

TRAC



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From the President's Desk

THANKING GOD FOR THIS YEAR..... LOOKING TO THE NEW YEAR FOR..... “OPEN HEAVENS, GLOBAL MISSIONS”

We enter into this part of the year where as God's people, our feelings are stirred and our hearts warmed. The world's celebration of Christmas does help add to the "atmosphere" in a certain way but they do it out of commercial motivation. At the heart of the difference between our celebration and theirs....must be that "the birthday Person" must be present and acknowledged "in the party thrown for Him". That would be the true test for our personal, family and church celebration of Christmas during this season. George S Patton Jr once said that it was not right to mourn for the great men who died in World War II, but "rather we should thank God that such men lived". We do thank the Lord that Christ came to live among us, He lived to die for us so that men and women can

have eternal life. We celebrate Him....but not without Him being present.

We enter into that part of the year which is a season of **Thanksgiving**. It is especially an apt time to count our blessings, to recall how God had been with us...when we were discouraged, distressed and disappointed. Through it all we can see how He uses "the good, the bad and the ugly" to work for the good of all those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28). It is a good time to reflect on how we can personally respond gratefully to the Lord in return.

We enter into that part of the year which is a season for **Closure**. We take time to make our response to God's initiatives of blessing us such as worshipping Him and renewing our Covenant to love Him and serve Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength in the very last Service of the year, the Watch-night Service, which is also a beginning / renewal Service for the coming New Year. We seek with God's help to bring proper closure with people, to appreciate and thank them...to seek forgiveness...to fulfill our promises...to send that e-mail, make that phone call, make that visit or appointment.

We enter into that part of the year which is a season of **Anticipation**. It is more than ever an "in between the times" season, where we stand on the threshold of a new year, with mixed feelings of excitement of hope of what will come, as well as a degree of fear of the unknown. So we make resolutions, be especially diligent in seeking God's blessing for the New Year - in prayers and accompanying religious acts. As the family of God in TRAC, may we all with faith and faithful, "hungry" prayer expect and anticipate the visitation of the Holy Spirit throughout our congregations in "Open Heavens, Global Missions" in the new year. May each congregation experience the wonder and power of the gratuitous presence of the Holy Spirit that brings about holiness and sacred transformation in our lives, and the power of "signs and wonders" in our witness for Jesus Christ!

May our Father in heaven grant you and your loved ones a Christ-centred Christmas and a Spirit-filled New Year!

OngHwaiTeik
President, TRAC ✱

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From the President's Desk

Rev. Ong Hwai Teik

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TRAC Annual Conference

30th Session



Venue : Federal Hotel,
Kuala Lumpur
Date : 19th to 22nd
November 2005

About 200 delegates and observers, ministers and lay, representing 39 TRAC churches throughout Peninsula Malaysia gathered at the Federal Hotel for the 30th Session TRAC from 19th to 22nd November, 2005. They spent 3 full days worshipping, fellowshiping, planning and deliberating on the reports tabled. The general consensus is a resounding thumbs up for a fruitful and Spirit-led conference. A lot of people had worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the conference and they included the members of the Local Planning Committee headed by Mr. Andy Chan of the Wilayah District and those who under girded the conference with prayer before and during the conference sessions. God is faithful and we thank Him for His presence and leading.

The TRAC Board of Worship took over all the worship services with the intention of showcasing the different forms of worship, from traditional, contemporary to mixed traditional and contemporary. A lot of thought and preparation had been put in by members of the Board. At the same time, they were mindful that dependence on the Holy Spirit is

the key to all authentic worship. We were brought into a fresh encounter with God because the Holy Spirit is ultimately the 'worship leader'.

We thank the Lord for the word delivered through the TRAC President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik at the Opening Holy Communion service and Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung at the Closing/Ordination service. Rev. Ong spoke on the TRAC mission statement for the next quadrennium which is "OPEN HEAVENS, GLOBAL MISSIONS" using the scripture text taken from Mark 1:1-13. The Son of God before his period of ministry was anointed. When He was baptized, "....just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him." Mark 1:10. In the same way, we need this anointing of the Spirit of God which will transform our lives and that of our community. With "Open Heavens" and an encounter with the living God we will go with His empowering, to help change lives in His Name through a spiritual overflow and that TRAC becomes a "Transforming, Redeeming, Abiding Community" in Christ.

The conference speaker was Rev. Dr. Isaac Lim from Singapore. There were four teaching sessions based on our TRAC mission statement, "Open Heavens, Global Missions." He emphasized that God's mission is to extend eternal life to all and that is the message we have to proclaim

as out of the 6.3 billion people in the world today, only 2 billion are Christians. All of us are called to accomplish this mission for God, corporately and individually, for God has placed us in positions where we can make a difference, where we can be little lights that shine in this dark world. In Acts 1:4 Jesus tells his disciples about the Holy Spirit who will empower them to move in global missions. Likewise, the Holy Spirit will lead and empower as TRAC moves into Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam.

At the 30th Session, representatives from other agencies were invited to give short presentations of their ministries. Their talks were brief due to time constraints but were indeed informative enough to create awareness for possibilities of future partnerships. Those who made presentations were representatives from Wycliffe Malaysia, ALPHA, World Teach, Beautiful Gate (rehabilitation centre established by the Chinese Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia) and the Boys' Brigade. It is exciting to note that an express, condensed ALPHA tape will be made available by January 2006 and its target is the 'pre-believers' in the work place. This tape will help Christians share the good news with colleagues during their lunch time break.



