

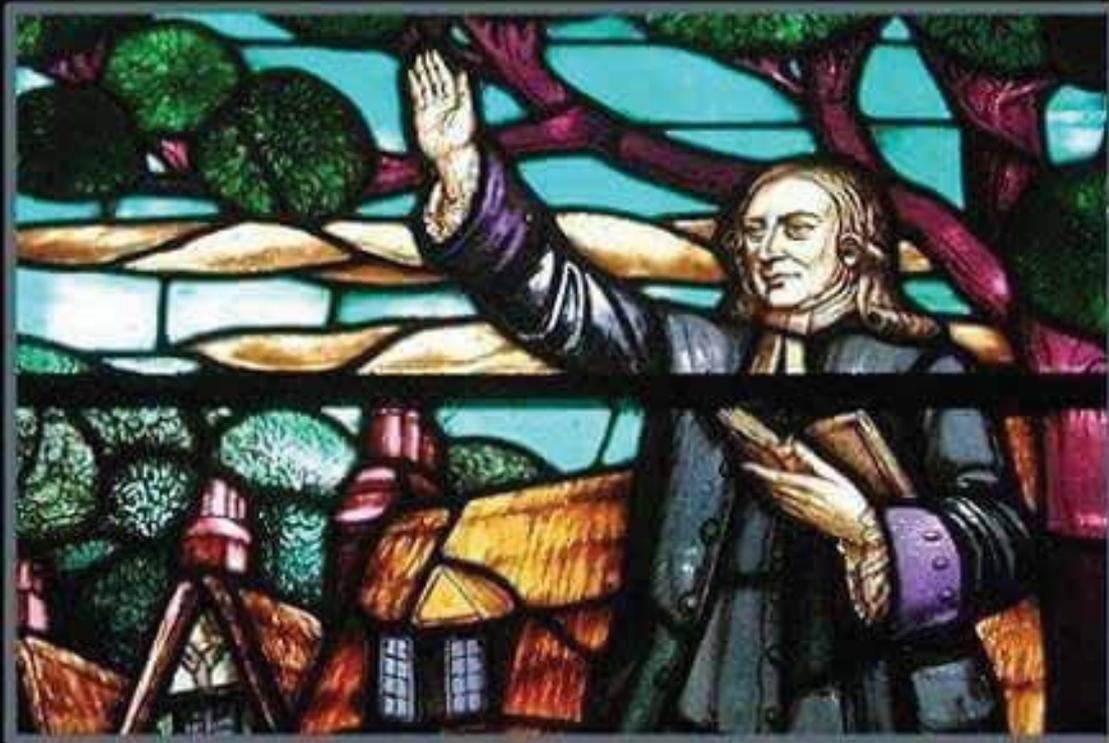
B E R I T A TRAC



2018 • Issue No. 1

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

Berita TRAC is a newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. 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
website: www.trac.org.my



“I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them, 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy: 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against: And, 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.”

— John Wesley, October 6, 1774

Methodist Education Foundation Charity
Golf Tournament held on 17th May, 2018
at Sungai Long Golf & Country Club
with 88 golfers.

Organising Chairman: Mr Albert Quah



Champion 2018
Dennis Chan



2nd Place
Rosie Choi



3rd Place
Lee Chok Khai



Rev. Paul Christie

The Prayer Connection

(James 5:13-16)

In the past two decades, there has been a strong united effort to come together, as God's people, to pray fervently and consistently for the church and for the nation. Charles Spurgeon was quoted to have said these grand words, "Whenever God determines to do a great work, He first sets His people to pray." Hudson Taylor, in preparation for mission to China said, "When I get out to China, I shall have no claim on any one for anything; my only claim will be on God. How important, therefore, to learn before leaving England to move man, through God, by prayer alone."

When we read the Epistle of James, it reveals that one is strengthened through prayer even in times of severe trials and suffering. The letter begins with these assuring words: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (Jas 1:2-4) Then the letter continues with the same theme: "Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." (Jas 5:10-11) James is urging the church to be faithful to the Lord in the midst of persecution. They are to be patient and persevere in all kinds of trials, sufferings and pain.

