

Caring and Connecting in the Midst of Crisis!

“As we saw the mass layoffs of employees across various sectors and the increasing pool of jobless graduates, our Leadership Team conceived this three-pronged approach – Jobs Connection, LIFE Fund and InfoTalks – to meet needs in a practical way and to fulfill the church’s role in nation-building. We thank God for the lives that have been cared for and connected through these initiatives.”

Rev. Dominic Yeo, senior pastor

Jobs Connection

Since it was launched on March 7, Trinity’s Jobs Connection has connected Trinitarians and their loved ones with employment opportunities.



Jobs Connection taps upon Trinitarians and their friends who are business owners and HR professionals. Recruiters submit the details of their job vacancies to the church. These job vacancies are then posted on the Jobs Connection Bulletin Boards for individuals to browse through after each weekend service. Interested applicants then apply directly to the respective companies.

Besides being a blessing to the unemployed, it also provides an additional recruitment avenue for those who are employers. Joel Tan, a Trinitarian and a general manager, posted four positions on Jobs Connection. In less than two weeks, he filled two posts – that of a customer service manager and a sales and marketing manager – through Jobs Connection.

Over 400 individuals have visited Jobs Connection. We speak to two of them.

I was jobless for six months...

I worked for an events company. When the financial crisis hit and firms began to cut back on discretionary spending, I went through a difficult time

at work. It was then that I saw the advertisement for AlphaTrack. I had wanted to join the last batch but was unable to do so because of work commitments. I felt the time was ripe for me to quit my job and join AlphaTrack.

After AlphaTrack, I was jobless for six months. Though I sent out countless resumes, interviews were few and far between. The pressure to get a job began to mount. It was then that Jobs Connection started, and I decided to give it a shot. I began applying for every job that was related to sales and marketing.

Before long, I went for the interview where I got my current job. The amazing thing was, by the end of the first interview, I was offered the job. Needless to say, I was overjoyed as I went in there without expecting much. Praise God for His providence in my life. It was futile trying to look for a job by my own strength and

In 2009, Trinity takes bold steps to bless those affected by the economic crisis in practical ways. We take a look at the progress of this three-pronged initiative.



wisdom but when God opened this door, everything just fell into place. What also amazed me was that Trinitarians took the trouble to reply to my applications even when I was unsuccessful.

I'm very thankful for what Trinity has done for me. Not only is this church interested in the spiritual growth of its members, it is also interested in their holistic well-being. This Jobs Connection initiative echoes the Care and Connect culture of the church by meeting the practical needs of its members.

Victor Leong,
sales and marketing manager

I sent out more than 80 resumes...

"I lost my job of seven years in end 2008 due to the downturn. I sent out more than 80 resumes and had only a couple of interviews. I nearly landed a job after three rounds of interviews, only to be told by the company at the last minute that they were in the midst of a hiring freeze. It was a blow to me as I have two school-going children, one of whom is a special needs child who needs Occupational Therapy every week and Cranial Osteopathy every fortnight.

God sent many people to pray for me: My carecell members, fellow Trinitarians and Christian ex-colleagues. As a family, we continued to press on and prayed for favour and a job opening. On the other hand, I saw the free time as God's arrangement for me to catch up with my family. My last job had required me to travel extensively, and I did not have much time for my children. I was able to bond with my children and communicate more with them during this time.

After a wait of almost six months, through Trinity's Jobs Connection programme, I managed to land a job as a sales and marketing manager in a high-potential industry with my expected pay!

I secured this job within two weeks of application. I am very thankful that the church took such efforts to source for hiring employers and set up this Jobs Connection scheme within a short period of time. It has been a long six months, but God has been faithful and I give Him all the glory and praise.

C.H. Tan, *sales and marketing manager*

How can you be involved?

- If you or your loved ones are seeking a job, you may view available vacancies at www.trinity.net
- If you are recruiting, please submit details of your available vacancies through Jobs Connection.



LIFE Fund

It is all about meeting practical needs in a tangible way during the recession. Trinity's LIFE Fund has provided financial assistance to needy families in our nation, as well as to retrenched Trinitarians and their loved ones.

For Trinitarians and their loved ones

The LIFE Fund was a lifeline to Trinitarians and their loved ones who had lost their jobs and whose gross monthly household income did not exceed S\$2500.

Tan Chew Lian, head of Trinity's Church Operations Department, shares about the preparations that Trinity's administrative and pastoral team put in place for the LIFE Fund.

I was touched when Pastor Dominic shared about what Trinity would be doing to help the needy during this economic downturn. I was encouraged, excited and thrilled that my church cares and that I am here for a time such as this. At the appropriate time, I shared with my colleagues Sheila and Pauline about their roles in contacting the applicants. They understood the need to do it sensitively without embarrassing the applicants in any way throughout the entire application process.



How can you be involved?
If you require financial assistance, approach your pastor or bring your loved ones and guests to the Level 2 Guest Lounge after service.

