

Truth Bible-Presbyterian Church

Adults' Fellowship

Annual General Report 2016



Foreword by Pastor

Greetings in our Lord's blessed name. Our church theme for 2016 is "Fulfilling the Great Commission by the power of the Holy Spirit." How have you been fulfilling the Great Commission? It is our Lord Jesus who has issued the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 for the church to keep. However the Great Commission has become a Great Omission today. Worldliness has crept into the church and Christians today are wearing a different brand of Christianity. Their method of reaching out to the world is: Think like the world, dress like the world, and talk like the world, so that the world will be won over. They may have successfully brought the world into the church but the sad result of such a method is that the church has now become worldly instead. What is wrong? Let us look at what the Lord has given us in the Great Commission again in the following:

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." The Lord Jesus is the Divine Commissioner who has been given the authority and power from above to issue the command to us. This is the divine call for the church to answer. And the response must be answered faithfully without apology and compromise. It must be entirely the Commissioner's conditions to keep, and not ours. Therefore the command that comes in the following must be obeyed at all cost. What are we supposed to do? Read on.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." No church is to sit around, and do nothing. We are to actively go and teach the unsaved of the true gospel of the Risen Saviour Jesus Christ. We are also to go and teach the saved of the only way of salvation how to glorify our Father in heaven. It is not becoming the world and be taught by the world how to think, live and talk like them. We are to teach them what God has taught us in His Word. We are to lead them to the Truth and light of the gospel. Read on.

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." As we are not to pick and choose who to hear the gospel or who to glorify God, we are also not to pick and choose which commandment of the Lord to teach the people.

Office Bearers 2016

Advisor

- Elder Winston Chew

President

- Eric Toh

Vice President

- Paul Tan

Secretary

- Alice Tan

Treasurer

- Mary Yong

Publicity Chairman

- Alan Tam

Committee Members

- Martin Cheong
- Benjamin Yeo

CONTENTS	Page
Foreword by Pastor	1
Word from our Advisor	3
TAF 2016 Reports	4
Programme 2016	5-10
Treasurer's Report	11
	12

Foreword by Pastor

We are called to teach all the counsel of God that all may observe all the commandments of God. This is a very high calling. We cannot do it by ourselves. Not only we need the power of God, Christ deemed it necessary to assure us of His presence when we keep the Great Commission. Do we have any excuse not to do it?

“Amen.” Truly, this is the true mission from the One, Living and True God. The true way of salvation is only one. But who will go and tell the lost of this only true way? The Divine Commissioner has already issued the command and call.

Many have responded but out of these, many had fallen, some others are about to fall, and only a few are still hanging on. What about you?

The responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission comes upon us regardless whether we are young or old, rich or poor, strong or weak, since there is no respect of persons in evangelism. We see unbelievers every day in the streets, schools, workplaces, homes and so on. Each time they pass by, how do you feel? Do you see their emptiness and meaningless life they are leading? What you see in them now is what you see yourselves in the past, isn't it? By the mercy and grace of God, we are now in His marvelous light and truth, but many are still in darkness. Should we not do something about it? If we do not go and reach out to the lost, who will? If we do not go and publish glad tidings of peace, joy and hope of everlasting life, who will? We seem to always try ways and means to keep ourselves busy in every other things so that we can give ‘good’ excuses for not witnessing for the Lord. We prefer to remain silent and pray that God will use someone else more eloquent and qualified to bring His message of salvation. Did we not know that Moses also gave the same excuses (see Exodus 4:10-17) and God was angry with him for that? Do we also think that God has made a mistake by calling us to witness for Him? God has promised to give us confidence and power to do His work. We can rest assured that He will not leave us to do His work alone.

We have a ringing command from the Lord to share the gospel, and men are dying without Him day by day. The love of God should compel us to obey Him as He leads us into sharing opportunities of each day. Let us always be ready to fulfill the Great Commission by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that we in Truth B-P Church be more proactive in the advancement of the Great Commission to the saving of souls. May the Lord of the harvest send forth more labourers into His harvest field till He comes. May God help us. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dennis Kwok

Holiness, not happiness, is the chief end of man.
Oswald Chambers

Theme 2015 & 2016 – I press toward the mark (Phil 3:12-14)

Word from our Advisor

2016 has come and gone, and a new year has begun. Can we say we have grown in the Lord as we age year by year? Can we say we are more mature Christians, and have increased in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and in our love for Him and for one another? Let us make each year, each month, each week and each day count for the Lord, and grow in our faith, our walk, and in our service for Him.

