



Church Dedication

We take this opportunity to congratulate and rejoice with the following churches on the occasion of the dedication of their new sanctuaries. Above all, members of the TRAC family give all glory and praise to God for His many provisions and faithfulness.



Segamat Wesley Methodist Church celebrated the 46th anniversary of the constitution of the local church and dedication of the new sanctuary in Bandar Putra on 20th July, 2008. On November 30th, 1962, the English-language congregation known as Wesley Church was officially set up at the Chinese Methodist Church in Segamat. Eight charter members of the church were received by transfer, by reaffirmation of faith or by affiliate membership. Worship services were held at the Chinese Methodist Church until 1983 when renovations were carried out on the sanctuary. The

congregation had to move to St Mary's Hall for Sunday worship for a period of time. Other locations used were houses which doubled up as the parsonage. In the 1990s, a new township, Bandar Putra was established and 3 lots of land were allocated for religious purposes. WMC Segamat applied for one lot of land and after many years of waiting and praying the application was finally approved on 17th February 2005. Building plans were submitted and approved on 3rd January 2007 paving the way for construction to start. The church building was completed in May 2008 to the glory of God.

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"Now with extended space, may we also have expanded ministry through the anointing and empowering of the God of hope resting on you as His church."

Rev. Ong Hwai Teik

Wesley Methodist Church, Taiping.

The renovation and extension of the sanctuary of WMC Taiping has been successfully completed. The church dedication service was held on 27th July 2008, graced by Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung and TRAC President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik. Before the church extension was completed, the church was operating at and from three locations. As pastor Tan Yee Ho pointed out in his message found in the souvenir booklet, "It is indeed good to be back on our own premises which can provide the necessary space and facilities for our needs, activities and programmes.... With all the facilities and blessings which God has bestowed upon us, may we be found faithful in all that He wants us to do in this community and beyond."

Wesley Methodist Church, Kampar.

With much joy and gratitude to God Almighty, members and guests of Kampar Wesley held their first worship service in their new Sanctuary situated on a hillock of 13, Jalan Kuala Dipang. This body of Christ had to move from the Chinese Methodist Church in 1991 to the premises of the Sengoi Methodist Mission for worship until March 2008. It was in 1999 that the Council of Education offered the church a piece of land at Jalan Kuala Dipang and with the encouragement of the late Rev Hwa Chien and faith in God's grace and provision that Wesley Methodist Church Centre, Kampar Building Project was launched. As the pastor Ms Yong Wai Yin has stated in the Church's Souvenir magazine, "With God's blessings also comes God's calling ... to go with Him in ministering to those who are residing here in Kampar, long time residents as well as campus students who have migrated here for this season of their lives."

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ERRATA We apologize for the misprint of the handphone number of Dr Ng Swee Ming which appeared under Ms Ng Wai Ling's name. The error is regretted.



A House for **His Glory!**

It was a sunny Sunday morning after two days of wet weather. To a resplendent white and light grey building in the fringe of the sprawling housing estate in Segamat gathered 250 members and friends from near and far. The building in Bandar Utama testifies to God's faithfulness and provision to Segamat Wesley. After 46 years of existence, the church has, with the help of many generous friends, erected its own building for the glory of God.

Among the many honoured guests that day were Edward and Nellie Cheah, who in 1962 gathered adults and children into their JKR quarters for Bible study and Sunday school. Soon after, the church was officially constituted with 8 adults of different church affiliations. Over the years the church has been sustained through help from many pastors, missionaries, seminary students and lay leaders from sister churches in the district and even other denominations. Initially, the church services were held in the Chinese Methodist Church in the heart of town until it was rebuilt in 1983. The church then moved to several rented locations which also served as parsonage. Since 1992 the church had been accommodated in two

double-houses storied houses generously given by the late Mr. Soon Boon Seng.

Thus it was on 20th July 2008, that Bishop Hwa Yung, TRAC President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik and D.S. Rev. Yew Nieng Song led in the dedication service. Bishop's message on "What House Will You Build For Me?" was a challenge to all present to always remain true to our high and sacred calling. The special moment was when the entire church membership stood up before the Bishop to offer the building for dedication to the glory of God and the service of men. After the act of dedication by the entire assembly, sister Irene Leow from Singapore beautifully sang "Bless This Church, O Lord We Pray". At the close of the service the congregation recessed out of the building for the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the occasion.

The day's celebration culminated in thanksgiving over lunch in a restaurant.

Submitted by Ngoh Peng Teck

Kampar Wesley Has A New Home

On the evening of 21st March 2008, worship echoed through the building on the hillock of 13, Jalan Kuala Dipang. It was Good Friday in more ways than one for the people of Wesley Kampar. This Good Friday service was the very first service held in the sanctuary of a building that the folks of Wesley Kampar could finally call their own!

