

B E R I T A

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FIVE Absolutes for Church Growth

38th Session Trinity Annual Conference

TRAC Appointments For The Year 2014

TRAC Calendar 2014



Annual Conference 2013

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Berita TRAC is a quartely newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference. We welcome articles, contributions, comments and feedbacks that will edify the TRAC churches. The editor reserves the right to edit and publish selected submissions. Please forward all enquiries, comments and contributions to: admin@trac.org.my or call 03-7954 2836
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Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar
President, TRAC

FIVE Absolutes for Church Growth

(This article is a continuation from a previous one that laid down the first two absolutes for church growth. They are Life Transforming Preaching and Awe Inspiring Worship.)

3. Heart-warming Small Groups

The importance of small group ministry cannot be minimized. This is where we are discipled intentionally and where we receive individual care, and extend care to someone else. As we cultivate trust we are able to pray for one another's deepest needs, we can share honestly, and this is the place we are held accountable for our actions, words, and thoughts. The early Methodists grew because of their participation in small groups. Methodism as a whole grew because of small groups. The Rev John Wesley knew that the only way to grow the converts was to put them in and take them through the small group ministry. During Wesley's days and for some time after that, participation in small group was a prerequisite for membership in the Methodist Society. We who call ourselves Methodists need to ask ourselves if Wesley would consider someone a Methodist if he/she does not attend small group today!

I am aware that not everyone is averse to small group ministry. Oftentimes, it is the way we do the small group ministry that puts people off. Sometimes it is small group leaders who come with lack of preparation or no preparation at all. Sometimes churches force people to get into small groups according to the geographical location and not according to the members' choice. Sometimes there is just no leadership given by anyone in the whole area of small group ministry. Also in some places no suitable material is recommended for study. I believe that if we could address and arrest these issues then people would find our small groups to be heart-warming. A small group that warms the heart is the small group that causes people to be enthusiastic in worship, eager in study, earnest in sharing, energetic in prayer, and efficacious in accountability. Such heart-warming small groups will cause members to grow. Heart-warming small groups will attract believers and appeal to seekers.

4. Effective Leadership and Efficient Administration

What churches need and look for is leaders. People are willing to be led by those who have a vision to pursue and a mission to accomplish. Therefore leaders need to be visionaries. They must be able to see what others cannot yet see. Leaders must be able to lead others to where the vision would take them. The vision for the church is not something that must be arrived at alone by the Pastor. In the church we must envision together and arrive at our mission collectively. Leadership is something we need to cultivate. Psalm 78:72 says

David led with heart and hand - with integrity and skill. Integrity needs to be cultivated. Skills can be acquired. We need to be leaders who are led by the Spirit of God. We need leaders who know who the real Shepherd is.

Effective leadership will give rise to efficient administration. A good leader oversees the administration of the church. Church clerical staff, ministry staff, and pastoral staff need to be motivated to work together. There must be interaction, cooperation and collaboration amongst those working in the office. To avoid unproductive hours there must be a guideline for Pastors and ministry workers with regards to the usage of social media during working hours. Salaries for anyone should never increase automatically without proper evaluation of their work performance. Leadership must also be extended to the administration of the LCEC. There must be synergy in the LCEC. Otherwise every ministry will go in a different direction. Meetings can be conducted efficiently within one and a half hours at the local church level. To achieve this there must be an agreement amongst all LCEC members to submit their reports early and make known the decisions required. The administration of the church worship service needs to be looked into meticulously. It is important that church services are not prolonged. When an elderly person or a young person is dropped at the church, what time is the parent/caregiver/chauffeur supposed to fetch them back? In some churches, trying to end the worship service is a problem. In other churches, trying to get the worship service started is the difficulty. These administrative challenges need to be resolved.

