

EMMAUS SERVANT COMMUNITY

*25th Anniversary
Thanksgiving Celebration
2017*



Not by Might nor by Power but by

My Spirit

ZECHARIAH 4:6

www.emmaus.org.my

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MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP SIMON POH



*May your light shine forth before all people,
so that they will see the good things you do
and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)*

Dear Emmaus Servant Community,

Congratulation on your 25th Anniversary. This is indeed a testimony of a journey of faith since your Community started as a Charismatic Prayer Group in Holy Trinity Church, Holy Trinity on 21 March 1992. Led by the Holy Spirit, this has grown and matured into the Emmaus Servant Community. The journey to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-25 is a story of accompaniment and presence of the Lord present in the Word and the Breaking of Bread.

I would also like to acknowledge Fr. Dato Lawrence Chua who has been very instrumental in the formation of your Emmaus Servant Community 25 years ago. Indeed Fr. Chua has accompanied you over these years. He has also confidently entrusted your Community with spiritual formation, leadership and pastoral care in parish life and ministry. Your Community has contributed greatly towards building up the Parishes of Holy Trinity and today Blessed Sacrament.

Your present Pastoral Team, supported by the many cell groups – comprising couples, men, ladies, youth, catering to both English and Chinese language groups - are a testimony of the work of the Holy Spirit, leading and empowering the lay leaders. With the guidance of your new Rector, Fr Felix Au, I pray that these cells may continue to grow and multiply,

On this Anniversary Celebration on 25 June 2017, please accept my apology for being unable to be with you as I was already committed to the 2nd Malaysian Catholic Campus Students Day in Penang from 23-27 June 2017.

On this day, I pray that the Lord may bless your many ministries – Intercessory, Greeter, Healing, Liturgical, Social, Welfare, Media, Martha, and Youth Ministries.

With prayer solidarity and God's blessing,

+ Simon Poh

Archbishop Simon Poh

MESSAGE FROM SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF ACRT



Monsignor William Sabang
Spiritual Director
Archdiocesan Charismatic Renewal

As Spiritual Adviser of the Archdiocesan Charismatic Renewal Team (ACRT), Kuching, I would like to join the others to congratulate the Emmaus Servant Community on the 25th Anniversary of its establishment. The others in the Team are the Bread of Life Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community, The Holy Cross Ministry of Deliverance and Healing, The Holy Family Prayer Group, The Holy Trinity Prayer Group, The Chinese Prayer Group, and the BM and the Bidayuh Prayer Groups.

Though the Emmaus Servant Community is Parish based, it has contributed a lot in the Archdiocesan level by its active participation in the ACRT meeting held regularly to coordinate the program of the ACRT. For this I would like to thank the Leaders of the Community.

True to its name “Servant” the leaders of the Emmaus Servant Community, as I have learnt through the years, have been actively serving the parishes, first the Holy Trinity Parish and now the Blessed Sacrament Parish, such as, through conducting many Life in the Spirit Seminars and every year helping in the spiritual preparation for the celebration of Pentecost in the parish and many more pastoral activities.

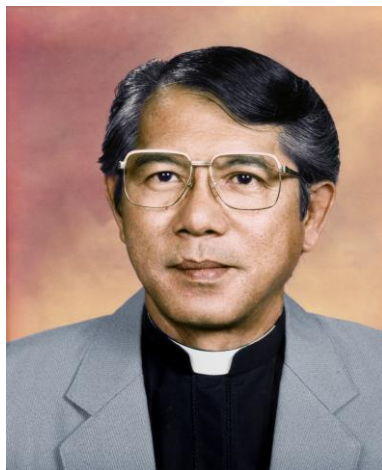
What makes the Emmaus Servant Community still standing strong today, I believe is prayer. I am pleased to notice every day, except for Sunday, the Leaders of Emmaus Servant Community would gather at the Chapel of the Retirement Home for Priests, Stutong for the Eucharistic Celebration followed by their personal prayers, reflections and intercessions.

I have no doubt, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit” (Zech 4:6), the Emmaus Servant Community will continue to serve the Church for many more years to come.

With best wishes and assurance of prayers.

Msgr William Sabang

MESSAGE FROM REV. FR DATO LAWRENCE CHUA



In February of this year, I retired from active service as a Parish priest after having had the singular privilege of serving the Lord for close to 60 years. As a parish priest serving in more than half a dozen parishes, I have had the blessing to serve with many lay organizations and as a parish priest I have worked with many lay people.

So, in 1992 when I was the parish priest in Holy Trinity church and I was approached by a small group of parishioners intending to set up a covenant community, I did not in all honesty anticipate that today 25 years later we would be celebrating their 25th anniversary.

At their leader, Pauline's request I was given the task of choosing a name for them and I named them "Emmaus" from Luke chapter 24 with a view that their core make up and formation of the members would be from the Word and the Eucharist.

For the next 24 years, for better or for worse, I was their Head Shepherd and only handed over my crook and staff to Father Felix together with my parish duties in February this year. In this journey of 24 years we have travelled together, I have seen this motley crew grow in all aspects, not least in numbers but more profoundly spiritually.

It is with some satisfaction that I note this Community has been able to raise dedicated leaders and members who are actively serving in Blessed Sacrament parish and other parishes. It is also with their initiative that the parish and the local church have benefitted from the seminars organized by them and other activities such as Healing Rally and bringing in anointed speakers such as the late Father Rufus and Sr Inigo and many others from outside Malaysia.

For any organization to carry on and grow over 25 years calls for hard work, dedication and above all commitment from its leaders and members. As their spiritual director in the last two and half decades they have had to endure many occasions of tongue lashings and censure from me. Yet I have never had any doubt of the loyalty and love and affection for me from the members of Emmaus Servant Community. In fact, over the years I have come to realize that this group comprising of lay persons are dependable, loyal and hard working and for any parish activities such as fund raising, I could always count on their unstinting support.

Hence it is my sincere wish that Emmaus will continue to grow not only in numbers, which they obviously have, but more importantly that they grow in wisdom and spiritual depth and strength. My heartiest congratulations on this important milestone of your silver jubilee and my prayer is that you continue as a Community to be blessed and used by the Lord.

Fr Lawrence Chua

MESSAGE FROM HEAD SHEPHERD FR FELIX AU



Rev. Father Felix Au
Rector
Blessed Sacrament Church

Heartiest congratulations to all the Emmaus Servants for having arrived at an important milestone of the community – the silver jubilee of its foundation. Even in the 1990s, I had heard of how the Emmaus Servant Community was a dynamic group of charismatic Catholics.

Soon after I started serving in Blessed Sacrament Parish in February of this year, I was impressed by the commitment of the community to God and the Church. Serving alongside Emmaus members who organised the “Bob Canton Healing Rally” in March 2017, I observed the effort and care they put into ministering to the many people who sought healing from God. This level of commitment was possible only if they genuinely loved the Lord.

Since then, I’ve also witnessed other ways in which Emmaus continues to fruitfully contribute to the life of the parish; they have members serving on the parish council and various other ministries. Beyond that, members of Emmaus have reached out to serve in other parishes and even in Indonesia. This is evidence of the missionary spirit animating the community.

This enthusiasm and zeal reminded me of the story in Luke 24, of the two disciples who encountered the Risen Christ on their way to the village of Emmaus. At the end of the day, they invited Jesus, whom they had yet to recognise, to sup with them. It was when the Lord broke bread with them that their eyes were opened. As soon as they realised that it was Jesus, he vanished from their sight. They exclaimed, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” With great excitement, and without delay, they ran back to Jerusalem to tell their brethren what they had experienced (cf Luke 24: 28-35). A similar missionary vigour, I sense, is alive in the community.

Emmaus Servant Community has seen growth, not only in numbers but also in the establishment of different ministries and of the Chinese section. The growth is, in part, credited to the leadership of Rev Frs Lawrence Chua and Leonardo Polinar, first Head Shepherd and Founder of Emmaus respectively. I must also acknowledge the faithfulness and sacrifice of the past and present lay leaders of Emmaus. I pray that God will continually raise leaders from among the members to serve the parish and the Church for generations to come.

As I reflect on the achievements of Emmaus, I remember the advice from Rabbi Gamaliel to the opponents of the early Christians: that if Christianity were of human origin, it would fail. On the other hand, if it was from God, nothing could stop it (cf Acts 5:38-39). Any movement must be sustained by God to endure. Therefore, it is only right that we give thanks and glory to God for the marvellous work he has done through the Emmaus Servant Community. All is God's grace. It is wonderful that the theme chosen for this jubilee celebration clearly reflects the gratuity of the divine blessing: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6). Praise the Lord!

Fr Felix Au

MESSAGE FROM HEAD SERVANT PAULINE LIM



Shalom to all!

Time indeed flies by so quickly. Emmaus Servant Community has passed another milestone and is celebrating its silver jubilee – 25 years of faith journey as a Catholic, charismatic, covenant community!

Five years ago when we celebrated our 20th Anniversary, we said we looked forward to our 25th Anniversary celebration in 2017 and here we are, by the grace of God! What a blessing indeed! And we not only have the senior members celebrating this anniversary but we have over 40 new covenanted members joining the Emmaus family. God has certainly enlarged our tent and we praise and thank Him for this wonderful blessing.

This 25th Anniversary celebration is truly a time to pay tribute to God for His faithfulness, boundless love and unwavering help. Looking at Emmaus' history, it is obvious that God is the One who has raised us up from nothingness to what we are today. Hence, the theme for this 25th Anniversary celebration – "Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit" Zechariah 4:6.

It is the Holy Spirit's subtle but powerful wind breathing life into dry dead bones and raising up a community of simple men & women who pledged to live out the Lord's commandment of love of God and neighbor through the help of the same Spirit! It is the Holy Spirit's promptings that birth the various ministries. It is the Holy Spirit's fire that fuels & sustains the members' commitment and zeal for the Lord and His work for the past 25 years! Indeed not by any human wisdom nor strength but by the Spirit's presence and working that has brought Emmaus to this present milestone!

I also wish to pay tribute to all our benefactors who have been the Lord's valuable instruments to mold and mature the Community over the past 25 years. We have dedicated a page in our Souvenir Programme to remember these anointed servants of the Lord! Recording them in this page is to etch them permanently into Emmaus' history, not just to honor them but also serve to inform our new members of the priceless contributions of these benefactors towards Emmaus' growth!

To all the faithful members, particularly those from the "pioneer group" and those who have labored tirelessly in the various ministries, allow me to thank you – we have journeyed together this quarter of a century, in good times and in bad times! You have been my greatest encouragement and pillars of support! I salute you! It is the

generous sacrifices of your time, talents and treasures as you responded to the Spirit's promptings that have enriched Emmaus tremendously and contributed to its growth! To the new members, you are the young blood whom we invest to pass on the baton for the journey ahead! You have been sent to carry on the legacy, to do greater things for the greater glory of the Lord!

And lastly to all Emmaus friends and supporters, our heartiest thank you for your friendship and trust in us! We look forward to your continued support that together we work to bring the Good-news to more and more people.

To God be the glory! Praise Him!