1. Let us make God's Word central to all that we do.

Joshua 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Love God's Word, study God's Word, memorise God's Word, and do God's Word. God's Word is given for our good, tells us of His goodness and gives us instructions as to how we ought to live in order to please Him. It should be directing us in all that we do, all that we think and all that we say. How can this be achieved? Only if we are saturated with God's Word, and seek to do it. Let us meditate upon God's Word day and night, so that we do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left.

2. Let us love God

God, Who has forgiven all our sins through the great sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, has manifested His great love for us. Let us, Who have experienced His love, and been saved from our sins, love Him.

1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

How can we love God? By giving of ourselves to Him for His use. All that we have – our lives, our time, our strength, our possession – are His, and ought to be consecrated for His use. We are called to be sanctified – separated from the world and from sin – for His sacred use, for His glory. Hence, let us live a holy life for God, putting Him first in all that we do, and living every aspect of our lives in consecration to Him.

3. Let us love one another.

Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

As God has loved us and forgiven us, we ought also to love and forgive one another. But we are often filled with pride, and think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. Rather, let us think of others' welfare, build up one another, forgive one another, and encourage one another in the Lord. Sometimes we may be prone to think – why does he or she not behave like a Christian and do this or that? Do not be offended, but examine ourselves, be humble, and pray for one another.

So in the new year, let us resolve to grow in our faith and knowledge, in our love for God, and for one another. We must grow, and cannot be stagnant, or we will backslide, and fall into sin. Rather, we must be diligent, and be vigilant in our walk, centred on God's Word.

Truth AF 2016

Theme Verses – Philippians 3:12-14

Objectives:

1. Closer walk with God
2. Fervency in service
3. Heavenly mindedness



Advisor – Elder Winston Chew

Groups

1	Alan Tam	Ben Yeo	Paul Tan
2	Eric Toh	Mary Yong	Martin Cheong
3	Toh Jyh Cheau	Yong Choon Leong	Helen Tan
4	Audrey Tam	Ng Boon Choo	Susan Cheong
5	John Loo	Liz Yeo	Cherine Cheong
6	Josephine Loo	Alice Tan	Carine Chua
7	Sim Eet Neo	Joe Tan	Chua Beng Choon
8	William Tan	Kwok Yee Min	Chan May Ling
9	Ivy Wan	He Yirong	Tina Wong
10	Wan	Serene Lee	Anthony Cheng
11	Gloria Ho	Chew Soh Han	*Tina Yee
12	*Janice Cheong	Eld Winston Chew	*Yee Wing Sun
13	*Jodie Cheong		*Shirley Chua
	* Friends	In bold – Group Leaders	

Members' Pledge

In joining the Adults' Fellowship, I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.
 As a member of this Adults' Fellowship, I shall endeavour to attend every meeting, to be punctual,
 to pray for other members, to witness for Him and in all things to glorify God in my life.
 I have read the Constitution and thereby agree to adhere to its rulings.

President : Eric Toh

As the year draws to a close, it is a good time to take stock and prepare for challenges in the coming year and beyond. Did I have a closer walk with God? How has my service been? Fervent or growing weary? Did I set my heart and mind on things above or have I been cumbered by the cares of the world?

The theme for 2015/16: I press toward the mark (Philippians 3:12-14). We must all strive onward, forward and upward. Be single-minded like the apostle Paul in his pursuit of excellence in the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord. Pray that we will continue to do so in the years ahead.

We celebrated our combined fellowships 10th Anniversary. The theme "Great is thy faithfulness" was taken from Lamentation 3:22-23. Rev Quek was the speaker for this happy occasion. He reminded us that God is faithful to us. Daily we received His mercies and all that we have needed—He has gladly provided for us.

The AGM cum Election was conducted smoothly on 16th Jan. Elder Winston spoke from 2 Chronicles 16:1-10. The focus is on verse 9: "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." The Lord is looking for someone who is perfect toward Him" to serve Him.

This year's retreat was held on 28/29 Oct in NSRCC chalet. Rev Das Koshy was the speaker and he spoke on our theme "I Press toward the Mark (Phil 3:12-14). The children also had a special program organised by Mrs Koshy. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and learning God's word. We were also reminded to have a proper self-examination of our spiritual life.

TAF organised a Gospel meeting on 16th July in church. Prior to the gospel meeting, we had a witnessing workshop where Preacher Clement Chew shared with us the principles of presenting the gospel. The groups had a fruitful discussion and also role-played based on the different scenarios allocated. Preacher Clement Chew spoke on "Bad times are coming! Are you prepared?" Thank God for friends who came and that we were able to share with them the gospel. We are reminded to be more active in inviting our loved ones and friends to come and listen. We must also pray and continue to be good witnesses for Christ and bear a good testimony for Him.