There are some principles that we can learn from the Epistle of James in 5:13-16 to strengthen our prayer life and connection with one another through prayer.

1. We Should Make Prayer Our Main Response to Everything (v.13)

James makes a strong point that we should pray in every given situation, such as the suffering caused by evil treatment or severe persecution - "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray." We should pray for the sick and dying. We should pray for those who are going through various crisis. We should pray for those who suffer the consequences for what they have not done. The antidote is to seek God's comfort and spiritual strength to endure such trials and sufferings - through prayer.

Timothy Keller in his book on "Prayer", profoundly wrote that "Prayer is both conversation and encounter with God... We must know the awe of praising his glory, the intimacy of finding his grace, and the struggle of asking his help, all of which can lead us to know the spiritual reality of his presence. Prayer, then is both awe and intimacy, struggle and reality."

We are to pray for everything, and about everything. Everything about us - family, health, finance, work, friends, and nation - is important to God. So, we need to make prayer our main response to everything in life.

2. We Need to Pray Together for Others in His Name (v. 14-16a)

James said, “Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.” We notice that the person, who was sick or weak in the faith (spiritually weak) because of difficulties or persecution, is the one who called the elders of the church to pray for him. The elders anointed that person with “oil.” Oil is one of the best known ancient medicines at that time. But, what James meant is this - the “oil” refers to the physical action (like rubbing the oil) that stimulates, encourages, massages your spirit, warms your heart, and provides strength in your weakness. It has symbolic significance - an outward sign that the sick person is being set apart for God’s special attention and care. The anointing during prayer is done ‘in the name of the Lord.’ Not in any other name.

In prayer connection with one another in the community, the sick or the spiritually weak person calls for the leaders to pray over his or her condition. This is done with great care, with comfort and strength, and ‘in the name of the Lord.’ The prayer of faith in His name will restore, deliver, and rescue the weary. It is the Lord who will raise that person up, restore and lift that person’s spirit. In prayer connection within the community, there must be mutual honesty, openness and sharing of needs. This will enable believers to uphold one another in prayer. Any form of spiritual struggle, battles with sins and spiritual conflicts with one another need deliverance – through the praying together ‘in the name of the Lord.’

3. We Must Pray Constantly Throughout (v. 16b)

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James is saying that an effective prayer requires the involvement of both - certain individuals and the whole community of believers. We have read or heard of testimonies of communities of people who had come together in prayer for a specific cause. Then revival and renewal occurred before their eyes.

We must be reminded always that God is the One who brings revival and renewal to display His glory. In the book of Acts (1:12-2:4), while the disciples waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they were praying together with others. The church in Antioch experienced a prolonged season of worship,

prayer and fasting which led to this most significant vision – the mission to the Gentiles (Acts 13:1-3). Therefore, we must learn to depend on God, take time to read His Word to know His sovereign will, pray daily, and allow ourselves to be accountable to one another in the community of faith. And be involved in prayer together.

The urgent clarion call in this century is for all Christians to read and study the Bible, to pray together constantly, and to share the gospel. John Sung was the greatest evangelist and revivalist in China in the first half of the 20th century. Shortly, before his death in 1944, wrote to the churches in China and Southeast Asia: “Before the Father works a great revival, He must give us a deep thirst.... The sweetness of prayer in the Spirit transcends every other sweetness. Those who have tasted this sweetness naturally have no desire for the cinema, mahjong, gossip, novels, gambling. If one hundred of the Preaching Bands of Nanyang will attain to that sweetness of praying, they will win the whole of Nanyang to Christ...If every Church has such a Praying Band it will more than revive that Church.” If we want to see God’s glory in Malaysia, this is surely a challenge that we Christians cannot avoid today.

When we see the many critical happenings in our land, we are genuinely concerned about the well-being of our nation and the future of our children. The urgent thing that we need to do is to pray for our nation, our Rulers, our newly elected Prime Minister, the new Cabinet, the new State Governments, the judiciary, the economy, the electoral process, the police and armed forces, and the Church.

