

# PAUSE FOR THOUGHT : Happiness

Reflecting on our identity in Christ, I was struck by this ST Decaux ad campaign, encouraging people to submit their children's smiley photos for a chance to be part of a metro billboard campaign about happiness.

I saw two levels of happiness at work here: one evident from the photos, and the other from the parents' adrenaline rush when their photo is picked.

I cannot help but wonder if this is how the world defines happiness? A chance to flash my child's smile to the world? I imagine this campaign is gaining street cred among marketers for "raising consumers' emotional engagement with the brand", but I find it oddly void of substance.

What does get me excited is this: it makes for a great conversation with non-believers about happiness, true joy and our real identity.

WHICH SCRIPTURE VERSE ABOUT JOY AND IDENTITY WOULD YOU SHARE WITH NON-BELIEVERS?



## Why The Vessel?

Conceived from the verses of 2 Kings 4:1-7 "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors - empty vessels; do not gather just a few..."

The newsletters are to be the vessels of His Supernatural Blessings and Providence. With faith in the Lord, the blessings will not stop, but will instead overflow, so that we can, as vessels, catch and share with others the goodness that God has bestowed upon His people.



# THE VESSEL

AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF SHANGHAI PUBLICATION

# Shining Forth Our Light

60 MINUTES WITH PAUL HAWKINS  
*Finding Contentment And Fulfillment*

### TESTIMONIES

We give our best, God will do the rest.

The Power Of A New Identity"  
Retreat With Dan Sneed



ILLUSTRATION JOE FANG

Looking for an opportunity to make the best use of your creative skills? The editorial team invites entries for the Art Column. It can be a painting, illustration, or a nice photograph. All contributions are welcome and appreciated.



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**FORE!** Calling all golfers for a good cause, the golfing event of the year is back!

Join us at Silport Golf Club in support of **Bless China International** and **Christian Action**.

The International Church of Shanghai (ICS) is organising the 5th Annual ICS Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, June 7, 2013, with the proceeds benefitting Bless China International and Christian Action.

By participating in this event, you will be able to make a difference and help the poor, the needy, the marginalised, and the underprivileged in China receive aid. There will be a host of great prizes, a live auction, lunch, and an Awards Dinner for all participants.

Putting golf balls aside, this will be a day of great fun in the sun as participants get to benefit a good cause and share the Lord's love.

Your Golf Package Includes

- Full Day of golf with cart
- Tournament prizes
- Lunch and dinner
- 1 mulligan ticket

Entry Fees

- RMB1,400 Early bird registration (if payment received by May 5, 2013)
- RMB1,500 (if payment received after May 5, 2013)



**HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES**

\* Actual hole-in-one luxury car prizes may differ from the images shown.

If you are not a golfer, you could also support us by buying prize tickets or by becoming a sponsor!

For more information, please contact us at:  
<http://www.icshq.org/charitygolf/>  
 Email: [charitygolf@icshq.org](mailto:charitygolf@icshq.org)



## The 5th Annual ICS Charity Golf Tournament



Shanghai Silport Golf Club



Christian Action



Bless China International

## A Love Letter From God

# 'Keys To Intimacy With God' Seminar With Dr. Paul Hawkins

What a blessing it is to have Dr. Paul Hawkins with us at the launch of ICS' singles ministry, Isaiah 61, on Jan 23, 2013! In front of a captive audience of over 90 singles, Dr. Hawkins unreservedly shared personal anecdotes and the keys to having a strong relationship with God: communication (listening and speaking), patience (while waiting for answers), a clean heart, and a desire to intentionally build the relationship.

The analogies given were simple, practical and useful in helping singles prepare their hearts by encouraging them to first appreciate the value of intimacy in their relationship with God. "The Bible is a love letter to you!" Dr. Hawkins reminded the crowd. "And what do you do with love letters? You read them over and over again, and milk them for what it's worth."

Above all else, the secret to loving God is to fear the Lord, which starts with the understanding that there can be no fellowship between light and darkness. "If you have unconfessed sins in your life, light can't come in because it's waiting for an invitation, not because it doesn't want to," Dr. Hawkins advised.

Furthermore, Dr. Hawkins pointed

to the price of a relationship with God as the reason why many choose not to pursue Him. "It will cost you your pride, your unbelief, your lust," he cautioned. However,

that intimacy comes with so many promises. He promises you food during a famine. He promises you rest. He loves you more than you love yourself!"

The question is, how much do you want an intimate relationship with God?

Isaiah 61 aims to equip and encourage singles to build a deeper relationship with God and to reach out to others. We operate within the church to help our members integrate into cell groups, and with the greater ICS community.



## Outreach Banquet

Ever prayed or thought about reaching out to your colleagues, friends, and neighbours about Christ. Here is a great opportunity. You invite, we pray, He provides!

Coming 28 September 2013, ICS presents an Outreach Banquet. Reach out to the lost and come for an evening of fellowship over dinner and listen to real-life testimonies of His goodness.

Let's start praying and acting on it! Coming soon...



