



Discipleship TRAINING CENTRE Newsletter

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Graduates 2011

On 16 May 2011, three students received their diplomas during the 42nd Thanksgiving and Valedictory Service held at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church. Dr. Eileen Poh, dean of studies, described this year's batch of graduates aptly when she introduced them: "This year's harvest may be little but the quality is good!"



Three words describe my time in DTC- *retraining*, *renewal* and *redirection*. DTC doesn't mean Discipleship Torture Chamber, although it may feel like that sometimes. It is more of a Discipleship Transformation Community! Through this community I have been retrained to be a real person once again... Secondly, it was a Sabbatical period for me. I treasured the times when I could just linger in the Lord's presence. I thank God for such a wonderful time of renewal and refreshment in my relationship with Him... Finally, I look at my DTC experience as a redirection of my life. I thought I would not be going back to the same (student) ministry. Thank God that he redirected me, not to another ministry, but to the same one but with a different perspective. When I return, I hope to be a different person from what I was before.

Celgen Aurestila, GDGM



DTC is a place where knowledge in my head turned into convictions in my heart. DTC's ethos is reflected in its motto: to be with Him... and to be sent out'. Initially, I didn't think much about this and viewed DTC as just another institution of theological study. But on hindsight, I realized that this is the place through which God has helped me deal with the situation that my wife and I were in, and met our deepest needs... Our

greatest need then was 'to be with Him.' We needed to know God – to have such a close relationship with Him that we may discern clearly His will for us, and His calling to cross-cultural mission work in Cambodia. The other need after confirming the call to ministry was to prepare ourselves 'to be sent out.' God fully met these needs in our time at DTC.

Look Tuck Weng, GDIS

For me, staying in DTC felt like staying in a monastery. I am an active person and action keeps me alive. Thankfully I could plant trees in the garden, re-pot plants and serve others in the community. The small student body provides us much interaction with our lecturers... Chapel every morning allows each of us to take turns to lead in worship and preach. The messages from invited speakers have helped me in my reflections on God's love, God's call and about myself. Subsequently I realized what a privilege God has given me, that by his grace and mercy I could pause and reflect on the past years so as to wait upon God for the years to come.



Annalisa Look, GDIS



DTC Family 2010-11



George N. Capaque

Finish the Race, Complete the Task

(Charge given to graduands during Valedictory 2011)

These two statements summarise what I want to say to our graduands tonight. They are favourite Pauline metaphors of the Christian life taken from Paul's farewell address to the leaders of the church at Ephesus in Acts 20: 17-38, particularly v. 24: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may *finish the race* and *complete the task* the Lord Jesus has given me..."

We may divide this address into three main sections. 1) Paul's *conduct*, 2) the *charge* he gives; and 3) his *commendation*.

Conduct (18-27)

Paul begins by recounting the past. "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you." Paul lived to serve the Lord. His conduct in life and manner of ministry arise from his being a servant (lit., a "slave") of the Lord. Paul was not just a fellow elder or leader with the Ephesian elders, he was also a fellow servant-leader.

What are the characteristics of his servant-leadership? *First*, his life was transparent and open. "You know" implies that Paul's manner of life and ministry was an open book. His authority was not so much by virtue of position or exercised by compulsion but by the force of a life of integrity. Correct teaching (orthodoxy) was accompanied by right living (orthopraxy). Your conduct then should be such that it is above reproach and can withstand scrutiny.

Next, Paul describes his ministry in four ways: 1) "with great humility" (19)-it is what I.H. Marshall says the refusal to claim anything for oneself; 2) "with tears" – Paul was personally concerned with his converts; 3) his patience and fortitude as implied by the threats and persecution of the Jews; and 4) all-embracing ministry.

Paul did not hold back to preach anything that was helpful to them. He "proclaimed the whole will of God" (v. 27). He ministered publicly as well as privately, "from house to house." He preached to both Jews and Gentiles. He declared both "turning to God in repentance" and "faith in our Lord Jesus."

From the past Paul turns next to his future (23 -24). This future is marked by compulsion and uncertainty. He is "compelled by the Holy Spirit" to go to Jerusalem yet he does not know what awaits him there. He knows only of one thing - the prospect of prison and hardships. Yet in all this, he does not regard his life as a precious possession, something that he has to hold on to dearly. What matters is he accomplishes his course by faithfully doing what the Lord has entrusted to him, i.e., to testify to the gospel of God's grace. Paul has done his work faithfully, so that if anyone falls away, he will not be to blame.

You will go back to your ministry or enter into a ministry where there are many uncertainties. Paul shows us how to live with uncertainty. Faithfulness, not results, is what matters. But faithfulness inevitably brings suffering. It is important to emphasize this because suffering nowadays has largely lost its currency. Suffering is seen as a sign of weakness and of failure. But Paul says, no matter what the outward circumstances, -

sufferings, oppositions, failures-live your life and do your ministry in a way which fulfil your calling as servants of the Lord. If you have to suffer, and you will suffer, wear it as a badge of faithfulness.

