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Where loving God and loving others matter

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"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

HERE I AM LORD
- Christian Service
基督徒的服事

HVMC'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE HILL TO
THE VILLAGE
- 10 Years and Counting

SERVING AS A BLESSING



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SERVING AS A BLESSING



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Pastor's Message

WHAT WE HAVE TO **OFFER**

We live in a world whereby we have a scarcity mindset. We think – "What will happen to me, if I give?" – and start calculating the resources we have left and pondering if it would adversely affect us. It applies to our considerations of our time, our money, our abilities, our loved ones (allowing them to spend time away from us, to participate in a said work).

But what if, it is not OUR time, OUR money, OUR abilities, or OUR people to own? What if genuine ownership of all these, belonged to someone else?

Luke 12:48 records Jesus saying: "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." Jesus speaks as if ownership of any resource did not reside purely in the hands of mankind. Jesus says these very words at the end of the parable of the faithful servant. In this parable, He tells a story of a master who gives his servants a task to look after all of the master's possessions, while the master is away. Jesus shows that God is the true owner of all we think we 'own'. In His 'absence', we are to steward these resources well and be found faithful in our responsibilities upon His return.

Sometimes we put off generosity, thinking that when we get 'more', then we will have more to 'spare'. I believe that God wants us to give of what we have NOW, not in the future. It is in our giving and utilizing of all these said resources in a faithful manner, that we end up receiving greater responsibilities from God, to steward on His behalf.

But, let us not be mistaken – we aren't the ones starting this discipline of giving (of our time, our abilities, our money, our prayers etc). It has already begun! God is ALWAYS the first and initial Giver! We have what we have, because He put it in our laps! Now He wants us to emulate Him, our Father in Heaven, by giving in the same way back unto His Kingdom's work!

Generosity with God's resources, never leaves us with the short end of the stick. We won't have less because we gave. That's not how it works.

Jesus spoke often in Scripture of how our Father in Heaven cares for us more than the sparrows and lilies in nature. He takes care of them each day and will surely take care of us as well. So, believers do not operate on a scarcity mindset. Rather we live our lives of faith, trusting that when we utilize what God gives us for His Kingdom's work, we grow in our faith journeys as well! We become a people made in His likeness.

Marquis de Lafayette was a French officer who aided George Washington and his struggling American army. After the war, he returned to France and took ownership of a large estate. In 1783, many farms suffered as a result of a poor harvest. But, surprisingly, Lafayette's farm was unaffected. His farmhand advised him to sell what he had at a high price, in the light of low supply and high demand. But, Lafayette looked at the starving people all around and said, "No, now is the time to be generous."

Lafayette understood that what we have been blessed with, was given not for our own profit, but for the good of our fellow men. When we give, in the same way, we too can change lives not just for a season of poor harvest, but for an eternity.



EVENTFUL



HVMC has been 10 years in the making, beginning humbly with 26 pioneer members, mainly from BRMC, at the Preaching Point in 2007, before the inauguration service of HVMC in 2012 with 132 founding members. As we celebrated our 5th anniversary on 9 July 2017, with the theme **REMEMBER AND RENEW**, we are thankful to God for blessing our young church with a current membership of 178, and 270 regular worshippers at each Sunday service.

Wye Mun, who has been with the Church since day one, traces the milestones in our 10-year journey with the Lord.



What were you doing 10 years ago? Some of us were simply minding our own business in the church on the hill when it was announced that Barker Road Methodist Church would be planting a Preaching Point at ACS (International) just as they had done previously at ACS (Independent) in 1998. Something was triggered in our hearts, and placing this firmly in the hands of prayer, we were moved to load up our spiritual wagons and like the pioneers of yore, head west.

Under the effervescent Rev Wee CS David, we started attending weekly services in July 2007 in the ACS(International) school hall - a far cry from the well-appointed Oldham Chapel that we know now. Called the Holland Village Preaching Point, the little church-to-be saw its base of members slowly grow over the ensuing years, as the foundations of church ministries were set in place. Evolving a feeling and identity of its own, HVPP grew as a tightly-knit community that experienced the anticipation that programmes and church numbers could bring.