TESTIMONY

We will be giving three testimonies and it begins with the story of my wife Helen's eyesight. This was during the days before Helen knew Jesus. It started when she went for a health check prior to donating blood. Test results showed that Helen had degenerative retinitis, a disease which gradually impairs vision and eventually leads to blindness. There is no cure for this disease.

Several consultations with doctors and specialists all led to the same conclusion – that the retinal function had ceased, and within five years, Helen would lose her sight.

At the age of 26, with a life full of hopes and dreams for the future, Helen was staring at the prospect of losing it all. Her darkest hour had truly come.

As there was no medication for this condition, there was only one thing for me and my family to do – and that was to pray. This we did. One year later, when Helen went for a checkup, the doctors were surprised to find that the retina has started to show signs of functioning again. The degeneration of Helen's eyesight had stopped. There was no known case of such a reversal previously and the doctors could not offer any explanation. This was a miracle for us, and it was at this point that Helen asked if she could come for service

at my church for the first time. She received Christ soon afterwards. Today, her eyesight is almost back to normal. Praise the Lord.

Our story of divine grace continued after we got married. As a matter of course, we wanted to start a family, but we found that this was not possible. During a six-year period, despite having undergone many tests and IVF procedures, we could not conceive a child. It was a sad period for us and we had to withstand all the pressures that a childless couple invariably faces. However, this was also an important lesson for us in that we needed to have faith; deeper faith, and that whatever God is arranging for us in our lives, this was His purpose for us. We entered the 7th year of our

marriage with a deeper understanding that we should leave everything in God's hands, and to lay aside our own plans and efforts. It was during this time that the Lord blessed us with a child; a beautiful daughter named Martha who is now two years old. We give thanks to the Lord every day for her.

The final testimony is another witness to the power of prayer. Our daughter became very ill after one of the regular vaccinations. Initially, she suffered from high fever. We were forewarned about it as one of the possible side effects. However, what came next was that she lost all her mobility. She could not walk, and could not even turn over in bed. She just lay there, unable to move herself, and was crying all

the while when she tried to change position. We were distressed over a possible vaccine failure, and that it had resulted in adverse side effects.

The situation was made worse when one of the doctors said paralysis can take place if the polio vaccine malfunctions.

Helen sent a SMS to the members of her cell group asking them for a chain prayer of healing for Martha. Four hours after the message was sent, we saw a miracle when she started to move in bed – and when we brought her down onto the ground, she started to take small steps again. This was a moment of great relief, and a huge blessing for us. During the Sunday service the following morning, Pastor Daniel and Evangelist Rani laid hands on Martha and

prayed for her recovery. When we got home, Martha regained full mobility, and began to smile and laugh again. It was the most beautiful sight for us. Jehovah Rapha has healed Martha. Praise the Lord.

During all these trials, we remembered Isaiah 41:10:

***Fear not, I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you.***

All Glory be to God.

# ICS Praise & Worship

*A testimony of a team made possible and strengthened through the*

One day, a young boy was struggling up a huge slide. Halfway up the ladder, he sighed, "This is too big for me. I cannot do it". His father picked him up and said, "Don't worry," and with that, put his son on his lap and slid down the slide with him.

This is a story about a boy who loved slides, but also a situation Christine Mah found herself in when asked to head ICS' worship ministry in 2011. Back then, a hesitant Christine responded with the predictable 'I'll pray about it' (which she *did*) as she was overwhelmed by the enormity of the task that lay ahead.

"I did not think myself to be particularly musically inclined, only that I love singing to the Lord, accompanied sometimes with my mediocre keyboard skills," says the homemaker.

After several rounds of confirmation from God, her husband Richard, and Blessed cell group members, she took that leap of faith.

The rest, as they say, is history.

## TO GOD BE THE GLORY

The journey so far has been nothing short of amazing. Christine's story, one that testifies about how His strength is made perfect in her weakness is, but the tip of the iceberg. Her greatest joy

is derived from witnessing God moving amongst the people, and seeing how nations are being touched by the Lord. She is grateful to her predecessors, Paul Choo and Benjamin Gan, for laying a firm foundation for her to build upon, assisted by administrators, Cecilia and now Alodia.

Vocalist Audrey Phua is constantly amazed by the dedication of her team members who spend many hours practicing on Saturday mornings, and by the Lord's renewal of their strength as they serve in the worship ministry.

Keyboardist Dennese DeYoung shares, "One of the greatest joys is to give my gift, add and mix it with others, perfect it, pray over it, strive for unity, and then to share it as an offering unto God".

Stories about experiencing God's marvellous grace go on, but we are now getting ahead of ourselves. At the core of what they do is John 4:23-24, a verse which serves as a strong reminder that their only audience is God.

In addition, the P&W ministry has the huge responsibility of leading the entire congregation into worship. This means that every individual must be careful not to fall into the temptation of drawing attention unto oneself when they are up

on stage.

"None of us are stars. We are not performers," says Christine. "We are His vessels used by the Holy Spirit to move people into the spirit and atmosphere of worship".

## NOT AS EASY AS IT SEEMS

Behind every Sunday service, there is a half-hour prayer on Saturday morning followed by a two-hour practice session. Before coming together, the worship leader would have forwarded the songs for members on duty to practice during the week.

