



Vision

Bedok Methodist Church



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Editor's Note

Good athletes are known for their strict and disciplined training regimes. But what is the mark of a true athlete? What fascinates fans and spectators is the oomph they put into their sport. Regardless of age, failure or loss, there is a fiery passion which sustains them for a lifetime on the playing field.

As we continue the theme of spiritual disciplines in this issue, we liken the Christian disciple – you and I – to the athlete. We can be spiritually motivated when our hearts are in the right place. Rev Goh aptly points out that the spiritual disciplines must be practised with passion for God and His people.

Ps Joel kickstarts the newsletter by reiterating that evangelism is a discipline not be forgotten. A Missions Special promptly gets us into action, while Christine See stresses the importance of fellowship as a body of Christ. And as a prelude to the camp, we have the privilege of having our camp speaker, Rev Michael R. Watson share with us the discipline of serving.

May these spiritual disciplines spur us into action for God, yet never tire as the love and passion of God burns bright and steadfast within us.

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Vision aims to develop disciples for Jesus Christ and to provide practical resources for the understanding and application of Scriptures in daily life and ministry.

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Firstwords

Spiritual Discipline and Motivation

C. Everett Koop was a Christian surgeon who made a remarkable impact on the medical world. Love characterised his practice. He was known for his love for children and for his compassionate counselling to parents whose children were terminally ill.

By 1953, he and a neurosurgeon combined their knowledge to develop a revolutionary surgical procedure to drain water from the brain, a condition which killed 90% of its victims before they were two years old, thus giving new life to generations to come.

In 1974, he separated the Rodriguez Siamese-twin girls, which doctors had declared an impossible task. At the start of the operation, it was told that he spent time in prayer and Bible reading, as he would do daily. He made this remark in a newspaper report, "A verse in Psalms, which said the Lord will support the righteous, became my help in time of need. 'Claiming the righteousness of Jesus Christ,' I said, 'We're going to win!' And we did!" In 1981, President Ronald Reagan recognised Koop's dedication and appointed him Surgeon General of the United States.

The one word that describes Koop's life is *passion*. Passion is a flaming desire, an intrinsic motivation that makes people do the extraordinary; go the extra mile; make bold statements; moves people to do great things for God. Passion is a key characteristic of great spiritual giants such as Abraham, David, Joshua and Daniel.

Passion should be the motivating force behind our practice of the spiritual disciplines. It should not be displaced by other competing alternatives like career, family, hobbies and habits. Having spiritual passion marks a healthy relationship with God. Christian ministry, service and disciplines must never be idolised as an end to spiritual maturity but a means of expressing our relationship with God.

Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13-14 "But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

I press on toward the goal for the price of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Likewise, Willard Hotchkiss, a pioneer missionary who served in Africa, looking back on a long life of service, wrote... "I have dwelt 40 years practically alone

in Africa. I have been 39 times stricken with the fever, three times attacked by lions, and several times by rhinoceri; but let me say to you. I would gladly go through the whole thing again, if I could have the joy of again bring the word "Saviour" and flashing it into the darkness that envelopes another tribe in Central Africa."

In the same spirit, let us live a life of being both disciplined and passionate for God!

Reverend Vincent Goh
Pastor-In-Charge



Evangelism

A DISCIPLINE NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

by Joel Yong

Evangelism as a spiritual discipline

Nobody likes disciplines. I don't particularly like them myself.

The phrase, '*a discipline*,' itself creates images of regimentation, rigidity and the like. But disciplines are undeniably necessary.

Imagine what life would be if you never practised the discipline of brushing your teeth? Think of the rotting teeth, bad breath, pain and suffering of being under a dentist's drill.

Ouch. Like it or not, disciplines are important.

After all, can you imagine what the Christian faith is for one who lacks the discipline of reading his Bible? Or doesn't regularly spend time with Him in prayer? It would be a different Christianity altogether – a detached one.

My dear friend, the observance of spiritual disciplines makes a difference in our spiritual walk. It helps us build a meaningful relationship with God.

