

COVENANT VISION

Covenant Vision Christian Mission (ROS 286/99 REL)

News



IN THIS ISSUE

Pilgrimage Tour
to Israel

35th Feast of
Tabernacles in
Guntur, India

Who I Am In Christ

Dynamitez!

Mighty Men

"Fruitful"
CVSOM Graduation

"There Is More"
CVSOM Encounter
Weekend

IN THIS ISSUE



CONTENTS



WELCOME

Our Identity

A Trans-denominational Christian ministry seeking to extend love, provide hope through faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

To be a living bridge to a lost and needy world.

Our Mission

To provide Word-based, Spirit-led and Faith-filled teaching, training and ministry to fulfil the Commission of Jesus Christ, to preach the Kingdom of God, to heal the sick and set the captives free.

Editor-in-chief

Rev Francis Khoo

Editor

Trisha Khoo

Designer

Geraldine Koh

Contributors

Trisha Khoo
Rev Henson Lim
Karen Seow
Linda Yong

Photos

Eddy Woo
Michelle Lim
Gret Lau
Karen Seow
Ng Wee Beng
Eric Teo
Wendy Lim
Aaron Khoo

Main

- 3** From the Desk of Rev Francis Khoo
- 6** Count It All Joy

Overseas Trips

- 8** 35th Feast Of Tabernacles In Guntur, India
- 10** A Door Opens In Ho Chi Minh City
- 12** Spiritual Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Covenant Vision Christian Church

- 16** Church Update
- 18** Who I Am In Christ
- 20** Breakthrough Weekends
- 22** Dynamitez
- 24** Mighty Men

Covenant Vision Centre

- 26** Fruitful - CVSOM 4th Graduation Ceremony
- 28** There Is More - CVSOM Encounter Weekend 2012

Ministry Highlights

- 30** The Need For Spiritual Growth

Others

- 32** Ploughing Hands
- 34** Covenant Vision Life
- 35** Ministry Information



Pilgrimage Tour to Israel from 25 April to 6 May 2012 led by Rev Francis and Sis Shirley Khoo. Photo : Sis Michelle Lim



FROM THE DESK OF REV FRANCIS KHOO

2 Timothy 3:1 warns us that *"in the last days perilous times shall come"*. In Matthew 24:21, 22, Jesus further warns us of great tribulation and that *"... except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved."* Consequently, our only hope and future is that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back again!

However, the Bible tells us that the second coming of Christ will not occur until after certain events. The first is when the Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached as a witness to all nations (Matt 24:14). The other is what the Apostle Paul calls a "falling away" that must also happen (2 Thess 2:3). This poses many challenges for the 21st Century Church and followers of Jesus Christ.

The first challenge is that ALL of us have a pivotal role in preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Apostle Paul demonstrates for us that it has to be done, not in *"...enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"* (1 Cor 2:4). In Matthew 28:19, 20, the Lord himself gives us the additional instructions to make *"disciples of all nations"* and to do so by *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."* However, we cannot make disciples if we are first not disciples. To be disciples, we need to be "poured into" or we have nothing to "pour out". John 13:35 reminds us that it is by the way we love one another, as Jesus has loved us, that *"by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples"*.

The crux is not about what we say, but how we live it. Further, we can only live it by being the person who Jesus has restored us to be through the divine exchange made at the Cross of Calvary. Only then can we be that person of significance and influence that God has created us to be from the foundations of the earth.

The other challenge would be to ensure that we do not "fall away". The Greek word 'apostasia' used by the Apostle Paul and translated as "falling away" is the English word 'apostasy', which really means the "act of going back on the faith". This would mean a denial of the basic tenets of the faith that one once held.





In Church history, we have seen 'liberalism' and 'modernism' infecting the Church. Liberal theology basically denies the existence of miracles, including the virgin birth of Christ, the resurrection, and even that the Bible is divine inspiration of God. Some liberal "theologians" have gone as far as to doubt the very existence of God, or to even suggest that God is dead. All these teachings fundamentally go against the basic tenets of our faith.

With fast evolving technology, changing norms, values and perspectives today, we can expect to see more liberalism and modernism. Liberation theology or the social gospel will continue to invade and negatively influence the Church, as well as affect the moral social values of believers. On top of this, there is another major departure from the faith that we will have to contend with. This will be from persecution of believers who refuse to follow the scholars and recognised Christian leaders who depart from true Biblical Christianity.

Also there will be increasing criticism and pressure to comply with a form of acceptable Christianity. This will be propagated by the media, the press, the Internet, as well as by the emerging one world government and religion. This form of Christianity will be ecumenical and multicultural. It will be centred in promoting religious harmony, tolerance of other faiths and coexistence of all religions, with the concept that 'all gods are the same'. Quite conceivably, this will be forced through legislations and various other strong coercive means.

Before you say that this is not possible in our lifetime, please do look at the restrictions that are being placed on the preaching and teaching of Biblical truth today. In some countries it will soon be "illegal" to teach the Biblical view on such issues as abortion, prostitution, homosexuality and same sex marriages. At some point, the Church will be forced to make a decision between needing to compromise or continuing to preach Biblical truths. This will be but the tip of the iceberg and a shadow of things to come in the near future.

How are we to respond??? This will be our greatest challenge as each of us has a responsibility and accountability in our decisions! How well we prepare ourselves in spiritual growth, maturity and in our relationship with God will ultimately determine whether we make the right or wrong choices.

In 1998, I answered the call to be an evangelist. God made it clear that we are to be "a living bridge to a lost and needy world" and to prepare the saints with **Word-based, Spirit-led** and **Faith-filled** teaching, training and ministry. So it started with evangelistic outreach work in Singapore. In 2000, through Covenant Vision Christian Mission (CVCM), a missions Society, the work was extended overseas. In 2005, the teaching, equipping and training arm was enlarged with Covenant Vision School of Ministry (CVSOM) offering a Certificate curriculum. More milestones were to be set as various welfare projects and social concerns work were undertaken. Then, 2008 saw Covenant Vision Christian Church (CVCC) birthed as a local church with a vision to build a radically transformed community of disciples.