On the second day of the conference, a memorial service was held where Rev. Wong Onn Thau read the eulogy of the late Ms. Miriam Gruber, a tireless missionary who gave unselfishly to the Lord and was called home for eternal rest on 23rd July 2005. Dr. Chan Kook Weng delivered the eulogy of the late Rev. Paul George, a pastor whose passion for the Lord drove him to "Just do it" in fulfilling his call. He served in TRAC for 27 years and was called home on 21 December 2004. We thank the Lord for exemplary servants such as these.

Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung spoke on "SEEKING THE GLORY OF GOD" at the closing/ordination service on 22nd November, 2005 at K.L Wesley. The Scripture texts were Exodus 39 : 42-43 and Exodus 40 : 12-35. In the Scripture text, God gave specific and detailed instructions on how the tabernacle was to be built. After the work was completed, "the cloud covered the Tent of the meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." In the same way, as God's people stay obedient to His commands, the glory of God would fill the church. Obedience is to be carried out in 2 broad areas, and they

are in our personal lives and in our corporate lives. The Bishop stated that a study of church revivals in history revealed no specific method. In the church, once conditions are right, when the fundamentals are right, there will be revival through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop also had words of encouragement for all pastors present. Although society may not place pastors high on the list of most highly respected people, they should not feel discouraged, nor be envious of others. The work of preaching is the highest, greatest and glorious calling and it is the greatest need in the world today. Just like David, who said, "the battle is the Lord's" go and fulfill the calling in the confidence of the Lord.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the following who were ordained at the Ordination/closing service:

- * Local Elder's Order :
Rev. Audrey Yap Yin Har
- * Deacon's Order :
Rev. Buel W.N Abraham,
Rev. Joshua Khong Chee Leong

Those who completed the LPL course were also recognized:

- * Mr. Daniel Boey (Subang MC)
- * Mr. Lee Shaw Ming (SSMC PJ)
- * Ms. Dorothy Chee Kwei Ying (TUMC, Seremban)
- * Mr. Steven Lee (Wesley MC. Klang)
- * Mr. Cheah Eng Seng (Wesley MC. Klang)

We thank the Lord for those ordained and pray that the Lord will raise more workers to serve Him in His vineyard.

Every TRAC Session is a learning experience as we open the eyes of our hearts to see the wonderful way God is working in our midst. When we stay obedient and faithful, fully dependent on Him, we will align our paths to His will and leading, thus bringing glory to His Name through the transformation of our lives and through the extension of His Kingdom. We will become a "transforming, redeeming, abiding community" in Christ! ✨



Presidential Address

• An excerpt •

Missionstatement :

Open Heavens, Global Missions.

Visionstatement :

Transforming, Redeeming, Abiding, Community (TRAC) in Christ (Jn. 15:5)

As we enter a new working Quadrennium in our Annual Conference life we must be mindful of the crucial changes re-shaping Global Missions and understand the world we live in today in the 21st century, if we are to remain effective in the context of being a missional community both globally as well as locally.

Crucialchanges re-shapingGlobalMissions

We live in a world of global communications that run 24 hours non-stop and increasingly, the world is operating increasingly as a global economy. We must take advantage of the accessibility to nations that have now opened up, go where people are, speak their language and start with felt needs, especially the call of healing the sick and wounded, feeding the hungry and giving water to the waterless. From there we can then with sensitivity move on to the ultimate needs of salvation, reconciliation, justice and peace, which only the Gospel addresses.

Today, it is estimated that half of the world's population live in urban areas. As God's people, we must think of ways of responding to environmental issues as well as the needs of the people in the city. We must find ways to reach out with relevant urban ministries (reaching out to migrant workers and to creatively "do things/ministry" in the

workplace) and planting churches.

Many are already sending mission teams as well as setting up their own missions department, adopting peoples groups, countries and continents. TRAC will continue to facilitate the networking for "frontline action" by our various churches into countries we are adopting: Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam.

"Missions" is no longer the domain of the clergy and seminary graduates: we are witnessing a release and empowerment of church members for missions and we should facilitate more opportunities for mission trips for youths and adults.

God has allowed these changes to come to pass, and we as a conference will actively engage in the Lord's missional purposes.

Asnapshotofwhere weareandwhereweare heading

Up to June 2005, our Annual Conference has 39 churches, 13,494 members and a 71% ratio of average attendance over membership. The 6 Essentials that TRAC has been using have been reassessed and reorganized to meet continuing needs as well as envisioning the future direction for TRAC. These are now reorganized into 5. Hence we have:

5 Essentials:

- Leadership Development
- Building Community
- Missions and Outreach
- Discipleship and Spirituality
- Family: Children, Youth and Seniors Ministries

For the new working quadrennium (2006-2009) we shall be focusing on:

1. **LeadershipDevelopment**
TRAC will develop a more comprehensive roadmap for both the clergy and lay leadership so that their growth and development can be effectively monitored. For the youths, apart from the normal leadership programs, Jeremiah School will continue to provide sound and deep spiritual leadership. Eagles Communication will remain one of our leadership development partners.
2. **BuildingCommunity**
The mainstay of this is our small groups. Small Groups have also been incorporated in the Methodist Book of Discipline (para 142) by action of the 8th GC last year. We must strive for unity (not uniformity) within the total Methodist Church. We are very much within the flow of the General Conference theme for the new quadrennium: "That we may be one in Christ (John 17:22) - through prayer, studying of God's Word, Discipleship and Mission." Our TRAC website www.trac.org.my was launched on 14th June 2005. It will be used to promote, inform, and enhance our Annual Conference ministries. Do pay it a visit.
3. **MissionsandOutreach**
We have been able to get more organized since the appointment of Ms. Cheah Lee Mun as TRAC Missions and Prayer Coordinator in March 2005. We shall be concentrating on Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and North Vietnam as an Annual

Discipleship & Spirituality

Conference. It is our desire that more of our churches participate in short mission trips, including supporting and sending our pastors, ministry staff, lay leaders, members and youths for such trips. Each church is encouraged to join in support and active participation for one or more of these nations. Our emphasis on outreach to migrant workers continues as part of our "near and far" mission. We continue to be committed to the Sengoi Mission Conference as they strive to become a Provisional Annual Conference in the days ahead.