We are encouraged to take many disciplines such as reading His word, praying, worship, service and so on. And just in case you thought you could pick and choose, all are equally important and must be practised in equal proportion if we're serious about our Christian life.

Sounds tough? I can almost hear the groans.

Keeping disciplines seems like a mammoth task. But once we get it into our system the benefits are endless. But like our teeth, if we want them, we've got to do brush well. The white teeth, absence of gaping holes, fresh breath, no pain of



tooth decay and that camera-worthy moment.

And in the very same way, spiritual disciplines are beneficial to our spiritual life.

Evangelism is the discipline of sharing our faith with others. It's that simple, but it carries significant implications. It brings Jesus to those who don't know Him, and carries eternal consequences.

Evangelism illustrated

Imagine that the world was one flooded mess. People are floundering and treading water to stay afloat amidst a watery surface. Every now and then the current sweeps the helpless bodies to wherever it desires to take them.

In the middle of this watery world is a huge Rock. Some people have swum to this Rock. They lean upon it, clinging on with both hands. Then there are those who either do not know where the Rock is, or choose not to lean upon it.

Now suppose God is that Rock. And life in general, without the Rock, is like that watery world, full of unpredictability and struggle. Christians are those who have the Rock to cling to. So how does this relate to evangelism?

May I suggest then that evangelism is the letting go of one hand from the Rock and reaching out with that free hand to draw others who are lost, towards this Rock, towards God.

It is a faith that is alive and strong, trusts God's stability enough to let one hand go to grab another struggling person and pull him aboard. Clinging onto the Rock forever with both hands is a faith that is underdeveloped, and one that hasn't trusted or known the Rock enough to let one hand go.

The origin of evangelism – Jesus!

The very purpose that brought Jesus to us.

The word '*to evangelise*' is derived from the Greek verb *euangelizethai* which means '*to announce the good news*.' What do you think Jesus was doing when he travelled an infinite distance from heaven to earth?

He came to die and that was it?

No, it wasn't.

It wasn't a process but a message!

Jesus came bearing a message of God's love! He came to spread the 'good news' (a.k.a. the gospel!)

Through His death, Jesus rescued humankind, the eternal message of God's love for His creation.

Jesus came to tell us a message of great awe – that God loves us enough to send His son to take our place.

Participating in the love of God

Christ was and is the living message from God. Why else does Christ want us to tell the world what He did?

Is it a boasting exercise? NO!

Is it so we can praise Him? Sure, our Father enjoys our love and praise. But it isn't just that!

Christ wants US to tell the world because by our obedience in evangelism we relive and PARTICIPATE in what Christ did. Through evangelism we help reconcile others to God, drawing them near to Him by telling them His message for them.

"Evangelism is not for me."

Often when we talk of evangelism, we respond that *'it ain't my business'*. But in Matthew 28:19, in His Great Commission, Jesus says: *"Go and make disciples of all nations..."*

He doesn't say, *"Joel, by the way, if you feel like it, go and make disciples of all nations."*

Neither does He say, *"Joel, if time permits, go and make disciples."*

Jesus said, *"Go."*

He wants us ALL to be involved in evangelism, and there are no buts about it! Our Loving God bothered to come from Heaven to Earth for us because if He didn't, we wouldn't be able to fly high enough to touch Heaven.

If God bothered to do that for us, we being recipients of His grace and mercy, how then can we not show the same grace to others lost and wounded on this journey of life? How can we not evangelise?

The danger of neglect

In the business of today's world, evangelism has become an option.

It has become a selective burden that we choose to carry, or not carry. Evangelism has become something it was never meant to be.

But it is a discipline that we MUST have. For when we do not evangelise, or see no need to do so, it affects our very own spirit. We become cold.

We lose understanding of the nature of God's love for a world lost unto Him. We lose touch with our Father's heart, and become kids who don't know their Father's concerns.

Children after their Father's heart

Our Father's concern is OUR concern, and evangelism is indeed the burden of our Father's heart.