The Church quiz was held on 17 September. The new system to the quiz was refreshing and useful as it allowed every group to answer every question. I would like to encourage everyone to participate the next time as it is always a joy to hide God's word in our hearts.

Some of the interesting programmes for the year include the book study of I Corinthians. The Apostle Paul deals with the many problems faced by the church at Corinth. He addresses a variety of issues like division, judgement, immorality, marriage/ divorce and the Lord's Supper.

We have a monthly bible study on Daniel conducted by Rev Quek and a children bible study by Sister Xiao Wei. It is held every fourth Saturday of the month and all in Truth BPC are welcomed to participate. The life of Daniel provides a clear example of a man who was faithful to God.

The last event for AF was the carolling at the home of Uncle Lee. We are glad that Uncle Lee has been growing in the Lord. He was very glad that we were able to visit him and share the joy of Christmas with his family.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

Vice President : Paul Tan

Joshua 24:24 *“And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.”*

Shortly before Joshua died, he gathered the people of Israel and reminded them to fear God, to be faithful and obedient to God, to forsake all other gods and idolatry, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth. (ref: Joshua 24:14-28)

How apt was that piece of advice!

Soon after Joshua died, just one generation later, Israel began to stray from their promises, inter-married with the heathen inhabitants of the Promised Land, and worshipped other gods (ref: Judges 2:11-19). God even sent an angel to rebuke them, but to no avail.

Human forgets easily, and needs to be constantly reminded. As we look back at 2016, and ponder what the New Year holds, I would like to repeat the same advice from Joshua, which is most appropriate.

Trust

Hitherto has God seen us through thus far, just like the days when the children of Israel entered Canaan, the only one who could deliver them was God. We know God is most faithful and gracious; He will not forsake His children nor break His covenant with His beloved. Amidst the uncertainties of tomorrow, He holds the future. “..let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.” (Psalm 5:11)

Obey

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Sam 15:22b). To be obedient is one of the hardest things to do in our Christian walk. It didn’t take long for the children of Israel to break their allegiance to God who brought them out of Egypt and proffer for favour from strange gods and idols at their knees. Behold, are we like them? Or do we hearken and obey God?

Serve

Let us examine ourselves by turning to Joshua’s advice again “..choose you this day whom ye will serve..” (Joshua 24:15). Whom do we serve today? God or mammon? In the soon frenzy New Year, there is little time for us to pause and think. There is no better time than now, to reflect if our service to God is lackadaisical? If it is, it’s never too late to make amends. With God’s help, let us pray how we can serve God even more fervently this coming year.

My friend, may the Lord bless you as you Trust, Obey and Serve the One Living and True God.

Secretary : Alice Tan

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

Thank God for the many years of opportunity to serve Him in the AF. Indeed God is great, bountifully good and gracious, constantly blessing us, individually, as an Exco and even as a fellowship group, in many ways.

Serving God must always be joyful because it is out of a grateful heart for the marvelous work of salvation He has wrought in us. Thinking of His great love and sacrifice in sending His precious Son to be our Saviour must fill our hearts with awe, gratitude and love. What more, He has promised to give us strength and help each step of our way as we live and serve Him, while waiting for glory and His return.

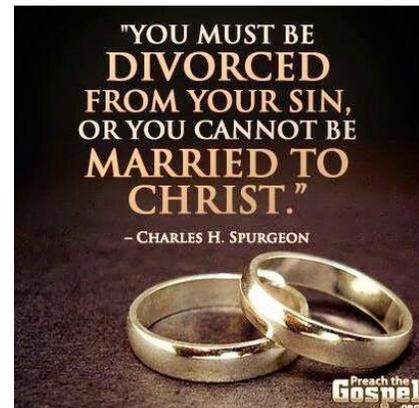
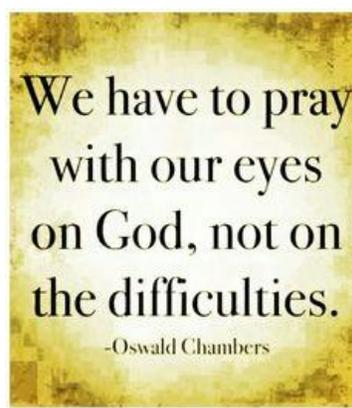
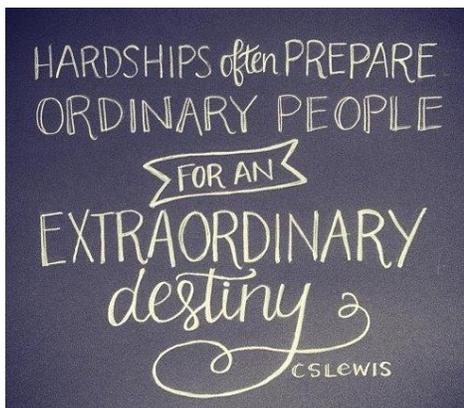
Thus, as Christians, it is indeed a privilege to have all the opportunities and avenues of service in Christ. Yet, the journey is not always smooth and we do get weary and faint. We may want to give up. We want time for ourselves. We have other priorities. We lack that motivation and love. How easy it is to be weary. But we are exhorted by Paul in the above verse not to be weary, for in due season we shall reap.