Pauline Lim

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL BSC



Matthew Bilong
Chairman of Parish Council
Blessed Sacrament Church

I have served as Parish Council Chairman since the days in Holy Trinity church and when Father Lawrence, the then Parish rector requested that I be the Chairman for the Parish Council for Blessed Sacrament parish, I have continued to serve in this capacity since the formation of the Parish Council in this parish was launched in April 2003. I am of course looking forward to my retirement in this capacity for a much-deserved rest!

All the years that I have been serving in both parishes, it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with the Emmaus Servant Community. I have personally known Pauline, their Head Servant since the days of Holy Trinity and have in fact been a member of Emmaus Servant Community myself, years back. I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with many of their members and have nothing but praise and admiration for this group of dedicated lay persons.

Over the last 2 decades, I have had many chances to work closely with them and have come to greatly appreciate their community as with any parish activities and especially with fund raising activities such as food fair, we can always count on Emmaus to put their best collective foot forward.

I have also come to look forward to the many activities in the parish that would not be the same without them, such as the Divine Mercy Novena and Novena to the Holy Spirit in preparation for Pentecost. Pentecost mass itself that has on many occasions over the years both in Holy Trinity parish and at Blessed Sacrament prove a time of blessing for the parishioners at large when through the effort of Emmaus, the Holy Spirit is palpably present like the first Pentecost! I must also acknowledge that through the various seminars and Healing Rallies organized, the Emmaus Servant Community has contributed to the spiritual growth and healing of the parishioners.

The Community has indeed contributed and undoubtedly impacted the spiritual life of the parish and the parishioners and I pray that Emmaus Servant Community will continue to grow in stature and God's abundant blessings!

Congratulations on this significant milestone, your 25th Anniversary and I wish you many more fruitful years in the Lord's vineyard!

Matthew Bilong

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF ACRT



Head Servant,
Emmaus Servant Community,
Blessed Sacrament Church
KUCHING

Our dear Sis Pauline,

Congratulatory Message – 25th Anniversary

We rejoice with you and all the brothers and sisters of Emmaus Servant Community on this wonderful occasion of your Silver Jubilee. May our Risen Lord continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

Our journey together as Charismatic Renewal Catholics go back to the eighties, when we were together in the core team, until we find different directions: servant communities, covenant communities, healing and deliverance, prayer meetings.....It is indeed a great joy to remember your personal relationship with Jesus, your fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit enabling you to serve the church to improve faith of many brothers and sisters, changing their life for the better and to evangelise and make disciples.

Wishing your community continue to grow in faith and fellowship, gifts and fruit of the Spirit, and God's loving call to holiness.

I am,
Your lovingly,

Peter Wong Hung Huang

Peter Wong Hung Huang
Chairman,
Kuching Archdiocese Charismatic Team

MESSAGE FROM BRO. BOB CANTON



My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Emmaus Community:

I congratulate all of you for this remarkable achievement of making the Emmaus Community very much alive and well for the last 25 long years. This is, indeed, a great blessing from our God Almighty for you to have a very vibrant and dynamic Covenant Community.

Furthermore, the cohesiveness and unity and camaraderie among the members of the Emmaus Community in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, can be attributed also to good leadership and guidance by the Holy Spirit who is the Paraclete and our Advocate.

In this regard, I would like to commend the Pastoral Committee of your Community for their personal sacrifices and dedication to serve each member of the Emmaus Community and the Blessed Sacrament Parish with love and joy of the Lord.

I also commend the members of the Community for their undying love for the Lord and for their obedience not only to the promptings of the Holy Spirit but also to the leaders of the Emmaus Community. I have observed first hand your love for one another and the cooperation that you extend to the leaders of the Community.

I would venture to say that the cornerstone or the pillar of the Emmaus Community is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ, and the glue that holds you together is your love for one another. In 1 John 4:7-8, the Word of God says, "Beloved let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God: for God is love."

I believe that the Emmaus Community is the "light" from God not only in Kuching but in all of Malaysia. Because of your faithfulness in the Lord Jesus and your love for one another, I believe the Emmaus Community will endure, God willing.

Again Congratulations and have a joy-filled celebration!

God bless you all!

Sincerely yours,

Bob Canton

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF ST PETER'S DMA



I extend my heartiest congratulations to the founders, leaders and all the members of the Emmaus Servant Community of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kuching on your Silver Jubilee.

The people of Kuching are very blessed with the immense services rendered through your community for the glory of God. Our faith is greatly enriched with your presence in the last 25 years. Your sincere and genuine efforts in carrying out your ministry is a great inspiration for all to emulate.

Your sincere and genuine efforts in carrying out your ministry is a great inspiration for all to emulate.

Divine Mercy Apostolate (DMA) of St Peter's Church, Padungan is happy to be associated with Emmaus Servant Community as we both work towards bringing the message of love and mercy of Jesus to as many people as possible.

We pray that God will continue to bless your Community with many more years of services to all the people.

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

Ir. Michael Hii

HISTORY OF THE EMMAUS SERVANT COMMUNITY

The Holy Trinity Church at Kenyalang Park, served as the birthplace of the Emmaus Servant Community (ESC).

In 1989, in order to address a spiritually dry spell for the parish, a few parishioners led by Pauline Lim began a weekly Holy Hour for Lent.

At the request of the then Rector, Father Lawrence Chua, these Holy Hours continued and became a weekly meeting for the faithful.

Thus, it would appear on hindsight, that was how the Lord laid the spiritual foundation for Emmaus, while bringing about a spiritual revival for the parish.

In October 1991, Pauline was in Manila, Philippines, on a private trip. There she met a certain warm and jovial priest, and a wonderful sister in Christ. They were Reverend Father Leonardo Polinar and the late Fe Baluyot, who fondly became Sis Fe to everyone in the Community.

By God's providence, Fr Polinar was going to Johore soon after, and so it was suggested that Fr Polinar also come over to conduct a Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) in Kuching whilst he was in Malaysia.

Father Lawrence Chua gave his support for this proposal. Archbishop Datuk Peter Chung, also gave his support and permission.

In 1992, Fr Polinar and Sis Fe came to Kuching to conduct the first LSS to a capacity-crowd of over 800 registered participants.

And the fire was lit – Praise God!

Following closely was the institution of a spiritual mainstay that saw how the weekly Holy Hour was converted into a Thursday night Prayer Meeting on a last-minute notice.

Sis Fe had invited the LSS participants to a prayer meeting without realizing there were no prayer meetings then. A quick-thinking group of organizers soon got the 1st prayer meeting up and going.

They mobilized our brothers Eugene Kueh and Peter Chia to play the guitars; Joan Yoh played the organ and Helen Hii stepped up to become the first Praise Leader.

These weekly Prayer Meetings have continued until today; first at Holy Trinity and then at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

However, in March 2011, they were changed from Thursday to Friday nights to accommodate families with young children who had to go to school the next day.

THE BIRTH OF THE EMMAUS SERVANT COMMUNITY

In his quest to strengthen the Emmaus Community, Fr Polinar shared his vast experience and knowledge with the LSS organizers. He stressed the importance and need to set up a "cell-centered" community.

This would also serve to maintain and promote spiritual growth after an LSS, when people would be "high" after an encounter with the Lord through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If these people did not have a structure within which their faith could be helped to deepen and grow, often their enthusiasm would soon die or fade away.

Although initially apprehensive, a small group of parishioners stepped forward in faith. They were commissioned on 15th March 1992 to spearhead the formation of a community called "Emmaus". Their Head Shepherd Fr Lawrence Chua had chosen this name for them.

Pauline Lim was appointed the Head Servant. Her team comprised the late James Hii (Men's Servant); Florence Chye (Women's Servant); Helen Hii (Ministry Servant); Spencer Dreman (Ministry Servant); Dominic and Pauline Chai (Couples' Servant). They made up the Emmaus pioneer group.

The first group of 57 aspirants were covenanted on 22th March 1993. This day saw the 'birth' of the Emmaus Servant Community.

In December 1994, when barely 2 years old, this group of brave pioneers hosted the Second Asia Pacific Conference of Catholic Charismatic Servant Communities. Well over 300 participants came from the Philippines, Thailand and Australia to take part.

The resounding success and more importantly, the effort of carrying out this undertaking, helped to foster and cement ties among the members of this budding community.

Over the last 25 years, clear signs of the Community's growth can be seen in the number of ministries that were commissioned as the Community grew.

We saw the formation of the following ministries: Music Ministry; Intercessory Ministry; Healing Ministry (now the Healing and Deliverance Ministry); Greeters Ministry; Children Ministry (Jesus Kids from 1996); Youth Ministry (now the Children and Youth Ministry since 2000); and the Book Ministry, now newly evolved into the Media Ministry; as well as the addition of the Social Ministry.

Through these ministries, Emmaus members have an opportunity to discover the talents and gifts God has endowed them with. Each and every member is encouraged to serve in at least one ministry of their choice; and to make use of their God-given talent to serve the people of God through various activities.

Members can choose to be involved in activities such as the Novenas, Masses for Healing, Healing Rallies, Life in the Spirit Seminars, and Growth Seminars.

We also have outreach programs, such as visiting the sick in hospitals; and praying with people with needs at Prayer Meetings, especially at the monthly ministering sessions.

However, in the year 2003, the Community faced one of its most serious crisis. Fr Lawrence was transferred to the Blessed Sacrament Parish and Pauline the Head Servant was at the same time transferred to Sibu.

This caused the numbers at the weekly Prayer Meetings to drop to dismal levels. The morale of members was equally depressed.

It was eventually decided to move the Community (which is Parish based) to the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

There, over a period of time, the Community found its feet again and began to grow and thrive.

Over the years, the Community has grown slowly in number and in spiritual maturity with help sent by the Lord. This came in the form of priests like the late Fr Anthony Wan; visiting priests like Fr Gino, Fr Vincent Lee, Fr Terry Burke, Fr Louis Kessel, Fr Rufus Pereira; and His Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Peter Chung.

Others sent by the Lord to give growth and direction to the Community were Bob Canton, Gerard and Jessica Francisco, Jude Antoine, Diana Mascarhenas and Dr Jeffrey Goh and Angie.

More importantly, through at least some 15 to 16 years of Emmaus' 25 years, Father Lawrence had faithfully supported and given teaching at the prayer meetings until his health imposed constraints on him. As Head Shepherd, he took his responsibilities seriously to guide and mould the Community.

In return, the Community has given him their unstinting love and support in all his parish organized activities; be they food fairs, healing rallies or Pentecost mass.

Similarly, Fr Polina travelled regularly over to Kuching to faithfully mentor the Community on a regular basis in the earlier years of its inception.

The ESC members have also travelled over to the Philippines to strengthen bonds with the other Servant Communities established there by Fr Polinar.



Emmaus Servant Community's first Pastoral Team

BIRTH OF EMMAUS MANDARIN SECTION

The idea to set up a Chinese-speaking community was mooted in early 2016 by Mervyn Jong. Our Head Servant Pauline Lim had discussed with him the possibility of conducting a Chinese LSS to serve the non-English speaking community in late 2015.

Mervyn's journey with Emmaus began a few years back. He had been searching for materials on anything to do with Charismatic renewals since he attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) in Miri in the year 2000.

He was disappointed that most prayer meetings and seminars were conducted in English. He searched far and wide...even on the internet.

