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Wesleyan Community Methodist Church  
Petaling Jaya (WCMC) Constitution Service  
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**Rev. Joshua Khong**  
TRAC Bishop

## Eastertide 2021

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Easter for Christians is not just one day. It is a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

The seven week extends from, sunset Easter Eve through to Pentecost Sunday, is a festive season marked by three specific events:

1. the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
2. Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven
3. the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.

The purpose of the 50-day Easter season is for faith formation, as Lent is a season for new converts to learn about their Christian faith, preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday.

Eastertide is both a season of joy and a season of preparation. Jesus' disciples waited in Jerusalem for power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1). They purposed and desired to make room in their hearts for the indwelling Holy Spirit. So, it is for us also to make room in our hearts for the indwelling Holy Spirit, and in the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, a people reconciled to God.

Eastertide is the season where we rejoice and experience what it means when we say, "Christ is risen". It is the season when we remember our baptisms and how, through this sacrament, we are "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As Easter people, faithful disciples of Christ, we celebrate and give thanks to God for the birth of the Church, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost).

Many churches use Eastertide as a time to teach the theology of the sacraments and help people discern their spiritual gifts and callings. Pentecost Sunday recalls the events of Acts 2. After Jesus

ascended into heaven, the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem in order to “receive power from on high”. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together. Suddenly a wind rushed through the place and what looked like tongues of fire spread to each person, and miraculously they began to speak in the diverse languages of the pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and Peter who had denied knowing Jesus at the time of His arrest, delivered the first sermon to which over 3,000 people responded. Easter was fulfilled. The power that raised Jesus from the dead, is upon God’s people, and the Church was born.

We praise God for Board of Worship & Music’s Lent Devotional, uniting us in oneness, as we journey through Lent, together. It was printed in English & BM, and the PDF version in English, BM & Mandarin. This year, BWAM’s Lent Devotional is made available in audio with the help of brothers and sisters in Trinity Methodist Church, Penang.

It is our Methodist tradition to observe Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, in preparation for welcoming and celebrating Easter Sunday. This is the second year, many of our worship services are held online. I prepared a 3-part sermon series for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, we looked at the meaning of being a servant of God. The word servant is rarely used in churches today. We substitute it with servant-leaders, or servant-leadership. The Old Testament speaks of the Messiah as servant, and Jesus Christ describes Himself as a servant. God’s servant has no agenda of his/her own, as Christ shows us. For Good Friday, we retraced the events that unfolded, from Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of

Gethsemane to the final moment at the cross; the great price that Jesus paid, and the horrendous sufferings He endured. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5: 19). For Easter Sunday we looked at the powerful encounters of the risen Christ with Mary, Thomas and Peter.

Mary was the first to meet the risen Lord Jesus Christ, the first to receive the command to bear witness and to testify of Jesus’ Resurrection. Thomas, commonly known as doubting Thomas, was a brave apostle. He travelled to the Indian subcontinent, thousands of miles away, to preach the good news of the risen Christ. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and the apostle who put his finger into the nail-marks of his Lord & Saviour, became a polished vessel in God’s hand.

Lastly, the powerful and life-changing encounter of Peter with his beloved Lord and Master. Jesus made a fire, grilled fish for breakfast and invited Peter to join Him, as friend with friend. They had breakfast, engaged in deep conversation and Jesus restored Peter and sent Him forth to be God’s servant. In John 21:21, Peter asked Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” In Jesus’ reply, Peter learned the true meaning of being God’s servant...total obedience, no agenda of his own.

Brothers and sisters, I wish you and your loved ones, a blessed Eastertide. May we continue to grow in the fullness of Christ, for Eastertide is the season for faith formation. We are servants of God, sent forth in His authority to bring the good news of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, to the world, and to proclaim to men and women, young and old, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. God bless you.

# Ordination Service 2nd January 2021, CGMC Ipoh

*By Rev. Ashok Amarasingham  
BOM Chairman*



We praise and thank God for the ordination of these faithful obedient servants and the installation of the new TRAC Bishop; Rev. Joshua Khong (Bishop of TRAC), Rev. Lester Lim (Elder), Rev. William Kwong (Deacon), Rev. Wong Chun Mun (Local Deacon) and Rev. Jonathan Chan (Local Deacon), on the 2nd January 2021 at Canning Garden Methodist Church. God was gracious in allowing TRAC pastors and leaders free movement from all over West Malaysia for this event before many states came under the MCO in mid January 2021. Also present were Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar who presided over the installation on the new TRAC Bishop as well as Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung.

These are home-grown pastors whom God has raised up in our churches. Rev. Joshua Khong grew up in WMC Kuantan. Rev. Lester Lim is from WMC JB, Rev. William Kwong grew up in WMC KL, Rev. Wong Chun Mun is a pioneering member of GMC Ipoh and Rev. Jonathan Chan a home-grown BB boy and member of WMC KL.

It was a hybrid Ordination Service, as many of us were not able to attend the Ordination Service because of the CMCO and RMCO in various parts of Malaysia and other reasons.

Let us continue to uphold these our brothers whom God had called, anointed and sent forth to serve God and His Church.



# Family Discipleship

*(A report from the TRAC Family Discipleship Task Force)*

*By Lim Chong Ho, TRAC Lay Leader*

The TRAC Executive Board in its meeting on 9th January 2021, set up the Family Discipleship Task Force, with members from the Board of Laity, Board of Christian Education, Family Ministry, Board of Christian Education, Methodist Women and the Board of Music and Worship, in line with the recommendation of the General Conference Council Of Laity to promote Family Discipleship to Local Congregations through the respective Annual Conferences.

The preamble in the handbook on Family Intergenerational Discipleship states “God created two institutions to build His Kingdom and advance His Gospel - the church and the family. God has also established distinctive jurisdictional responsibilities for both institutions to be engaged in the Great Commission.”

It goes on to say “... our churches today are having less and less impact in the lives of its members. Many have been adopting the world’s life values as they feel that the Scripture is only selectively relevant to their lives. **Many Christian families don’t realize their power and influence.** We are losing our next generation. We have been attempting to provide a counterculture with a program-driven jam-packed church calendar with little avail.”

The family is God-ordained and is strategic as discipleship centers. The biblical purpose of parenting is to impress the heart of children with the love of God (Duet 6:5-8). “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children”. This is God’s command not a suggestion. It is not an option and it is non-negotiable. The church must play its role and partner with the family in imparting the faith and values to our children, in a Home-Centered Church Supported Disciple making process.

Scott T Brown asserts that “The church is a family of families. If we never have healthy families, then we will never have healthy churches”. Family is the greatest masterpiece in God’s creation. Marriage and parenting are clearly in the creation plan. Parents are deemed the prime nurturer of the next generation. Family is the God-ordained institution for passing on and building of faith from one generation to the next.

We need to realize the seriousness of our inadequate family ministry. It is time to rediscover and revitalize our family ministry. We should no longer champion our own ministry dreams even with all our good intentions without realizing that they have been jeopardizing the very essence of God’s master plan for our family.

Consider this challenge given by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton, who held the office from 1991 to 2002. He said “the Church is just one generation away from extinction. The existence of the country’s centuries-old established Christian order was at severe risk unless more was done to attract young worshippers.” [and in this case our children in the church].

Rev Miles Toulmin, pastor and executive director of Alpha Asia-Pacific, echoed the same thought that “The Church is always one generation away from extinction” .

If we fail to ensure our children are properly taught to stay faithful to the faith, the church may be in danger of extinction by the next generation.

The TRAC Family Discipleship Task Force has started on a series of online meetings. In its deliberation, among other things, it will seek to clarify the vision and relook at Family Discipleship with respect to the Family Ministry, the theology behind Family Discipleship and come out with a working definition of biological and spiritual families. It intends to survey where we are in TRAC with regards to Family Discipleship, looking again at the demographics and the needs and then to suggest a roadmap for implementation with practical action points for the local congregations to follow. The Task Force will also draw up ways to evaluate and get feedback on the programs implemented.

Please pray with the Task Force for unity of heart and for wisdom to do its work that what they come out with will be the will of the Lord to bless His church and the way forward for TRAC in this new quadrennium.

Ref:

1. *Family Intergenerational Discipleship* by COL
2. *The Family after God’s Own Heart* by Dr Wong SG

# “I was not Disobedient to the Vision from Heaven”

*By Servant of the Lord Jesus, Chun Mun, 2021*



## The early days of answering the call of God.

It was twenty-seven years ago, in 1994. As I look back on those sweet and eventful years, I recall this: Sweet, it was a sweet time of intimate fellowship with the Lord! I had a wonderful relationship with the Lord since my conversion, and my love and faith in the Lord grew day by day. I remember that I had been a believer for about three years.

I remember that several of my relatives were even surprised by my zeal and “crazy” preaching of the Gospel, and by the fact that I had quit all my bad habits and stopped following them for the joy of sin. Today, however, I realize my relatives did not react this way for no reason, because before I was converted I was an “idol worshipping super believer” and I was a medium.

Since then, my life has also entered an eventful period. It was a time when my wife, Yuh Ying, and I came to faith in Christ after praying for her for ten years. Since my conversion, I have often had the most conflict and friction in my life and values, which has caused me to delay the call to consider entering full-time ministry.

In 1997, at a special meeting led by a pastor from Hong Kong, I made my first public commitment to God to be used by Him to be a preacher. I remember that he was preaching from the book of Jonah about the prophet Jonah running away from the call in disobedience to God’s command, and at that time I felt like the prophet Jonah in his disobedience, but I did not have the same unyielding courage as the prophet Jonah who would rather die in the ocean. I repeatedly postponed answering God’s call, but I could not resist the repeated urgings of the Holy Spirit and went to the pulpit to rededicate myself to God.

In 2001, the Sixth **World Chinese Evangelistic Conference** was held in Kuala Lumpur. I stood in the crowd at that large-scale Endeavour Evangelistic Conference to receive prayers in response to God’s call to be a full-time worker, and that was the second time I gave myself to the Lord.

By 2008, I had reluctantly tried to do part-time evangelism in the church, but it lasted less than three years before I returned to the business world in the midst of the financial tsunami. At that time, I had taken part of the time to study and complete a diploma program in theology.

A disobedient heart and a vision of God’s calling and giving seemed to fade into a vague and distant memory. Ten years have passed, which I personally call “the dusty decade”; nevertheless, God, just as He did not leave the prophet Jonah alone, did not leave me alone either, but like a loving father, He has been patiently waiting and

leading His children with infinite love.

## Responding to and obeying God’s call

It wasn’t until one noon in 2017 that I unexpectedly received a phone call with a familiar voice asking for an appointment, and the next day at noon I showed up on time at the office of the then president of the TRAC, Rev Dr. T. Jeyakumar, my former pastor in charge, who shared with me in his usual gracious but firm tone about the matters he had received from God in prayer regarding my dedication to full-time ministry, knowing at that moment that it was time for me to submit. This time, my wife and I did not struggle as we did before, and my wife, Yuh Ying, also submitted to God’s will and gave me full support for my decision, for which I am very thankful. Now, we are joyfully offering our best for the kingdom of God as a response to the Lord’s great favour.

## The ordination

I received my ordination as a deacon at the beginning of 2021. I am convinced that this is a reminder to me and to all God’s workers of His commission, as the dear Lord Jesus asked the Apostle Peter three times on the beach, “Do you love me more than these?” This scene stayed with the Apostle Peter for the rest of his life, and he often exhorted young preachers and church leaders to do so in his ministry in the days to come:

**“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1Peter 5:1-4)**

I pray that I will serve our living and great God with reverence and vigilance - that I may testify and glorify Him by giving a good example in my daily life to the flock entrusted to me by the Lord; and continue to preach the gospel of Jesus for the rest of my life, until He calls me to the immortal crown prepared and given for me.

## Final words

Although the process was eventful, by the Lord’s mercy I responded in obedience to the vision from heaven, as if I had heard the apostle Paul say, ‘... **I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven...**’ (Acts 26:19). May every member of the body of Christ called by God be obedient and responsive to God’s call and embark on this blessed path. Amen

## Reverend Jonathan Chan's Testimony

Hi, I'm Jonathan Chan. My life had been radically changed by God beyond my wildest dreams or imagination.

