

Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family

June 2019

Get to Know our Mission Partners

Anja Schemechel, YWAM Tuen Mun



“Hello, my name is Anja Schemechel. I was born and raised in Stuttgart, Germany and have been working and living in Hong Kong since 2013. Here I am a full time volunteer with Youth With A Mission Tuen Mun (YWAM). Initially I came to Hong Kong to do the five month Discipleship Training School (DTS) with focus on Performing Arts, but soon I realised that God was calling me to be a long term missionary with YWAM Tuen Mun.

The aim of YWAM Tuen Mun is to influence all generations to display God's beauty through the arts, empower the marginalized and reach out to impact individuals, families, youth and children. Practically speaking, we have a Performing Arts Ministry, a Local Ministry including a Food Bank and several Training Courses aimed especially to help Christians grow in their walk with God.

I am thankful to help in many of these ministries, specifically with the Performing Arts Ministry (e.g. holding workshops at churches and schools, participating in Evangelistic performances) and Local Ministry (e.g. having weekly fun English session at Lingnan University Tuen Mun, being part of donation pick ups and deliveries).

Every year looks a bit different in terms of outreaches, programmes and events; regularly we run children camps in July and Mission Adventures in December. During those times we train youth



and young adults from different churches and schools how to reach out with God's love to those in need (underprivileged children, elderly, those living under the poverty line).

The most exciting part for me is to witness how God is changing someone's life: how a child gets more confident and joyful during a week of learning English, dance and drama, encouragement and teamwork; how the eyes of someone living in the streets light up when I approach them and take time to listen to their stories and needs; and how the face of an elderly person transforms from displaying sorrow to great joy as they watch a Gospel Drama performance.

It is my passion and desire to be creative with dance and drama, to grow in my relationship with God and equip others to know God, and make Him known in creative ways.

These are some ways you can pray for Anja and YWAM Tuen Mun:

- Praise God for the new Food Bank facility for YWAM Tuen Mun for more space for our growing Food Bank. Praise God for His faithfulness to our ministry.
- Please pray for God's provision for the monthly expenses of the new facility.
- Praise God for the DTS that came back from their two months outreach in Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore with great testimonies.
- Please pray that as the students go back to their countries, families and friends, they will continue to grow in God and be great witnesses of His love and power.
- Praise God for His faithful provision for me in every area, for generous and caring family, friends and this precious partnership with Shatin Anglican Church.
- Please pray for His continued provision and for more people who are excited to partner with me in what I do in Hong Kong and would become regular financial supporters.

Get to Know the Church Family

Ifeanyi and Ada

Ifeanyi and Ada are a lovely, young married couple from Nigeria, and both are currently studying in Hong Kong. Ifeanyi is doing his Ph.D. in Geography and Resource Management and Ada is studying a masters degree in International Tourism and Convention Management. They love exploring the ins and outs of different cultures and getting to people better.



How did you come to faith in Christ?

Ifeanyi - I grew up in a church family, and my parents were ministers, so they did their best to guide me right and help me become a better version of myself as well as a follower of Jesus. But I had serious doubts about religion in my late teens and moved away from it. I later came to faith in Christ in my early twenties through teachings and love from my family and a few other people around me.

Ada - When I was about 8 years old, I came to faith through my small church group where I came to understand the power of Christ's love and salvation.

In what ways is the Christian life still a struggle for you?

Ifeanyi - I struggle sometimes with understanding God's love and what it means to be a Christian in this day and age. My understanding of God's love has been improving as I have had several encounters through which Jesus has shown me that our ways are not his and we need to trust and follow his path. Verses like Acts 17:28 and songs like "I will sing" by Don Moen also played significant roles in making me come to faith.

Ada - I was always struggling to do things by my own strength, but after a lot of failures I realized that I must leave my worries to Christ. And I'm encouraged by Mathew 6:25-34.

How can we pray for you?

Please pray that God continues to increase my [Ifeanyi] understanding and love for him, and to make me an instrument of his peace.

Pray that God will enrich our lives with love so much so that through us, many will come to understand the love that He had for the world and died for all. We also seek His guidance in the next phase of our lives, as we contemplate on where to reside, jobs and family.