Managing 53 different schedules is tricky, but the challenges were always overcome thanks to a committed and faithful team.

"When we first came to Shanghai, the challenges of a new career and parenthood made it difficult for us to continue serving. However, God has strengthened us over time to follow our passion and calling in the worship ministry. God has taught us so much about Himself... It is a privilege to serve, an endeavour in which we always receive

# Ministry

*grace of Jesus Christ.*

more than we give," says Christian Renz and Ming Ee who serve as a couple.

Still, the nature of ICS as a transient church means that sustainability and succession issues are magnified. As a result, even the best plans can go awry.

However, God is always in the thick of things, always providing, always on time—a late afternoon phone call on Saturday answered the ministry's prayer for a drummer for Sunday service the following day. Praise the Lord.

Even as they try their best for each service, one can never be fully prepared each time. This inadequacy is a reminder that man is neither perfect, nor can ever be complete. Some still get cold feet even after so many years of experience.

"I was wondering if never feeling 100 percent ready is normal. This drives me to always pray with the understanding that we must do our best and leave the rest to God. In short, God is in control!" adds Christine. Herein lies the nature of a genuine relationship with God, which always translates into invaluable lessons on reliance, humility, faith, trust and focus.

## BACK TO BASICS

The ICS P&W ministry is always on the lookout for new blood to join its dynamic team. Obviously, as music is the bread and butter of the ministry, you need to be able to hold a tune

if you want to serve as a vocalist. If you want to join as a musician, you need to know how to play an instrument well.

Although the application process (form-filling, auditioning, interviewing and being an understudy) may seem daunting, the reality is that a high level of commitment is necessary for the roster to run seamlessly like clockwork.

"Most important of all, one must have a humble attitude, a thirst for Jesus, and a willingness to learn," says head of the sound crew Richard Mah, who is assisted by two other sound team leaders, Adam Too and Yandi Gozali.

The sound crew on duty, for example, is always the first to arrive and the last to leave every week. Newbies are trained on-the-job, learning the ropes of the business as they come in to set up the sound system.


"When I was first presented with a laptop and informed that I was part of the sound team, I knew nothing about it. I once cut off Pastor's mic and all eyes were on me," laughs Adam. "Nevertheless, it has been a wonderful journey. My family and I have experienced tremendous blessings of restoration, healing, transformation and revelation".

As a ministry, they

share bowling nights, fellowship with one another over meals, and make up for each other's weaknesses through their unique God-given strengths.

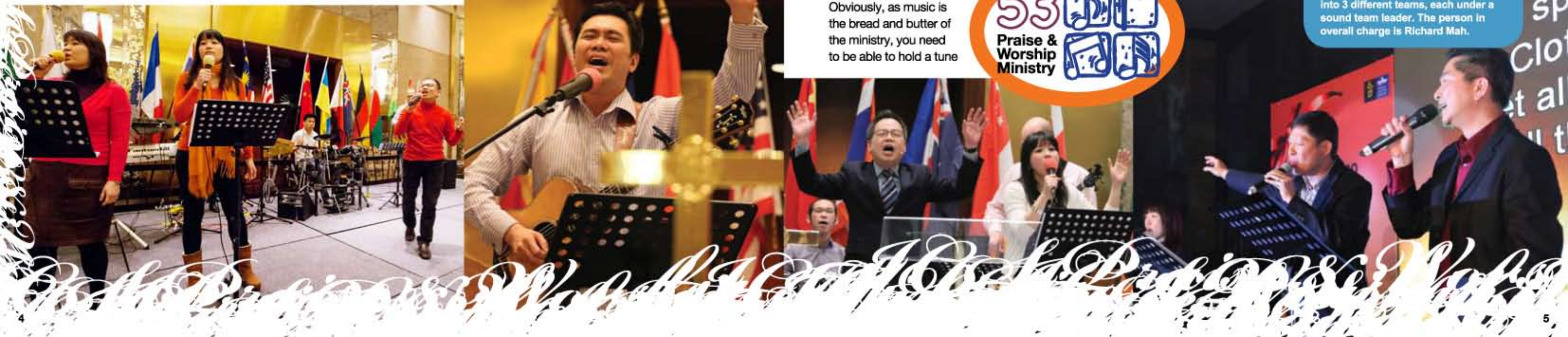
They have had their moments of ups and downs, growing and maturing through the knowledge that the worship experience is more than just making music to honour the Lord—it is also about building a relationship with God, and spending quality time to BE with Him.

For the rest of us, it is probably timely to pause and be cognizant of the fact that honouring the Lord whole-heartedly can also take the form of praising and thanking Him for His creation while we go about our everyday activities such as our morning walks.

What's yours? 

**MINISTRY VERSE: John 4:23-24**  
*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*

Ministry Head: **Christine Mah**  
Total number of people: **53**  
Worship leaders: **5**  
Musicians: **21**  
Vocalists/projectionists: **18**  
Sound crew: A team of **9**, further split into **3** different teams, each under a sound team leader. The person in overall charge is **Richard Mah**.





