities show the thoughtfulness of the camp committee. Another turning point of this camp is the pick of the speaker. A bubbly speaker was specially made for church camps. He kept us alert and awake. I can still hear the laughter in my ears. Thanks to Mr Vasudevan, the camp speaker. Our children said that they enjoyed the camp. For the first time, we look forward to the next camp. - Mary Steven

The retreat gave us an opportunity to interact at a deeper level with our church members. I feel that it has strengthened our relationship. The theme talks helped me to consider fresh perspectives on living out my faith in the market place. - Richard Jeremiah



The total retreat experience was so seamless that the sessions blended wonderfully with all the time we spent in praise and worships, bible teachings, eating, walking, swimming, bowling, paintball shooting and simply loving each other's presence. I came into a much deeper understanding of myself and learning some easy ways to improve my spiritual growth. I was really enjoying myself to the very end of the retreat, with a feeling that the benefits I was getting were incredible. - Jessv

CHURCH CALENDAR

July

- Mission Sunday

August

- Prison Ministry Sunday
- Social Concerns Sunday

September

- WSCS AGM
- Prayer & Self Denial Sunday
- Church Anniversary

TAMIL METHODIST

CHURCH

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**SPECIAL
EDITION**

Issue Two
July 2011



A quarterly publication by Tamil Methodist Church

A Living Church

"So, how's your church doing?" a causal friend asked me.

How was I to answer a question that has multiple aspects? Is he asking how I am relating with the members of the church or how the church is relating to me? Did he want to know whether the church membership is growing or is he is asking about the effectiveness of the various ministries of the church?

What is the measure that is used to gauge the health of any church? Is it measured by the pastor's performance? It is measured by the attendance at the Sunday worship services? Perhaps one wants it to be measured against the fastest growing church and the weighty bank balances of those churches? What then is the KPI (Key Performance Indicators) for the church?

Although man, in his wisdom has a multitude of strategies of how to build a healthy and God-fearing church, the basic answer to my friend's question is found in Acts 2:42-47.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

These early church practices of being rooted in the teachings of God's Word; of sincere and regular worship and witnessing for God; of recognizing and treating each other as being in the family of God; of knowing that as a spiritual family their responsibility was to meet the needs of those in need, led many to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They had the favor of men and God upon them.

A healthy, living church is one which fulfills these basic tenets as described in the above passage in Acts. It may be a good exercise to do a spiritual health check so that we may be able to testify to one another the work of God amongst us. For a healthy loving church begins with each one of us---individually.

As we celebrate this annual Thanksgiving Sunday let us stand together as a healthy bride of our Lord Jesus Christ to worship Him that many will indeed be added to the Kingdom of God!

Your Pastors in Christ,

Rev James Nagulan

Rev Anil Kumar Samuel

ETAC Sports League

This year, the ETAC Sports League was held at Geylang Methodist Secondary School, which brought the youthful spirit of all the 7 churches.

The day started off with prayer by Pastor Nagulan followed by the games. Determination to win was evident in the faces of the participants who were out to win the Champion Cup for their church. The girls had captain's ball and the guys had street soccer. Although the weather was not on our side, we still managed to carry on the activities indoor and everybody performed at their best.

The Short Street team went on to the semi-finals for captain's ball. At the end of both games, there were track events. Even though everyone was exhausted, each runner gave their best shot. This saw many strong talents from each church, with Short Street coming in 1st for 100m boy's event.

The day ended with prize presentation by Thanga Moses, ETAC Youth Director. The overall champion for ESL '2011 was Jurong Tamil Methodist Church. We were all champions for giving our best shot. The day ended with a closing prayer and cheers from everyone.