4. **Discipleship and Spirituality**

Many have benefited from the Prayer Retreat Director's ministry of Rev. Dr. Chew Tow Yow. Although he is stepping down from this position having reached 70, he will continue to be available for this ministry. The spawning of a strong prayer movement and practice in the life of our Annual Conference remains and the 3rd TRAC Prayer Conference will be held 17th - 19th Feb., 2006. The TRAC Upper Room Network, a prayer update/bulletin is published monthly, with 27 of our 39 churches participating. At General Conference level, there will be a Methodist National Prayer Conference scheduled for 31st August - 3rd September 2007.

Every TRAC church must give priority and attention to this lifeline of the Christian faith, and make prayer a core value in the culture of TRAC. Plan to begin the year in prayer and have special seasons of prayer. The 1st MYF Prayer

Conference was organized by the Board of Youth Work on 20-23rd August, 2005 in Ipoh Wesley. They plan to hold a National Youth Prayer Retreat in 2006.

The TRAC "Ministry Training Institute: The time has come for us to systematize our TRAC level training programs apart from the LPL course. There must be a training vehicle that can coordinate the training programs offered by the Boards to cut out redundancy, make better use of training resources and also provide integrated training in step with Annual Conference needs. It can also look into "post LPL" courses that will continually empower our members to serve in established ministries and prepare for new ones.

5. **Family: Children, Youth and Seniors Ministries**

We have to pay close attention to the work among the children and youth as our data for 2000-2004 shows a decline of 0.4% annually in the Sunday/Church School. The TRAC Executive Board has agreed to the request of the Board of Youth Work to declare 2006 as "Year of the Youth." There will be emphasis on reaching out to the youths of our nation and in so doing invest in the future of TRAC. Our Youth ministry is gaining a bit more momentum: there is now the Fellowship of the Warmed Hearts which connects those open or have responded to the call to

Christian vocation. The Emmaus Community has been established as a gathering point for ministering to our youths migrating to urban centres for study.

As an Annual Conference, we are working towards strong family life, with healthy relationships and spiritual dynamics in each of the household in TRAC. There will be an appointment of a part-time Seniors Ministry Director for 2006 to help strengthen the MSF ministry.

The Lord has opened the door for us to renovate the TRAC HQ at a cost of RM700,000, with an additional RM100,000 set aside for furniture and fittings. We look forward to new space for ministries that will empower God's Kingdom work in TRAC. While we have been blessed with added space, we need more workers to serve especially in the "fulltime" Christian vocations, especially pastors. Will each church make this a specific and persistent prayer, asking the Lord to raise up workers, at the same time, encouraging and standing with those with a potential calling for confirmation.

Let us together, clergy and lay, sincerely and in total commitment seek the Lord for "Open Heavens, Global Missions." We are all

the crew of the Lord in "HMS TRAC" and we move in obedience and submission to the King of kings who is the Lord Jesus Christ, the captain of the ship. ✱



Family
Children Youths Seniors

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Youth Ministry

• Excerpt of Dr. **Herbert Tan's** Sharing, at the **30th Session TRAC**

We will very soon be declaring 2006 the Year of the Youth. Why do we need a Year of the Youth? What is our thrust for that year and what do we hope to see as a result of that emphasis? To grasp the answers to those questions, we need to first understand the good, the bad, and the ugly of youth ministry today. Let me begin with the ugly first and save the best for the last.

The Ugly Scene

Aggression and gangsterism, pornography and sexual addiction, gender confusion and homosexuality, substance abuse, disintegration of the home to name a few, have all become too common. We read about it in the newspapers practically everyday. We hear it in media reports and from coffee shop gossips. We encounter it in society, even in youth groups. Some of us are experiencing this right in our own homes. We are experiencing what some people call the "Generation of Death!" because we are witnesses to a naturally disintegrating young generation mostly due to the disintegrating family - alienation in relationships with people, family, self and God.

The Bad Scene

How is the Malaysian church responding to the ugly scene in the young generation? I am afraid it is not too good a picture. We have one church in Malaysia which about 6 years ago, had a membership with

an average age of about 60 years old! We have a denomination that sees its youth ministry as a "sunset" ministry! We have many churches and families that see youths as a liability, always asking for help and subsidies and who really do not contribute that much to weekly offerings! We are talking about Malaysia, not Europe or US!

We need to ask ourselves the hard questions to understand how bad the scene is in TRAC. Here are some questions to help us in that journey of self-reflection:

- Is TRAC aging?
- Does TRAC have the political will to define a proper ecclesiology of Youth Ministry?
- Does TRAC see youth ministry as an asset or liability? Is TRAC prepared to invest?
- Will there arise "another generation ... who did not know the LORD ..." (Judges 2:10) in TRAC? If it happened to the people of God in the Old Testament, it can very well happen to us!

Add the ugly to the bad and we have a situation on hand very much like what Ezekiel saw in the earlier part of his vision of the Dry Bones. He saw a valley of dry bones (death) and the bones were very dry (not even a little sign of life). Isn't this similar to what we see in the young generation today (generation of death?). God asks, "Can these bones live?" and Ezekiel answers, "Only You know." We would respond the same way to today's so called generation of death. And if we continue the way

Ezekiel did, we might see a miracle. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones and prophesy breath into them, and as a result, there arose an exceedingly great army. If we would just minister the Word and the Spirit to the young, there would be such a great revival and the rise of a new army of God's servants - the Generation of Life!