I was born into a Buddhist family and lived strategically between KL and PJ. In a small serene taman called Taman Seputeh. Today it's the nearest taman to Mid Valley, just 5 minutes drive away. There was nothing exciting there before Mid Valley. The only way to get there was by car, public bus or KTM Kommuter. My house overlooked the KTM Kommuter and the primary school boy that I was, I used to look out the window at the empty train station thinking that life is so boring and wonder when this will ever change without much hope in sight. I was bored because on most days, both my parents would be working, while two elder sisters would be in school or tuition while I stayed home in the afternoon with grandma and two pet dogs, with not much to do. "Homework", "house work", "afternoon nap" were all terms that were not in my dictionary at that time.

All this changed when my Dad made a personal appeal for my application to secondary school and gave me an opportunity to study in one of the best schools in KL – The Methodist Boys Secondary School KL (MBSSKL). Within the first week, I found a group of people I wanted to be a part of – The 1st Kuala Lumpur Boys Brigade (BB) Company. The smart uniform, the brass band and the drill squad all drew my attention - I wanted to be part of that. I went home the same day with the membership form and asked my parents for permission to join them that very Saturday at the church next to school, Wesley Methodist Church KL. They were surprised that I was so sure and thought maybe I will give up after a while. So, they told me to try it for a few weeks. So, I went. Week after week, after week. I started showing signs of change in my character. My parents were curious what the BB did that was so effective. They traced it down to values thought through Bible Study. As they investigated, they found the church service as it was the best place to find out more about the values taught at BB Bible Study. Eventually my parents, along with my second sister, Theresa and I were attending church service weekly and by the end of the year, we accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour.

Secondary school came and went. I continued to be part of the BB as an officer well into my university days, taking breaks for exams and assignments now and then to make sure I keep up my grades. I wanted to develop boys with Christian character and to win them to Jesus. In my second year in university, I received news that our Pastor-in-Charge, then Rev. Andrew Tan wanted to meet me plus 3 other friends. We panicked a little. "Did we do something wrong? Why would the pastor want to see us?", we thought. That lunch (which he bought us) turns out to be a pivotal point for me. He spent time asking how we were, showing care and giving guidance on how to find our life path.

Those three questions he asked, which I had since condensed, I still ask myself today for annual evaluation.

My answers then were as follows:

1. What's your passion? Music & being a BB Officer
2. What's your training? Leadership (from BB) & IT (from university degree)
3. Where does No 1 & No 2 meet? Youth Ministry

For me, leadership can apply anywhere. But where would music & IT come together? After about 9 months of searching, praying and talking to older church friends, it occurred to me that music & technology were the 2 things that relate to youths the most. Because I was passionate about developing boys through the BB, full-time youth ministry became a very interesting prospect. So, upon graduation from UTAR with a Bachelor (Hons) of Information System Engineering, I applied to be a full-time youth worker in KL Wesley. My Mom was very supportive and gave me her blessing. My Dad was sceptical and made sure to ask if I would receive a salary for working in church.

He would later remind me once a year in the first 3 years to "think about my future" on how to provide for a future family because what I earned at that time was sufficient for 1 person but not for supporting 2, much less a family - At least that was probably what my Dad thought. In the following years, He stopped reminding me because he saw how God provided for me, for him through me, for a car, my 3 years of dating a godly woman, my wedding; and later, birth of my two boys, 4 years apart. Even till today, He is still providing for me, and I believe He will continue to provide for my needs as my heavenly Father.

After 11 years of full-time ministry in KL Wesley, I felt led to move towards ministering to the family. Because many of the challenges the youths encounter, stem from the family. This is why today I am in pastoral ministry. I believe my calling is to point entire families to Jesus, teach them to follow Him, and His ways. Because He is the only way that leads to a healthy, god fearing and wholesome family. If you are considering full-time ministry in your local church or pastoral ministry, I encourage you to ask God for confirmation in prayer, speak to your spiritual elders in church and your pastor for guidance and confirmation. It's not a matter if you are good enough. Because with our own human abilities, we will definitely fall short. But with God, He will empower you. Often, people think of any full-time ministry role as reserved for those who are "holier" or "closer to God". But the truth is, it is God who calls and chooses us to serve Him in this specific way. If reading stories like mine tugs your heart strings, then perhaps consider confirming it. Just ask God, "God, are you calling me to full-time ministry?" then open your eyes to start a journey with Him. It was never about us being weak or strong, but it has always been about Him bringing His people back into a relationship with Him. My life was once boring. Now I get to partner with God in changing lives (mostly it's Him changing lives and me learning from Him).

The question is, will you partner Him to do it every day?

# My Faith's Journey, Calling and Ordination

*By Rev. Lester Lim*

I was born in Johor Bahru and into a non-Christian family. My father passed away a month after I was born. Thereafter, my mother went to work in Singapore. She entrusted me to the care of my grandaunt and my elder sister was cared for by my great-grandmother before leaving for Singapore. At times, my mother would come back from Singapore to visit us, and she had always taken care of our living expenses.

Coming from a broken family, I became very rebellious as a teenager. I mixed with bad company when I was in secondary school, and as a result, I dropped out of school after my Form 3 PMR exams at the age of 16. For the next four years, I began living a life of depravity and enjoyed partying almost every night. I did the bad stuff that most rebellious teenagers usually do. When I was 20, I realized I could not continue living the way I did and started thinking about the meaning of life. So, I decided on getting a job. My first job was as an inventory assistant and then as a sales consultant in a machinery and hardware company. I worked there for seven years and learned a great deal from it.

I became a Christian in the year 2004 at the age of 22. After the Chinese Lunar New Year that year, I started having strong inclinations and thoughts that I want to believe in Jesus and become a Christian. At that time, I could not understand because I knew no Christians; no one shared the gospel with me; I had never been to church, read the Bible nor any Christian books before this. I only knew about Christianity and Jesus through TV programs where I watched people attending church and Jesus hanging on the cross, and whenever I passed by the Catholic Church (Cathedral of the Sacred Heart) in Johor Bahru, I could see the statue of Jesus erected outside the church. I tried to seek answers to justify why I wanted to believe in Jesus. The only conclusion was, since young, I was very fearful of death, but that fear vanished and was replaced by inner peace in my heart which cannot be described with words whenever I thought of Jesus.

This feeling and inclination to believe in Jesus continued and was getting stronger as time went by.

So, one Thursday in September 2004, I decided to go to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart for Sunday Service, (which was 3 days away), and I wanted to tell the person-in-charge there that I want to become a Christian. During

the 'three-days wait', a cousin I had not met for a long time suddenly visited me. After telling me about the different insurance policies, I shared that I wanted to become a Christian. My cousin then told me that she occasionally attends Wesley Methodist Church Johor Bahru (WMCJB). I was really excited and asked her to bring me to church that coming Sunday. After attending Sunday services for three months and baptism classes at WMCJB, I was baptized and received into church membership on Christmas Day 2004.

I believe and realize that wanting a different way of life at the age of 20 and then believing in Christ two years later was all God's work. He led me into a period of quietening my heart for two years so that I would readily answer His call when the time was right. As **Philippians 2:13** says, *"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*

Not only did God make himself known to me and call me back to Him, He also called me into the pastoral ministry. Looking back, I am convinced that God had been calling me since the day I stepped into WMCJB. I recalled that when I attended the English service that day, I felt strongly that one day I would be like that pastor, standing at the pulpit preaching – although, at the time, I had no idea what was expected of a pastor. Furthermore, at that point, my English was so bad that I did not even understand the sermon! Because of this vision, the desire to be a pastor and to serve God full time remained deeply rooted in my heart over the years. Back then, I did not know whether that desire can come true, and I thought it was impossible because of my educational background, and I did not know how to begin. However, nothing was impossible with God, and He opened a path for me!

In 2009, when WMCJB wanted to hire an administrative assistant, I applied. I shared with the interviewer that my purpose of working in the church was to be a pastor one day, and I hoped the church will support and help me to be equipped for my studies at Seminari Teoloji Malaysia (STM). By God's grace, the church accepted and employed me. To me, this was a milestone in my pastoral journey! That same year in March, I started serving in WMCJB. As I did not complete my high school education, I failed to meet the minimum requirement, I had to wait until I was 30 for admission as a mature

student. Subsequently, the church affirmed my calling into full-time ministry and sent me to STM for my theological training from 2012-2016. This had been my dream for many years after becoming a Christian. Thank God He turned that dream into reality!

From 2014-2016, when I was still studying in STM, I was appointed as a part-time assistant pastor and served in WMCJB. After graduating from STM, I received my appointment as an assistant pastor and served in both WMCJB and Nusajaya Methodist Church from 2017-2019. In 2020, I served as an assistant pastor in Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur. The following year I was subsequently appointed as the pastor of Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan where I am currently serving.

I was ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in 2018 and Elder in Jan 2021. God's calling has two aspects: The "Inward call" and the "Outward Call". The former is the starting point for a person to desire to serve as a pastor; it is a personal touch in the heart. The latter is the church that plays a vital role in evaluating the "inward call". I had the opportunity to confirm my call to serve in the pastoral ministry and the call to be ordained while serving in different churches. Before my ordination, I had doubts about my vocation and calling because of the difficulties, challenges, struggles that I encountered in the ministry, and my inadequacy and weaknesses. However, that was also the period when my calling was being tested and enhanced. During those days of struggles and doubts, as I reflected upon God's call and the gifts and grace, He had given me, and how He was responsible for my calling, these enabled me to persevere and rekindle my dedication to the service of God. In spite of my doubt, the consequent intensification of my calling led me to affirm that I was called and chosen by God to serve in the pastoral ministry and to accept the call to ordination.

Simultaneously, the church community also confirmed my call and the evidence of God's grace through careful examination, that I should serve in the pastoral ministry. Through my ordinations, my vocation was affirmed and recognized by the church.

Being ordained is not just being set apart for the specified ministries of Word, Sacrament and Order, but also a commitment to become a servant of God and the church, to serve like Jesus, whose life is defined by service and



Rev. Lester Lim

servanthood. While I understand its importance, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own..." (Phil. 3:12)

God has been using the pastoral ministry to shape my life. Being a pastor gives me a chance to build up the lives of believers and my own. I thought being a pastor was about bringing benefits to others through my service, but in fact, the most significant recipient is myself. In the process of shepherding others, my life is being 'shepherded' by others and shaped by God to become the kind of person He wants me to be.

I am grateful to God's call in my life which is to receive salvation in Jesus Christ and to serve in the pastoral ministry. And I am also thankful to the many brothers and sisters for their support, encouragement, and guidance over the years.

It was a long journey from the moment I encountered Christ and was ordained a minister. Yet along the way I have experienced God as a living God, and He did many marvellous things in my life. He gave me the call and the vision and faithfully guided me step by step to fulfil the destiny that He gave me. All glory to God!

# Calling to Ministry

*By William Kwong Cheng Ho*

I grew up in a Christian family and I am a second generation Christian in my family. My parents attended Wesley Methodist Church, KL, and brought me to Sunday School and the 1st KL Boys' Brigade. Though I was born into a Christian family, the Sunday School teachers taught that you need a personal acceptance of Christ by yourself into your life. At 12, I was wondering what I am doing with all the church stuff and bible quizzes and religion. It was then that I started searching and asking questions about God, the rituals that are done in church, and the teachings and validity of other religions.

It was a searching process of 2 years and God placed many good people around me. Through the Boys' Brigade, I accepted Jesus into my life at 14. It wasn't an easy process then because there were still many questions left unanswered. But God steadily granted answers day by day and also changed my heart day by day.

I was usually bullied in school and with that, it developed a tendency to fight back in anger and also not forgiving the bullies or others. Though I may be involved and active in many things, it didn't mean anything because I was trying to find things to keep occupied and also do things on my own in my own way. But God changed my life. In terms of character, I learned to love and forgive because God has first loved and forgiven me on the cross.

