



Christianity Explored May 2014 Day Retreat

Feature

Christianity Explored

St Andrew's Church has been running Christianity Explored (CE) since 2008. The course has brought many seekers to Christ over the years and many others who have affirmed their faith as Christians.

At the most recent CE, we had seven participants who committed to follow Christ. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers who have served together with the staff team to make running the CE course three times a year at our church possible.

Group Leaders' Quote

Jesus' last words to his followers as recorded in Matthew 28 were 'Go and make disciples....' Sharing the gospel is not an option. It is commanded by our Lord. The question many of us have been asking is 'How do I do it?' St Andrew's Church provides the ideal environment where you can be involved in personal evangelism through CE. This is why I have been privileged to be a group leader for four years. It is indeed a thrilling experience to be able to lead someone to Christ during CE, as we did two weeks ago. We explore together every week the Gospel of Mark, ask questions, share insights, and some prefer just to sit and listen to the conversations. At the end of the 7th session, everybody would have received a clear idea about who Jesus is, why he came, and how he would expect us to respond. Why not invite your friends or family members to attend the course when we run it again in 2015. You will find Christianity Explored well worth the time and effort, besides the chance to make new friends too.

Victor Sun

As a first-time facilitator, I was impressed with the simplicity and richness of the programme's materials and messaging. I had previously led small groups in university and other contexts, but the clarity of the messages and questions posed struck me. In addition, CE sensitively deals with potential concerns non-Christians have about wanting an approachable entry point to consider being a Christian. For example, we did not start or finish with prayers, as CE does not assume people are comfortable praying to a God they may not yet have committed to. Furthermore, I found CE to welcome people from various beliefs and backgrounds, from secular humanism to any other worldview or belief system. People attending the programme could come away with a solid understanding of Christianity, understand the Gospel, and make a decision to believe if right for them.

Do let friends, family, colleagues, and others seeking to answer life's biggest questions know about CE. The next course is coming soon, and engaging people on CE is one great way to evangelise and help spread the Good News.

Brian Schroeder



Family Ministry

The KGV "Parenting Teenagers Course" was such a blessing! Dan welcomed a new family from the course to St Andrew's and Lisa was able to meet with several mother's who had pastoral needs and will foster these relationships. It was a wonderful opportunity to share God's love.

Plans are now underway for a Day Conference on Parenting and Marriage 10 January featuring Dr. and Mrs. Currie, President of Doing Family Right. Dr. Currie will also speak at DGS and Mrs. Currie will speak at a Women's Event, 9 January at St Andrew's Church.

Children's Ministry

STAKC About 20 children aged between 7 - 10 years of age attend STAKC, (St Andrew's Kids Club) each Friday afternoon starting at 4:30pm. They are learning about seven different kings in the Bible. Children are also enjoying the craft element we have added. We will end this term with a Kings and Queens Banquet looking at Jesus, the true King of Kings!



Friendship Garden Playgroup. FGP has moved to the 1/F Hall. This move has gone smoothly and both parents and children have adjusted well. It is fantastic to make more use of the church playground as families come half an hour earlier to enjoy the playground before class starts.

HOME4U

The group will continue the study on "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Thank God, for He always hears our prayers. Challenges always come our way but it helps us to grow strong in our walk with God. Pray that we will continue to demonstrate the love and the grace of God.

Pastoral Care

Stephen ministry. Great appreciation was expressed for the recent retreat Dale conducted for the Stephen ministry team at the Provincial House of Prayer in Cheung Chau. The topic of "growing in the dark" - looking at how God uses the hardest times in our lives to grow into maturity seemed highly relevant to many of us.



The Cleansing Stream seminar. The Cleansing Stream seminar concluded and people offered testimony of the power of God working in their life. Dale is approaching them to see how they can share with the wider church congregation, either through the "Story" in Connect or video "Life Stories".

Mission Ministry

Praying for Persecuted Church with CSW. It was amazing to have 30 to 40 youth join us at the prayer meeting for the first time! The youth band did a great job leading us in worship. We learned about how North Korean Christians live as Christians in their own country and we prayed for them as well as other persecuted Christians.

Music and Creative Ministry

Sunday Services We are thankful for the faithful service and strong commitment of our volunteer musicians, preparing themselves through prayer, the word of God and music practice together week after week. We have a good number of worship leaders, three for the early morning church service, six for the late morning church service and four for the evening church service. We enjoy ongoing training and encouraging current members to step up to lead. Some new members joined the team who are passionate and capable to serve in the music ministry.

Discipleship

Growth Groups. Our Growth Groups have recently finished a 3-month bible study series in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. During December, many groups will use an Advent bible study, as well as having Christmas socials.

1-2-1 Bible Richard Borgonon, from St Helen's Bishopsgate in London, preached at the 5pm service on the 7 December, and led a 1-2-1 bible reading seminar on Monday the 8 December. Richard's enthusiasm and wisdom about this ministry were greatly appreciated.

Youth Ministry

We had a weekend away for the **Break-away Camp 2014**. It consisted of worship, prayer, quiet times, talks, sports/games, a hike, night games and music. During the main meetings we led the young people through the 'Freedom in Christ' weekend away material. They had an opportunity to go through different areas of their life and repent so that they could take hold of the freedom that they have in Christ.



Donations Welcome

St Andrew's Church depends solely on the sacrificial giving of its members for its daily upkeep and the running of its ministries. Please consider giving regularly to the General Fund by placing a standing order with your bank and joining the **Planned Christian Giving** scheme.

By providing the church with a steady source of income, you will help St Andrew's to make plans and budget accordingly. More information can be obtained from the website or by calling the church office. Brochures are available at the Hub.