Looking back, credit for it all does not belong to any one single person. It has been about teamwork of saints in a labour of love for Jesus. Indeed, all would not have been possible without the prayers, love, care, encouragement and support of so many saints. So a big and hearty **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you who have sacrificially sowed your time and finances into the ministry!

Also as you read our latest newsletter, do rejoice with us in special thanksgiving to God, our Heavenly Father for His love, faithfulness, goodness, grace and mercy, as well as for His providence and His provision in all things.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

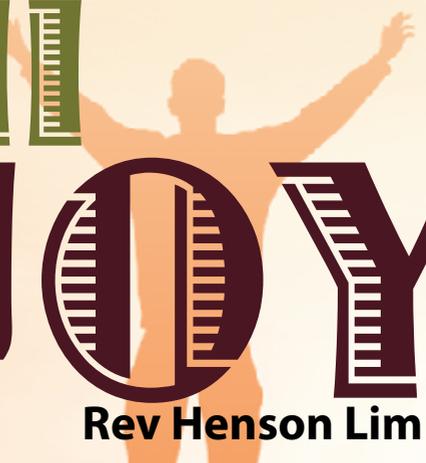
Rev. Francis S. H. Khoo

Count

We've heard it before, haven't we? Whenever we hit a rough patch, or encounter some difficult people, a well-meaning brother or sister in Christ would proclaim, "Count it all joy!" Without doubt, this is totally biblical and a great reminder. However, it has also become yet another Christian slogan which everyone knows but few understand. And when glibly and insensitively dished out, it can be more of an irritation than an encouragement. That said, we all know to count it all joy, but do we know how to count it all joy? For sure, it is not some positive-thinking mantra that we are to chant, or a phrase that brings us into denying the severity of the moment or situation.

it all JOY

Rev Henson Lim



Firstly, what we want is the **Joy of the Lord** which gives us strength (Neh 8:10). Of course, we should have His joy all the time. But it becomes even more critical when we go through a trial for that is when our weakness becomes extremely apparent. It is the strength derived from the fullness of His joy found in His presence (Psalm 16:11) that sustains us, that enables us to bear through the challenge. This sounds good but don't wait until you hit a bad patch before you learn how to practise the presence of God. By the same token, it would do you well to understand that getting into the presence of God does not just mean Quiet Time or daily devotions, important and useful as these are to help us draw near to Him. Determine, instead, to know how you can carry His presence with you and be in His presence wherever you are, whenever you need to.

Secondly, with a right perspective of trials, we can then understand the **Joy of Participation**. Let me remind you: if you are determined to live a godly life that counts for Jesus, you will face persecutions and tough times (2 Tim 3:12). If you consider yourself a child of God and a co-heir with Jesus, you enter into the fellowship of His sufferings (Rom 8:16,17). In other words, you should expect many opportunities to "count it all joy". In Acts 5, Peter and the other apostles were arrested and beaten for preaching in the name of Jesus and performing great signs and wonders! When the authorities had no other reason to detain them, they were released. Acts 5:41 records that they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus! This joy of participation keeps us going, knowing that all that we do for Him will never be in vain.

Thirdly, lest you have a wrong picture from the above two points that Christians must always be laughing and joking, we need to understand the **Joy of Expectation**. The joy of the Lord will strengthen you through the most trying times. The joy of participation will keep you in the right perspective as you trudge through the trenches. But truth be told, it is still really tough. You need something to look to, and the joy of expectation will keep you going until you finally overcome. Think about this ... did Jesus have the joy of the Lord and the joy of participating in the Father's work? Of course He did. But did He go skipping and dancing along the Via Dolorosa? Did He display great mirth when He was nailed to the Cross? I think not. For sure, the obedience of Jesus to the mission kept Him going forward. But the writer of Hebrews provides another detail ... that Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despised its shame and overcame (Heb 12:2). We can and must have that same expectation of joy set before us that we will hold on and not give up, however dire the situation may be. As we suffer with Him, so we shall be glorified with Him (Rom 8:17). Jesus says *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."* Rev 3:21 What great expectation! What great joy!

The next time you need to "count it all joy", I hope that these three points would serve you well and keep you in good stead. Indeed, in the context of James 1:2-4, we are to consider it all joy because our faith is being perfected. My firm conviction is that it is only as we grow in spiritual maturity that we can more fully appreciate and appropriate the joy of the Lord, the joy of participation and the joy of expectation.

INDIA

Rev Francis and Sis Shirley were invited to attend the 35th Gudarala Panduga (Feast of Tabernacles) in Guntur India. This annual mega crusade was started in 1977 in Lemalle, a remote village near Guntur, and was later moved to Gorantla, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. This year, the crusade comprised of day meetings and three night rallies held over four days from March 1st – 4th.

This trip was a real experience for Rev Francis and Sis Shirley on many levels. They were overwhelmed by the number of people attending the 35th Gudarala Panduga. Numbers at the night rallies grew from two million on the first night to over 3.5 million by Saturday night. Ministers and other politicians also attended the meetings, coming in their motorcades with Police escorts and armed bodyguards. Throughout the day Rev Francis and Sis Shirley were escorted everywhere by Pastors to protect them from being mobbed by the people wanting prayers.

35th Feast of Tabernacles in Guntur, India

During the crusade, Rev Francis and Sis Shirley were honoured to declare the meetings open and to make the opening address. They were also asked to say special prayers for Pastor Yesanna, founder of Hosanna Ministries in India, his Media Ministry, and the launch of his latest DVDs.

They were also very impressed by Mandhir Hosanna, a new church that can accommodate 30,000 worshippers for each Service. The whole place was saturated by 24-hour prayer meetings. On Sunday, they attended a Service with a 100,000-strong congregation. 27 new pastors were ordained and they knelt for the whole duration of the service that lasted some four hours with three sermons being



preached! Rev Francis was blessed to be one of the Pastors who laid hands to pray, consecrate and ordain the new Pastors. Also on that date, over 20,000 baptisms took place, lasting from morning to night.