Finally, in 2012, under the pastoral care of the embracing Rev Bernard Chao, we received the news that no longer would we be allowed to call ourselves HVPP. Instead, the 132 registered members would be constituted as the 45th Local Conference of the Methodist Church in Singapore, with a new name: Holland Village Methodist Church.

Amidst much energy and excitement, the pieces – mosaic tiles of blue and red – would continue to fall into place as HVMC took on a logo and life of its own. As a "church of disciples who are disciplers", hearts would be bound together and ARISE in accountability for discipleship built on a reverence for God and integration of His Word. We would be bound by sharing of life and encouragement of service.

An area that became a hallmark for our young church was the outreach to the community next door and the prayer and shoe rubber-driven befriending of those in need. Extending to school studies and sports support for our neighbourhood children, the involvement with regular events, throughout the year, became a feature that brought us together to share Godly love with others.

After years of being led by Rev Chao, it was with apprehension that we awaited the announcement of his replacement. Any concern we might have had was replaced by uttered thanks to God when the energetic Rev Joel Yong took over as the Pastor-in-charge. He was soon joined by the enthusiastic Rev Noel Goh, as HVMC continued to grow in numbers and activities.

The Church took on a new life in our small groups, thriving ministries, workshops, and the introduction of the Alpha course. The Filipino Ministry, established in HVPP days, continued to touch hearts with their



Todav...







inspiring life-changing commitment. And then, just when we thought that we were pretty busy in church, the earnest Rev Loretta Lim joined us from Living Waters Methodist Church – and new Godly energy was added.

So now, as the Church celebrates its fifth year of existence, the calendar of activities seems to be bursting, prompting so many opportunities for participation and service. To those of us who first stepped into these premises 10 years ago, it is a time of smiling and quietly shaking heads of wonder at God's provision leading to His purpose, fulfilled.

We are thankful for the 12 Christ-filled people who first made up Barker Road Methodist Church when it was founded in 1957. It's a proud lineage we feel now at HVMC - a church where loving God and loving others matter.

Low Wye Mun





EVENTFUL

HVMC'S

Excerpts from testimonies shared in celebration of God's faithfulness and love.

(Visit the HVMC website for the full collection of testimonies.)

I had stopped going to church for 10 years. Although I live five minutes away from HVMC, I didn't know of its existence, until one day, when I dropped off a passenger there. I then decided to go back to church and, since then, I have become a member of **HVMC. Praise God!!**

- Ronald Yap



It was my employer who invited me to HVMC. I'm happy because it has a Filipino Fellowship and it's like a home here in Singapore. I've learned more about God's Word. Before, I was shy to share His Word and I didn't know how to pray but have slowly improved. Thanks to my employer - I know God spoke to her, to invite me to HVMC.

- Baby Jean



He sees, He knows. He guided my dad, who was at the food centre at Commonwealth one day, to notice the banner at ACS (International), displaying information on HVMC. We were, at the time, with a seeking heart, exploring options for a church community nearer home, particularly given Dad's health condition. The genuine warmth and inviting welcome we experienced together with a palpable, awesome presence of the Lord made that first experience of worship memorable. We believe this was God's choice for us.

- Caroline





We used to be occasional visitors at HVMC since 2011 after my husband's passing. In 2015, at Jenny's invitation, my son, Joshua, and I joined HVMC's Church Camp, just to jazz up our lives a little. It was a welcoming and refreshing experience. After prayerfully considering if this was the church for us, we have since been won over by the warmth of HVMC's members and its slew of activities.

