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The LIFE Times



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LMCP's MYAF Christmas Dinner

Young adults in red and green.....

What ...7 Dec, 7pm, an invitation to a perfect date and time for the month of December. No doubt it was an early Christmas dinner gathering. We saw people in red, green, purple and black coming through the church entrance. We had a good spread; specially prepared meals by our members. Not forgetting our time of singing Christmas carols first before the Sunday services and a little fun time to get to know one another. We also shared light moments and memorable time in our lives during the past Christmas seasons. One sister shared how much she missed the celebration at her hometown but really glad we had started this dinner to kick start the festivity but reminded us not to forget to share the good news to the ones who have yet to know Christ. It was encouraging that we were at least a step closer in knowing our fellow young adults. We hope this will be one of the many new memorable beginnings to come. Last but not the least; I must admit we have a new definition of young adults after that night. Thank you all for being with us. God with us - Emmanuel

Kim Luan



From the Pastor's Desk



“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1 – 3

We started the year with a huge blast, one that caught the attention of many. The announcement on the rise of toll prices, the increase in electricity tariffs, the price increase in stationery, the raid by JAIS on Bible Society of Malaysia were among some of the news that upset us. Every one of these situations and many more affects us. The cost of living is going up. Cost for child education is becoming increasingly ridiculous. Leaders in the nation seem to be caught in their own world, one that is detached from the realities of life. Let's not even get started about house prices and college education. I can't help to think that there will be more people getting into credit debts by year end.

At the same time, the events in our homes, churches and work place are also becoming increasingly challenging and demanding. Breakdown of relationship, disruption of order in society, the struggle for position and power, the shortage of time and opportunities seem to be rapidly developing. As you consider some of these events and many other factors that are peculiar to your own setting, how does 2014 look like? One political leader described 2014 as one of the darkest years for our nation. How are we as the people of God going to respond to these challenges? What is God's Word to us in a time and season like this?

A phrase that has been lingering in my thoughts is 'in the darkest hour, God's light shines the brightest.' This phrase might be echoing what God said through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 60:2, **“For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.”** Notice the contrast between light and darkness in this verse. God's Work is represented as “light” shining in darkness.

One of the challenges that are equated with light and darkness is vision or the lack of it. Those in the light are able to see things in perspective and walk according to the truth, while darkness causes confusion, fear and ultimately destruction. God's Presence which shines in His people enables us to live in the light. God's light gives us vision and direction. It brings hope and opportunities: to reach out and impact the lives of those who are living in darkness. As I have mentioned in my first message in 2014, at LMCP, God's purpose in giving us His light is to reach out and bless others. When people see the light, they would be drawn to it (verse 3).

2014 might yet be the most amazing and eventful year for us. God's Word in Isaiah commands us to “arise, shine!” God has not forgotten the promises that He has made with us. He is about to bring to pass His purposes for this nation. Habakkuk 2:14 says, **“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.”**

May I present to you two challenges which might be relevant for those of us in LMCP. The picture that comes to my mind is one of nets, “mend and cast”. We need to work at continuously mending ‘broken nets.’ As fishermen would testify, broken nets are common in the fishing industry. In the process of working, nets do get torn and damaged. But, what is needed is for the nets to be continuously mended. In the same way, working together in community of God's people does cause ‘wears and tears’ in relationships. This is nothing new. But, we need to continuously work at repairing them by the grace of God. Therefore, it is important for us to get together for times of prayer, sharing, building and fostering deeper relationships with one another.

This is also the year for us to cast our nets into the deep (Luke 5:4). As in the story of Peter in Luke 5, we will discover that it is God Who would provide the ‘fishes’ (Luke 5:6). The Alpha Course is a great opportunity for us to bring our non-Christian friends to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us then look forward with great excitement and anticipation. I would like to end by recollecting the words of Winston Churchill in World War II.

"What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian Civilization. Upon it depends our own British life and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us now. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age, made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say, "**This was their finest hour.**"

Is it possible that this is the finest hour for us who are believers in Jesus Christ? Therefore, Arise, Shine!

Methodist Senior Fellowship (MSF)



Aims & Objectives of MSF:

- ◆ to provide & enhance Christian Fellowship for all seniors;
- ◆ to encourage all Senior Members to grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- ◆ to develop a lifestyle of discipleship and service, and to grow in effectiveness in Ministry;
- ◆ to share the good news of salvation in Christ to relatives, friends & neighbors and be involved in social outreach and missions;
- ◆ to organize an Annual camp to bring together all chapters of MSF to foster closer relationships; and
- ◆ to organize tours and activities of interest for Seniors.

