

Survey Results to Bring in the New Year

By Tricia Kao and Stephanie Tan

Welcome to Issue 3 of *NLCC Epistles*! We trust that you had wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebrations. This season's newsletter features events of the late spring and early summer months – including the Missions Impact trips, special farewells from two of our much loved NLCC members, and interviews with our 2006 Newlyweds!

We are excited to present some of the results of the church survey held last year on 12 November, for which we received 95 responses. Graphs 1-5 show that NLCC's congregation are mostly members of NLCC, with a slight leaning towards females. Single, 18 to 35-year olds make up a significant portion of the church demographic, with marrieds not too far behind. In addition, most of us – young and old – are currently working.

The average member of NLCC is thus a female, single (but nearly married) working adult in her late 20s or early 30s. We are therefore pleased to announce Miss NLCC 2007 – Samantha Wong!



Miss NLCC 2007

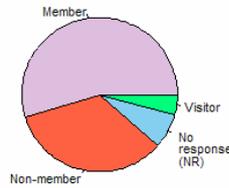
One of the most interesting parts of the survey is the preferred combined service time (Graph 6), with 10.00 am being the most popular, particularly with the 25-35s, and the 51s and over favouring the 9.00 am time slot.

Graph 7 shows 63% of our respondents prefer combined services (with 29% preferring separate services), and many are partial to having the youth lead them occasionally. As a result, our worship service time has been amended to reflect this, starting Sunday 25 February, with bi-monthly youth-led services. Fortnightly J-Life services will also run concurrently.

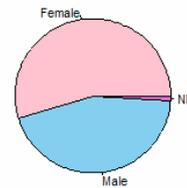
In Graph 8, it is encouraging to see that 67% of those surveyed are keen to attend Christian Education (CE) classes this year – nearly double the 34% attendance rate of last year! It is also evident that less people are likely to *not* attend CE classes if the worship service is at 10.00 am, as opposed to 9.00 and 9.30 am, giving further reason for the Board of Elders' to change the service and CE classes' time.

More survey results will be revealed as we progress through the year – so watch this space! We look forward to bringing you more church updates in our autumn issue, but for now, be sure to check out all the events on the (extremely busy) NLCC Calendar on the back page. 2007 promises to be a fantastic year! ■

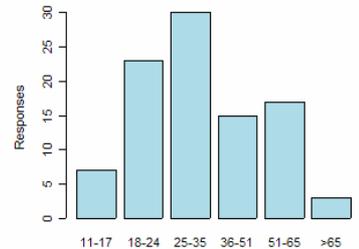
1. Membership



2. Sex



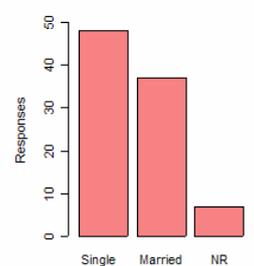
3. Age Groups



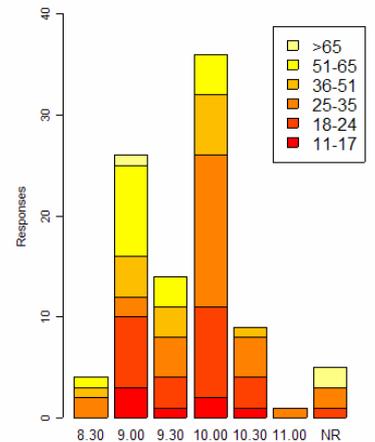
4. Working Status



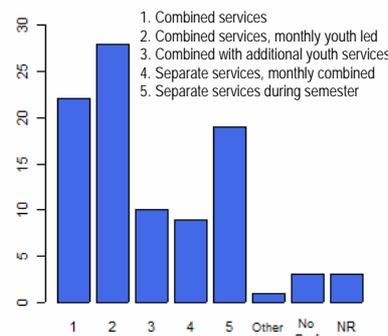
5. Marital Status



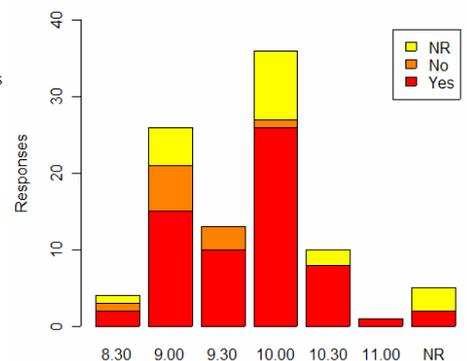
6. Preferred Combined Service Time by Age



7. Preferred Service Option



8. Preferred Combined Service Time by Future CE Class Attendance



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Church Together

By Dee May Yeoh

What do churches of different denominations have in common? Often it seems that the differences between each denomination divide the body of Christ rather than display unity in Christ. Didn't Jesus pray for us to be brought to complete unity to let the world know that God has sent him, and that He has loved us even as He has loved him? (John 17:23)



Some of NLCC's representatives

That's the reason Church Together is held every year. Church Together is the largest Christian combined church event of its kind in

Australasia with past attendances of over 12,000 people. Launched in 1993, it is designed to bring together and celebrate the many denominations that make up the Christian community of Western Australia. It is a powerful statement of the unity of the churches in Perth and over the last 12 years, churches have discovered a newfound maturity in recognising that although they are different in many areas, they are one under God.

