



Words of Praise and Thanksgiving

We would like to commemorate the coming Advent with praises and thanks to the Lord for leading us to a more mature approach to helping some interested churches. And we wish to invite all those who have been supporting our mission to pray with us and lay claim to Ps. 90:17 — “May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us, yes, establish the work of our hands.”

We believe that a number of pastors had read the article “Call for Enhancing the Shepherding Ministry” published in Oasisflec News2010 that had been mailed to them or found on our website. We rejoiced that some of them had responded positively. This then led us to identify nine interested churches in Malaysia, China and Singapore who stated their interest to enhance their shepherding ministry since the last Advent.



Family Life Ministry Work Team in Malaysia

In fact our approach to enhancing the shepherding ministry is rooted in our early Methodist class meeting. The only exception is that our focus is on enriching marriages and empowering the function of families as nurturing process of spiritual growth for the participants

Senior Adult Camp

As we know, the Senior Adult Ministry has drawn a considerable amount of attention of the mainstream churches in Singapore today. We had, therefore, developed a Senior Adult Life Enrichment programme to meet their needs. Our three-night and two-day camp cum a three-day Hainan Island tour in September proved to be relevant and effective. We rejoiced to see that it had enriched the marriages and lives of the 45 participants. Most of all, we managed to evangelise intensively to the six pre-believers who joined us during the messages and the fellowship in the camp.



Parenting Camp in FuZhou

We began with training the pastors with some of the selected lay people to form a working team for the family life ministry in their respective churches. We also conducted Parenting, and Marriage Enrichment camps with a total of more than 400 participants from six churches. Most of the participants had been followed up by forming Covenant Family Groups in their own church. We hope to be able to continue to support them in their follow-up work and enable them to make use of our materials such as *Guide to Christian Family Life* and *Family Altar Series*.

This is a more important step to fulfilling our goal of equipping group members for building up the body of Christ through leading the family altar.



Senior Adult Enrichment Camp at Hainan

Our workshop sessions had been effective in drawing the participants to share openly and they were so

encouraged that they would like to continue such group meetings in their respective churches. Unfortunately we had not adequately prepared group leaders for such a ministry. We hope to organise more of such programmes next year but this time, with adequately trained workshop leaders to follow-up the campers by forming senior adult life enrichment groups under the purview of the Senior Adult Ministry of their respective churches.



Marriage Enrichment Camp of Taiping Methodist

Licensed to Solemnise Marriages

I have been authorised by the MCYS to solemnise marriages in Singapore since July this year. We had thus far, solemnised 12 couples who had attended at least three hours of premarital sessions conducted by the centre. Our premarital sessions focus on helping couples to understand God's blueprint of marriage, management of conflicting traits and the growth process of a married life. I am glad to note that those who attended our session had been receptive to our counsel and some had accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour and had even begun to attend church. We thank God that He has opened up a new avenue for us to share our beliefs in healthy marriages especially with couples who have no Christian partners.



Solemnization of marriage at Hort Park

Our Breakthrough

After attempting with several approaches to working with interested churches, we finally discovered that the family wellness series including the Self-awareness Course, Courting Couple Course, Marriage Enrichment Course and Parenting Course, Guide to Christian Family Life and Family Altar Series can actually be used sequentially by the course participants including pre-believers. They may begin by forming a class with 10 participants for the Self-awareness Course. The course helps the participants to understand the dynamics of their inner beings, their strengths and weaknesses, their gender identities and roles, assure them of their salvation and challenge them to live a sanctified life. Consequently, they may love themselves as Christ has loved them.

After the Self-awareness Course those who are married may be encouraged to continue the programme with the Marriage Enrichment Course. If their spouses including pre-believers have not been attending the course with them, they may be invited to join a Marriage Enrichment camp which may be more appealing to them. They may form a Covenant Family Group after their course or camp. The course aims at helping them to love their neighbours (spouses) as themselves. They normally develop a trust relation in the process of sharing their spousal relationship in the group. It will motivate them including the pre-believers to continue staying together as a covenanted support group. It will then be sustained by the trust and care of one another in the group and sharing of insights gathered from the *Guide to Christian Family Life* in their weekly meetings. Ultimately they will come to the stage of using the *Family Altar Series* to equip themselves for the ministry of building up the body of Christ through leading their family altar. If the participants of the Self-awareness Course were singles, they can continue their group experience through weekly sharing from the *Guide to Christian Family Life*. This is an important step of preparing group members for the challenge of Christian marriage and family life.

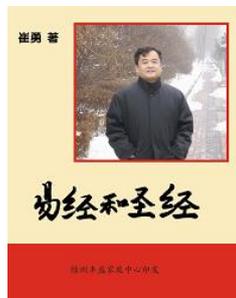


Courting Couple Course

They may be encouraged to join the Courting Couple Course once they have found their courting partners. Ultimately they may also end up forming a covenant family group and function as other married couples groups. On the whole the Self-awareness Course can be used as a starting point for the Family Life ministry

in a church. Pastors who have been equipped for group leadership training may also use the Self-awareness Course as a tool to train more covenant family group leaders for the family life ministry in their church.