- Carol



五年之前, 我已经认识了HVMC。Auntie Mary 是 我的好姐妹。一路来, 我知道神已拣选我们一家。

- Mickev



Our family had been overseas for six years and we were looking for a spiritual home. After visiting a few churches, HVMC's warmth, welcome, God-centredness and closeness drew us and we quickly made it our church. HVMC has provided opportunities for me and my family to continue to serve the Lord and share the blessings that He has bestowed on us so generously. It was at HVMC that I felt the humbling but fulfilling experience of sharing my testimony with the congregation.

- Chew Ping



I truly believe that it was God's arrangement to bring both my daughter, Hannah, and me to HVMC! Last year, when I decided to work in Singapore, my main concern was Hannah's schooling. With God's blessing, I read about ACS (International) in a Methodist church magazine. Hannah has settled in very well at the School and God also guided us to worship at HVMC. We love the people and its culture. This is the best church that I have ever attended in my life.

EVENTFUL



★ It FARED WELL!

HVMC held its third Ministry Fair on Stewardship Sunday on 31 July. The Fair drew many members and friends eager to find out more about, and to be involved in, the various ministries represented at the Fair. It was indeed an encouraging sight to see a foyer packed with people interacting. For more information on these ministries, please visit our church website at www.hvmc.sq

















EVENTFUL

Getting To Know YOU... Getting To Know All About YOU

- Church Camp: A Time to Bond with God, Family & Friends

Deciding to go for your first church camp - that's the hardest! For me and my family, it's the second time, and let me tell you, it just gets better.

The best thing about attending a church camp is the chance to really get to know people. Many Sundays, we simply pass each other with a quick smile, a brief hello. But when you have a few days together, you actually have no choice but to get to know each other better, and that's how you build a community together, right?

Each day started with devotion and then sharing by our camp speaker, Dr Tan Gee Paw, before breaking into our groups of about ten, for further discussion.

Dr Tan shared about the danger of being a "consumer" at church, how we all come to be "entertained" and that the sanctity of the church, the reverence and awe that we should have as we approach God was quickly being lost. This struck especially close to home for me, as I do lead worship in Church. So often, I'm rushing about and don't take much time to prepare myself before God. I'm there to help guide the congregation into the presence of God. So if I'm not right with God myself, how can I honestly lead others?

When we broke into groups, the discussions were often robust and many shared their personal stories. It is clear to see that we each have a unique relationship with God, as He works and relates to each and every one of us in His own special way.

The camp also served as an opportunity for us to discover some of the other unique talents of our fellow church members, as we played football and ultimate Frisbee. There was a pool and even a gym. But the icing on the cake came on the final night when we had performances from all the groups. It was a night filled with laughter and joy as we could really let our hair down.

And this was not a camp just for the adults. In fact, I think the children had an even better

time. The Church Camp is one of those places where you can lower your guard and open your heart, and I'm not just talking about the children. While we will never be like the kids, it cannot hurt to try, can it? So, what do you think...fancy going to Church Camp next year?

Steven Chia

It was a real blessing to attend the Church Camp and it gave everyone in our family the opportunity to spend time with God, each other and our extended church family.

The work group talks and small group discussions provided us with a much deeper understanding of worship and the need for each of us to strive towards our own personal daily worship and devotion. The children also thoroughly enjoyed the camp and made strong bonds with their friends from Sunday school.

– Mark Fyffe

Having attended the Church Camp twice in the past, Bailey, our son, was looking forward to the children's camp programme.

I was touched by Gee Paw's message on the need for private worship and also the four basic principles: to recall a significant event in our lives; for the soul to be filled with thankfulness from the event and the spirit to be rejoicing; to celebrate God's character; to have a sense of brokenness and a total dependency upon God's mercy.

We came away from this Camp with a renewed spirit and a deeper understanding of worship. The short respite gave us the opportunity to rest and seek God more, and we are reminded how less burdened our lives would be when we allow God to guide our every step. Kudos to the camp committee for their hard work, careful planning and execution of the camp programme.

– Tan Choon Hiong































Church Camp is not just a camp, it is an experience - Experiencing God's goodness and touch. Through the camp, I learnt the importance of worshipping in spirit and in truth. Overall, the camp was powerful!