5. Relevant Ministries

We need to relook at some of the ministries and programs that we are carrying out. Are they still relevant or are we doing them just because we have been doing them for ages? When our son was about two years plus, I had a conversation with Dr Hwa Yung. I told him that Ebenezer was still waking up for milk in the early hours of the morning. (I am sure you are wondering why two men were having this conversation!! I cannot remember now.) Dr Hwa Yung asked me, "What will happen if Ebenezer is not given milk at that hour?" I never thought of that. I went back and decided that I would talk to Ebenezer, and explain to him there would be no milk at 2.30am. It worked from that night onwards. Since that experience, I have always asked myself that question in church. What will happen if I do not continue certain programs? What will happen if we close down certain committees? What will happen if we discontinue certain on-going events? The point is not whether something

is done or not done. The point is what relevance does it have to the overall vision of the church? Which leads me to ask: Does anyone even know what the vision of the local church is? Or are we just moving from one program to another?

Also we need to ask, what else needs to be done. What is the need in the church and in the community where we are situated? When I was in Trinity Penang some young adults came to me and said that I had conducted a course for every age group but I didn't have a course for young adults who were single and who were on the lookout for life partners. That led me to create a seminar based on the book *The Million Dollar Mate* by Randy Pope. The young adults came from at least six churches to attend that seminar and there was a request for a sequel. It is important that the church meets the real needs of the people in the church and outside the church. A relevant church will be a growing church.

There are many things that we do in the church. However, to grow the church we need to seriously focus on preaching, worship, small groups, leadership and administration, and relevant ministries. Pulpits

must be guarded. Pastors must preach more - that is what we are trained for. Worship must be carried out reverently. Announcements need to be minimal. Small group leaders need to be trained and small groups done seriously. Last minute preparations and last minute cancellations don't convey the seriousness of the small group ministry. Leadership and administration can be learnt if we are observant, studious, humble, and teachable. Relevant ministries can be discovered if our eyes and hearts are open to the feedbacks we receive and if we are willing to consult those around us, especially those in our leadership team. All the above need to be girded with prayer! We need to be prayerful people of God. If we would think through and prayerfully lead our church, the church will grow.

As we come to the end of the year, I pray we will give thought to what goes on in our church, and seriously consider our role in the growth of the church. As we come to the Advent season and prepare our hearts for Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas and may we look forward to a blessed year.

The Probational Ministers-Local Pastors (PMLP) Retreat at Parit Buntar Methodist Centre

By Shearn Sya

Assistant Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church, Penang



The Probational Ministers-Local Pastors (PMLP) Retreat at Parit Buntar Methodist Centre was personally a positive experience for me. The PMLP Retreat was an avenue for three main things: a break, education, and community.

Firstly, the retreat was a chance to get away from regular business. There was not an extravagant amount of space given for rest or free time, to be honest, but the change of scenery and change of roles was nonetheless refreshing for me.

Secondly, there was much education, albeit executed in a rather informal manner. Getting familiar with the new Methodist Discipline was coupled with Q&A sessions that were relevant and practical to everyday ministry.

Thirdly, the PMLP Retreat was an opportunity for

community amongst other PMLPs and the few elders who joined us. Mealtimes, team building games, and even a durian feast (for all normal Malaysians, unlike me) all contributed to the bond that was strengthened amongst the participants of this PMLP Retreat.

Overall, my impressions of the PMLP Retreat are favorable, and I look forward to the two more retreats I would be attending before my PMLP expiration date.



Infant Baptism (cont'd)

By Rev Dr Andrew Tan

INTRODUCTION

Our previous discussion on Infant Baptism (printed in the last issue of Berita TRAC) now leads us to consider the importance of nurturing baptised children in our churches.

THE NURTURE OF BAPTISED CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH

The practice of infant baptism has often been criticised for its failure to nurture the children in the faith. The promise of the covenant that children will experience salvation is often not realized. However, the fault does not lie with its theological basis but with the practice of the Church to nurture such children.

The Church must take the nurturing of baptized children seriously. The Great Commission exhorts us to “...*make disciples...baptizing them...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded...*” (Mat. 28:19-20). Infant baptism fits very well with making disciples of children. The Church baptizes them, and then follows up with the teachings of Christ.

However, I observe that our churches fail our children in a number of ways: (1) Our Sunday Schools are reduced to baby-sitting ministry, and church leaders do not take an interest in this ministry. (2) Discipleship does not take place in the home, and we do not equip the parents to fulfil such a ministry. (3) Children are not integrated into the life of the local church in Sunday worship, Small Groups, etc. They are left on the periphery of the churches. In other words, the members of our congregations seldom fulfil the terms of the covenant.