After completing SAM in Taylors' College, I furthered my studies in the University of Adelaide, Australia and graduated with a degree in Finance and Investments. It was a tough struggle in my university days. In the first 2 years, God broke down my pride and character and humbled me. I battled failure, depression and suicidal thoughts. It was very difficult to go on in faith and it really tested my trust in God. But God placed godly brothers and sisters around me. As I persevered by faith, He restored and molded me to who I am today.

Overseas Christian Fellowship (OCF) played a big part in my university years and it is through those university days that God chiseled me to be who I am today. God placed many godly examples of brothers and sisters in Christ who had guided me and supported me. Upon graduation, through time spent in searching, thinking and in prayer, God pointed me home.

Returning home, I worked in a bank for 3 and half years. It was interesting learning in the corporate world and all its structures and movements. I could have stayed on as it was comfortable and doable, but it was difficult to see myself doing that for the next 30 years. After some while, I decided to change jobs because I was looking for a job that deals more with people. In the midst of changing, I took the opportunity to go for missions for 2 months



straight at Long Lamai, Ulu Baram, Sarawak. It was a step of faith because I had no job waiting for me when I return.

It was a whole year of planning, praying and waiting on God about the mission trip and at the same time seeking advice and researching about full-time ministry in the capacity of a youth worker. Pastor Andrew Tan and Dr. Herbert Tan shared their experiences of their struggles and also God's faithfulness. Many small talks with my parents also helped guide the possible paths and options. One of their advice was to set time markers. Commit 3-5 years to God and when the time marker comes, seek God again. God can say, 'continue on in full-time ministry', and God can also say, 'Thank you for what you gave in this period.'

Upon returning from missions, I applied for jobs to the corporate sector and also to the church as there was a vacancy for a youth worker. I made myself available and asked God to lead the way. It was not an easy decision to make. God showed me the needs and the health of the youth ministry in KL Wesley, including forward envisioning. I then took a step of faith to become a youth worker in KL Wesley. It is not a sudden calling that just came out of nowhere. Growing up in Youth/MYF and Boys' Brigade, I have seen many seniors, peers and juniors leave after form 5. As they leave for university, even more left the church. After returning from university and

entering the working world, well, the situation isn't looking too good even till today.

My passion has always been for the youth ministry and the worship and music ministry. Being heavily influenced from OCF, I realize that many individuals' life-defining moments were during their time as youths. There is a burden for the youths that they may know God more and have their lives changed through Him. Seeing lives changed and youths having the help and support that they need in important times are some of the things that makes me smile.

At KL Wesley, it was a steep learning curve as I learned to lead the youth ministry and build its foundations. Preaching, teaching, counselling, events management were things that I had to quickly learn. I was very blessed to learn from many good church leaders and also learn from some difficult moments dealing with difficult and discouraging leaders. There are the joys of seeing youths grow in their faith and have their lives transformed, and then become leaders and mentors for the youths, and serving faithfully in church. I am proud of them as they continue God's good work. There are also the sad moments where the youths went to another church, or leave the faith and church.

While working as a youth worker, I studied and completed the Masters in Christian Studies part time at STM. After 7 years as a youth worker, I decided to continue on in full time ministry. KL Wesley was so generous and gracious to fully fund and provide for all my fees and living expenses for both part-time and full-time studies and I am very grateful to them. At STM, I was exposed to the various areas of ministries and specialized fields through the STM Field Education practical. I had the privilege to visit and preach in churches and interned at DUMC for my 2 months practical. In the 2 years, God also helped me to improve in certain biblical areas and to reflect on my past 7 years as a youth worker on the strengths and areas to improve. As much as I'm passionate for youth ministry, mentors at STM also encouraged me to explore pastoral ministry. I have then completed Masters in Divinity in STM from 2017-2018.

With guidance and a step of faith, I joined TRAC in 2019. I served at Faith Methodist Church, Cheras for 2 years, and for 2021, both FMC Cheras and Trinity Methodist Church, Sungai Buloh.

I thank God for His continual faithfulness and guidance.

## I gave Maureen my right kidney

*By Roslind Yong*

My half older sister Maureen lost the use of both her kidneys about 15 years ago after which she started weekly dialysis sessions which was painful and uncomfortable.

After a few years we were considering buying a kidney. Maureen had heard there were countries which sold the organs of prisoners. According to her "she had never considered asking her siblings to give her a kidney as she didn't want to put their lives in danger" but God have other plans.

I was invited to a prayer meeting for a young boy in Subang who received a kidney from his mother, and it was there that I was moved (I am sure its God). There was a certain peace of God surrounding me when the mother showed me the scar from the surgery around her body.

After getting the details about the surgery and learning about the risks involved, I got the consent of my family to propose a kidney transplant to Maureen. She was shocked by my decision but am at peace with it.

After about a year of medical tests in University Hospital, doctors agreed to conduct the transplant. My siblings and I went for a vacation to Bali as we wanted to be together for a few days, not knowing what the outcome of the transplant might be. It was both a happy and anxious time for everyone.

There were many prayer groups praying for me in church. Even a prayer chain was rostered before and after the operation.

The operation lasted nine hours. It was carried out simultaneously. She was in the ICU for a few days, during which I was already up and about. The bond I had with Maureen probably due to the sharing of kidneys cannot be expressed. I loved Maureen dearly and I give thanks to God and also her for this opportunity to give her a good 12 years during which she continue to bless many others.

Maureen left us to be with our Father in heaven last December from cancer .



# Wesleyan Community Methodist Church Petaling Jaya (WCMC) Constitution Service



Wesleyan Community Methodist Church Petaling Jaya (WCMC) was constituted on 10th January 2021 at 11am at WCMC premise (No.15, Jalan 21/37, Taman SEA, 46300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan). It was indeed a highly anticipated event for both WCMC and TRAC community.

19 people gathered for the service due to the SOP for CMCO.

Rev. Joshua Khong, TRAC Bishop presided over the Constituting Service with Rev. Paul Christie, TRAC Central District 2 Superintendent, and Rev. Thomas Chin, Pastor in-Charge of WCMC. In attendance too are Mr Lim Chong Ho, TRAC Conference Lay Leader, Mr. Loi Kim Shung, CD2 District Lay Leader and Mrs Viji Lee, EMC Lay Leader.

42 members were accepted and commissioned as the founding members of WCMC. Mr. William Choy, Mr. Tony Chua, Puan Sri Loy nee Ling Mah Lee, Ms. Victoria Wong Tsaie Ling and Mr. Tan Juat Khian were elected as Elective Stewards of the newly constituted church. A Local Conference was convened after the service to elect the church office-bearers for 2021.

Bishop Joshua Khong spoke God's word from 1 Peter 5: 2-4, entitled, "Not because we must, but because we are willing" as WCMC began a new chapter to be a church under the Great Shepherd in the task of God's vision to make disciples of all nations.

**From Mr William Choy Mun Wing, Lay Leader:**

The Constituting Service on 9 January 2021 is a milestone in the life and journey of a group of believers called The

Wesleyan Community. For 19 years the group has moved from place to place to worship The Lord. In 2020 God in His faithfulness blessed us with our own Church building. At the end of the same year we accepted the invitation to join the Methodist Family. The Constituting Service was an act of reconciliation and a start of a new chapter in the life of the community. All Glory be to God.

**From Mr Tony Chua, LCEC Chairman:**

The invitation to join TRAC in the midst of the pandemic made us realize the need to serve our Lord God Almighty as one body in Christ and to remove any differences existing between us.

The constitution service confirms the ultimate reconciliation of God's children serving in different forms and institutions. We also look forward to grow more in Christ and also in numbers that His Name be glorified. It is with a united stand that the Wesleyan Community together with TRAC, will expand God's kingdom. Glory be to God Almighty.

**From Rev Paul Christie, District Superintendent for Central District 2:**

Amid the unprecedented times, the constituting service of the Wesleyan Community Methodist Church is a blessed testimony of God's clear guidance, faithfulness and grace. Thanks be to our sovereign God for His hands upon the service that was witnessed by those attended in-person and those online. It is our sincere prayer that the congregation will be devoted to "hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments, and carry forward the work which Christ has committed to His Church."



## Taman Ujong Methodist Church Celebrates 30 Years

Taman Ujong Methodist Church, affectionately known as TUMC, is 30 years young! TUMC turned 30 as a Local Conference on 14th January 2021 and celebrated the occasion on 4th March, which commemorates the date of the inaugural service held at the then Taman Ujong Outreach Point in 1984. We were privileged to have Bishop Joshua Khong as our preacher for the anniversary service. In his sermon he challenged us to live as Authentic Christians, sharing with us from Colossians 1:3-12.

The service, premiering on the TUMC Worship Facebook page, also incorporated video greetings from many former pastors. This added to the festivities and made it more meaningful.



In the post-service fellowship over Zoom, we were joined by some of our former pastors, namely the Rev and Mrs Hwa Jen and Bishop Joshua and Elaine Khong and their daughters. We also had members who are in other towns and overseas join us, and it made for a merry gathering.

TUMC's Vision is to be a family rooted in Christ with a vibrant relationship with God, self and others and to be a blessing to the community. We continue to be a work-in-progress community in the hands of the Lord, as we continue with worship and ministry in the midst of the pandemic.

The following write up gives us a glimpse of how TUMC came to be and the pastors who served the people.

## Taman Ujong Methodist Church, Seremban: Key Milestones in History

*By P. Sakthivel*

Starting a new outreach was a key discussion point during LCEC meetings under Rev Patrick Yeo and Rev Roland Chan who served as pastors of Wesley Methodist Church Seremban from 1977 to 1982. Planning and scouting for a new place to start this outreach was no easy task. Finally, in 1981, the church managed to secure a two-storey building at Jalan Loop, which was paid off in full on 6th July 1983. Another bungalow lot adjoining the church had been bought earlier by TRAC as the manse for the pastor.

It was not until 4th March 1984, under the leadership of Rev Wong Onn Thau, that the first service at Taman Ujong Outreach Point (TUOP) was held at 1828, Taman Ujong, Jalan Tok Ungku. A total of 112 members from Wesley Seremban gathered here for this service. The continual support of the members of Wesley Seremban was evident as members continued to meet here every week. The desire and hope that TUOP would one day be a local conference was always in the hearts of those who continued to meet here from the start. This became a reality on 14th January 1991 when 42 members from Wesley Seremban transferred their membership to become members of the newly constituted local conference, now named Taman Ujong Methodist Church (TUMC), under the leadership of Rev Dr Hermen Shastri.

Over the years, TUMC grew in membership, and as time passed, the need to expand the church building saw renovations being carried out in 2009. The church today is the result of the hard work of those who sought God's leading hand to show them a place to start His work in another area of Seremban. TUMC has been blessed with the capable leadership of pastors and members over the past 30 years, through challenges and growth. We believe that we are not here by chance, but rather by God's choosing. As we look into the future, we shall seek God's guiding hand as He continues to lead the church.

### PASTORS OF TUOP/TUMC FROM 1984

1984-1985	Rev Wong Onn Thau
1986-1989	Rev Sonny Rajamoney
1990-1992	Rev Dr Hermen Shastri
1993-1996	Rev Hwa Jen
1997-2000	Rev Hwa Chien
1997	Rev Anthony Loke (Associate Pastor)
2001-2004	Rev Paul George
2002-2003	Ps Joshua Khong (Student Supply Pastor)
2005-2008	Rev Paul Christie
2009-2012	Rev Dr Anthony Loke
2013	[no pastor assigned]
2014-2017	Rev Ronald Yap
2018--	Rev Yong Wai Yin

# Nusajaya Methodist Church 7th Anniversary Celebration

*By Rev Chang Choy Quin, Pastor  
Nusajaya Methodist Church*



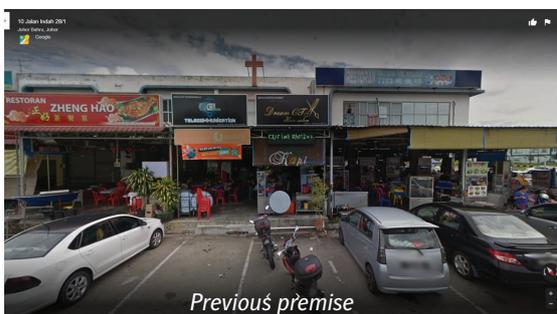
Nusajaya Methodist Church (NMC) had a thanksgiving anniversary service on 6th March 2021 adhering to the Covid-19 pandemic CMCO SOP in Johor. We were glad that we were able to come together as a church physically to give thanks to God for being with us through these seven years. We trust that He will continue to lead us to many more years to build his kingdom here on earth in this community. The church's mission is to reach out and touch lives with Jesus' love. I pray that we will be faithful

to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as we reach out and may His love touch the lives of those who hear the gospel. I pray that we will continue to be faithful to our Almighty God as He has been faithful to us as a church. I thank God for the testimonies of church members who have seen and experienced God journeying with them in their walk with Him in this church. May all be blessed by the Lord.

