

COVENANT VISION

Covenant Vision Christian Mission (ROS 286/99 REL)

News



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Kingdom Expression

**Hear from the
CVSOM Alumni**

**Launch of
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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.

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Cover Photo by Eddy Woo
Warming up before embarking on The Amazing Race (the CVCC way) at the CVCC Camp from the 5th - 8th June 2011.



From the Desk of Rev Francis Khoo

Dearly Beloved of Jesus,

I bid you warmest greetings from all of us here at Covenant Vision Ministry!

As a ministry, we entered our 14th year in July 2011.

Our vision continues to be to preach the gospel of the Kingdom and to make disciples through being a 'living bridge to a lost and needy world, by extending love and providing hope through faith in Jesus Christ'. It has been a tremendous journey in our service to the Lord and we have learnt so much as each year passed.

Through our own personal Christian journey, we have come to realise that the life and teachings of Jesus have been marginalised. As a result, many believers end up having a 'form of godliness but denying the power of God' 2 Timothy 3:5. Further they could be 'ever learning, yet never coming to the knowledge of truth' 2 Timothy 3:7. Consequently, many can attend church for a lifetime, yet not be able to internalised what they believe so as to live out the commands of Christ in their daily lives.

It also became clear to us that Jesus had to be central in all things. So began a study of the life that Jesus lived on earth as a man, the lessons that He taught under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the stories that He told and the wisdom in the revelations that He shared. The words of Matthew 11:29-30 to 'take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light' began to resonate in us.





This grew to become a burning and consuming desire to learn from Jesus, to live like Jesus, to love like Jesus, and to be able to lead like Jesus. Yes, to imitate our Lord Jesus Christ in every way so as to be, in all things, just like Jesus! With this came the understanding that a disciple, though not above his teacher when fully taught, trained, imparted to and empowered by his teacher, will ultimately be like his teacher. Oh such exciting as well as liberating revelation and understanding. Glory to Jesus!

In 2005, the Lord Jesus began to lay on our heart a burden to establish a church that would be a model of what we have come to believe and had been teaching and advocating. A 3-year struggle started as we did not want to affect the trans-denominational nature and the neutrality enjoyed by Covenant Vision in being a para-church ministry.

But the burden would not go away and finally in September 2008, Covenant Vision Christian Church was registered. Our church services started in November 2008 and in this we then saw pastoral care and accountability being added as additional areas of responsibility to the already multi-faceted work of Covenant Vision Ministry.

Much has happened since then and we have seen the church grow not only in quantitative numbers, but also its members growing qualitatively in spiritual maturity and understanding. Today, we see 'Kingdom Expression' as members are actively sharing Jesus with relatives,

friends, colleagues and even with people in the nearby food courts around the church. In the last few months, we have truly seen 'Kingdom Expansion' as the fruit of this 'Kingdom Expression' in the many new believers accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior at our various services. In November 2011, the church celebrates its 3rd anniversary and we are rejoicing in what God has done in our midst. Glory to Jesus!

We are constantly reminded that all that has been accomplished would not have been possible without the faithfulness, grace and mercy of a loving Heavenly Father as well as the co-labour of so many saints who have sown sacrificially in prayers, time and finances over the years. For all this, we are sincerely humbled and eternally grateful.

I pray that as you read this newsletter, you will catch glimpses of our passion in ministry as well as experience the exciting walk of faith we have had in serving our Lord Jesus Christ!

May God bless you and your family, in all ways, in all things, at all times and in all that you do!

In Jesus' Love,

Rev. Francis S.H. Khoo

Rev Wilfred Png



Rev Wilfred is no stranger to the Covenant Vision family.

He was a Covenant Vision ministry partner for three years from 2004 to 2006, and is currently a CVSOM instructor. Rev Wilfred joins us bringing 28 years of experience as a pastor, teacher and missionary. Before this, he was actively serving in Cairnhill Methodist Church as Chairperson of Discipleship and Nurture, and Co-director of the Healing Rooms Ministry. Rev Wilfred is happily married to Kathryn and they have three children.