It is why He sent Christ – so that we would know. And it is why He now sends His whole Church – so the world would know of His love.

My dear siblings-in-Christ, we must tell people about God. If we do not, we risk missing the point of what Christ the Saviour is all about. He's not just our Saviour, He's the world's Messiah.

Pastor Joel Yong is the Assistant Pastor in BMC. He comes from a family of four, which includes his parents and older brother. His ministry in BMC focuses on missions and evangelism work, both of which are his areas of interest.

“Evangelism has become something it was never meant to be.”

Destination Cambodia

by Benjamin Hong

*One of the best grounds for practising the spiritual discipline of evangelism is the mission field.
Here is a special section on missions.*

On 10 Dec 2003, a total of 41 members from BMC, as young as 6 years old and as mature as 75 years old, turned a desire to visit Cambodia to a reality by departing for Phnom Penh for a 6-day missions trip. This was the biggest team comprising BMC leaders and members that had been organised thus far.

I was part of the smaller 17-member team that was focused on seeing how we can partner with the Methodist Missions Society for God's work in Cambodia to reach the villages surrounding the COSI orphanage through care group planting. For many of us, our first thought as we walked through the villages was that, "We do not have all the solutions to the overwhelming needs of Cambodia..."

Knowing God has a plan for the Cambodians

This truth dawned on us as our team saw the tremendous needs of the Cambodian people. Yet in my heart, I became aware of a greater truth, God's providence and grace is in abundance, and He has a plan for the people of Cambodia. We had the privilege of seeing Him at work and joining Him.

Indeed His work was evident when we saw the changed life and heard the touching testimony of the Cambodian worker who testified to the saving grace

of Jesus. We also witnessed the fruit of the gospel among the 123 Cambodian children and local staff at the COSI orphanage when we saw the COSI children lead worship and hearing them sing praises in Khmer.

Knowing the Ang Snoul commune

There are 16 villages with about 5,000 people living in the area around COSI in the commune called Ang Snoul. We started gaining a better understanding of the people who lived in these villages, what their needs and aspirations for themselves and their children were. A study done by our youth team in 2002 provided useful information on the 3 villages nearest COSI. The surprising finding was that the majority of the villagers are children, and one of their most important needs and aspiration is a good education. We were also informed of the health care needs and we saw for ourselves the tremendous medical needs when a large number of villagers came to see our team doctor, Dr Mah Guan Kong. Dr Mah worked tirelessly to attend to more than 150 villagers in a single day.

Playing Our Part

How then do we put the resources that we in Singapore are blessed with to good use in Cambodia?

- We may know of an individual or family in our care groups or ministries who is called to serve in Cambodia. We can make specific commitments to support that person or family through prayer, finances and encouragement.
- We can support our missionaries in the area of skills development, teaching and medical missions by making a short trip to Cambodia with our ministries or families.
- We can support a team of tertiary students who can conduct another socio-economic survey with the goal of getting an even better understanding of the villagers.
- All of us also have the privilege to pray for the upcoming care group planting work in Ang Snoul by the local Cambodian pastors, local Christian workers and Methodist missionaries.

While I started this trip being overwhelmed by the tremendous needs in the villages, I ended the trip feeling encouraged that we do have a part to play in Cambodia to reach its people for the Lord. So let us enter this land by submitting all of our plans to the Lord and depending on Him to help us accomplish all that He wants us to do in Cambodia.

Benjamin Hong is the Chairperson of the Missions committee in BMC.



How you can help our BMC Missionaries

by Dave Williams

As you all know, BMC's mission statement is "To make disciples for Jesus", summarising Christ's Great Commission to each of us in Matthew 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Through these verses all of us have been specifically called by Christ himself to make disciples of all nations. This is our Lord's will so that the greatest glory may be given to Him as His name is glorified across the world.

According to the 21st Century Edition of Operation World (Campus Crusade Asia Ltd), Singapore had 407 overseas missionaries in 2001. BMC has a total of eight missionaries serving or about to serve overseas and two more missionaries based back in Singapore for the time being. We have a large number of missionaries, about 1% of our church membership. Across Singapore about 0.15% of Christians become missionaries (either within Singapore or overseas).