Feeling disillusioned, Mervyn left the Church. But God has a purpose for him. He felt God's call in 2010.

Thinking that he would begin by singing praises and worship to God, Mervyn went with his dad to a LSS organized by Emmaus in 2012. He had been receiving messages calling on him to renew his faith.

The seminar left him spiritually-filled and invigorated. He felt hungry for more. So, he began attending the weekly prayer meetings.

Mervyn found himself fully immersed and involved in the activities organized by Emmaus. He grew in the Teaching, Healing and Deliverance ministries.

He even found himself translating Bob Canton's talk to those who couldn't understand English.

So, Mervyn began his mission to serve the Chinese-speaking community. With permission from Pauline and Fr Lawrence Chua, the first Chinese LSS was conducted on 8-10 April 2016.

This was followed with the first Chinese Prayer Meeting on 14 April 2016.

To date, the Chinese Emmaus Community has grown to 3 cells...1 Men cell and 2 Women cells. They have already organized 3 Chinese LSS. Hallelujah! God is Great.



Chinese LSS participants with Mervyn Jong

IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN THE GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY

1998 - Our Head Servant, Pauline Lim was invited to speak at the 3rd International Congress of Catholic Charismatic Servant Communities held in Melbourne, Australia

1999 - Pauline Lim was invited to speak at a retreat for priests in Bohol, Philippines

2000 - Several members visited Medjugorje and started the devotion to the Divine Mercy at the Holy Trinity Parish when they came back

2001 February and March - Bob Canton conducted the first Healing Rally in Kuching

2002 December - Christina Eng from our Teaching Ministry, was invited to speak at the 4th International Congress of Catholic Charismatic Servant Communities in Bangkok, Thailand

2005 - Emmaus Community organized the 1st Alpha course for its members and BSC Parish

2006 - Community Retreat with Fr Polinar at Santubong

2008 - Brother Bob Canton held a Healing Rally at BSC Parish

2008 - Emmaus Community conducted the first LSS for the youths of St. Peter's Parish

2009 - Several members led by Pauline attended the 'Set Free' Seminar in Singapore conducted by Father Elias Vella and Diana Mascarhenas

2009 November - Fr Polinar led the Community at a Retreat at Chapel of Mother Mary

2010 March - Gerard and Jessica Francisco conducted a Praise and Worship cum Leadership Seminar

2011 May - Visit of Fr Rufus Pereira for a Healing and Deliverance Workshop

2011 - 2nd visit of Gerard and Jessica to teach on the Dynamics of Praise and Worship

2012 April - Commissioning of the Pastoral Team and Covenanting of the Emmaus Community by Fr Polinar

2013 - Retreat and Healing Rally by Bob Canton

2013 - Bible Exposition by Sr Inigo

2013 - Social visit by a group from the Klang Catholic Community to foster friendship ties

2014 - Several Emmaus members attended the Asia Pacific Conference at Cebu, Philippines

2014 - Pauline Lim and Christina Eng were invited to conduct a Healing of Families (HOF) Seminar in Sibul

2014 - Sr Inigo returned to conduct another Bible Seminar at BSC Hall

2014 - HOF Seminar in Melbourne, Australia by Pauline and Christina

2015 - Community Retreat with Bro Fritz at BSC Hall

2015 - Emmaus Community's Pilgrimage to attend St Anne's Feast Day at Bukit Mertajam

2016 - Emmaus Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Holy Doors at Penang and Thailand

2016 - Holy Door Pilgrimage to Our Lady Queen of Peace, and also to Mt Hosanna, Bandar Sri Aman

2016 - Pauline Lim and Christina Eng were invited to conduct a HOF seminar to a small group at BSB, Brunei

2017 - HOF Seminar in Jakarta, Indonesia by Pauline and Christina

All activities have been instrumental in providing a roadmap for the Community's spiritual direction as each speaker spoke to and over the Community.

The food fairs, seminars, rallies, community outings, year-end parties and other events that the Community members took part in or organized; served to build up the faith of the members. We saw how God brought healing and renewal that touched many lives.

Serving the Lord through these avenues were often exhausting but at the end everyone would be uplifted as we witnessed the wonders that the Lord worked.

These events also served to forge and instill a sense of unity within the Community as we learn to work together and love one another in a true Christian spirit. A testimony indeed for the importance of community as an effective tool for helping Catholics to grow in their faith.

All glory and praise goes to our Wonderful and Faithful God who has guided and greatly blessed the Community at each and every turn in the last 25 years.



First group of Covenanted Men



First group of Covenanted Ladies



Asia Pacific Conference in Melbourne Oct 1998



The Commissioned 'Pioneers' on 15 March 1992

L-R: Late James Hii (Men's Servant), Helen Hii (Ministry Servant), Pauline Lim (Head Servant), Fr. Lawrence Chua (Head Shepherd), Florence Chye (Women's Servant), Spencer Dreman (Ministry Servant), Pauline Chung & Dominic Chai (Couples' Servant)

厄玛乌仆人团体的历史

厄玛乌仆人团体(ESC)的出生地是在肯雅兰的圣三堂。

1989 年，以 Pauline Lim 为首的几位教友因为察觉到堂区在灵修方面的干竭，就在四旬期里开始了每周一次的守圣时。

后来在当时堂区主理蔡钦友神父的要求下，守圣时被保留下来，成了教友们每周的集会。

如今看来，上主在当时就已经在灵修上为厄玛乌打下了基础，同时也为堂区带来了更新。

1991 年 10 月，Pauline 到访菲律宾的马尼拉。在那里她遇见了一位开朗热心的神父以及一位很棒的姐妹，他们就是 Leonardo Polinar 神父和已故 Fe Baluyo，也是后来大家昵称 Sis Fe 的一位姐妹。

承蒙天主的旨意，当时 Polinar 神父正计划在近日内到访柔佛，就有建议提出要求趁 Polinar 神父在马来西亚时也顺道过来古晋开办一场圣神内新生命（革新）讲座会。

对于这个提议蔡钦友神父表示支持，而钟万庭总主教也给予许可。

于是在 1992 年，Polinar 神父和 Sis Fe 就来到了古晋开办了第一场的革新讲座，当时超过了 800 参加这场讲座。

火苗就这样点燃起来了 – 赞美天主！

紧接下来就是灵修支柱就因此而建立，从每周四的守圣时临时改成了同祷会。

其实当时还没有同祷会的存在，可是 Sis Fe 却在不知情的状况下要求了革新讲座的参与者来参加同祷会，而敏捷思维的主办当局在就迅速的把第一次的同祷会建立起来了。

他们号召了 Eugene Kueh 和 Peter Chia 弟兄当吉他手，Joan Yoh 姐妹负责弹风琴而 Helen Hii 姐妹则成了第一位敬拜赞美的带领者。

从开始时在圣三堂，到后来的圣体堂，这每周的同祷会一直延续至今。

不过后来因为考虑到父母亲要照顾孩子们隔天上学，同祷会就在 2011 年的三月从周四改在周五进行。



厄玛乌仆人团体的诞生

Polinar 神父也和革新讲座的主办当局分享了他的经验和珍贵的知识，同时他也特别强调设立“小组形式”团体的重要性与需要。

这也可以确保在大家参与了革新讲座，在通过圣神内领洗遇见上主后，心火正热时可以继续保持及增强灵修上的热心。因为如果没有一个结构性的团体可以帮助他们加强信德，灵修成长，很快的他们的热忱将会消逝或减弱。

尽管带着惶恐的心，还是有一小群的堂区教友怀着信德向前迈进一步。就在 1992 年 3 月 15 日，他们领命成立了名为“厄玛乌”的团体，一个由他们的总牧人蔡钦友神父为他们命名的团体。

Pauline Lim 被委任成为总仆人。她的团队包括了已故 **James Hii**（男仆人），**Florence Chye**（女仆人），**Helen Hii**（仆人事工），**Spencer Dreman**（仆人事工），**Dominic** 与 **Pauline**（夫妻仆人）。他们组成了厄玛乌的先锋队五。

当第一批为数 57 位的备修生于 1993 年 3 月 22 日宣誓后，厄玛乌仆人团体就这样诞生了。

1994 年 12 月份，仅仅不到两年后，这群勇敢的先锋就主办了第二届亚洲太平洋天主教神恩仆人团体会议。当时获得了来自菲律宾，泰国和澳洲超过三百人前来参与。

这巨大的成功虽振奋人心，但更为之重要的是，在用心执行这任务的当儿，使这个初露头角的团队更能心手相连。

在过去的 25 年里，通过更多的事工小组的成立，团体的成长显而易见。

我们看见了以下事工的成立：音乐事工，代祷事工，医治事工（现称医治与释事工），迎宾事工，孩童事工（直至 1996 年的耶稣的孩童），青年事工（自 2000 年改称孩童与青年事工），以及如今发展成为传媒事工的书本事工，最后也包括了社会事工的加入。

厄玛乌团员们可以通过这些事工发掘天主赐与他们的天赋与神恩。每一位团员都需要至少选择一个事工服务，并利用天主恩赐的神恩通过各种的活动为天主的子民服务。

团员们可以选择投身参与一些活动，如九日敬礼，医治弥撒，医治大会，圣神内新生命讲座会以及成长讲座会。

于此同时，我们也有一些对外的活动，比如到医院探访病者，在同祷会中为有需要的人代祷，特别是在每个月的事工侍奉时段里。

然而，在 2003 年的时候，随着蔡钦友神父被调动至圣体堂堂区，而总仆人 **Pauline** 也在同时间里被调往诗巫，团体也因此面临了它最严峻的考验。

这导致每周参与同祷会的人数跌至一个令人担忧的水平，士气也因此大受打击。为挽救局面，该团体最终决定也迁移至圣体堂。

就这样，一段时间过后，该团体又重新站立起来，日益壮大。

这些年来，上主通过派遣他的司铎牧人们，如已故 **Anthony Wan** 神父，**Gino** 神父，**Vincent Lee** 神父，**Terry Burke** 神父，**Louis Kessel** 神父，**Rufus Pereira** 神父，及荣休钟万庭总主教前来协助，不仅让团体的灵修获得成长，团员的人数也慢慢的增加了。

除此之外，天主也派遣了 **Bob Canton**, **Gerald** 与 **Jessica Francisco**, **Jude Antoine**, **Diana Mascarhenas** 以及 **Dr Jeffrey Goh** 和 **Angie** 这些人的到来也给了厄玛乌团体带来了成长与方向。

值得一提的是，在厄玛乌的 25 个年头里，至少有 15 至 16 年的时间蔡神父是如此的信实的支持着同祷会，并在他的健康状况还佳时一直在会中给予教导。身为总牧人，他确实认真看待了他带领及塑造厄玛乌团体的责任。