The Good Scene

We are seeing some light in youth ministry here and there throughout TRAC. Since the introduction of Youth Ministry Training (YMT) in 2002, we have seen at least 100 mostly adults trained in all the districts combined. Under the new Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP) curriculum initiated in 2003, we saw the number of youths attending double from about 80 in just 2 years. Last year when the challenge was given for full-time vocational ministry, we saw more than 90 youths coming forward in response. Jeremiah School continues to grow since its launch in 2003 from 7 to 23 and the Board of Youth Work is planning a cap at 25 in order to ensure provision of quality mentoring.

On the field, we have seen overall growth in most youth ministry sectors. Even the ministries that saw a decline from 2002 to 2003 began to see a slowing of the decline (eg. GB), or a significant turnaround (eg. MYF & BB) for 2004. Despite high turnovers of youth numbers mostly

due to academic relocation, growth in numbers indicate hard work in getting new people in, more than those who have left. We are not even counting those churches that have significant youth ministry growth not represented by the traditional structures.

- Youth Cumulative Growth
 - 2002 (4,713)
 - 2003 (4,903)
 - 2004 (4,914)
- IMYF
 - 2002 (176)
 - 2003 (201)
 - 2004 (273)
- MYF
 - 2002 (670)
 - 2003 (616)
 - 2004 (711)
- BB
 - 2002 (719)
 - 2003 (688)
 - 2004 (794) (based on BB Representative's Report)
- GB
 - 2002 (622)
 - 2003 (687)
 - 2004 (673) (based on GB Representative's Report)

Year of the Youth 2006

Many of the good things happening in our youth work is indicative of people hard at work. Yet we know many of our youth counselors and workers are very stretched and even some of the results from the past events have caught us off guard with the inability to provide adequate follow-up both at the conference level and especially at the local level. What if the trend continues and God visits the young generation in a Tsunami visit? Will we have the resources and leadership to handle such a visit and to "ride the wave" in a sustainable youth ministry?

I believe we need a booster shot in our youth work conference-wide to equip all our ministries for long term sustainable youth work. The following are elements of emphasis for Year of the Youth 2006 which the Board of Youth Ministry has drawn up to encourage the local church to integrate into their planning and ministry. They are built around the 5 essentials of our TRAC vision.

A) Leadership Development

- a. Intentional setting apart of 3-4 adults in every local church for youth work

- b. Intentional selection of youths and adults by counselors and pastors for leadership training for youth ministry (Board of Youth Work YMTs, Seminari Theoloji Malaysia launching Diploma in Christian Studies - Youth Ministry in 2006)
- c. Development of Regional Specialists (Associate Youth Directors) and regional networks of leadership for youth ministry

B) Building Community

- a. Developing a vision for the next generation
- b. Creating opportunities for wholly youth-led worship services
- c. Creating awareness of youth culture, trends and ministry
- d. Creating opportunities for intentional intergenerational interactions (suggested - one event per 6 months)

C) Missions and Outreach

- a. Intentional exposure and education of youths to missions and outreach
- b. Equip youths for evangelism (Youth EE, Youth Alpha)
- c. Involving youths in praying for missions work
- d. Encouraging youths for mission - National Youth Missions (March 27 - April 4)
- e. Encouraging youths to be involved in social projects
- f. Involving youths in financial giving to adopt a child programme
- g. Involve youths in visitation to the orphanage, old folks home, disabled, hospitalized, etc.

D) Discipleship and Spirituality

- a. Every youth leader mentored by a mature adult in the local church
- b. National Youth Prayer Calendar
- c. National Youth Prayer Day - online network prayer (June 4)
- d. National Youth Prayer Retreat (March 11-14)
- e. Youth Prayer Network
- f. Encourage mini-prayer retreats among youths

E) Family: Children, Youth and Seniors Ministries

- a. Family development that supports youth development (Youth Ministry Begins at Home)
- b. Involve youths in the regular study of the Word
- c. National Youth Camp - Youth Quake (December 7-10)
- d. Develop IT resource center for youth ministry

Our vision is to see the raising up of a generation of god-fearing youths who are personally experiencing dynamic spiritual transformation and are on fire for Christ in their family, in TRAC, and in this world.

Do we dare to dream God's dream for the youths in TRAC? Our God is a great God - so let's not insult Him with our puny, little plans. Dream Big! ✨



TRAC Year of the Youth 2006

• by Dr. **Herbert Tan**

Come January 8, 2006, TRAC local churches all over the country will be launching the Year of the Youth 2006 during their worship services. Initiated by the Board of Youth Work, the Year of the Youth seeks to call attention to the development of leadership and communal connections for a long-term sustainable youth work. Never before has there been such a critical need to seriously look into developing leadership and communal connections in the youth ministries in TRAC beyond mere investment of finances and provision of ministry structures.

Year of the Youth 2006 is a call to adults to come alongside our youths and to journey with them in mentoring relationships, a call to parents to build a strong

family context for healthy youth development. There is also a call to churches to consciously bring youth ministries that are still on the margins of the church to mainstream church life and ministries.

Consult your pastors for more information or email any of the following with your enquiries:

Dr. Herbert Tan, *Chairman of Board of Youth Work*
(herbertt@mccc.org.my)

Rev. Christopher Rao, *National Youth Director*
(christopher@trac.org.my)

Miss Chang Choy Quin, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
(choyquin@trac.org.my) ✱

Youth Prayer Conference: What happened?

