

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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Special Connections

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

- 1 Corinthians 12:27

Many years ago, though I cannot remember exactly when, I conducted a simple exercise for members of my Life Group. Each member was given a piece of A4 paper, on which each was to map out all the people groups that he/she belonged to. Each group was to be represented by a circle with a label, and the size of the circle was supposed to indicate the importance of the group to the person. All the groups must be 'active' to a certain degree, with at least some occasional contact.

On my paper, I drew a very large circle, and I titled it 'Immediate Family', namely my wife and my kids. There were many other circles of various sizes. I had, for example, 'Natural Family', which included my parents and siblings. I also catalogued numerous other groups on the paper related to school, work, and hobbies, from 'Form 5 Classmates' to 'Office Colleagues' to 'Ping Pong'. Since it was an exercise at a Life Group meeting, everyone also had circles labelled 'FBC' and 'Life Group'.



Address :
38 Jalan SS17/1D, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

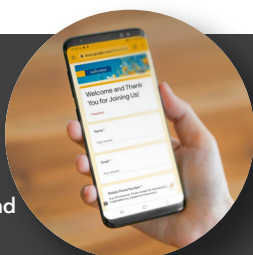
Telephone :
+03 5621 2623

Email :
fbc.subangfamily@gmail.com

Website:
www.fbc.com.my

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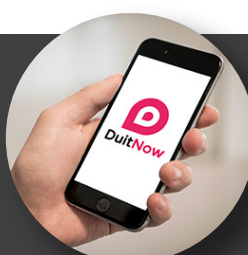
CLICK to send us your details so we can welcome and connect with you!



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Most of you would agree that our connections and interactions with other people are an integral part of our lives. Take them away, and our existence would be reduced to emptiness and loneliness. The objective of the exercise was to give each one a pictorial gauge of where he/she stood in this important aspect of his/her life. At the same time, I was curious to know the size of church-related circles that members of my Life Group drew on their paper. In other words, I wondered how important FBC or the Life Group is to them. We then discussed the lessons learned behind the exercise, and I remember pointing out that the church-related groups depicted on the paper should stand out from the rest, in that they were 'eternal' in nature. Meaning, they epitomized our membership in the eternal kingdom of God. Hence, they are special.

Indeed, my wife and I have lived by this maxim for the longest time: FBC is special. So is our Life Group. We always look forward to Sunday worship services and Life Group meetings. We would only miss them when we are traveling. We desire to connect with all of you, as much as it is possible. FBC ranks high in our scheme of things; it is an essential part of our lives. We designate it as a priority in our lives. We drew large circles for church-related groups on our paper. Let me explain further why this is so.

There is an incident recorded at the end of Mark 3, where Jesus told His disciples, *"Here are My mother and My brothers! Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."* The Lord was trying to paint a picture of the family of God, to which we all belong. In Ephesians 2:19, Paul described us as members of God's household. God is our Father in

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heaven, and we are His children. In a very practical sense, to my wife and me, the church is our home, our spiritual home, and fellow believers are our spiritual siblings. I believe that as a Christian matures in his/her faith, he/she would naturally desire in increasing measure to connect with other members of God's family. There will be a growing sense of belonging.

Secondly, during the Last Supper in John 13:34, Jesus commanded His disciples, *"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* The Lord was ending His earthly ministry, and He would not be with them much longer. And the one thing He wished them to do was to love one another. A community of Christ's followers must be typified by love, and FBC is no exception. To my wife and me, the church is the arena where we can obey this commandment of Jesus to be connected in love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the place where we can show our care and concern for fellow believers in practical ways, and vice versa, they showing the same to us. We need one another, as Paul expounded in 1 Corinthians 12, where he used the metaphor of the parts of the body to illustrate how we cannot do without each other.

Thirdly, Paul also talked in Ephesians 4 about growing together as a church, as a body of Christ. He wrote in verse 15, *"...we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."*

Thirdly, Paul also talked in Ephesians 4 about growing together as a church, as a body of Christ. He wrote in verse 15, *"...we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."* In the earlier part of this chapter, the apostle articulated how the body of Christ might be built up, how the church might mature, *"attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."* I have witnessed Christians who are not connected to the church in a committed way. I have seen their faith weakened, and some have even fallen away. To my wife and me, FBC is the place where we can grow in our faith together with the people of God, learning and serving together, while encouraging and watching out for one another.

The above are at least three reasons why the church is a 'big circle' in our lives. We give a lot of weight to our membership in this community of God's people. Let me now share with you some thoughts on how you may do likewise. How can you connect to FBC in a meaningful way? There are certainly many things you can do, such as being regular in attending Sunday worship service, or being committed in your tithing. But I would like to recommend three specific steps for you, should you decide to be a more connected and committed part of the body of Christ that is FBC:

1. APPLY for church membership: Many in the community of FBC are regular worshippers. We are happy to have you if you are a regular worshipper with us. But perhaps you may want to seriously consider applying to be a member of FBC. You can always try one of Yew Lum's occasional membership classes to find out what it entails.