As you can see, God has blessed us abundantly with individuals and families who are prepared to sacrifice the safe and comfortable life that is available in Singapore for a time of service and hardship for our Lord in missions.

Though you may not be able to enter the mission field overseas, all of us can help with missions in some or all of the ways mentioned above. Our missionaries need this support so that their ministry can continue to be successful and bring glory to our Lord.

A Missions steward in BMC, Dave Williams publishes the quarterly Missions Express newsletter.

Here is an A to Z of ways you can help our missionaries:

- A**sk them about their work when they are back in Singapore and how you can help them when they return overseas.
- B**efriend a Missionary today!
- C**are packages are always welcome!
- D**isseminate their newsletters to other church members.
- E**ncourage them in their work as it is a great task they are doing for our Lord.
- F**inancial support, preferably directed through the church.
- G**ain knowledge of the area or country where our missionaries are working, e.g. Cambodia, UK and North Asia.
- H**ave a heart for missions and our missionaries.
- I**ntroduce yourself to our missionaries; get to know them as friends.
- J**oin the missions committee or become more involved with missions.
- K**eep updated with the work of our missionaries.
- L**ogistic support can help enormously, especially when required items can be hand carried rather than posted.
- M**oral support with a listening ear, showing care and concern when they need advice and help.
- N**ever be afraid to help out. All help and prayers are gratefully received.
- O**ffer our homes and hospitality to our missionaries back in Singapore.
- P**rayer support – please cover each missionary with our prayers.
- Q**uickly become involved with missions!
- R**e-entry support to help with the reintegration of the missionaries into Singapore and into church life during times of sabbatical.
- S**tart praying for our missionaries in your cell group.
- T**alk to our missionaries when they are back. Take time to know them and their work.
- U**nderstand their needs so that our prayers and help can be more effective.
- V**isit a missionary overseas to see their work for yourself.
- W**rite a letter or email to a missionary today. Address it to the missionary in question, care of Adeline Hong (Tel: 65421148 or email: q_adeline@yahoo.com)
- X**amine your heart – could you be a full time missionary?
- Y**our involvement and help are vital blessings to the work of the Lord.
- Z**ealously pray for the success of our missionaries across the world.

To Serve Or Not To Serve?

An email interview with Rev Michael Ross Watson

Rev Michael Ross Watson is the director for WEC International in London and travelled worldwide preaching the Word of God. His ministry has mainly been in Indonesia and other regions in Asia. He will be the speaker for our BMC Camp, *Anointed to Serve*, in Malacca from 2 – 5 June 2004. *Vision News* has the privilege of asking him to share insights on the topic of serving as a spiritual discipline.

Vision: Please share with us a little of your ministry and family.

Rev Watson: My wife, Esther, and I are passionate about missions. We want to see people moving out to carry the Gospel to the lost. That is why I took a post as the director for WEC International and also have a heart to pastor and care for missionaries.

We have six children. All of them have are either permanently fostered or adopted. Two of them still live at home. Angela is 24, and Tim is 20. Two of our children are married, living in Indonesia, and have children of their own. Two of our children are in heaven – they reached there before us.

The two greatest desires in my life are to be filled with God's love and to increasingly walk in the Spirit.

Vision: What is serving, biblically speaking?

Rev Watson: All spiritual service issues out of our relationship with Jesus. From that relationship we see people through His eyes and minister to them accordingly. Perhaps the greatest picture of service is Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

Vision: Do you think the church finds it hard to serve God in an increasingly busy society? Why?

Rev Watson: It is not easy in a society where through busyness life becomes mechanical. The world seeks to squeeze us into its mould, but we must not be conformed to the world. Our priorities, values and purpose are different from those of the world. We march to the

sound of a different drumbeat. However, in the midst of all the busyness of the world, people are looking for something different. Look at how the world respects and honours people like Mother Teresa.