• By Rev. **Christopher Rao**

‘Sparks’.....this is the picture that comes to mind when we think of the recent Prayer Conference. God was showing us what He was doing in this Conference. The ‘Passion to Pray’ was being ignited by the Spirit of God in the hearts of those who were present. The vision is to see more and more Youths in TRAC catching the vision and challenged to be intercessors. Why is this so essential to our Youth Ministry? Because if God doesn’t build His house, those who labour, labour in vain!

48 youths and 12 adults attended the first MYF Prayer Conference which was held in Ipoh Wesley from August 20 - 23. Our primary speaker was Mark Goodwin. Joel Goodwin, a missionary also talked about the tenacity to pray. The primary call was not to miss out in what God wants to do in the life of a person! Much emphasis was also laid on holiness and intimacy with God. Joel, Mark’s son spoke on “listening to God..”

Mr Jared Tan from Penang Wesley shared about the Joshua House (JH) experience in Prayer. This ministry was basically born out of prayer. The Youths in JH meet

twice a week. On Thursdays they have their regular Youth Meeting and on Sundays (evening) they meet for about 2 hours to pray. It was exciting to see the Youths from JH going all out to pray and minister to the needs of others. Oh yes, I must tell you that about 80% of their youths come from outside of the Local Church. I sense that if we were to ask God, He will give us youths in our Youth Fellowship.

Mrs Pauline Chan from Sitiawan shared about Prophetic Intercession and many came forward to be ministered after the session. God was moving in our midst. Many received a touch from the Lord and were deeply ministered. I think many left the Conference with much anticipation for the next prayer conference which will be held in March 2006. Our prayer is that all our TRAC Churches will catch the vision and excitement to pray! ✱



Report of the **TRAC** Mission Trip to Yangon,
Myanmar from **24th** to **31st** August **2005**

The **Mighty** hands of the **Lord**

• By **VickyLee** & **CheahLeeMun**



We thank God for His goodness and mercy in guiding us to set up a Community Computer Center (CCC) in Yangon with five desktop computers, a laser printer and a scanner. Four of us from the different Malaysian TRAC churches went accompanied by four others on a Mission visit.

We departed on 24th August, 2005. On arrival, we went straight to the English Methodist Church for a meeting with the committee of the CCC. The Yangon CCC is opposite a famous school (previously a Methodist school) and along a busy street, which is an ideal location to attract the youths. The purpose of our trip was to teach a few key people in Yangon initially and they in turn would teach others. The aim of this CCC is to ultimately reach out to the youths and the people in the surrounding area to share God's love with them. Pastors and Church leaders could also use the computers for administration, accounting and sermon preparation, etc.

The Center was still under renovation when we arrived. On the second day after our arrival, before the Center was ready, we visited the Methodist Theological Institute (MTI). There

are 30 students in total. They are from different denominations and different tribes. We identified MTI's need for computers to improve the daily function of lecturers to prepare lectures, students to do their assignments and staff to do administrative and accounting work. Moreover, various copies of Bible software can be installed in computers for reference and computers may also be used for keeping records of books in the library.

We also visited the Thanlyin Methodist Church (Burmese) on the same day. The church is 101 years old. The set up is very simple yet they have 17 children aged 5-16 in their Home under their care. They also run a nursery and kindergarten. The teachers are very lowly paid and need to get second jobs to survive.

We thank the TRAC churches and members in Malaysia for their prayers and financial support towards the setting up of this CCC. We thank and praise God that the Yangon team was able to work so well with us, fixing all problems to be in time for the opening ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony was held on Friday 26th August at the Center. We began with singing and ended with prayer led by Bishop Mawia. The Computer Training Sessions began immediately after the celebration lunch.

Lee Mun had a meeting with the Conference MYF Committee on Saturday 27th August to discuss the plan for TRAC youths to visit them in November. The committee looks forward to our youth's visit which will be led by Rev. Christopher Rao.

On Sunday 28th August we attended worship services in 4 churches. They were the English Methodist Church, the Yangon Christ Methodist Church (Chinese), the Telugu Methodist Church and the Hindustani Methodist Church.

The Telugu Methodist Church has a wet market in front of it. Instead of moving the market away the church should welcome and reach out to the people. The Lord confirmed it in Colossians 4:5. "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." The Church holds Sunday school in the open space outside. The condition of the church building is poor.



The Hindustani Methodist Church is located in the Methodist Headquarters compound. Members of both the Telegu Methodist Church and the Hindustani Methodist Church were forced to relocate to villages due to insufficient compensation given to them when their land was taken possession by the government. They have started Gospel Centers in the villages and only go back to Yangon for communion services once a month. As a result, there is a drop in the number of regular worshippers in these churches. With the kind of situation and condition they are in, they definitely need our support and encouragement.

The Yangon Christ Methodist Church had their 100 years celebration this year. This is a better established church with a bigger congregation. They have a good number of MYFers and Sunday School students. In conjunction with the celebration, they started a 10-year Talents Development Program for the first batch of 8 children. The children were selected from village Methodist churches and were brought to Yangon to receive care and education with the aim to groom them to be

potential church leaders who would go back to their villages to serve in future.

Praise the Lord we managed to achieve our goal and completed the computer training. We gave them two templates on Accounts and Budget in Excel to take with them to use for their churches. On the first day of the training we taught 7 Pastors and Superintendents who had no prior knowledge of the computer. On the 4th and final day of our training on 30th August there were 9 of them learning Windows® XP, MS Word and MS Excel. Those who already knew how to use the computer were taught the Bible software and Computer Maintenance. There were 5 of them initially and ended with 7 of them on the last day.