But we must not faint. We must not be the reason for others to be weary and faint too. Do we hold a title but do not do our part? Do we often leave tasks to be done by others? Do we take our roles lightly? Do we need to be reminded and pushed? Weariness . . . Let us do our due diligence in our area of service, our role, our capacity and encourage others, so that we do not get weary and faint.

Please pray for us, as an Exco always, for the spiritual tasks we need to do.

Ephesians 4:12

***For the perfecting of the saints,
for the work of the ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ.***



Publicity Chairman : Alan Tam

I thank God for the opportunity to serve as the Publicity Officer in the AF Exco. As part of the Exco's efforts to inform the AF members and friends of our events and activities, announcements are regularly made through platforms such as our AF notice board, TAF Prayer & Announcement WhatsApp group as well as announcements in the Church Weekly.

Special thanks go out to Aunt Mary for her faithful service in managing the TAF Prayer & Announcement WhatsApp group where AF members and friends are kept updated of the upcoming events and also the prayer requests from brethren within and without Truth BPC.

I thank God for Ben and Paul's efforts in the publication of our AF newsletters "TAF Times" and "The Press". Thank God also for the contributions of all the writers, photographers and others who have played a part in the creation of our newsletters.

Outreach/Encouragement Ministry

Thank God for the words of the Apostle Paul to the elders in Ephesus in Acts 20:35 where he reminded the elders to support the weaker brethren amongst them who were experiencing trials and tribulations.

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Likewise we too must take heed of Paul's admonition in Acts 20. We had the opportunity to visit Sister Pamela as part of the Agape Love Ministry. Thank God for the good turnout and also for the sharing by Pastor Dennis to encourage the family.

We thank God too for enabling the AF Exco to visit Yumin's father in September. As Yumin's father continues to grapple with his physical infirmities, we sang a few Chinese hymns and Alan shared God's Word from 2 Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." to remind him of the sufficiency of God's grace in all situations.

Proverbs 12:25 says that "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad." Let us be this person to visit a brother in need and say a good word to lift the hearts of our brethren.

"I want the presence of God Himself, or I don't want anything at all to do with religion... I want all that God has or I don't want any." A.W. Tozer

Committee Member : Ben Yeo

Praise God for the opportunity to serve in the AF exco for another year. I also thank God for the grace to be the group facilitator this year and for the group members I had the privilege of serving with.

I thank God that we had the opportunity to meet up with each other over group dinners held before each AF meeting that our group chairs.

I also thank God that the group had the opportunity to share our spiritual takeaways after the AF messages as well as our prayer requests and thanksgiving during discussion time throughout the year.

This year, our group took on the responsibility of organising the AF 11th Anniversary in 2017. We thank God for the opportunity to serve God together in this area too.

May the Lord find us faithful till He returns.

TAF Retreat : Martin Cheong

The TAF retreat was held on the 28-29 October at the NSRCC (Changi) Chalet. The theme was 'I press toward the mark' and the purpose is to revisit the theme as a closure for the year, including service and leadership renewal.

The main speaker for the retreat was Rev. Das Koshy.

On the evening of the first day of the retreat, we had a BBQ and our president, Eric Toh shared from Romans 12:1-2 '*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*'. We had a good time of fellowship with one another as well as with some guests. Two families stayed back at the chalet.

The next day, we had nearly 40 participants including adults and children. The first session was chaired by Paul Tan. Rev. Koshy expounded from Philippians 3:12-14.

Philippians 3:12-14 *'Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'.*

He shared how Paul the apostle was honest about his condition and we should also have a proper self estimation of our life. We need to ask if we have grown in the different areas of our life. Also we are not supposed to compare ourselves with others. We are to give our lives to God.