For infant baptism to be practised in the Church with integrity, the following items need to be observed. First, the Church must ensure that at least one of the parents must avow belief in the Lord's promise because in the first place it is the parents who receive the promise of the covenant. Furthermore, it is assumed that parents who are already in the covenant will live out the demands of the covenant. Therefore, it is necessary that the parents must assure the Church that they will provide Christian education and example in the home.

Second, the Church should preach on the doctrine of baptism, including infant baptism. The reason the practice of infant baptism is in decline is because the understanding of infant baptism in particular is lacking. Without the Audible Word the Visible Word cannot be understood. Furthermore, instructions and teachings about infant baptism need to be given to both the parents and their children when they are older.

Third, the Church must constantly provide Christian education for the children and youths, and encourage the entire Church to fully embrace and include these children and youths in their communal life.

The Methodist Church appears to be aware of the problems of nurturing baptized children, and is quite stringent in its demands on all parties to help nurture such children. The Book of Discipline has a special section on it: Section VIII.

Children and the Church (pp. 56-57). Let me summarize what responsibilities are accorded to the different parties involved in infant baptism and nurturing the children.

Responsibilities of the Pastors.

- To diligently instruct the parents regarding the meaning of infant baptism and the vows which they assume.
- To admonish the parents of their obligation of their duties (See parents below.)
- To admonish the congregation of their responsibilities for the Christian nurture of the baptized children.
- To organize annually for the children who have reached the age of decision into classes of instruction for church membership, and to receive into membership those who show evidence of their own Christian faith and purpose and of understanding the privileges and obligations of membership.
- To provide the parents with the Certificate of Baptism.
- To enrol baptized children into a preparatory membership role. Such a preparatory membership must be properly recorded accurately with its details. Transfers in and out (together with their parents) must also be recorded. The names remain in the preparatory membership role until the sixteenth birthday, and if they are not confirmed they will be transferred into the constituent roll (friends of the local church).

Responsibilities of the Parents

- To understand the meaning of infant baptism and to assume the vows which they will make at their children's baptism.
- To use all diligence in bringing the children up in conformity to the Word of God and in the fellowship of the Church.
- To lead the children to an understanding of the Christian faith, to an appreciation of the privileges and obligations of church membership, and to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to guide them in the use of the means of grace in living the Christian life. (This responsibility also falls on the pastors and the teachers of the Sunday Schools.)

Responsibilities of the Church/Sunday School

- To be responsible for the Christian nurture of the children.
- To provide a proper course of training (besides the membership class that the pastor conducts) to become full members of the Church.

CONCLUSION

My observation in our churches tells me that there is a lack of conviction about infant baptism and a poor practice of nurturing those baptized. I write to encourage what I believe should be the proper practice of our Methodist Church on infant baptism. And I hope this is helpful.

Camp Concordia 2013

TRAC Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Senior & Pioneer Camp
Compiled by Voon Zhen Yi of Life Methodist Church, Puchong

Following the success of the Run, Play and Xplore Camp for Juniors (ages 9-12) held in Taman Wetlands Putrajaya in 2012, the Board of Youth Work decided to organise one for the older Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade members. On 28th November to 1st December 2013, such a camp took place, where 139 registered participants from eight TRAC-sponsored BB & GB companies converged at the Ehsan Nilam National Service campsite in Bidor, Perak. No combined camp has ever been attempted by our two organisations on this scale for Senior and Pioneer Section members, who are in secondary schools and pre-university colleges. The name of the camp – Concordia, which is Latin for harmony, and the camp theme – Pleasant in Unity, are based on **Psalm 133:1**, "*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (NIV)*" was appropriately picked as a prelude to bridge the gap between the BB and GB. Very often the two organisations miss out on each other's events on a national level, with BB having the Pesta and the GB with its Fonomarae. It was the organisers' hope that Camp Concordia will provide a platform for fellowship between the two God-serving movements.



Contrary to the assumptions of many, this camp did not over-emphasise discipline and drill. In fact the only "Brigadey" thing about it was the opening and closing ceremonies. The main focus was on fellowship, team-spirit and having a good time. The organisers were humbled by the impact this camp had on its participants, for some evidently had life-changing experiences. On the last day, some were challenged to serve the Lord through the BB-GB ministries, with more than half responding, some even as young as 13 years old. Towards the end of camp, there were many difficult goodbyes as they had to leave their temporary home of the past 4 days and their newly-found friends. Most are already looking forward to the next Concordia due in 2015.