Here at CVCC, Rev Wilfred will be overseeing the area of Discipleship. He has also been tasked to head the area of Counselling, Healing and Deliverance.

We took some time to speak to Rev Wilfred to find out how he came to join Covenant Vision again and his vision for the various areas of ministry he's heading. Here's what he had to say.

Rev Wilfred, how did you come to join Covenant Vision Ministry?

During the Easter season this year, as the Chairperson for Discipleship and Nurture in my previous church, I was pondering on how to implement a church-wide discipleship programme. I decided to read through the entire New Testament and I came to the conclusion that discipleship is a big thing and overseeing a church-wide programme like this required a full-time person. I was very honest with myself as I knew I couldn't fulfill the role as a lay person.

I asked myself "what is the best kind of church to do a proper discipleship programme?" From reading the New Testament, I realised that it should be an apostolic church where the five-fold ministry is present and I thought of Covenant Vision.

I made an appointment with Rev Francis to bounce off my thoughts with him. During our meeting, he shared the church's plans for discipleship and the church's ethos. More meetings and discussions ensued and finally he invited me to join the ministry. Even after accepting the invitation, I struggled. The cost to me at that time was the freedom I had as an itinerant minister. But discipleship is not doing what you want to do. It's doing what God wants you to do.

With the benefit of hindsight now, I truly believe that this was by divine appointment. Whilst I joined the ministry with some apprehension because I wasn't sure how I would adjust having been itinerant for so long, I believe I have settled in well and I know it is because it was God's leading.

How do you plan to develop the area of Discipleship?

First, I want to focus on the Discipleship Group (DG) leaders and assistant leaders by spending time with them. I believe the growth of the church, both quantitatively and qualitatively, hinges on the quality of the leaders.

Discipleship is not just about DGs. It is a lifelong journey of following after the Lord. We all need to internalise three great spiritual truths - who God is, who we are in Christ and that Christ lives in us. It took me decades to learn these truths myself and I believe I am now in a position to be able to help others realise these truths for themselves. My main task now is to walk alongside the key leaders and give them spiritual direction and lead them to these truths as well so they can in turn help those in their DGs to grow.

What about in the area of Counselling, Healing and Deliverance?

The term "counselling" sounds very secular and there is always the danger of following the world's approach to counselling. Whilst I know that counselling can help people, my concern is that they are depending on the counsellor for help rather than on God. So I am very mindful that we must not only be addressing needs, but redirecting them to Christ. We must also call them into accountability.

I am still praying and seeking God to direct this ministry so these people can encounter God that it would transform their lives and to bring them into some form of discipleship so that we can walk with them on this journey.

If there is one truth that you would like to share with the everyone, what would that be?

"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." Galatians 2:20

This is the truth I want to bring to people. It took me a long time, to the age of 57, to grasp this truth. I had to come to a place of complete brokenness where I realised my need for complete dependence on God. It was there I found I had a life within - it was Christ in me. The Christ life was always there but I didn't allow it to grow. I did everything, fast, pray etc. But that was the problem; I was doing it with my own strength. It is not I but Christ. That is a powerful truth. In my new role here at Covenant Vision, I hope to be able to save people many agonising years and lead them to this truth sooner so that they can live more meaningful and fulfilled lives earlier. [CVNews](#)



Discipleship Auditions

Rev Henson Lim

A couple of months back, I was chatting with one of my church members who is a violinist. She had just graduated with a Music degree and was involved in nightly rehearsals for an upcoming concert. From what I hear, it was really tough and gruelling. But she was willing to press on, to suffer, for the sake of playing amongst the best and learning all she could learn. Amidst all these, she was going to audition to learn under another violin teacher. But wait! I thought she had already graduated! Why another audition and another teacher? Why more lessons? More practising? More stress? I can only conclude that she wants to hone her skills, to learn even more, and to really excel.

As she shared this with me, a thought crossed my mind ... what if Christians were just as serious in their walk with Jesus, in discipleship? These would never be satisfied with just a weekly dose of nice-sounding sermons. They would attend classes to learn more – and not just learn but would also be willing to practise, practise and practise. My friend shared with me of how her fingers would cramp up and her back would ache due to the many hours of practice and training. At times, even standing or walking would prove difficult. But she pressed on, for the sake of her craft! Oh, if Christians would be willing to suffer the same and more for the sake of their own spiritual growth, not to mention for Jesus, their Lord and for the sake of His gospel.