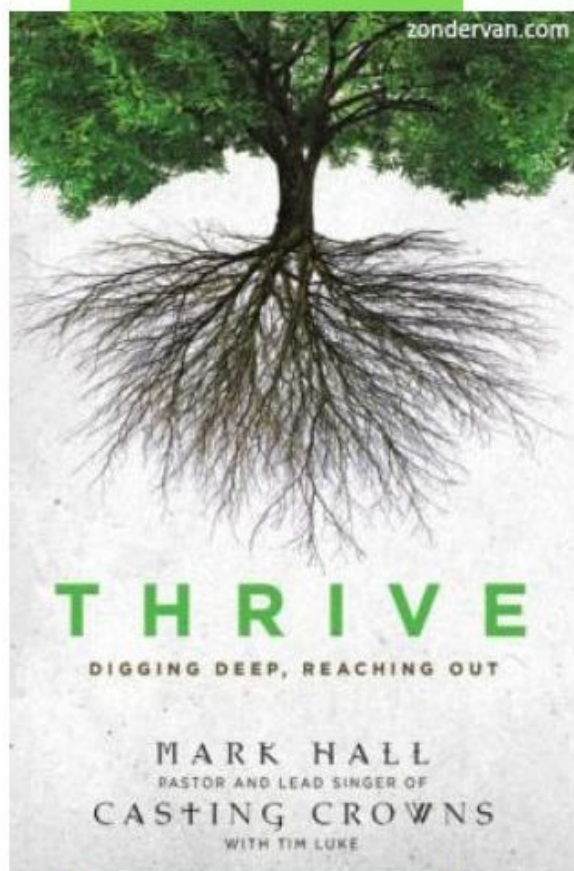
Staff Summer Reading Recommendations

Books available for purchase at the bookstall!

BY MARK HALL

THRIVE

DIGGING DEEP,
REACHING OUT



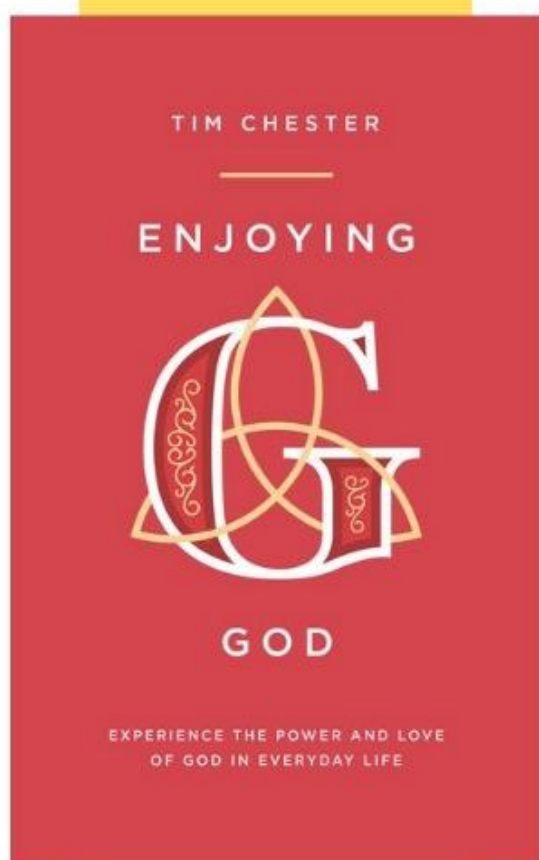
"You were meant to do more than just survive. You were meant to thrive. You were meant to dig deep and reach out. You were meant to know God and make him known"

Thrive: Digging Deep, Reaching Out is written by Mark Hall, pastor and lead singer for the band Casting Crowns.

Mark Hall was struggling so much in his faith due to his low self-esteem, having dyslexia and even felt hopeless. But he was encouraged to focus on God's Word and being rooted in the relationship with Jesus. His book wants to emphasize just two points through his personal experiences. DIG DEEP into the roots of our relationship with Jesus. This helps us understand who God is and who we are in Him. We dig in to know God. REACH OUT to others. This helps us to show the world that we belong to Jesus and that Jesus is God. We reach out to make God known.

This book reminds me to be constantly grounded in His word. It's not just about "doing", but rather about "being" because this life has a lot of storms and challenges. I can reach out to others if I am rooted in His Words and know that I have something to share - Jesus.

BY TIM CHESTER
Enjoying God



Tim Chester is beloved for biblical yet very practical writing.

The aim of the book is for us to enjoy God more. Not in special retreats, but in our normal, boring, busy everyday lives. God is relating to us in hundreds of ways throughout the day -- we're just too busy to realize it! Through this book, Tim opens our eyes to see all of life as part of a living relationship with God, bringing joy.