Studies of Chinese Culture



God has provided Dr. Cui Yong, (from China) a scholar in Chinese Culture, who was converted 10 years ago through our family life ministry. Since then he has devoted his time to do comparative studies of the Bible which he believes has

facilitated the civilisation of the Western world and the Yi Jing (易经) which has been regarded as the foundation for the development of the Chinese culture. He believes that the Bible has fulfilled many ambiguous teachings in Yi Jing just as Christ had fulfilled the prophecies of the prophets and the law of Judaism. Dr. Cui Yong has been so inspired that he would like to dedicate the rest of his life to serve the Lord through teaching Yi Jing in the light of the Biblical truth. Our centre is in the process of publishing his first book entitled “易经和圣经” after his 10 years of diligent study of the Bible. We hope that it will arouse interest and will encourage some Chinese scholars to search the truth in the Bible more seriously. At the same time, we hope that Chinese Christians will gain better understanding on marriage and family systems of the Chinese community in the light of Biblical truth to counter the challenge of the serious problem of divorce faced by China today. It was reported that there are 10,000 marriages breaking up daily this year. In fact Dr. Cui has already contributed some invaluable insights into the understanding of the family system in the context of the Chinese community.

Dr. Cui Yong will conduct a seminar on “Winning the Chinese Scholars” and “The Bible and Yi Jing” at 9:00 am. on 25 February, 2012 at Grace Methodist Church, 398 Telok Blangah Road. His book will be launched in the seminar. Interested parties are cordially invited to register on line and the lunch fellowship after the seminar.

New Work Arrangement for the Ministry

For the convenience of serving both Singapore and Malaysia, I have relocated my home from Sitiawan to 6 Jalan Pinggiran 6/2 Horizon Hills, Nusajaya 79100

JB. I will work in JB from Monday till noon on Thursday and then, spend the rest of the week in Singapore. Those who need our service personally are kindly advised to call our Singapore office from Monday to Saturday at +65 62747480 or the Malaysia office at +60108265820 on Monday to Thursday during office hours to arrange for an appointment.

Acknowledgement

We are indeed grateful to God for moving many friends to pray with us and support us generously in kind for our ministry. We also appreciate the wonderful services rendered by volunteers in the areas like designing and updating of our website, designing of book cover, editing, proof reading of our publications, and account auditing.

We pray that all of their gestures will be blessed as ‘the five loaves of bread and two fish’ in the hands of Jesus to bless many lives and families through the ministry of Oasisflec. We would also like to express our sincere thanks for your partnership with us in this special ministry that God has called us to do.

Financial Statement (Advent 2010-2011)

B/F from last year’s A/C	\$2,706.56
Donations received	\$75,322.00
Collections from courses, counselling and camps	\$61,596.66
Operation cost	-\$85,161.22
Camp expenses	-\$28,399.00
<u>China missions</u>	<u>-\$18,184.04</u>
Surplus	\$7,880.96



*We wish you
A Merry X'mas
& A Blessed
New Year*

From Rev Dr Francis Ngoi & Family



Renew My Strength & Soar Upward

Reflection on Senior Adult camp @ Hainan Island
by Yip Shu Qiong (TPCMC)



I felt blessed at being able to participate in the Senior Adult Life Enrichment Camp cum Hainan Island Tour organised by Oasisflec from 26th September to 2nd October. I gathered several insights that enriched my spiritual wellbeing which I would like to share especially from the theme talks on the second and third day of the camp.

1. A Life that Flourishes like a Palm Tree



I felt that the message was clear and relevant to everyone. It was because we were surrounded by coconut and palm trees at our camp site. It helped us identify better with the palm trees throughout our journey. As mentioned by the speaker, the palm tree grows upward. Every new leaf or stage begins with a shoot as if it is worshipping God. The centre of the trunk is hard and strong, it can withstand the heat and the coldness of sandy land. It still bears fruit in old age. It will stay fresh and green. Comparing this to our spiritual life, the more we encounter difficulties the more we can demonstrate our strength. Like a palm tree the more the scars that are left on the trunk, the higher and richer the life it has lived.

2. Be Equipped for the Challenges of the Golden Years



It has awakened my spiritual conditions. As I grow older in recent years, I felt that I have lost my zeal and stamina for the challenges of life. The speaker's affirmation, "I am okay, I am not afraid!", had enlightened me and awakened my sense of regarding my past experiences as my accumulated wisdom and wealth for the ministry I can render to the Lord. At the end of the camp, I was inspired to rededicate my gifts and the rest of my life to meet the challenges of my golden years boldly.

3. The Secret of Renewing

You Youth like the Eagle's



If we were to recondition ourselves we must emulate the attitudes of an old eagle. It would normally go through a period of renewal by dealing harshly with its own physical conditions. When an eagle discovers that its feathers and wings have become too clumsy for soaring and the beak too blunt to tear its food and its claws too long to grab its prey, it will find a safe place to break its own beak, pull off its own claws and feathers one after another. It may have to live with pain and hardship for about 150 days. Only when it has grown a new beak, claws and feathers, does it begin to soar again with renewed strength. The secret of renewing our youth is to let go of our old selves and let God reshape and restore our broken lives so that we can function by faith in His grace again.

4. Wisdom in Enriching our Marriages, Friendship and Retirement Funds



After we appropriate our golden years, we should be wise enough to make use of our retirement funds as a blessing to ourselves and our loved ones; to inculcate our positive attitudes towards our friends and to enrich our spousal relationship so that we can live our golden years meaningfully.

Our participants seemed to enjoy every talk and workshop session of the camp. Most of them shared freely by following the guidelines for sharing. It helped us to get to know one another better. It inspired most of us to affirm our position and value as senior adults and to rededicate our lives for the service of the Lord. It encouraged us to live a happy and meaningful life. All our activities in the camp had been inspiring and we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. The few days of our Hainan Island tour had been a joyous experience to me. Though we encountered a typhoon, we experienced the protecting hands of God. Praise the Lord.



Presenting Song Item @ Halleluiah Church in Haikou