Vision: How can we serve God effectively?

Rev Watson: First, the more we love Jesus the more effectively we will serve other people and our generation. This requires time alone with Him and being in His presence.

Second, allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. Romans 5:5 says, "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." We literally do need to "take time to be holy".

Third, use the gifts that God has given us individually for the common good of others.

Fourth, choose specifically to die to ourselves and to selfishness in order to put God and the needs of others first – true Christian living means dying to self.

Fifth, be at the centre of God's will, knowing that we are doing what God wants us to do.

Vision: How can we develop Serving as a Spiritual Discipline?

Rev Watson: As in any other discipline we need to form the habits and mindset of serving and encouraging others - serving God and serving others is a lifestyle.


As we make ourselves available each day to God, and have this mindset, we must then allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way he wants us to serve others. As we are then faithful in small things, so God gives us authority in greater things.

Vision: How have your experiences shaped your view of service to God?

Rev Watson: God has had to deal radically with us – changing our heart and attitudes. Many of the things we have experienced have brought us to a place of brokenness. In Indonesia God had to change our hard Western hearts so that we could identify with our Indonesian brothers and sisters. In our walk with God we have had to learn to trust God to meet all our needs and the needs of others. So often we look at the mission field "out there" and forget that God looks at our hearts as His mission-field. Some of the things we have experienced, both in Indonesia as missionaries and in church ministry have been painful and difficult, but we have learned that through our response we can become either bitter people or better people.



Rev Watson and his wife, Esther



WANTED! Gifted volunteers for difficult service in the local expression of the Kingdom of God. Motivation to serve should be obedience to God, gratitude, gladness, forgiveness, humility, and love. Service will rarely be glorious. Temptation to quit place of service will sometimes be strong. Volunteers must be faithful in spite of long hours, little or no visible results, and possibly no recognition except from God to eternity.

*- Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines For the Christian Life*, Navpress.*

*Be sure to fear the
LORD and serve
Him faithfully
with all your heart;
consider what great
things He has done
for you. Isaiah 12:24*



by Christine See

Many a time, we may casually view fellowship as catching up with others over nasi lemak and coffee. Yet, the Biblical definition of fellowship goes beyond that – there is a greater spiritual purpose and dimension to the act of fellowshiping as a community of believers.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

1 John 1:7 states, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.”

Throughout the bible, you’ll find instances of Jesus both teaching and practising spiritual disciplines. The verses above talk about the spiritual discipline of fellowship. As Christians, we are expected to follow Jesus’ example and apply what we learn to our everyday lives.

Growing up in a different Christian denomination, I never experienced what I now know as a personal relationship with God. I’m not blaming my previous church for my lack of enthusiasm, but not once in my church-going years did I know that it was possible to take an active role in my spiritual growth. In order to grow in Christ, you must make the effort to live your life as He would have you live.

By practising spiritual disciplines, we place ourselves in a position where

God can transform us to be more Christlike. I am reminded of the definition of discipleship by Avery T. Willis, JR, given in the Masterlife course I am currently taking: “Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness; changes your values into Kingdom values; and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.”

The spiritual discipline of fellowship may seem inconsequential, but is in fact very significant. Let’s begin with fellowship in church – it’s not just about sharing a few words over a quick bite before or after service. Next Sunday when you enter the sanctuary, take note of how you feel sitting in God’s presence with other Christians. Can you feel His healing power of love surround you? When we’re feeling down, it has the power to lift us up. When we’re feeling discouraged, we can be encouraged simply by being with fellow believers.

C.S. Lewis said, “God can show Himself as He really is only to real men. And that means not simply men who are individually good but to men who are united together in a body, loving one another, helping one another, showing Him to one another. For that is what God meant humanity to be like; like players in one band, or organs in one body. Consequently, the only

real adequate instrument for learning about God is the whole Christian community, waiting for Him together.”

Outside of church, cell groups and bible study groups are good ways of fellowshiping with Christian brothers and sisters. Everyone needs support at some time or other in their lives and fellowship groups are a great way of ministering love, comfort, encouragement and accountability to each other. It’s through cell groups that we can reach out to others who may need our help.