- Shi Yu, 14

It was a great learning experience for me. All the talks were very enlightening, because we learnt of the simplest things we can do to glorify God. I also got to bond with my fellow youths and the adults. Frisbee and football were really fun especially for someone like me, bowling after the sessions.

Church Camp was rather fun and enjoyable, learning more about God, making new friends, and playing games. I hope that next year's Church Camp will be longer and more activities planned, to allow people to bond.

- Mark, 15

Church Camp was an enriching and enjoyable experience and I got to know all my friends better. The daily sermons gave me the opportunity to reflect and think about my actions, and how I can worship God better, which was very moving.

- Sara, 15

Since my first Church Camp in 2015, the whole experience has served as an escape for me, where I can enjoy both the fellowship of believers my age, and spiritual refreshment. This year, the Camp speaker helped me to reaffirm my faith through his sessions.

- Tim, 15

Church Camp was enjoyable and I think all the youths bonded together. We participated in activities such as bowling, football and frisbee. We also learnt a lot about worship: how to worship in private and how to worship as a congregation.

- Drew, 15



Here I Am LORD - Christian Service



"May there always be work for your hands to do." As we consider this traditional Celtic greeting in terms of Christian service, may I offer some thoughts...

Why serve? Service is a privilege

whereby all Christians can put their faith into action. While we are saved by faith and not works, such faith without works is dead (James 2:17). By living for God through our faithful and joyful service, we express our love for Him. And, in return, Christ Himself equips us for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:12).

How are we to serve?

We have the ultimate role model for service: Christ the servant King. In Him, we see a humility that is mirrored by the great apostle, Paul, in Acts 20:19 - "I served the Lord with great humility and tears and in the midst of severe testing...". Acknowledging the gifts given to us by God, we respond as He points us in the direction of His willed area of service. Relying only on His strength, we will learn to seek not the praise of men but rather the approval of God. "...Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit..." (Zechariah 4:6). Then, serving together through differences and conflicts, we will be united as a body that is "joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16).

What are the effects of service?

Both the person being served and the one serving are drawn closer to God. Serving as a worship leader has helped me grow personally in spiritual maturity and confidence as I prepare the Sunday prayer. Bible truths are revealed as I spend time reading the Bible in prayerful preparation.

When I am lost for words, the Spirit always inspires, reminding me of God's leading and purpose. This encourages my continued service.

Where can we serve?

Attending our annual Ministry Fair will open your eyes to opportunities for service. Taking just the Sunday service, you could be seen and heard (leading songs and worship, greeting and ushering, reading scripture), seen and not heard (sound crew, floral steward), and not seen nor heard (communion table preparation, teller). Or just heard (musicians). Non-Sunday activities that call for service include social outreach sessions, workshops, writing for MOSAIC, helping in church courses, and serving on church committees. Service opportunities abound!!

Why then do we not serve?

We naturally tend to shy away from serving and offer reasons for it: Not spiritually mature enough. No talent or ability. Others will step forward. Everything is going fine without me. And, of course, no time. The truth is that "all may serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:14). My own experience is that the call to service starts as a small, inner feeling which is best surrendered to God in prayer. When He draws you out of your comfort zone and convinces you to take that first step, be assured that He will empower you. And His love will flow through you to others in even the most humble of works of service.

Then will we hear the words spoken to the church in Thyatira, "I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first" (Revelations 2:19).

Do you hearken to the call of "loving God and loving others"? If so, then will you respond to the needs of our Church's ministries by saying, "Here I am, Lord"?

Lee Tang Yin

主,我在这里 - 基督徒的服事

"愿你手上常有工作。"

这是一句凯尔特人传统问候语。让我分享一点 我从基督徒服事的角度对这句话的看法。

为什么服事?

服事是一种特权;在服侍中,基督徒把自己的信心行出来。虽然得救是因着信而不是出于行为,信心若没有行为是死的(雅各书2:17)。当我们通过信实且喜悦的服事为主而活,就表达了我们对祂的爱。基督也就装备我们各尽其职,建立祂的身体(以弗所书4:12)。

我们应如何服侍?