## “The Power Of A New Identity” Retreat With Dan Sneed

Lies Exposed! Strongholds Smashed! No, these are not action scenes from a spy thriller, but part of the subject matter discussed at the first-ever two-day retreat organised by Isaiah 61, ICS' singles ministry, on March 15-16 at L'otel.

The Bible is full of the promises of God, and yet, there are many Christians who are not living the victorious lives full of purpose and significance as envisaged by God from the very beginning. How many of us actually believe the truth of what God says about us – that we are a new creation with a new identity. How do we recapture the fulfillment that God had originally intended for us; to have dominion over all the earth?

Ministering to an audience of about 50 singles, Pastor Dan Sneed delved deeply into the issues surrounding our identity, and how we can appropriate the power of a new identity through our Lord Jesus Christ.

With his clear prophetic gifting,

excellent teaching style and gentle demeanour, Dan shared with us the reasons why so many believers today have a crippled self-image. He spoke of how the enemy, knowing how glorious God's intended destiny for man is, set about destroying our identity, using lies as his main weapon of choice.

With each wound in life that we suffer in this fallen world, the enemy capitalises on the hurt by sending us a message, invariably a lie, which becomes the foundation upon which we build our lives and belief systems.

As our life experiences increase, so do the number of lies planted by the enemy, and those lies that we believe become the foundation of spiritual strongholds and negative thought patterns that govern our decision making and lock us up. The strongholds are reinforced by shame and intimidation as the enemy keeps telling us that there is something wrong with us that cannot be fixed.

At this point, I could see some in

the audience nodding their heads in agreement, as the truth of what Dan has been sharing set in. We then broke into small group discussions to process what was being taught, to share, and to pray for one another. There was a palpable sense of excitement as deep-seated lies were exposed, and strongholds breached.

Dan subsequently proceeded to give us the keys to demolishing spiritual strongholds. He urged us to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and to abide in the Word, so that we shall know the truth, and the truth will set us free.

Knowing that this guarding of the truth will be an ongoing process, Dan encouraged us and added that this is a battle worth fighting, as it will change the way we see ourselves, and by extension, our lives. With a right-self-image, we can become everything that God has made us to be, and in turn, we can be a blessing to others.

We have been truly blessed by Dan's anointed teaching and sharing. Some people will never know in this lifetime what God intended for them as they never had the opportunity to come to terms with what happened in the past. Those of us who attended are really thankful that we will not be numbered among them. We are grateful to be empowered to take our rightful places in God's kingdom created just for us, and successfully run the race marked out for us by God. Praise the Lord.

## TESTIMONY

My name is Steve and together with my wife Rachel, we are delighted to share with you the journey that we have been blessed to undertake over the past couple of years.

Not so long ago, we were living in Shanghai running our own companies, but became ensnared in traps laid by others, though some were of our own doing. Our time in China had started well enough with good intentions and the conviction that we had come to China at the Lord's bidding, with the opportunity to touch the lives of the super-affluent and influential. The conviction that we were "doing the right-thing" was strengthened when in the early years, significant obstacles were miraculously overcome and we saw the hand of God at work; the ventures we were running and the community we were reaching both grew tremendously.

However, the initial success led us to commit ourselves into working harder and embedding ourselves further. This was to lead to a downward spiral of behaviour and attitude adjustments which soon saw us making decisions without involving the Lord, and surrounding ourselves with people whose practices were 'far from the light and far from the right'. We had less time for God, and fewer ties to the church. We basically listened to the mantra, 'to succeed in China, you have to act like China'.

As we were sucked into this vortex, a phone call came from Pastor Daniel one morning. I was pretty sure when Pastor made that call, he was not expecting the reaction that greeted him. For me though, it was like being thrown a rope and a life-saving buoy to someone who is drowning. One of the first things Pastor said as he prayed with me is to return to read the scriptures and seek God's word for me.

God led me to read and take to heart Isaiah 52; which was confirmed by Pastor Daniel's belief that this was God's word for us. Over the next few weeks, we started a new walk with God, hesitantly at first, but then with increasing boldness – and verse by verse,



THE WYATT FAMILY

God took us on a journey through Isaiah 52 – which eventually led to our move to Singapore. I sometimes think we have a 'new calling' as I did not have any thoughts or plans to be in my current role; but what I am doing now is built on so many experiences and skills accumulated from the past 25 years, that we are in awe of the perfect planning and journey of preparation that God has taken us on, including the darkest period in China. We are thrilled each day to see God's hand at work; so this is perhaps not a 'new' calling after all!

Its not that everything has been stress-free,

nor was there no hard work; but we are learning to trust God's plan and wait on His timing; whilst we work as hard as we can to maximize the skills and wisdom He has given us.

We are first and foremost, thankful to Him for our salvation, and for having revealed to us that He does have a purpose for our lives. Secondly, we strive to reflect His presence in every aspect of our lives, and in every moment of each day, whether it is at home, in the workplace, or at church. A priority each day is to stay anchored on His word and to be grounded in the small group community (facilitated by Whatsapp and WeChat!).

In Singapore, I am leading the restructuring and growth of an organization focused on the leadership development of executives and on management education. The Lord has assembled a new team where there are several Christians and we encourage each other to commit decisions to the Lord and trust that He will show us wisdom.