All in all, it was a wonderful, marvelous and an eye-opening trip. The pair came back to Singapore with a renewed awe of God and a desire for such a hunger for God to grow in the local churches here in our own country.

CVNews



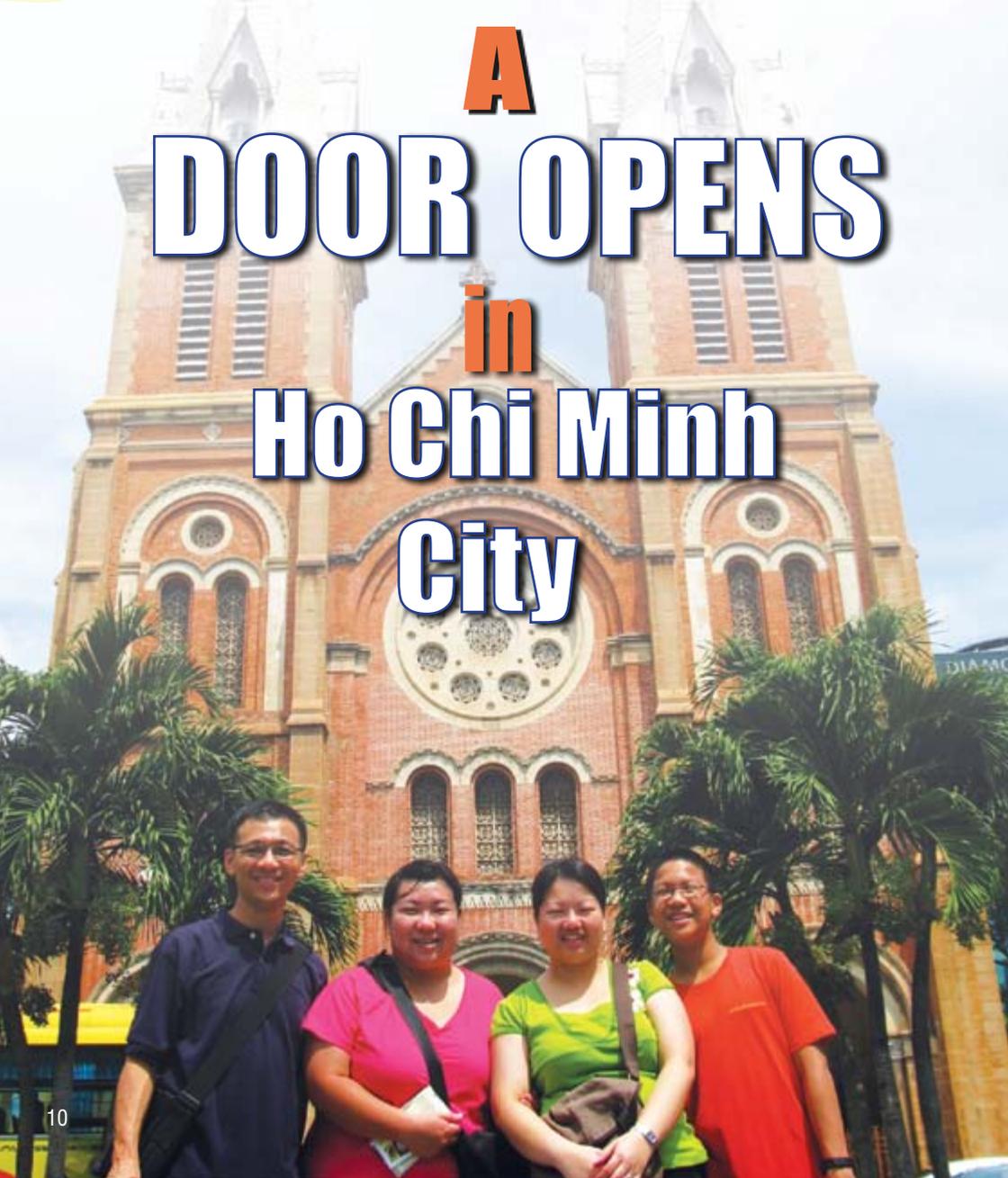
First Fruits



It was evident that God was at work even before Rev Francis and Sis Shirley got to the crusade. On boarding the Hyderabad Express for the 8-hour journey to Guntur, they found that their four berth sleeper cabin had been booked with six occupants, so no one could lie down to sleep. But it was a divine appointment to share the Gospel of the Kingdom with a father and son pair. Glory to Jesus!

HO CHI

A DOOR OPENS in Ho Chi Minh City



Over the Good Friday weekend (6-8 April 2012), Rev Henson Lim led a 4-member team to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. They were invited by the Methodist Missions Society (MMS) to preach at the International Christian Fellowship (ICF) at their very first Good Friday Service and Resurrection Sunday Evangelistic Service. ICF, headed by Pastor Albert Low, a Singaporean businessman who has been working in Vietnam for 16 years, is a church plant of Methodist Missions Society catering to expatriates working in Vietnam. Church licenses are difficult to come by in communist Vietnam so it is indeed the Lord's favour that the government approved MMS' application and ICF was started one and a half years ago.