The second session was chaired by Elder Winston Chew. Rev. Koshy continued to expound on the above verses, sharing many personal anecdotes to drive home the points he wanted to make. He shared from Psalm 90 to remind us of the brevity of life. He also shared from Psalms 27:4 - 'One thing have I desired of the LORD...' to press on and not to sit on our own laurels. He asked us what is our portion for 2017? He further encouraged us to do something good, every day, for the Lord. He concluded by stating that his epitaph will be "This is a man that God loves".

We also had a children's program. Mrs Carolyn Koshy was the teacher.

The retreat ended with a blessed time of fellowship over lunch. Everyone was much blessed by the messages. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time for further fellowship as we all had to rush back to prepare to attend the Church Gospel Night in the evening.

Some takeaways from the Retreat by some participants . . .

Proper self-examination of our spiritual life – our standard is Christ. We cannot be self-contented when it comes to spiritual responsibility – no retirement. Do something good for Jesus each day. We are not to dream of our future but do what Christ desires for us. Pursue a forward looking Christian life. Our mark is Christ, the prize that we want is Christ... Audrey

Hunger and thirst after things of God. Be not content with spiritual things. Apostle Paul's testimony shows how he sees he was not 'there' yet... Not attained... Paul thought there was always something he could do better. Do not look back at what we have done and rest on our past laurels. Instead, look forward, onward and upward. "One thing" people are God's children. Be committed to God. Be vigilant. Satan is still a roaring lion. We are God's children. What we have is for Christ. We should glorify God with all we have....Liz



A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats

Charles Spurgeon

PROGRAMME 2016

Date	Topic	Speaker	Chairing i/c
Jan 9	Combined Fellowship 10th Anniversary	Rev SY Quek	-
16	AGM & Elections	Eld Winston	Exco
23	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	AF
Feb 13	Closer Walk with God – Christ’s High Priestly Prayer (John 17) – 1	Pr Ko Ling Kang	Exco
20	Closer Walk with God – Christ’s High Priestly Prayer (John 17) – 2	Pr Ko Ling Kang	Alan
27	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	
Mar 12	Closer Walk with God – David’s Prayer (1 Chron 29:10- 19)	Pr Jose Lagapa	Ben
19	Closer Walk with God – Wrestling with God (Gen 32:24-30)	Pr Jose Lagapa	Paul
26	Church Bible Study – Daniel (cancelled)	Rev SY Quek	
Apr 9	No meeting - Church ACM	-	-
16	Fervency in Service (Romans 12) – What is our reasonable service?	Rev Das Koshy	Ben
23	Church Bible Study – Daniel (cancelled - Fellowship)	-	PAM
May 14	Heavenly Mindedness (Col 3) – What is your affection?	Pr Clement Chew	Paul
21	Heavenly Mindedness (Col 3) – Put off, Put on	Pr Ko Ling Kang	Alan
28	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	
Jun 11	No meeting	Individual leaders to decide	
18	No meeting – Church Camp (13 – 18)	-	-
25	No Bible Study	-	-
Jul 9	Gospel Essentials	Pr Clement Chew	IC PAM
16	Gospel Night - Bad times are coming! Are you prepared?	Pr Clement Chew	IC PAM
23	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	AF - Eric
Aug 13	Divided or United (1 Cor 1:10)	Pr Joshua Yong	Ben
20	Spiritual man vs Natural man (1 Cor 2:11-16)	Pr Joshua Yong	Paul
27	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	
Sep 10	Labourers Together with God (1 Cor 3:8-10)	Rev Jeffrey Khoo	Alan
17	Church Quiz	-	-
24	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	
Oct 8	How to regard judgement of oneself and others (1 Cor 4:1-13)	Rev SY Quek	Ben
15	A little Leaven (1 Cor 5:6-8)	Rev SY Quek	Paul
22	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	AF - Martin
28-29	AF Retreat – I Press toward the Mark (Phil 3:12-14)	Rev Das Koshy	Martin
Nov 12	Dealing with immorality and fornication (1 Cor 6:18)	Rev Jeffrey Khoo	Alan
19	Proper understanding of marriage and divorce (1 Cor 7)	Rev Das Koshy	Ben
26	Church Bible Study – Daniel	Rev SY Quek	
Dec 10	Concerning food offered to idols (1 Cor 8:1-13)	Pr Joshua Yong	Paul
17	The Lord’s Supper (1 Cor 11)	Pr D Kabingue	Alan
24	Christmas Caroling (8pm)	Elder Chew	Alice