I pray that you will practise the spiritual discipline of fellowship. By sharing our lives with each other, we can literally spur one another on when the going gets tough. We can help each other see things from a different perspective, and always remember that if God has led you to it, God will bring you through it.

Christine See is a freelance copywriter. She is married to Peter and has three children Kevin, Brandon and Deanna. She serves in the Children’s Ministry as a prayer intercessor. She loves to read and bike ride with the family.

“When we’re feeling discouraged, we can be encouraged simply by being with fellow believers.”

A New Lease Of Life

by Yong Chee Siong

A pilot by profession and a member of Emmanuel Care Group, Chee Siong shares an amazing testimony of God healing him of kidney failure.

Raise God for He is gracious and merciful. His loving kindness endures forever. I had the privilege of experiencing His love and seeing Him at work in my life. Today I am forever grateful to my Saviour for giving me a new lease of life.

I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ through my wife during our courtship. However my life did not change much then. I still lived as before, being as practical as possible, more inclined towards the world. Everything was looking up then. God was not always in the picture, not until a serious kidney infection threatened my life.

After I learnt about my illness, I had to cope with sudden changes. The family was affected emotionally especially my wife who teared easily. Why was this happening to us, we wondered? We had to re-educate the children and remain strong in their sight for they were very young.

As my kidneys began to deteriorate, the fear of dialysis overwhelmed me. On top of that, a cancerous tumor was found in my right kidney. An operation was scheduled to remove the tumor and to see whether there was any spreading to the rest of the body.

My fears drew me closer to God. It is a sad truth that only when things fail then do we turn to God. However, God is faithful and we saw Him at work. If not for the infection, the tumor would not have been detected. The operation went smoothly and the tumor was isolated without spreading. Praise our Mighty God. He not only protected but preserved my life.

“I had to cope with sudden changes.”

The days of dialysis were lengthy. I had dialysis thrice a week. The Lord kept my spirit up each time I faced the dialysis machine. Thankfully, there were no side effects from the ordeal. Here I learnt that the Lord was teaching me patience and endurance.

After two years, the decision was made for a kidney transplant in China. We sought the Lord earnestly. I had to be screened suitable for the transplant and several tests had to be conducted. We hung on to His Words daily, trusting and committing to the Lord whatever the outcome was. Any negative report would mean that the transplant would be impossible. Our Lord delivered again. I passed the test.

We then brought the matter to the church for prayer. We saw God's love manifested in His people. Many people came forward to offer help in whatever ways possible. One even stepped forward to offer her kidney. Her kindness and selflessness made me feel so unworthy. God's love was truly displayed in her. Even when we were in China, friends took care of our family, providing transport for our schoolgoing children to go to school, buying groceries and managing our household. Indeed the Lord brought many people into our lives to lighten our burden thus making our stay in China comfortable.

We were put to the test when the transplanted kidney did not function immediately after the operation. Upon knowing our situation, a dear friend started a chain of prayers. She even flew to China to be with my wife who was physically and spiritually drained. The way she led her life made us ponder whether we could do likewise. We are grateful to God for bringing her into our lives.

With God's grace and mercy, the transplanted kidney began to function. We were overjoyed and thankful. We realised that obedience and total surrender were the key to answered prayers. We also realised that the focus should be on the Lord and not the problem.

There is another reason to give thanks to God. Due to my medical condition, I lost my job in the year 2002 as a pilot. Presently, I am employed in the same company as a simulator instructor. A dear friend of ours approached the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Medical Board to

“With God's grace and mercy, the transplanted kidney began to function.”

find out whether I could ever fly. He received a negative response for there was no such case of a pilot with a transplanted-kidney flying in this region.



Yet I took a step of faith. Six months after my transplant surgery, I decided to approach and consult the Chairman myself on the possibility of flying again. I knew that the chance of getting my licence back was slim but I trusted the Lord.

