

FOCUS



Happy
Lunar
New
Year



For the Week of 29th January 2012



From our Minister's Desk:

Why PP Care Teams are Biblical and Important for You

Under the leadership of brother CC Teng, you will be hearing a lot about our Care Teams this year. This is because Care Teams are Biblical and important for you. Already, 40% of the membership has experienced our Care Teams, and have come to enjoy the many benefits. Many have come to realize that it is indispensable to their spiritual growth.

If you are not in a Care Team, the next few minutes that you spend reading this article may be the best investment in your life. Ultimately, we cannot force anyone to be in a Care Team. But like the gospel, you owe it to yourself to consider its value and whether to make it a part of your life.

Biblical Basis

Right on the birthday of the New Testament church, we read how the members would '*continue daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart*' - Acts 2:46.

Search the scriptures for the 'one another' passages and see how the inspired writer urged early Christians to get together with the purpose of encouraging one another.

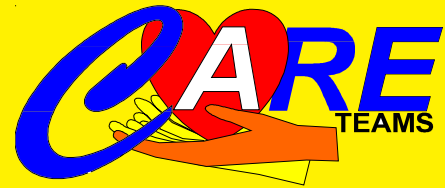
Although the New Testament makes no reference to Care Teams, we see the same situation in the Old Testament which made no references to synagogues. However, because of clear Biblical commands to worship God and assemble together, synagogues were started during the captivity when they could no longer go to Jerusalem to worship God. Jesus not only preached in synagogues, but the apostles used it to spread the gospel.

History of PP's Care Team

At a men's retreat at Garden Hotel more than 20 years ago, the twelve who attended took a long hard look at our history, where we were, and where we wanted to be. On that significant date, Vision 2000 (1000 members in 2000) was born. This committed group of men continued meeting weekly at the home of elder Adrian to lay the path towards a thousand member church.

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SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY



Care Teams Coordinators Training Workshop

with brother Kuek Lee Hock
at NUSS
on Saturday, 4th February
from 8:30am-12noon

Coordinators or Assistants,
confirm your place with
brother Patrick
by 31st January 2012.

Parents as Coaches Seminar

by brother Edwin Choy from
Centre for Fathering
on Saturday, 11th February
from 1:30pm-5pm. Especially
for parents, invite your friends.
See elder Winston Chong
for details.

Lab I - God's Heart

by Missions Resource Network
on Sunday, 26th February
at 9:30am
New Leaders Workshop from
1:30pm-3:30pm
Contact elder Tan Beng Chuan
for more information.

PP FAMILY NEWS

Right: Chinese New Year Eve's Steamboat Dinner with the SIBI faculty and students hosted by the Vincent Lims.



As the **Chinese new year** moves into its second week, the worship and activities of the church are reverting to normal this week. It was a great time of visitation and fellowship with opportunities to touch lives and renew relationships for Christ.

Uphold **brother Leow Peng Liam** and **sister Soh Bee Suan** in your prayers as they confessed sin, sought forgiveness and rededicated themselves to do better.

This past week our **full-time SIBI students** who had a week's break, joined the locals in celebrating the lunar new year. Many thanks to brethren like our elders, staff and members like the Vincent Lims who opened their homes and welcomed our Chinese students to participate in their new year's eve reunion. What a great way to learn and experience community living and hospitality while they are in Singapore.

Our appreciation to the elders who have opened their homes every Chinese new year since their installation. What a joy to get to know our shepherds better and on a more personal level.

Speaking this morning is **brother Peter Lim** on the important subject taken from Matthew 12:36, "Before You Speak..." **Deacon Swee Aun** has another important lesson in the evening, "Moth and Rust" taken from Matthew 6:12. It is great to see an international audience at our evening worships.

Over 30 have confirmed their place for the **upcoming Care Team workshop this Saturday**. Please RSVP with brother Patrick Ong by this Tuesday to secure a place at this important session. If you are interested in starting a new Care Team, be sure to attend this meeting. Read our minister's cover article for more information.