基督,祂是仆人君王,是我们服侍的最终榜样。在祂身上,我们看到了许多伟大的使徒所效法的谦卑。正如保罗在使徒行传20:19所说,"服事主,凡事谦卑,眼中流泪。。。经历试炼。"当我们意识到我们有从神而来的恩赐时,我们必须回应神所指给我们服侍的方向,就是按祂所定意的岗位服侍。单单靠祂的力量,我们学习如何寻求神的认可,而不是人的赞美。如圣经所记"不是依靠势力,不是倚靠才能,乃是倚靠神的灵。。。"(撒迦利亚书4:6)。最后,要越过各种分歧和矛盾,立志团结一起服侍主,在主身体里合一。"靠他联络得合式、百节各按各职、照着各体的功用、彼此相助、便叫身体渐渐增长、在爱中建立自己。"(以弗所书4:16)

服事有什么果效?

在服侍中,服侍的人和受服侍的人都会更亲近主。我本身在带领敬拜服侍,必须预备周日的祷告事项,这对我个人的属灵生命成长和信心很有帮助。当我在预备祷告时阅读圣经,圣经真理就向我显现。当我不知如何表达祷告时,圣灵总是启发我,提醒我祂给我的带领和目的。这常鼓舞我持续服侍。

我们如何选择服侍岗位?

你可参加我们年度的事工展,使你打开视野,帮助你选择服侍的机会。就周日的崇拜而言,你可以选择被人所见所闻(带领诗歌崇拜,欢迎来宾),被人所见而不所闻(奇效管理人员,插花者)不被人所见所闻(预备圣餐,出纳员)或者单单被人所闻(司琴)。还有非主日敬拜的活动,你可以选择在社区外展服侍、职场服侍、为MOSAIC杂志编写、在教会的课程中服侍、或在教会委员会服侍。可见服侍的机会其实非常丰富!

那我们为什么不服侍呢?

我们经常避开服侍的机会,也为此找借口:"我属灵上不够成熟。我没有才干没有能力。其他人会服侍的。即使缺了我也没有什么大不了的。还有,我没时间。"而圣经的教导是:"都要-侍奉那永生的神。"(希伯来书9:14)我本身的经历是,服侍的呼召是从内心深处最微小的感觉开始,把这感觉在祷告中交托与神。祂会引导你走出自己的舒适圈子,并说服你跨出第一步。那你就应当放心,因为神一定会赐力量给你。即使在最微小的、最谦卑的服侍,你也会成为祂爱的管道,把爱带到其他人身上。

这样我们便会听到神向推雅推喇教会所说的,"我知道你的行为,爱心,信心,勤劳,忍耐,又知道你末后所行的善事,比起初所行的更多。"(启示录2:19)

你是否听见"爱神爱人"的呼召呢?如果听见了,你是否愿意回应教会事工的需求,说"主啊,我在这里!"

李唐音

Serving As a BLESSING

Do you feel a calling to serve but do not know how or where your gifts can be put to use? Here, some of our Ministry leaders share information about their activities and how serving has drawn them closer to God.

The Children Ministry teaches Bible truths to the children, though the main aim is to lead them from knowing God to loving God, and ultimately, to serving God. The children's choir has performed during Easter and Christmas events, to name a few, and it is hoped that the children will be instilled with the knowledge and awareness of God's great gift of love, and to respond with thankfulness for their salvation. The Ministry is also outward-reaching, taking advantage of any opportunity to share the gospel with the community.

"Serving in this Ministry has taught me that serving God means depending on Him. Many people say that they don't feel qualified to serve God and I felt the same way too in the early days. But by taking that leap of faith, I realize that to do the work that He has called me to do, I need to do it His way and I can only do so by coming into His presence to seek His will and His power. Serving in the Children Ministry is a constant witness to God's goodness and provision. Often, we struggle for resources, especially teachers. But I find that there is no need to be anxious, because God always answers our prayers and provides us with the right people at the right time."

