

## Is Bible Reading Hard To Do?

By Christopher Cheah

I'm sure many of us when asked, "Is Bible reading important for the Christian?" would answer without hesitation, "Of course!" Yet, it is a fact that we are doing less of it in our churches.

'Bible reading is hard!' is one of the common complaints, if not said aloud then it is silently mouthed in the heart. This protest of difficulty may perhaps be broken down into three separate difficulties.

### 1| It is so hard to fit into my schedule.

This is not true. All it takes to start is 20-30 minutes a day. I started to follow Bible reading plans about six months ago, reading three chapters a day. I found some space between getting up and before going to work for this. And I find this has become more or less a habit I enjoy doing before I start the day.

This is true of most of us. We can make some space in our daily routines

for the 20 minutes of reading. We often use 'spare' time to surf TV channels or the internet; or a quick check on facebook. Stop these for half an hour and start on a reading plan. What it takes is some small adjustment to our routines, not a major lifestyle change.

Christians feed on Scripture. Holy Scripture nurtures the holy community as food nurtures the human body. Christians don't simply learn or study or use Scripture; we assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love ....

Eugene Peterson  
*Eat This Book*

### 2| It is so hard to understand.

Yes, it may be true initially. But this is true of most things we are unfamiliar with. In time, the more we get into it our understanding grows. What is required here is the attitude we bring to the reading. Don't give up so soon. More importantly, be open to listen to what it says however unconnected it may be to our life and experience. Allow the scripture text to show its meaning to us. When we have the vocabulary and know its basic story more the meaning will grow in our understanding.

Having a devotional guide can help our understanding of the Bible.

1. It is hard to fit into my schedule.
2. It is so hard to understand.
3. It is hard to sustain the practice. I know I will fail to keep it daily.

Here is where Scripture Union reading notes provide systematic and regular engagement with scripture, going through each book of the Bible entirely. And now our devotional materials will be available online.

Look it up in the

YouVersion website ([www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)) or through their mobile app.

### 3| It is hard to sustain the practice. I know I will fail to keep in daily.

Yes, we will fail to be consistent. But that is not the point. We are not here to achieve 100% marks for consistency. When we lapse or are behind in our reading, we start up again. It's no big deal. What is important is we come to the Bible with an expectant heart to hear God speak through His written Word.

And because it IS His written Word, God can bring us into the reality and richness of His life and kingdom, his gracious redemption and the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ through the Bible.

Look out for Scripture Union devotional guides online, in YouVersion website ([www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com))

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# WordAlive Camp

By Jason Lai

The Word Alive camp this year (previously called Christian Scripture Investigator (CSI) camp) was held at the Harvest Haven in Gopeng, Perak, from 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The camp was attended by 28 campers. Of this, 3 were international campers from as far as Germany and Tanzania.

During the camp, there were four sessions of talks on Quiet Time, Walk through the Bible, Spiritual Disciplines and Solo Silence. The camp commandant, Mr Edwin Khoo, gave the closing challenge on "Trading Fear for Faith" during the last session. The objective of all the sessions at camp was to guide the campers in experiencing God through His Living Word.

Besides learning, the campers also had times of fun through sports and games. They also went out of the campsite on the third day, to Gua Tempurung for a wet river adventure. It was a great experience for all as they climbed, crawled and swam throughout the adventure trip.

During the camp, it was great to see how God was at work. We witnessed lives being touched by God and many of the campers rededicated their lives to the Lord. It was really a Spirit-filled camp as the Lord ministered to the campers powerfully. May these campers be challenged to continue to walk with God and read His Word consistently and be an encouragement to others. Praise the Lord!



# VINEYARD: Thanksgiving Celebration of the 100th Issue

《葡萄园地》一百期感恩欢庆会



The Thanksgiving celebrates 25 years of writing and illustrating by many different writers and artists. We started the event with Sharon Wong taking the children through a glimpse of the magazine. She also conducted a simple quiz to get participation from the children. Koh Gim Lam shared on how the Vineyard magazine began and the work that has been done in the past. His heart's desire is to see the Vineyard magazine in every book store in Malaysia.

Howard Ho, the current editor of Vineyard, thanked a long list of volunteers for enabling the magazine to run for the past 25 years. The highlight of the evening was the children's choir from SJKC Kung Man who rendered 4 songs; they were superb! The children as well as the adults were thrilled with Uncle Button as he entertained the crowd. Uncle Button used his show to encourage the children to discover the magazine.

We thank God for His goodness for bringing so many new children and adults to share the Vineyard Magazine with them. We trust that this will be another new beginning of another era of how we can be good stewards of this Chinese Children's magazine.