These would be willing to be directed by the conductor, as he pleased. If the conductor passed a negative, stinging remark, the musician's day is ruined. But if he said, "Well done!", what joy and satisfaction! Oh, if only the believer would regard the words of Jesus as seriously and passionately. After all, is He not the Maestro of all maestros? Is He not the Conductor of one's life, if we would allow Him to direct us as He pleases?

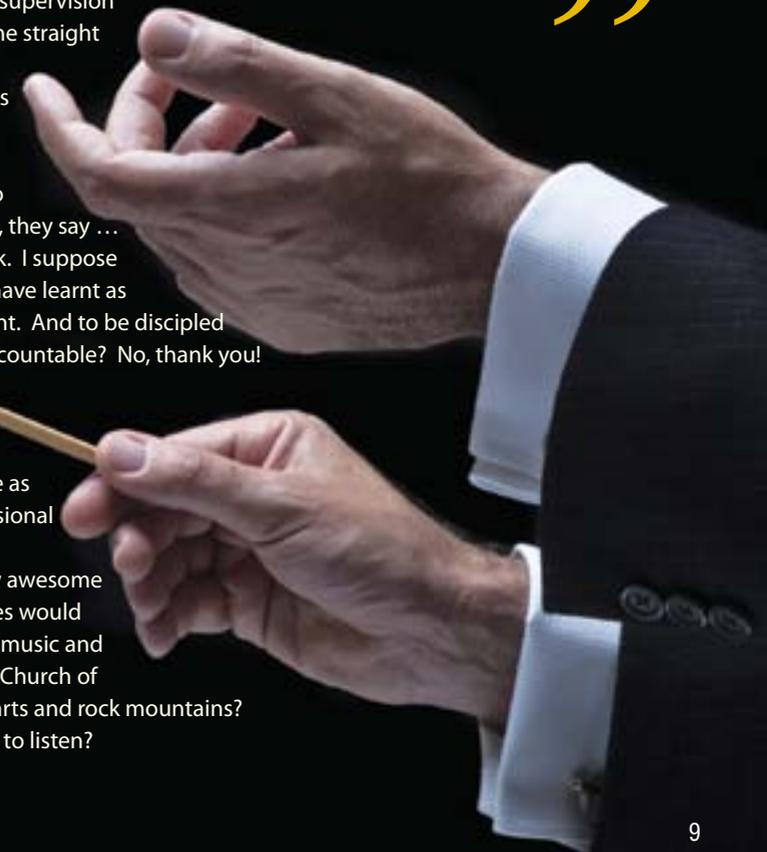
These would not stop at having attended a seminar or a conference every now and then. Instead, like my musician sister, they would be prepared to audition for the next level of training. Much like the people of Jesus' days who sought rabbis to teach them and to help

them attain a deeper understanding of Scriptures. These would constantly be on a look out for one who would mentor and disciple them. These would place themselves under accountability and supervision so that they are kept on the straight and narrow path that leads to life. Are Christians as hungry, I wonder? Sadly, no. After a course of study, few are willing to go on. They need a break, they say ... and they never come back. I suppose they consider what they have learnt as enough, as sufficient. And to be disciplined and held accountable? No, thank you!

Interesting thought that crossed my mind. What if all Christians were as serious as the best professional musicians in the world? Can you just imagine how awesome God's orchestra of disciples would sound? Can you hear the music and the harmony? Would the Church of Jesus Christ not move hearts and rock mountains? Would the world not stop to listen?

CVNews

“ After all, is He not the Maestro of all maestros? Is He not the Conductor of one's life, if we would allow Him to direct us as He pleases? ”



THE CHURCH'S 3RD YEAR

As we headed into the 3rd year of our existence, we didn't know what was going to happen or how things were going to unfold, but we knew God was in control and orchestrating everything.