Testimonials Of Camp Concordia 2013



Sergeant Gabriel H'ng

Of 1st Teluk Intan Boys' Brigade (Wesley Methodist Church, Teluk Intan)

Camp Concordia was awesome! I've been to many camps, but what made this one unique was that I was the most senior camper there (in fact, I was the oldest and the only sergeant around!), and naturally, many responsibilities befell me. But that didn't stop me from having a splendid time with other Boys and Girls of the Brigade. It gave me great joy to see everyone come together in harmony--doing our squad cheers, playing games, worshiping God. This camp also provided a wonderful opportunity for the BB and GB to know each other better. Truly, we had pleasure in unity!

Auxiliary Worker Christel Renaeta

of 1st Petaling Jaya Girls' Brigade (Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya)



Growing up in the Brigade for the past 12 years, I have had my fair share of camps -- leadership camps, adventure camps, simple retreats. Each brought about excitement and memories. This camp, however, was different. Maybe it was because I was going for this camp not only as a camper but as an officer or maybe because it was the first time this kind of camp was organised.

Either way, I am grateful for both the experience gained and the memories made (both of which required A LOT of energy). No doubt it was a tiring four-day-camp but I guess four days was all God needed to teach and remind me of the important things in life.



Reminder #1: We Can Do All Things Through God.

After the first day, most of us felt like dying under super-hot weather and we had trouble setting up the PA system. But, hey, God is good and everything went on just fine. We even found strength to get through days 2, 3 and 4!

Reminder #2: The Right Thing May Not Always Be The Easiest Thing to Do.

Having to tell people off about certain things may be tough for some people (especially for someone like me) but I learnt that sometimes, it is the correct thing to do although it may not seem so at that point of time. This also made me realise how much of an example we actually are to those around us

(reality check!). To me, this was one important reminder I needed as an officer.

Reminder #3: God Always Looks Out For You.

He does it in His own way and in His own time, but for me, it was during camp and through friends. In camp, I realised that there are people around us who are willing to go the extra mile for us. These people are willing to pray, not only with you, but for you at any given time of the day (even at 5.30am) and a prayer out of a genuine heart always seems to make everything better.

Reminder #4: Concordia. Unity.

Yup, that's the theme of our camp! Throughout the four days, I saw Boys and Girls, from different companies, of different personalities, of different religions, each one fearfully and wonderfully made, come together to worship God and to learn to work together -- which was pretty impressive. I am sure that each and every camper went back home with the reminder of how important unity is, and this is something we often overlook.

Camp was really, really fun. It was made more so because of all the reminders that came along with it. I am truly grateful for the GB and BB and the impact they have had on so many people. I, for one, am certain that the GB played a huge part in the way I turned out (which isn't all that bad, actually!).





Conference in session



Celebrating Holy Communion at the



Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung addressing the conference during the Service of Thanksgiving and Recognition for his faithful service to TRAC (He retires at the end of this year)



A light moment together



A big thank you to the Planning Committee for an excellent job



38th Session Trinity

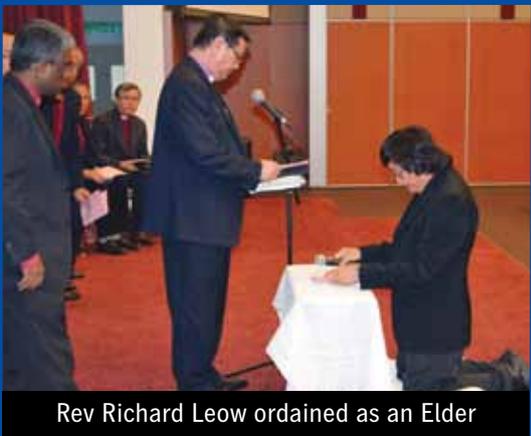




opening service of the 38th session



Newly ordained Elder, Deacons and Local Deacons



Rev Richard Leow ordained as an Elder



Candidates receiving their Local Preacher License (LPL)