Activities done in 2013 :

- ◆ celebrated Chinese New Year at Mrs. Yap's home to start off the year with a happy note.
- ◆ group birthdays were celebrated every 2 or 3 months for get together and chit chat for bonding or togetherness.
- ◆ participated in Corporate prayers in Church on Wed. & Sat - ongoing.
- ◆ generously contributing in kind or effort to Church Pot-bless every 3rd Sundays of the month.
- ◆ visitations to a home bound member and other Seniors who had health problems to show our care for them.
- ◆ joining a Church Bible study group to have a deeper intimate relationship with God.
- ◆ joining a Church Choir to sing praises to our Lord.
- ◆ joining a Life Group (cell group) to deepen relationship with each other and with our Lord Jesus Christ within the group.
- ◆ donated to other Methodist Church building fund (EMC).
- ◆ Participating in an overseas trip to Tasmania (organized by Choon Neo) and having a wonderful time together.
- ◆ celebrated MSF Day in our Church with a praise & worship song and also a prayer for the MSF Members by our Pastor.
- ◆ A spiritual talk was given by Dr. Victor Wong in November and the attendance was encouraging.

For all the activities done last year we thank the Lord for His guidance, empowerment and most of all for His Grace and Love.

- Albert Thoo (MSF President)



Membership & Evangelism

“FAMILY DAY 2013”



The Membership & Evangelism committee was tasked to organise the Family Day for 2013. Where do you go for a day trip??? Expectations were high ... nice place, close by, good food, amenities, Cheap! Cheap! Cheap!, etc. By the Grace of God, My Retreat Sdn Bhd - a church retreat management company had just the place for us – Felda Residence Sungai Klah Hot Springs, Sungkai Perak.

Scouts (the Yew's) had volunteered to survey the place and they came back with a favourable rating of it. They even found a nice place to have nice home cooked traditional dinner!

June 1st with a total of 76 (63 Adults & 13 children) participants, LMCP church members together with invited family members and friends embarked on the long, long, long 2 hour journey to Sungkai. It was a public holiday and being a weekend what do you expect on the highway?

Even when using modern technology like GPS, Waze and other technology - some of us still got lost! We had to rely on good old fashion – asking for directions from Petrol stations and friends. Hand phones were also unreliable due to weak signals. Anyway, we made it there and thankfully, the program was light and easy. People who managed to make it by 11:00 or earlier were ushered into the Hot Springs Park earlier. They had plenty of time to bath / soak in the Hot water. Kids were seen splashing in the water park and older folks were sitting by the hot spring soaking their feet. No one dared to boil eggs, at the least, to eat it!

Though the Lunch meal was nothing to shout about, having 'spent' all our energy at the Hot Springs, we just 'wolfed' everything down! Games and team building activities were next on the agenda. Sheng and Siong Huong carried out the activities as planned by Lawrence (who pulled out due to unforeseen reasons) effortlessly. We had the use of the air-conditioned hall which was a great relief from the afternoon hot sun! Screams of excitement and laughter was echoed throughout the hall. Thankfully we were the only group using the facility. Of all the games, the most meaningful was the one where team members had to 'tell' their story on a story board. Creativity and heartfelt stories were translated into the board and some of them tugged at our heartstrings.

The committee had decided to adjourn for dinner at 5:00pm to keep with the small town tradition of eating early. The restaurant practically had to close its doors to the rest of the community as we descended and filled up all the space it had! Baked salted chicken with ginseng was the main attraction with the busy proprietor taking orders for extra 'ta pow' (poor Siong Huong who had earlier taken orders was now busy rearranging the orders). Another discovery of baked sweet potatoes and other traditional 'baked' delicacies were also 'jamming' the orders. The sumptuous food left everybody truly satisfied with the discovery. Kudos to the scouts!

Greater camaraderie was experienced when one family's car experienced difficulty in starting and 4 other families with friends and the town folks rallied around helping. The experience was blessed with a display of colourful fireworks that lit the dark night. What an ending! God is good all the time!

- Vicky Koh

HOLIDAY STUDY CAMP 2013

With the Sengois in Raub



The girls were prettily dressed up for the group competition and it looked like Aunt Janet had a hand in it. Oh, what fun we had at the Sengoi Holiday Study Camp in Raub, 29 Nov – 3 Dec 2013. 61 children arrived for camp from 8 different kampongs, timid and shy but ready to get into the swing of things. The teachers and helpers came from different churches: Bentong, Raub, Kuantan, Whispering Hope (PJ) and Life Puchong headed by Guru Besar, Aunt Siang Huong.