After a brief period, I received encouraging news from him and was asked to undergo a series of medical tests before the Board could make a decision. Praise the Lord for all the tests went well. Amazingly, I am now given the opportunity to fly again. The Lord once again turned the impossible to the possible. He opened up one big door in my life again. Today, I am seeking re-employment with the company. I know this has to be the path that the Lord has intended me to take. It is so wonderful to be able to see God at work in our lives.

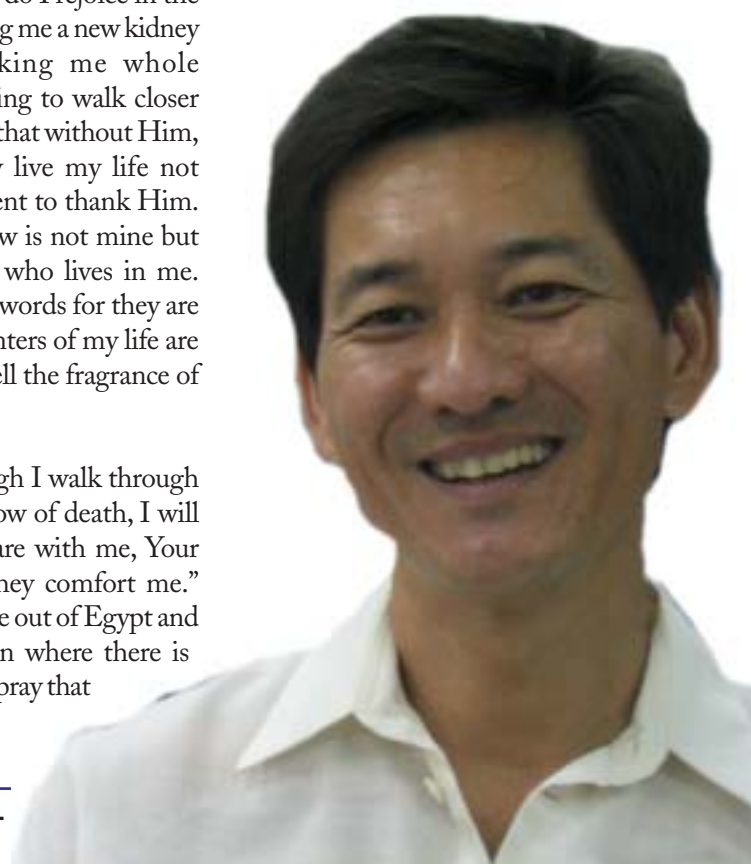
Today not only do I rejoice in the Lord for giving me a new kidney but for making me whole spiritually. I am learning to walk closer to Him now, realising that without Him, I am nothing. I now live my life not forgetting for a moment to thank Him. The life that I live now is not mine but through Christ Jesus who lives in me. I now cling on to His words for they are life and truth. The winters of my life are gone. It is time to smell the fragrance of spring.

Psalm 23 says, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." The Lord has taken me out of Egypt and to the land of Canaan where there is blessing and healing. I pray that

I will be able to walk humbly and to love mercy before the Holy God. Now I know that the Lord has prepared a path for every one of us to follow. As long as we stay on the intended path, we will walk effortlessly. It is only that we turn left or right that we get ourselves into trouble.

Lastly, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the members of Bedok Methodist Church for their endless prayers and support. Without the body of Christ behind us, we would not have crossed this hurdle ourselves. My gratitude goes to our cell group members for being always ready to lend a helping hand. There are so many to thank but all praise and glory belong to the Lord.

I would like to specially thank my wife, Soo Tze and my four girls, Amanda, Alyssa, Ashley and Anthea for always being there for their daddy. I love you all.



The Passion Of The Christ

Directed by Mel Gibson

Written by Benedict Fitzgerald and Mel Gibson (Screenplay)

Drama (Movie), 127 mins

The Passion Of The Christ, screened worldwide this Easter, was perhaps the most-talked-about movie in town. Many have watched it and have come away deeply moved. Susan Chan, our reviewer, shares her heartfelt reflections.