- Jacqueline Seow

The Filipino Fellowship reaches out to Filipino migrant workers, especially domestic helpers, aiming to provide a place for them to know God, and to feel the love of God and of family in a safe environment. At present, the Filipino Fellowship has about 40-50 active members. Fellowship each Sunday begins with breakfast before attending worship service and continues after the service over a simple lunch, followed by activities like Bible study, outings, guitar lessons or dance and other life skill lessons ranging from cooking to starting a business.

"Serving in this Ministry has taught me how to be totally dependent on God. It was not easy for me to let God have total control, especially over something that I am passionate about. But over time, I have learned that it is only when I really let God lead and surrender to His sovereign will that He surprises me with His provision and His miracles. This requires constant honest and intimate conversations with God, in order to serve Him well and to discern what He wants me to do and how He wants me to do it. I also experienced that when my serving brought blessings to people and transformed their lives even in the smallest ways, I felt close to Jesus because He taught me how to bring His love to His people."

- Angela Tan



The Music and Worship Ministry facilitates the worship experience at HVMC. The team ministers to the Lord through praise and worship, and encourages and leads the congregation into the Lord's presence. Their goals are to magnify God, mature His people and build His church.

"God has opened my eyes to the importance of the church liturgy and the place of worship in my faith life. He has made me aware of the privilege given to me to worship Him and in doing so, I see His Spirit growing and maturing me. Each week, as I witness the congregation grow in numbers and in depth of faith, I grow in my trust in Him who is faithful to His Word.

A continual challenge is to remove the perception of the worship service as a performance to be watched and enjoyed. Too often, we think the songs are for us to enjoy listening or singing to, but worshipping God requires intentional action on our part, and we should worship God when the music is excellent, or when the music is off-key.

There is no distinction between "Service", "Servanthood" and "Surrender." All three words describe a yielding of one's priorities and purposes to God. It all boils down to the posture of our hearts. Are we self-centred or God-centred? A true servant heart cannot help but draw one closer to the heart of Jesus."

- Eugel Yeo

The Alpha Course is a series of sessions that explores the Christian faith and provides three main forms of bridge-building between the participants and our Church, our people at HVMC, and most importantly, to Jesus Christ. The goal, interestingly, is not to convert people but to give them the time to understand, consider and ask questions about the Christian faith, so that both non-believers and new Christians will be brought closer to knowing about God, without feeling any pressure.

"When we had our first run last year, I was new to organizing Alpha. Although I had the guide book and training, I still felt inadequate. That led me to just fully trust God in every area of planning and running the course. Trusting Him enabled me to experience peace and rest. I could also feel God's presence when I watched the video talks by Nicky Gumbel and was constantly reminded of truths as God used the talks to speak to me personally. I felt very blessed to serve and be ministered to, at the same time.

During the course, we experienced the spirit of love, and as friendships were formed with quests and other volunteers, I felt so naturally drawn to pray for everyone in our group. I think serving begins from the heart, and it takes humility to volunteer to help. As a person takes a step of faith to commit the required time, God will be faithful and honour that person as he or she begins to draw closer to God and feel thankful that he or she had made the right decision to help.'

- Zoe Ang

Every Sunday, the Audio-Visual (AV) Team helps the musicians to set up, as well as prepare the other equipment such as the microphones, projectors, the announcement and sermon slides. During the service, they control the projection of slides and ensure that both the musicians' monitors and overall sound are working properly.

"Serving on the AV Team is a reminder that what I do is for His glory. It is not always convenient or simple but it is not about me. Rather, it is about how I can serve Him as well as possible. When there are problems with the equipment, thankfully, there are always people available to help out and we are reminded that the Lord is with us and in control. It leads us to trust and rely on Him more, not only when we serve in church, but in our daily lives as well."

- Nehemiah Liaw