A few of us from NLCC attended last year's Church Together, held on the evening of Sunday 5 November at the Supreme Court Gardens. Although the service was scheduled to start at 7.00 pm, we made our way there a few hours early so that we were able to secure a good spot to enjoy the night's events.

We kicked off the evening with the sumptuous food we packed, including fried bee hoon, chicken wings, sushi, and jelly for dessert. Compared to our picnic neighbours who were having sandwiches and Maccas, I think we did quite well!

The pre-entertainment started at 6.30 pm,

followed by the worship service and preaching by J John from the UK. It was wonderful worshipping God with many other followers from different church backgrounds. J John shared three reasons why anyone should believe in Christ, and he inspired us to keep it in our hearts to share with others. Last, but not least, Hillsong United gave a performance for all their fans in WA.



Live music and pyrotechnics!

Needless to say, we left the Gardens filled – in spirit and in stomach – remembering that there are many people in Perth who love God, as well as many others who have yet to give their hearts to Him. ■

Watch Night 2006

By Yi Chiun Lee and Jasmin Heng

On New Year's Eve, members of NLCC were gathered together to celebrate the coming of the year 2007. We met at Elder Richard and Auntie Susan Tai's house in the evening. It was exciting to see most of the young adults and families present.



Dig in!

The celebration started with great food that was prepared by loving hands. After a few rounds of feasting, we were all full to the brim. The atmosphere was very joyous as you could hear everyone happily chatting away. We would like to thank everyone who helped to prepare the food and particularly for our wonderful organisers, Wendi and Erwin Chan.

Dinner was followed by a slideshow of the Cambodia mission trip photos. It was great to see people with a heart to serve the Lord enjoying themselves with the locals. Although some members of the team fell sick, we could see from the smiles on their faces that the mission trip was extremely rewarding for all of them. It is indeed very humbling knowing that each and every one of us can be a vessel for God to bless others. We then dwelled on the greatness of God by worshipping Him; it was

such a serene environment, looking at the sunset over the river. The peace of God was truly upon us.

The evening proceeded with everyone gathering for communion. We divided into small groups and were prayed for by the leaders of the church. This was followed by lots of desserts. There were cakes, jelly, fruits, chocolates, and the most popular one – ice kachang!



At the end of the year, families and friends usually gather in celebration. We ponder over the events of our lives, feel relieved that we've overcome any setbacks we've had, and also feel a little spark just thinking of the wonderful things that happened to us that year. This was especially true when we listened to the testimonies of people from different walks of the life. Some shared about God's miracles, some shared about their personal growth and others shared about the growth of NLCC in 2006. Altogether, we could see God's mercy, faithfulness and miracles working in each individual. How great it is to know that God is in charge of our lives!

We were greeted with fireworks from across the river, announcing that 2007 had arrived. The start to the year was made more wonderful when just after midnight, Claire Goh decided to accept Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. The joy of seeing people enter the kingdom of God reminds us of our duty as children of God: that we are to help spread His Word to the world. It's exciting to wonder what God has installed for each and every one of us this year. We hope everyone had a great start to the year! ■

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Carolling at Springvale Relocatable Village

By Michelle Tang

“Joy to the world, the LORD is come...” The harmonious voices of the Canning Vale family cell resonated through the dry, scorching evening air of Saturday, 16 December 2006 as every caroller did their best to sing with as much *gusto* as possible.

We were at the Springvale Relocatable Village, exercising our vocal chords as we sang Christmas carols to the residents. Initiated by Uncle Nat Koh, all members of the cell participated enthusiastically in this enjoyable night of carolling. Our choir comprised all ages: the soprano voice of little Ashley, sweet melodies of the ‘mums’, the reverberating accompaniment of Uncles Nat, Danny, Fred and Charles – aka “The Wiggles”, and the extra *oomph* provided by the youth!



Angelic voices at the caravan park

Not to be deterred by the extremely hot, blazing weather, everyone – yes, the residents too! – sang their hearts out. But of course, the true meaning of Christmas was not forgotten amidst the fun and entertainment. Nigel Barnard spoke a simple message explaining that Christmas is not about the presents under the Christmas tree, but the ultimate gift given to us by our heavenly Father – Jesus Christ.

The night of carolling rounded off with the song *We Want To Wish You A Merry Christmas*, which all of us used as an opportunity to mingle with our audience. After the carols, we had a time of fellowship while eating, and everyone enjoyed the delectable food prepared by the cell.

It was a delightful night spent relaxing, carolling, and sharing the joy of Christmas, and we all felt that this event was a huge success.

Carolling at a relocatable village (a perfect analogy for those who have relocated to Perth) with sweet fellowship, a fantastic dinner and the festive mood, all bound together by the love of Christ. What more could we have asked for at Christmas?

To God be the glory. Soli Deo Gloria. ■

Ministry Focus: “The Voice Inside” Drama and the Creative Arts



Skit performed on 22 October 2006 starring Shu-Yin Chia and Delcyn

By Jason Lim

(NLCC's Resident Drama Buff)

I remember my first skit, 8 years ago...

I played one of three boyfriends who all belonged to the same girl, and my job was to convey a broken relationship. I was excited by this, wondering if it would allow me to express a common issue in our society.

Like a song or a novel, each skit has a story to tell. In this case, I wanted to compare the incomparable richness of God to the joy one gets from being with another loved one. I don't think I acted particularly well, and I don't think anyone was super touched – but I was touched.