Now as we celebrate our 3rd Anniversary and reflect on the year that has passed, hindsight allows us to see the wonderful work God has been doing in our church and in the lives of the people who walk through our doors.

The focus of our church in the 3rd year was Kingdom Expression. We wanted to instill a culture of reaching beyond the church walls and expressing the love that Jesus has put into

our lives through evangelism, outreach and social concerns. The Chinese New Year Project Heartbeat and the Building Bridges Evangelistic training seminar, evangelistic services with Ps Steve Cioccolanti and our Holy Saturday movie outreach were various platforms for such expression. Our Church camp was also aptly themed "Kingdom Xpression" to drive home the need to be expressing the Kingdom anytime, anywhere.

In terms of growth, we have seen our congregation increase quantitatively with more attending our service, more getting baptised and more taking the step to become members of the church. But with the launch of Discipleship Groups and a strong focus on discipleship and accountability across ministries, the qualitative growth of the people is more to be celebrated. We have seen more testimonies, more people reaching out and more desiring to be further equipped for God's purposes.

We have also been building a culture of prayer and fasting in the church. The call for the Holy Week fast and the 40-Day lovesingapore prayer and fast were instrumental in promoting this. Additionally, we have a dedicated prayer team that meets every Wednesday to pray and intercede for the church.

The Children's Ministry launched its official name and identity "Firestarters" in January this year and has also seen a proportionate increase in numbers.

As you read more about the church in the following pages, please pray with us for God's purposes to be fulfilled in the lives of our people, that ultimately His name will be lifted high and glorified! **CVNews**

December 2010
 4 Dec 2010 The 1st children's ministry outing to Qian Hu Fish Farm & Bollywood Veggies
 19 Dec 2010 Special Evangelistic Church Service with Ps Steve Cioccolanti on his book "From Buddha to Jesus"

January 2011
 8 Jan 2011 10 candidates were baptised
 16 Jan 2011 Launch of the new children's ministry identity
 30 Jan 2011 Chinese New Year Project Heartbeat

February 2011
 12 Feb 2011 - Power Weekend with Rev Ken Harrison

March 2011
 6 Mar 2011 Infant & Child Dedication / Membership Exercise
 19 Mar 2011 Intensity, a monthly fellowship meeting of the worship team
 20 Mar 2011 Discipleship Groups briefing session
 20 Mar 2011 Presentation of Baptismal Certificates to two candidates who were baptised on 15 Mar

April 2011
 18 - 24 Apr 2011 Holy Week Fast and Devotion
 23 Apr 2011 Holy Week Outreach - Screening of the movie - China's Confession

May 2011
 17 May 2011 Building Bridges Evangelistic Seminar with Rev Dr David Geiser

June 2011
 5 - 8 Jun 2011 CVCC Camp at Le Granduer Palm Resort, Johore with Guset Speaker Ps Steve Ciccolanti

July 2011
 3 Jul 2011 Commissioning of Rev Wilfred Png
 25 Jun 2011 2 Candidates were baptised.
 1 Jul - 9 Aug 2011 We took part in the 40-Day lovesingapore prayer and fast. We also had prayers on every Wednesday during this period

August 2011
 8 Aug 2011 Day Of His Power, a lovesingapore concert and prayer at the Singapore Indoor Stadium

September 2011
 10 Sept 2011 7 Candidates were baptised
 10 Sept 2011 DG celebration dinner

October 2011
 2 Oct 2011 Infant & Child Dedication
 30 Oct 2011 Membership Exercise

DISCIPLESHIP

In his book **Radical**, David Platt states that the megastrategy of Jesus is to make disciples. As a church, we believe it is important to be part of Jesus' strategy but we are keenly aware that only disciples can make disciples. That's why we have a goal to have everyone in some form of discipleship.

But most people would think as Christians, they are already disciples. The Bible, however, makes a clear distinction between one in the multitudes who followed Jesus but solely for the signs and miracles, and the disciple who intentionally followed Jesus to learn from Him. At CVCC, we desire to develop disciples, and we have laid out the core values of our discipleship initiative – accountability, body building and commission – to focus on that.



Accountability

When we became Christians, we all began running a race and while it may feel like a long drawn marathon at times, the good news is that we do not run alone. Our fellow Christians are running and pushing on together with us. The enemy is also on the prowl seeking to destroy us (1 Pet 5:8) and he throws fiery darts at us all the time (Eph 6:16); that's why mutual support is necessary to weather these storms together.

The Bible tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things (Jer 17:9) and the ego is inflatable (Gal 6:3-4). That is why accountability is so important. Left on our own, we will deceive ourselves into thinking we're ok.

In the final days, we know that many will be deceived, if possible even the elect (Matt 24:3-5, 11, 24). We are also told that many will fall away (2 Tim 4:3-4 & 2 Thess 2:3) and perish because they do not love the truth (2 Thess 2:10). Being in an accountability relationship allows for discussion of the Word, that issues and concepts can be clarified, so that we can guard against deception.



Body Building

As a church, our desire is to present everyone perfect in Christ (Col 1:28) and that we will all come to a unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God (Eph 4:13). Spiritual growth is a key focus for us. Through the discipleship groups, we hope that the teaching and equipping will go beyond the pulpit and go deep in the lives of the people here at CVCC.

Romans 12:5 tells us that "In Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others." We exist not for ourselves, but for the body and for each other. On our own, we tend to be inward looking with a focus on self. But as we start to be involved with other people, pray with them and "do life" together, we build the body. And as the body of Christ is built, and as we show the world how we are able to be as one people united, loving one another, God is glorified.



Commission

Being commissioned simply means being sent. Jesus Himself was sent by God to bring salvation to the people and He tells His disciples in John 20:21 that He now sends them. As disciples, we must be ready to be sent by our Master. God is always at work around us and He wants us to be involved with Him. There are many ready platforms of ministry where God can already use us like in our personal relationships, our marketplaces, evangelistic outreaches, social concerns projects, hospital visitations, and the list goes on. The only prerequisite is a heart yielded to Him. [CVNews](#)

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

We launched Discipleship Groups (DG) in April 2011 as an avenue for discipleship within the church. About 80 people in 7 groups began their journey of Experiencing God through the workbook of the same name by Henry Blackaby.

This programme was chosen because it embodied the core values of Discipleship for the church. The group setting allowed for a natural accountability group to form and a platform to discuss and clarify spiritual issues and concepts outside the church setting.

The programme also helped members focus on the kingdom and what God is doing around them, rather than on self, investing in what is eternal versus what is passing away.

We have also been encouraged to see the DG members realising that God can use them anywhere and at any time. And as they responded in faith and made major adjustments in their lives, they have experienced God in unimaginable ways.

Through the 14 weeks, it has brought us great joy in seeing the individuals grow and bond in their groups, with many putting into practice what they had learnt. More than that, we saw them start to "do life" together. Testimonies of how the groups banded together in times of crisis and how they supported one another through life stages really encouraged the church. As we move into 2012, more have come forward to be part of discipleship groups. All glory to God! [CVNews](#)

Discipleship Groups
From left to right:
Koinonia and Trail Blazers.

Facing page from top to
bottom: Burning Bush,
Agape, Called To Be
Faithful, FootSteps and
truBranch.



7 Realities of Experiencing God

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.



KINGDOM EXPRESSION

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven"*

Matthew 5:16

It is not difficult to fall into the trap of thinking that salvation is the end all of Christianity; that when we say the sinner's prayer and we come into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are set. If that were the case, then the giants of the New Testament like Peter, Paul and John would not have had to do anything to spread the gospel. They could have sat back and relaxed; after all, they had already encountered the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet the Bible is clear that while we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved for a multi-faceted purpose that is largely to glorify our Father in Heaven.



Perhaps one of the key goals as a Christian is that of good works so that God can be glorified. We see this term "good works" used often in the New Testament. In Ephesians 2:10 we are told that we are created in Christ Jesus for good works and in Titus 2:14, Paul teaches that Jesus redeemed us, His own special people who are zealous for good works.

In Singapore especially, we are very familiar with the term "work". The reality is that many of us work too much. But our 9 to 5 job is not the kind of good work God is asking us to do. Very often, the daily grind takes so much out of us that we have no more energy to do anything else.