作为回报，该团体对于蔡神父在堂区内举办的活动，不管是义卖会，医治大会或圣神降临弥撒，都给予大方的支持与爱护。

同样的，在过去的 25 年里，**Polinar** 神父也定期到访古晋负起他作为厄玛乌团体神师的责任，他从不间断鼓励着与带领着该团体。

厄玛乌的团员也不时前往菲律宾，与 **Polinar** 神父在那里建立的其他仆人团体保持良好的联系。

厄玛乌仆人团体的

2016 年初，为了照顾说华语的教友，总仆人 **Pauline** 兴起了举办华语的圣神内新生命（革新）讲习会的念头，于是她找来了杨谦诚弟兄帮忙。

谦诚在厄玛乌的旅程需要追溯到数年前。自从在 2000 年於美里参加了一场革新讲座后，他就开始寻找更多有关于神恩复兴的资料。

但是，令他感到沮丧的是他发现到大多数的同祷会与讲习会都是以英语进行的。即使网上搜索，华语方面的资料还是少得可怜。

由于灵命得不到满足，他离开了教会。蒙主怜悯，在 2010 年的时候，天主再次召叫了他。

想着只愿做一个简单朴实的教友只希望到同祷会敬拜赞美天主而已，在一次偶然的会下他得知圣体堂的厄玛乌举办革新讲座便带他的父亲参与。这期间他也不断得到启示要他革新自己。

在讲习会被圣神充满及滋润后，他反而越发饥渴，於是便开始参加每周的同祷会。之后更完全投入於厄玛乌主办的活动，同时也被安排在教导、医治与释放等事工里成长。

曾经有一次，他更翻译了 **Bob Canton** 的讲习会里的每一个教导为使那些不谙英语的教友受惠。

谦诚就如此开始了他服务说华语的教友的任务。在获得蔡神父和 **Pauline** 的首肯之后，在 2016 年 4 月 8 日至 10 日就举办了厄玛乌 25 年以来的第一届的华语革新讲座。

第一次的华语同祷会也随之在 2016 年 4 月 14 日开始了活动。

时至今日，华语厄玛乌团体已有了包括一个男子小组及两个女子小组共三个小组的成立。他们也举办了三场华语的圣神内新生命讲习会。阿肋路亚！天主是伟大的

厄玛乌团体的重要成长里程碑

- 1998 年 - 我们的总仆人, **Pauline** 受邀到澳洲墨尔本第三届天主教神恩仆人团体国际大会演讲。
- 1999 年 - **Pauline** 受邀到菲律宾保和省带领神父们退省。
- 2000 年 - 数位团员在到访默主哥耶(**Medjugorje**)回来后, 在圣三堂堂区开始了上主慈悲的敬礼。
- 2001 年 2 月及 3 月 - **Bob Canton** 在古晋举办第一次医治大会。
- 2002 年 12 月 - 来自我们的教导事工里的 **Christina Eng** 接受邀请到泰国曼谷第四届天主教神恩仆人团体国际大会里演讲。
- 2003 年 - 厄玛乌团体为圣体堂堂区及其会员主办了第一场的启发课程。
- 2006 年 - 团员们与 **Polinar** 神父在山都望进行避静退省。
- 2008 年 - **Bob Canton** 弟兄在圣体堂堂区举办了一场医治大会。
- 2008 年 - 厄玛乌团体为圣彼得堂区的青年教友们举办了第一场革新讲座。
- 2009 年 - 以 **Pauline** 为首的几位团员到新加坡出席由 **Elias Vella** 神父和 **Diana Mascarhenas** 主办的“释放”讲习会。
- 2009 年 11 月 - **Polinar** 神父带领团体在圣母玛利亚小教堂进行避静。
- 2010 年 3 月 - **Gerald** 与 **Jessica Francisco** 举办了一场敬拜赞美兼领导能力讲座会。
- 2011 年 5 月 - **Rufus Pereira** 神父到访举办一场医治与释放工作坊。
- 2011 年 - **Gerald** 与 **Jessica** 再次到访教导敬拜赞美的能力。
- 2012 年 4 月 - 由 **Polinar** 神父委派牧灵团队的成立以及主持厄玛乌团体的宣誓仪式。
- 2013 年 4 月 - **Bob Canton** 带领进行闭静与医治大会。
- 2013 年 - **Inigo** 修女做圣经讲解。
- 2013 年 - 一团来自巴生天主教团体的弟兄姐妹到访做礼貌拜会, 以促进联谊。
- 2014 年 - 数位厄玛乌团员到菲律宾宿雾省参与亚太会议。
- 2014 年 - **Pauline Lim** 与 **Christina Eng** 受邀到诗巫开办家庭医治讲习会(**HoF**)。
- 2014 年 - **Inigo** 修女再次到访圣体堂举办另一场圣经研习会。
- 2014 年 - 澳洲墨尔本由 **Pauline** 与 **Christina** 带领的家庭医治讲习会。

- 2015 年 - Fritz 弟兄在圣体堂礼堂进行团体的退省活动。
- 2015 年 - 厄玛乌团体于圣安纳瞻礼日到大山脚朝圣。
- 2016 年 - 厄玛乌到槟城与泰国进行慈悲禧年朝圣。
- 2016 年 - 到诗里阿曼的和平之后与贺三纳教堂进行圣门朝圣。
- 2016 年 - Pauline Lim 与 Christina Eng 受到汶莱教友的邀请做一场小型的 HoF 讲习会。
- 2017 年 - Pauline 和 Christina 到印尼雅加达开办 HoF 讲习会。

这些讲师们在这一系列活动里的演讲和教导都为厄玛乌的灵修方向提供了宝贵的蓝图。

所有厄玛乌团体团员所参与或举办的不管是义卖会，讲习会，大会，团体出游，年终聚会或其他的活动，都帮助了团员们信德上的成长。我们也看见了天主医治及触碰到了很多人的生命，使他们获得更新。

在这些事项上侍奉上主或许有时会让人觉得肉体疲累，不过在看见了主的奇妙作为后，大家最后都会觉得一切是值得的。

这些活动也为团体进行了锻炼，并注入了团结的观念，使大家可以在基督的精神内一起侍奉及互相爱护。这也是厄玛乌团体能够在帮助天主教徒在灵修上成长，作为一个好工具的见证。

一切光荣与赞美都归于我们至善至忠的天主，是祂在过去的这 25 年来带领和大大的祝福了厄玛乌团体。



A Tribute to our Founder Reverend Father Leonardo Polinar



Reverend Father Leonardo Polinar is a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Bohol in the Philippines. Father had started his priesthood by fighting the injustices of the Philippine government under the Marcos administration and was even arrested and imprisoned. After his release he came into contact with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. After experiencing the powerful baptism of the Holy Spirit he brought his zeal energy and convictions to propagate Christianity through this avenue. He has thus spent the better part of his life giving seminars,

retreats and growth programs all over the Philippines and all over the world and has set up Covenant Servant Communities everywhere from Alaska to Australia and from Norway to America. In the process and among other notable accomplishments, he has set up a seminary producing more than 50 PACEM charismatic priests to date. In the Philippines alone, there are over 2000 Servant Communities.

Emmaus Servant Community in Kuching, Malaysia is one such Community founded by Reverend Father Leonardo Polinar.

From a chance meeting in Manila in 1991 when Pauline providentially met Fr Polinar (as he is fondly known by members of Emmaus Community), grew the Emmaus Servant Community as we know it today.

It is no exaggeration to say if there is no Fr Leonardo Polinar, there would not be an Emmaus Servant Community today. Emmaus was born out of that meeting with Father and our Community is based on the prototype of cells and Community as designed and taught by him. Our Community's structure and formation are all based on the teaching and guidelines recommended by him.

In the last 25 years Fr Polinar has visited Kuching and Emmaus Servant Community numerous times and in doing so he has helped to set up and then guided and groomed the Community. Not only has the Community benefitted from his wisdom but both Holy

Trinity and Blessed Sacrament Parishes have been blessed by the many talks and seminars that he conducted each time he visited Kuching.

Nevertheless one of his most lasting legacies is the encounters that we have with him as a person. Fr Polinar is one of the most genial people with genuine humility, radiating kindness and love at all times. When he used to come to Kuching, we always had a full calendar for him yet we could always be relaxed in his presence as he was never demanding but always accommodating. Even when he was clearly tired, he never complained but on the contrary he would "spent" himself completely for his "children" meeting with us till late into the night. He tirelessly took time to advise, encourage and teach at all levels from personal "one to one", to cell levels, Community level and of course giving talks at the Parish level. Often it was only when one of us noticed that he was nodding off from exhaustion that we called it a night but if we asked him, he would always deny that he was tired!

Fr Polinar is truly one man who has learnt to "die to self" and give himself completely to the work that God has entrusted to him. It is therefore no wonder that those in the Emmaus Community who have had the privilege and benefit to work with him, or take part in the many talks and retreats he has conducted for us have come to love and appreciate him so much.

From meetings we had with other members of other Servant Communities in the Philippines and the rest of the world, we have come to realise that this is how the others in sister Servant Communities Internationally have also come to appreciate and love this little man who stands little more than 5 feet tall physically but who on a spiritual level stands out as a "gentle giant". By his personal example, he is the role model for all "Servant Communities" so that by our motto "Love & Serve" is as Fr Polinar so clearly demonstrates that in Jesus' kingdom, we all must be "servants".

After each encounter and meeting with Fr Polinar, we often come away wanting to be more like him so as to be more like Jesus! We cannot thank the Lord enough for blessing us with such a mentor all these years. Therefore on the occasion of our Silver Anniversary, Emmaus Servant Community would like to express our heartfelt love, gratitude and deep appreciation to Fr Leonardo Polinar for all he has done for us and to thank and praise God very specially for this precious gift.

TRIBUTE TO OUR SPIRITUAL BENEFACTORS

So Christ himself gave the gift of the apostles to the church. He gave the prophets and those who preach the good news. And he also gave the pastors and teachers as a gift to the church. – Ephesian 4:11

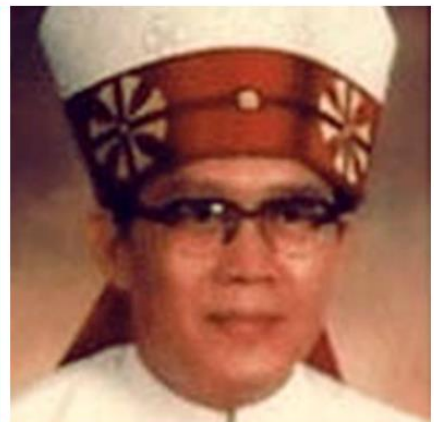
In the course of its 25 years journey, the Emmaus Servant Community has been abundantly blessed with the gifts of prophets, preachers, pastors and teachers to teach, guide and minister to its members. To the following, the community wishes to put on record its sincere and everlasting gratitude:-



Archbishop Emeritus Peter Chung



Archbishop Emeritus John Ha



Bishop Dominic Su



Fr Lawrence Chua



Fr Leonardo Polinar



Bro Bob Canton



Late Sister Fe Baluyot



Gerard and Jessica Francisco



Dr Jeffrey and Mrs Angie Goh



Fr Terry Burke



Late Sister Adriana



Fritz and Diana Mascarenhas



Fr Gino Henriques



Sister Inigo



Fr Joseph Ssemakula



Late Fr Rufus Pereira



Friar Fr Moses Yap



Bro Jude Antoine

Also the following...

Fr Louis Kessel

Fr Anthony Wan

Sister Stella Tan

Fr Vincent Lee

Thank You!