At the Good Friday Service, Rev Henson preached "Boldness by the Blood", a message about the Blood of Jesus that has brought us redemption, into the New Covenant and a restored relationship with God. Because of the finished work of Jesus on the Cross, we can live bold and victorious lives! On Resurrection Sunday, the message "Made for Life" reminded the people of the power of Jesus' resurrection and that we are all made for life in His Kingdom. Many worshippers rededicated their lives to Jesus, and one lady responded to the call to believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

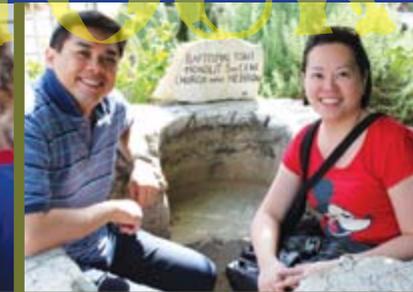
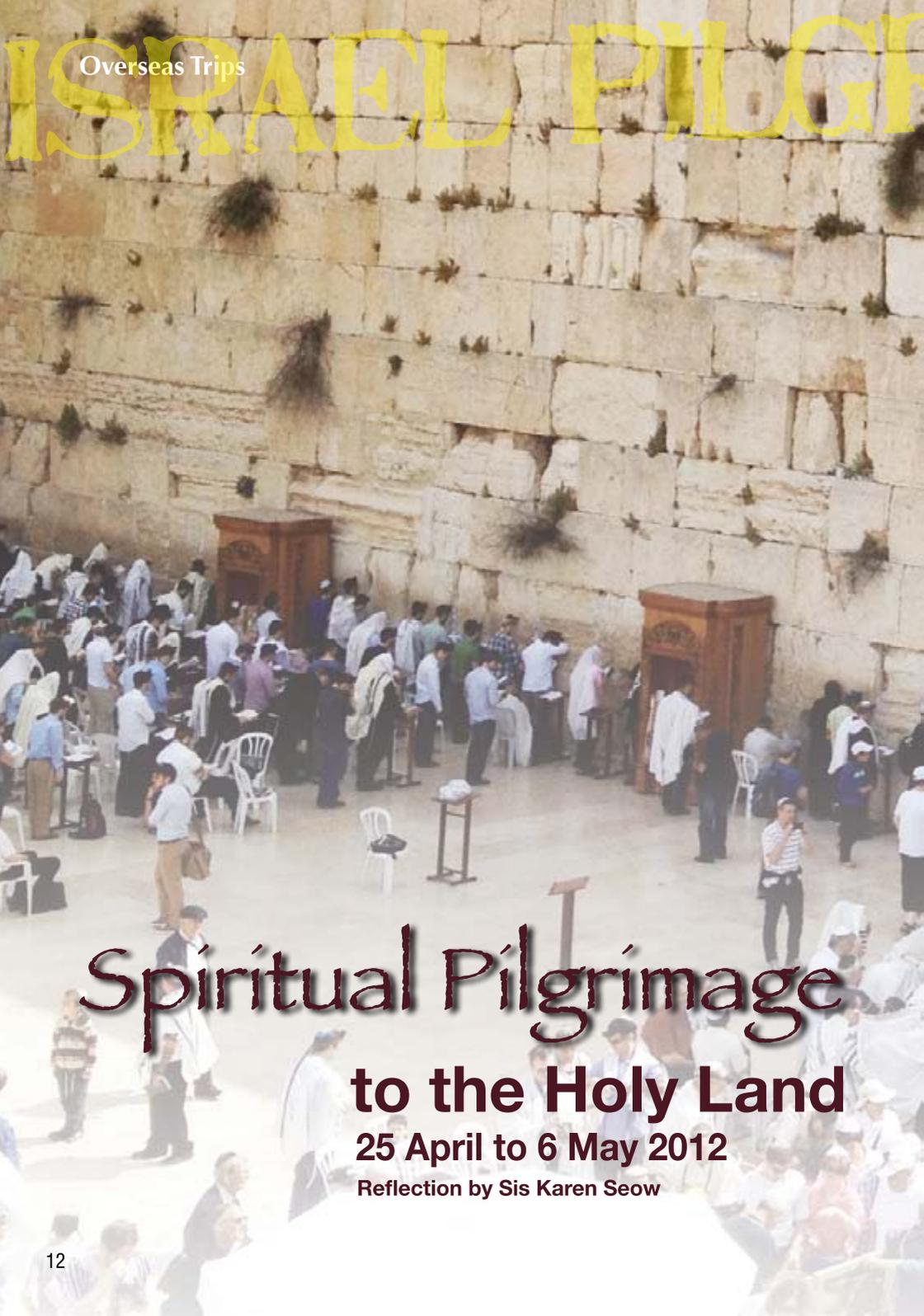
The team that supported Rev Henson comprised of Sis Linda Yong, Sis Madeleine Chiang and Bro David Lim. Each of them had an opportunity to minister as well. At the Good Friday service, Sis Madeleine shared her testimony of how God healed her of a genetic skin allergy. On Sunday, Sis Linda shared a song "Grace" by Laura Story, accompanied by Bro David on the piano.

During the trip, the team had the opportunity to be "tourists". They walked around the city, taking in the sights, culture and people. They also got to fellowship with a fellow sister-in-Christ, who accepted Jesus as Saviour a few weeks earlier in Singapore at Rev Henson's teaching on the Old Testament ("39").

Though it was a short trip, the Lord was with the team. Regardless constraints and restrictions, Vietnam is a land with many opportunities for the gospel to be preached and the love of Jesus to be shared with the Vietnamese people. We believe that God is doing something exciting in Vietnam and He will open new doors for more such trips. In the meantime, let us keep praying for the country and for God to prepare the ground for a mighty outpouring and move of His Holy Spirit! [CVNews](#)



ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE TOUR



Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 25 April to 6 May 2012

Reflection by Sis Karen Seow

Our group of 36, led by Rev Francis and Sis Shirley, flew via Hong Kong to Tel Aviv. At about midnight on 25th April, the eve of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, we arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, Israel, greeted by our guide, a Messianic Jew, Naomi of Sar El Tours.

The next day, with less than five hours of sleep, we were ushered into our 10-day itinerary. The physical tiredness and having to adjust to the time difference seamlessly faded away as the excitement took over. On this very first day, we went to various sites (Herod's Theatre at Caesarea, Mt. Carmel and Megiddo), recounting the events that took place, the characters that were involved, and that made Bible reading come alive! The painstakingly recovered archaeological evidences no doubt point to the fact that our God and His Words are real!

As the trip progressed, there was so much downloading of information. We were also busy keeping a lookout for important camera shots and capturing 'Kodak' moments. More importantly, I thank the Lord that there were moments of re-examination, reflections, recollections and reassurances of His faithfulness, and there were several key lessons I will take with me. Here are some highlights of the trip for me.

