

An Inspirational Camp

ETAC Family Camp that was held from 13th June to 16th June 2012, was one of the greatest and most loved form of camping activity organized by a group of keenly dedicated camp committee members. With their tireless and efficient effort into organizing this event, it was all so very encouraging for the ETAC family to have about 85 campers turning up at the Emperor Hotel in Malacca and proceeded into one of the best church camp we have ever had.

Delivering "In His Steps", Director of FEBA India, Speaker Reverend CA Benjamin graced the event with powerful volleys of inspiring sermons that fused and strengthened our faith together. The most inspirational would be the question of what we would wish an "Epitaph" inscribed on our tomb stone. It was a difficult question to ponder but it was life-changing impact for oneself but yet it is so life-assuring on what life would offer. Undoubtedly, his messages will permeate into life-long challenges for the campers to mature and grow in their Christian life.

At the Group's Performance Night, the divine essence of the camp theme and message came to light. Everyone had joyous meal, heartiest play, fun and laughter together. The mood was extremely enjoyable, fun and so relaxing to be able to bond with acquaintances while immersing in the scriptures delivered by the Speaker and Pastors. Apart from the normal church activities, Family Church camp always brings a little something more. Church campers came together in a bonding with God and each other, gaining some of life's unforgettable and memorable experiences!

By - Jessy Moses



MYF ETAC Sports League

The annual ESL (ETAC Sports League) was held on the 9th of June at Geylang Methodist Secondary School. This sporting event organized by youth for youth saw a total of 6 ETAC church youth groups, aged 13-25 years pit strength and skill at Track-and-Field, Tug-of-War, Football and Captain's Ball matches. Amidst rousing cheers, team-spirit and camaraderie were forged even as players gave off their best on court, field and pitch. From cheer-leader to participant to food-server, truly everyone had a role that day. New friendships were formed and existing ones strengthened over this memorable day.

By - Ryna Mahindapala



A Mission Trip To Jaffna



On 17th March 2012, 12 youths and 5 adults embarked on the Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference (ETAC) Board on Mission's first youth mission trip to Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Having undergone intensive training in the weeks leading up to the trip, the youths were filled with excitement in wanting to make a difference by addressing the humanitarian, emotional and spiritual needs of a country impacted by more than 30 years of civil war.

Within hours of arriving in Jaffna, the mission trippers set about conducting a full-day vacation bible school for more than 130 village children. To overcome one of their biggest challenges, the language, the youths had run through their lesson plans in Tamil thoroughly well before the trip. Amidst other challenges like an unfamiliar culture, a larger-than-expected turnout, and the scorching sun, the youths managed to engage the children well throughout the day.

Being youths with much energy to expend, an afternoon was spent repainting the facilities of an old pre-school at Allaipiddy Methodist Church. Hours were spent sandpapering and repainting the walls and playground equipment to brighten up the area and help increase enrollment at the school.

Two days were spent teaching English to about 70 children at two villages – Allaipiddy and Tholpuram. The mission trippers were encouraged by the eagerness of the children to learn. Friendships were forged over the short time spent teaching.

One of the most memorable programs for most, if not all, was food distribution at a refugee camp. Having never seen houses made of just tin foil and canvas, the youths were moved by the living conditions of those displaced by the war, even 2 years after its end. A short sharing was conducted before the youths visited the homes of the refugees, encouraging and praying for them. The mission trippers left the camp having been touched by the rich hospitality of a group of people with hardly anything to call their own. Following our visit, local church leaders have begun a weekly service at the camp.

Arrangements were also made to conduct an open-air evangelical rally where the youths put up a drama depicting the eternal consequences of the many decisions made in life. Attracting more than 300 villagers through the use of music, drama, and a charismatic preacher, Rev R Prabhu, the District Superintendent of the ETAC, the rally saw close to 40 people accepting the Lord.

Armed with generous donations from the ETAC churches, we were able to contribute to, amongst other things, annual salaries for pre-school teachers, stationary for a village school, funding for a children's club and a youth club, food items for close to 100 refugee families, funding for the much-needed refurbishment of 2 pre-schools, and even the replacement of a bee-infested door at a pre-school!



The mission trip, a first for most, taught the youths many things. It was eye-opening to experience the vastly different living conditions of a war-torn area just 5 hours away from Singapore. The youth realised that it was indeed much more blessed to give than to receive, and with so many needs around the world, they should be focusing their energies and doing their part to help fulfill them. They learnt that a little help can go a long way.