2. JOIN a Life Group or Gamma Group: Within a big church such as FBC, it is not easy to develop close relationships with fellow believers. But at the level of a smaller group, it becomes possible to love one another and grow together, as I have explained earlier. If you are keen to join such a group, please [click here](#) to find out more.

3. SERVE in a church ministry: This is by far the most effective expression of membership in the body of Christ. Serving together with other Christians is not only serving God, but it also contributes practically to your spiritual development and foundation. If this is your decision, please talk directly to the head of the ministry that you think is aligned with your gifting and interest.

May God bless you with closer connections with His people in His church. In the title of this article, I describe them as 'special connections', not only because they are eternal, but also because they are spiritually rewarding and God-honouring. 🙏



By Lee Yee Dian
Yee Dian is an elder at FBC.





Life Group Splash Featuring Women of God LG

Share with us how Women of God came about.

We started from a bible study group that met for 6-8 weeks 2 or 3 times a year in 2016. The first study we did was on prayer. We realised that taking the time to study the Word of God and pray together was quite fruitful, and decided to continue on as an LG.

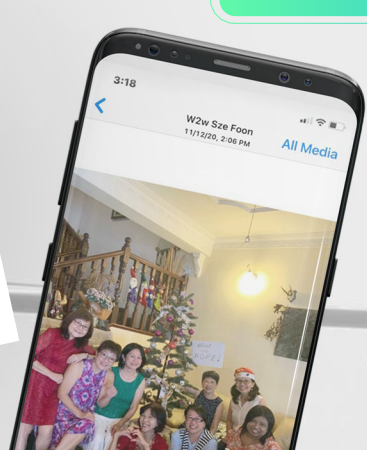
Today, we are a group of 16 women in our 30s to 60s who meet via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.00 am. Prior to MCO, we met in the Transit Lounge in FBC.

Describe Women of God in 3 words.

Dedicated, Devoted, Delighted.

What is it like to be part of Women of God?

It is a wonderful experience - the closeness of belonging to a group like sisters of a family and building a bond with each other is a real treasure. We get to discuss our views openly regarding common issues, understand each other's perspectives, and offer support in prayer. We can care, share, pray, and love each other through our walk in Christ, acknowledging that each of us is one of a kind; we are beautiful and uniquely made in the image of God. Occasionally, we meet to have a meal together for fellowship too!



How have the members of Women of God grown?

- We are increasingly dependent on God as we spend more time in His Word and in prayer;
- We have become more sensitive towards sin;
- We enjoy learning God's Word together and are encouraged by His Word; and
- We have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Share a memorable Life Group event.

We participated in the "Sponsor A Child in Sabah" drive in December 2020. Besides the donation money collected, we wrote personalised well-wishing messages in BM on postcards addressed to the 32 children that we sponsored. We had so much fun and joy! We also had a wonderful pre-Christmas get-together on 11 December 2020 with our dear sisters.

What would you say to someone who's on the fence about joining a Life Group?

Don't waste precious time; just dive in and get connected! You will be amazed by the warm and positive vibe. There is so much to learn from each other and the support you will receive is immeasurable.

[Join A Life Group Today](#)

| Pulpit Program

July 11, 2021

Finishing Well

(2 Timothy 4)



PREACHER
Dr Peter Ng

July 18, 2021

The Authentic Jesus

(Matthew 8:18-34)



PREACHER
Dr Peter Ng

July 25, 2021

Two Ways To Live

(Matthew 7:15-19)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



Call office to know more:
03-5621 2623

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Corporate Prayer



1. Almighty God, we acknowledge that everything is in Your sovereign control. We pray that You keep this novel coronavirus from continuing to spread. Help us to make wise decisions to protect ourselves and our loved ones.
2. Lord, we are grateful for those who continue to work each day in essential services. We ask that You bless, renew, and sustain them. Give them grace to handle the challenges at work, whether they be healthcare workers or store operators. Protect them and keep their bodies healthy as they go about serving us.
3. Lord, be present with those who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power

of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. May Your Spirit minister to those dealing with fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation, especially those who are receiving treatment or are under quarantine.

4. Father, we seek Your wisdom. Be with the leaders making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they will communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of those setting policies for our protection.
5. Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home, we ask that You guide us all in our new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning. Amen.

| Upcoming Events



VBS Volunteer Recruitment

VBS is upon us this 13 to 17 December!

We need all the help we can get to bring children to build their foundation in Jesus!

CLICK HERE to register as a volunteer for our very first online VBS. For enquiries, please email vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com



Zoom Ladies Praise & Thanksgiving Gathering

14 August 2021

Saturday
10.00am - 12.00pm
Zoom ID: 924 53626068
Password: fbc



The Pastoral Epistles

Study on the Books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus

Every Wednesday
8:30pm

Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458
Password: fbc

CLICK HERE to view video lessons.
(Password: fbcgamma)



Is There More to Life Than This?

22 July to 7 October 2021
Every Thursday

8:00pm
CLICK HERE to register



Daily Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting

24 July 2021 (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events