SPC continues this Wednesday at 7:30pm after 3 weeks of introductory lessons on the topic of Spiritual Maturity with the actual fleshed out lessons.. We are encouraged by the great resolve of many who are securing their walk with God by making the mid-week Bible study a part of their spiritual discipline in 2012.

We announced last week that our beloved **brother Richard Wee** has been afflicted with 4th stage liver cancer. Please uphold him in your prayers and take time to be with him at this difficult time.

Making **Daily Care** Even More Useful

Members may order from any of the church staff, the easy-on-the-eye large print A5 edition for just \$2 (or \$10 for 6 months). Orders received after 15th of the month will be effective for the month after next.

Starting 19th February 2012, Daily Care will be released on the 3rd Sunday (instead of the fourth) to ensure that everyone gets the next month's devotional on time.

Worship Service	Today (29th January)	Next Week
8am Scripture Text:	Psalm 34:4-7	Psalm 36:5-7
11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer:	Henry Kong Gooi Leng Fong Irvin Wan Chew Chong Lin Peter Lim Elder Winston Chong	Elder Adrian Teo Liu Ming Hui Chen Yi Koh Chin Soon Dennis Law Elder Beng Chuan
Ushers Balcony	Nehemiah Tan Hearing Impaired Team	Alvin Tjipto Hearing Impaired
6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: Opening Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer:	Henry Kong Psalm 34:8-10 Peter Zhu John Lim Elder William Wong Deacon Swee Aun Elder Winston Chong	Elder Adrian Teo Psalm 37:1-4 Simon Sun Shawn Li Elder Winston Chong Edwin Kweok Elder Beng Chuan

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 29th January 2012

7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
 8:00am First Morning Worship
Speaker: Peter Lim

9:30am 13-week Hebrews series
 Chapter 3

11:00am Second Morning Worship
 1:15pm Shuttle Bus Service ends

6pm Evening Worship
Speaker: Deacon Swee Aun

Monday, 30th January 2012

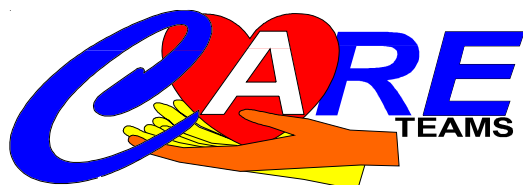
9am-3pm SIBI Class on Jeremiah
 by dean Brandi Kendall

Wednesday, 1st February 2012

7:30pm SPC on "Spiritual Maturity"
 by dean Brandi Kendall

Saturday, 4th February 2012

8:30am-12noon



Care Teams Coordinators

Training Session

with brother Kuek Lee Hock

at NUSS on Saturday, 4th February from
 8:30am: Breakfast -12noon: Lunch
 Coordinators or Assistants, confirm your
 place with brother Patrick by the end of
 this month. Limited to 40 pax.

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please Pray for:

Siew Gek's health and travel in China – Soo Lang
 My mother's and sister's health – Amelyn
 Healing from sore throat/diarrhea – William Chong
 Brandi and Penny as they work in God's vineyard.
 Travel mercy for Keith/Janet to Singapore. Peng
 Liam's rededication and family's support– Sandra
 Ivan and Shan's salvation, and that our family will
 be an encouragement to them – Mike Mariaraja
 Relief and healing to Sze Heng's foot and travel
 mercy for his family to Brisbane – Teck Su
 My employer, for strength through his trials and
 God's guidance – Lolita
 My boss' wife's smooth delivery and their salvation
 – Maribel
 My sister to find a job in Singapore and that the
 employer will accept her – Lovie
 God's blessings on sister Bee Suan – Carol Kiang
 Satish's new job. Elage, Babu, Dass, Immanuel and
 myself, our work and family - Kumar

Thank God for:

