

Giving Thanks to God for our Pastors and Deacon

Lights, camera and action! It was a time of Cell Group fellow-ship with food, songs and sharing. I would never imagine that a Saturday night on 18 February 2017 at the function room would turn out like this.

Take #1: As We Gather Together

We thank God for the hospitality of Roy and Juria to book their function room for the



Appreciation Night for our Pastors, Deacon and their family. As the people gathered and the food arranged on the tables, we knew that the Abundance Cell Group members have spent their day buying, cooking and preparing the sumptuous spread of home-cooked delicacies for this dinner event. I counted and there were more than 10 courses ranging from appetizers, entrees, main course and desserts. What a mouth-watering sight!



Glorious food! We give thanks to you, Jesus.

Take #2: Questions & Answers

Knowing you and you alone! What would you like to know about your Pastors and Deacon? Do you have any burning questions to ask and get to know them better? This is the moment of truth revealed. Yes, no sermons that day!

Some of the questions included: “What are the difficulties that you faced as a Pastor or Deacon?”, “What do you do when you and your wife quarrel?” and “What are some of the bucket list items that you have?”



As Tony led the session with ground rules that all Pastors and the Deacon must answer the questions, he started the session with a prayer. Reverend Anthony, Reverend Martin Yee, Pastor Andrew and Deacon Peter took turns to share. Here are some highlights that you should not miss.



Differences in parenting style of bringing up our children even as pastors is challenging among our families. Leaving it to God through prayers is a must and working through the situations are unavoidable with God’s help. Overcoming language differences to forge a depth of understanding requires patience, apart from the gift of parenting, as Reverend Anthony shared his story with love.

Reverend Martin Yee spoke of an occasion when he stayed with his wife when she was hospitalized and in ICU. A heartfelt sharing of the situation and realization of how much his wife meant to him through the love of God. There was a heart-warming silence as Reverend Martin continued his story of struggles, pains and joys as a husband, father and servant for God. What a sharing for the night!



Pastor Andrew reminisced the moments of how he and his wife handled their young children. He is fully aware of the cultural differences and knowing each other’s perceptions and reactions through daily communication are important. There were candid and frustrating moments in their lives. One example included, “Why you never clean the house and take so long then you will clean the house?” The level of threshold and differences between men and women were expounded with care on the different approaches to handling of family, household chores and parenting situations in life. Some of you with children would have nodded in agreement at this point.



Pastors and Deacons also have to go through life to be able to understand life situations to better their work in counselling, praying and reaching out to people. Do you know that they can struggle even more because of the work that they do and the perception of people around them as servants for God? Let’s continue to pray for them.

As Deacon Peter recalled the moments when he chose to sleep through situations in his married life, he was mindful that his wife was supportive of his work especially in the Dialect ministry. He shared challenges of his ministry. The giving of time from his working schedule and sacrifices made of his family, friends and himself,



opened the hearts of respect and also laughter from the crowd. Yes, his wife was present as he shared. He was also reminded that matters should be handled before the dawn

of the next day. What humorous sparring moments between Deacon Peter and his wife as they listened and shared their views. Thank you for moments like this!

We were reminded that “In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.” Eph 4:26

Yes, men are from Mars and women are from Venus! It was an interesting and humorous sharing by our key-note speakers. For the married couples, young or old, I could see husbands and wives grinning at each other, acknowledging the realities of married life and parenthood. For the singles, there are learning points from these experiences too!

Take #3: We Sing Out a Song



The live music started and we sang. Strum, hum, strum...

“God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow because He lives all fear is gone; because we know He holds the future and life is worth the living just because He lives...”

The day turned to night and the music faded. A prayer was uttered as the group packed and cleaned the place. The event ended on a heart-warming note of “Thank you” and “Goodbye”.

We give thanks to God for our Pastors and Deacon!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

Joyce Tan