Our thanks to all who prayed for us unceasingly. All glory and honor be to the Lord God Almighty who went before us to protect us and with us all the way to guide us. Indeed He led us and sustained us as promised! ✱



TRAC MISSIONS CONSULTATION

19th - 21st Aug. 2005

• By Mrs. **Sheila** Ramayah, *Trinity Methodist Church PJ*



TRAC Board of Missions Malaysia organized a very successful Missions Consultation at KL Wesley Church. The purpose was to encourage participation and create awareness amongst members of TRAC churches about migrant workers in Malaysia.

65 participants from 21 TRAC churches signed up for the consultation.

Mr. Beram Kumar, executive director of Strategic Missions Program (STAMP) conducted 2 interesting sessions. He reminded us of our Biblical Mandate to obey the Great Commission from the time of Abraham to the time of Paul. He led us on a historical missions journey of renowned missionaries such as William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Cameron Townsend and Ralph Winter.

He further enhanced his presentation with appropriate statistics and data in relation to unreached people groups who have no access to the Gospel. Out of a world population of just over 6 billion, about 2.4 billion are "Unreached Peoples". There is not only an unequal balance of the mission workforce in churches but also an unequal balance in the expenditure of the churches' resources (money and manpower).

87% is spent on Christians, 12% on reached groups and only 1% on the unreached even though they make up a third of the world's population. How then do we fulfill Rev. 5:9-10 which states that Missions is "God being worshipped by every tribe in every language?"

During the second session, Beram focused on Strategic Missions. In the last 4 years, Malaysia has been a hub of 2 million foreign workers, including refuge seekers and UN refugees.

Prior to this period, Malaysia's mission workers spent time and resources traveling to unreached groups overseas to bring the Gospel to them. Further, they had to be extremely cautious due to stringent laws governing these foreign countries. Today, these unreached groups are at our "doorstep" and hence, reaching out to them is just "a step away".

Beram strategized outreach to migrant workers in several innovative ways:

Ministry of Hospitality

Malaysians have been described as warm-hearted, friendly and hospitable by foreign tourists. Why not extend the same warmth and friendship to migrant workers who

are lonely, friendless, home-sick and lack confidence? A friendly "Hello!" and "How are you?" extended to them can lead to teaching them some useful words they need to get along in a foreign country.

Friendship Building

KLCC is a favourite gathering point for many migrant workers who are fortunate to get Sunday off. Grouping together to bond and share frustrations, they eagerly welcome friendly conversations with Malaysians. Practical help towards them may include teaching them how to fill forms for basic banking procedures. Such friendship has culminated into requests for English lessons and participation in church programmes. Subsequently, many have accepted Christ as a result of experiencing God's love.

Funtime

A few churches that have gained the migrants' trust have organized successful fun-time activities such as football games, singing sessions, sight-seeing trips and picnics by the sea (many of them have never been on a beach!). These organized activities, which they anticipate eagerly, are a respite from their mundane jobs.





Sharing the Gospel

Another successful ministry is inviting migrant friends for singing sessions (many of them love to sing) prior to Christmas celebrations. Through singing of Christmas carols and enjoying Christmas celebrations, Christ has touched their hearts.

Jesus film

Migrants are communal people and graciously accept invitations to friendship meetings. Watching film shows is another favourite activity. The Jesus film has brought many to Christ.

Big Harvest

Individual churches cannot handle migrant ministry alone as the migrants are of different nationalities. In the Klang district for example, 10 churches of different denominations have pooled their resources together and network to conduct 4 Sunday worship services simultaneously in 4 different languages. Many migrant workers after completing their contracts have returned home to share the good news with their respective families. Those saved here will be the KEY to reaching the unreached in their respective communities.

Beram summarized his missions strategy as follows:

1. Identify the target area.
2. Make connections with migrant friends.

3. Form church partnership from area.
4. Form core team for migrant ministry.
5. Identify venue. Initial meetings. Friendship building.
6. Engaging a migrant pastor for evangelism/discipleship.
7. Establishing migrant church. Train leaders.



The reports by representatives of TRAC churches on their missions ministry were extremely helpful, encouraging, enlightening and beneficial especially to young churches. Some of the highlights of the various missions work are: support for Orang Asli families, Nepalese, Vietnamese, Telugu, Cambodian, and Myanmarese Outreach, English classes, child sponsorship through World Vision, partnership with Wycliffe, OMF, Campus Crusade and other missions agencies, short and long-term

missions trips abroad, outreach to local underprivileged Malaysians, financial support for pastors in unreached countries, and training and equipping church members for missions and cross-cultural ministries.

Two testimonies by 2 migrant workers complemented the missions consultation's objectives. They cited God's love through Christians' friendship, love and care that transformed their lives and they have found salvation through Christ.

It is indeed heartening to note that the Board of Missions has planned many varied missions-related programmes which will be extended to all TRAC churches especially those that need to establish and strengthen their missions ministry.

In conclusion, let us pay heed to Romans 10:14-15. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they teach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ✳



Abriefreport oftheTRACBangladesh ConsultationwithUCB

• October 8 - 13, 2005 •

• By **LeeCheeKeat** & Rev.**HwaJen**

A meeting was called on May 18, 2005 by Bishop Hwa Yung, together with Rev. Ong Hwai Teik, Rev. Hwa Jen, Rev. Bernard Yogaraj and Rev. Timothy Lam, as we had all been involved in our mission to Bangladesh, in partnership with the United Church of Bangladesh (UCB). It was decided that a consultation should be held in Dhaka in October with representation from both the Malaysian and Bangladesh partners.

Ever since the Perak District became involved with the UCB in 1996, Bishop Benjamin Biswas had always indicated that he and the church would like to affiliate with our Methodist Church in Malaysia in one way or another.