It was a team effort all the way. Our colleagues in the Finance Department helped purchase the NTUC vouchers, and were on standby to release the vouchers and money to the individuals upon approval, so that the disbursement of financial help would be quick. All the pastors were scheduled to conduct the LIFE Fund interviews, and they worked their other ministry appointments around this roster. The preparation process was laborious and certainly time-consuming, but what pulled us through was the fact that people would be blessed.

For the community

To assist financially challenged families and individuals, a total of \$100,000 from the LIFE Fund was also given to the South East Community Development Council (CDC). Of this, \$30,000 was given on May 21 for the CDC's Upsized Breakfast Programme which supports 2,053 needy students in 13 primary schools, while the remaining \$70,000 was presented to Mayor Matthias Yao at the LIFE Charity Concert Gala Night on June 26.

Here's the feature in Contact, a publication of South East Community Development Council:

Upsize My Breakfast, Please?

Often, children are powerless and depend on adults to provide for them, but when parents have difficulties making ends meet, the child's nutrition may be compromised, leading to physical and emotional distress in this crucial stage of growth.

With the Upsized Breakfast Programme, children no longer need to go hungry when they stay back late in school. Jointly initiated by South East Community Development Council (CDC) and the Trinity Christian Centre, the Upsized Breakfast Programme provides students with an additional \$1 of pocket



money each day for meals in school. The programme's one-year pilot run was officially launched by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lim Biow Chuan, Member of Parliament (MP) for Marine Parade GRC and Adviser to Marine Parade GRC Grassroots Organisations (GROs), at Tanjong Katong Primary School. "This is a very meaningful programme," opined Mr Lim, "Besides taking care of the children physically so

that they can study well, it also boost their morale and lets they feel that they are not alone, that society cares for their welfare."

Donating a sizable amount of \$30,000 to the Upsized Breakfast Programme, Reverend Dominic Yeo of Trinity Christian Centre shared, "We believe this is a worthwhile cause

for the church to contribute to, as this programme directly benefits the students." The programme is a supplement to the current Breakfast Fund

from the Ministry of Education (MOE), and it enables students staying in school for extra lessons or co-curricular activities to have a proper lunch in school. Working closely with all 26 primary schools in the South East district, the Upsized Breakfast



Programme aims to reach out and benefit over 2000 students from low-income families.

Ten-year-old Vivi Masturah from Tanjong Katong Primary School expressed her

gratitude, "When I stay back in school for extra lessons, I often have to go without lunch. With the extra \$1, I can buy my favourite chicken rice for lunch!" Filling the children's hearts and bellies, the Upsized Breakfast Programme keeps students from hunger pangs and poor nourishment, allowing them to unleash their maximum potential in life.



Students of Tanjong Katong Primary School presenting potted-plants to Reverend Dominic Yeo of Trinity Christian Centre (second from left) and Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lim Biow Chuan (second from right), as gifts of appreciation.



InfoTalks

Besides employment opportunities and financial assistance, Trinity also provided practical skills equipping in the areas of career management and financial management.

Presented by Trinitarians who are experts in their fields, the InfoTalks equipped Trinitarians and their guests in the areas of career management and financial management. Here's what Trinitarians and their guests said about these InfoTalks.



Building Financial Resilience in Turbulent Times by Seah Keok Choon, Associate Director of IPP Financial Advisers

Attending the InfoTalks gave me the opportunity to clarify the questions I had on these issues. The speaker exhibited not only the experience and knowledge of a practitioner, but also the ability and willingness to share prudent advice.

Jane Tay, *IT test analyst*



The speaker was well-prepared and his sharing was clear. I learnt some fundamental keys to keep myself financially healthy.

Peter Pan, *teacher*

I attended the talk to learn more about financial planning. It was very helpful and helped me to better assess my financial situation and investment status.

Cheryl Ng, *administrative officer*





Survive and Win: Advancing Your Career in an Economic Downturn

by **Andrew Wilson**, *Founder and Management Partner of Vaughan Govier Pte Ltd*

I came for the talk not really knowing what it was about, so I came pretty much without

expectations and with a completely open mind. To my surprise, God spoke so powerfully to me in so many areas of my work and my attitude as an employee and I was really blown away! God was speaking right to my heart!

I was very blessed by the speaker and the talk. The message was incisive and yet powerful. I liked how he managed to anchor the key messages such that they are completely relevant to the current grim economic realities which have birthed some particularly challenging working environments, while staying true to biblical principles. The speaker also offered a number of real-life examples from his years of experience.

Most of all, I thought the talk had an affirmative undertone as it places the ownership of work on ourselves – to do what is humanly our best and beyond that, to trust God to do the rest.

Karen Lim, *teacher*

The InfoTalk was certainly interesting and informative, with simple but useful techniques for self-evaluation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the friendly people from Trinity for organising this.

Tang Wee Weng, *currently seeking employment*

The InfoTalk was interesting, relevant to the current employment climate and equipped us with additional knowledge to advance our careers.

Francis Yap, *project manager*