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Charge (28-31)

The charge is composed of two parts. *First*, "watch over yourself and the flock which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers." Although this applies primarily to pastors or shepherds who have oversight of a flock, this has relevance to all of us as servant-leaders. Each one of us has to watch over our own self. We need to pay particular attention to our spiritual condition. Elsewhere, Paul tells Timothy, "watch your life and doctrine closely" (1 Tim. 4:16). It is only as the leaders themselves remain faithful to God that they can expect the church to do so likewise.

The influential 19th century Scottish preacher and pastor Robert Murray M'Cheyne once said, "the greatest need of my people is my own personal holiness."

How are shepherds to watch over their flock? They care for, feed and lead the sheep through teaching and exhortation from the Word. Hopefully, we have equipped you at DTC to be an "approved workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Tim 2: 15). The task of watching over the flock becomes critical because of the presence of "fierce wolves" coming not only from outside but even from within. They "distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them." Shepherds are to protect the flock from this kind of threat. They are also to love them and to personally care for them ("with tears") because they are precious to God- "He bought them with his own blood."

The *second part* of the charge is to "help the weak" (v. 35). This is the more practical side of ministry. It follows the teaching of the Lord Jesus that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Jesus himself helped the poor, the weak and the infirm. Paul himself engaged in bi-vocational ministry in order not to be a burden to others and to help the poor. It begins by being not greedy or covetous but by hard work and generosity. It is our duty as Christians to proclaim the good news both in words as well as in deeds.

Commendation (v. 32)

In the same way that Paul commends his fellow elders to God and to his word of grace, I commend you to God who is the true source of strength for doing his work. More important than your commitment or faithfulness to your charge is God's faithfulness to His. It is God and his word of grace that make you able to make you finish the race and complete the task. The care of the flock and of your self ultimately rests with God himself. After all it is His church and he redeemed it with his Own.

Dean's Visit to Indonesia

On May 16-21, 2011 I paid a visit to some of our alumni in Indonesia. As it is a vast archipelago stretching 5,000 kilometers, I concentrated only on three cities- Jakarta, Jogjakarta and Kudus, all on the island of Java.



Iman and Leah

In Jakarta I met three of our alumni: *Agustinus Titi* (86-88), priest of the Anglican Church Indonesia, *Akihiro Matsumoto* (05), pastor of the Japanese Christian Fellowship and *Iman Santoso* (72-73, 03). Iman and his wife Leah are doing creative ministry designed to impact the whole country toward transformation.



Charles & Lisa Christano

Charles and Lisa Christano (69-71) live in Kudus, five hours away by bus from Jogjakarta. With Charles I felt like a school boy being taken to school by a master. I learned from him faithful discipleship, contextualized witness and trust in God. Charles and Lisa have been greatly used of the Lord in church planting, teaching ministry and providing leadership to the Mennonite Church both at the national and international levels.



Sopar, Johan and Tari

In Jogjakarta, *Sopar Hutapea* (08-10), General Secretary of Joy Fellowship (a ministry amongst students) served as my official guide and host. *Tri Puji Lestari* (06-08) and *Johan Setiawan* (98-00) both work with Gloria Foundation. Johan is head of the ministry while Tari is in-charge of *Kambium*, the discipleship materials they produced. Gloria Foundation has grown from just a student ministry to a multi-ministry foundation involved in publishing, translating and discipleship.



Farsijana, Sopar and myself

Early supper with with Farsijana Adeney, wife of *Bernard Adeney* (71-73) (who was away in Japan then) at their home. The Adeneys have combined academic teaching with creative contextualization using local art and architecture and a passion for women and the marginalized.



Joshua Kyung's family

At the home of *Joshua and Joyce Kyung* (96-98), serving with Joy Fellowship, with their two boys. They have integrated well with the local culture speaking fluent Bahasa.

New Students 2011-12



Victor Tan hails from Penang, Malaysia. He is an engineer by profession who worked at Dell for many years before he became the IT Administrator of his church, Wesley Methodist Church.

Sothea Bich is a dentist from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Sothea was an active lay leader of his church as youth leader, Sunday School teacher and preacher. He was often asked by churches and different Christian organizations to interpret from English to Khmer.



Eden Gay Malait is a pre-school teacher from Metro Manila, Philippines. Eden ministered before amongst students through IVCF Philippines and prior to coming to DTC spent a year teaching in a school in South Thailand.

Ryoko Yamaguchi is a nurse from Chiba, Japan, actively involved with Japan Nurses Christian Fellowship. She worked two years in South Sulawesi, Indonesia as a community health nurse under the Japan International Cooperation Agency.



Hideki and Yumi Ui are from Kobe City, Japan.

We praise God for sending us these six new students. With them are six returning students: Paula Kunlatida, Look Tuck Weng and Annalisa, Esther Ng and Zaw and Thiri. Together they comprise this year's batch of students.



News Bits

ATA Visit

The Asia Theological Association onsite visit will take place on 23, 24, 26 September 2011. This will be the final phase of our application for accreditation.

Peskett and Cormacks at DTC

Former dean Rev. Howard Peskett and wife, Roz, visited DTC on 26 August 2011 while they were in Singapore as special guests of St John's-St. Margaret's Church's 50th anniversary celebration. A reunion with DTC alumni has been planned on 06 September. Meanwhile, we expect Don and Margaret Cormack to share in chapel when they will be here for the Centenary Celebration of St. George's Church in October. The Cormacks taught at DTC in the '80s.