Israel - As we were on the road to a Kibbutz where Rabbi Ariel and wife Talia (Messianic Jews) lived, I could not help but to marvel and be captivated by the beauty of the scenery, a picture of peace and serenity. Through a short time of sharing by the couple, we realised we needed to come alongside them to keep Israel in our prayers. It also dawned on me that indeed I was in my Father's land and walking on the same roads that Jesus may have stepped on, made me realise how privileged I was to be in Israel.

Mount of Beatitudes - There, Rev Francis led us in a song "Love You So Much", and as we sang the line "Hear these praises of a grateful heart", emotions overwhelmed me. Indeed there is so much to be grateful for and truly God deserves all our praises and gratitude. Rev Francis then recounted the passage that Jesus taught at the Sermon of the Mount on 'The Beatitudes' and shared the importance of having the right attitudes in our hearts and to grow in spiritual maturity.

Tel Dan Nature Reserve - As we stepped into the nature reserve, the sound of the running water flowing from the Jordan River to the Dan River was so loud and energising. As we sat

ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE TOUR



at an area in the reserve, Naomi shared that the spring water that flows into this river is so pure that the quality of the water is better than the drinking water from our tap. We also saw figs trees with fruit. I was reminded of Psalms 1:3 *"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither whatever they do prospers."*

Ein Harod – We visited the Spring where Gideon selected 300 men for his army and our guide related the account in Judges 6 and 7. The Lord was with Gideon but he continued to doubt his own ability and saw himself as the weakest in Manasseh and the least in his family, constantly fearful and needing assurances. But if God never gave up on Gideon and revealed His faithfulness as the almighty God, we ought not to give up and be discouraged when situations are trying.

Pools of Bethesda - We are familiar with the story of how Jesus healed a paralytic who had been wanting to get into the pool each time the water was "stirred" but no one would help. Rev Francis shared that though the man had placed his faith in the pool, Jesus still chose to heal him. It was an episode of God's sovereignty and graciousness. We were also privileged to have a short time of worship in St. Anne Church just next to the pools. As a song of praise was released (without any sound system), a perfect sound filled the air owing to the acoustic



design of the church. It was perhaps the best acoustic I have ever heard, amazingly awesome! During the time of worship, I sensed the Lord asking me: "Do you love me"? I often say I love you Lord, but do I really love Him? Indeed, God is so gracious, merciful and faithful. Even when I do not love him the way He desires, He still continues pour forth His love to me. How great is He!

Of course throughout the trip there were many other highlights, for example a fun time floating in the dead sea, the camel ride at Genesis Land, visit to Masada where the Jews sacrificed their own lives than to let it fall into the hands of the Romans, the visit the Qumran caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, the visit to the synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus taught, worshipped and performed many miracles, our worship session on a boat right in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, and many more.

I believe many of us were touched or experienced the Lord in a deeper manner in one way or other. Two group members shared of their healing miracles that took place during the trip, and many friendships developed. Personally, I embarked on this trip with an expectant heart, hoping for an extraordinary encounter with God and He revealed His faithfulness and taught me much. The time spent in Israel was fruitful, enjoyable and enriching. I could not ask for more but perhaps a return visit to this Holy Land in the near future. [CVNews](#)

CHURCH UPDATE



Covenant Vision Christian Church Update



theme was "Kingdom Alive!" For the third year of the church, the theme "Kingdom Expression" helped us focus on reaching out beyond the church walls through evangelism, outreach and social concerns.

For this year, the Lord laid upon our hearts the theme, "Kingdom Expansion". We were to focus on numerical multiplication and growing church ministries, church physical facilities and the size of our church congregation.

In the area of ministries, we launched our Mighty Men's Ministry this year (read about it on page 24). We have also launched an ALPHA Home Ministry that will be pushed out through our Discipleship Groups. We have also been prayerfully seeking the Lord about the extension of our Youth and Young Adult's Ministry (read about it on page 22).

In the area of growing church physical facilities, we are now seeking the Lord for new premises that will be able to cater to the various areas of ministries. Besides a bigger Sanctuary, we are also prayerfully asking God for more space and facilities for our growing Children's Ministry, Firestarters and other Covenant Vision Ministries.

We have also been challenged to increase our congregation size and we are now prayerfully seeking God for fulfilment of the word He gave us in 2008 to focus on building up the people 'qualitatively, and the numbers would then grow quantitatively!' We have been encouraged to see our people catching the vision and inviting their friends and loved ones to church.

Once again, we thank God for His direction and how He has seen us through thus far. We give Him all praise and honour and pray that He will continue to take Covenant Vision Christian Church forward in 2012 and beyond. [CVNews](#)

It has been an exciting seven months for Covenant Vision Christian Church since we celebrated our 3rd Anniversary in November 2011. We were wrapping up a fruitful year and believing God for yet another one as we ushered in 2012.

We have seen God directing us in our focus from year to year. For the first year of the church, the focus was on transformation of the individual and the theme chosen was "TransforMEtion". For the second year the theme was about manifesting the Kingdom together as a corporate body and the

DISCIPLESHIP



Unfortunately, many Christians today are not aware of who they are in Christ and what living a life in Christ means. Many go on struggling with the same issues they were facing before they became saved and their lives are far from victorious.

Neil T. Anderson, in his book "Who I am in Christ", says we need to know who we are as children of God because "we cannot consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with how we perceive ourselves... It is not what we do that determines who we are. It is who we are that determines what we do". He then goes on to explain in great detail that we are accepted in Christ, we have security in Christ and we have significance in Christ.

The Pastors of CVCC have more than 50 years of ministry under their belts and they believe that this is what the body of Christ needs to know, appropriate and live out on a daily basis. That led the Pastoral team to decide to teach this basic fundamental truth to the people of CVCC.