When the Missions team was in Bangladesh in March earlier this year, he made a request for support from the Methodist Church in Malaysia for the UCB to become part of the Methodist Church in Bangladesh. We forwarded this request through our President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik to our Bishop Hwa Yung. Hence the meeting in May.

The result was that a team from Malaysia left for Dhaka on October 8 comprising Bishop Hwa Yung, Rev. Benard Yogaraj, Rev. Hwa Jen, Rev. Timothy Lam, Mr Lee Chee Keat (Commission on Missions, Perak District) and Ms Cheah Lee Mun (TRAC Prayer & Missions Co-ordinator). We met with Bishop Benjamin and his co-workers over a period of five days from Oct 9 - 13.

Out of the discussions we had a clearer sense of direction for our Bangladesh missions involvement. We met with the Bangladesh delegation, and the number of participants ranged from 15 to 25! We also met with representatives from several other churches and organisations. We had good teaching

sessions and fruitful interaction. And for the first time, we were able to meet together in one place involving the UCB partners from different parts of the country. We spent much time with the Bangladesh team and also among ourselves at night to talk about the needs of the UCB and the focus for our continuing partnership with them.

Teaching sessions included the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, church life and ministry, Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance, Leadership and Small Group Ministry. From the enthusiastic questions and answers, it was clear to us that there was a lot more that they wanted to know and learn, and a tremendous need for more teaching.

We had a chance to visit Bishop Nibaron Das of the Methodist Church in Bangladesh, and several other para-church organisation and NGOs,—the National Council of Churches Bangladesh (NCCB), the Bible Society, and the Health Education and Economic Development Bangladesh (HEED). Bishop Benjamin also introduced us to a close friend and co-worker, who is also the first Protestant Ph.D. holder in the country and is presently teaching at the Dhaka National University. This friend served as one of our interpreters during the Consultation and also shared with us some of the work he is doing in evangelism and mission in other parts of the country.

Outcome of the Missions Consultation:

1. We believe that it is right that we should re-affirm our support for Bishop Benjamin and his ministry in the UCB, both financially and morally, while guarding against the dependency syndrome which has been such a burden for many churches in Bangladesh.

2. We will focus more on training the church workers and leaders, rather than trying to work directly with the people in the villages. The church workers will be trained so that they themselves can train their own people when they go back to their churches.
3. We are planning to make two trips a year to Bangladesh;—one in February/March to Nittyanandapur; and a second one to Dhaka around October.
4. This will also broaden participation at the TRAC level, as we need to tap on the training personnel available throughout the Conference,—for expertise in Small Groups, Spiritual Warfare, Preaching and Bible Studies, Church Administration, Village Health Care, etc. Our prayer is that our TRAC Churches be willing to release their personnel as the need arises.
5. We recognise that Bangladesh has numerous NGOs, both Christian and non-Christian, that are better organised and have more resources for community development than we in TRAC can muster. They also have much better knowledge and expertise to deal with the needs of the peoples and with the local situations of the communities there. We will encourage UCB to work through these NGOs.
6. We will also continue to bring with each team small amounts of money to help support the UCB in their many ministries, especially for the training of evangelists and church workers, and for the education of the children and young people. ✳

2006 Appointments

EASTERN DISTRICT

Bentong-Mentakab Circuit
Kuala Lipis Wesley MC
Raub Wesley MC
Kuantan Wesley MC

District Superintendent: Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai

Rev Hwa Jen, Pastor
- *to be appointed*
Rev Hwa Jen, Pastor
Rev Peggy Seow, Pastor

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Alor Setar Wesley MC
Sg. Petani Wesley MC
Kulim Wesley MC
Butterworth Wesley MC
Penang Wesley MC
Penang Trinity MC
Parit Buntar Wesley MC

District Superintendent: Rev T. Jeyakumar

Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Supply Pastor
Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Supply Pastor
Mr Lim Keong Goo, Supply Pastor
Mr Lim Keong Goo, Supply Pastor
Rev Lawrence Francis, Pastor
Rev T. Jeyakumar, Pastor
Rev T. Jeyakumar, Pastor

PERAK DISTRICT

Taiping Wesley MC
Ipoh Canning Garden MC

District Superintendent: Rev Ashok Amarasingham

Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Pastor
Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor
Rev Audrey Yap Yin Har, Supply Pastor
Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong, Pastor

Bercham MC, Ipoh

Ipoh Grace MC

Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong, Pastor

Ipoh Wesley MC
Kampar Wesley MC
Teluk Intan Wesley MC
Sitiawan Wesley MC

Rev Dr Timothy Ong, Pastor
Rev Bernard Yogaraj, Pastor
Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar, Pastor
Rev Henry Yong Wei Choong, Pastor
Mr Milkias Padan, Supply Pastor

FEDERAL TERRITORY

Kuala Lumpur Wesley MC

District Superintendent: Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon

Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon, Pastor
Rev Raymond Wong, Associate Pastor
Ms Veronica Ting Ling Yin, Director of Social Outreach
Rev David Loo Tiang Chun, Pastor
Rev Wong Onn Thau, Pastor
Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor
Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor
Miss Tan Chew Mae, Approved Supply Pastor

Ampang Christ MC
Cheras Faith MC
Kepong Wesley MC
Sentul Grace MC

SELANGOR DISTRICT

Petaling Jaya Trinity MC

District Superintendent: Rev Woo Kit Sang

Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock, Pastor
Rev Buell Abraham, Assistant Pastor
Ms Aileen Khoo Hooi Ai, Director of Christian Education

Damansara Utama MC
Petaling Jaya Emmanuel MC
Sg. Way/Subang MC
Subang MC
Kelang Wesley MC