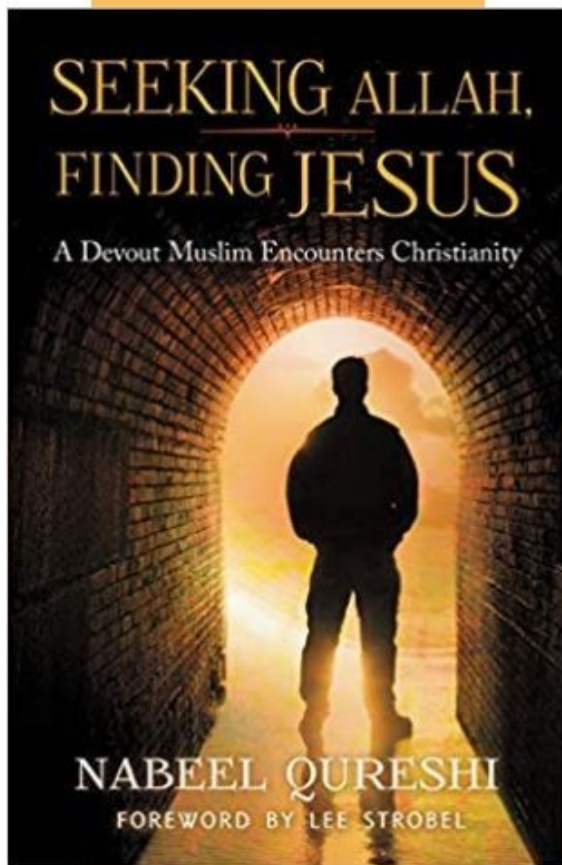
A simple example is drinking a nice cup of coffee. Rather than just drinking it mechanically, you can remember that God is the giver of all good gifts. And not just generally: this cup of coffee is a gift that your loving Father is giving you right now, to help you get through the day. Suddenly that makes you give thanks to your good Father.

Tim goes through various parts of our ordinary lives (hardship, failure, temptation...) and relates each to one person of the Trinity. It should lead to a joyful, living relationship with all three persons. Many of us feel we are missing out on that, and this book is a great remedy.

One caveat is that this is a book to read slowly – maybe one chapter a week. Tim gives us 'exercises' to do for a week, in the hope that they slowly develop into habits. For this book to have a lasting impact on your life, take your time. It should be worth it.

BY NABEEL QURESH

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus



"I lay prostrate in a large Muslim prayer hall, broken before God. The edifice of my worldview, all I had ever known, had slowly been dismantled over the past few years. On this day, my world came crashing down. I lay in ruin, seeking Allah."

Aren't you hooked already? Don't you want to know how this happened?

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus is a book that recounts the true story of Nabeel, a devout Muslim doctor who became a Christian apologist.

I had often heard that Muslims become Christians through visions and dreams. I've known someone who has become a Christian precisely that way. But Nabeel's story isn't one of a lightning conversion. It was slow. It took years to work out his issues through thoughtful conversations with David, a Christian who quickly became his best friend. It took times like when he proudly presented Islam as the faith to a bunch of Christians, but came away questioning his own assumptions. It took wrestling with Islam's sacred texts and imams. And it did take dreams and visions that so absurdly and aptly spoke to him.

After finishing the book, I found myself more confident of my faith. Surprisingly I started to pray more too, knowing that God is at work in bringing people like Nabeel to himself. I also just wanted to recommend this book to everyone, so that they would be more sure of the good news that they have in Jesus.

BY RACHEL JONES

IS THIS IT?

THE DIFFERENCE JESUS
MAKES TO THAT FEELING

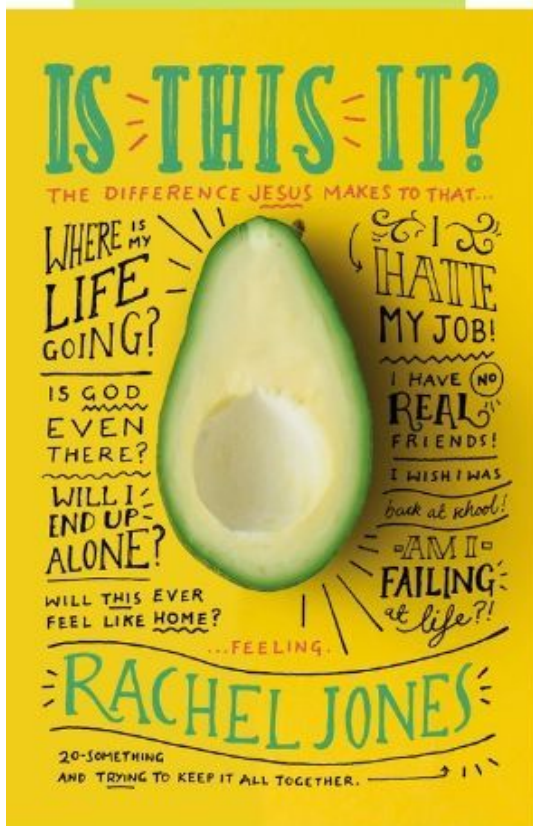
"It's that dawning realisation that you've reached the age by which you had always assumed that you'd have got it all (or at least some of it) figured out, only to find that you haven't at all...You feel a little bit lost, a little bit lonely, a little bit like you're looking for something, but you're not even sure what."

