

Wesley-supported student, Ms Sarah Khoo, was recently appointed Ministry Staff to St. Francis Methodist School (SFMS) to minister among its very diversified cross-section of students. Apart from local Singaporeans, about 70 per cent of students at St Francis come from as many as 15 nations around the world. The majority of them are from China, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia. As such, St Francis provides invaluable opportunities for Christian ministry and outreach. Sarah talks about her new ministry, role and responsibilities with TIDINGS and shares how God has prepared her for this posting.

Reaching the Nations in a School

RECONNECTED WITH SFMS
St Francis Methodist School (SFMS) is not an unfamiliar place to me. I was an Associate Christian Ministry Staff for three years in the school before I went to Trinity Theological College in July 2003. The decision to rejoin SFMS came during my final year in the college. It was the passion and the call to reach out to this specific group of youth that affected my decision. This is affirmed in Matthew 28:18-20.

I serve with this focus in mind as I begin my days in SFMS, building relationships and extending care to the students. My aim is to build meaningful relationships with them through Christian ministry. I also hope to reduce hostility or resistance that may arise as a result of the students' diverse background whenever I bring the Gospel to them.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
My typical day starts with sharing in morning devotion. I share twice a week and the other days are taken by teachers and volunteers from Bukit Panjang Methodist Church.

Chapel takes place every Tuesday. We prepare on Monday. This is when the worship team will choose and practice the Christian songs that they want to sing on the next day. There are four chapels for different academic levels run back to back on Tuesday. The chaplains, school counsellor and I take turns to speak.

The Christian Fellowship meets every other week on Wednesdays. I also provide Bible study for Christian students who desire to have a deeper walk with God. At the time of this writing, one student whom I have led to Christ, is doing a follow-up session with me.

Beside all these weekly activities, the Christian Ministry has a room for students who come to rest while waiting to attend the next class. This is where I get to know the students and befriend them. I am also involved with some school activities like student exchange programmes, special events by student councils, Teacher's Day and such. These are times when I can meet students and in one way let them know who I am and what I do in school.

PARTNERSHIP WITH BUKIT PANJANG MC
I also work closely with the Youth Worker from Bukit Panjang Methodist Church. This year the volunteers from

the church offered to do follow-up on students who have prayed to receive Christ during Religious Emphasis Week. The Church plays an important role in providing a place of worship for students, especially foreign students, who are seeking spiritual growth.

EQUIPPING AT TTC
I am thankful for my training at TTC. My three years there was a time of reflection to build a biblical and theological foundation for the ministry that I am embarking on now. I feel more confident and adequately prepared theologically to handle issues in ministry, especially in the area of pastoral care and counselling.

I am thankful to Wesley Methodist Church for its support. Finally I am grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ whose grace helps me through the challenges that I face in the school. ■



ST. FRANCIS METHODIST SCHOOL



About Sarah Khoo

Sarah Khoo graduated with a BA in Diversity from Trinity Theological College in May 2006. She has been a member of Wesley Methodist Church since 1996. At Wesley, she used to serve with the Methodist Youth Fellowship and Mission Trip Sub-committee and is currently a member of Methodist Adult Fellowship.

Her hobbies include outdoors activities, nature walk, watching TV and going out with friends. She is the younger sister of Tina Khoo, Wesley Pastoral Team Member of Discipleship & Nurture Ministry.