Brother Brandi's sermon – Amparo, Mary Joy,
 David Dass, Linda Kho, Clarita, Lolita, Maribel
 Brother Patrick's sermon – Vincent
 Blessings and prayers for our family – Serina Kho

Rededication:

Father, I know I do not always have things my way.
 Forgive me for my self-centredness. By faith I
 received your grace, help me Father to place my
 trust in you and in whatever situation I am in. Help
 me to focus my eyes on the cross.
 – **Soh Bee Suan**

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship: 186
 11am Worship: 192
 6pm Worship: 37
 Total: 416

Morning Giving \$ 11695.00
 Evening Giving \$ 279.00
 Total Contribution \$ 11,974.00



Receipt Donor Amount

3RsF 1605 Anonymous \$1,250.00

The church camp was one vehicle we used, but we realised that even more important was to empower small groups who would support, encourage and mobilize the multitude of members, so that we would not miss the trees for the forest – and every individual would be recognized, surrounded with care and could exercise his or her talents.

Unique and Original

As we crafted the small group concept for PP, it was an original and unique programme of our own. It was not a replicated programme from other churches, as we wanted to meet the unique situation and needs of our own members. Our focus was PP and the entire framework was a result of months of brainstorming.

Other congregations soon got wind of what we are doing. I was invited by two congregations in Malaysia to conduct workshops in an effort to help them start Care Teams. In one of these congregations, to the credit of the leadership, Care Teams are now an integral part of the Seremban congregation.

Evolution of Care Teams

Brother Lim Kok Hin assisted me in conducting Care Team introductory sessions to launch the new programme at PP. I vividly remember how sister Pang Foon Yoong was the first of a dozen members who enthusiastically responded to this new initiative. Over the years, she has stayed active with PP's Care Team programme, giving birth to a few groups on the way.

Today, in addition to Care Teams, our youth have structured several groups of their own. While all maintain the basic concept of Care Teams, each one is as different and unique as a fingerprint.

What are PP's Care Teams?

Unlike highly structured 'cell groups' run by many churches, our leaders have wisely elected right from the beginning to allow members to group themselves into teams of their own choosing to meet their own needs and interests. These three components are basic to all PP's Care Teams:

1. Anyone can join any Care Team - there are no secret societies in the body of Christ and every Care Team is open to all members. This is so important and fundamental. We are constantly aware of the danger of some Care Teams which may be treading a slippery path of exclusiveness and elitism, something we cannot allow.
2. Members are to pray for one another each time they meet.

3. Care teams are to meet regularly, if possible every week.

The Structure of Care Teams

When we rolled out our first few Care Teams, I spent more time preparing and checking on them as they were new, and to get them on their feet. I was careful to call for coordinators' meetings fairly frequently, at external venues like the Garden Hotel and also the church premises.

When Care Teams were able to run on their own, I passed the baton to deacon Lim Li Chhoan, then to brother Patrick Ong and now to our elders. These people are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that Care Teams are running smoothly and functionally, but independently.

Present State of Care Teams

Currently, our records list more than 35 Care Teams. Conservatively assuming that each team has a coordinator, assistant and 4 members – this works out to over 200 members in Care Teams or roughly 40% of 500 members.

Each group is different. Some meet religiously on a weekly basis, others meet fortnightly or even monthly. Each session usually lasts between 1-2 hours but some have stretched to 3-5 hours. Most groups are involved in Bible study, but some favour visitation and benevolent projects.

Importance of Care Teams

Although the time each member spends at worship, Bible classes and church activities is vital for spiritual growth; as PP continues to grow, achieving intimacy becomes a greater challenge. It is easy for the leadership, like the early church (Acts 6:1), to miss out some members in the ministry of the church.

In Care Teams, members not only develop leadership, they get to know brethren, and become accountable for one another. We have observed that in times of crisis, illness and bereavement, fellow Care Teams members are the first to respond. Without this kind of support, members could, in the bustle of activities be lost in the crowd, and miss out on the vital 'one-anothering' of the Christian walk.