The team felt that the Discipleship Groups (DGs) were the ideal channel through which the truths could be discussed, wrestled with and internalised. Over four months from January to April 2012, our DGs went through the book by Neil T. Anderson and began their journey of discovering who they were in Christ. They addressed issues such as justification, forgiveness, adoption, freedom from fear, purpose, appointment and many more.

We believe that as they have gone through these fundamental truths, they will begin to walk in newness of life with a clear understanding of their identity in Christ. That they will be able to say as Paul did in Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." [CVNews](#)

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

The most important thing one needs to know and believe is that Jesus died for us and paid the penalty for our sins, opening the way to salvation and being reconciled with the Father. But that is not the end. Salvation ushers us into a brand new life – one that is IN CHRIST (2 Cor 5:17). This is eternal life that begins the moment you accept Jesus (1 John 5:11-12) and is one of abundance and fullness (John 10:10).

DISCIPLESHIP



BREAKTHROUGH

W E E K E N D S

This is a new initiative for the church and the intention of these close-door sessions of about 25-30 people is to walk with them, pray with them, and teach them. They learn to allow God to break in, so that they can break with, resulting in a breakthrough in their lives.

Over two separate weekends in February and March, the Pastoral team conducted two breakthrough weekends for the leaders and assistant leaders of the Discipleship Groups. These two sessions were held for the leaders to have their own breakthroughs so they can then lead others to a point where God can then break through in their lives.

These first two initial sessions were separated into a men's breakthrough weekend and a women's breakthrough weekend to allow for gender specific discussions and to give them a chance to share in confidence, pray for one another and speak into each other's lives.

The sessions were indeed successful and we are now organising our next breakthrough weekend in August. We continue to believe that God will move mightily during these sessions and more and more of the people in CVCC will walk in the freedom they have in Jesus Christ. [CVNews](#)

DYNAMITEZ



The good news is that the Bible tells us that though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh and the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:4-5). In Christ we are overcomers and more than conquerors. Our victory is secure. We must believe that we are on the winning side in the battle for our youth and young adults.

At Covenant Vision Christian Church, we have a good number of youth and young adults aged 13 to 30. While we don't have an active youth or young adults ministry in CVCC yet, this small group of people have started planting the seed. As a church, we want to be faithful with the few that God has given us and through these few, God can grow the ministry.

On 14 January 2012, about 28 youths, young adults, parents and those who had a heart for this age group came together for a one-day event "Dynamitez". The aim was to come together for dialogue and talk about the direction for this group of people, what problems we may face in connecting with them, possible solutions and how we can grow the ministry.

The dialogue session, which yielded great suggestions, came after a morning of team building through fun and games. The day concluded with the group fellowshiping over delicious barbequed food.

Our prayer continues to be that our youth and young adults will rise up for the Lord and be light bearers in this dark and fallen world. Please join us in prayer as we take this ministry forward in the years to come. [CVNews](#)

DYNAMITEZ

There is a war going on – for the souls of our youth. The forces of darkness are working overtime to ensure that the young people of today are drawn away from God. In this day and age where they are being bombarded daily with very enticing world views, we need to step up to ensure they don't get led astray.



MIGHTY MEN



Mighty Men

Real Men. True Sons. Spiritual Fathers. Godly Leaders.

The inspiration for the ministry came from the biblical account of David's Mighty Men in 2 Samuel 23:3-39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10-47. The Bible tells us that these 400 men, mostly riff-rafs and rejects, came to David distressed, in debt, and discontented. Yet under the love and leadership of this great King, they found hope, purpose and destiny. Today, in and through Jesus, the Son of David, the same promise is available to all men!

The mission of CVCC's Men's Ministry, Mighty Men, is to reach, restore, raise and release men into the fullness of their calling in the church, marriages, families and marketplaces. Co-ordinated by Bro Eric Teo and Bro Daniel Yong under the leadership of Rev Henson Lim, it was established with discipleship as its key focus. As Bro Eric explains it, "Men's Ministry is to rally men around men, by the grace of God, to walk together to support, strengthen, encourage, provoke one another, to realise the fullness of his calling in the Lord."



Though Mighty Men was launched in 2012, foundations were laid much earlier through prayer. In Oct 2011, 11 men, including the Pastors of CVCC went for an equipping seminar by the Men's Ministry Network at Kum Yan Methodist Church. They gained much insight into the need for a men's ministry and how to run one effectively.

On Saturday, 31 Mar 2012, Mighty Men held the first of their quarterly breakfast meetings. It was a tremendous encouragement to see 31 men come together very early on a rainy Saturday morning. After a hearty breakfast and fellowship, Rev Henson shared the vision and mission of the ministry before the men actively engaged one another in the group discussions. When the meeting ended, many stayed back to chat and connect.



Other plans in the pipeline for the Mighty Men include a men only breakthrough weekend, prayer and accountability partners, Bible study groups and get-togethers to encourage interest groups. Going forward, our prayer is that more men will rise up and be counted amongst the Mighty Men. In the words of Bro Eric, "My hope is for men to be so stirred with eyes focused on Jesus and to be more like Him." [CVNews](#)

The Mighty Men will be meeting on Saturdays, 30 June, 29 Sept and 29 Dec, 7.30am to 10.30am. Come, join us!

CVSOM GRADUATION

By this My Father
is glorified, that
you bear much
fruit; so you will
be My disciples.
John 15:8

Fruitful

CVSOM 4th Graduation Ceremony, 4 February 2012



A great sense of excitement and anticipation filled the sanctuary of Covenant Vision Centre as 32 Certificate and 13 Diploma Graduates from 19 different churches marked the end of their year of study at the Covenant Vision School of Ministry. But this ceremony was not so much one wrapping up a chapter in their lives, but the opening of a new one.

This year, the student body chose the theme "Fruitful" to represent their desire to apply what they had learnt at the school to bear fruit in their homes, workplaces, churches and communities. They wanted to remind each other as they took their next step, that they were not to rest on their laurels, but reproducing fruit in their lives and in the lives of others.