I found that acting in front of people allowed me to get into their heads; to tell them a story that mere words in a conversation can not. There is huge communicative power in acting – when watching movies, although I don't know the actors, I can still understand and connect with the message.

Do you remember the first time you got goosebumps while watching a flick? Or do you recall shedding tears for a character who died for a cause far greater than most ever dream of? These moments really make living a wild, joyous, exciting ride! (Maybe that's why Hollywood actors are paid such astronomic rates!)

But the reason behind all this is that it's really just a story that someone wanted to tell someone else.

Whenever I sit down to write a skit, I start with my heart listening to His heart.

What are we going to tell somebody? What story needs to be said? Sometimes in our lives we see things that we realise needs to be told.

Sometimes, we are given the rare chance to see into someone's lowest point in life. Sometimes, we're the only person there and it feels like the world can forget such moments as it spins about its axis daily. So someone needs to speak, to remind, to refresh, to communicate.

This is the job of the drama ministry!

2007 will be a HUGE year. We're planning major outreaches and also smaller scale outreaches, with the overall theme of winning lost souls, in line with NLCC's church-wide focus on evangelism in 2007. It's still in its early stages, but *we do need* fresh talent, or rather, a keen, willing and teachable heart. Yes, this is your chance to bless others, to help out the body of Christ, to find a talent and to enjoy a new ministry in NLCC!

You will be pleasantly surprised how many lives you can impact through the drama ministry.

If you're keen to be in some skits, I'm currently in the process of forming a drama team register to make it easier to contact members for the roles. Just email me at jason.lim@nlcc.org.au and I'll put you on the register. What a joy – that we can speak with our voices, our eyes, our hands, our actions, our tears and with our hearts!

All for Jesus. ■

Impact Cambodia

By Yvonne Chen

What makes a mission trip?

That was the biggest question on my mind before the team of 11 from NLCC set off for the 15-day mission trip to Cambodia last year on Friday 17 November. Sure, I had a vague idea that we would be helping people, praying with them and doing "good work", but did I really know what was in store?

To give a brief overview of our daily routine, our mission team would usually start just after the break of day with a pothole-ridden road trip out of town to a village or school. Despite the early hours, a small crowd would always be patiently waiting for us in the already sweltering summer heat, having walked on foot through the dusty roads to get their health check.

After meeting the local church pastor and elders, we set up stations under the roof of the local church or school: one for the doctors to screen patients; another for prayer and ministering to them; and the third for dispensing medication. Outside, the music team performed children's songs and short skits – for some people it was mere entertainment, and for others it was their first introduction to the name: Jesus Christ.



Impact Cambodia 2006: The Team from NLCC

Testimony

By Joseph Luo

25 November 2006.

I won't forget the events of that night easily. The feeling of being used by God to touch lives and bring the lost into His kingdom was just tremendous. On this day, I shared my first 'sermon' as our team ministered to the youths in the Khmer Youth Development Centre (KYDC) hostel.

By God's grace, He chose to use us all for His glory.

By God's grace, our far-from-perfect songs, skits, testimonies and sharing powerfully carried His message of salvation.

By God's grace, He moved and

The clinic would be in operation often until all patients were seen to or when there was no more daylight, and even then we once worked into the night with flashlights and candles on hand because the need was just too great to turn down. After, we always wound down from our work with devotion through singing praises, reading the Lord's Word and sharing about what impacted us personally that day.

Each new day brought us to a new place with different people but with the same essential problems. Inadequate clean water can mean headaches and tummy-aches; a lack of personal hygiene translates to rotten teeth and malnutrition.

The hard years only so recent in the minds of Cambodians has translated to a huge void of the joy and love that I can take for granted. However, what the people lacked most was the knowledge of a God who loves them despite what they know from their own world. What is their world, you ask?

Cambodia is a desperately poor country slowly emerging from a long period of darkness as a result of the Pol Pot regime, searching for its place in the region and in this world. Although the Cambodians have endured many years of hardship and bloodshed, they



Cambodian children

haven't lost their smiles. The faces of beautiful smiling children with blackened stumps for their teeth are an endearing memory of Cambodia. Yet, their resilient spirit gives me much hope for the future of the people.

Most of all, my lasting impression of our fellow Christian brothers and sisters in Cambodia is their God-given peace. I saw it in their eyes wherever we visited, whether it was the courageous missionaries who went forth into new territories and risked their lives to bring God's Word to the region, the interpreters who patiently worked with us to communicate to the people, or the students who were new Christians as a result of studying in a Christian school.

communicate to the people, or the students who were new Christians as a result of studying in a Christian school.

I was humbled when I saw the child-like faith which Cambodians have in receiving Christ in their life ... no, not just seen through my eyes. I felt it, tasted it and I lived it – and it was a testament of God's amazing glory for His people in Cambodia.

Thank you to all at NLCC and those who have supported the team through encouraging words, behind-the-scenes support, prayers and donations for the trip. A huge acknowledgement goes to the visionaries of the trip: James Seow and Pastor Yat Wan. Active support of mission work is a vital part of being a healthy church if we are to look beyond just ourselves. Lastly, big thanks go to the whole Cambodia mission team – it wasn't a one-man show but a collective group effort, and I was proud to be part of this fantastic team.