It is very encouraging to hear that many churches in our Conference have set aside time to come together to pray for our nation recently. So, we continue to make prayer our main response to everything.

I believe that God is able to make every situation work out for His glory and for our good. That is the power of prayer. I will end with these words of Samuel Chadwick, the Methodist preacher who said, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but Satan trembles when we pray.”

i. J. Hudson Taylor, *A Retrospect*, 3rd ed. (Toronto: China Inland Mission, n.d.), 13
 ii. Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God* (New York: Dutton, 2014), 5
 iii. For a detailed information, please refer to Douglas J. Moo, *The Letter of James* (Leicester: Apollon, 2000), 236-242; Or, Douglas J. Moo, *James* (Leicester: IVP, 1985), 176-181.
 iv. Timothy Tow, *John Sung my Teacher* (Singapore, Christian Life Publishers, 1985), 241-242
 v. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Chadwick

Dedication Service of Trinity Living Stream

By Andrew Wong



The 18th of March 2018

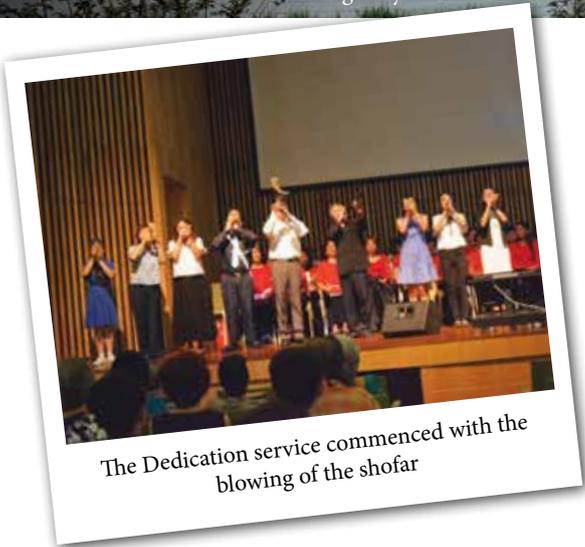
Dedication service held at 5pm in the new Sanctuary that can accommodate almost 800 worshippers.

Led by Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik and President of the Trinity Annual Conference, Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar, the service was witnessed by the District Superintendent of Central District 2 Rev Ashok Amarasingam.

Members and guest moved to Trinity Living Stream's new Podium Garden to a nine-course sit-down dinner attended by almost 700 people.

To God be the glory.

Trinity Living Stream is a three-and-a-half level extension of TMC PJ with about 60,000sq ft of space.



Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik and Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar consecrating the baptismal font and the Sanctuary Table.



The worship team leading the congregation to sing a new song unto our Lord: An original composition entitled 'A New Thing'.



The combined Sanctuary choir comprising the Church choir and children from the Trinity Methodist Kindergarten.



Bishop Dr Ong and Rev Jeyakumar unveiling the plaque dedicating Trinity Living Stream to the glory of God.



The fellowship dinner that followed the service took place on the Upper Ground floor of the building

Bringing Hope and Sharing Christ's Love to flood victims



On 5 Nov 2017, Penang experienced the worst deluge in living memory after a 15-hour storm which is equivalent to 1.5 months rainfall hit 80% of the state with typhoon-like winds and incessant downpour. Houses were filled with muddy brown water and water levels reached rooftop in some places, among the affected areas were Georgetown, Air Itam, Bayan Baru, Bayan Lepas, Sebarang Perai, Bukit Mertajam and many more.



The churches in Penang had the burden to do something about the crisis; so they joined efforts and sprung into action to form a relief party to help the affected residents. Representatives from Jelutong Chinese Methodist Church (JCMC), Penang Wesley Methodist Church (PWMC), Century Garden Baptist Church (CGBC) and CREST (Crisis Relief Services and Training Bhd) convened a meeting to identify the affected locations and immediate needs of the suffering community. As the water receded, there was an urgent need for:

- 1) House cleaning
- 2) Garbage disposal
- 3) Electrical wiring/repair/voucher to purchase electrical goods. Churches came together providing the man power; CREST provided cleaning tools, jet sprays, boots and gloves, and shared their expertise to conduct a 4-day relief operation.