## Sharing some milestones on NMC's history:

1. A motion of church planting in Johor Bahru Wesley was passed in 2012.
  2. In November 2012, a prayer group was formed, subsequently more members joined in to form a core team.
  3. In Dec 2013, a rental contract was signed with 4A, Jalan Indah 28/1, Taman Bukit Indah 2.
  4. Inaugural service was carried out on 1st Mar 2014.
  5. The vision of "Reaching out, touching lives, with Jesus' love", for the relocated Christians and students from Educuity and residents from the Nusajaya neighbourhood.
  6. Jan 2015, less than a year after the inaugural service, NMC was instituted as a Local Conference with 49 founding members.
  7. A year later, in 2016 NMC purchased its new building at 27, Jalan Horizon Pertama, Taman Horizon Hills.
  8. The new building was handed over in Jan 2018.
  9. Renovation completed in Feb 2019, moving into a new building in Mar 2019.
  10. NMC recently celebrated its 7th Jubilee Anniversary on 6 Mar 2021, 2 years after taking ownership of its own building.
- 2012 - 2021, a very long journey taken by the church planters.

Glory to God for His faithfulness! -- Carol Pan



As I graduated from Penang, and heading back to JB, I was eager to look for a Christian community where I can be in. Thankfully, NMC has a young adult small group - Crossover SG which allows young adults like me to have fellowship with one another and to grow spiritually in Christ. Although Crossover SG is relatively new, we are so blessed with how far we have come since 2019. Despite the pandemic, we continue to meet regularly via Zoom and uphold one another through this difficult period. Hope that Crossover SG can be a beacon of light in this society, reaching to the lost souls around us, leading them to Christ. – **Rueben Tee (Young Adult)**



Core members

I was directed to NMC by my niece Angie. To locate the place, I decided to call NMC and I was greeted by a warm friendly lady’s voice. It was Carol Pan and that was how I landed at NMC in 2016. But it was the ready warm acceptance of newcomers into their different ministries which decided my stay. I felt comfortable praying spontaneously with some of them in their Corporate prayer meet. And in the days that followed, I teamed up with other relatively new comers to join their children ministry, student ministry and English Improvement Program, a new outreach ministry to draw parents and children in. It is truly amazing how God teamed a bunch of strong different “weird” personalities to work in unity for His glory.

Today in 2021, our joy and encouragement, though small, a congregation of approximately 70/80, half of whom are students and children and with limited resources our Almighty God forges ahead with a regular faithful strong 10 prayer intercessors. In addition, two graduating students stay back to work with us in our ministry. Praise God too for raising many to team us in pre-schoolers and children’s ministry. And prayerfully we look ahead for English Improvement Program to resume. All these, to the glory of God.

– **Nancy Ng (Senior)**

### My journey in Nusajaya Methodist Church

Looking back I would have never expected to be in Malaysia for the eight years of my working life commuting daily back and forth from Singapore. Unbeknownst to me it was God who led me to Malaysia during this season of my life. He had his plans for me and my family to the smallest detail even where He wanted me to stay. God had predestined where to stay and who my neighbour would be. Would anyone have thought it was my immediate neighbour who inspired me to start a small group for the church. Today, Shiloh is now one of the church’s active small groups. It was the experience I gained leading Shiloh small group that equipped me to serve as Small Group Coordinator in the Church ministry.

Nusajaya Methodist was not the church I chose to belong to, but it was God’s sovereignty that led me to the church. It was the best decision I have made to be a member of Nusajaya Methodist Church. The community of the church comprising believers of all ages, youths, young adults and seniors gave me a feeling of heavenly peace and divine comfort being with Jesus among his people in his sanctuary. The church immensely brought me ever closer to the Lord’s presence through study of the word and the community spirit of fervent believers. I was once a nominal Christian and it was through the power of the Holy Spirit moving through leaders of the church that empowered my transformation. As an expression of my thankfulness for His grace and mercy I willingly accepted to serve in the church leadership. This year is my sixth year of service in Nusajaya Methodist Church since its inception. – **Edwin Lee**

NMC has been a home in a foreign land for me. Through the Student Ministry, I came to a humble building just around the corner of a row of shop lots. That was when it all started, when I first became a part of this family in Christ and grew in it. That was three and a half years ago.

Since then, living as a Christian has never been the same. I finally found a community where I can grow and mature in my salvation for the glory of Jesus Christ my Lord, and I've come to understand that the message of the Gospel is not to be carried and lived out alone. We, as the Church, need to preach it boldly and teach the word of God faithfully.

This is what we have been striving to do in our Student Ministry – to teach and equip Christians to study and interpret their Bibles correctly, contextually, in light of the Gospel. All Scriptures are to point to Christ (Lk. 24:25-27). Isn't this the grace that even angels long to look into (1 Pet. 10:10-12)?

I have learnt that as the body of Christ, sojourners and exiles on earth, we need to stand firm in the word of God and grant it utmost authority. But how are we going to do that, calling sinners to repentance, facing challenges from without and within, if we don't even know how to read our Bibles? This is all we have, but it is all we need. And it is sufficient (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

This is my testimony: that God has called me out of my sinful way of living, the pleasures and love of the world, to be reconciled with Him. He cleansed me with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, and sanctifies me with His word, through the work of the Holy Spirit. He brought me into the fellowship of the saints that together we may persevere, fixing our eyes on Christ who suffered first. This is the Good News, the power of God that saves wretched sinners (1 Cor. 1:18). It is the only thing that separates us from the world. Insufficient, incompetent and timid that I am, I know that God has called me to labour for the Gospel. And isn't this the calling for each and every one of us?

May this be the passion of our lives as Christians, children of God by the righteousness of Christ, as we await the day of our Saviour, when we will finally be home. – **Airini Yuliati Sanjaya (Student)**



*Small Group meeting*



*Children Ministry*



*Student Ministry*

**FOREWARD**

The covid-19 pandemic Movement Control Order (MCO) which began on 18th March 2020 had evolved, and was implemented in its various forms, CMCO and RMC. For some of our churches this is the second year which we celebrated Easter via online worship services.

We praise God for the following 6 articles journaling the Easter Sunday Service 2021, in the 6 Districts in TRAC churches: CD1: KL Wesley, CD2: DUMC, Perak District: WMC Sitiawan, Eastern District: WMC Kuantan, Northern District: WMC Alor Setar, Southern District: WMC Segamat.

*TRAC Bishop Joshua Khong*

## 2021 Easter Service (April 4th) A Story To Tell

**HE LIVES! HE LIVES, CHRIST JESUS LIVES.**

**Masks, Mysejahtera check-in, temperature check, recording, social distancing** – all the strict SOP had to be followed but it was still Easter and we were all excited. The best attendance since March 2020. A total of **111** attended Easter Service (pre-Covid average attendance was a little over 120). Two SB officers visited and were happy with our compliance to the set SOP. They were also there to make sure we could worship safely.

Church sanctuary could accommodate only 90 with strict SOP and the late comers were content to be in the church hall following the live-stream. SOP limitations didn't and couldn't dampen our desire to worship our Risen Lord on Easter morning.

Easter was celebrated meaningfully. Pre Worship Prayer time (9.20 – 9.55 am) in the hall was well attended. Worship was vibrant and meaningful like previous years – with the banner dancers and the full band. Sermon “A Story to Tell” (Scripture text- John 20: 1 – 18) had us all very focused on The Risen Lord and a reminder that we all have a story to tell.

The only difference from previous years was that we could not have Easter luncheon as one big happy family and of course the fellowship over the meal.

But, **Easter is all about our Risen Lord** and we all celebrated that well. Praise be to God Always.



# Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan Easter Celebration

*By Rev Lester Lim  
Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan*



Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan Easter service

Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan Easter service was conducted in-person and online. 92 people were in attendance that day, which is also the maximum number of worshippers that the church can accommodate by complying with the Covid-19 SOP for in-person service. We watched the pre-recorded Easter sermon entitled "Alive in Christ" based on John 20:24-31, by TRAC Conference Bishop, Rev Joshua Khong. It was a simple and different service than the past under the new normal, but it did not lose its significance. Although many of our brothers and sisters were unable to gather in the church on Easter Sunday, we could still join our hearts to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter and worship and thank the Lord with one heart and one voice from wherever we were through the online Easter service. And our BM ministry had also resumed its service in-person on Easter Sunday, which had been suspended since the beginning of the Movement Control Order (MCO) last March. 26 people were present at the service, which Zoom also broadcasted.

In conjunction with Easter, we had an Easter Connection Project called "Easter Joy for Seniors over 70" from our church's English and Chinese congregations. Many of them have not been able to attend church since the MCO started last year. The pastor and a few members visited them shortly before Easter, a total of 43 families. And we brought them a goodie bag with an Easter letter from the pastor, had a short fellowship with them, and prayed for them, in the hope of bringing them the joy of Easter, encouragement, and cheering them up. SWESS (Wesley Sitiawan Sunday School) also organized an Easter Goodie Bag Project. Because of the pandemic, many of our regular SWESS children were unable to join SWESS online for various reasons, therefore we decided to visit them during this Easter season. Our teachers prepared 80 meaningful gifts and they were given personally by the teachers to the children. The children together with the parents were excited and encouraged by the visits. We thank God for the opportunity to share Easter joy with the community.



BM Easter service



Easter joy for seniors



SWESS Easter goodie bag project

# Lent – Easter 2021 @ WMCKL

*By Rev Andrew Lim  
Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church KL*



The Covid 19 pandemic that has brought about political, economic and social turmoil in the year 2020, has spread its wings into the year 2021. The disruption is also apparent in churches worldwide where church pastors and other full time church workers have had to revamp the way services are conducted to enable their members to attend services online. The government SOPs had to be observed during in-person services. Committee and care group meetings are conducted via Zoom; and virtual choirs have become the new norm.

This year, a special Holy Communion service for the elderly who could not attend services in-person and who had missed even online services for the whole year was conducted on 21st March. After a year's wait, we held the Baptism and Confirmation Services on 27th and 28th of March. Our pastors wore gloves before administering the water on the candidates. It was meaningful as family members and close friends were allowed to attend.

The Reception into Membership was later conducted over

Zoom, recorded, and shown on Easter Sunday service. The Maundy Thursday service was held at 6:30pm with a delayed telecast at 8:30pm. Prepackaged Communion elements were served to the congregation at their seats instead of gathering around the altar table. The Grace Notes sang "Behold the lamb," helmed by Mrs. Joanna Oo. A challenge was issued at the service – are we willing to deny ourselves to follow Jesus?

On Good Friday this year, only 3 portions of Scripture were meditated upon instead of the usual seven, focusing on three perspectives – the mockers, the centurion, and the three women on the day of crucifixion. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we received a pre-recorded sermon by TRAC Bishop Rev. Joshua Khong. During the whole season, our Creative Team, led by Mr. Naaman Foong, also put together a series of lent-inspired songs on YouTube for the edification of believers. Despite the challenges, we saw God's providence and grace through it all. Praise His wonderful Name!