- *to be appointed*
Rev. David Loo Tiang Chun, Pastor
- *to be appointed*
Rev Ng Cho Hui, Supply Pastor
Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor

Sungai Buloh Trinity
Methodist Church

Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Johor Bahru Wesley MC
Segamat Wesley MC
Melaka Wesley MC

District Superintendent: Rev Yew Nieng Song

Rev Timothy Lam Yuen Yi, Pastor
Mr Ngoh Peng Teck, Approved Part-Time Supply Pastor
Rev Ting Moy Hong, Pastor
Mr John Baru, Supply Pastor
Rev Vincent Cheng Min Seng, Approved Part-Time Supply Pastor
Rev Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor
Rev Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor

Taman Asean MC
Seremban Wesley MC
Taman Ujong MC

TRACCALENDAR2006

• January

01 Sun	New Year's Day
03 Tues	School Term begins
04 - 26	Jeremiah School
10 Tue	Hari Raya Qurban
13-15 Fri-Sun	TRAC Executive Board Retreat & Meeting
18-25 Wed-Wed	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
22 Jan	Birthday of Sultan of Kedah
23-25 Mon-Wed	CCM Heads of Churches Retreat & Consultation
29-30 Sun-Mon	Chinese New Year
31 Tue	Awal Muharam

• February

01 Wed	Federal Territory Day
11 Sat	Thaipusam
06-26	Jeremiah School
17-19 Fri-Sun	3rd TRAC Prayer Conference
26 Sat	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches

• March

01 Mar	Ash Wednesday
02-05 Thur-Sun	BOYW/BCE/BOM&W Retreat
04 Sat	Anniversary of the Coronation of the Sultan of Terengganu
07-09	DS's, President Retreat
11-14 Sat-Tue	Youth National Prayer Retreat
11-19	Schools Mid-Term Break
14-17 Tue-Fri	MSF Camp
17-18 Fri-Sat	Youth Ministry Training (Northern District)
27-April 04	Youth National Mission Trip
30-31 Thur-Fri	Birthday of Sultan of Kelantan
31 Fri	Statistical Returns to reach TRAC HQ

• April

07-08 Fri-Sat	GC Missions Consultation, Sibu
08 Sat	Birthday of Sultan of Johor
11 Tue	Birthday of Prophet Muhammad
14 Fri	Good Friday
15 Sat	Declaration of Melaka as Historical City
16 Sun	Easter
19 Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Perak
18-23 Tue-Sun	Joint (with TRAC Singapore) PDMS

• May

01 Mon	Labour Day
07 Sun	Hari Hol - Pahang
12 Fri	Hari Wesak
14Sun	Methodist Women Sunday / Mother's Day
17 Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Perlis
21 Sun	Aldersgate Sunday / Call to Ministry
27-June 11	Schools Mid-Year Break

• June

1-11	School Mid-Year Break
03 Sat	Birthday of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong
04 Sun	Youth National Day of Prayer
04 Sun	Pentecost Sunday
10 Sat	TRAC Executive Board Meeting (TRAC HQ)
11 Sun	Methodist Education Foundation Sunday
17 Sat	BOYW Meeting
18 Sun	Christian Education Sunday / Father's Day
24 Sat	BCE Ethics Education Seminar (Southern District)

• July

02 Sun	STM Sunday
08 Sat	Birthday of Governor of Penang
09 Sun	Social Concerns Sunday
14-16 Fri-Sun	TRAC Missions Consultation
15-16 Sat-Sun	Christian Social Concerns Workshop
19 Tue	Birthday of T.Y.T. Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan
20 Thur	Birthday of Sultan of Trengganu
	MYF Sunday
29 Sat	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches
29-30 Sat-Sun	Youth Ministry Training (Southern District)
31 Mon	Hari Hol (Johor)

• August

5-6 Sat-Sun	Youth Ministry Training (Klang Valley)
	Missions Sunday
08-10 Tue-Thurs	MOT & Approved Supply Pastors' [MOT & ASP] Retreat
	Bahasa Malaysia Sunday
18-20 Fri-Sun	National Youth Counselor's Networking Retreat
19-27	Schools Mid-Term Break
21 Mon	Israk and Mikraj (Kedah, Negeri Sembilan, Perlis)
23-24 Sat-Sun	Youth Ministry Training (Perak District)
27 Sun	CCM Sunday
30 Wed	Statistical Returns to reach TRAC HQ
31 Thur	National Day

• September

2-3 Sat-Sun	Youth Ministry Training (Eastern District)
9 Sat	BCE CE Resource Personnel Training (Kampar & Teluk Intan)
10 Sun	Heritage Sunday
	MYAF Sunday
15-17 Fri-Sun	Joint Boards / Executive Board
24 Sun	Awal Ramadan (Johor, Kedah & Kelantan)

• October

01 Sun	World Communion Sunday
7 Sat	Trainer's Training
10 Tue	Hari Nuzul Al-Quran (Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, S'gor, T'ganu)
	Birthday of Governor of Melaka
14 Sat	Deepavali
21Sat	MSF Sunday
22 Sun	Hari Raya Puasa
24-25 Tue-Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Pahang
24 Tue	

• November

11- Jan 2006	Schools Year End Break
18-21 Sat-Tue	31st Session TRAC
30 Thur	Statistical Forms to be sent to Churches

• December

03 Sun	First Sunday in Advent
7-10 Thur-Sat	Youth Quake
11 Mon	Birthday of Sultan of Selangor
24 Sun	Christmas Eve
25 Mon	Christmas Day
31 Sun	New Year's Eve / Watch night Covenant Service
31 Sun	Hari Raya Qurban

* Subject to Change