Jennifer Chew



History of Vineyard Magazine by Gim Lam



Appreciation of writers and artists

这感恩会表彰了二十五年来，各方的作者与绘者在写作与插画中所贡献的心力。感恩会开始了，Sharon Wong (黄雅丽姐妹)带领儿童们先观赏一系列《葡萄园地》杂志幻灯片并给於简介，然后，她主持《葡萄园地》问答比赛，让儿童能参与其中。许锦南弟兄分享《葡萄园地》杂志的创刊经过及往年的点点滴滴。他极其盼望《葡萄园地》能出现在马来西亚的每一间书局里。

何廉明弟兄— 现任《葡萄园地》主编也向许多使《葡萄园地》在过去二十五年能如期出版的幕后功臣与天使们诚心致谢。当天的压轴是公民华小合唱团所呈现的四首歌曲，他们的歌声真是太棒了。当Uncle Button (纽扣叔叔)出现在人群中时，全场的大人与儿童都乐翻了！透过Uncle Button 的表演让儿童们更认识这本杂志。

我们感谢上帝的恩典！祂带领好多新读者与成人在我们当中一同分享《葡萄园地》。

我们相信这将是我们能迈入一个更有效的营云儿童杂志的新纪元。

作者：Jennifer Chew

中文翻译：黄群枫姐妹

# Staff Retreat ▶ 21st - 23rd June

Golden Sands Baptist Centre, Port Dickson

By Elsie Cherian

It was going to be a time to relax and enjoy ourselves and we were so looking forward to it. Then came the haze! But no way did it stop us from having a good time. We did a lot of 'jalan-jalan', ate a lot, participated in two fun team-building exercises and took part in a meaningful Sunday Service. Our 'jalan-jalan' took us to three places – the newly redeveloped Methodist Centre where we were given a guided tour; the lighthouse at Cape Rachado with its amazing view of the sea and the Port Dickson waterfront which is built on reclaimed land around the town centre. Some of us braved the haze and went for beach walks as well.

Throughout our time there we were well fed with generous helpings of a variety of dishes. Dinner on Saturday night was a barbeque augmented with toasted marshmallows kindly provided by Jennifer. The team-building exercises were led by Terrence Jiam and his assistant, Zen of Emwerks (dealing with training and education). In the first exercise we learnt the importance of working as a team as we set out to 'manufacture hats'. In the second exercise the focus was on memorizing and following instructions. We were presented with a scenario where we had to make a quick escape in the dark (we were blindfolded) with the help of instructions given by our

leader. During the 'rounding-up' given by Terrence we were touched to find out that this amazing young man who is doing so much good work among youth came to know the Lord during an SU camp!

Our last day, a Sunday, was spent together in worship and prayer. Richard played a challenging message on dying to self by David Platt an American pastor. Not only was it good to bond together outside of work but it was also great to spend time with Rosalind, Soo Woon, Ethel and Lucas and Shalom and Hannah, the wives and children of Christopher, Howard, Edwin and Siew Meng respectively.

## Staff Consultation

By Collene Lee

Thirteen SU staff went on the annual staff consultation at Highlands Christian Centre, Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands from September 30-October 2, 2013. A Council Member, Mr. Koh Gim Lam, started off with sharing the vision, aims, history and development of SU Peninsular Malaysia, in his usual engaging and passionate manner. His sharing left a deep impression on the staff, of the rich heritage of SUPM as an organisation, motivating them to continue to give of their best as they served. Discussions then moved on to reviewing and reflecting on the year 2013 thus far. After this, the staff spent some time in prayer, giving thanks to God for the year and seeking direction for the coming year. Subsequently, the direction and plans for 2014, of the four ministry departments (namely the Bible Reading Ministry, Children Ministry, Youth Ministry and Camping Ministry Departments) as well as the organisation as a whole, were shared. In between the discussions, the staff took a refreshing break to visit some touristic spots. The consultation ended with calendaring for next year and a time of sharing and prayer.



## SUFES Staff Training: "Renovare" C.A.S.E.

By Collene Lee

"Renovare" C.A.S.E. (Conversations About Scripture Engagement), a training seminar for SU and FES staff was conducted by Annette Arulrajah, Associate Regional Secretary for East Asia, on August 19-20, at Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. The seminar focused on engaging Scripture with the current generation of young people. Hence, the seminar started by examining the current trends in handling the Word of God today, issues that needed to be addressed and relevant tools to be engaging. Moving on to what the Bible said about itself, the staff were challenged to consider what the Bible meant to them personally. Subsequent discussions then focused on the impact of the Malaysian, postmodern and Christian subculture and societal pressures on Scripture engagement. Proposals the staff put forward to encourage more effective Scripture engagement with the young generation included the latter inviting the Word of God into their lives daily, having an open, genuine and safe environment so they can share their stories as well as helping young people understand, study and appreciate the Bible. In this regard, Scripture engagement in large groups and during solo times were considered. The time of learning and sharing together during the seminar was certainly refreshing, challenging and fun!