To those who are playing with the idea of going on the next mission trip, I would like to encourage you to just do it. Just do it – as I did – because it was a blast. ■

For further details of the 2006 Cambodia Mission Trip, visit cambodia.nlcc.org.au.

Impact Sabah

By Michelle Sin

On Friday, 8 December 2006, our 10-strong Sabah Missions team was received by Pastor Hang Khee in Kota Kinabalu (KK), Sabah, excited and ready to touch the hearts and lives of the people in Sabah.

The trip started as we joined the D'Gap children in their session of songs and games, "Anchor Time". We then took them to a nearby field with the intention of playing 'floorball'; however, due to the heavy rain we ended up leading a sing-along, featuring favourites such as "With Christ in the Vessel" and "Deep Down in My Heart" – in English and Chinese!

The next morning we attended D'Gap Baptist Church (DGBC) where Nic – who had no prior experience leading worship – was thrown in the deep end, but remained positive knowing that Amanda, Tim and I were accompanying him. After a group skit and a testimony given by Alex, the youth were treated to sermons by Pastor Jason, while Pastor Angie spoke to the adults and children. The rest of the day was spent mingling with the D'Gap youth – developing friendships, playing sport and then dining together at Pastor Serena's house.

We put on a public performance at Wisma Merdeka, a major shopping centre in KK. All of our hard work prior to the trip paid off, as the onstage programme (MC'ed by Jason), consisting of carols, games, skits and dances was well received.



Outside Wisma Merdeka after the programme

The fun overflowed offstage where we held a colouring-in competition, did balloon sculpting and even face painting! Much of the program was impromptu, in particular, the Chinese songs performed by Amanda, which only added to the success of the event.

We hosted the overnight children's camp, attended by 28 children aged between 6 and 12. Pastor Angie led 'character building' sessions, and we sang 'action worship' songs, played games and the kids prepared skits which they later performed for their parents on Talent Night.

The Miracle

An excerpt from the Sabah Missions Team Report

During the camp, after the last floorball game, over 20 exhausted kids came running towards a water dispenser hoping to quench their thirst. Knowing that it was near-empty, Amanda rushed to ration the water as she knew there would not be enough if everyone took a full cup. She noticed that the flow was trickling after the first cup was just half full. Stressing, she attempted to check the water balance, but something told her to keep filling the cups. She turned the tap on again and the flow of water suddenly strengthened and kept flowing strong until every kid got a drink – amazing! She then called those who needed a second drink to return for more, but when they did, the flow was reduced to a drip again.



Nic and Fiona leading a camp group discussion

There was no time to relax after the camp as we headed out for Pitas the next day. Despite the less-than-ideal bearings in Jason's 4WD, we arrived safely and were warmly greeted by the locals. We taught them some English songs, performed a skit and Tim shared a testimony. We were also privileged to be able to pray for the locals, and despite the language barrier (only Nic spoke Bahasa), God still touched many lives.

We drove to Kudat, visiting the rock pools at the tip of Borneo on the way. We spent the day with the Agape youth, playing games (breaking four hula hoops in the process!) and teaching them English songs. We met the Agape youth leader, Amal, who showed us the two hostels he opened. That night, we again experienced a strong anointing during an awesome time of ministry, prayer and healing. It was a miracle that although the team had very little exposure to prophecy or deliverance, each member stepped out boldly to pray and intercede.

Jason shared on "Revival in Kudat", and we prayed with the Agape youth for Kudat to be taken for Christ. The presence of God was

so powerful that everyone fell on their knees crying out. Every team member shared from their heart at the end of the session.

It was a bittersweet farewell as we were all sad to say goodbye, yet we felt truly blessed and inspired by the Agape youth's passion. Before leaving Kudat, we, along with many of the youth, trekked across beach and bush to plant a fruit tree and to pray over a piece of land that God blessed Amal with. There are plans to develop it into a retreat centre.



Amal and the team praying over the land

We could finally relax on the final two days when we visited Kion Som Air Tejun (The Waterfalls). In addition, Chong – a member of DGBC – was so kind to invite us to dinner at his house to celebrate his daughter's birthday. On our final full day in Sabah, we visited DGBC once again; we shared about the entire missions experience, sang "Aku Mau Cinta Yesus", and later joined the church for some Christmas carolling.

We were indeed blessed with the privilege of ministering to the locals in Sabah, and to have been in the midst of God's power and anointing! ■



The team: Adeline Boon, Pastor Angelina Eu (Team Leader), Timothy Eu, Fiona Ng, Alexander Ong, Michelle Sin, Nickolas Sin, Amanda Tan, Pastor Jason Tan (Team Leader) and Sally Tan.

Meet Our 2006 Newlyweds

Arthur and Rani Ong

Married on 19 March 2006
Christchurch Anglican Church, Perth, Australia

Honeymoon: Bunker Bay, Cape Naturaliste

Occupations:

Arthur - Project Engineer
Rani - Architect

How and when did you meet?

Rani: We met at a friend's place and were introduced to each other. It was in October 2003.

Arthur: Yeah, I was this hunky guy in the corner.

Rani: Actually, I didn't talk much to him until December 2003 when he volunteered to send me to the airport!

What do you admire about each other?

Rani: His giving heart and his love for his family.

Arthur: Her kind-hearted nature and her love for people.

What do you value the most in your relationship?

Companionship, encouragement, patience, acceptance, forgiveness, belief in each other and bringing out the best in each other. It's important to laugh at each other... till we both don't have teeth!

