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CHILD EVANGELISM  
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## Singapore News

MCI (P) 219/07/2013



### **“May I see your licence, please?”**

Suppose you were stopped by traffic police and asked, “May I see your licence, please?” You produce it, only to have him say, “This is not the one.” “But this is my driving licence!” “I need your parenting licence,” he explains.

On 28 September 2014, Clara Chow, in her Sunday Times column “Seriously Kidding”, explored the wild idea of a parenting licence. But is the idea that far out? If we need to have a driving licence to drive, then why not a parent-ing licence to parent?

Some years ago, my younger son gave me a fridge magnet with these words on it, “Anyone can be a father, it takes someone special to be a daddy”. Many would-be parents sit through hours of antenatal classes to prepare for the birth of their child. Shouldn’t they continue with lessons for the greater challenge of bringing up the child in the years ahead?

Clara went on to say that it would be difficult to implement a licensing scheme for parents. She raised the following questions: Who exactly is qualified enough, or impartial enough, to sort all would-be parents into Competent and Incompetent classes? What kind of questions do you put on a Parent Licence theory test? Who decides which parenting sins would get your licence revoked?

She concluded, “So, instead of parenting licences, we should have a voluntary parenting accreditation scheme. Sort of like the one recently announced for preschools with best practices.”

### **Why we need parenting education**

Yes, we believe that parents should go for parenting classes, not to be accredited but to be equipped for the critical task of bringing up the next generation to fear the LORD and keep His commandments. Yet many parents have delegated this task to Sunday School teachers.

As a Sunday School teacher, I have at most 1 hour per week with a child. A working parent has an estimated 26 hours each week (2 hours per day on weekdays and 8 hours per day on weekends). Compare that 26 hours with my 1 hour, and it is clear that the parent has a greater potential for influence ... 26 times more. Parents, through living with their children, are also better placed to relate the Word of God to their children’s lives. Children, in turn, can see daily as to how the Word of God is lived out and practised in their parents’ lives.

Parents are thus potentially the best teachers for their children, and it makes sense to channel resources and training towards them. At the other end, parents (who desire the best for their children) need to be trained to achieve and maximise their potential influence on their children.



## Christian Parenting Monthly (CPM)

CEF Singapore is launching the Christian Parenting Monthly (CPM) to assist churches to equip parents to fulfil their responsibility of nurturing their children.

Other parenting programmes exist, notably by the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Lien Foundation. So what is different and unique about the CPM? Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that Scripture is adequate to equip us for every good work. Don't you think that includes the good work of parenting our children? The Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in righteousness because it is of God and from God. The Bible in Job 12:13 states, "With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding."

The CPM thus differs in one critical aspect: we explicitly use the Bible as our primary parenting manual. We believe the Bible has the answers to our parenting challenges. Moreover, as Christian parents, we have different goals. We would like our children to fear the LORD and keep His commandments (Deuteronomy 6:2). These goals determine our parenting principles and methodologies.

At the same time, this new programme takes into consideration a range of theories of human behaviour and development, such as behaviour modification, and cognitive, emotional and faith development. All truth is God's truth, even if it is not revealed in the Scripture but uncovered by man. What is important is that it must be consistent with the revealed truth in the Scripture. As such, the theories will be viewed and judged through the lens of the Word of God. We believe the Bible stands above all other sources of knowledge.

The CPM thus seeks to help parents understand the goals of Christian parenting and draw wisdom from the Scripture as to how to reach these goals. The following are some of the topics that will be covered.

- Leaving behind a godly legacy
- What's so different about Christian parenting?
- Countering negative influences, standing tall
- Transforming the heart, shaping behaviour
- Moving from external to internal motivation
- Dramatising Bible stories
- Helping your child spend time with God
- Parental authority and love
- Biblical discipline
- Family relationships and communication
- Problem of anger
- Why do good men fail as fathers?
- Are you stressed-out from work and conflict?
- Potential influence of a godly mother
- The work of our conscience
- Sibling rivalry

### Register now!

The CPM will launch on Monday, 23 February 2015, and thereafter, be held once a month on the fourth Monday of each month. It will feature an hour of message from the Word of God and another hour of discussion. The programme is targeted at parents of preschoolers and primary school children.

Register online at  
<http://www.cef-singapore.com>

There will be a concurrent children's programme where we seek to help children develop right attitudes of self-control, faith, generosity, humility,

thankfulness, patience, joy, hope, diligence, trust, contentment and forgiveness. So bring along your children.

The main instructor is Alan S.L. Wong. He is the National Director of CEF Singapore. Alan has a Master of Theology (ThM with a major in Christian Education) from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has also served in different capacities in para-church organisations and churches. He was the Training and Campus Director of the then Singapore Campus Crusade for Christ; and a lecturer and Dean of Field Ministry at the East Asia School of Theology. He loves to teach both adults and children. He has taught adult bible classes at Faith Academy of Lay Training, an initiative of his home church, Faith Methodist, and at Dallas Chinese Bible Church. He is the author of Building the Next Generation, a book of dramatised family devotions for preschoolers and children in the lower primary. He is also the webmaster of a parenting and education website.



## Make Me A Moon!

CEF ran a children's programme alongside the Family Still Matters Conference on 23 August 2014. The children were given an opportunity to use their God-given creativity to make their own mooncakes!

"The "Why Should I (Be Obedient)" and "Make Me a Moon" activities were creative and fun and taught biblical truths in an interactive way. The children enjoyed the stories, craft, games, songs and mooncake making."

Christina Ong  
Children & Tweens Ministry Lay Executive Staff

## Academy of Sunday School Teachers (ASST)

# MODULE 3 STARTING JAN 5

ASST continues to meet the needs of Sunday School teachers. It is offered as a training arm to churches that want to strengthen their teachers' grasp of the big picture of Bible events as well as principles and skills of teaching children effectively.

Module 3 (with a focus on the Acts of the Apostles) will start on Monday, 5 January till 24 May.

**Date:** Every Monday (except 5th Mon)

**Time:** 7.30 - 9.30 pm

**Place:** True Way Presbyterian Church

Register online at  
<http://www.cef-singapore.com>

More information and training calendar are available on our website.



## Get Going with God

The Truth Chasers Club® is an exciting Bible correspondence club designed to disciple children. We have a new series (of six lessons) "Get Going with God" designed to help children realize they are part of God's church and will help them learn how to grow, give and serve in their local body of believers. Come and take a look.

**GET GOING WITH GOD!**  
LESSON 1 OF 6

Hi! My name is Bookworm.  
I am here in your lessons to help you learn new words. Our first words are **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit and is equal with God the Father and God the Son. Jesus promised to send Him to be with His disciples to comfort and teach them.

**YOU ARE PART OF GOD'S CHURCH**

Do you like to wait? Jesus' friends, His disciples, were waiting. Jesus had gone back to Heaven after living on Earth for 33 years, dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Would the disciples be alone now? No, Jesus told them God the Holy Spirit would come to be their forever helper. The disciples were waiting for Him.

Read about it in Acts 2:1-11 in God's true book, the Bible!

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