However, for several months, we were not achieving commercial success. Pressures were mounting as week after week, we had insufficient confirmations of future work. Eventually, a call came from the oversight committee for a 'review' meeting. We committed the situation to the Lord and asked for prayer support from trusted Christians, including brothers and sisters in ICS. In the 10 days prior to the review meeting, we closed so many deals that before the meeting, and before the new financial year started, we had already confirmed assignments that exceeded the entire year's target.

The first thing we did as a team was to share messages of "Praise the Lord; He is Great all the time; He blesses us abundantly"; it is wonderful to be sharing the joy with colleagues. I share one scripture verse with you:

**“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me.” - Psalm 23:4**

Praise the Lord!



## Baby Dedication

Christian parents aim to bring up their children to be Christ-like.

Proverbs 22:6 admonishes parents to **“train up a child in the way it should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”** On March 24th, 2013, the proud parents of David Hu (Jeff Hu and Lina Li) and Arthur Beinan Zeng (Yu Zeng and Ying Gu) took the first step by dedicating their children to God.



TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT MEN/WOMEN THAT WE SHOULD KNOW. Don't even waste your time. It is true that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. This is the mystery of the universe. We will never fully understand the opposite sex because we are wired differently.

That said...


Men: there is nothing wrong with pursuing a woman, after all, a Christian marriage is to be filled with romance.

Women: there is nothing wrong enjoying being pursued or for you to make yourselves attractive, sociable or approachable.

Women like to be romanced. It is not old-fashioned to open the door for her, to walk on the side of traffic or to hold an umbrella for her. Women like to be impressed. They like a man who does not take her for granted.

Christian singles can have fun too, but maintained within boundaries and without the temptation of sin. God will tell you who not to marry—do not even consider dating a non-Christian. That is playing with fire and you are going to get into trouble.

However God will not tell you who exactly to marry. We can have choices, maintained within the body of Christ. The real purpose of marriage is to learn agape love to decentralize the self. After the marriage, God writes the best plan for your lives!

Meanwhile, seek intimacy with God. Enjoy friendship, learn how to socialize, fellowship with one another, and have a heart centred on others. 

and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE AS A SINGLE? ARE THERE DIFFERENT ROLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN?

Men and women can serve together. A woman can also be a leader or a teacher. It is inconsistent with God that a woman cannot be in these positions. In fact, there is evidence in Romans 16 that there was a female apostle.

It is usually God's character that is questioned. We need to agree with His character—loving, holy, wise, just, faithful, graceful, merciful. If your doctrine leads you to question God's character, don't question His character; examine your doctrine.

HOW DOES ONE PRAY AS A SINGLE?

You can intercede for your future partner. Tell Him what is your ideal.

Notice how society always puts the blame on the woman who is still single beyond 30? "There's something wrong with her!" The truth is, there is nothing wrong with her, the men are just out of the Will of God.

WE ALL WANT DEEP, MEANINGFUL, LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIPS. YET WE EITHER LOOK FOR IT IN THE WRONG PLACES, OR DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REALIZE IT. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

Here's what you should look for in a partner, in order of priority: Spiritual compatibility, intellectual compatibility (because you cannot live on love all the time), same purpose in life, emotional compatibility, and lastly, physical compatibility. The devil takes this formula and turns it around. Some people start from the bottom two compatibilities and say, 'we'll figure out the rest later'. But love is blind and by that time, 'the rest' do not usually come into the picture.

pursuing God's Will in life, there will be fulfillment.

Being single or married is a calling, and to want to be married is natural, it is a God-given desire. Later on, if someone comes along, great! But do not live life waiting.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES BEING SINGLE?

Clearly, maintaining sexual purity! Sex is only legal within a marriage; everything else is illegal. The Bible also says cohabiting is wrong. There is a huge difference between the world's values and God's values. The younger generation no longer associates Christianity as a lifestyle, and they can no longer discern right or wrong because they have lost the nature and character of God.

Men,

Can we have the 'gentle' back into 'gentlemen' please?

Sincerely,  
The Women

There are good reasons why the law is so: When you get physically involved, you get emotionally involved. Because there is no binding commitment to God and to your partner, people get wounded, rejected, and very hurt when they break up.

Every need in life can be met by a greater revelation of some aspect of God. If the want of sex is comfort, and what you need is comfort, then go to God for that comfort. Here's what the New American Standard Bible says in Acts 9:31:

So the church throughout all Judea

aggressive people to relate to others who have something in common.

However, this does not mean organising activities that promotes pairing off. When people start to date around short-term, they get hurt when things do not work out. This also has a negative impact on the unity of the whole church in the long-run.

Instead, have goal-oriented events and activities such as serving the community, or teaching and studying together. When you give, serve and learn side by side, you naturally have the opportunity to get to know one another better. There is nothing artificial or awkward about it.

BEING SINGLE IS AN IDENTITY, A CHOICE, AND FOR SOME, A LIFESTYLE. BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS WANT TO REMAIN THAT WAY. WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT BEING SINGLE?