What's your favourite book of the Bible?

Arthur: Psalms

Rani: Corinthians

Do you have a song that has a special meaning for you?

"One" by U2 and Mary J. Blige. The song is about love being the highest law and how it conquers all.

Rani: The most important thing to me is the salvation of my family and I thank God that He is working through my father, mother and brother. My father accepted Christ into his life, just a few years back. My mother is slowly coming back to Christ and my brother is yet to fully accept Christ into his life. It's touching to see my father and mother pray during meal times, thanking God for not only the food but also what He has done in their lives.

Arthur: God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, my family, great friends ... life couldn't be better!



Wilmot and Cristal Loh

Married on 17 December 2006
Salvation Army, Upper Bukit Timah, Singapore

Honeymoon: Honshu, Japan

Occupations:

Wilmot - Town Planner; Student
Cristal - Banker

Patrick and Dee May Yeoh

Married on 7 January 2006
First Baptist Church, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

Honeymoon: Mauritius

Occupations:
Patrick - Inventory Controller
Dee May - Accountant



How and when did you meet?

We met in First Baptist Church in the RIOT ministry (the equivalent of J-Life in NLCC). Pat was new to the youth group and May was the "Hi, nice to meet you!" smiley-face greeting person.

What do you admire about each other?

May: I admire Pat in that he's a problem solver, that is, he tends to not like leaving problems or brushing them aside (if he actually thinks there's a problem in the first place!), whereas I tend to avoid it as long as possible. He also likes to make me laugh.

Pat: It was her beautiful smile which first captivated me. She is also quite intellectual and I enjoy talking to her about things in life.

What do you value the most in your relationship?

Our faith in God.

What's your favourite book of the Bible?

No specific book, we think they're equally good!

Do you have a song that has a special meaning for you?

Currently... [Patrick sings] "When Dee May smiles, she takes me miles..." [laughs]

We wouldn't have made it this far in our relationship without Him in our lives, especially during the four to five years that we were geographically apart before our marriage.

How and when did you meet?

We met in 2000. Our families are friends.

What do you admire about each other?

Everything.

What do you value the most in your relationship?

Everything.

What's your favourite book of the Bible?

Psalms.

We would like to thank God for providing for us. We didn't have too much difficulty finding our new "old" home!



Twelve Hours, Twelve Stones Prayer Chain

By Sandy Widjaja

Deuteronomy 4:6

*What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we **pray** to him?*

We all know about the power of prayer. We cry out to our Abba Father – and He hears us¹. On Saturday, 21 October 2006, the Young Adults ministry, Twelve Stones², prayed and fasted for twelve hours.

Our Father is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He holds all things in the palm of His hand – our yesterday, today and tomorrow. What can be a better agenda, but to commit our all to Him – our past, present and future?



Elaine Lee, Sally Tan, Jason King and Jason Tan

Acknowledging my yesterday

Joshua 4:6-7

*... In the future, when your children ask you, "What do these stones mean?" tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a **memorial** to the people of Israel forever.*

We thanked God for simply who He is – His goodness, His kindness and His faithfulness. He has brought us through it all. He walked and even carried us, *especially* through the desert storms. We may not understand all the things which have happened to us, but God has a purpose for *every* thing "[f]or we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."³

Embracing our today

Joshua 4:8

*So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to **the number of the tribes** of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.*

We prayed for the different facets of our Christian life – our church, our young adult ministry, our respective cells and ourselves – that God will teach us to respect and serve our elders, be accountable for our ministry, encourage fellow cell members and persevere during tough times.

Fulfilling His tomorrow

Joshua 4:24

*He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might **always fear** the LORD your God.*

While we give thanks for yesterday and live for today, we look forward to tomorrow with hope. We committed the future of our church, our



ministry, our cells and ourselves into His hands, that we, His children, will carry out the Great Commission (notably via our two mission teams last year) that He has given us⁴ and that we will grow into the likeness of His image.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and **pray** and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.***

We wait expectantly, for we know that He who began the good work will see to its completion⁵. ■

1 Luke 11:13

2 We would also like to thank Alex Ong, Aunty Betty, Aunty Cindy, Aunty Beng Chu and Uncle Chew Por for praying with us!

3 Ephesians 2:10

4 Matthew 28:19

5 Philippians 1:5-6

Christmas Dinner 2006

By Bernard Kho

Since I was a child, December has always been a special month of the year for me. Walking through the city, I always see strange things happen: store windows turn into a glittering fairy land; parks sprout beautifully lit trees; and everyone seems to wear a special kind of glow. The warm and fuzzy feelings inside me tell me that Christmas is near.



Twelve Stones members at the colour-themed dinner table

The Christmas season is celebrated differently by people of different backgrounds. In Australia it is one of the biggest events of the year (especially for kids), and for Christians around the world, it is an important day symbolising the birth of our LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Sadly, some countries have yet to acknowledge the significance of Christmas and the day slips by without being noticed.

Christmas has always been made extra special when it is spent with family and loved ones – gathering to sing carols, and presenting each other with gifts, just as the three Magi (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) presented the boy Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On Sunday, 10 December 2006, the Twelve Stones cells came together to celebrate an early Christmas Day, as one big family. Tricia Kao and Stephanie Tan played the part of "parents" by planning and organising the



Rena and Pat lead the carolling

splendid evening. Mark Yee played the "sweet loving relative" who always completes the celebration with a wonderful home-cooked meal.