What we need to know is that we do not manufacture good works. These are natural result of the work of God in our hearts (Phil 2:13). Further, these are also "prepared" (Eph 2:10) by God for us. God Himself has a plan for our lives that is a piece of His all-encompassing big picture. If we walk in the good works that God has prepared for us, we would be walking in His will.

Knowing this then, we can say that perhaps a mindset shift is necessary to see that good works is a natural outflow of our relationship with God. When we are in that relationship with Him and He is working in us, what we will see is an unexplainable zeal to do only what is pleasing and glorifying to Him. This may be simply sharing the gospel with a colleague or sharing your testimony with someone who really needs to hear a real life example that God exists. It may be lending a helping hand to a friend in need or praying with a family member who is down. If we were attentive to what God is doing around us, we would see opportunities along the way to shine the light of Jesus in our dark and corrupt world.

So let us then continue to be fruitful in every good work (Col 1:10) that these "spiritual sacrifices" will be found pleasing to Him (Heb 13:16). [CVNews](#)



How time flies, it seems like just yesterday we attended our first CVCC Camp in 2010 with the theme, 'Kingdom Alive!' and here we are reporting about our second camp, 'Kingdom Xpression' held in June 2011. This time our camp "site" was Le Grandeur Palm Resort, Johor; less than half an hour ride from the Malaysian checkpoint.

From the very start of the planning of the camp, to the camp itself and eventually the ride back home, the Camp Committee, headed by Sis Catherine Yong, and those who attended, showed they understood what Kingdom Expression was all about.

We were blessed by the teachings of our camp speaker, Ps Steve Cioccolanti, who had joined us from Melbourne Australia with his lovely wife, Fe, and daughter Alexis. Ps Steve shared new perspectives on the parable of the sower. He talked about the seed that was sown on four different grounds indicative of the condition of an individual's heart as how one receives the Word of the Lord. He challenged us as Kingdom people to have hearts made of good soil so that the seed sown would take root and bear fruit. Out of that fruit,

will we express the kingdom of God all around us, to our families, friends and all we come into contact with - anywhere and anytime.

Besides the insightful teachings, devotions and sharing within our groups, we also had much fun building relationships and bonding with each other as a church and with those from other churches who had joined us at the camp. In keeping with the trend of today, the committee had planned their own versions of reality TV programmes that had us campers on our toes and in stitches - The CVCC Amazing Race and The CVCC Project Runway. The children also had loads of fun at the dedicated children's programme led by Sis Ruth Tan and her team.

All too soon, it was time to pack up and head back home. Many brought back with them fresh revelations of the Word, as well as joyful, happy memories of the laughter and tears shared over the four days together. [CVNews](#)



Dear Parents,

We want to thank you for being so supportive of the work we are doing here in the Children's Ministry. In the last year, we have seen growth; not just in physical numbers but in the lives of the children.

Whilst we can see that the children are starting to speak the right words, have the right Christian lingo; we are now focusing on their spiritual growth so that their actions align with what they say. What we are hoping to see is transformation and we have been encouraged to see change in the children's lives especially when we call for testimonies weekly. We know that God is working in each one of them.

The journey thus far has been challenging. Children's ministry is not like normal school in that we cannot make them sit down or pay attention. They have to want to do it themselves. As such, each session on Sunday has to be creative, visually enticing, fun and filled with object lessons. Though this is not easy at all, we remember the word that God gave us that it is not by our might or our power, but by His Spirit (Zech 4:6). And we realise we have to go on our knees constantly to seek God for direction and strength.

We are thankful that our Pastor in charge, Rev Henson is always challenging us to go out to learn from other Children Ministries and so far this year, we have attended the Arise Conference, the School of the Supernatural by Becky Fischer, the 4.14 Window Conference IV and 52 Creative Ideas to Teaching New Testament & Old Testament Stories by Scripture Union. Having gone for these, we are convinced that our children can do so much more for God. They too are able to move in signs and wonders and they can already be ministering for God in their communities.