At the end of the ten days, the youths returned to Singapore with a new-found perspective of life, and a shared burden of wanting to do something sustainable for the people of Jaffna. It was a meaningful trip, and the first of many to come.

By- Anna Asirpatham

TMC Goes To The Beach

On 26th of May, the Sunday School together with the Young @ Heart and the Parish Groups came together at East Coast Park for fun filled fellowship. The day began with a combined singspiration. Each group then broke away for their own activities such as Futsal and games. This was then followed with Briyani lunch and time for everyone to enjoy the sun and the sea before heading back.



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Issue
03
July 2012

It's Never A Waste Of Time

These lines from that beautiful hymn, "All things Bright and Beautiful" which praises God for His creation, is often sung at our worship services. *"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all."* (Words by: Cecil F. Alexander.)

It is hymn for God's children who truly delight and rejoice in the beauty of nature, to sing spontaneously in the sight of true beauty. The hymn-writer must have been inspired by the words found in, Psalm 19:1. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."* Perhaps, with these thoughts in mind, he looks at all creation and declares his thanks to God the Creator.

Nature, in all its forms: plants, trees, flowers, hills and mountains, lakes, rivers, seas and oceans; creatures of land, sea and its arias, has a special way of reminding us about God. Firstly, all that natural beauty gladdens our soul. And this in turn makes us receptive to appreciate all things around us as we see them through the eyes of the Creator. Secondly, nature is often associated with serenity which likewise draws us to the Creator, the giver of Peace and Joy: God's gift of grace for each day. For these we give thanks to God.

There are also object lessons for us to learn about the Creator God. Jesus said, *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in his entire splendor was dressed like one of these."* Matt 6:26, 28, 29.

Humans are seeking constantly for security in material possessions which we consider as our source of survival. However, Jesus Christ points us to the source of very life who is our Heavenly Father. It is not survival that we should seek but a secure life in Christ Jesus; a life that will radiate the beauty of God Himself and give Him thanks for peace and love.

It is a pity that in this "green city" of ours we hardly pause to gaze at the beauty of nature; to see God as the greatest artist-painter and landscaper. Perhaps, even if we do appreciate the beauty around us, we see the creative work of human hands. As thankful people we should take time to spend a few precious minutes in the midst of nature with the desire to see and thank God for His beautiful creation. In William Coleridge's poem, The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner, we see these words:

"He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us'
He made and loveth all."

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

Praising and thanking God, for all things, is never a waste of our time!

Church Calendar

August

- The TMC Healthy Carnival

September

- 125th Church Anniversary

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

Koinonia is a quarterly publication by Tamil Methodist Church. This newsletter is for internal circulation only.

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THE HEALTHY TMC CARNIVAL!

Come on down to TMC on **11 August 2012, Saturday**, as we celebrate **125** years by giving back to the community!

FREE HEALTH SCREENING! 10AM TO 2PM

Prevention is better than cure! Find out what shape you're in with these effective preliminary tests. They're free for you!

Height/Weight (Body Mass Index) | Blood Pressure Measurement | Random Blood Glucose Test | Total Blood Cholesterol Test | Interpretation and Consultation

Both pre-registrants (by 29 Jul) and walk-ins will be entertained!

sata
CommHealth+

Administered by SATA Comm Health.

YOU'RE SOMEBODY'S TYPE. BLOOD DONATION DRIVE! 10AM TO 4PM



Your blood is replaceable... a life is not! Help save a life today.

Visit www.redcross.org.sg to find out more.



Start your day
Saving lives

HEALTH TALK: PHYSIOTHERAPY 2.30 TO 4PM

Stop aches and pains. Understand and manage your pain before it stops you from work, sports, and daily activities. Learn all about pain management and more from our qualified physiotherapist.



THERE'S FOOD TOO! 10AM TO 3PM

What's a carnival without food! Need we say more?

AND GAMES IF YOU'RE UP FOR THE CHALLENGE! 10AM TO 3PM

Fun games await you! Challenge yourself, or pit your skills against others. How competitive can you get?



BARGAIN HUNT AT OUR GARAGE SALE! 10AM TO 3PM

Looking for a deal? Look no further! Purchase books, accessories, games, household items and more at jaw-dropping prices! You have to see it to believe it.

TMC125
LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE

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