Married people find it difficult being married too! God is just. The married have privileges singles do not have, but they also shoulder responsibilities that the singles don't. Human beings are just seldom satisfied with life. Contentment is found in the Will of God, and when you give yourself to

the Word of God.

This 60 Minutes, we grabbed Dr Paul Hawkins for his views on being single, on dating and on being married.

DEFINE SINGLE. WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF A SINGLES' MINISTRY?

Young and not married. (Sure, you can be in your 60s and still be single, but the ministry you attend would probably be called something more specific, like a 'twilight singles ministry').

A singles' ministry ministers to this demographic and facilitates relationship-building. It is a motivation to organise get-togethers to meet other single Christians while pursuing a common interest in God. If not, people go to clubs to meet other people. Within church, it becomes a safe environment to draw people together, especially for those who need help socialising.

Because people who can socialise better tend to get married quicker, the ministry helps encourage less

# 60 minutes with Dr Paul Hawkins

Let's hear it for the singles! January 23 saw the dawn of ICS' first singles ministry. Appropriately named Isaiah 61—the interpretation of the coming of Jesus—the ministry endeavours to equip single young men and women to know God and to make Him known.

The ministry was conceived and birthed in a matter of six months. This is by no means a premature brainchild. With small beginnings from a cell group, this new bundle of joy hopes to grow from strength to strength through evangelism and encouragement. It serves more than 60 singles, and is in turned served by seven core team members.

Boys and girls, let's not kid ourselves.

How many of us are thinking about romance, roses and are hoping to feel that light-headedness that comes from meeting the love of your life here?

We don't blame you, but there are more important things in life, such as moving up the rungs of faith built upon

CONTENTMENT IS FOUND IN THE WILL OF GOD AND WHEN YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO PURSUING GOD'S WILL IN LIFE, THERE WILL BE FULFILLMENT.

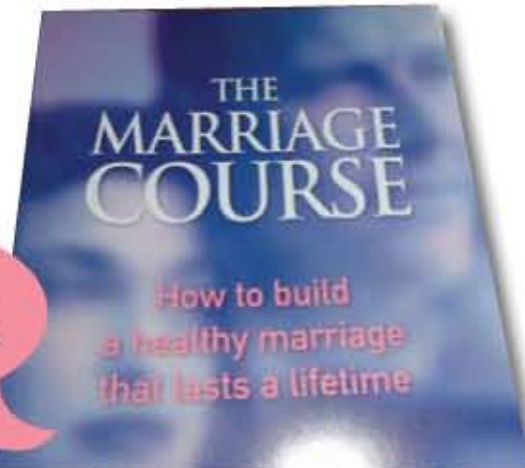
## The Marriage Course

Communication, Conflict Resolution, and Love in Action are some of the topics covered in the Marriage Course launched this spring. Couples are either enjoying romantic candlelight dinners in the Friday evening session or kids-free afternoon coffee with dessert in the Sunday afternoon session. A total of 22 couples are attending this weekly date time that will last over seven sessions.

During this date time, couples view a DVD and answer questions privately. God is meeting and changing marriages at ICS! Here is what some couples are saying about the course:



By God's design, marriage is the foundation for growing families and finds its ultimate meaning in the fact that it reflects the relationship between Christ and the church. Giving couples practical tools to fulfill God's design for marriage is one of the key reasons why ICS cares so much about this course. Please mark your calendars for the next Marriage Course Campaign in fall 2013. Weekly sessions will be held from October 6 - November 17. For more information, please email [themarriagecourse@icshq.org](mailto:themarriagecourse@icshq.org)



"We are giving time again to our marriage for the first time since the birth of our child. This Marriage Course is allowing us time to refocus on our relationship."

"Communication has always been hard for us. This Marriage Course is giving us practical tools to help us communicate better."

"God is really meeting us and changing us as a couple."



## ICS Aquarium



## Sleepover

February 22, 2013

On February 22, I was delighted to not only join our two elementary aged kids in participating in ICS' "Aquarium Sleep Over" for children and their fathers, but also speak to the 40 or so fathers attending the event. The evening began with an aquarium scavenger hunt that not only allowed us to see the amazing fish - my favourite was the Arapaima from the Amazon River that can grow to two meters long - but also join our kids in answering an aquarium-related quiz. The kids then had the opportunity to touch small sharks and make picture frames with polaroid pictures of them with their dads. At the conclusion of craft time, the kids went out to write "Thank You" cards for their dads and I had an opportunity to give a short "Father's Talk" to the dads.

My talk focused on the impact dads can make on their family and practical tools for spending time with your children. Two of the practical tools I highlighted were reading nightly bed time stories with your children and taking a monthly "daddy date" by spending dedicated time with each child. I concluded my talk by being honest with the dads about my own struggles in making the required changes in order to spend more quality time with my kids. I then shared that in my life only the power of God through Jesus can enable me to make these changes to spend more time with my kids.

After the talk, it was off to bed with the fish! My kids and I joined the group camped out with the jelly fish, while others slept with the sting rays. After reading the kids a story book about Jonah and the great fish, it was lights out. My kids and I enjoyed chatting about the events of the evening while watching the jelly fish floating overhead.