Annual Conference

TRAC Appointments For The Year 2014

EASTERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Dr Andrew Tan

Wesley Kuala Lipis	Rev Bernard Yogaraj, Pastor
Wesley Raub	Rev Bernard Yogaraj, Pastor
Wesley Bentong	Ps Eric Hue, Pastor
Wesley Kuantan	Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor
	Ps Eric Hue, Assistant Pastor

NORTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Paul Santosh Christie

Wesley Alor Setar	No Conference Appointment
Wesley Sg. Petani	No Conference Appointment
Wesley Kulim	Ps Joshua Chia, Pastor
Wesley Butterworth	Mr Andrew Yeoh Boon Lay, Part-time Pastor
Wesley Parit Buntar	Ps Joshua Chia, Pastor
Trinity Penang	Rev Yong Wai Yin, Pastor
Wesley Penang	Rev Paul Christie, Pastor
	Ps Wong Mun Wah (Assistant Pastor)

PERAK DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong

Wesley Taiping	Ps John Baru, Pastor
Wesley Sitiawan	Rev Victor Leong Chik Seng, Pastor
Wesley Teluk Intan	Rev Lucy Lee, Pastor
CGMC	Rev Thomas Chin, Pastor
	Rev Yu Chiew Song, Associate Pastor
	Rev Richard Leow, Associate Pastor
GMC Ipoh	Ps Elaine Low, Pastor
Wesley Ipoh	Rev Peggy Seow, Pastor
	Ps Peter Ong (Assistant Pastor, Part-time)
BMC	Rev Lim Chaw Leong, Pastor
Wesley Kampar	No Conference Appointment

SELANGOR DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Dr Timothy Ong Seng Kee

Whispering Hope	Rev Dr Andrew Tan, Pastor
Wesley Klang	Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor
Trinity PJ	Rev Dr Timothy Ong, Pastor Rev Ting Moy Hong, Associate Pastor
Emmanuel	Rev Dr Andrew Tan, Pastor
Subang MC	Ps Robert Khaw, Pastor
Trinity Sg Buloh	Ps Soh Tian Soo, Part Time Pastor
DUMC	No Conference Appointment
SSMC	Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming, Pastor

FEDERAL TERRITORY DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Ting Moy Hong

Wesley Kepong	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor
Wesley Kuala Lumpur	Rev Ricky Ho, Pastor Rev Tan Chew Mae, Assistant Pastor
Faith Cheras	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor
Christ Ampang	Rev Shearn Sya, Pastor
Life Puchong	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor
Grace Sentul	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Ricky Ho

Taman Ujong	Rev Ronald Yap, Pastor
Wesley Seremban	Rev Ronald Yap, Pastor
Taman Asean	Rev Andrew Lim, Pastor
Wesley Melaka	Rev Andrew Lim, Pastor Rev Danny Chiew, Assistant Pastor
Wesley Segamat	Rev Henry Yong, Pastor
Wesley JB	Rev Joshua Hong, Pastor

Special Appointments

*** with Bishop's consent**

Rev Hwa Jen	Seniors Ministry Director
Rev David Loo	Seniors Ministry Associate Director
Rev Lawrence Francis	Prayer Director
Rev Richard Leow	Part-time Director of Evangelism & Discipleship,
PMSM Rev Bernard Yogaraj	Part-time Coordinator to SWTC
Rev Bah Uda Aman	Superintendent PMSM*
Rev Dr Hermen Shastri	seconded to CCM*
Rev Dr Anthony Loke	seconded to STM*