For 5 days and 4 nights, the children stayed at the Raub Training Centre whilst the teachers and helpers stayed outside. Rev. Shurrawali, Rev. Ngah and their team worked with us to make the camp a success. Every morning there were lessons in English and Mathematics; in the afternoons there were motivational activities and games and Story Telling and Drama; not leaving out Devotions and Singing. The Carnival was much anticipated as the children were given “money” to “buy” toys, food, books, stationery and trinkets, using the language and skills they had been taught. On the last day all were excited not only because of their drama presentations but also to see who was going to be the best Girl and best Boy Camper. Amanda’s prayer was answered when her group became the best group. May God bless us all with Peace, Love, Joy, Kindness, Goodness and Patience, just like the group names, as we all strive to bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

- Choon Neo



2013 MEMORIES



2013 MEMORIES



Bible Study - Master Life 1 (The Disciple's Cross) TESTIMONIES

Master Life has led me to grow spiritually in God's Kingdom . It taught me some simple ways to reconcile with God. To humble myself before Him , spend quiet time with Him and recite His Word, learning to pray in faith. In order to have the Blessing we must have full faith in Him in any situation. I feel refreshed after I had performed the above and have also changed my outlook towards other people. I thank God to be able to study Master Life and be able to know God's expectation of his children.

- Wong Meng

When I signed up for Master Life Book 1, I did not know what it was all about. There was no other bible study available at that time and as all I wanted was to learn God's word I happily signed up for it.

I was not involved in any of the church ministry due to my personal commitment at home. When I received an invitation from pastor to be a committee member of the Membership and Evangelism committee, I was a bit hesitant as I was afraid to take up any task for not having the capability and time.

In Master Life Book 1, we learned to understand the Disciple's Cross. The study and sharing has made me understand the first verse that appeared to me on the first lesson i.e. Luke 9:23 which says, "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*"

I realize that I need to let go some of my burden so that I may have time to participate whenever and where ever required in Church activities. But before I can share the good news of Christ to others I need to equip myself with the knowledge. Thus, I look forward to Master Life Book 2 in the near future.

- Teoh Yit Hoon

Master Life 2 (THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY)

commences on

16th February 2014 (Sunday) at 12.30pm

(You will develop Christ likeness in character as you learn to live in the Spirit)

Bible Study - Master Life 1 (The Disciple's Cross) TESTIMONIES

A group of us, eleven adults took on a compacted 7 weeks, 2 hours a week course to study the first book of Master Life-The Disciple's Cross. The study started on 1st September 2013 and was completed on 13th September 2013 followed by a rounding-up meeting cum celebration dinner on 20th October 2013.

Initially, I hesitated to join the study because I was worried that I could not cope with the course work. But somehow I decided to sign up eventually. Like many others in the group, I found out later on that the key impetus that brought us to this study is the desire to seek a deeper understanding about our Christian faith.

The study required us to do daily reading, daily and weekly assignments besides the weekly group sessions. I found the study an eye-opener. It enlightened me and gave me fresh insights into the Scripture. The group sessions were very interesting. I do not recall a moment of dullness.

There are several things I have learned from the study. Firstly, I came to understand that the disciple's cross represents my relationship with Christ and spending time with Him, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowship with believers, witnessing to the world and ministering to others are the very core of this relationship.

The study has helped me understand our God better. His Word has been most encouraging. It spurred me on throughout the course of this study. In times of self-doubt, He brightened me up with His comforting Word like this in 2 Chronicles 16: 9 says, *"The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him."*

My attitude towards memorizing Scripture has changed as I now know the many reasons why I need to memorize Scripture. The most important reason of all is that God commands it in Deut. 6: 6 *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts"*. Now I no longer take memorizing Scripture lightly.

This study has brought group members closer. Through learning together, sharing, encouraging and praying for one another, we have come to know one another deeper. We had such a wonderful and joyous time together that it came as no surprise when someone in a group session was heard saying, "...time has gone past so fast that I didn't even realize we have come to the end of the session..."

Looking back, I realize that I made the right decision by taking up the study despite initial hesitation. I am grateful to God for His presence, His love and His grace that make all things possible, to our Pastor and elders for their encouragement, our teacher, Ann Teoh for making the sessions so interesting and to all group members for their support and active participation.

- Ng Tuck Heng

- Bible Study - Experiencing God & Master Life 1 (The Disciple's Cross)

Being a new Christian, I have a desire to increase my spiritual knowledge. Therefore, whenever there is a Bible Study course organized by our church, I would always sign up for it.

For the year 2013, our church had organized 2 Bible Study Courses – Experiencing God & Master Life - The Disciple's Cross. I had attended both and here is my testimony of my experience in both the studies I had attended.

Experiencing God

After attending “Experiencing God”, my relationship with God has become very close. I have experienced His goodness in my life and prayer keeps me connected to God. The Lord is my Rock, my Refuge, my Hope, my Strength, my Comforter and my Healer.