We awoke early the next morning and had one last chance to look at the fish throughout the aquarium. After a simple breakfast, the sleepover came to a close. My children and I left feeling closer to one another. We are thankful for all the hard work from the ICS staff to make such a memorable event possible.



## TESTIMONY

My name is Amanda, and this is my husband Vincent. We would like to share a testimony on the goodness of God's love.

We have the privilege of running our own restaurant business a few years after we were posted to Shanghai. About two years ago, we adopted "Happy Staff = Happy Customers" as our company's motto.

With this motto, naturally our first challenge was to figure out how we could make our staff happy? A simple way to start was by caring for them.

As Christian employers, we were keen to share the gospel with them, but did not want to do it in a way that is intimidating. Therefore, we launched

our employee care ministry in February 2012. Part of the ministry involved holding monthly non-evangelistic seminars related to life skills on issues such as finances, relationships, healthy living, and life direction.

The attendance for these seminars grew steadily, due partly to the fact that they were non-threatening. In addition, we have been building close relationships with our staff and they could feel our love and care for them.

All the sowing was to result in a rich harvest for our Lord Jesus Christ. Last Christmas, I shared a simple message with our staff: "What does Merry Christmas mean?"

All I did was a simple PowerPoint, nothing fancy. We have a total of about 200 non-Christian staff, of which 50, that's 25 percent prayed to

accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Praise the Lord!

I want to give all the glory and honor unto God. The fact is I am not an eloquent person, do not know how to do fancy PowerPoint presentations, and did not attend any gospel sharing course.

I would like to quote from Matthew 9:35-38:

**35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.**

**36 When he saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.**

**37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.**

**38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers**

**into His harvest field."**

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to encourage all of us here because I do not have any magic formula, no special methods, and do not speak in flowery language.

All it takes is compassion for people, both believers and non-believers. This is the heart of Jesus. A devotional for children has this words of wisdom: love people, use things, not love things, use people.

I believe all of us here have a positional privilege in our sphere of influence, be it in our corporate position, business, school, or at home, and we can use that to enlarge God's kingdom. Be bold and courageous. When we are willing, God will prepare the way. We give our best, God will do the rest.

God bless you.



AMANDA & VINCENT



# FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION



The team which went for the G1 trip to Kunming consisted of pastors, church workers, businesspeople, and housewives. They were excited to have this opportunity to learn something new and to know God in a deeper way.

Preparations for the trip were a bit tough for some of the members. Some even went through periods when they thought they will not be able to make it for the trip. With God's grace, they kept their faith and believed that God has called them to go for this mission. Everything went smoothly. Praise the Lord.

Kunming, also known as the City of Eternal Spring for its pleasant climate and flowers that bloom all year long, is populated by more than 20 different minority groups. Although they have different cultures, traditions, beliefs, and religions, one thing they have in common is that they crave worship. They have the heart and desire to worship, and this feeling was palpable among team members.

The team went to the Park of Yunnan Minorities, interacted with people from the minority groups, and came away with a better understanding of the challenges ahead. One person

from the Delung tribe, Zhuo Yan Ming, asked "Can Christians drink wine and smoke?" The minorities have limited resources and lack adequate access to Bibles written in their own languages. One cannot help but wonder how challenging it must be for them to get to know God.

With men, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible. Praise the Lord for making it possible for the local people to surrender their lives to Him even when resources are limited, and the environment, extremely challenging.

The following day, the team went on a prayer walk, and prayed for the city, hospitals, schools, ordinary folk, public officials, the local church, and God's work. Later, they attended a service at a local government church where Sam Fung blessed the choir with 60 new uniforms.

They met with the missionaries the next day and got to know of several kingdom-minded businesses that help create jobs for those in need. Bless China International in particular helped with medical needs, arranging for doctors and therapists to come in on a regular basis to conduct surgeries and rehabilitation procedures for the patients. They even

provided a basic workshop for prosthetic limbs to be fitted. Through their work at the centre, they were able to get more than 400 handicapped people to walk again.

These missionaries may not be someone famous: you may not know who they are, but what they are doing for God's Kingdom should not be forgotten. The team is proud to share the good work they have done for the Lord.

The prayer walk helped some of the members realize how great God has been to the city, the Hope he is giving them, and how He is still blessing them in the midst of trials and hardships.

The trip may have been short, and for many, it is their first time to Kunming. However, it certainly felt like they have been there for a long time. Team members felt so blessed by this trip, and have had their love for God's people and China renewed. Some even commented that they have fond memories of room 1924, where the team met every night for prayer and debrief. To God be the glory. Let all the work done, and those yet to be accomplished, be for the glory of God and His Kingdom.

International Church of Shanghai  
Shanghai Marriott Hotel Hongqiao  
Level 2 Grand Ballroom  
2170 Hongqiao Road

# 9am SERVICE OUTREACH

Hailing from Taiwan, Sister Donna is no stranger to music fans in Asia. After the launch of her first solo album in 1980, Donna became an overnight hit. For close to 30 years thereafter, Donna has been a much sought-after pop singer, whose hits were movie themes, winning many awards in the show business arena. Today, Donna uses her gift to show business arena. Today, Donna uses her gift to testify for Jesus. Come with your family and unbelievers to hear Donna share what brought about the change!