The CVSOM instructors, together with family, friends and loved ones witnessed each graduate being conferred their certificates. Two student representatives, Jennifer Lee (Certificate) and Alan Loke (Diploma), then addressed their fellow graduates, congratulating them on making it and encouraging them to continue being steadfast as ministers of the Kingdom and bringing God glory.

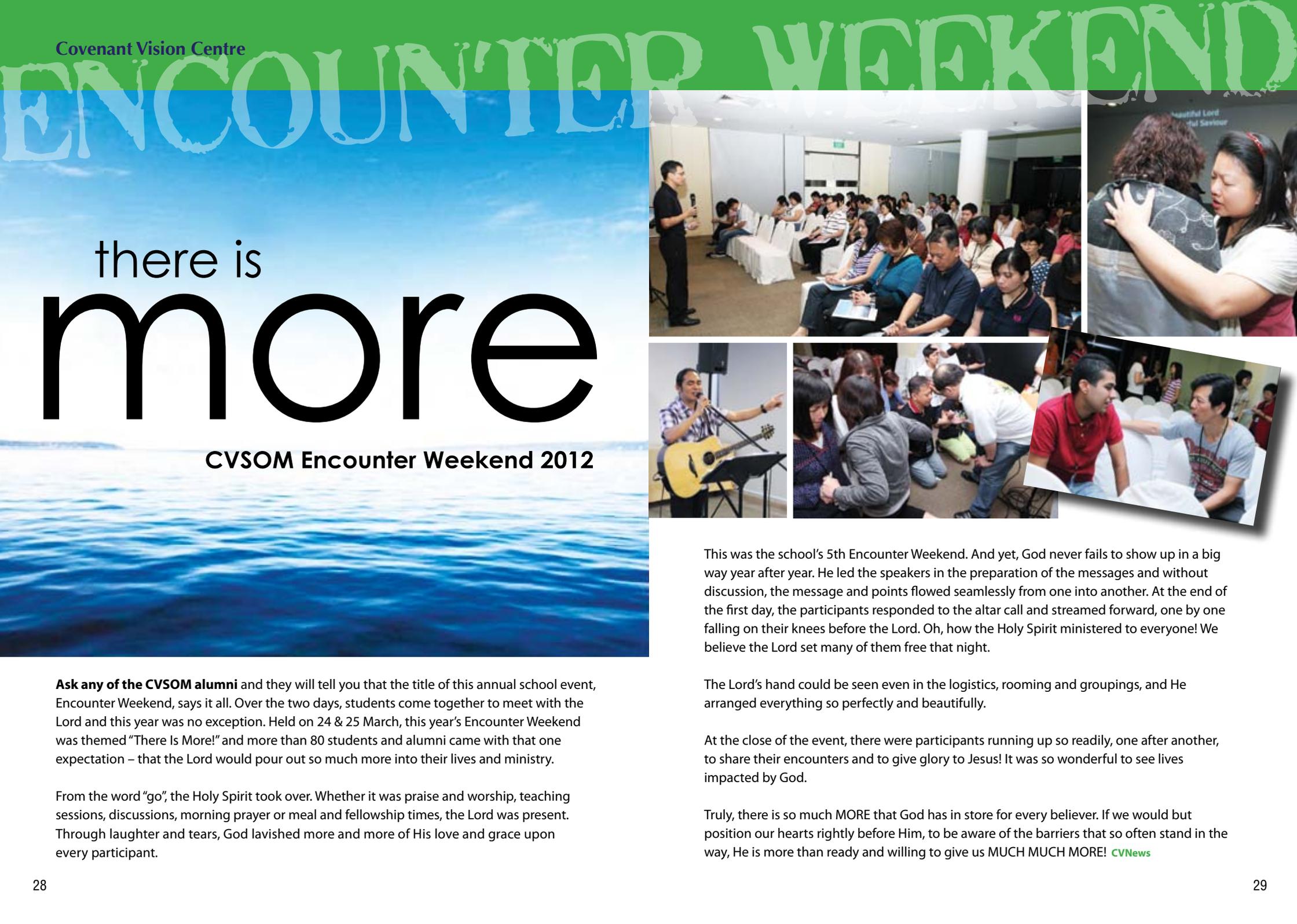
The graduates all come from diverse backgrounds, but the bonds which were formed during their year together learning and growing together in Christ, will stay with them for many years to come. Some of them would carry on to embark on the Diploma programme, some would further their theological studies in other institutions, but all would return to their churches and communities to shine the light for Jesus.

We thank God for each of their lives and we pray that they will continue to MINISTER, MATURE and MANIFEST. CVNews

About the School

Covenant Vision School of Ministry aims to challenge every Christian to be doers of the Word. There are two programmes on offer – the Certificate in Practical Christian Ministry and the Diploma in Practical Christian Ministry. These courses are practical and meaningful as the key emphasis is for knowledge to be used and applied in each person's life, situations and spiritual walk. These programmes are not just for those with a fulltime ministry call, but for all in the Body of Christ who understand their call as fulltime Christians.

For more information, please visit www.cvsom.org.



ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

there is more

CVSOM Encounter Weekend 2012



Ask any of the CVSOM alumni and they will tell you that the title of this annual school event, Encounter Weekend, says it all. Over the two days, students come together to meet with the Lord and this year was no exception. Held on 24 & 25 March, this year's Encounter Weekend was themed "There Is More!" and more than 80 students and alumni came with that one expectation – that the Lord would pour out so much more into their lives and ministry.

From the word "go", the Holy Spirit took over. Whether it was praise and worship, teaching sessions, discussions, morning prayer or meal and fellowship times, the Lord was present. Through laughter and tears, God lavished more and more of His love and grace upon every participant.

This was the school's 5th Encounter Weekend. And yet, God never fails to show up in a big way year after year. He led the speakers in the preparation of the messages and without discussion, the message and points flowed seamlessly from one into another. At the end of the first day, the participants responded to the altar call and streamed forward, one by one falling on their knees before the Lord. Oh, how the Holy Spirit ministered to everyone! We believe the Lord set many of them free that night.