In Memoriam



James Hii
17 July 1998



Peter Kueh
7 April 2007



Georgie Dusun
6 Feb. 2008



Francis John Daa
14 Oct. 2012



Maureen Voon
2 March 2007



Angelina Solosa
3 June 2009



Eileen Tan
24 August 2010



Alice Chai
20 Nov. 2012

*"And we are not afraid, but are content to
die for then we will be at home with
the Lord."*

2 Corinthians 5:8

MEMBER'S SHARING...

HELEN HII



MY 25 YEARS IN EMMAUS SERVANT COMMUNITY

25 YEARS ! – Emmaus Servant Community, Kuching, is now 25 years old! Time really flies.

Indeed, I wish to praise and thank the Lord for leading my late husband James Hii and me to the Charismatic Renewal. We were then “Hi Bye” Catholics. In 1987 both of us joined the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) conducted by the Holy Trinity Prayer Group of St. Joseph’s Cathedral. It was there that we came into contact with Sr Pauline Lim, who was the facilitator of our little discussion group.

After this LSS, our little group of Br Cyril Chen and his late wife Sr Eileen Tan, Br Richard Ong and his late wife Sr Josie Ong, my late husband James Hii and myself started to meet weekly for fellowship in our homes by rotation; and to listen to Sr Pauline’s exhortation and teaching. There were home masses as well. We were really hungry for God’s Word! Soon, our group expanded to more than 35 members, including children.

Around 1989, Sr Pauline invited a few of us to start and lead the weekly Holy Hour for the season of Lent at Holy Trinity Church because the parish at that time was rather “spiritually dry”. However, after Lent, Fr. Lawrence Chua requested us to continue on with the weekly Holy Hour.

In 1991, after her business trip to the Philippines, Sr Pauline shared with us about her encounter with Fr. Polinar and her wish to bring him to Kuching to conduct a Life in Spirit Seminar in Holy Trinity Church. Her idea and wish were approved by Fr. Chua. So, prior to Fr. Polinar’s arrival, Sr. Pauline consulted us about starting a “prayer meeting”. Only 6 of us responded to her invitation to pray and seek the Lord on whether we should start a “prayer meeting” as a means to continue and maintain the spiritual growth of the LSS participants.

So, every Saturday after that Srs Pauline, Edwina Lau, Cecilia Lau, James Hii (my late husband), Spencer and myself gathered together to pray faithfully in my house. However, God’s ways are mysterious - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways (Is.55:8)”. Instead of starting a Prayer Group, He established a Servant Community. What a blessing! That was how Emmaus Servant Community was born on 15 March 1992. Life in the community at the beginning was not easy, since all of us come from different races and cultures. There were times that we stepped on one another’s toes and hurt one another. There were occasions of great discouragement, periods of doubts and dryness especially after James’ demise.

But this is the place where I learned to forgive and let go by the power of the Holy Spirit. Most of the time I enjoy the company and friendship of community members and have fun together. I experienced lots of joy working and sharing my time, treasure and talents - 3Ts with my fellow community members. Furthermore, through establishing connections with sister Servant

Communities in the Philippines I have made many friends especially from other parts of the world where our servant communities are present.

I treasure my time during this 25 year-journey in the community and I wish to record my appreciation and thanks to those early members from the Pastoral Team, Good Samaritan, Handmaids, Emmanuel, Anawin, Joyful Vineyard, Yahweh, and Nazareth Cells who daily brought me **MEALS OF LOVE** while James was hospitalized and also taking care of his funeral arrangements.

Some sisters even helped me, a single mother, to plan the weddings of my daughters, Edith and Emily. Thank you again sisters and brothers from the bottom of my heart. This is LOVE in action and this is what our Community Song is all about:

Let me walk with you as we journey through our life
Searching for its meaning as the moment passes by
Let the hands of God be like footprints in the sand
As He carries you from the dawn to the setting sun.
With just one hand we can travel far together
One life sharing in love. I will hold you forever
Yes I love you all my life.
There'll be many crossroads as we walk along the way.
There'll be many questions as we live life day by day.
But it doesn't matter if you'll always be there.
You'll surely find the answer 'cause we care.
With just one hand we can travel far together
One life sharing in love. I will hold you forever
Yes I love you all my life.



Earlier Members of the Community
L-R : Late James Hii, Helen Hii, Pauline Lim, Spencer Dreman, Cecilia Lau, Edwina Lau

MEMBER'S SHARING...

JOHN LIEW : *Growing as a family in Emmaus*



My first encounter with Emmaus Servant Community (ESC) was about a decade ago when I was invited by a brother in Christ to accompany him to the prayer meeting in the Parish Hall. It was a pleasant experience! The cheerful, friendly smiles and handshakes of the greeters were commendable. They made me feel warmly welcomed.

The praise and worship session was lively and spiritually touching. It was an experience that made me want to attend the next prayer meeting, and then the next, and again the next....until today. It may be said that I was touched by the presence of God and His Spirit. The teachings given by Sister Pauline were inspiring, relevant and practical. They were helpful for my faith journey. Testimonies and sharings were uplifting and encouraging, as well as enriching.

When the Aspirants Programme was conducted, I attended it together with other brothers and sisters in Christ. It was a programme conducted for those who were interested to know more or would like to enquire about what the ESC and community life is all about. Through this programme, I saw and understood the importance of community life in faith formation and spiritual growth, and the role of the ESC in providing a covenanted community for my faith journey. So I joined as a covenanted member of the community.

Since the ESC also had a programme for young children, I brought my three young children to their gatherings. They liked to join the gatherings where they could interact with other children of their age groups. For them it was a fun gathering and getting to know about Jesus at the same time. As a parent, I felt blessed that my children have an avenue for their faith formation through fun activities. Going to church was a routine, without much fun and many a times boring. At their age they were too young to understand the liturgy and the homilies. Week after week, they looked forward to have fun with their friends, and the ever-friendly and loving uncles and aunties who guided them in their faith formation activities. Today, they have grown up and moved on to the youth ministry.

With myself and the children regularly attending prayer meetings and children's gatherings, my wife, Magdalene, eventually joined the community. Praise God, the whole family is on fertile soil. Emmaus Servant Community has helped us grow in our faith journey as a family. Our

family bonding is strengthened by our involvement in the community and church activities. I thank God that we are blessed with various charisms and are able to serve in the various ministries in the community as well as in the parish. It is through ESC that we learn to love and serve in these various ministries.

“Love and serve” happens to be the motto of ESC. My family has grown spiritually in the Lord. ESC provides fertile soil for us as a family to grow spiritually and socially as followers of Christ. I am thankful to God and members of ESC for shaping the faith journey of my family and me; and not forgetting all those people whom God puts into our lives, as everyone has a role to play, however insignificant.

My first personal encounter with the Holy Spirit was in the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* conducted for families, where all of us attended as a family. It was an awesome experience where the whole family felt the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit ministering to us. We were touched by the Holy Spirit. From then on, we attended numerous spiritual seminars and retreats. Today, we not only continue to attend spiritual seminars for further growth and experience, but we are also assisting in the seminars conducted by ESC.

Spiritual growth and faith formation are continual processes that need to be nurtured. Our Lord Jesus himself reminds us in the Parable of the Sower (**Matthew 13: 18-23**) regarding the importance of sowing on fertile soil. I am grateful to our triune God and Blessed Mother Mary, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Chua, ESC, the Sunday School, and all the various ministries in Blessed Sacrament Parish which have helped my family to serve the Lord in various capacities in the Parish; and also not forgetting our present rector, Rev Fr. Felix Au for his support and encouragement.

May Almighty God bless us all.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” – Philippians 4:13

MEMBER'S SHARING...

Emmaus Community in my Faith Formation

John Wong



I was born a 'Cradle Catholic', and was brought up in the 'Catholic tradition' – attended Catholic mission school, learnt the Catechism, and progressively received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation. As for 'service to the church', I served as an Altar Boy and joined the Legion of Mary. I viewed myself generally as a 'good' and happy Catholic, and life was 'routinely good'. There was a kind of good 'support system' during my school days. This continued until I finished my formal education.

When I first joined the working world, in a new and unfamiliar town, I was quite contented to 'practice my faith' by going to mass on Sunday. It suited my character that when I went to the church, hardly anybody greeted me and I did not have to greet anybody. At the end of the mass, I was quite glad to go off my way, like what most members of the congregation did. This went on for a few months, and, as time went by, I found that my attendance at the Sunday mass was beginning to decrease, until I practically stopped going. Then, for many years, I would only go for the Good Friday and the Christmas masses, if at all. I had never heard of the term 'lapsed Catholic' then, but that was what I had become. I was practically 'lapsed' for about 20 years! During this period, I got married, but not in the church, and have children. For many years, life was still quite good and comfortable (outside the church), until I was in my mid-forties. That was the time when I started to experience health problem. This came as a kind of shock to me because I had always been a very healthy person, and had hardly visited any doctor throughout my entire life until then. Meanwhile, the illness made my life more and more uncomfortable. I consulted different doctors, including alternative medical practitioners, without much improvement; in fact it got much worse!

Left with almost no options, I started to turn to my 'former God' – the God that I knew in my younger days. I 'resumed' going to the mass on Sundays. I would also attend almost all Christian Healing Rallies organized by different Christian churches in the city. The messages were generally 'nice to hear', but I never receive the kind of 'instant' or miraculous healing that I expected or witnessed others receiving. Nevertheless, I continued to seek healing from God.

One day, somebody put a pamphlet for a 'Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS)' on my office table. I had heard of such seminars in the church announcements, but had never attended any. The closing date stated in the pamphlet was already over, but I phoned a person named Ignatius Foo in the pamphlet and enquired. He replied that I could still walk into the seminar and pay for it then. (Under 'normal circumstances', my 'logical and legalistic' mind would have

prompted me to just chuck the pamphlet into the “tong sampah”, let alone pick up the phone). Soon, I was to learn that the Mr. Ignatius Foo I called was actually working in the same department as me, but in a different location!

So in April 2005, I walked into a ‘Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS)’ conducted by the Emmaus Servant Community at the Blessed Sacrament Church. I knew nobody in the seminar, but this time, I was welcomed and brought to a seat almost right at the front! I thought I knew a fair bit of my Catholic and Christian faith from my school days, but the messages by the seminar presenters were simple, yet touching and impactful. I had never heard of the simple but powerful messages of God’s love for us; His Plan for us; how the evil one had hijacked all of these from us; how and why Jesus Christ came to save us; how, at any time, we could embrace God’s love by repenting and going back to Him, and the list went on. I was convicted and went for confession for the first time in more than 20 years! During the evening I was prayed over by an elder and I ‘felled’ backwards. While lying on the floor, I felt kind of warm and my mouth was making some kind of unintelligible noises. Somehow I started to cry unashamedly and shed tears of joy. I came out of the LSS as a new person. The last talk was about our new life. The speaker stressed that what we experienced during the LSS was just the beginning and taught us how we have to and can maintain our new love relationship with God.