# VOLUNTEER

By Collene Lee

# WITH SU?

**Y**es!!! Did you know that the work and ministries of SU over the years have been carried out in partnership with hundreds of volunteers? These partnerships have gone a long way towards helping SU achieve its objectives of reaching children, youths and their families with the Word of God. In the meantime, volunteers have had the blessed opportunity to serve God, grow in faith and skills through engaging in mission and ministry and becoming part of the international SU family.

So it will be a memorable, rewarding and enriching experience..an experience of lasting value!

Would you then like to consider volunteering with SU? We know you are pretty committed with work, studies, family... but volunteering opportunities depend on the amount of time you have. Whether it's a few days during the school holidays, a day a month on a regular basis or more, we'd love to have you partner with us! If you have a few days, you can help us as camp officers at our camps, leading groups and group discussions for youths or children, teaching and simply mingling with them. If you have a few hours a month, you can be our School Christian Fellowship partner, visiting, teaching or encouraging school Christian Fellowships. Or if you have time daily, you can pray for the work of SU or you may wish to give financially towards the ministry of SU. And, if you have a passion for the Bible, believing that it is life changing, you can serve as a Bible reading promoter in your church or in your area by encouraging the reading of the Bible through the SU Bible reading guides using the SU Bible reading method.

Now that you've decided to volunteer, please just get onto the SU website and fill up a simple application form, or contact the SU office. Volunteering will be a blessed experience but more than that, the people you serve will be blessed, simply because you have served! We look forward to getting to know you better and serving alongside you!

## Santo Augustine dari Hippo (354-430)

**A**ugustine dilahirlank di Tagaste, Algeria. Beliau, Biskop Hippo di Afrika Utara, banyak menghabiskan masanya menulis buku. Salah satu di antaranya ialah "The Confessions of St. Augustine" (Pengakuan Santo Augustine), yang dianggap oleh ahli-ahli kesusasteraan sebagai salah satu buku yang terbaik seluruh zaman. "The Confessions" ditujukan kepada Tuhan and buku itu berisi satu kalimat doa yang sering dikutip, iaitu "Engkau telah menjadikan kami bagi diri-Mu sendiri, dan hati kami tidak tenang sehingga kami menemui-Mu."

## Doa Meminta Pertolongan Tuhan

*Tuhan, rahmati kami  
pertolongan-Mu dalam  
segala tugas kami;  
pimpinan-Mu dalam  
segala kekeliruan kami;  
perlindungan-Mu dalam  
segala bahaya;  
damai sejahtera-Mu  
dalam segala penderitaan;  
dengan perantaraan Yesus  
Kristus, Tuhan kami.  
Amin.*

## THIS IS WHAT OUR PREVIOUS VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY:

### WHY DID YOU OFFER TO VOLUNTEER AT SU?

**Emily Dass**, volunteer, SUPA/TWEENS children's camp, "I decided to volunteer so that parents from my Sunday School would be confident to send their kids."

**Marianne Liaw**, SCF partner, "My interest started with the encouragement of my church pastor to be looking for ministry opportunities outside of church several years ago. I heard that SU was involved in schools' and students' ministry amongst other things and hence decided to volunteer to serve."

### HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN?

**Emily**, "I was so blessed to be able to bring kids from Sitiawan to be part of a national camp. Seeing the children enjoy the fellowship with other children made me really glad. It was awesome!"

**Marianne**, "It has been a privilege to be able to share and teach God's Word to students from various schools and churches. The joy of knowing that youths can be.. encouraged to know the Gospel, share it with their friends and also grow in the knowledge of God through the study of His Word has been a great inspiration to me. To be working with the dedicated staff workers and other volunteers of SU has also been a wonderful experience."

**Ng Siew Har**, volunteer, National School CF Leaders' camp, "It was an interesting experience on the whole. I got a lot of new ideas on how to do games. In fact a few of us who went for camp last year organised station games for about 200 people during my church family day."

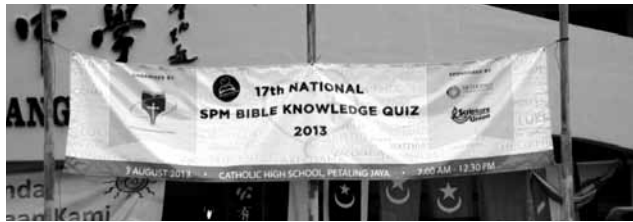
### WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM IT?