JANUARY			JULY		
01	Wed	Public Holiday – National	04 - 06	Fri - Sun	Discernment – 3 Day Retreat
02	Thur	School Term Begins	04 - 11	Fri - Fri	Discernment – 8 Day Individually Directed Retreat
02 - 25		Jeremiah School (cont. in Feb)	07	Mon	Public Holiday - Penang
07 - 09	Tue-Thur	TOWARDS GOOD TO GREAT PREACHING: WORKSHOP	12	Sat	Public Holiday – Penang
10	Fri	BOM Meeting	12	Sat	Movie Retreat (Joint Initiative with TUMC & Seremban WMC)
11	Sat	1st Executive Board Meeting - Venue: KL Wesley	12 - Aug 12		Penan UPSR Coaching Mission
14	Tue	Public Holiday – Negeri Sembilan	12	Sat	Interactive Forum for Perak District
14	Tue	Public Holiday – National	13	Sun	Social Concern Sunday
17	Fri	Public Holiday – National	15	Tue	Public Holiday – National
19	Sun	Public Holiday – Kedah	19	Sat	Module 3: Discernment, Knowing & Doing the Will of God
31	Fri	Public Holiday – National	22 - 24	Tue - Thur	Probationary Member Local Pastor Retreat with Bishop
FEBRUARY			26	Sat	Board of Evangelism Meeting (BOE)
01	Sat	Public Holiday – National	26 - 30	Sat - Wed	Camp 18UP
01	Sat	Public Holiday - Federal Territory	28 - 29	Mon - Tue	Public Holiday – National
05 - 23		Continuation of Jeremiah School	AUGUST		
14	Fri	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches	01 - 04	Fri - Mon	Beauty for Ashes Retreat – A Retreat on Healing & Wholeness
20	Thur	Council of Presidents (COP) meeting	07	Thur	Council of Presidents' Meeting (COP)
21 - 22	Fri - Sat	GCEC (Venue: PD)	08 - 09	Fri - Sat	GCEC
MARCH			15 - 17	Fri - Sun	Youth Ministry Partners Retreat
04	Tue	Public Holiday – Terengganu	29 - 31	Fri - Sun	Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC)
05	Wed	Ash Wednesday	31	Sun	Public Holiday - National
08	Sat	LGT- Module 1: Prayer and Hearing the Voice of God	SEPTEMBER		
08	Sat	Board of Evangelism Meeting (BOE)	05 - 07	Fri - Sun	Adventure of Living Retreat (A Formation Retreat for TRAC Church Support Staff)
14 - 16	Fri - Sun	BOYW Retreat & Meetings	12 - 14	Fri - Sun	TRAC Joint Board
22 - 30		School Mid Term Break	14	Sun	3rd TRAC Executive Board
APRIL			13 - 21		School Mid Term Break
01 - 05	Tue - Sat	5-Day Individually Directed Retreat	16	Tue	Public Holiday – National
04 - 06	Fri - Sun	Formation Retreat for Couples	26-28	Fri-Sun	Christian Vocation Series
15	Tue	Public Holiday – Melaka	OCTOBER		
18	Fri	Good Friday	04 - 06	Sat - Mon	39th Session TRAC MW
19	Sat	Public Holiday – Perak	05	Sun	Public Holiday – National
20	Sun	Easter	10	Fri	Public Holiday – Melaka
22 - 26	Tue - Sat	PDMS 2014	16	Thur	BOM Meeting
25 - 27	Fri - Sun	Christian Vocation Series	19	Sun	MSF Sunday
26	Sat	Public Holiday - Terengganu	23	Thur	Public Holiday – National
26	Sat	Movie Retreat (Joint Initiative with CGMC & Perak District)	24	Fri	Public Holiday – Pahang
MAY			25	Sat	Public Holiday – National
01	Thurs	Public Holiday - National	25	Sun	Festival of Hymns
07	Wed	Public Holiday – Pahang	NOVEMBER		
10	Sat	Board of Evangelism Interactive Forum for Wilayah & Selangor Districts	09 - 14	Sun - Fri	Retreat in Daily Life
11	Sun	Mother's Day	11	Tue	Public Holiday - Kelantan
13	Tue	Public Holiday – National	22	Sat	Public Holiday – Johor
17	Sat	Public Holiday – Perlis	22 - 24	Sat - Mon	39th Session TRAC
17	Sat	Module 2: Life Giving Practices to Renew the Habits of the Heart	22 - Jan 04, 2015		School Year End Break
18	Sun	Aldersgate Sunday	25 - Dec 2		National Youth Missions
27	Tue	Public Holiday – Kedah, N. Sembilan, Perlis	29	Sat	Public Holiday – Johor
28 - June 13		School Mid-Year Break	DECEMBER		
30 - June 1	Fri - Sun	Formation Retreat for Educators and Teachers (Joint Initiative with TCF Malaysia)	10 - 14	Wed - Sun	Youth Quake
JUNE			11	Thur	Public Holiday - Selangor
06 - 08	Fri - Sun	Formation Retreat for Sunday School Superintendents/Teachers	25	Thur	Christmas
07	Sat	Public Holiday – National	31	Wed	New Year's Eve/Watch Night Service
08	Sun	Pentecost Sunday			
13	Fri	BOM Meeting			
14	Sat	2nd TRAC Executive Board Meeting			
14 - July 15		Penan UPSR Coaching Mission			
15	Sun	Father's Day			
20 - 22	Fri - Sun	Beginners Retreat – Praying the Miracles of Jesus			
29	Sun	Public Holiday – National			



Rooted And Released

By Shaun Choon
(an intern in the TRAC Office)

As faith without deeds is dead, so ideas without actions are also dead. Having said that, I must add that hard work was never really a part of my vocabulary. Hence, I have not achieved much so far nor placed much commitment in anything. Preferring to be laid back and dependent on others, I wasted many God-given opportunities. Being a rebellious child, I recall my childhood as being filled with many 'pleasantries' from my father and his rattan cane. He would often end with the phrase "Spare the rod, spoil the child." However, as I look back, I am thankful for his discipline as he was just and fair in his dealings and he taught me that life is not all fun and games, and that actions have consequences.

I am also thankful to God for He continually reached out to me as a child. At the age of 15, I accepted His love and claimed my salvation in Him. With His guidance and nurturing, I could see, hear and feel Him placing certain burdens on my heart. Thus upon graduation, I decided to answer His call and began a new journey with Him as a TRAC Youth Ministry Intern in October 2013, partnering with Choy Quin and Herbert Tan in youth work.

One of the first things that I was called to do was to attend 'The Global Summit 4/14 Window Movement' which was held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 October, 2013. I am truly grateful to TRAC for enabling me to be a participant. I would also like to thank my family and friends who continually supported me and made it possible for me to attend the Summit. It truly was an eye-opening experience. The Summit aimed to empower and to root children from ages 4 to 14 years with the Word of God and then release them into the world as partners in God's ministry. This particular age group was targeted because a study has shown that many people come to know the Lord by the age of 15.

Through the four days of the Summit, I could sense an urgency and calling for the church to reach out to the next generation -- to stop neglecting and start listening to and discipling the children and youths. The atmosphere of the Summit was filled with excitement and buzz as people shared their experiences in working with and enabling children and youths. It was a first for me to hear, learn, interact and share with people from all over the world.

Forty per cent of the world's population is under the age of 20. The 4/14 Movement seeks to change our perception of children and to respond to their strategic importance

and rightful place in God's Kingdom. Children are the inter-generational missionaries of the church. We have to begin reaching out to serve and love them, to deliver them from oppression, deception, depression and destruction. Furthermore, we must root them in Christ and then release them as partners in the mission field.

One particular session that spoke to me was the one that concerned my generation -- How Do We Leverage our Role as Gen Y? This session helped me, a Gen Y, to understand myself, my friends as well as the generation after me better. It revealed to me the many questions, pains and troubles that my generation is facing and if these are left unresolved, they would snowball to the next generation. "Why are my parents so busy?" "Are good results and straight A's all there is to life?" "Who can I share my troubles with?"

What one generation neglects, the next generation rejects. Simply put, if certain values and principles are neglected now, they will be completely forgotten in the future. Thus, as one born in the Gen Y, what can I do for my friends and the generation after me to ensure that they remain rooted in Christ's love? What does it mean for me to be an ambassador of Christ? What will I leave for the next generation? Will my works be a blessing? Will my words be a curse? Digging deeper into myself, I don't think there is very much that I can do. But the one thing that I can do is to inspire and stir the hearts of the younger ones.

Ministry is not just about planning. It also involves attempting. Whether success or failure follows, I believe God has called me -- not just me alone, but each and every one of us. Thus, with His blessings, I will continue on this journey with the simple faith of a child who knows nothing but to obey and listen to the voice of his Father. Let us do great things for a great God -- great things that God Himself is already doing.

*To tell the story of Jesus Christ,
Not by words but through my life,
To share the goodness of the Gospel,
Proclaiming to all of God's people.
To lead my friends in the path of light,
To shine in darkness and make it bright,
By the way a servant serves the Master,
So I give my life to another.*



My Reflections

*By Pastor Leong Chick Seng
(Assistant Pastor in Sitiawan Wesley)*

I thought it might be helpful for myself and others if I write down my reflections after three years in full-time ministry. It has been a life-changing experience for me. At the 35th Session TRAC in 2010, I was appointed as an Approved Supply Pastor to Wesley Methodist Church, Sitiawan. I was very excited then. Finally my dream was coming true: I will serve God wholeheartedly as a full-time minister.

The LCEC of Sitiawan Wesley decided to assign me to Living Water Sanctuary, the preaching point in Ayer Tawar. In the first 3 months there, I was still very excited. I planned my schedule accordingly. I worked hard in preparing sermons, visiting my church members, attending every prayer meeting and conducting Care Group meetings. But things did not change very much and I wondered why. So I prayed very hard.

When I was in government service, I was promoted once, and twice I received special recognition. This seemed to indicate that I was doing my job well. Therefore, now that I was in God's service, I would work doubly hard in my new appointment. In my mind, a good pastor is one who preaches good sermons and visits his church members regularly. I was expecting instant results, but that did not happen. I got it all wrong. It is not enough just to work hard; it is the whole process of knowing God and doing His will that counts. Now I know why God was not blessing my ministry.

I became very weak, and I do not like to be weak. But in my weakness, I learnt to draw strength from our Lord. I realized that it is not how much work I do for Jesus that matters, but how much I allow God to work in my life. Our Lord seemed to be saying that I had to first seek His face before I could serve Him effectively. Serving God is not for my own pleasure, but it is to please Him. It is no longer my ministry but God's, and I am just a servant in His ministry. Then I began to experience the presence of God in my life in deeper measure.

I received Jesus as my Lord and Saviour 38 years ago, and I served in the LCEC in Sitiawan Wesley for 28 years, but this experience is in a totally new dimension. It is not that God has not blessed me during the past 61 years but now, as a pastor, I need to know Him and do His will even more. I need to learn to depend on Jesus, for apart from Jesus I can do nothing. So I wrestled with God (not to the extent like Jacob did in Genesis 32:26) for I knew that unless God blessed my ministry, I would be labouring in vain. I had to let go of many things in my life if I wanted to please my Master. Now I pray, not harder, but more to seek His face and discern His will. I thank God that I can serve Him full-time as a pastor in my remaining years. If I had not come forward to serve our God in this manner, I might not have come to know Him in a deeper way.

To God be all the glory and praise. Amen.

SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH! **VACANCY for FULL-TIME YOUTH WORKER!**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop vision, strategise, spearhead, and plan programmes and activities for young adults and college youth (YACY) ministry, including pioneering campus outreach.
- Disciple YACY of the church through teaching, facilitating programmes and organising activities, recommending relevant resources, and keeping abreast of YACY issues.
- Develop and mentor potential YACY leaders through a structured leadership development programme, including on-the-job training and exposure.
- Provide pastoral care for YACY, including counseling, visitation, facilitating foster home programme, prayer support and practical helps (e.g. transportation, etc).
- Work closely with the pastor and other church leaders in aligning YACY ministry with overall church's vision, mission, essentials and plans.
- Network with relevant Christian organisations (TRAC and others) to facilitate YACY development mission and community service.

PREREQUISITES

- Minimum of STPM qualification. Other theological degree or relevant courses taken will be an advantage.
- Preferably a minimum of two years of practical experience working with YACY in a Christian setting.
- Must be a committed Christian and a member in good standing of a church.
- Passionate about YACY ministry.
- Be prepared to consider being a member or regular worshipper of SMC upon acceptance of the job.
- Able to work independently as well as a team player with CY leaders, youth counselors and Church leaders.
- Able to accept a flexible working schedule that includes some weekday evenings and weekends, and occasional extended trips.



The remuneration will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applicants to submit a brief profile and statement of suitability to:

Pastor Robert Khaw
Subang Methodist Church
5 Jalan PJS 10/32
46000 Petaling Jaya
Selangor D E

Email:
robertkhaw@gmail.com

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.



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