Together with the help of the other "aunties and uncles" – Jasmin Heng, Dee May and Patrick Yeoh, they presented the family with: a cheese platter as the entrée; roast lamb and vegetables, roast chicken, honey-glazed ham, a lamb ragù pasta, and three types of salads as the main course; finishing with Christmas pudding, eggnog puffs and ice-cream for dessert.

The wonderful celebration was hosted by "grandpa and grandma" – James and Sarah Seow, in their warm and welcoming home in Nedlands.

The night started with an ice-breaker, "Human Bingo", where everyone had to go around trying to find people who could fit a list of descriptions.

But the celebration only truly started at the strike of Steph's triangle, as the family turned quickly into a chorus, singing Christmas carols that celebrate the birth of our Great King.

The night followed by feasting on the wonderfully prepared meals and playing games – Christmas crackers, Pass The Parcel and a series of five mind-boggling quizzes that truly challenged the Twelve Stones "children's" knowledge on all things and events relating to Christmas, with our efforts being rewarded with prizes! To see the joy and glowing smiles on everyone's faces just made the celebration that much more special.



No stellar effort went unrewarded: Quizmasters James, Nicole and Arthur; Best dressed - Khim

As the games drew to an end, laughter filled the air once again as an array of "WOW!", "This is wonderful!" and "Thanks!" was heard when *Mystery Magi* (our version of Secret Santa!) gifts were exchanged. It's amazing how receiving carefully thought-out gifts brightened up everyone's night.



Mystery Magi gifts for everyone!

Sadly, the night had to come to an end. Everyone gathered round for photos and greeted each other an early Merry and Blessed Christmas, closing out the 2006 Twelve Stones Christmas Dinner. ■

Just Do It!

By Jason Lim

After today I'm just relishing writing this article about the Twelve Stones II and Sunday School Teachers' Dinner on 25 November 2006. I was given the opportunity to help my aunty who lives alone with a few chores around the house. She has had a really rough life and has rarely had any love shown to her, so just knowing that I somehow had a small part in making her life a bit better and a bit brighter brought me crazy joy. As I drove home from her house, I prayed for her ... that she may know His love.

At the end of 2006, Twelve Stones II were in the midst of cell studying 1 Corinthians 12. As we came to verse 22, which reads, "*On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect,*" it dawned upon us that we need to act out our faith and follow the Word of God. So we thought we should clothe those who are not usually given much praise and honour with some good ol' fashioned love and respect.

We know that every Sunday, in a small room next to the church, there is a class for our little ones. They are faithfully taught by our Sunday School teachers who give up their time and on occasions, miss out on guest speakers who have such wonderful, timely messages. The teachers exude much patience caring for the little ones who, as we all know, can sometimes get a little "too excited" – praise God! Additionally, to be creative every week in order to stimulate and occupy the budding minds of our young youth must be very difficult! So we decided that we must bless this treasure in NLCC ... but how?



Our hardworking Sunday School teachers

It's amazing how our church effortlessly produces massive amounts of delicious foods at our gatherings – time and time again, so as a group of young adults we figured we should *cook* for the Sunday School teachers. Initially, I had many doubts. My reason for this is simple – all the best chefs are *in* the Sunday School ministry! How could we live up to their astronomical expectations? Nevertheless, we decided that we must persist with cooking for our beloved Sunday School teachers.

Cooking lists, menus, shopping lists and excessive numbers of emails were sent in order to get this event set up. Finally, the day arrived and our main course was satay – beef, chicken and lamb, with three types of sauces. Speaking for myself, it was very tasty, and upon asking the aunties (who could be referred to as our "Iron Chefs") for their opinion, I was extremely pleased to hear that they really liked it! In fact, Pastor Angie has asked us to be satay makers for future events (it's a good sign when the customers want more!). As always, there was plenty of food, ranging from curries, fried chicken, konnyaku jelly, cream puffs and all kinds of side dishes – a night of feasting.



Most importantly, it was our chance to say "thank you" to the Sunday School teachers – indeed we sincerely appreciate you. Without your help, things wouldn't be as smooth during service, and our little ones would be missing out on the golden truths that you provide week in and week out. May you always know that we are grateful. Big hugs to you all, and lots of love to the Sunday School teachers! Three cheers – "Hip hip hooray!" ■



epistles FUN

Word Search

Unscramble the leftover letters of the puzzle to spell out part of a Bible verse! Can you find all the words? What's the verse?