# Wesley Methodist Church Segamat Easter Sunday Celebration 2021

*By Rev Woo Kit Sang  
Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church Segamat*



It has been WMC Segamat's practice for many years now to hold an open air Easter Sunrise Service. As usual, it's held at the compound at the back of our church building, at 6:30am.

This year Easter Sunday on 4 April 2021, was unique as it was held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and we had to abide by all the SOPs. Despite this, over 20 of our members participated in this glorious occasion. The sky was still dark when we felt drops of rain falling on our heads. Pastor Woo began the service in prayer, especially for our God to hold back the rain and to His glory, almost immediately, the drizzle stopped! Indeed, our God had not failed us during such an occasion.

One of our members' son, Nicholas Cheng, back on holiday, led us in a wonderful time of celebration and worship with his guitar. Indeed, how appropriate to be reminded that *"Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow"* & end with this glorious assurance of *"How Great Is Our God"* – Name above all names; Worthy of our praise; My heart will sing; How great is our God!

Pastor began the Easter message, sharing from 1 Corinthians 15, by comparing it with listening to our beloved classical music pieces which we are never tired of, because of the joy and delight the music brings us. The timeless Easter message brings new insight and new hope and joy each time we hear it.

I Corinthians 15 answers the question of the significance of Easter as the foundation of our faith. Easter affirms the

resurrection of the Lord Jesus as proven by not only the empty tomb but also the testimonies of more than 500 disciples at that time.

Pastor shared that Easter assures the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus proves that He is God who alone forgives everyone who comes to Him in repentance. Just as the repentant thief at the cross, the Lord Jesus assured that he would be with the Lord in paradise.

Easter is a triumphant defeat of Satan, sin and death. Just as David defeated Goliath and cut off his head with the enemy's sword, Satan's own weapon of death was defeated and so has no more power over our life (1 Cor. 15:54-57; Heb. 2:14-15). The Lord Jesus has won the battle for us and we are empowered to live a victorious life worthy of our Lord.

Easter also assures us that our labour in the Lord is not in vain. We are saved to shine for the Lord Jesus and to do good deeds to show the world His love and compassion (1 Cor. 15:58).

The Easter Service ended with the triumphant hymn *"Thine Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son"* and the three loud shouts of the Easter proclamation: – *"Christ Is Risen; He Is Risen, Indeed!"*

We truly praise God for the sense of triumph and joy, as one of our leaders commented that he left the celebration with *"a sense of victory that I took home!"*

# Easter 2021 – Damansara Utama Methodist Church

*By Pastor Chris Kam  
Pastor In-Charge*



“How Great Thou Art”  
by soprano singer Cecilia Yap



JESUS CHRIST  
MY LIVING HOPE



THEN CAME THE MORNING  
THAT SEALED THE PROMISE

This is the second year in a row that we had held Easter services online. While there is an opportunity to get back to in-person services, DUMC has a unique challenge, especially with our English congregation. No matter how we adhere to and follow the SOP of CMCO, even with multiple services amongst our six language congregations, the fact remains that about 80% of our members will still be attending the Easter services online. The quality of a professionally mixed and edited online home recorded service is still definitely much more inviting and engaging compared to a static stage recording as our halls are not equipped yet to provide the kind of dynamics required for an online congregation. We are definitely living in a very unusual time.

Before the pandemic, we livestream to about three hundred viewers. In contrast, during this pandemic, we broadcast to more than five thousand viewers each weekend, and some from overseas. We have decided that as we move back slowly to in-person services by May, we held our pre-recorded Easter services online to help keep the quality of worship and service experience to our larger online congregations. The total screen views that Easter weekend was about six thousand. Multiplied that by the number of family members or friends watching the same screen, the opportunity for connection and outreach was staggering.

We started the English service with an amazing rendition of “How Great Thou Art” by soprano singer Cecilia Yap.

What a treat to be reminded of the awesomeness of God of His love and the power of His Resurrection made available to those who believe in Him. Over the last one year, our worship team had improved in leading the online congregation in a time of worship and adoration. An online holy communion was conducted and we were reminded that while we were not physically able to meet as a congregation in the church building, the Holy Spirit united us as one spiritual family worshipping from home.

A sermon titled “Do you love me?” was preached from the passage John 21:15-19. Apostle Peter who denied Jesus three times, was restored subsequently at an impromptu breakfast with Jesus. What an amazing gracious Saviour! Peter was reminded that he was allowed to fail, but he was not allowed to stay in his failure. The three questions by Jesus “Do you love me?” were not condemnatory. Rather they are to assure Peter that His Master knew that he loved Him despite his failures, and He just wanted him to know that He knew. Apostle Peter came out of it to become one of the greatest leaders and pillars of the Christian Church when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers in Acts 2. It is an Easter celebrating the hope that we can have in the Resurrection power of our Lord Jesus Christ no matter what our past failings may be. There were pre-believers who indicated their desire to follow Christ when they were challenged at the end of the service. Praise the Lord!



Message by Pastor Chris Kam



Online holy communion

## How we celebrate Easter 2021



We celebrated Easter 2021 when Alor Setar was still under RMC0.

1. In early March, we formed three visitation teams comprising the pastor and LCEC members to visit our church members and friends. We gave each family a small gift from the church. We were invited into the home or just talked to them outside the house to observe social distancing. The purpose of the visitation is to connect with people, given that we have not been meeting in Church for some-time. We also took the opportunity to invite them to attend our in-person Easter Sunday worship.
2. On 28 March we resumed In-Person service and celebrated Palm Sunday. This was also via Zoom and YouTube to allow for more members of the congregation to participate as worshippers or enablers. The majority of our congregation are aging and vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus so many choose to worship online. Our church sanctuary space can currently cater for 35 persons only under strict social distancing SOP.
3. We had a Maundy's Thursday evening service on the 1 April, via Zoom and YouTube. Our lay leader, Dr Lee Kok Tee, delivered a message and Rev Aaron Ng conducted the Holy Communion. Some brothers and sister presented songs. There were altogether about 50 participants (Zoom and YouTube).
4. On the 2 April, we had the Good Friday evening service in Chinese, via Zoom and YouTube. Rev Aaron Ng delivered a message. There were about 24 participants (Zoom and YouTube).
5. On the 3 April, we had the Easter Service in Chinese, In-person and broadcasted via YouTube. Rev Aaron Ng delivered a message and conducted the Holy Communion. There were about 32 participants (In-person and YouTube).
6. Then on the 4 April, we had the Easter Sunday Service in English, In-person, over Zoom and broadcasted via YouTube. Rev Aaron Ng delivered a message and conducted the Holy Communion. Some brothers and sisters presented a recorded song item. There were about 65 participants (In-person, Zoom and YouTube).



# Extending Help in Times of Crisis

*By Isabelle Chan Min Yen  
Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lipis.*



SMK Clifford



Jalan Jelai



Cleaning SMK Setiawangsa

The year 2021 began with the dark cloud of Covid-19 still hanging above our heads. To make matters worse, we in Pahang faced another crisis- flood.

On the 4th of January the water level in both the Lipis River and Jelai River rose rapidly following continuous heavy rain the day before unleashing a flood on a scale not experienced since 1988. Many residents were caught off guard because they had never expected the waters to rise so rapidly and high.

Throughout the affected three days, Kuala Lipis was cut-off as many roads were closed due to flooding and impassable to vehicles. Because we were not able to drive to town my family and I were forced to walk on the railway tracks to get to town, and that was an unforgettable experience. We witnessed the Jelai River overflow its bank, flooded onto Jalan Jelai and into the shops along it. Hundreds of houses in Lipis including three secondary schools and a primary school were badly damaged.

After three days, the water began to subside, leaving behind mud, debris and many damaged household items and cars, we even spotted a wooden cupboard on the roof of the primary school block. Flood victims who had lost so much had to deal with the nightmare and heartbreaking tasks of cleaning up their homes

Saddened by what we saw, we decided to help the flood victims. Though we could not help everybody we could help somebody. So we started purchasing brooms, pails, garbage bags and mops and headed to our first house in

Taman KSM where a woman and her son were struggling to clean up. When we arrived at this residential housing area, we were greeted by the shocking sight of damaged furniture and electrical household items just thrown by the roadside of every house. The amount of mud, mess and smell were just unforgettable. We spent about 6 hours helping this family. Although our clean-up operation was hindered by low water pressure and no electricity supply we praise God that we managed to complete the task.

The next morning, my sister and I set out to help our school teacher whose house which was located in Taman Cheneras Indah was also badly affected. In the evening, and the subsequent days that follows, our church Flood Relief/cleanup team managed to clean up a few other houses, a school and a cafe. We also purchased a power generator and a water jet spray to facilitate the cleaning.

Our church informed Bishop Rev. Dr T Jeyakumar and Bishop Rev. Joshua Khong regarding the flood situation, following which an appeal was made by Bishop Joshua to the TRAC churches for financial contribution to aid our flood relief effort. Praise God that a number of churches and individuals responded generously. Due to this aid our church was able to help 142 families.

Despite this disaster that struck Kuala Lipis, we thank the Lord that we were given an opportunity to touch some lives and help these flood victims in their times of need. We pray in time they would see these good deeds and praise our Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)



Isabelle and team at Taman KSM



affected residents at Taman KSM



Helping an elderly lady at Rumah LKNP

# Shalom dan Salam sejahtera di dalam nama Tuhan Yesus

*Rev Bah Uda Aman A/L Bah Depei*

Saudara dan saudari sekalian,

Pertama sekali saya ingin mengucapkan penghargaan dan ribuan terima kasih kepada pihak TRAC kerana rancangan ini berjaya dilaksanakan di Kampar, khususnya di Pusat Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist. Saya percaya bahawa perancangan ini merupakan satu inisiatif yang sesuai dengan Visi dan Misi Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist, yang ingin menjangkau kepada 18 suku kaum Orang Asli di Malaysia.

Justeru itu, saya amat berharap kami dapat membantu untuk meningkat tahap penguasaan sosial Ekonomi dan kerohanian kami di PMSM. Selain itu kami juga berharap ia menjadi satu Pusat yang berjaya menguruskan segala pengurusan kami dan sedikit sebanyak menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan gereja –gereja Orang Asli, serta ingin dilihat sebagai salah satu dasar utama dalam kehidupan orang Kristian seiring dengan kehendak-Nya.

Di dalam Yesaya 28: 16 , beginilah firman Tuhan Allah;

“ Sesungguhnya, Aku meletakkan sebagai dasar di Sion sebuah batu penjuru yang mahal, sesuatu dasar yang teguh..”

Saya percaya dengan adanya perancangan serta penyusunan kerja yang rapi dan tersusun, sedikit sebanyak ia dapat membantu untuk mengubah penyusunan kerja dan menambah baik dari segi pengurusan dan pentadbiran PMSM, sekali gus ia dapat membawa hala tuju PMS yang tepat sesuai dengan kehendak Allah Bapa.

Akhir sekali saya mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada TRAC kerana meluluskan penubuhan bangunan PMSM yang telah menjadikannya sebagai usaha yang dijalankan demi kemuliaan-Nya.

## Perenggan ringkas untuk bangunan PMSM yang baru

*Rev. Bah Hashim bin Bah Hindan*

Harapan PMSM adalah untuk berdikari pada tahun 2020. Tetapi bila sudah sampai pada tahun 2020 nampaknya PMSM belum bersedia dengan sepenuhnya, justeru dari itu rancangan PMSM untuk berdikari itu terpaksa ditundakan. Tapi walaupun begitu PMSM mau mengucap syukur dan terima kasih pada Allah Bapa Kita Tuhan Yesus dan pada Presiden TRAC yang lalu Rev Dr. T. Jeyakumar kerana membeli bangunan yang baru yang berharga RM460,000.00 yang terletak di bandar Kampar. Tetapi untuk mencapai tujuan itu Tabung PMSM perlu diwujudkan.oleh itu PMSM telah mewujudkan satu tabung untuk bangunan yang baru dimana disetiap gereja dibawah PMSM wajib memberi sumbangan kepada Tabung itu. Oleh itu saya sebagai ketua Daerah Kampar telah memberikan arahan kepada disetiap gereja dibawah Daerah Kampar supaya memberi sumbangan kepada tabung PMSM itu. Jadi hasilnya puji Tuhan dan terima kasih kepada Gereja-gereja dan peribadi-peribadi di Daerah Kampar yang sangat menyokong dengan memberikan sumbangan-sumbangan kepada tabung itu.