On day 1 - 6, three teams were deployed with 43 volunteers to Zoo Road. They cleaned 15 houses and disposed away 23 tons of garbage. On day 2 - 7, Manjong Chinese Methodist Church sent 14 volunteers to carry out cleaning work at





Zoo Road. This effort was later complemented by Trinity Methodist Church, EPCC Penang, Hiesteam, FGA-KL, Subang Jaya Wesley Methodist Church and few local churches making a total of 80 men and women volunteers cleaning houses and disposing 20 tons of garbage. Hiesteam deployed a team to continue working on Charis Home at Bayan Lepas. They also established a base at Bukit Mertajam Methodist Church to reach out to the affected residents there. On day 3, two batches of 50 volunteers were sent to resume cleaning work at Zoo Road which was finally completed on day 4. The four-day operation saw a total of 173 volunteers disposing up to 100 tons of garbage.



Similar work on the mainland was also carried out on 10th and 11th day with 34 volunteers from Kajang Methodist Church, Damansara Utama Methodist Church, Mega Subang Methodist Church and local churches. On that same day, President of TRAC, Rev Dr T Jeyakumar made his way to Bukit Mertajam to help. They worked at Tingkat Binjai, Taman Sri Rambai. Besides cleaning, they helped to dispose 30 tons of garbage. The garbage disposal is very important to keep the environment clean to prevent secondary disaster like an epidemic.



We praise God that in the midst of this crisis, He led many Christian brothers and sisters regardless of church, denomination or language to come together under one common aim: to love our needy and suffering neighbors with the love of Christ in a practical way.

TRAC donation of RM100K towards the purchase of GBM HQ



TRAC Participants at Prayer United Retreat in Penang (23-25 January 2018)



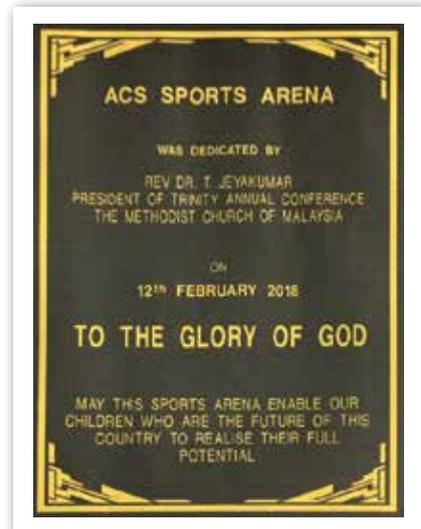
Renovated and rededicated on 25 March 2018. Subang Methodist Church



CCM Meeting with Suhakam 14th December 2017 at CCM Ecumenical Centre



Dedication of ARENA SUKAN in ACPS Sitiawan (12 Feb 2018)



**“He who opens
a school door,
closes a prison.”**

Victor Hugo, French Poet.



The launch of the 19th MSF Chapter in WMC Butterworth



The World Interfaith Harmony Week held at Putrajaya (27 February 2018)



Easter Sunrise Service

- combined service on Easter April 1, 2018 with Wesley KL, CMC KL, TAC KL, Korean Methodist KL. 6.45am svc.
Preacher - President TRAC.



Jeremiah School Graduation, 11 Feb 2018 in Wesley Methodist Church, Sitiawan



This was my first year serving in Jeremiah School as the National Youth Director. It has been nothing short of an amazing journey with these 21-youths across the Methodist Church. It has been said “Absence makes the heart grow fonder”, I could not agree more as I penned my thoughts. Jeremiah School (JS), is a 6 weeks school formulated for youths after form five an avenue and opportunity to discover God on a deeper level, and to experience Him more personally. My many thanks to all the facilitators and mentors who has made this year’s JS possible, and for the many wisdom they have imparted to the students.