With my new found curiosity and thirst for God, I started to regularly attend the Thursday (Friday nowadays) evening prayer meetings. At the prayer meetings I not only learn how to pray, but learn how to sing praises to and to worship God. I have always struggled with personal and devotional prayers, being only able to pray intensely for only a few minutes or so before getting distracted. That is why I like the corporate prayers like the novenas, and find them very helpful. These are the only times when I can have a longer period of sustained prayer. I learned that prayers are not for God’s sake but for mine first of all, and for my loved ones, the community, the country and the whole world. I learned about the importance, benefits and beauty of having quiet times with the Lord so as to establish two-way communication with Him.

One of the biggest ‘breakthroughs’ after the LSS was my encountering God as ‘the Word’ in the Bible. Prior to the LSS, I had practically never touched the Bible and, if I ever did, reading it was a near impossible feat. To me, the whole narratives were dry, boring, and difficult to piece together. Now I learn that I need to find a proper place and time (preferably a private room, and first thing in the morning) to study the Bible. I learn to pray first before reading, to meditate on the verses, to commit to obey and to pray after reading. For the first time I experienced God speaking to me through His words in the Bible and I responding through my prayers. The most crucial thing is that, unlike other words in secular literatures, His words are spirit and life (John 6.63). When we read and meditate on His words, we are receiving His spirit and life into our whole body, soul and spirit. And His word (spirit and life) is transforming our body, soul and spirit for the better! That is how I gradually received healing, not only for my body, but for my soul and spirit too. I only sought God for my bodily healing, but God in his

great love and mercy, is giving me much more than what I ever knew I needed for my soul and spirit too. Praise the Lord!

The teachings by our Head Shepherd Fr. Chua and Head Servant Pauline Lim, and testimonial sharing by members during the prayer meetings helped me a lot in my spiritual growth and understanding. The community also organizes a number of follow-up seminars to the LSS, like the "Spiritual Growth Seminar", the 'Freedom in Christ Seminar', the 'Healing of the Family Seminars', and other talks which open up many new areas in my spiritual growth and understanding. Over the years, the community also invited many guest speakers, retreat leaders and rally leaders like Archbishop Emeritus Peter Chung, our founding Spiritual Director Fr. Polinar, Brother Bob Canton, Fr. Rufus Pereira, Sister Inigo and the late Sister Adriana, among others. The sessions with them again opened up many new dimensions and enhanced my spiritual growth and maturity. There is certainly no shortage of spiritual food offered by the community!

I later joined the 'Aspirancy Program' of the Emmaus Servant Community to learn more about Christian Community life. Upon deciding to join the community I was put into a cell group and also attached to a ministry or two of my choice. In the cell group I befriended the other cell members, learned to help each other, have regular weekly meetings for praise and worship, Bible study, sharing and fellowship. In the ministries that I joined (the Healing, Teaching and the Media), I got the chance to befriend more brothers and sisters in Christ, learn the 'tools of the trade' and actually started to serve others - both the internal and external 'customers'.

The motto of the community is 'Love and serve'. It is very short and simple in wording, but humanly very difficult, if not impossible, to put into action! And I learned very quickly that if I were to treat the community as a kind of club or secular association, and to attempt to carry out this motto, I might as well stay at home to enjoy my hobbies and interests! To be an active serving member of the community certainly requires strong, if not total, commitment. And this 'strength of commitment' has to be not only fueled by my own strength and abilities, but I need to trust and depend on the Holy Spirit for His guidance, enlightenment and His gifting. This is a kind of partnership or joint venture between the Holy Spirit and I, of which the degree of success is more dependent on my extent of surrendering to Him. A 'perfect' partnership cannot be achieved overnight, or months or even years. In fact, it may not be achieved at all in my lifetime if I keep on failing and sinning on my side. Notwithstanding this fact, the most rewarding part of my daily walk with God is that the strength, guidance and blessings from the Holy Spirit are not only confined to my meagre service in the community, but it overflows to other important areas of my life, like in my family and my workplace. In other words, His blessings for us spill over!

I have been with the community for more than 10 years, during which time I have received far more blessings from God compared to the meagre contributions rendered by me. An economist would describe it as an excellent return from investment. But our life and relationship with God are not about how much we can reap from God based on our so-called works and services to Him. His abundant blessings are always there for our taking. If we do not

seem to receive our 'fair' share of blessings, it is more of a case of our missing the tree for the forest, or rather, like the proverbial case of the landowner who sold his land in order to travel the world to prospect for diamond, not realizing that the land he sold would turn up to be the largest diamond mine in the world!

Over the years, I have often reflected on my life, especially on my relationship with God. As I reflect, I am often awed by the tremendous love and blessings God has showered upon me, my family members and loved ones. Even before I found such a phrase in the Bible, the words 'I will not leave you orphan' (John 14:18) often came to me! As my family members also began their walks with God, we have been experiencing more joy, peace, understanding and tolerance among ourselves. Again, I only learned later that these are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, as stated in Galatian 5:22-23. The innumerable blessings we receive are too long to list here. We can only give thanks to God all the time.

At our cell meetings we are required to share our 'successes' and 'failures'. Whilst I have been taught, told, even kind of 'indoctrinated' many times that God loves me absolutely with no condition, I cannot help but realize that I have not lived up to the plan God has for me; and that, more often than not, I have failed miserably. In most cases, I attribute it to a lack of effort on my part, my worldly concern, or pure laziness. To get on from there, I am often comforted and strengthened by the words of God in the Bible and by reading reflections by Christian authors, one which I wish to quote as follows:-

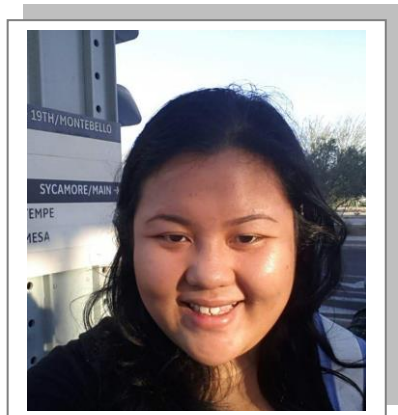
"I held with absolute conviction, alike from the experience of the church and from the infallible Word, that, in the mystery of things, there will be limits to the last, and very humbling limits, very real falling short. To the last it will be a sinner that walks with God". (*Handley Moule, Thoughts on Christian Sanctity*).

I have learnt and am aware that the evil one is always working overtime to deceive me to feel such a sense of failure, hopelessness and to alienate me from God. But it is for me to keep turning to my Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him to pick me up again and again as we walk together through the path strewn with temptations, dangers and obstacles.

In concluding, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom my Lord Jesus Christ has gifted to me to be my Mother, and to give all praise and glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

MEMBER'S SHARING...

- ***Florina Richard*** -



Being Christian youth is challenging. Logic does not always seem to work well with faith and questions on the existence of God constantly comes to mind. These unanswered questions and doubts, only affect our faith adversely.

I never knew how God can work wonders and miracles not until I found Emmaus Youth. I have witnessed how God, in our shortcomings, can use whom He called to be great instruments of love.

I realised, one does not have to be perfect to serve God but rather it is by saying yes to bearing the cross and trusting in the Lord is how great things could happen. By saying yes to serving God through the ministry, my definition of happiness is no longer defined merely by grades on my transcript or the number of peers I have. It is also now defined by seeing joy and hope in whom I served in this ministry.

Aunty Tina once told me, it is our action that speaks and I keep those words close to me. It is by our works, hearts are touched, and by my actions too my conviction speaks to my family. My involvement in Emmaus has brought my family closer to God. By keeping our faith in God, we are stronger as a family.

I am grateful for the friends I have met in Emmaus Youth. Knowing friends who have the same drives in loving and serving God also tells me that, I am not on this journey of my faith alone. I have no fear in sharing my doubts and questions on God in this ministry because I know I am in good hands in finding answers I have been looking for.

I am beginning to realise that faith is something you feel. It does not always work with logic because God is beyond what our brain can comprehend. It is through Emmaus, I began experiencing God's love and mercy. When everything else fails, faith kept me going.

EMMAUS Youth

INTRODUCTION TO THE STRUCTURE OF EMMAUS SERVANT COMMUNITY



Past Head Shepherd
Rev Fr Dato Lawrence Chua



Present Head Shepherd
Rev Fr Felix Au

Emmaus Servant Community members are placed in groups called "Cells".

The leaders or elders of the Community are in a cell called the **Pastoral Team** headed by the Head Servant. Members of the Pastoral Team look after and supervise the various cells and ministries of the Community.

The Cells are grouped homogenously generally, namely, we have the Couples cells, Single Women (which also includes married women whose husbands have yet to join the Community) and Men cells. Each cell is led by a Servant and assisted by a Secretary.

The Pastoral Team, Cell Servants and Secretaries and Heads of all the various ministries are members of the **Servant Council** which meets once in two months to deliberate and decide on matters concerning the Community.

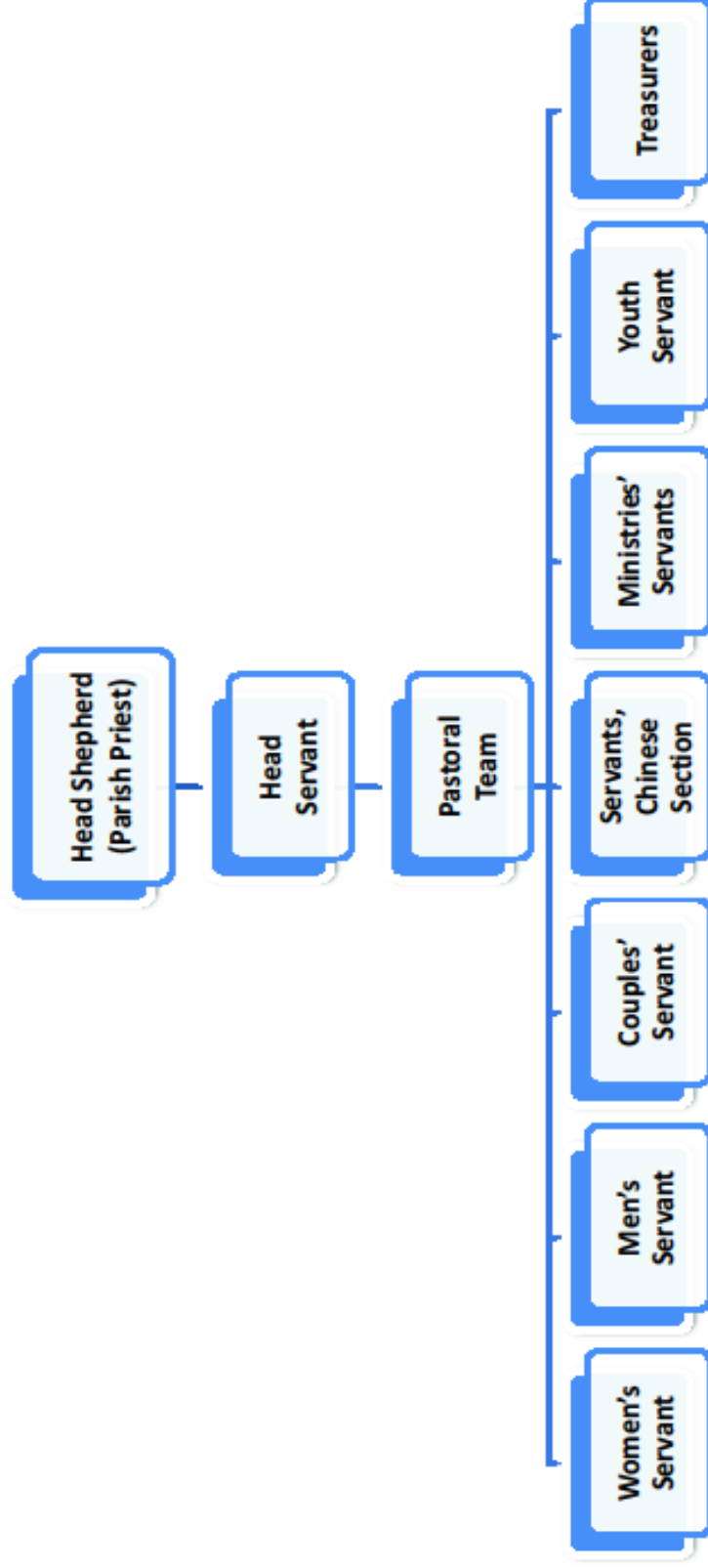


THE PASTORAL TEAM

Back row L-R: Cyril Chen, Peter Chia, Damien Yung, Mervyn Jong, John Wong, Spencer Dreman
Front row L-R: Christina Eng, Florence Chye, Pauline Lim, Helen Hii, Joan Yoh