Senarai nama Gereja-gereja dan nama peribadi-peribadi yang memberikan sumbangan ke tabung bangunan PMSM yang baru.

Bil	Gereja & Peribadi	Jumlah
1	Gereja Pos Dipang	RM 5,000.00
2	Gereja Sg.Gapes	RM 150.00
3	Gereja Sg.Limau	RM 200.00
4	S.E.K.Kg.Temoh	RM 200.00
5	Bah Wira	RM 200.00
6	Gereja Bt.Berangkai (Bukit Terang)	RM 2,000.00
7	Jemaah Bt.Berangkai	RM 1,000.00
	Jumlah	RM 8,750.00

Sekali lagi saya sebagai ketua Daerah Kampar ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada semua yang terlibat dalam pengurusan bangunan baru PMSM yang baru doa saya ialah biarlah bangunan yang baru itu digunakan untuk kemuliaan Allah Bapa Kita Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Terima kasih Tuhan Yesus memberkati!!!

# Pengunaan Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist di Bangunan Sekolah Methodist Kampar, Perak.



Konferensi



Majlis menghargai pelayanan yang bersara

Pada tahun 1981, Board of Sengoi Methodist Mission mendapat kebenaran dari Board Of Education untuk menguna bangunan Sekolah Methodist Kampar. Pada waktu itu adalah berkongsi juga dengan Wesley Methodist Church Kampar dan Tadika mereka sehingga mereka memiliki bangunan mereka sendiri. Kebenaran tersebut dari minit Mesyuarat Area Exective Council pada 18hb September 1981 adalah berbentuk sekiranya satu hari nanti, Board of Sengoi Methodist Mission tidak menggunakan lagi bangunan tersebut, haruslah dikembalikan kepada Board Of Education.

Setelah berpindah masuk ke bangunan tersebut, Board of Sengoi Methodist Mission meneruskan perkembangan pelayanan mereka sehingga Sengoi Mission Conference (Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist)

ditubuhkan, dimana pada tahun ini adalah Sesi yang ke 32 Konferensi Misi mereka, diantara kegiatan yang dikembangkan semasa menduduki bangunan tersebut adalah digunakan sebagai pejabat, tempat ibadah, kelas Sengoi Work Tranning Centre, tempat kediaman bagi penuntut-penuntut Sengoi Work Tranning Centre, tempat mesyuarat, konferensi tahunan, asrama penuh murid-murid Sekolah, perpustakaan dan lain-lain lagi. Kira sudah 40 tahun Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist telah menggunakan bangunan tersebut kalau mengikut dari kebenaran menguna pada tahun 1981. Sebelum berpindah masuk pada tahun 1981,

engar dari orang-orang yang lama-lama para tua-tua, bahawa mereka menggunakan bangunan Bungalow Methodist Kampar yang sudah tiada, dimana hari ini adalah Wesley Methodist Church Kampar.



SWTC (Takraw)



Meeting



Office



Sports and games

# Visi, Misi dan Hala Tuju Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist

*Rev. Yok Selan • Pengetua PMSM*

**1 Petrus 2:9** Tetapi kamu umat terpilih, para imam raja, bangsa suci, umat-Nya sendiri, yang dipilih untuk mengisytiharkan puji-pujian bagi Dia yang telah memanggilmu daripada kegelapan kepada cahaya-Nya yang gemilang.

**Visi:** Memberitakan Keselamatan Bagi Suku Kaum Sengoi.

**Misi:**

- 1) Berdikari dalam Kewangan.
- 2) Berdikari dalam Pentadbiran.
- 3) Berdikari dalam Perkembangan Misi Injil.

**Hala Tuju:**

- 1) Melatih Pekerja-Pekerja baru melalui Program Sengoi Workers Training Centre.
- 2) Memajukan Pastor-Pastor yang sedia ada melalui Program Sengoi Workers Training Centre.

3) Menyediakan Guru-Guru Injil untuk pentahbisan menjadi Deacon dan Elder.

4) Melaksanakan pemberita Injil dan penanaman Gereja yang baru melalui Pastor-Pastor, Pemimpin-Pemimpin dan jemaat-jemaat Gereja setempat.

5) Mengubah ke cara dan jalan penyusunan semula yang akan tunjuk ajar oleh Task Force Trinity Annual Conference untuk Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist.

6) Berkerja sama dengan Yayasan Orang Asli Negeri Perak, Methodist Indigenous Council, National Economic Empowerment Conference, Majlis Gereja-Gereja Malaysia, Malaysian Care, Agensi-Agensi dan NGO-NGO yang dapat mambantu kemajuan asas nafkah kehidupan Orang Asli.

# Bangunan Pejabat Baru Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist

*Rev. Richard Leow • Part-Time Coordinator, PMSM*

**Beralamat di No. 2 Jalan Kampar Permai 2. Taman Kampar Permai. 31900 Kampar. Perak.**



Pada hujung tahun 2019, Bishop Dr.T.Jeyakumar pada waktu itu President TRAC, bersama dengan Task Force PMSM dari TRAC, Task Force dari PMSM, TRAC Executive Board, Exco PMSM dan Konferensi PMSM setelah mengkaji dan berbincang, telah bersetuju untuk membeli sebuah bangunan untuk dijadikan sebagai Pejabat Pusat kerana Pusat yang sedia ada telah uzur dan memerlukan kos yang tinggi untuk penyelenggaraannya setiap tahun.

Task Force dari PMSM telah ditugaskan untuk mencari bangunan yang sesuai di beberapa kawasan seperti di Sri Botani Ipoh, Simpang Pulai, Gopeng, Malim Nawar, Bandar Kampar Baru, Pekan Kampar dan Kampung-Kampung PMSM apakah ada tanah kosong untuk dibina bangunan. Setelah beberapa waktu dan beberapa

bangunan diperiksa kesesuaiannya bersama-sama dengan Pengerusi Board of Property TRAC, Encik Ngu Chie Kieng, akhirnya telah menemukan sebuah rumah tepi dua tingkat yang mempunyai tanah yang lapang untuk parkir kenderaan tanpa perlu bayar caj parkir. Bangunan tersebut berharga RM460 ribu dan urusan pembelian dan tukar nama, dilaksanakan oleh Peguam Yap Koon Roy secara percuma.

PMSM amat gembira dan telah menjalankan pungutan derma dari ahli-ahli PMSM untuk bangunan baru tersebut, sebanyak RM11,130.00. telah berjaya dipungut. Segala Puji dan Syukur kepada Tuhan dan kepada semua yang telah bertungkus-lumus bekerjasama dalam pengurusan pembelian bangunan baru tersebut.

## LPL BM Modul Perjanjian Lama



Shalom, saya peserta LPL BM Modul Perjanjian Lama yang di ajar oleh Bishop Joshua Khong. Saya sangat diberkati semasa belajar lima buku Taurat Musa. Dalam pelajaran ini saya diingatkan kembali mengenai pentingnya untuk mengetahui makna Ibadah untuk semua pengikut Yesus. Mengikuti kelas LPL dapat meningkatkan pengetahuan mengenai Akitab dan tugas pelayanan di gereja setempat. Oleh itu, saya ingin menggalakkan para jemaat-jemaat dan pemimpin gereja setempat untuk mengikuti LPL untuk melengkapkan diri dalam pelayanan.

**Pn. Piniah Binti Kayaboh**

21 March 2021, Hari kedua saya mengikuti LPL BM Modul Perjanjian Lama. Saya sangat diberkati ketika Bishop Yoshua bercerita tentang perjuangan Yoshua memimpin bangsa Israel. Yoshua menyuruh bangsa itu untuk memilih tuhan mana yang akan mereka sembah. Sementara Yoshua sendiri dan seisi rumahnya membuat keputusan untuk memilih Tuhan. Saya kembali teringat bagaimana saya mencuba mengajar hal yang sama kepada suami dan anak-anak saya supaya apa pun yang akan kami alami dimasa hadapan, kami memutuskan untuk tetap memilih Tuhan Yesus untuk kami sembah. Saya sangat bersyukur hingga saya menangis dalam kelas ini karena saya diingatkan kembali, pada masa yang sama saya berharap dan berdoa supaya komitmen ini akan sentiasa ada dalam hati kami sekeluarga. Terimakasih Bishop Joshua yang sudah memberkati melalui kelas ini.

**Pn. Nurmauli Manurung**

Shalom, saya peserta LPL Perjanjian Lama ingin berkongsi pengalaman saya terhadap kursus LPL yang telah dijalankan pada 20 hingga 21 Mac 2021. Secara peribadi, saya sangat diberkati dengan pelajaran-pelajaran perjanjian lama dimana ia menekankan kewujudan Tuhan itu benar dan mampu memberi sumber kekuatan tanpa mengira bangsa, darjat, warna kulit mahupun keturunan. Setiap aspek ditekankan melalui Perjanjian Lama telah memberi sumber hikmat kepada saya untuk hidup dengan kebenaran dan beriman di dalam Tuhan agar kerajaan Tuhan digenapi mengikut corak kehendakNya. Kursus pembelajaran LPL ini amat digalakkan untuk dipelajari

Shalom! Saya sangat berterima kasih kepada Bishop Joshua, sebagai tenaga pengajar yang berdedikasi mengajarkan Tinjauan Perjanjian Lama. Sesi pelajaran ini saya tidak akan lupa, kerana setiap peserta akan disoal tentang pendapat dan pandangan bagi setiap topik . Cara ini membuat saya sentiasa mengingati dan bersiap sedia apabila nama saya di panggil. Banyak pelajaran yang saya dapat dalam sesi ini.

Sebagai contoh: Kenapa Tuhan Terima persembahan Habel dan bukan Kain, kerana Habel memberikan persembahan yang terbaik bagi Tuhan berbanding dengan Kain. Walaupun Perjanjian Lama (PL) sangat sukar di fahami, saya sangat mendukung sesiapa sahaja yang akan menghadirinya, supaya lebih memahami PL dengan lebih sistematik daripada seorang pengajar yang bertauliah.

Melalui pelajaran yang singkat ini, saya dapat memahami secara lebih jelas dengan gambaran keseluruhan tentang perjalanan Perjanjian Lama dan juga tokoh-tokoh yang penting di dalamnya. Saya dapat menggaitkannya dengan lebih relevant dengan Perjanjian Baru. Dengan ini saya berdoa supaya Roh Kudus membantu saya, supaya dapat berkongsi pelajaran ini dengan yang lain serta dalam pelayanan kami.

**Pn. Agustini**

kerana ia dapat mengasah minda serta mendekatkan kita dengan kasih Bapa. Pembelajaran ini sesuai bagi semua golongan tidak kira muda atau tua kerana ia adalah sangat efektif untuk memahami Firman Tuhan dengan lebih tepat. Sekaligus, memberi respon lebih tepat, mutu, bernas seiring dengan iman pengikut Kristus yang berkenan di mata Allah Bapa. Akhir kata, saya berharap saya lebih memahami Firman Tuhan untuk berkongsi berkat dengan yang lain serta hidup terus berbuah di dalam-Nya.

**Cik Auryan A/P Rahiem**

Shalom, Pada 20hb Mac dan 21hb Mac, saya telah mengikuti Kelas LPL iaitu Kelas Perjanjian Lama. Kelas telah dikendalikan oleh Bishop Joshua Khong. Pada mulanya, saya berfikir bahawa kelas itu akan membosankan disebabkan oleh pandemik covid 19 setelah sekian lama saya berehat. Mahunya saya berputus asa dengan setiap pembelajaran.

Tetapi setelah melangkah ke dalam dewan pembelajaran ia bertukar, perasaan saya seperti belum kebah lagi dari demam. Kelas bertukar menjadi seronok apabila Bishop Joshua membeli hati kami dengan memuji setiap kami didalam kelas tersebut untuk memberi sokongan beliau terhadap kami.