T	I	R	E	N	N	I	D	C	C	T	H	M	F	C	B	N	G	G	Y
W	I	N	A	S	A	H	A	B	H	A	I	T	O	A	E	O	N	J	E
E	L	L	T	H	H	M	S	G	I	S	R	U	I	W	S	I	I	O	V
L	G	G	A	E	B	P	I	H	S	E	R	A	L	A	L	T	L	S	R
V	S	B	N	O	R	N	A	I	Y	A	P	I	V	L	F	A	L	H	U
E	A	T	D	O	H	V	O	R	G	N	F	I	A	A	S	R	O	U	S
S	S	I	N	C	S	N	I	E	G	E	O	B	S	A	N	B	R	A	O
T	A	E	T	E	T	U	O	E	C	O	T	M	M	T	P	E	A	L	U
O	R	A	L	E	V	U	N	I	W	N	T	T	I	L	L	L	C	I	L
N	W	E	A	C	S	E	T	D	I	S	S	O	E	T	U	E	T	F	E
E	S	M	M	S	I	Y	G	A	A	I	E	D	H	N	S	C	S	E	V
S	K	A	A	M	C	T	P	N	R	Y	G	L	I	P	D	E	E	W	I
C	I	G	R	H	U	E	R	H	I	E	S	T	C	O	O	P	T	E	R
D	T	I	U	L	A	S	C	A	S	M	Y	C	G	A	L	F	L	L	D
Y	S	R	L	C	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T	H	C	R	U	H	C	R
K	C	A	E	W	O	R	D	S	E	A	R	C	H	O	D	I	A	O	E
H	B	U	I	L	D	I	N	G	F	U	N	D	P	T	O	R	M	M	V
N	I	A	H	C	R	E	Y	A	R	P	M	A	C	U	R	L	A	E	O
S	S	E	L	B	T	O	P	N	S	D	E	W	Y	L	W	E	N	M	E
M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y	F	A	R	E	W	E	L	L	S	P	S	A

Topic: *NLCC Epistles, Issue 3*

Articles	Drama	Mission Team	Song
Bahasa	Epistles	New Life City Church	Soul
Ball	Faith	OverDrive	Summer
Building Fund	Farewells	Newlyweds	Sunday School
Cambodia	Fast	Paintballing	Survey
Camp	Flag	Peace	Testimony
Caravan	God	Perth	Twelve Stones
Carolling	Interviews	Photographs	Unity
Celebration	Joshua Life	Pledges	Upcoming Events
Christmas	KYDC	Potbless	Watch Night
Church Together	Magi	Prayer Chain	Welcome
Courageous	Ministry	Sabah	Word Search
Dinner	Miracle	Skits	

Solutions to Last Issue's Word Phrases

1. At The Cross
2. Rest In You
3. God Is Moving
4. Oceans Will Part
5. To The Ends Of The Earth
6. Heart Of Worship
7. Awesome God
8. Still
9. All Of My Days
10. I Give You My Heart
11. Holy Bible
12. Fishers of men
13. Cain and Abel
14. 1 Corinthians 13:13

J-Life Paintballing

By Nickolas Sin

On Saturday, 21 October 2006, 23 J-Lifers and associated friends went paintballing. Spirits were high when we left Perth, and as we convened at a nearby winery, everyone was looking forward to a day of good (but maybe not so) clean fun.

We drove to the site (with the obligatory car being lost along the way), suited up in overalls, and after the compulsory safety lecture, we armed ourselves with paintball markers and paintballs and stepped out into what proved to be a remarkably warm and humid day.

So what was it like? We entered five arenas, each with its own scenario. There was the straightforward shootout across a field with obstacles, followed by two different versions of 'capture the flag': in one version, the person who managed to capture a flag (placed prominently in the centre of the wooded field) had to run *towards* the opposition base.

We proceeded to the most interesting arena: the teams had to escort their VIP (a designated team member) across a village. Our team contrived to leave our VIP (who else but Andy?) out in the open to be shot, and when we regrouped, a massive push was orchestrated down the left flank with a holding force on the right flank. Suffice to say we ran through the opposition – a perfectly executed plan! However, journalistic integrity requires me to note that my team was not so fortunate on other arenas.

Finally, the attacking team had to lob a grenade into a double-decker bus with the other team inside it. The top of the bus offered a high vantage point, but also with it the risk of taking paintballs in the head.



There are three general statements that I can make regarding paintballing:

1. Paintballs hurt. I'm sure some of the readers know that already, but yes, they hurt as much as a well-hit squash ball. (I was hit by one in the hand from three inches, so I speak from personal experience!) However, the Nasty Bruise(s) Award has to go to Steph Ong, who copped an egg-sized, purple-and-green-tinged bruise on her arm.
2. Friendly fire is a crucial part of the paintballing experience. There is nothing quite like getting a close-range shot from a team mate. In this regard, the Friendly Fire Award goes to our team mates who plotted to shoot me and Andy from behind during the day's proceedings.
3. The feeling of being pinned down in position by a rain of hostile paintballs is an interesting experience to say the least, but probably best avoided.

Paintballing is worth every second. It is engaging, exhilarating, extremely good exercise and is ultimately a great way to bond with people ... even those who shoot team mates! ■

Farewell, NLCC...

Two of NLCC's most prominent youth leaders share a special parting message.

The last five years of my life seem to have flown by at such a rapid pace and it has been an adventure shared with many of you at New Life City Church; the family of God has inadvertently become *my* family, and it is that which makes saying goodbye so difficult.

I recall when I first started playing drums in the worship team. That was my first step into five years of serving in NLCC; the fun times of cooking, eating, laughter and prayer shared with Mark and Amanda Yee, Mikey Chan, Danny Sum and several others. Many have since moved on but their parts played in my life will remain forever.



Whether it was worship, J-Life and subsequently, OverDrive, the opportunity to serve in various ministries and having the privilege to influence has profoundly changed me – and more significantly, my relationship with Jesus. If you are reading this and are not yet involved in some form of ministry – what are you waiting for?

Sowing into the lives of others has without a doubt been the single, most enabling factor into finding and then watching the dreams of my heart unfold. For this, I will always be grateful to Kairos, OverDrive and Keypers for sharing their lives with me as we journeyed through the highs and lows of life together.