Our desire is that each of them will encounter God personally. That they will love God and lead lives led by the Holy Spirit. We believe that something is beginning to happen here in Firestarters. Like our ministry's name, we can sense that God is starting to ignite the fire in their lives. Our children will be like mighty warriors; like arrows being sent out by God. And we as parents will have to release them so they can go out and fulfill their godly potential, even in the 5-fold ministry.

Do continue to pray with us for the Firestarters. We are looking forward to the next year of building up these young ones for our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Team Firestarters





VOICES from the alumni

Going through a course is one thing. It's really what happens after that that counts. What impact does going through the Covenant Vision School of Ministry have on the lives of the students in their churches and in their ministries?



We spoke to four CVSOM alumni, Christopher Krishnasamy (CK) and Jenny Sutanto (JS), who have both obtained their Diploma in Practical Christian Ministry; as well as Jackie Wong (JW) and Chris Teo (CT), both Certificate graduates, to find out how their lives have changed since they graduated from the School. This is what they had to say.

How are things different now after you graduated from CVSOM?

CK: I sense the Lord's leading in the prayer and intercession ministry I am involved in. My ministry has evolved to one that includes pastoral care over the groups I pray with or lead bible study with.

JW: I am now able to believe God's Word and take steps of faith based on the Word. My friends have noticed a difference in me, exhorting fellow believers in boldness, which can only come from the Holy Spirit.

CT: I must say I am very different as I have learnt a valuable lesson of who I am in Christ and my perspective of the Christian walk is very different. I finally understand what it means to be a Son of God. I can communicate with Him like I do with my husband and friends. God is not just a Holy God but also one who loves me.

JS: I am now more confident and courageous to share the Word of God with others.

What is the one thing you learnt at CVSOM that really helped you in your ministry?

JS: I have learnt to have a Christian lifestyle led and guided by the Holy Spirit. This has helped me a lot in my ministry as I acknowledge that it is God, by His grace, that empowers me to lead the ministry He has assigned me to.

JW: I have now learnt to incorporate fasting and praying into my life and to believe with all my heart that it unleashes the power of God. I continue to learn how to intercede through prayer in an intercessors prayer group in my home church.



CT: Learning to listen and hear God and put into action what He has told me. In the past, I would use my own judgment, know-how and knowledge and apply it to my situation. Now I have learnt to pray and commit to God and wait to hear what He says and act it out. Sometimes I still make mistakes but I pick myself up quickly and move on. This has helped me tremendously.

CK: The power of the words we confess, which I learnt in the first module "Power of the Word" in the Certificate programme has not only made a big impact in my life but also those in my circle of friends. *CVNews*



About the School

CVSOM is a trans-denominational ministry that provides a formal, structured programme designed to challenge Christians to be doers of the Word. The Certificate and Diploma in Practical Christian Ministry are the two programmes offered. With a key emphasis for knowledge to be applied in each person's life and ministry, the practical approach allows students the hands-on experience, that they may be well equipped to serve effectively wherever God leads them.

To find out more about the school, the Certificate programme, application procedures, or to download an application form, visit www.cvsom.org. Alternatively, you can email us at cvsom@covenantvision.org or call us at 6391 0027.



Intensify

You see them week after week ministering in worship and song. They are here way before the service starts and most of the time they leave after everyone else has left the sanctuary. Yes, it's the worship team.

With any area of service, it is not difficult to fall into a state of complacency; neither is it difficult to come to a state of burnout. It's been said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. In the same way, a team is only as strong as its weakest member. It was a keen awareness of this danger that led our Worship Pastor, Ps George Gunter to introduce Intensify to the worship team.



The focus of this monthly meeting of the worship team is to build godly character, Christ-like attitude and relationship among the members; as well as to train and develop their technical skills. Since the start of the Intensify meetings in March 2011, we have seen how this initiative was one God-ordained and so needful for the team.

Each meeting has been an opportunity to learn and grow with one another spiritually through worship-focused teaching, praying together and worshipping together. We have seen the team bond in a wonderful way and we can tell that they are building relationships beyond the sphere of service. There is also more accountability within the members of the team, something that as a church we are encouraging. The result is that as the team grows spiritually, they are more able to lead the congregation in life-giving praise and worship and to encourage worship as a lifestyle in the hearts of the believers.