The Passion Of The Christ is not a movie that I'd encourage my children to watch. It is not a movie that I can watch repeatedly. It is dark and depressing. It requires substantial background knowledge to appreciate the flow of the scenes and the disturbing images that were portrayed.

Yet, it has done something deep within me.

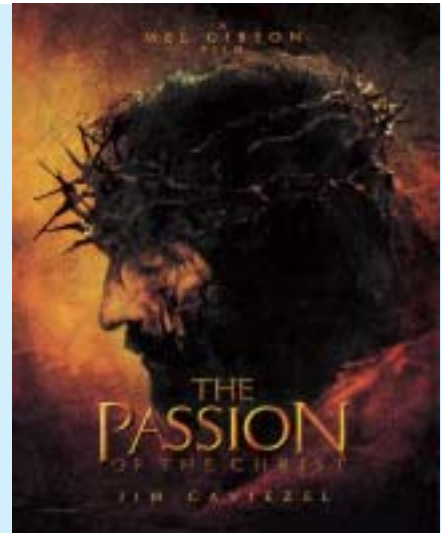
The movie has brought to reality the suffering and torture that my Best Friend went through. This Friend whom I have spoken with so often, who tells me things and holds my hand - went through so much for me, for us.

Jesus' love and its extent is the one thing that tugs at my heart. From within me was roused a sense of anger yet remorse; gloomy depression yet victorious hope; and a silent cry from deep within, "Lord, You'd go through so much for me out of love, I want to love You back with as much as I can too - but help me, Lord!"

At another level, I find it hard to understand why and how The Creator would allow Himself to be subjected to the torture of His creation. I'm sure there must be a less cruel way to bring about our salvation? He is after all God and anything is possible with Him!

I guess it boils down to the same thing - the width, the depth and the extent of Jesus' love surpasses all human understanding. With such a testimony of His passion and His love, how can I not entrust my life to Him? After all, He did say so before His death in John 12:32: "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

Truly, the passage to the Cross is undeniably the revelation of God's Love lifted high! When I encounter this Love over and over again, I'm simply drawn to Him.



Habits of a Child's Heart – Raising Your Kids with the Spiritual Disciplines

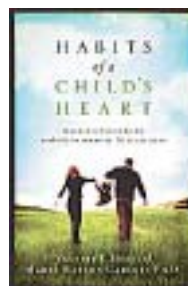
by Valerie E. Hess and Marti Watson Garlett, Ph.D

If you have children and teens in your family, this new book on spiritual disciplines for the young from Navpress is for you. The book's bite-sized, age-specific exercises can help parents, caregivers and children practise the spiritual disciplines together by:

- Meditating on specific Bible passages
- Developing new habits of worship
- Serving others in a practical way
- Fasting from TV or video games
- Simplifying schedules and possessions

If we are concerned about our children's formative education in the academic and social disciplines, the spiritual disciplines should be given equal, if not greater emphasis. We want to lay strong foundations for building generations who will love and serve our God faithfully.

Coming soon to bookshops. For more enquiries, call Navigators Singapore at 63444133.



Food Rations Collection

Contribute rations, such as rice, oil, beverages and canned food, for the families of AIDS patients at the HIV Patient Care Centre and TRANS family service centre. Cash donations are also welcome. A small act of kindness will go a long way!

Collection Dates: 23 & 30 May 2004 (Sun)

Venue: BMC Fellowship Deck

Time: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Enquiries: Ong Aik San @ 91528225 (MP)

Love Lifted

Come and experience God's love at our very own BMC Musical! Bring friends and loved ones who need the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dates: 4 & 5 Sep 2004 (Sat & Sun)

Venue: Jubilee Hall, Raffles Hotel,
1 Beach Road

Time: 7.30 pm

The theme for our next issue is Authentic Discipleship.

We will be exploring issues on what it takes to be a true disciple of Christ.

If you have any views, comments, suggestions or contributions for the current or subsequent issues, please write to us at bmc_vision@yahoo.com.sg