To OverDrive, Keypers, and those who currently stand as pillars in the ministries of J-Life and OverDrive: There is so much more that God has in store for His house; I can surely say that in the last five years, Psalm 23 holds true, and as you remain guided by the Shepherd's staff, you will never be found wanting – whether in academic results, finances or in your pursuit of dreams!

Though I've already said my "thank yous" on numerous occasions, I cannot help but sign off with grateful appreciation of the Elders in our church (including those who were there at the time of my arrival but have since left, as well as the new ones), Pastors Benny, Basil, Yat Wan and Angelina who have (in their own time) all left an imprint on my life in their own way. To Andy and Amanda, with whom I dared to dream and whose lives were lived as testimonies of the God we know and love. Last, but not least, to the Tang family – from Pa through to Rae Rae – you are an amazing family. Keep on gunning for gold!

With love (from a very cold Liverpool, UK),
Rowenna



'02 to '06: Years that will be forever marked in my life as 'getting my degree' and 'getting to know an extended family called New Life City Church'.

Firstly, I would like to thank my pastors for giving me the opportunity to serve. Without this, working out my salvation would have taken a longer time for me to come to a better understanding of this thing called Christianity. OverDrive – thank you for allowing me to speak into your lives! You guys are awesome and have so much potential in you. It has been a privilege and an absolute blast to do life with you over the past few years. Go for it!

My youth worship team – I know pride is only good when it's relative to oneself but whenever I think about you guys, that's the feeling that comes. Cheers for putting up with my sometimes tyrannical way of conducting music practices and repeating the words, "let's take it from the chorus," again and again. Thanks for allowing me to make mistakes; I have learnt many valuable lessons about worship and leading a team from you guys. Keep rocking for the cross!

To my fellow leaders and friends of the church – it has been fun hanging with you and doing the late nights and having the meetings that didn't really have to take as long as they did but hey, if sidetracking means much laughter, sidetrack it is!

And finally, to the Uncles and Aunties who have put up with all the last minute event changes, entrusting their kids to the leaders of OverDrive, giving us words of encouragement, praying for us and putting food in our stomachs – Thank



You. Your background support meant so much to us and I personally hope that I have been able to repay you guys in some measure by depositing some good stuff inside your kids.

And so as my chapter in Perth and in NLCC comes to a close, I'm looking forward to what awaits in the near future. My heart is for worship and the young people, so hopefully I will be soon reporting that I am serving in that capacity again. Don't worry, you can't be getting rid of me that easily! From my understanding of the "mysterious" but more often than not "funny" ways of God, I'm sure I'll be seeing most of you guys again, so this is not "goodbye" but a "see you later".

And lastly, just because I'm not your leader, serving alongside you, asking you to cook food, or telling you to please pick up your kids at this time – feel free to drop me a line anytime. That ministry may have stopped but the friendship hasn't.

Feel free to save your world.

Much Love
Andrew ("Andy")



Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information about any of our events, please contact Pastor Yat Wan (9417 1015).



Worship Services are conducted at:
Social Science Lecture Theatre
The University of Western Australia
Crawley WA 6009

Church Office:
Suite 27, Level 3, 88 Broadway
Nedlands WA 6009

Website: nlcc.org.au

Sunday Schedule

Christian Education Classes (March)

9.00 am to 9.45 am
Law Lecture Room 1, UWA

Worship Service (25 February onwards)

10.00 am to 11.30 am

Children's Ministry
10.45 am to 11.30 am

february

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Adult/Family cells resume	3 Twelve Stones (TS) cells resume
4 NLCC Annual General Meeting 11.00 am, SSLT	5	6	7	8 Weekly Interces. Prayer 9.30 am, Church Office	9	10 TS Badminton BBQ 5.00 pm, Beaton Park
11 OverDrive cells resume	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Chinese New Year	19	20	21	22	23 UWA O-Day 10.00 am - 2.00 pm	24 Monthly Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm, Church Office
25 Weekend Live J-Life Beach Event	26 J-Life BBQ 12.00 pm, Matilda Bay Foreshore	27	28			

march

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 J-Life cells resume	2	3 TS Retreat (until 5/3) at Hilltop Farm, Wooroloo J-Life Youth Service
4 CE Classes Series Launch: <i>Just Walk Across The Room</i> (JWATR)	5 Labour Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 CE Classes JWATR II	12	13	14	15	16	17 J-Life Youth Service
18 CE Classes JWATR III Board Meeting (3.00 pm)	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 CE Classes JWATR IV	26	27	28	29	30 Monthly Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm, Church Office	31

april

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Service Guest Speaker: Dr Stefan Sos Ministry Recruitment Sunday	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday J-Life Camp (until 9/4)	7 Easter Saturday
8 Easter Sunday	9 Easter Monday	10	11	12	13	14 J-Life Amazing Race
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 J-Life Youth Service
22	23	24 Twelve Stones Quiz Night	25 Anzac Day	26	27 Monthly Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm, Church Office	28
29 Weekend Live (during service) Board Meeting (3.00 pm)	30					



Autumn Articles

If you have any:

- Articles
- Comments
- Event reviews
- Jokes
- Questions you want answered or
- Testimonies



please email them to the Editors at:

epistles@nlcc.org.au

All submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

Deadline: Sunday, 8 April 2007