Didalam kelas Perjanjian Lama menerangkan tentang kewujudan dunia dan seisinya terbentuk. Tentang salasilah nabi-nabi yang dipilih oleh Tuhan. Hukum-hakam dan ajaran-ajaran Tuhan.

Yang amat menyentuh perasaan saya ialah apabila Tuhan membuat manusia dengan tangan-Nya sendiri. Dengan hembusan nafas Tuhan sendiri telah memberi kita kehidupan di dunia seperti sekarang. Ini semua adalah dengan kasih-Nya. Tuhan juga tidak memilih orang/manusia dari keistimewaan mereka. Tetapi Tuhan mahu mereka dan mereka boleh melakukan dengan kekuatan Dia.

Didalam pembelajaran ini Bishop Joshua telah menerangkan dengan ringkas tetapi padat dan tepat. Ini semua kerana dari kekangan perutukkan masa bagi kelas LPL ini. Walaupun dalam Perjanjian Lama terlalu banyak topik yang perlu dipelajari tetapi saya dapat memahaminya. Kelas dari Bishop Joshua amat saya hargai. Ilmu yang saya timba di sini tidak sia-sia.

#### **Pn. Norizan A/P Bah Suda**

Shalom, Pertama kali saya menghadiri kursus Alkitab secara online pada 20/3/2021 kerana bekerja merupakan satu pengalaman yang baru yang tak dapat saya lupakan. Agak terasa kekok kerana saya harus memberi fokus yang jitu dan tepat kepada kedua-dua situasi pada masa itu iaitu bekerja untuk melayani, membantu staff-staff setiap apa yang mereka inginkan dan fokus kepada setiap ucapan dari Bishop supaya tidak ketinggalan .

Puji Tuhan saya dapat mendepani dan mengatasi semuanya. Pada 21/3/2021, saya sudah tidak menghadapi apa-apa masalah kerana saya menghadiri kelas. Itulah kenangan yang tidak dapat saya lupakan dan ia juga sebagai satu pengajaran bahawasanya saya harus memberi extra-fokus, komitmen dan harus memberi keseimbangan dalam memberi keputusan yang adil kepada semua pihak.

Tajuk kursus pada kali ini amat menarik dan mengujakan terutamanya bila Bishop menerangkan tentang DUA taman dalam Alkitab iaitu Taman Eden (Taman godaan dan kejatuhan) menceritakan tentang Adam dan Hawa. Dan satu lagi taman Getsamani, (Taman godaan dan kebangkitan) menceritakan tentang Tuhan Yesus.

Begitu banyak sekali penjelasan dan pemahaman yang saya dapat tahu tentang rahsia-rahsia dan sejarah dalam kerajaan Tuhan pada masa itu dengan ini saya dapat gunakan sebagai bahan untuk menambah dan menguatkan lagi bahan khutbah dan bahan perkongsian saya.

Seperti apa yang telah saya perkatakan, setelah kita percaya, pemahaman dan pengetahuan kita banyak terarah kepada Tuhan Yesus dan pelayanannya selalunya jarang yang kita ingin ketahui tentang sejarah pelayanan Tuhan itu sendiri seperti, penyertaan Tuhan dalam perjalanan kaum Israel.

Tetapi setelah saya mengikuti kursus ini banyak yang telah saya ketahui tentang sejarah Tuhan dan rencana-Nya yang sangat berguna terutama kepada kita di zaman ini. Seharusnya peluang sebegini tidak seharusnya terbuang begitu saja. Kursus seperti ini harus dihebahkan dan diberi peluang kepada mereka yang mula ingin mengenali Tuhan Yesus bukan setakat mengenali-Nya di hari minggu saja. Inilah sedikit sebanyak perkongsian saja sepanjang menghadiri kursus pada 20-21/3/2021. Sekian terimakasih. Tuhan Yesus memberkati semua. Amin.

#### **Rahiem A\L Bah Los**



# Revitalising The Small Group Ministry in TRAC

*By Betty Liew • SG Coordinator TMCPJ*

At the 37th Session TRAC in 2012, the Small Group (SG) Ministry was adopted for the TRAC churches. Subsequently, the Board of Christian Education provided the SG Ministry training to various churches that requested for it. After nearly 2 quadrenniums, it was decided to have follow-up training for the churches, to further equip the SG Leaders and members to tackle the challenges they were facing, and also to strengthen the Small Group Ministry in the TRAC churches.

The Revitalising Small Group Ministry Workshop Schedule was thus set up for Year 2020, to be held in May, June and September respectively, for the Northern, Central and Southern TRAC Districts. However, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, beginning March 18 last year, followed by uncertainties and restrictions faced during the MCO, CMCO and RMCO lockdown, The Training Workshop-Seminar for the Central District that was scheduled to be held in Trinity PJ on June 20-21, by Rev Dr Andrew Tan, from Canning Garden Methodist Church (CGMC) Ipoh, had to be put on hold, to a more

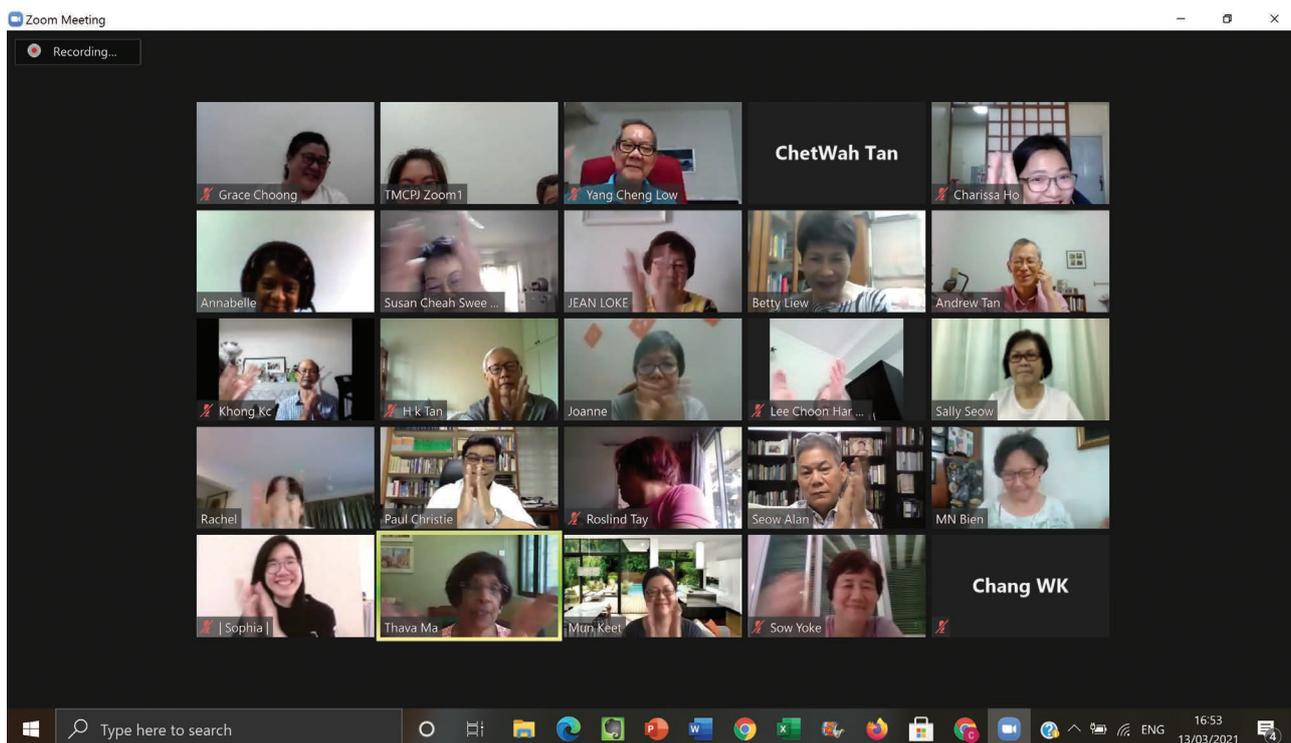
appropriate time in March this year.

As inter-state travel was still unpermitted due to MCO 2.0, it was not possible for Rev Andrew Tan and his team of facilitators to be in Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya (TMCPJ). Hence a one-day Online Seminar was planned instead, for 13 March from 8.45am -5.00pm, with lunch and tea-breaks between. About sixty Small Group Leaders and members from several different churches in Central Districts 1 and 2 registered for the Training Seminar.

The online seminar touched on four key areas such as:

1. SG Principles and Leadership.
2. Study and Accountability.
3. Problems and Group Dynamics .
4. Care and Outreach .

At the end of each module, short discussions between three to four attendees in Break-out rooms were held, as well as Q & A sessions that were well participated,



with lots of questions and points of interest raised. Our attendees also had the opportunity to hear from the team of facilitators comprising of Alan & Sally Seow, who shared personal testimonies of their twenty five years of experience in SG Ministry work ; Sister Kwok Pui Ling on 'Caring for members during the Pandemic', and a recorded audio testimony from Dr Wong on "How to add value to CGs as a Zone Leader" .

The seminar ended at around 5pm, with the participants greatly enlightened by the fruitful sharing and teachings from Rev Andrew Tan and his team from CGMC. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to them for their time and efforts in bringing together this seminar,

not forgetting our very own technical team from TMCPJ for hosting it. We give all glory and honour to our Good Lord for The SG Revitalisation Workshop.

The TRAC CE Board has announced that The Revitalising SG Ministry Workshop 2021 will also be carried out for the Northern District on 29 May at Wesley Penang ; and for the Southern District on 23 October at Wesley Melaka. CGMC Ipoh, too, will be conducting a full 8-module course via Zoom from 10 April – 29 May, and again from 4 Sept – 29 Oct, for those who are keen and interested to learn more about Small Group Ministry Training.

***Some feedbacks and comments from 5 participating leaders on what they have learnt from the Seminar, and some key take-away points that they find useful.***

**Participant 1 – SG leader**

On-line seminar conducted by Rev Dr Andrew Tan and assisted by his team from the Canning Garden Methodist Church (CGMC) Ipoh on Saturday 13th March 2021.

The seminar began with worship and prayers.  
A small total of fifty participants were present (on-line)

The CMGC SG ministry is based on the ASAP model:

- A - Adoration
- S - Study (using sermon discussion)
- A - Accountability
- P - Prayers ( whilst each has its place in the life of the SG, due attention need be focused on Adoration and Prayers.

There is a need to raise new SG leaders and this would be the duty of the Pastors and the Zone Leaders. They need to identify and monitor potential leaders and suitable candidates that could be chosen as SLi (interns)

**Accountability in the Small Groups**

Accountability is a scriptural concept, but in the present environment is very often resisted. Most are not at ease to talk of personal issues, hence this needs to be approached gently. Accountability includes members' spiritual life, their church attendance as well as their service in the church. The rationale for accountability is because it is a common practice and is practiced in all spheres of life. Members may need to be reminded of the vows they made at their baptism.

By and large this was the topic that stood out most and probably the "take-home' point of many. We truly need to recognize the importance of accountability in SG life and not just meander along in complacency.

**PRAYER**

- ▶ Make sure this is not forgotten or left as a last and unimportant item.
- ▶ Get the group to come to God and pray in His presence.
- ▶ Don't just limit the prayer items to personal needs. (I think this is where Christian mis-learn about prayer!)
- ▶ Try to include:
  - ▶ The nations – happenings around the world e.g. Myanmar, Covid-19.
  - ▶ Own nation – vaccination, Covid-19 numbers, MCO, political situation.
  - ▶ Own church – what's coming up, what needs focus attention.

The SG leader's role – The role of the SG leader is to be taken as a calling, and in this, he has to play the parts of a shepherd, a manager and as a leader. Hence spiritual care in the pursuit of his calling, his competency, commitment and capacity are important.

**Rationale for Accountability**

- a. A Common Practice
- b. Our Heritage
- c. Biblical Exhortations
- d. An Encouragement



leading sg  
meetings (2)

**Participant 2 – SG Leader**

**The Purpose of SG - To make Disciples.**

The Great Commission calls for Jesus’ disciples to go share the gospel of salvation and to teach the new disciples to obey Jesus’ commands.