Future of Care Teams

Much has been done, but much more needs to be done. PP hopes to double the number of members in Care Teams by the end of the year. After we near the 80% mark, our aim is to ensure 100% of PP members are in a Care Team. What can be done to help us reach this ambitious goal?

1. Awareness - members must understand the importance of Care Teams and make it a priority to ensure that they have a group of fellow Christians that they can depend upon, as well as support. We will use the Focus newsletter, posters, announcements and activities to catch your attention.

2. Training - our current Care Teams can only absorb a few more members each for optimal functioning. Already a workshop is planned this Saturday to help coordinators do a better job in Care Teams and help them to start new ones. We will need over 35 new teams over the next 11 months if we are to realise our goal of 80%. We look forward to new Care Teams of parents, mixed youth and even golf kakis.

3. Sustainability - each and every Care Team must be able to stand on its own feet, with capable coordinators and assistants who can report back on progress, and communicate successes and challenges – so that we can all move ahead. It is indeed better not to have a Care Team than a bad Care Team which simply meets to gossip and tear down the church rather than to edify and grow

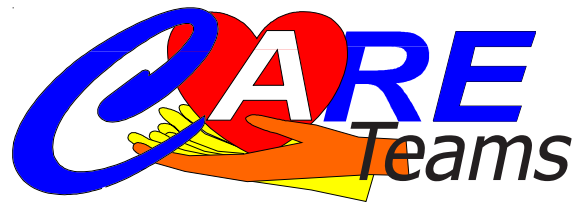
What about You?

Are you already in a Care Team? If you are, can you do more than what you are already doing? Perhaps you may grow your Care Team by inviting others to join? Or if it is a mature team with experienced members, to split up to grow both the groups (like mitosis in biology)?

Not in a Care Team? Perhaps you are too busy or unsure to consider joining one. But now that I have your attention, may I urge you to reconsider? The soul that you save may not just be your own - but that of your family's as well in setting the right example.

Text or email me if you have queries. Better still, call up one of the teams listed in the membership directory. The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. A Care Team could be the best present you give yourself in 2012.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more..." - Hebrews 10:25



Elder Simon Goh

Catherine Leow	HP: 92701717
Peggy Phua	HP: 96542798
Teng Cheng Chong	HP: 90709938
Amanda Tan	HP: 94308015
Magdalene Lim	HP: 92210770

Elder Tan Beng Chuan

Eileen Lim	HP: 96996905
Nat Kong	HP: 97552916
Paul Lim	HP: 97258331
Alvin Tjipto	HP: 96260657
Kwan Xin Yi	HP: 91724931
Shawn Li	HP: 96230430
Cheryl Soh	HP: 91259155

Elder Adrian Teo

Doreen Teo	HP: 98781903
Geoffrey Kiang	HP: 90888061
Sharon Goh	HP: 98219056
Eunice Ong	HP: 91761667
Lam Chern Woon	HP: 93698412
Johnston Seah	HP: 96449460

Elder Winston Chong

Josephine Seow	HP: 91704343
Ting Ann Loo	HP: 97882804
Rosalind Png	HP: 96300683
Seah Ke Howe	HP: 90112836
Winston Chong	HP: 96771031
Alistair Chong	HP: 83339373
Audrey Lee	HP: 98554957
Kenneth Kuek	HP: 96256671
Natalie Tang	HP: 97844184
Nicholas Siew	HP: 97407886
Jacqueline Leow	HP: 93369101

Elder William Wong

Hedy Wong	HP: 94551552
Judy Ong (HI)	HP: 96229063
Terry Wan	HP: 98452878
William Wong	HP: 94551556
Kuek Lee Hock	HP: 82232483
Belinda Yam	HP: 98466606
Rudy Lim (HI)	HP: 97764239



**PP 2012 Theme:
To Be & To Do**

**For more details go to:
<http://ppcoc.org/careteam1.htm>**