If you're a Christian and this describes any or all of your feelings about life, this book is for you.

Rachel Jones, describes herself as a "20-something and trying to keep it all together" on the cover of her book, "Is This It? The Difference Jesus Makes to That Feeling."

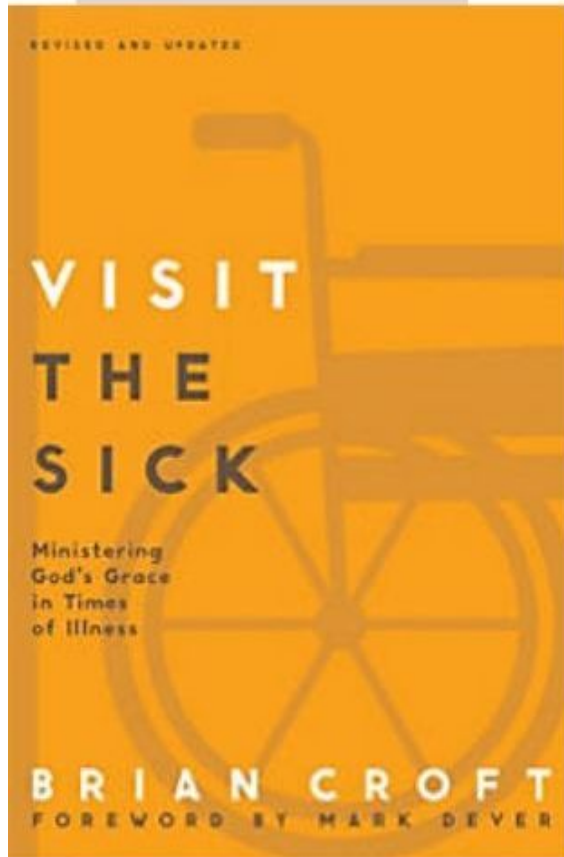
In her book, she tackles various overwhelming life questions experienced by herself and other friends in a fun, witty and insightful way. In each chapter, she explains so clearly the challenges faced by many in their 20's and 30's today that you will feel like you're talking to an old friend. But more satisfying is how she answers these challenging questions with Scripture -- the measure of 'adulthood' right or living a successful life is not so much the achievements, but really whether our characters look like Jesus Christ's. Do we recognize there's more to this life and more than this life in Jesus?

I hope you will enjoy this book as much as I did and be inspired to strive and live out His story that gives us the joy, meaning and purpose we're looking for.



BY BRIAN CROFT

VISIT THE SICK



It's quite hard to know what to do or say when somebody you know becomes seriously or fatally inflicted with an injury or an illness, especially someone who is not yet a Christian. Our feelings of inadequacies limit us to think that it's probably ok to offer meaningless small talk or a big basket of fruits and flowers. However, this little book challenges all Christians, not just the pastoral team, to rise up to this essential responsibility in the life of a Christian: visiting the sick.

The book is easy to read and comprehensive in covering all aspects of the topic. Croft gives us an overview on how sickness is dealt with throughout the Bible, teaches us how to turn the visit into an opportunity to present the gospel, explains why this is a job not just for our pastors, and even offering practical advice like remembering to keep bad breath at bay. You will be inspired and ready to bring the gospel to your ailing friends, loved ones and even strangers on their death beds when the time comes.

Although Croft comes from a different theological tradition, there are plenty of things to learn from the book.

This newsletter is put together by and for the Shatin Church family to share life and bless one another. If you have anything you'd like to share on this newsletter, please email mary@shatinchurch.org.hk.



Growing in Jesus • Sharing our Lives • Reaching the World