The SG’s primary role is to teach members to obey all commands of God - there should be evidence of a transformation towards Holy Living. This can be achieved through emphasis on the application of Bible study principles and accountability to one another amongst members of the SG.

Roles of an SG Leaders in:

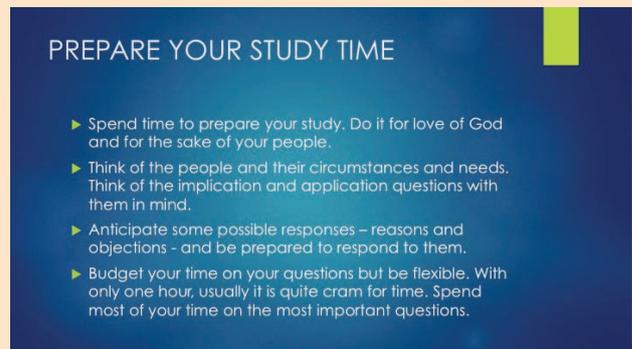
Bible Study: -

- Leaders should spend time to prepare for the word study, and to think of implication and application questions with members in mind .
- Also to budget time to allocate for important questions, especially application questions and not to over-discuss.
- Move on if the question is not clear and to get as many members to participate as possible.

- A most important item, to get group to come together to pray. Don’t just pray for personal needs, but to include prayers for other nations, as well as for our own nation, and churches.

Accountability:-

- Discipleship happens when there is accountability
- Takes time for mindset to change to accept practice of accountability.
- Accountability includes encouraging members account for their spiritual life, their participation and service in church, their attendance in the Member Track, etc, as well as ministering to them when they are dropping out of church or worship service.



**Participant 3 – SG Leader**

The Seminar by Rev Dr Andrew Tan and his team from CGMC, Ipoh, covers the following key areas:



SG Principles and Leadership - Ps Andrew refreshed the participants of the Basis of SG Ministry that says: God is Community, Jesus led a small group of Disciples; the Early Church met in Homes and the “One Another “ Ministry that implies Small Groups. He elaborated on our commitment made, during our Baptismal vow, and that serving in the SG Ministry is a privilege and to carry out with joy.

Attributes of SG Leaders should include being able to connect with Christ, pursuing one’s calling, guarding your character and to develop competence as well.

Pr Andrew details the Structuring Care for Members as

Primary Care shown by SG leaders to group members, Mutual Care by members to other members Leadership Care when the needs of members are beyond the capability of SG Leader, and which has to be referred to Church Leaders Backup Care requiring professional help like doctors, psychiatrists etc.



**Outreach**

Outreach/Evangelism is not an option as service is an integral part of SG Ministry. The avenues for service can include those of social concerns projects, missions, and other support projects of church ministries.

**KEY TAKEAWAY:**

**A good reminder on the scope of work of Small Groups and Small Group Leaders.**

### Participant 4 – Zone Leader

**Typical Inertia in SG Ministry** – very much like TMCPJ Members Level - Irregular, late, unprepared, non-participating, not praying, SG Level - Lacks group cohesion, uncaring, not reaching out, SG Leader - ASAP not well led, lack skills, no co-leaders, not well-supported by members. Pastor/SG Coordinator - SG not following church vision, lack of SG leaders, no training, no SG leaders meeting or poor attendance

#### Accountability:-

Discipleship happens when there is accountability. Accountability includes encouraging members in respect of their personal spiritual life, participation and service in church and attendance. Accountability includes ministering to them when they drop out of church or worship service, but this change of mindset takes time.

#### How to handle Problems and Group Dynamics

When the SG is lethargic- e.g. with too elderly members:

- Go through the goals, expectation of SG ministry.
- Ensure that the ASAP is well led.

Renew commitment of the SG member, through use of the Covenant.

**Group Cohesion** is affected by group needs ; ie, the need for the group task, the need of individual members

and for the group maintenance. The SG leader must keep these three needs in balance if group cohesion is to be maintained. Group maintenance has to do with preserving a free and healthy group life for it to retain its unity and purpose.

### Typical SG Problems and Solutions

- ▶ When the SG is lethargic.
  - ▶ Determine if the lethargy is acceptable, e.g. too elderly.
  - ▶ Go through the goals and expectation of the SG ministry.
  - ▶ Ensure that the ASAP is well led.
  - ▶ Renew the commitment of the SG members. Use the Covenant.

#### Typical SG Problems and Solutions

When an SGL wants to resign, the leadership works through the issue with the SG, and to motivate with intention to retain unless the SGL has lost vision in the SG ministry.

When the SG does not follow the vision of the church, convene a dialogue with the SGL and SG, understand issues. If there are too many nay-sayers in the SG or they do not buy into the vision, it is best to dissolve the SG. When the SG has internal conflicts, address the personnel in the conflict and try to reconcile.

### Participant 5 – SG Zone Leader:

The SG (Zoom) Training Seminar by Rev Dr Andrew Tan gave an insight into realising how essential and indispensable the SG Ministry is, to the spiritual health and vitality of a church; revealing the areas of improvement needed in the set-up of this ministry to re-structure, revitalise and set the SGs in the right direction towards making every church member a disciple for Christ in TMCPJ.

As I recall, SGL Ministry meetings were held once a month, then bi-monthly, at the beginning. The initial set of leaders and interns (Timothys) were trained, encouraged, equipped and strengthened to go forth and serve with the mind of Christ. The leaders had the opportunity to share issues and problems faced and get help from each other and from the pastors and Zone Leaders. However, as attendance of the SG Ministry meetings declined, they evolved into a worship-cum-prayer gathering and stopped altogether when covid lockdown began. We need to seek redress in this matter, as leaders and interns need constant assistance and guidance to achieve SG Ministry goals.

Another matter highlighted was the allotment of SGs to each Zone Leader.

CGMC allows for Zone Leaders to oversee a maximum of 3 Small Groups. This enables the ZLs to be truly committed to carry out their duties earnestly, and to ensure the SGLs follow the vision of the church and carry out the ASAP of each session with accountability.

An interesting point to note is that ZLs' names are included in the Whatsapp chat groups of SGs under their care.

Amongst other points made by Rev Andrew, I found the following relevant:

1. The size of the SG does not matter. Multiply only when there is general consent by the members.
2. Struggling, dying SGs ought to combine. There is joy in numbers.
3. It is good for each SG to draw up and sign a Covenant with input from members which support SG goals such as attendance, participation, confidentiality, etc, with the "We" concept.
4. There is no need for rotation of leaders. Longevity of SGs is more exciting!

### Drawing Up a Covenant

Drawing up a covenant may be done at the beginning of a SG or anytime later.

- A covenant is drawn up by the group using "We" statements.
- A covenant must be **reaffirmed** periodically to remind the members of their commitment.
- The **process** of drawing up a covenant is as important as the covenant itself.
- A covenant should be created around **values** that support SG goals and purposes.



May our Pastors rise up to address the needs. We have time before full in-person SG meetings resume. Shalom.

# Paving the way to Global Recognition

*MCKL holds its first virtual Outstanding Achievers Awards Ceremony for Cambridge A Level and Australian Matriculation*



*CEO of MCKL: Ms Angela Pok, presenting her congratulatory message to graduands and parents virtually.*



*Eng Wai Lam Simpson, recipient of the Yin Kam Yoke Award*



*Mandy Lai Pun Mun, recipient of the Datuk F R Bhupalan Award 2020*

The Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) recently celebrated the Cambridge A Level (CAL) and Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) students who achieved various awards for the CAL November 2020 exam series and AUSMAT November examinations with an inaugural virtual Awards Ceremony.

Students in the CAL November 2020 exam series achieved a 100% passing rate with 55% of students scoring 3As and above breaking all previous records. As for the AUSMAT programme, 33% of students obtained ATAR 80 & above with the highest score at 98.95, placing them among the top 20% of high scorers in Australia.

“Over the years, MCKL students has been no stranger to the Excellence Awards, Outstanding Scholars’ Awards and being Subject Prize winners. Amidst the pandemic, and the swift implementation of hybrid learning, MCKL continues to succeed beyond our previous achievements making 2020 a year to remember” said Ms Angela Pok, CEO of MCKL.

This year, MCKL celebrated five (5) awardees – three (3) Overall Academic Excellence recipients for Cambridge A-Level; **Eng Wai Lam Simpson** (Combination of Science and Arts), **Low Swee Ling** (Pure Science), **Chia Zhi Ling** (Pure Arts) along with two (2) Excellence Awards for CGPA 3.70 and above recipients from AUSMAT; **Mandy Lai Pui Mun** and **Eunice Ling Sue Ann**.

Simpson Eng also received the prestigious Yin Kam Yoke Award while Mandy Lai was named the recipient of the Datuk F R Bhupalan Award 2020.

Reminiscing her good times in MCKL, Mandy Lai said “It has been an odd but amazing year at MCKL, the end

of this journey came faster than we expected. I would like to thank my lecturers for caring for us in and out of classrooms, my classmates, and my parents for giving me the freedom to make my own choices while fully supporting me throughout. Hats off to the class of 2020. We did it”.

MCKL continues to provide globally recognised higher education while moulding youths into students of calibre. Parents have continued to attest to the education quality at MCKL.

“I believe MCKL was a suitable choice, made by my child to study her A-Levels programme which has been reflected through her achievements. I am both proud and thankful to MCKL for providing a holistic learning environment, coupled with the dedication of the staff and lecturers which were helpful throughout her studies” said Tan Paik Yong, mother to Chia Zhi Ling (Cambridge A Level, award recipient).

“MCKL boasts a variety of academic and extra-curricular activities which I found to have developed her character and interests throughout her A-Levels studies which can be helpful while furthering her studies into university” she continued.

For over 38 years, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) has been providing quality higher education in the best of Methodist tradition. **In August 2021, MCKL will launch its first branch campus – MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus)**. Follow MCKL official Facebook and Instagram page for more updates.

For details, visit [mckl.edu.my](http://mckl.edu.my) or call 03-2274 1851 (Monday - Saturday 8.30am-5.30pm)



## IMPACTING LIVES

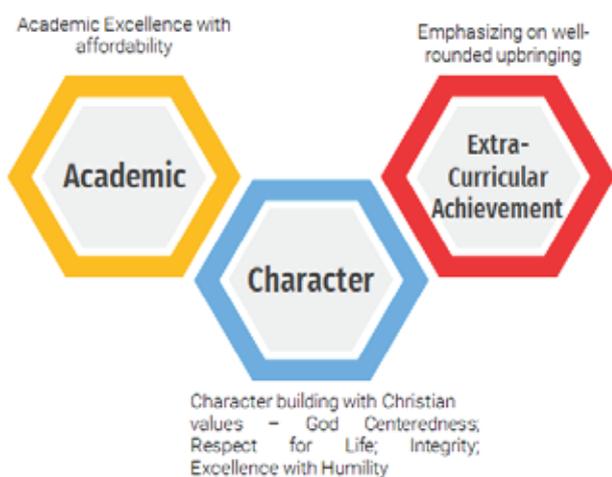
AND NATION THROUGH METHODIST EDUCATION SINCE 1891

"One of the Methodist educational ethos is to ensure that our educational facilities provide the best education at an affordable cost."

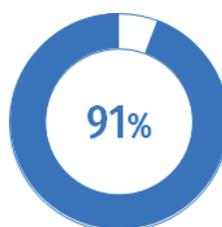
- Bishop Dr. T Jeyakumar

### WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

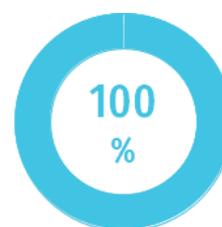
#### THE METHODIST EDUCATION



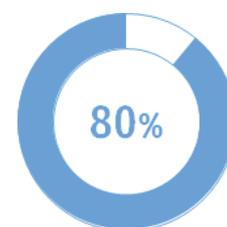
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Students achieved 5 or more A\*/A grades



Pass rate



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