Some came with an eager expectation of God, some came with many questions and doubts in their mind, and some came not knowing why. Yet in all these, God has His purposes for them; as I witnessed the beginning

of the transformation of their hearts and minds– truly it is just the beginning. There was a genuineness in them to want to love and serve God more intimately, and this was seen in how they treated one another, and in how they broke out of their comfort zone to serve the different churches on weekends.

My heart is encouraged, and my spirit is lifted. As much as they were impacted by through these 6 weeks, so was my heart challenged. My humbly prayer is that they will continue to persevere in their faith, holding on to the promises of God as they weather through the stormy seasons of their lives. So that, through their lives, many will see the hope they have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James Ong (NYD)

During the session on “Dealing with Conflict”, I learn that life is not without conflicts and that we need to learn how to deal with it when it comes. I also learn how to approach someone who has offended me by speaking the truth in love. This has been very helpful in my struggle with anger.

Say Sian Jong, CAC

I could experience the peace and love of God more. Whenever I am angry I would pray and I can feel His presence, comforting me, giving me peace. This has helped me to be more self-controlled, learning to be slow to anger towards others.

Rachel, TRAC

I’ve learned to think before I speak in different circumstances. I’ve kept many things I’ve wanted to say in anger, because I realised how damaging it would be to our community if I had spoken without thinking.

Lim Faye, TRAC

These six weeks has helped me to grow closer to God and to experience His presence. As a result, I experience joy especially when I spend time with God. I want to continue this walk with God and also to share this love I found with my friends.

Joshua Eudes, TRAC

The biggest change that I experience in JS is that I learn to care and love more now than before. I love God more now, and as a result, my relationship with God has grown deeper. I use to do devotion for the sake of doing, and thought that God will only answer if He has the time. Quiet retreat with God proved me wrong, as I find myself spending intimate time with God. I could pour my heart out to Him freely, telling Him all my struggles, worries, and my doubts. Now I know and understand why I can call God “Abba Father”, and this results in peace in my heart that I had never felt before.

Felicia Chong, CAC

One thing that impacted me most throughout JS was the silent retreat, that takes place every Wednesdays. Being an active extroverted person, it was difficult for me to be quiet before God. But, through this, I’ve learned to be still before Him and to be patience in waiting on the Lord. To be able to experience His presence and hear Him speak to me has been life-giving.

Jeremy Anggat, TRAC

Prior to JS, I was someone who did not have the fear of God in me. However, after coming to JS, I started to have the fear of God in me. Because as I spend time with God – reading and praying – I began to know more of God, His love, and His promise. This has effect a change in me, in how I love my parents and to be less judgmental towards others.

Shayla Madhuru, TRAC

Through JS, I learned how to be still and wait upon God, to learn to listen to what God wants to tell me, and to not rush in my spending time with Him. JS has also thought me what it means to be Christ-like, strengthening my faith and deepening my relationship with God.

Tan Xue Chin, TRAC

The most amazing part of the different sessions was learning “Inductive Bible Study” taught by Michael William.

David Foong, TRAC

I have no regrets coming to Jeremiah School, because JS has helped me understand God on a deeper level and has equipped me with spiritual disciplines for the future. Furthermore, I am sure of my redemption and a forgiven for my sins because of the love of God I had experienced.

Mark Chieng, TRAC

JS has trained me to be more spiritually discipline. From waking up at 6am to spend time with God, reading the Bible and praying, to fasting from meals during quiet retreats has transformed me and help me put my trust in God. I learned that I should submit all my anxieties and cares to God as written in 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.” God is my Jehovah Jireh, who provides and supplies all my daily needs. Therefore, I want to continue to put into practice the spiritual disciplines so to grow to be more Christ-like – to be salt and light.

Matthew Chieng, TRAC

Combined TRAC Malaysia & Singapore
Pastors' School 2018





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Emmanuel Golden Years Retirement Residences in Malacca & Klang Valley



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7 JULY 2018 : 10 AM-3PM
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PETALING JAYA



Food Galore:
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Go Green with plants,
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IN AID OF PROJECTS FOR THE NEEDY UNDER THE
MISSIONS & OUTREACH FUND

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35