Organisational Structure Of Emmaus Servant Community





AGAPE CELL

Back row L-R: Augustina Liew (Secretary), Priscilla Hiu, Juliana Kuek
 Front Row L-R: Mary Ng, Patricia Hiu (Cell Servant), Mabel Lau
 Not in the photo: Mary Chok



ANAWIM CELL

Back row L-R: Michael Kiew, Francis Kuan
 Front row L-R: Thomas Hardin, John Wong (Cell Servant), Ignatius Foo (Secretary)



EMMANUEL CELL

Back row L-R: Monica Sprin, Florence Chye, Angelina Wee, Stephanie Kan, Magdalene Rutom
 Front row L-R: Owen Lahen, Stefan Goh, Ronald Chiam, Ivonson Kwee (Cell Servant), Francis Chua, John Liew
 Not in the photo: Adeline Bong, Terence Kiing (Secretary), Magdaline Chai



HOLY TRINITY CELL

Back row L-R: Nancy Sim, Julie Chung, Doreen Lim, Irene Ting, Paula Goh, Lily Bong
 Front row L-R: Peter Chia, Damien Yung (Secretary), Christopher Tan (Cell Servant), Desmond Kueh, Eugene Kueh, John Leong
 Not in the photo: Thomas Ngu, Helena Hii



HOUSE OF BETHANY CELL

Back row L-R: Anna Lim, Marie Soh (Secretary), Justina Lim, Irene Kutoh, Betty Lim
 Front row L-R: Sylvia Atet, Cecilia Lau (Cell Servant), Jennifer Goh, Martina Chen, Margaret Ho
 Not in the photo: Evelyn Lee



MARY MAGDALA CELL

Back row L-R: Grace Lam, Flora Bong, Emy Nyidom, Josephine Liu
 Front row L-R: Margaret Lee Chai, Martina Chai, Irene Kueh (Cell Servant), Rosalind Kiu
 Not in the photo: Lilli Lim (Secretary), Hilda Heng



NAZARETH CELL

Back row L-R: Margaret Kueh, Grace Lee, Irene Wong, Gina Gray
 Front row L-R: Lina Puk, Rosa Su, Cindy Chua (Cell Servant), Cindy Lim (Secretary), Lucy Yong
 Not in the photo: Anna Yong, Theresa Dennis Anal



REVIVAL CELL

Back row L-R: Elizabeth Ting, Bernadette Rani, Nancy William, Teresa Chai
 Front row L-R: Felicity Khoo, Rosaria Liew (Cell Servant), Kathleen Lim (Secretary)
 Not in the photo: Eunice Lim, Faith Lim



ASPIRANTS CELL (ENGLISH SECTION)

Back row L-R: Olivia Molly, Sandra Petrus, Stephanie Chua
Front row L-R: Anna Sii, Ivy Chai, Thomas Ngu, Helena Hii, Caroline Francis



ST. FAUSTINA CELL

Back row L-R: Juliana Kong, Josephine Yung, Valerie Tan
Front row L-R: Lisa Yap (Secretary), Christina Ng (Cell Servant)



MOTHER TERESA CELL

Back row L-R: Magdelene Jong, Doreen Wee, Odelia Wong, Joanna Chai
Front row L-R: Maria Liew (Secretary), Sylvia Chuo (Cell Servant)



ST. PAUL CELL

Back row L-R: Thomas Chai, Wilfred Chai, Andrew Liew, Vincent Ng, Peter Chai
Front row L-R: Paul Ten (Secretary), Paul Ong (Cell Servant)



THE MUSIC & LITURGY MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Thomas Hardin, Ivonson Kwee, Ignatius Foo, Desmond Kueh
 Front row L-R: Peter Chia, Helen Hii, Eugene Kueh, Patricia Hiu, Lily Bong
 Not in the photo: Adeline Bong, Gina Gray, Lilli Lim, Michael Kiew, Augustina Liew

"He who sings, prays twice" (St Augustine of Hippo)

This is our motto. Singing adds to our praise and worship of God in a special way. So, with musicians, praise leaders and supporting singers, our ministry aims to help people to render praise and worship to our God in a fitting and awesome way! To achieve that, we come together to practice weekly and whenever there is a need to do so.

Our main focus is leading the praise and worship at the start of our weekly Friday Prayer meetings, and try to create a positive and conducive atmosphere for the correct focus on God with the intention to lead people into worship of our God. In the process we also encourage the exercise of the charismatic gifts of tongues, singing in tongues and prophecies. This is an important aspect of our gathering since the spirituality of the Emmaus Community is charismatic.

This ministry also plays a crucial role in seminars, retreats and other spiritual activities organized by our Community to provide vibrant praise so as to set the right tone for the event coming up by creating a faith-filled atmosphere; We also occasionally assist during some masses in Blessed Sacrament church.

On a social note, we provide musical entertainment during gatherings, dinners or similar activities for Emmaus Community or at the Parish activities. This helps people to relax and interact with one another better through singing.

We praise and thank God for the faithful servants and many talented singers and musicians he has sent to this ministry.



THE MEDIA MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Nancy Sim, Ivy Chai, Paul Ong, John Liew, Mervyn Jong, Ignatius Foo, John Wong
Front row L-R: Stefan Goh, Florence Chye, Helen Hii, Patricia Hiu

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Jesus Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

In light of the challenges and opportunities posed by the modern ‘Information Age’, the Emmaus Media Ministry was specially set up to take on the important role of supporting the “preaching of Jesus Christ.” Thus, to more effectively carry out its functions, the Media Ministry is capitalising on the many tools and platforms available through Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Hence, its main activities include the sourcing, preparation and dissemination of the Good News and Christian, especially Catholic, teaching materials through the various media, e.g, the print, virtual and social media. These materials would serve as useful resources to support the Teaching, Healing, Intercessory and other ministries of the Emmaus Community.

The Ministry also sets up and operates the audio visual system for the Friday Prayer Meetings and for all seminars (e.g the Life in the Spirit Seminars) organised by the community. During seminars, the Ministry members would distribute materials like prayer cards, books, DVD, and put up the necessary notices and signage to ensure the smooth running of events. Occasionally, the ministry also screen movies with good Christian values for the parish community.

However, the ‘traditional’ resources are not neglected. The Media Ministry has set up a library which is well stocked with books (many of which are classics by renowned authors) and periodicals. The voluntary librarians help to keep archives of photos,

videos and other materials of events organised by the community. The library resources are made available on loan to all who are continually exhorted to 'hear the message' in order to build up their faith.

The Media ministry is also responsible for publicity for all Emmaus Community activities, by putting up banners, announcements in church, parishes, newspapers and in our new website (www.emmaus.org.my). The purpose of the website is to show upcoming events, provide downloadable materials, receive petitions and provide relevant and useful links.

Although most of the activities of this ministry are behind the scenes, with members playing the role of "backroom boys", the ministry is blessed with members having a variety of skills to complement one another and to work together for the greater glory of God!





THE HEALING MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Cyril Chen, Helen Hii, Martina Chen, Rosaria Liew, John Wong, John Liew, Mervyn Jong, Josephine Liu, Priscilla Hiu, Juliana Kuek

Seated L-R: Spencer Dreman, Jennifer Goh, Christina Eng, Pauline Lim, Mabel Lau, Damien Yung, Peter Chia, Christopher Tan

Front row L-R: Florence Chye, Joan Yoh, Felicity Khoo, Patricia Hiu, Francis Chua, Stephanie Kan

Not in the photo: Margaret Kuek, Faith Lim

"I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26)

The Healing Ministry is as old as the Community being one of the founding ministries set up together with the Music and Intercessory ministry when the Community was birthed. This Ministry is very much tied up with the identity, mission and vision of the Community and **Luke 4:18-19** our Mission Statement.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour"

This is our focus as we help to minister to those in need under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; listening carefully to their problems, empathizing with them and directing them to God our healer as we pray with them. Members of the Ministry also do "follow-up" calls, visits or sessions on cases as necessary.

We also reach out to those in need, visit them at home or in hospital; pray with them and minister to them accordingly. Under the leadership of this ministry, the whole Community is rostered according to their cells and are "on call" to pray and visit with people who requests for prayer and help whether at home or in hospitals.

Our ministry consists of the “pray-over” teams, “catchers” and the supporting members who help to ensure that those who will be “resting in the Spirit” are comfortable and their dignity protected. This we do after our weekly Prayer meetings or during our monthly Friday Ministering sessions or during Seminars such as Life in the Spirit seminars, Healing of Families seminars, etc.

To equip and strengthen our members, we have monthly prayer and enrichment sessions; together with teaching and guidance on spiritual warfare. The Ministry and the Community has also greatly benefitted from Spiritual giants and teachers such as the late Fr Rufus Pereira, Bob Canton, Father Yosefu Ssemakula, Gerard and Jessica Francisco who came and shared with us their experience just to name a few.

We praise and thank God for the many committed members who serve in this ministry.

Members of the Healing Ministry assisting at Bob Canton and Fr Rufus' healing rallies





THE GREETERS MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Betty Lim, Magdaline Chai, Irene Wong, Josephine Liu
Front row L-R: Rosalind Kiu, Kathleen Lim, Spencer Dreman, Marie Soh, Margaret Lee Chai
Not in the photo: Anna Lim, Flora Bong, Eunice Lim

The Greeters Ministry, as its name suggests, was set up with the intention of providing the essential service in the Body of Christ of extending a welcoming embrace for people. As such this ministry has done an excellent job in fulfilling this niche for the Community and its various activities such as the weekly prayer meetings and the various seminars organized in the course of a year.

As with any service in the Lord's vineyard, it is that additional ingredient or element that makes people feel appreciated and welcomed. This has been achieved by the members of this ministry by their warm smiles, kind words of welcome and going that added mile such as by generously providing tidbits like sweets and snacks during seminars. As part of the work of this ministry, members take charge of myriad things like love offering collections, seating arrangements, control of air conditioners and lights for the hall.

