

FCM Outing to the Singapore Zoological Gardens



It was a Thursday, 24th June, sunny, yet not too hot, a good day to our make way to the Mandai area in Singapore to visit the animals (more specifically, cows).

A few of us first met at Chua Chu Kang MRT station at 10am before taking bus 927 to the entrance of the Zoological gardens to meet up with the rest of the FCMers. The entrance of the Singapore Zoological gardens was quite breathtaking. We were welcomed by an 8m high fountain, large open spaces and a cacophony of drum beats.



After buying our tickets, we trooped into the zoo excitedly making our way for the first show available at 1130am - 'Elephants at work and play'. After 20 minutes of wandering, photo-taking and sight-seeing, we finally reached the *Elephants of Asia*. In this show, the elephants displayed their abilities to maneuver logs and interact with their trainers.

After the elephant show, we slowly made our way to the *Children's World Animal Land* in the hope of catching the *Animal Friend's Show* at 1230pm. On our way, we went past the small mammals, reptiles, crocodiles and even an English man from the 60's! On reaching the *Children's World*, we were dismayed to discover that the show was performed only on weekends. Nevertheless, the *Children's World* proved an exciting hangout for us to go *up close and personal* with the animals to stroke or a pat them.



We had the pleasure to watch some of the animals going about their daily activities, such as feeding, and regulating their bowels. Most animals pottered around the low fences allowing us to touch them and take close-up shots, with the exception of the cows, which huddled in their barns, refusing to step out!



Around 1pm, we found a pavilion (near the pigs and chickens) to settle down for our fellowship lunch. Thank God for good weather and hands who have lovingly prepared an interesting al fresco dining experience for all of us. Having a cheese-cracker entrée, followed by a nutritious 'subway-style' sandwich complete with dried fruits and yoghurt, sprinkled generously with Christian fellowship made it indeed a moment to remember. Not forgetting our occasional visitations from our little squirrel friends who scampered past us curiously, wondering what we were feasting upon. After a long wait, we were joined by Daniel and Elias, following which we proceeded on with our singspiration and exhortation by our brother Clement.



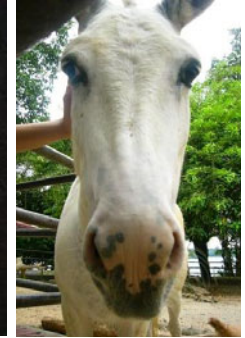
The topic of study chosen for that day was taken from Amos 4, which coincidentally, had special mention about cows, albeit in a different context. Here, the cows of Bashan refer to the wicked women of Israel who oppresses the poor and crushes the needy, and are indulgent in drink. As the Lord God had sworn

by his holiness (v2), he would wipe out the entire generation of Israel through famine (v6), drought (v7) and pestilences (v9). It was particularly sobering when we were asked to examine ourselves if 'we were prepared to meet thy God' (v12), who is the God which 'formeth the mountains, createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and threadeth upon the high places of the earth' (v13). Will the meeting be one of reward for being a faithful servant, or will it be one of judgement just like the Israelites? May we always be reminded to examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith (2 Cor 13:5) and work our salvation out with fear and trembling (Phi 2:12) even as we are caught up by our daily commitments and activities.



After our exhortation, we continued to explore the other parts of the zoo and were particularly intrigued by the donkeys, mules and hinnies. Also, we managed catch the bats feeding on bananas and monkeys scratching each other's backs. After the excursion, some of us stayed back and fellowshipped over a meal at KFC. Well, I am sure looking forward to more 'fieldtrips' with the FCMers, aren't you? Do invite your friends in varsity to enjoy the sweet fellowship with like-minded brethren in Christ.





Am I my brother's keeper?
– Gen 4:2

To jump or not to jump...
that's the question...