2012年12月16日(周日)  
上午9:00  
外国人基督教(英语)崇拜  
上海万豪虹桥大酒店  
长宁区虹桥路2270号  
邀请嘉宾: 裘海正姊妹

**裘海正**  
原籍台湾的歌手、前大陆四大天后之一，1980年以《爱的代价》一曲成名。她是有过20年演艺经历、曾在亚洲流行乐坛中，连续三年蝉联台湾金曲奖、并多次夺得新加坡金曲奖、香港乐坛新人奖、马来西亚十大最受欢迎女歌手、以及马来西亚、新加坡、泰国、菲律宾、印度尼西亚、马来西亚、香港、台湾等地的音乐奖项。



# RECLAIMING THE ENTERTAINMENT MOUNTAIN FOR JESUS

Donna Chiu (裘海正), a popular Taiwanese pop star from the 1980s, came to ICS on Dec 16 last year to preach on, and testify about God's love for her, and how He has assured and guided her. Her message touched many in the congregation. Donna was an artiste with Flying Eagle record company, which was owned and managed by a popular 1970s Taiwanese star, Liu Wen Zheng (刘文正). Donna, together with Yi Nengjing (伊能静), Fang Wenlin(方文琳), and Eric Moo(巫启贤) were the four biggest stars of the record label, and were commonly known as the Four Eagles (四小鹰). Her squeaky clean and sporty image, combined with her strong vocals, enabled her to soar to the top of Chinese Pop Charts all over Asia with songs such as 「纽约之恋」、「像我这样重感情的人」、「爱我的人和我爱的人」、「爱你十分泪七分」、「懂爱的人」.

Her career scaled a new peak in 2003 when she won the Best Emcee Award at the Golden Bell Awards, an annual Taiwanese television production award widely considered to be Taiwan's equivalent of the Emmy Awards.

Despite soaring fame and popularity, Donna became increasingly unhappy. She was only interested in making music and singing. However, in an industry that is very superficial, she had to go along with the common industry practice of pleasing people in order to maintain her exposure and popularity at elevated levels. Donna grew increasingly disenchanted and she no longer enjoyed singing. Eventually, she lost her sense of direction in life.

The turning point came when Donna could not attend her father's funeral, which led to her eventual departure from the glittering, yet often shallow world of entertainment.

Unlike many in the industry whose lives went on a downward spiral of depression and

aimlessness, in Donna's case, all things worked together for good. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour two years ago. Praise the Lord.

Donna shared with us how she, together with her Christian husband, found security and love in church. Baptised two years ago, joy and laughter began to fill her life again, as the Sozo life of Jesus permeated every aspect of her life.

Working out her salvation, Donna used her first gospel album, "Tears in a Bottle", to spread the word of Christ by sharing her truly inspiring and beautiful life experiences. Through her gospel songs, she is closely connecting with her audience, which includes new believers who want to be impacted and are seeking for direction, and also pre-believers searching for meaning in life.

"The reason that God has allowed me to be in the entertainment industry for so many years, was for me to be His light, using gospel songs to spread His love, comfort His people, and to glorify His name", shared Donna. She has



rediscovered her self-identity, her sense of security, and rekindled her love for singing. Praise the Lord.

Indeed, God, who counts the numbers of hairs on our heads, makes full use of what is in our hands, the little that you have, and turns it around for His glory. Praise the Lord.

Halleluiah! Donna, preach to the world, sing to the world, and glorify Jesus!

**48**  
NATIONALITIES  
REPRESENTED  
IN ICS



# Great Big Easter Egg Hunt At Huang Jin Cheng Dao

ICS organized an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at the open square on Huang Jin Cheng Dao to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and shared a great afternoon with the local community with fun and games.

The event began with an introduction of Easter while there was just a small crowd of children and several adults. Church members vividly retold the story of the resurrection of Jesus and its significance for us while a larger group of children gathered around the stage.

Without a doubt, the Easter Egg Hunt afterwards was the main highlight of the day (for the children!). Before the event, staff and volunteers had hidden more than 6,500 eggs containing different kinds of sweets scattered around the square.

After the Easter Egg Hunt started, more and more people from the surrounding areas, especially children, were attracted by this event, and had fun with the bouncy



castles and rock climbing, among other activities. Within a short period, the entire square was full of excited people and uncontrollable peals of laughter could be heard.

Loads of fun aside, we managed to sow some seeds for God's kingdom in China in the future. A Chinese girl impressed me a lot by her interesting questions, 'where are you from and why are you here?' After telling her that this event was held by our church, ICS, she asked me a very simple, but difficult question, 'what is church?' 'Church is a place for prayer,' I answered, as I struggled to come up with an answer that I thought would be the truth, and yet, easy to understand.

More questions came from this girl. I know there must still be many questions on her mind, and those of other kids. Let's hope that this will be the beginning of a journey for them as they learn about the Lord Jesus, and explore Christianity, in the future.