I have been having stomach discomfort and distension. A stomach scope was done. It showed two nodules (A nodule is a small swelling or protuberance). One on the lower stomach and one on the gullet (food pipe to the stomach). A biopsy was done on the lower nodule because it was done to exclude any growth pushing into the stomach. The scan showed no growth but it showed another two nodules in the lung; one small and round shaped & the other irregular shaped. The chest doctor was worried over the irregular shaped one and therefore, I had to undergo another stomach scope to do a biopsy on the upper nodule and a repeat C.T. Scan on the lung.

I was so anxious and worried. I could only pray to the Lord as it is written in Philippians 4:6 –*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your request to God”*.

Our God is an awesome God. He is a God who answers prayers. It's amazing! The second stomach scope showed no more nodule in my stomach. All gone! I am completely healed of my stomach problem. The repeat C T san of the lung showed the irregular shaped nodule also gone. When I placed my trust and faith in the Lord, this bible verse came to my mind – Matthew 11:24 –*“Therefore, I tell you whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours.”*

Master Life – The Disciple's Cross

This course taught me, to be a disciple of Christ I must put Christ in the centre of my life. I must spend quiet time with Him, read His word, pray in faith, fellowship with believers & non-believers and witness to the world.

To have a good relationship with God, my quiet time with God became more meaningful. During this time I would seek His guidance, direction and wisdom. I bring all my needs to Him. I pray for the church and all the people I have come to know. The Holy Spirit is my Counselor and my Comforter.

One of the keys to bearing fruit is to memorize scripture verses. At my age, memorizing scripture verses keeps my memory strong as ever. Scripture memorizing enables me to claim victory over Satan, to claim victory over sin, to win others to Christ, to meditate on the Word and to direct my daily life. It is God's command to all believers to memorize scripture verses.

I am looking forward to do more Bible Study. It enhances my spiritual life and helps me to walk the right path as God wants me too. Jesus tells us all to Love one another as Jesus loves us. I pray to the Lord that I will have the Christlike image in me so that my children, relatives and friends will find salvation in Christ my Savior as I have.

- Phang Lai Choo

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

1) Vacation Bible School Camp (VBS)

Date: **27 to 28 March 2014** (Time: **9.00am to 12.30pm**)

Date: **29 March 2014** (Time: **9.00am to 4.00pm**)

Ages : **6 to 12 years old**

Venue: **Life Methodist Church Puchong.**

Fees: **RM30.00**



 *Are you thinking of what activities your child / children can participate in during the March holidays? Well, why don't you consider enrolling your child /children for the above camp. It's filled with lots of activities which are fun, exciting and enriching!*

2) LMCP Family Camp

Date: **6 to 8 June 2014**

Days: **Friday to Sunday**

Venue: **Grand Kampar Hotel, Perak**



 *Two long weeks of school holidays! A good time to bring along your family to come together and join other families in LMCP for an enriching time of fellowship, worship and getting to know each other better. Please, keep your dates free!*

For further information, kindly contact Vicky Koh.

3) Alpha Course

Commencing on: **14 June 2014 (Saturday)**

Time: **4.00pm to 6.30pm**

Venue: **Life Methodist Church, Puchong**

THE
ALPHA COURSE

explore the
meaning of life!



The Alpha Course is for everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is about. It's a place where people can come and relax, eat, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life.

Our **CORE** Values

Love

Mercy

Commitment

Prayer



*They that wait
upon the Lord shall
renew their strength
They shall rise up
with wings as
Eagles
They shall walk and
not be weary
They shall run and
not faint....
Isaiah 40:31*

What's happening at LMCP?

- ◊ **MYF Chinese New Year Saturday Nite Fever— 8 February 2014**
- ◊ **Master Life 2 (Bible Study) - 16 February 2014**
- ◊ **MSF Movie Nite — 22 February 2014**
- ◊ **Christian Education Sunday — 2 March 2014**
- ◊ **Music & Worship Enablers Dedication —16 March 2014**
- ◊ **Vacation Bible School Camp — 27th to 29th March 2014**
 - ◊ **Lent starts on 5 March 2014**
 - ◊ **Palm Sunday—13 April 2014**
 - ◊ **Maundy Thursday — 17 April 2014**
 - ◊ **Good Friday -18 April 2014**
- ◊ **Easter & Church Anniversary — 20 April 2014**
 - ◊ **Mother's Day — 11th May 2014**
- ◊ **Family Camp —7th to 9th June 2014**
 - ◊ **Alpha Course —14th June 2014**
 - ◊ **Father's Day — 15th June 2014**
- MYAF Movie Nite — 28th June 2014**
 - ◊ **MYF Sunday — 20th July 2014**