On the technical side, we have also taken the opportunity to allow the team to jam together and learn from one another, that we may truly say as the Psalmist did in Psalm 33:3 "*Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.*"

Our prayer is that as the team grows quantitatively with more coming forward to put their hand to the plough, we believe that they will also grow qualitatively in their own spiritual lives that they may be able to worship and lead the rest to do so in spirit and in truth. **CVNews**



Effective Prayer

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

1 John 5:14-15

The Bible tells us in 1 John 5:14-15 that we have a prayer answering God. And while John writes about this confidence that we have, he quickly qualifies it with the important phrase in verse 14 – if we ask anything according to His will. The key to the effectiveness of our prayer is to pray in line with God's will.

We need a paradigm shift in the way we view prayer. If we come to God with our shopping list of wants and desires, we set ourselves up to be disappointed. Not that God doesn't



answer them, but in His sovereignty He may hold back or in His goodness and mercy, grant some of these requests.

On the other hand, if we come to God with the objective to build our relationship with Him, to know Him and respond to His love and mercy, we will grow. It is out of this growth and this deeper intimacy with God that we begin to know and understand His will. And when we do, we would naturally be able to put God's Kingdom before ourselves, His will before our desires and His purposes before our plans. It is from this place of intimacy with God that we will be able to pray according to His will, with extremely effective results.

At Covenant Vision, we are committed to praying effectively. Covenant Vision Prayer Powerhouse meetings are held every Monday at 7.30pm. This prayer ministry began in 1991 as Rev Francis and a group of people decided to meet at his home every week to pray and the meetings have continued to this day. It is a platform to come together corporately to travail in prayer for the will of God to be done, not only in our lives, but more so in our families, in our marketplaces, in our church, in our nation and in the rest of the world.

Covenant Vision Christian Church's monthly Corporate Prayer meeting is held every first Monday of the month at 7.30pm with more of a focus on the church and the work that God is leading us to do. It is, likewise, an avenue for our community to prayer together corporately for God's will in our church and the lives of our people.

Through these meetings and other prayer initiatives, we have seen God move powerfully, bringing us through many dimensions of prayer, including repentance, confession, intercession, supplication, and celebration, just to name a few. And through prayer, we have been able to see God's hand move, impacting lives and events around us. **CVNews**





We thank God for people who give their time to serve at Covenant Vision. Through this segment, we hope to encourage more like Catherine Lim to volunteer their efforts for the glory of God.



ABOUT CATHERINE

Catherine is a lawyer by profession and has been attending Covenant Vision Christian Church since March 2009. She currently serves in the ministry of helps as a greeter and usher. She is also part of the communications team, summarising the sermons for our website.

How did you come to serve at Covenant Vision?

I was not sure where I would like to serve at CVCC after attending CVCC for more than 1 year. However, I sensed that the Lord wanted me to learn to serve. I have learnt that the best way to serve is to start simply. So I offered to serve as a greeter. Sis Gret then told me that they needed more ushers. So I was asked to serve as an usher.

How have you been blessed since serving here at Covenant Vision?

I have never served as a greeter or usher in the previous churches that I attended. This is my first church ministry. Since serving at CVCC, I have been blessed in getting to know more people in church. I enjoy serving them and it is such a pleasure to bless them when they give. I am also blessed because I learn to be more people-oriented. By nature, I am a task-oriented person and I don't really pay attention to people. But in the ministry of helps, I can actually look forward to how to bless people. As an usher, it is not just a task to collect tithes and offerings but how to improve people relationship when they give. [CVNews](#)





COVENANT VISION

Life





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Service Every Sunday 10.00am. www.covenantvisionchurch.org

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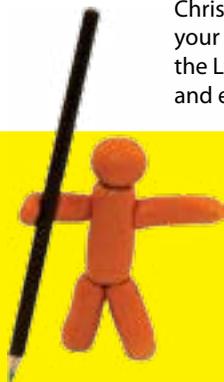
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