**Emily**, "I had the chance to meet people from different parts of this country and even others (Laos) who share the same passion and love for children work. I have renewed the passion and burden the Lord has placed in my heart for children's work."

**Marianne**, "I've definitely gained a lot of experience in teaching God's Word to youths and this has greatly benefited me in my work as a full time youth worker in my own church and in the Anglican Diocese."

**SPM BK Quiz 2013 @ Catholic High School, PJ, 3 August, 2013**

The 14th National Bible Knowledge Postal Bible Quiz was held from April 19 - 29, 2013. The Quiz Questions were based on Genesis 25 - 29 and Acts 8 - 15. The quiz was run in 4 languages with 169 centres participating. 3319 participants took the quiz in English, 1083 in Mandarin, 931 in Malay and 18 in Tamil.



# IG Camp

IG Camp with Wesley Methodist Church, Johor Baru, Felda Residences, Tanjung Leman, Mersing (7-9 June 2013)



All the participants.



Activity work for the children.



Young and old having fun together.



Group discussions.

## SCF Rallies



1



3



2



4



5



7



6

- 1 Klang SCF Rally - counselling session.
- 2 Klang SCF Rally.
- 3 PJ SCF Rally - Preaching God's Word
- 4 Subang SCF Rally-worship session
- 5 Subang SCF Rally-Elaine praying for students
- 6 Subang SCF Rally-participants
- 5 PJ SCF Rally-Participants



# SCF Seminar in Penang

By Christopher Cheah

The SCF Seminar, which was first held in KL/PJ in March, was brought to Penang on 14 September. The TCF team, under the Chairman of TCF, Mr Lim Boon Chye, was very keen to encourage more teachers, church leaders and parents to take up the schools work there.

It was heartening to hear from some participants of their coming to know Jesus through the CF in their school, which reinforces the continuing need to have a Christian presence and witness today. It was also encouraging to know some churches are supporting the CF work by releasing their teachers to focus



**SCF Seminar Penang1 – From left, Christopher, GS of SU, Indyrany, GS of TCF, Mdm Poh Ai, Principal of Methodist Girls School, Penang and Eugene Yapp, Secretary General of NECF.**

on their ministry in school, by sponsoring camps and other activities, and providing space for students to meet or practise.

There was a large contingent of trainee teachers brought along by their lecturers from the Teachers' College. They were introduced early to the importance of the CF and on how to start one in the school. Many experienced and dedicated teachers were at hand to encourage and share with them.

We look forward to maintaining the momentum of encouraging schools work. This Seminar can possibly be brought to other towns and regions in the coming year.

## Welcome, Tinna!

We would love to take this opportunity to extend our warm welcome to Tinna Monica

Anthanyomthu, our new Scripture Union staff, who will be coming on board on 1st November 2013. She will be serving in the capacity of a Field Ministry Staff in the Children Ministry department. Having completed her Bachelor of Accounting (Hons) degree at Multimedia University (MMU), Tinna

has two things she is certain about - one is to do what God has planned for her which is to embark on a full-time Christian Ministry calling and the other is not to work in a secular audit firm. She has never possessed a sense of belonging towards accounting and felt that God had placed her at MMU for a different reason - as a stepping stone before answering to God's full-time calling. God has been training her



beforehand as a Sunday school teacher in the Tamil Methodist Church in Seremban. It was during the course of this informal training that made her realize that children are not playful as they outwardly portray themselves to be, but hidden in their little hearts are deep-seated hurts that need God's love and inner-healing to flow through his human vessels. Let us pray for God's enablement, strength, courage, wisdom, and love to rest upon her as she seeks to serve the people of God through Scripture Union for his glory.

## Welcome, Joanne!

We would also like to welcome on board the SU team, Joanne Liaw as Personal Assistant to the

General Secretary effective 1st August 2013. Joanne worships at St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral Contemporary (SMACC). After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree from Universiti Putra Malaysia, she worked at CIMB Bank. However, after working there for three years, Joanne decided that she would like a job which would afford her work life



balance, so that she would have more time to serve in church. On joining SU, this is Joanne's prayer request, "Continue praying that I will be able to handle the tasks at hand as I seek to serve God and His people through SU."

## Camp Highlights

**National School Christian Fellowship Leaders' Camp (NSCF) • 18-23 November, 2013 • Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban**

**DNA Camp • 4-14 December 2013 • Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban**