

**B E R I T A**

# TRAC



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## Being Authentic In The Midst Of Challenging Pastoral Conditions

39th Session Trinity Annual Conference

TRAC Pastoral Appointments For The Year 2015

TRAC Pastors' Wives Retreat 2014



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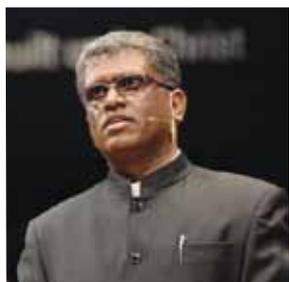
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website: [www.trac.org.my](http://www.trac.org.my)



**Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar**  
President, TRAC

## Being Authentic In The Midst Of Challenging Pastoral Conditions – *Part One*

The Apostle Paul wrote the Second Letter to the Corinthians to debate both his opponents who had come to Corinth and the local church people who had taken their side. In this letter Paul is defending himself as an apostle because there were those who were rejecting his gospel saying that since he is not an apostle of Christ therefore there is no legitimacy in the gospel he was preaching. These false accusations of some self-proclaimed apostles were leading the Corinthians to accept a different gospel and a different view of Jesus (cf. 11:4). Paul defends his apostolic ministry by pointing out that although he is suffering yet he is the “aroma of Christ” (cf. 2:14b-16b, NIV); that in the “jars of clay” which is his weakness Paul carried the treasure of God’s power (4:7, NIV).

### 1. AUTHENTIC MINISTERS

The constant temptation in ministry is to preach what the congregation would love to hear and do what will make us popular in the eyes of the people. To do what is right and good, to be consistent, to maintain integrity, to be committed to the cause of Christ even when slandered; to show reliability in the midst of challenges and discouragement is not the easiest for any pastor. Yet this is the calling for any servant of the Lord. To remain faithful in the midst of troubles and trials is to remain authentic servants of the risen Lord. Let us then see in detail what this servant must be.

#### i. A Trustworthy Minister

The super-apostles and some Corinthian Christians were accusing Paul of not being a trustworthy person. He had said that he would come to Corinth but he did not. Paul who had scheduled to visit the Corinthians twice during his missionary journey to Macedonia had to change his plans. He could not come to Corinth as

he had promised. To the Corinthians who had been instigated by the ‘super-apostles’ this confirmed that Paul was an untrustworthy leader. He said one thing and did another. He is the kind who would say “yes” and “no” in the same breath (cf. 2 Cor. 1:18, NIV).

However, Paul could openly say that he is not manipulative or deceitful. On the contrary, in his dealings with people he has valued “holiness and sincerity” (1:12, NIV). Both this sincerity and holiness are from God and according to God’s grace. In another passage Paul again raises this point about him not exploiting anyone. “Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you?” he asked (cf. 2 Cor. 12:17).

On the other hand, Paul’s competitors – the false apostles - were not only untrustworthy but they were also deceivers and pretenders (11:13-15). Their deceitfulness gives them away as Satan’s agents. This is the reason Paul cannot leave them to continue to instruct the church at Corinth. The competitors are not just self-deceived or merely boastful in their claims. They are “treacherous in intent. The treachery stems from impure motives.”<sup>2</sup> These are untrustworthy men with evil intentions.

This whole point challenges the servants of the Lord to ask a number of questions of our own trustworthiness:

- Do we give people an exaggerated idea of our spirituality?
- Do we keep to ourselves what we have heard from our church members?
- In our sermons and in our reports do we convey facts or ‘adjusted facts’?
- Do we keep the promises we make to our parishioners or do we take them lightly?

<sup>1</sup> Part Two will look at *Authentic Ministry* and Part Three at *Authentic Suffering*.

<sup>2</sup> Belleville, Linda L., *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series: 2 Corinthians*, (Leicester, England: IVP, 1996) 282

### ii. A Reliable Minister

Paul had been in many places slandered, misunderstood, beaten, etc. He often did not feel the need to reply. Here however, he would stand up and defend because what is at stake is not merely his reputation. What is at stake is the reliability of the gospel that he preached. Paul defends his reliability by pointing out that he did not behave in worldly manner in making plans to visit them (1:17). The larger and more important issue here is not so much about the travel plans but about Paul's reliability as a servant of God. So the question here is, 'If Paul cannot be trusted can the gospel he preaches be trusted?' The implication is, 'If Paul is a liar, then the gospel he is preaching is also a lie!' If they conclude that Paul is not reliable then the Corinthians' commitment to Christ is at stake. They may end up following a different gospel and thus a false christ as preached by the false apostles.

In 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Paul is saying that he is a reliable messenger carrying out his tasks in a way that is consistent with the God who sent him. He trusts in a God who is reliable (18). Jesus reliably fulfills all of God's promises (19-20). Likewise God has put His Spirit in Paul, Timothy, and Silas to confirm His work in them. This whole point challenges the servants of the Lord to ask a number of questions of our own reliability:

- Are we reliable servants of God?
- Are we into double talks?
- By looking at our lives can people see that the God whom we preach is a reliable God? Are they turning to Him or away from Him?

### iii. A Faithful Minister

Paul was ever conscious that it is God who has called him to the task of preaching and ministering. Therefore he would take this task seriously (4:1). Even though his accusers were saying that he used "shameful and underhanded methods.... trick (the people) and distort the word of God" (4:2, NLT<sup>3</sup>) he, however, was faithful to the task and to the One who entrusted him with the task. When our motives are scrutinized, our actions doubted, and our preaching comes under fire, we must not lose heart. It happened to Paul too. Yet he remained faithful and so should we. We on the other hand should not be like the super-apostles who "veiled" the Good News (4:3, NLT) "to keep the Christian

faith shrouded in a tantalizing aura of mystery..... like salesmen marketing a new religious product... kept their Christianity hidden under seductive wraps."<sup>4</sup>

Paul did not preach about himself. He faithfully preached Christ (4:5). In preaching Christ there was no deception, no distortion and no pulling of wools over the eyes of people (cf. 4:2). "Ambition and avarice and other such faults in a minister taint the purity of his teaching so that Christ alone is not exalted in it. The man who wishes to preach Christ must forget himself."<sup>5</sup> If the preacher is not careful the pulpit can become a platform for showmanship. In fact if the preacher is not careful preaching itself can become a sort of entertainment to keep the congregation satisfied. But to his credit Paul was faithful to the task of preaching and to the One he preached. He refused to lose sight of Christ in his ministry. When our concentration is on activities and entertainments we lose sight of Christ and His ministry.

### iv. A Persevering Minister

While we preach the glory of God we must not forget that as servants of God we ourselves are fragile like "jars of clay" (4:7, NIV). We are easily broken but that does not hinder God from entrusting us with the task of being His messengers. In fact this helps people and most importantly us to know where the source of power is from. So as pastors we do not look within for resource but we look upwards to God for all that we need. The success of our preaching and the reason people get saved is because of God's power and not our ability. "So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own" (4:7b, NLT).

We rejoice that though we are weak God's power works through us. This should inspire us to persevere. Paul captures this in the four paradoxes of life that he draws: "we are hard pressed...yet not crushed; ...perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor.4:89, NKJV<sup>6</sup>) This adequately explains that "the end of our human resources does not represent the end of God's."<sup>7</sup> Paul persevered in all these hardships knowing that he lives and dies for Christ (4:10), he is to face everything in the power of the resurrected Christ (4:11), and having this certainty that through his hardships others were being led to Christ (4:12).<sup>8</sup> The authentic minister is a persevering minister. He does not resign and does not fear the load of work.

<sup>3</sup> *New Living Translation*, Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale, 1996

<sup>4</sup> Clements, Roy, *The Strength of Weakness: God using our flaws to achieve His goals*, (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1994) 74

<sup>5</sup> Calvin, John, *Calvin's Commentaries: The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, and the Epistles to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans: 1964, English Translation) 56

<sup>6</sup> *New King James Version*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984

<sup>7</sup> Lamb, Jonathan, *Crossway Bible Guides: Discovering 2 Corinthians* (Leicester, England: Crossway Books, 1999) 79

<sup>8</sup> Barclay, William, *The Daily Study Bible: The Letters to the Corinthians*, (Scotland: Saint Andrew Press, 1975) 200

# Post-MPC3 Press Statement / Release

**By Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik**  
**The Methodist Church in Malaysia**  
**19 August 2014**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC3) will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Sunway Convention Centre, Selangor. This quadrennial event occurring this year carries the theme “*A Church after God’s Own Heart.*”

The highlight of the event will be a combined Holy Communion Sunday Prayer and Worship Celebration Service at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil starting at 9.45 am, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014, which is essentially also the day Malaysia celebrates her 57<sup>th</sup> Merdeka.

The Methodist Prayer Convention is an event that brings together the whole Methodist Family in Malaysia which is made up of different ethnic groups. A total of about 2,700 participants from the 6 Annual Conferences and 1 Mission Conference – namely the Chinese Annual Conference, Tamil Annual Conference, Trinity Annual Conference, Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, Sarawak Iban Annual Conference, Sabah Provisional Annual Conference and the Persidangan Missi Sengoi Methodist – will gather together, humbling themselves in penitent seeking of God.

This Methodist Family time of earnest praying is in humble response to God’s injunction in **2 Chronicles 7:14** - “*if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land*”.

We especially chose to do this on the Merdeka weekend to seek God’s forgiveness and renewed favour on His Church

and on our beloved country. Our participants will “stand in the gap” and ask forgiveness for the things that are wrong in God’s sight – in the Church and in this nation.

This is made more imperative and urgent at a time when our blessed and beautiful nation – Malaysia – is experiencing increasing and unprecedented turmoil such as religious and racial tensions, political uncertainties, natural catastrophes such as the haze and drought, unparalleled shocks such as the loss of MH370 and MH17, security and health issues, increasing crime and violence etc at our doorstep – so that it is ever more important that we seek God’s intervening mercy, counsel and direction as we strive to move forward in Malaysia.

This MPC3 prayer gathering will culminate in a thanksgiving Prayer and Worship Celebration unto Almighty God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit by an expected combined congregation of approximately 15,000 members of the Malaysian Methodist Family in Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. It will be a time of great joy where the community of faith will sing, worship, pray and proclaim the name of the Lord as the sovereign God of His people called Methodists and of this land.

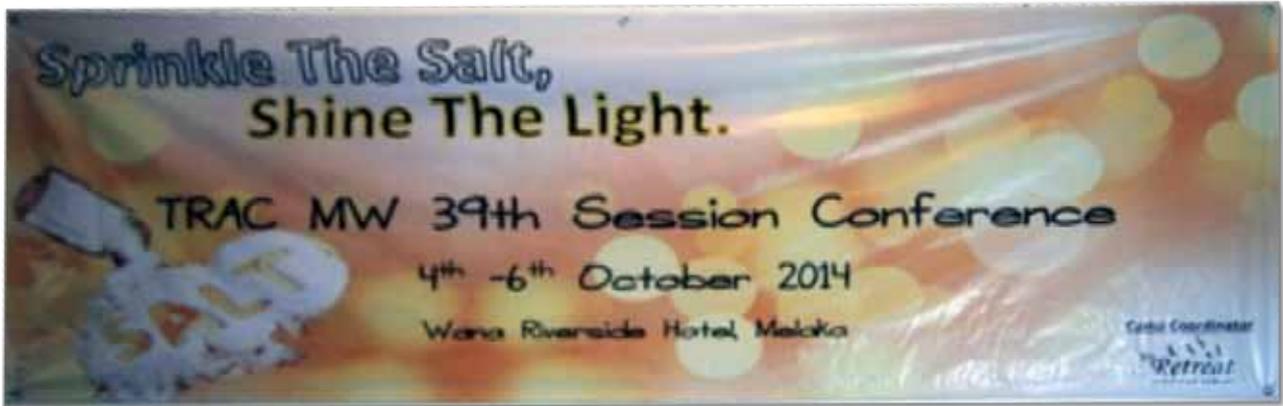
Thereafter, the Methodist Church in Malaysia prays to continue with even greater fervor as “*A Church after God’s Own Heart.*” that is - “*Growing deep and strong inside, Standing with Christ’s Body nationwide, Giving God glory from every side*”.

## TRAC MW 39<sup>th</sup> Session

4th – 6th October 2014 @ Best Western Wana Riverside Hotel, Malacca ...

**Theme: “Sprinkle the Salt, Shine the Light!”**

*By Ivy Tan*



7 of us ladies from Penang drove down to Malacca to attend the 39th TRAC MW Conference. We left a day earlier to break journey in KL. It has been a while since I attended the TRAC MW Conference. Before I begin let me say no visit to Malacca is complete without a visit to Jonker Road/Walk having the famous Chicken Ball Rice which was the “mad” rush we did before the Conference. You can’t imagine people queing for that!!!! It was like the “return of the prodigal daughter” (having not attended any since I did Music Ministry Missions in India), seeing many familiar faces who warmly welcomed me, meeting and making new friends for the next few days.

Amongst the familiar faces were Lauren Ong from S’pore (President East Asia Area World Federation Methodist & Unity Women), Alice Jawan from Sarawak (President GCMW), Roslind Yong (President), Irene Khoo (Past President & Exco), Muan Tee my partner & room mate at GCMW Conference in Kuching, Sarawak sometime back – we were aka the long & short of it! Su, Bernice and Loo Ee and many other Excos and familiar long time old friends. List is too long to mention. In my heart you know who you were!!!! Thanks ladies. After the “Hellos” & hugs it was a



Wana Riverside Hotel our home for 3 days



Cruising down the river on a Sunday afternoon

quick dash to our rooms to get ready for the Welcome Tea & Opening Worship.



**Mrs Roslind Yong**  
(TRAC MW President)



**Dato Alice Jawan**  
(GCMW President)



**Laureen Ong** (EAA President)



**2014 MW Exco Members with  
TRAC President Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar**



**The long &  
short of it!  
Muan Tee &  
Ivy**

Being a Heritage Town and having Baba Nonya (intermarriage between Malays & Chinese) influence, some of the delights of kueh (local desserts) were there for us to savor during tea breaks. It was everyone's delight. Though a bit different from the Penang style, it was nevertheless good to taste different preparation styles and varieties even though it was familiar and known to us. Maybe the names might be different from what we call, I wonder?

**Day 1:**

The Opening Service was led by Loo Ee Vice President from Kuantan. Sharing of the Sermon was by Alice Jawan, President of GCMW on the theme of the conference. She reminded us we need to put the light in a dark room so it can shine for the Lord. First priority is Unity Program and language should not be a barrier for MW and not to be afraid of challenges ahead /in front of us.

This was followed by Business 1 Session: This was chaired by TRAC MW President Roslind Yong. The usual formality of Introductions & Greetings, Roll call, Appointments of 2 Asst. Recording Secretaries, Credentials Chairperson, Adoption of Conference Agenda went smoothly and some of the reports gone through were adopted and passed.

After a tiring morning of travelling, it was good to have a free evening for dinner and roam the riverside town of Malacca. Weather was fine until we got back, it started pouring and we had to shelter at a supermarket before making back to the hotel. It was quite a walk to the town center to have our meal but it was good exercise and shopping delight at the night market.



**Rev Lenita Tiong**



**Giving their "Full Attention!"**

**Day 2:**

Morning Devotion was on our own – meditation on Sprinkle the Salt and we went for breakfast and then it was Morning Worship Session 1 & 2. Speaker was Rev Lenita Tiong from Sarawak, E. Malaysia. She reminded us that God's grace is sufficient for us, transformation of our mind, pluck up courage and get out of our comfort zone if we are to be light and salt of the world.

Business 2: Chaired by TRAC MW President Roslind Yong Proceeded with remaining reports and discussion on matters and Development Fund. Having done the necessary and formalities, the business session was completed and we had a tea break.

Business 3: Elections – was chaired by TRAC President Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar

The following were elected to office for 2015 -2016:

President	: Mrs Evelyn Lim
Vice President	: Mrs Ng Loo Ee
Secretary	: Mrs Roslind Yong
Treasurer	: Ms Dr Mallise Tong
Co-ordinator Christian Education	: Mrs Bernice Benedict
Co-ordinator Spiritual Life	: Mrs Elizabeth Thevarakam
Co-ordinator Social Concerns	: Mrs Julia Wong
Nominations Chairman	: Mrs Irene Khoo
Nominations Committee	: same as their term has not expired yet.
Counsellors	: Mrs Dorcas Ong Mrs Grace Jeyakumar

**Venue for MW Convention / 40th Conference: Penang**
**Date: October 2015**

This was followed by Acknowledgements to Speakers, Guests to the Conference and helpers.

I must add my happiness in saying - seeing young faces to the Conference ..... I called them the "Young Ones". It was a joy talking to them and fellowshiping with them. There was also sadness in my heart as we currently have

no participation from our sisters in Taiping, Johore, Malacca and Ipoh. I missed seeing them - those familiar, jovial faces. With God's grace & guidance, we hope one day they will be back in our TRAC MW Conference. I was encouraged to see 2 sisters from Alor Star who come all the way from the north to be with us in the Conference and sat down at dinner with them one night to fellowship and guess what???? Shereen is also a music teacher from there. How surprised we both were! But most of all I have to take my hats off to 4 "braves" (spouses) Mr Yong, Mr Benedict, Mr Lim Cheng Hin & 1 more (sorry I forgot the name) for coming to a women's domain where most men fear in threading to be helpers behind the scenes and quietly doing things for us ..... carrying stuffs, taking photographs, making the load lighter. I called them "Associate members"! They were surprised when I wanted to take a photo of them and they asked me why? Now you know why!!! Thank you gentlemen for being there for helping & keeping Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar company whilst he was with us.



"The 4 Braves" useful asset for conference!



The "Young Ones" shouldn't be afraid!

The night session was on Leadership Training led by Mrs Evelyn Lim who did a workshop on a call to Biblical Leadership. She reminded us on Principles behind Innovation, Preparation, Determination in the passages of Nehemiah.

**Day 3:**

Morning Devotion was done in our rooms but we had 2 other sisters to join us as we studied and meditated on the passage of Light of the World. Breakfast followed and we had Final Session of Rev Lenita Tiong’s sharing on being light of the world. Worship was led by KL Wesley. What a joyful, cheerful lot leading us with movements to Praise Him!

There was again the tea break with nice nyona kuehs again.

Closing Service: This was led by TRAC MW President Mrs Roslind Yong. TRAC President Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar’s message was on Missional Opportunities based on passage on **Acts 28: 1 – 31**. He reminded us to reach out to make a difference and to remember: “Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 28:31**.”

Installation of the Exco of TRAC MW 2015/2016 followed by Holy Communion to end the service and the conference. I must add my happiness seeing Iris Wong & another Malacca lady who came for the service. What happiness when I called her and she said she was on the way up that I couldn’t help but tell others. How those of us who were in Exco together could not hide our excitement, hugged and welcomed her. All of us had the same mind ..... hoping one day for the revival of Malacca MW!

Penang people will have to gear up for the next MW Convention & Conference 2015.

Now is the time we must say goodbye till we meet again next year! ... the island in the sun where my people toiled since days begun! See you in PENANG where I know most ladies will enjoy coming with its array of hawker foods, shopping and local products.

Having dinner before the Conference in KL with “old friend” and former church member Chris Mak the Penang MW “Hokkiens” who will welcome you next year! See U 2015!



Installation of TRAC MW Exco 2015



Penang Wesley MW with President-elect Evelyn Lim





**COME** TRAC Pastors' Wives Retreat 2014 **AWAY**

THE BANJARAN  
HOTSPRINGS RETREAT



## SOUL CARE for Pastors' Wives

It was such a privilege for this group of thirteen pastors' wives from different parts of Peninsular Malaysia to be able to lay aside our roles and responsibilities to attend a 3D-2N retreat from June 10-12 2014 at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh.

Caught in the world of busyness, we found that this retreat provided a time to reconnect, recharge and realign our lives with God and fellow soul-mates in Christ.

This was done through a very well planned menu of **spiritual food** by our Spiritual Director. Our spiritual meals came with a nice appetizer (*Three Ingredients for a Healthy Soul... Beauty, Truth and Love*), a nutritious main course (*Soul Care, Soul Work and Soul Talk*) and a nourishing take-home dessert (*Lower Room and Upper Room*).

This was further enriched by a one-day treat at the Banjaran Hotsprings, where we were awed by the beauty of God's handiwork. At the heart of the retreat was the session of silent meditation where we were all soaked in the unique way God spoke to each one of us, in our individual situations and seasons in life!

This retreat will never be complete without the fellowship amongst sisters-in-Christ who have been called to the same role by our Abba Father. Yes, we had lots of fun, laughter and relaxing moments together! And also moments where we paused, shared and listened to one another. The knowledge of being understood and embraced was indeed a gift by itself.

All of us were so blessed and pampered in many ways through such a thoughtful and well-planned retreat -- not to mention the sumptuous meals and gifts that were showered upon us throughout.

We would like to thank all our generous sponsors and well-wishers for such a wonderful and rejuvenating experience. We also thank our spiritual director, Wai Ling, for bringing us back to the importance of soul care in our lives; Grace and her team, for the detailed and thoughtful planning; and also, not forgetting all the 'babysitters' who graciously agreed to take over our children for those few days.

Most of all, we thank our Abba Father for the best gift we have ever received – the assurance of our identity as His precious child. **Yes**, each of us is a child of GOD!

## Personal Reflection On The Retreat

### Cheah Kim Len

The Lord made me lie down in green pastures (well, in this case it was a crystal cave) and led me beside still waters (not cool waters, but a hot spring!); He restored my soul (with the beauty of a group of Rajah Brooke Birdwing butterflies) and led me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake (to the "Upper Room"). I am so blessed!

I remember the Retreat as a time where the five love languages was shared amongst us ladies of different temperaments, backgrounds, and coming from different situations and seasons in life. And yet we came together with a common purpose to have a time away to re-align ourselves with God and renew ties with fellow servants of God.



**Dorcas Ong**

I enjoyed the sessions facilitated by Wai Ling. Thank God for the special time spent with Him and also a fun time with the rest of my sisters in Christ.


**Girlie Wong**

This retreat fulfilled my longing for silent meditation after a hectic working life. It was a time of soul searching ably led by Wai Ling in a conducive environment. It was topped up with the warm fellowship of common-minded ladies. I am grateful to God, the sponsors and all those who make this retreat possible. Thank you.

**Gladys Tan**

If you ever catch me smiling to myself, you can confidently come up to me and say, 'You must be thinking of the 2014 Banjaran Retreat.' Laughing, playing, worshipping, praying, chatting and meditating on God's Word were the ingredients to this wonderful 'spa' experience I had, together with 13 others. Had I not decided to join this pool of ladies, I would not have gained another trustworthy comradeship.

I enjoyed myself. Thank you all! Thank You, Lord! Segala Puji Syukur Hanya Bagi-Mu Tuhan!


**Grace Jeya**

This retreat confirmed my deep desire to journey with God alone and at the same time to have soul-mates and community in order to finish this race strong and well.

**Hu Siew Yi**

Yes, indeed I had good fellowship with both God and fellow pastors' wives. . . . .With God, HE has reminded me to focus on HIM rather than myself. With fellow pastor's wives . . . . .thank you for all the laughter that had been shared.


**Jessica Leow**

Shalom!

Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada team yang telah menganjurkan retreat ini dan kepada semua pihak yang telah menyumbangkan wang untuk menampung kos perbelanjaan semua peserta. Saya sangat diberkati melalui yang lain. Saya juga sangat diberkati melalui lawatan ke Banjaran Hotspring. Selain daripada dapat beristirehat di sana, kami juga telah di bimbing dan diajar cara-cara untuk melakukan Doa senyap.

Tuhan memberkati.

**Ng Kok Moi**

This Retreat is truly a time for the 13 of us to come away, from the busy schedule of life and ministry, to a time of refreshing, reflection as well as a time for bonding and mutual encouragement.

Praise the Lord for His beautiful creation and His wonderful provision.



**Pek Wooi Leng**

I am just thankful and grateful to God for a restful and rejuvenating retreat, which has provided me an avenue to rekindle my relationship with Him as well as reconnecting with my fellow sisters in Christ. Thank you sponsors and to all who have made this retreat possible.

**Rhema Karasu-Rao**

This retreat truly refreshed my soul. Beauty was all around us. The ability to express ourselves through music and song, laughter and tears, art and dance, and both in silence and noise brought liberty to us. The camaraderie among us was nothing short of spectacular! To the organising committee and the sponsors who were ever so gracious and generous, we give thanks to God for each one of you. Thank you for blessing us. In short, this retreat was a **REal TREAT!**

**#HereIAmGod#UpperRoom#YesIAmAChildOfGod#HSCG**



**Shirley Soo**

I want to thank God for this retreat as it has brought me into a company of sisters- in-Christ whose love, support, insights and spiritual maturity are the encouragement which I need in this phase of my life. Being new on this journey, I now have a wonderful and supportive group. Thank you. May God bless you.

**Teh Bee Gaik**

“It has been a treat, especially to behold and enjoy God in the midst of His handiwork -- the greenery, the waters and the caves --and a chance to connect with each other more meaningfully. What seemed to be the tag line during the retreat is “Yes! I am a child of God”. This affirmed my identity in Christ and reminded me that He is my model, the One whom I am to imitate on this journey of life.



**Teh Leng Chee**

At this retreat.....

I wanted a time to rest and relax. God gave a time to rest and relax at the Banjaran.

I wanted to get to know other pastors’ wives. God gave such warm fellowship with other pastors’ wives.

I wanted to hear from God.

God gave 3 specific words from Psalm 46 during our time of quietness.

What else is there to say but “Thank you, Abba Father!”

## My Personal ET Encounter

### Remembering Rev. Elkanah T Suwito, My Pastor And Friend.

*By Ngoh Peng Teck*

The year was 1965 and I, although then a new member, was rather active in the Melaka Wesley MYF. In those days, photostating was not available, not even to speak of doing one's own printing as is common today. Whatever needed to be printed had to be carefully typed on a stencil and cyclostyled on a Gestetner machine. If one is not skilled it can be one big messy job and wasteful of paper. Somehow, I was responsible for the printing needs of the MYF - that's why I sought help of the newly appointed Pastor, Rev. Thé Kim Soei and his wife Hannah. Hannah was particularly proficient with that now extinct printing method, having worked previously in the office of Singapore Wesley Methodist Church.

Thus began a friendship that has endured over the years. As I was often hanging out around the church premises, I was privileged to be welcomed to their home and fellowship. Soon, their household grew with the birth of Aubrey (on my birthday!) and later, Juwita. Over the years, other youths were also befriended and nurtured in the faith by this warm and caring pastor and his wife. His example of humble and loving service had quietly rubbed on us, contributing to some of us following in his steps into the pastoral ministry.

Rev. Thé was a soft-spoken man who had responded in faith when called by God from being a motel owner/manager in Indonesia to become a pastor in Malaysia. In 1967 he was required by Indonesian law to change his name and he chose to become known as Elkanah Tulus Suwito. From 1971 to 1982, he took up the challenge of Bahasa Malaysia Bible translation, working in secondment to the Bible Society of Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei. Even during those 11 years, Rev. Suwito, always a pastor at heart, served as pastor with Johore Baru Wesley and Melaka Wesley on a voluntary basis. After that he was happily back to being full-time pastor again, serving in Grace Sentul and Klang Wesley.

In 1993 he was diagnosed with cancer of the rectum, an affliction which brought him tremendous physical suffering and pain. Through it all, his faith in God was sustained. In a moving testimony entitled 'O Cancer, Where Is Your Sting', he witnessed that "by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I had never, at any time during my illness, felt threatened by the disease.... My faith was in God. My hope was in God. My strength was in God. My life was in God."

On Christmas Day 1994, Catherine and I visited Rev. Suwito at their Brem Park flat in KL. He was very weak, but acknowledged us. After we spoke and prayed with him and Hannah, we left. In the lift going down Catherine told me that she felt a strong impression from God that we should sing to him the hymn 'O Jesus, I have promised'. "Then we should just do that", I said. With that, we went back to the flat. We asked Hannah for a hymnal and together we sang:

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
 Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend:  
 I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
 Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.*

*O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
 That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;  
 And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
 O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

As we sang, he smiled with tear-filled eyes. "That's my favourite hymn", he whispered.

The next day Rev. Suwito went home to be with his Master and Friend, whom he had faithfully followed and served to the very end.



*Partners in life and ministry: Elkanah and Hannah in Melaka Wesley parsonage-cum-office.*

JANUARY			JULY		
01	Thur	Public Holiday – National	04	Sat	Youth Prayer Rally
03		Sat Public Holiday	03-05	Fri-Sun	Discernment Retreat (3-Day) (ICM)
02 - Feb		Jeremiah School	03-10	Fri-Fri	Discernment Retreat (8-Day) (ICM)
05	Mon	School Term Begins	07	Tue	City Day: Penang
09	Fri	BOM Meeting	6-Aug 1		JX – Jeremiah Extension
09	Fri	Executive Board Meeting	10-12	Fri-Sun	Young & Emerging Leaders’ Development: Where Dreams Meet Visions (ICM & Board of Laity Joint Initiative)
10	Sat	Executive Board Meeting			
FEBRUARY			11	Sat	Birthday of the Governor of Penang
01-15		Cont. of Jeremiah School	12	Sun	Social Concern Sunday
02	Mon	Federal Territory Day	18 & 19	Sat & Sun	Public Holiday
03	Tue	Public Holiday	29-Aug 1	Wed-Sat	ICM Public Lectures: Church History Series - Dr John Roxborough
14	Sat	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches	AUGUST		
18	Wed	Ash Wednesday	14-16	Thurs-Sat	BB/GB Consultation
19-20	Thurs-Fri	Chinese New Year	15-16	Fri-Sat	Organizational Leadership Module (OLM) 2
MARCH			18-21	Tue-Fri	Christian Vocation Discernment Retreat (ICM)
04	Wed	Anniversary of Installation of Sultan of Terengganu	27	Thurs	Public Holiday
13-15	Fri-Sun	Spiritual Formation & Leadership (SFL) Weekend	31	Mon	National Day
14 - 22		Mid Term Break	SEPTEMBER		
15-18	Sun-Wed	Youth Prayer Conference	04-06	Fri-Sun	Spiritual Formation Leadership (SFL) Weekend
27-28	Fri-Sat	TRAC Missions Consultation	11-13	Fri-Sun	Joint Board
APRIL			13	Sun	Executive Board Meeting
02	Thurs	Maundy Thursday	16	Wed	Malaysia Day
03	Fri	Good Friday	19 – 27		Mid Term Break
05	Sun	Easter	24	Thurs	Public Holiday
10-12	Fri-Sun	Beginners’ Retreat (ICM)	OCTOBER		
13-16	Mon-Thur	GC Pastors’ School	01-31		Senior Citizens/MSF Month
15	Wed	City Day: Melaka	12	Mon	Birthday of the Yang Di-Pertua of Melaka
17-19	Fri-Sun	BOYW Retreat	15	Thurs	Public Holiday
26	Sun	Birthday of the Sultan of Terengganu	16-18	Fri-Sat	TRAC MW 40th Session
MAY			24	Sat	Birthday of the Sultan of Pahang
01	Fri	Public Holiday	NOVEMBER		
03	Sun	Public Holiday	3-5	Tues-Thur	26th Session, PMSM
07 - Aug 6		The Journey Series	11	Wed	Public Holiday
08	Fri	BOM Meeting	11	Wed	Birthday of the Sultan of Kelantan
09	Sat	Executive Board Meeting	16 –		Year End Break
10	Sun	Mother’s Day	Jan 3, 2016		
14	Thurs	Ascension Day	18	Wed	Johor Public Holiday
15-17	Fri-Sun	Journey Retreat (Part of the Journey Series)	27	Fri	Birthday of the Sultan of Perak
15	Fri	Public Holiday	24 - DEC 1		National Youth Missions
22-23	Fri-Sat	GC Laity Conference	29	Sun	First Sunday in Advent
23 – June 23		Penan UPSR Coaching Mission	DECEMBER		
24	Sun	Aldersgate Day / Pentecost	05-07	Sat-Mon	40th Session TRAC
29-31	Fri-Sun	Teachers & Educators’ Weekend (ICM)	06	Sun	Executive Board Meeting
30 – June 14		Mid-Year Break	09-13	Wed-Sun	YLDP
JUNE			11	Fri	Birthday of the Sultan of Selangor
06	Sat	Birthday of DYMM Agong	11-13	Fri-Sun	Parents /Weekend (YLDP TRACK)
09-13	Tue-Sat	Individually Directed Retreat (5 Day)	24	Thurs	Christmas Eve/ Public Holiday
11-13	Thur-Sat	TRAC Sunday School Superintendents/ Teachers’ Conference (ICM)	25	Fri	Christmas Day
21	Sun	Father’s Day	31	Thurs	Watch-night Covenant Service
18	Thurs	Public Holiday			
20 – July 21		Penan UPSR Coaching Mission			
26-29	Fri-Mon	Experiencing the Reality of God in Daily Life: An Inter-Conference Young Adults Leaders 4 Day Retreat			

# TRAC Pastoral Appointments For The Year 2015

## EASTERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Woo Kit Sang

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

## NORTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Paul Christie

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

## PERAK DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Ashok Amarasingham

Wesley MC Taiping	Rev Joshua Khong, Pastor Rev John Baru, Assistant Pastor
Wesley MC Sitiawan	Rev Victor Leong Chik Seng, Pastor Ps Pangiran Baru, Assistant Pastor
Wesley MC Teluk Intan	Rev Lucy Lee, Pastor
Canning Garden MC	Rev Thomas Chin, Pastor Rev Yu Chiew Song, Associate Pastor Rev Richard Leow, Associate Pastor
Grace MC Ipoh	Rev Elaine Low, Pastor
Wesley MC Ipoh	Rev Peggy Seow, Pastor Ps William Por, Assistant Pastor
Bercham MC	Rev Lim Chaw Leong, Pastor
Wesley Kampar	Ps Gaurri Maniam, Pastor
Living Faith PP	Ps Peter Ong, Pastor

**SELANGOR DISTRICT**

**District Superintendent: Rev Ricky Ho**

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

**FEDERAL TERRITORY DISTRICT**

**District Superintendent: Rev Ting Moy Hong**

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

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**District Superintendent: Rev Joshua Hong**

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

**Special Appointments**

**\* with Bishop's consent**

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

Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur Hosts  
Disciple-Making Conference 2015

# *“A Certain Kind”*

## Intentional Disciplemaking that Redefines Success in Ministry

The compelling question of disciplemaking is not merely:  
“Are we making disciples?”

Rather, the compelling question is: “What kind of disciples does God call us to  
reproduce?” and, more importantly, “What kind of disciples are we?”

*~ Rev. Edmund Chan*

The greatest need of the Church today is to raise up spiritually qualified leaders who are committed to establish strong intentional disciple-making churches (IDMC) that will last. There is a movement of God for such discipleship in many parts of the world. A CERTAIN KIND is a vital discipleship training for all leaders who desire to return the Church to her disciple-making roots through authentic discipleship and intentional disciplemaking. It covers key paradigms and cutting-edge disciplemaking principles learned from Rev. Edmund Chan and implemented by his leadership team in Covenant EFC.

### **WHO CONFERENCE IS FOR**

For EVERYONE who wants to grow or help others grow to be a disciple of Jesus! That means YOU, your Small Group members, your church leaders, your church pastors. Come as a team!

### **CONFERENCE TOPICS**

Opening Session: Joshua 3: “Crossing the Uncrossable”

Session 1: See the Critical Need

Session 2: Understand the Biblical Strategy

Session 3: Determine the End Product

Session 4: Accomplish the Mission

*Pastor Edmund will also be preaching at the Combined Worship Service on Sunday,  
followed by a Q&A session.*





## Rev. Edmund Chan

After stepping down as Senior Pastor of Covenant Evangelical Free Church in 2012, Rev. Edmund Chan remains on staff as Leadership Mentor, while giving leadership to the Global Alliance movement.

He continues to mentor top-level leaders within Singapore and beyond. These include CEOs, senior pastores, denominational leaders, theological educators as well as national and regional directors of para-church organisations. Rev. Edmund completed his two-year Masters degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (USA) in less than nine months and graduated summa cum laude. He had authored several books, including Growing Deep In God, Growing Deep In Faith, Cultivating Your Inner Life, A Certain Kind and Radical Discipleship.

He is married to Ann and they have two lovely daughters, Amanda and Belicia.



### A CERTAIN KIND

#### CONFERENCE TIMES:

13 Feb 2015 | Friday | 8:00PM – 9.30PM  
14 Feb 2015 | Saturday | 10.00AM – 5.00PM  
15 Feb 2015 | Sunday | 9.00AM – 12.30PM

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Reg. Type	Due Date	Fee/pax
Early Bird	By 14 Dec 2014	RM35
Normal	15 Dec 2014 - 25 Jan 2015	RM45
Late	26 Jan 2015 - 12 Feb 2015	RM60
Walk-in	13 - 14 Feb 2015	RM65

**Full-time Student Rate:**  
50% discount off Normal registration fee

For registration/enquiries, please call the Church Office,  
**03-2072 0338/9** or email to **wmckl@klwesley.org**.