In addition, members of the ministry in their capacity as greeters also help to explain to newcomers about the prayer meeting, Emmaus Servant Community or provide simple but essential services like giving directions or simply answering queries from people who come to the prayer meetings or seminars.

This ministry also provides the essential service of registration of participants for the various seminars organized by Emmaus Servant Community throughout the year. This can be quite a challenge when the number of participants can swell to hundreds such as during Bob Canton's healing seminars, workshops and rallies. In times like this, the Greeters ministry works closely with the Martha Ministry to ensure that the needs of the participants are all taken care of and looked after.

The Lord thereby clearly uses this ministry to reach out to people who come to the Friday night prayer meetings and the seminars, workshops and conferences held regularly by the Community. We are thankful to the Lord for the faithful members who work tirelessly and cheerfully in this ministry.



THE TEACHING MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Flora Bong, Paul Ong, Ivonson Kwee, Mervyn Jong, Christina Ng, Thomas Ngu, Ivy Chai
 Front row L-R: Florence Chye, Christina Eng, Pauline Lim, Damien Yung, John Wong, Juliana Kuek
 Not in the photo: Faith Lim, Adeline Bong, Magdaline Chai

The Emmaus Teaching Ministry was set up sometime in the year 1997. The ministry conducts several seminars a year and has been blessed by many gifted and committed teachers over the years. The ministry is charged with the care of the spiritual development and maturity of the members. Therefore, under the capable hands of Juliana Kueh, the Teaching ministry conducts courses at least once a year for Aspirants, namely those who are considering joining the Community. These lessons last for several months and after the Aspirants complete the course if they wish to, they are then encouraged to join existing cells as part of their exploring and discerning whether the Community life is for them.

The ministry also takes care of the spiritual growth of the members through classes for members who have covenanted and these classes are conducted by Florence Chye and John Wong for members who are at the Pursuers stage. Sessions for continuing growth are also conducted for the rest of the members by Pauline during Combined Cell meetings when the whole Community meets once every two months. For the same purpose, we also organized Retreats for the whole Community at least once a year. A vital part of the faith formation for the whole Community is the teaching during the Friday night prayer meetings, where the teaching is conducted mainly by our Head Servant, Pauline Lim. These meetings and teachings are open to the parish and the public and many come just to listen to the teachings.

A vital role of the Community through the Teaching Ministry are the various seminars that we conduct for the parish and local church, namely, Life in the Spirit Seminars (LSS), Growth Seminars, Seminars on Inner Healing and Healing of Family Seminars. We have also had the privilege for the last 10 years to conduct LSS for the youths at St. Peter's Parish, working closely with the dedicated faith formators there to prepare those getting ready for Confirmation.

By word of mouth and the grace of God, the Teaching ministry has also been invited to conduct seminars in Sibu, Melbourne, Australia, Brunei and recently in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The ministry has been blessed by God raising many talented, anointed speakers and since last year, we have also been able to conduct LSS in mandarin and was instrumental with the setting up of the Mandarin speaking branch of Emmaus. We must acknowledge the speakers that God has raised in people like Florence Chye, John Wong, Juliana Kueh, Damien Yung, Mervyn Jong, Adeline Bong, Ivonson Kwee, Faith Lim, Flora Bong, Magdaline Chai, and most recently Thomas Ngu, Ivy Chai, Paul Ong and Christina Ng.

Speakers at workshops and seminars





THE MARTHA MINISTRY

L-R: Doreen Lim, Paula, Peter Chia, Cindy Lim

"Feed my Sheep" (John 21:17)

This is the motto of our Martha ministry as we strive to provide physical nourishment to the people who come for spiritual food in our community activities.

Martha ministry arranges refreshments and meals for participants and members during Seminars; and also in other functions organized by Emmaus Servant Community.

Although this ministry requires challenging and hard work, yet we enjoy working together to look after people's physical needs. The best reward for us is when people appreciate our efforts; and we get much satisfaction from a job well done for the Lord!

Meals are planned, budgeted and ordered. The food station will be prepared and organized properly for orderly distribution of food and drinks. Cleaning up after the events includes taking the trash away to ensure a healthy environment. We appreciate and thank the few volunteers who usually help us in this.

We look forward and welcome those interested to join us in this ministry.



THE SOCIAL & WELFARE MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Angelina Wee, Ronald Chiam, John Leong, Desmond Kueh, Albert Jee

Front row L-R: Margaret Lee Chai, Helen Hii, Cyril Chen, Cindy Chua, Irene Ting

Not in the photo: Gina Gray, Grace Lee, Josephine Liu, Mary Chok, Rosa Su

This Ministry was set up with the intention and purpose of helping to organise community activities related to social and welfare needs.

Social activities are organised for the Community so that members can interact with one another and build up healthy relationships. This is important because Emmaus Servant Community now has over a hundred members. We must have time together in order to build real and solid relationships amongst the members. This is crucial as this is the foundation of the strength and unity of the Community. Therefore apart from 'spiritual activities' such as combined prayer, novenas and seminars, our outings include picnics, visits to places of interest, pilgrimages, etc. Other activities organized to bring members together, includes year-end gatherings, weddings, wedding anniversaries, sports, etc.

This ministry also helps to look after the welfare of members by responding to their needs; visiting them and caring for them either at home or in hospital as required.

We also help to co-ordinate service and prayers for bereaved family members of the community; ensuring nightly prayers are conducted and any other assistance needed.

The Community also reaches out to others in need outside the Community through this ministry wherever and whenever, as and when requested.



THE INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Mary Chok, Elizabeth Ting, Teresa Chai, Magdalene Rutom, Julie Chung, Sylvia Atet, Martina Chai, Grace Lam, Nancy William, Irene Kutoh, Irene Kueh, Bernadette Rani, Emy Nyidom, Flora Bong, Cecilia Chua
 Front row L-R: Margaret LeeChai, Mary Ng, Cecilia Lau, Damien Yung, John Liew, John Leong, Joan Yoh, Rosa Su, Margaret Ho

Not in the photo: Evelyn Lee, Lucy Yong, Francis Kuan, Anna Yong, Theresa Dennis Anal

Note: Also absent are 6 Aspirants on attachments: Anna Sii, Caroline Francis, Sandra Petrus, Olivia Molly, Stephanie Chua, Helena Hii

This ministry is one of the Key ministries in the Community. As a Covenant Community that is called by the Lord to serve the people of God in the parish, in the local Church and within the Community, prayers and intercession are foundational to all the works we do for the Lord.

Hence, in all the undertakings and endeavours of the Emmaus Servant Community, whether it is prayer for those in need in the Community or intercession for friends and family members, or any seminars the Community conducts, we are totally dependent on the power, leading and movement of the Holy Spirit. This is where our Intercessors are absolutely indispensable as they spent hours and days just interceding for the needs and intentions of the Community or participants as the case may be.

Members are divided into teams. One team will be on duty by rotation during our weekly Prayer meetings. All the teams will come together to intercede during seminars, ministering sessions or similar activities. We also have 2 friends of Emmaus, Dominic Chai and Pauline Chung who are still our faithful intercessors.

Our corporate prayer is once a month where we pray together and be “charged up” by the Lord. We also intercede daily for a month for petitions received from prayer meetings or upon request.

All aspirants (who are considering joining the Community) will be appointed intercessors for at least 6 months before joining other ministries.

Whenever the Healing Team requires prayer support for a particular ministering session, a special intercessory team will be formed for this request.

As intercessors we “fight” on behalf of others by praying to God daily. The weapons we use in our fight are not the world’s weapons, but God’s powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds.

“We destroy false arguments; we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.” (2 Cor 10:4-5)



Behind the scenes: At seminars, rallies and ministering sessions





EMMAUS YOUTH MINISTRY

Back row L-R: Hanson Teo, Desmond Teo, Dennis Yii, Rachel Lee, Barry Gama, Joel Jeremy, Isabelle Sonia, Joyce Leong, Elyza Jo'Ann, Calista Grace, Ambrose Eng

Middle row L-R: Sharon Beatrice, Christy Faye, Stanislaus Liew, Royfino Teo, Gary Bong, Christina Eng, Cecilia Lai, Arine Valerie, Marianna Liew

Front row L-R: Kingston Yohanes, Ivy Devung, Brandon Teo, Juani Felicity, Lionel Jirin, Daphne Tala, Sam Paul, Samuel Well, Lydia Ann

Absent: Lillian Law, Florina Richard, Filomina Richard, Sean Thony, Audrey Runa, Donald Jared, Jacob Ling, Jared Hon

This ministry began with the Children Ministry in the year 2000. Before the Children Ministry, Emmaus had started the ministry for children called Jesus Kids in the year 1996 with Helen Hii, Desmond Kueh, Irene Ting, Peter Lu and Alex Chong. This ministry began with a trip to Alor Star to a church that was running a very successful children ministry called Super Kids. Jesus Kids was by any standard a successful ministry that must have impacted many young lives during the years it was run. We had many memorable Christmas Parties and Easter parties that was free of charge with presents given away free and yet the ministry was able to raise funds through this "free" Christmas parties, due in no small measure to the hard work of the Jesus Kids Team and the generosity of the benefactors who supported the ministry every year!

In the year 2000, I was prompted to start a Children's Cell from the children attending Jesus Kids. We organized a Life in the Spirit Seminar up at Mount Singai, at the Catholic Memorial Parish Centre. From there the children who attended were invited to my house to continue meeting every Friday night. They were lured by ice creams, cakes, sweets and storytelling. Later the children met in the room next to the Grotto at Blessed Sacrament Parish and have continued to this day.

These children aged 6 to 12 years old, that came to attend the Children Cell, went on to become the Emmaus Teen Cell when they reached their teens and eventually this ministry came to be called the Emmaus Youth Ministry as it is known today. The reason naturally was because the Teens became youths and although there have been ebb and flow over the last 18 years, the ministry has seen many young people come and go. Many “graduates” from this ministry have gone on to become young people who are now in Universities and many have graduated with careers in Kuching and all over the world.

Currently the age group attending the Youth Ministry range from 10 years old to university students and working adults. The current head of the ministry is Gary Bong who is a working adult and we have Stanislaus Liew, Lydia, Florina, Jacob Ling and Cecilia Lai and a few others who are attending local universities and helping to serve in the ministry. Special mention must be made of Cecilia Lai who attended Jesus Kids, attended that Life in the Spirit seminar up at Mt Singai in 2000 and joined the Children Cell in September 2000 and have stayed with the ministry until today!

Presently, the ministry is now run by the young people themselves led by committed young people like Gary Bong and his team with the help of a wonderful young lady, Lillian Law who back then had also helped out with Jesus Kids, the Children Ministry, the Teen Ministry and now the Youth ministry (in between her stints overseas for tertiary education and work commitments). All praise and glory to God who raised this ministry and sustained and grew it all these 18 years, thank God for His Faithfulness!

- Christina Eng -



Some earlier Emmaus Youths



TAP Leadership Camp in 2015



Youth monthly gathering activities



Youth Conference 2016



Praise and worship session Youth Fellowship in 2016



Carolling Presentation at Old Court House



House to house Carolling Group Photo

EMMAUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES







Photographed by John Lai

Blessed Sacrament Church, BDC Kuching