The Lord's hand could be seen even in the logistics, rooming and groupings, and He arranged everything so perfectly and beautifully.

At the close of the event, there were participants running up so readily, one after another, to share their encounters and to give glory to Jesus! It was so wonderful to see lives impacted by God.

Truly, there is so much MORE that God has in store for every believer. If we would but position our hearts rightly before Him, to be aware of the barriers that so often stand in the way, He is more than ready and willing to give us MUCH MUCH MORE! [CVNews](#)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH SEMINAR



The Need For Spiritual Growth



Spiritual growth is a process that God requires and expects everyone who calls themselves a Christian to go through. After we receive Christ, we are to grow into His image and likeness and the way to do that is to grow in the Word, the expression of Christ Himself. Using the parallel of the diet of a baby, the author of Hebrews tells us that if we do not grow and move away from milk (elementary teachings) and take solids, we will become dull of hearing. We will be unable to discern between good and evil (Heb 5:11-14). In our day and age where deception is rife, it is vital that we are able to receive the solid food of God's Word and grow towards full maturity in our relationship with Christ.

Before establishing the Spiritual Growth Seminars (SGS), Rev Francis was running the Caldecott small group of Wesley Methodist Church out of his home. When he stepped into full time ministry, his passion to continue bringing Word-based, Spirit-led and Faith-filled teaching and ministry to the Body at large resulted in the setting up of the Spiritual Growth Seminars in April 1999 under Covenant Vision Centre.

Today, these meetings continue to be an avenue through which anyone and everyone can come and feed on the Word of God. Every Friday at 8pm we go deeper into the Word of God and we are very encouraged that Christians from various churches and denominations are benefitting from the teachings.

In the last year alone, we have gone through Joshua, Philippians, the Joseph account and this year we have started going through the entire Old Testament in a series called "39". We have also seen overseas speakers come and teach at our SGS, complementing the teachings by Rev Francis, Rev Henson and team here at Covenant Vision.

Our prayer is that Christians will receive the teachings and apply them, that they may grow spiritually to be Word-based, Spirit-led and Faith-filled Christians, shining for Jesus day after day. [CVNews](#)

PLOUGHING HANDS



Joshua & Mandy

Joshua Ng, with his wife Mandy, and their two children Valerie and Jeriel have been attending CVCC since 2009. Joshua currently works as a sales engineer in a local company and Mandy is a stay-at-home mum. You can see them regularly serving at our services as either ushers or greeters. Valerie and Jeriel are also always helping out in any way they can.



How did you come to serve at CVCC?

In the past, we had the wrong understanding and thought that we had to wait for God to tell us when He wanted us to serve. However, shortly after attending CVCC, we knew we had to make the first step as we had a strong desire to serve Him. We decided that we could not be laid back anymore or just sit around waiting, when we could actually start to serve in small ways. So we both approached Sis Shirley to see where we could serve. She told us that the church actually needed more ushers and greeters, and that's how we started to serve in these two areas of ministry.

How have you been blessed since serving here at CVCC?

Serving gives us the opportunity to get to know more people in church. We rejoice when we see people, young and old, coming to church together to worship God. As a greeter, we want them to feel the joy and warmth as they step into church, and we are blessed when we receive the same warmth from them. Our children, Valerie and Jeriel also like to serve in church together with us, and they always look forward to the days that we are on duty. We think it is important that they learn how to serve with a cheerful heart at a young age.

Serving also helps us to learn to humble ourselves and have a servant heart. We are also blessed to see people who are different individually and who come from different backgrounds worshipping God in one accord. We are blessed to be part of this big family. Romans 12:5 says that in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.





COVENANT VISION

Life



COVENANT VISION

Extending Love & Providing Hope Through Faith In Jesus Christ

Covenant Vision Centre

Covenant Vison Spiritual Growth Seminars Teaching & Ministry (Every Friday 8.00pm) www.covenantvision.org

Covenant Vision Worship & Creative Arts A Lifestyle of Worship

Covenant Vision School of Ministry Word-based, Spirit-led, Faith-filled Training www.cvsom.org

Covenant Vision Media & Resources Reaching the World through Multi-Media

Covenant Vision Christian Mission

Covenant Vision Prayer Powerhouse Shaping Events & Lives through Prayer (Every Monday 7.30pm)

Covenant Vision Women's Action Ministry Restoration & Reconciliation for Women (By Appointment)

Touch Jesus, He Heals! Evangelism, Healing and Wholeness (Every 3rd Saturday 7.00pm)

Covenant Vision Christian Church

Service Every Sunday 10.00am. www.covenantvisionchurch.org

Online Resources

Covenant Vision Media Centre

www.covenantvision.org/mediacentre

Covenant Vision E-Store

www.covenantvision.org/estore



Listen to our free sermons on **Podcast** by searching "Covenant Vision" in the iTunes store. Download them and listen to them on the go with your iPhone, iPod or any mp3 player.



Also find us on **Facebook** or follow us on **Twitter** (user name 'covenantvision').



COVENANT VISION
School of Ministry

Certificate & Diploma in Practical Christian Ministry



At Covenant Vision School of Ministry, we are convinced that every person in Christ has the potential to manifest His glory. Regardless your call or vocation, the promise of the fullness of God is yours to receive.

The Certificate in Practical Christian Ministry is a one-year basic, entry-level programme that is manageable, attainable and effective. Specially designed for the busy working individual, it has been structured with a holistic approach to provide the necessary training and exposure for each participant.



After graduation from the Certificate programme, the graduates are encouraged (though not obligated) to proceed to the Diploma Programme. This programme is a one-year follow-on programme tailored to further equip, gear and direct the individual for practical ministry.

Not only will these programmes change the way you look at Christian Ministry, it will also position you for transformation in your spiritual walk. If your desire is to be even more effective for the Lord, sign up today and get ready to be moulded by the Potter and emerge ready for the Master's use.



*For more information or to download
an application form,
visit www.cvsom.org.
You can also email us at
cvsom@covenantvision.org
or call us at 6391 0027.*