Wesley Methodist Church Kampar was organised in the mid-1950's but, until 21st March 2008, did not have a building to call her own for her worship services, activities and ministries. The congregation began meetings in the ACS school and then was graciously hosted at the Chinese Church for almost three and a half decades. In 1991 Wesley Kampar moved into the Kumpulan Sengoi Methodist Centre. She stayed there until 20th March 2008, when the big move to 13, Jalan Kuala Dipang took place.

The building project began nine years ago when Wesley Kampar was encouraged by the then President, the late Rev Hwa Chien, to consider taking up the offer of the piece of land and build on it. At that time, the project and the amount of funds needed for it seemed a monumental undertaking, and members embarked on the project with not a little fear and trepidation! That decision to build was the first step of a faith journey that saw the ground breaking ceremony taking place on 30th May 2005, the fiftieth anniversary of the church, by the TRAC President, Rev Ong Hwai Teik.

After that, it would be 3 years before the project was completed. The delays and issues with the

local authorities were discouraging. Through God's grace, those were overcome and solved one by one. Encouragement also came as we saw God's faithfulness to us shown in the generosity of our brothers and sisters in the various churches as they kept us in their prayers and gave towards the project. Those who did visit us also stopped by the site to pray with us and for us. To all our brothers and sisters in the TRAC churches, we want to say a big "Thank You"!

The new building was consecrated on 19th July 2008 by Rev Dr Hwa Yung, the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. With this new Wesley Methodist Centre Kampar, we look forward to being able to minister to the people of the town, as well as those who have come into Kampar with the setting up of the University Tunku Abdul Rahman and the College Tunku Abdul Rahman.

It was through various contacts and circumstances that the Lord led us into ministering to the campus

students who have come to us. This ministry is slowly growing and the Girls' and Boys' Brigades also continue to be built up. To this end, Wesley Kampar is looking to hiring a full-time Youth Campus Ministry worker.

We have also seen the Sunday School (ages 3 to 13 and above) growing in numbers as the community folks bring their children in on Sundays. The adults too, have a place now to meet for talks, studies and discussions, prayer meetings etc.

As we continue this journey in which the Lord is leading us, Wesley Kampar would like to invite all our brothers and sisters in the TRAC churches to pray for us and partner us in these ministries into which the Lord has called us!

Submitted by:
Yong Wai Yin





We never pray alone...

especially in this season of necessary intercession

And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. "Romans 8:26

The importance of communion with God in daily living is graphically captured by Henri Nouwen in the following words – "A spiritual life without prayer is like the Gospel without Christ."



The above verses assure us that God who is the "author and perfecter of faith" is the initiator and enabler of prayer. God is still at work in the realm of prayer. It is God's committed and passionate pursuit of us that calls us to prayer; God's desire for us, not so much our desire for Him, is the root and basis of prayer. The desire for communion with God is a God-given desire; hence our hearts will remain restless until it has found full and satisfying union with our Maker & Redeemer. Therefore, the human heart acknowledges the need to pray, and to pray unceasingly. In the wider

traditional understanding of the word, to pray means to live and think in the presence of God – in our daily life. It is the raising of one's heart to God.

Intercessory prayer is quite simply God's call to His people to interpose for another – to take up the cause and concern of another in prayer to Him. We may interpose or take up various causes for others such as healing, direction, blessing or any other ground for the bestowal of God's favor. In the above verses, we see the power to fulfill God's desire and call to a deeper level of intercessory prayer experience.

Intercessory prayer is a staple and necessary feature of church life in the New Testament church.

Romans 8:26 tells us that to interpose in prayer for others, is an invitation to pray with the Holy Spirit. We are not doing this alone, albeit we have a role to play. The Spirit invites us to look to Him even as we begin with placing intercessory prayer itself in the setting of our relationship with Him. We turn to Him by asking, "How am I to pray for this situation?" How is this cause to

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be taken up with God? Prayer is not a lonely journey undertaken by me alone and dependent on my own effort to make it work. As a matter of fact, prayer is the work of the Spirit inviting me to join Him in interposing for others. At the height of my weakness, when I am confused and bewildered and do not know what to pray, I must all the more intentionally depend on the Spirit. I must remember that I will be helped and guided in praying – as I join Him to take up the cause for another person or party. We need not let any situation intimidate, overwhelm or defeat us in prayer, as we do not pray alone.

Earlier this year, I was praying for a “tough case” in which a couple who loved and served the Lord had serious marital problems and needed help (we find such paradoxes exist). But one party was stubbornly resisting seeking help. During a group prayer, I felt the Spirit leading me to pray using 2 Cor 10:5 for that resistance to be broken, as we interposed for this couple. That very day, I received an e-mail that indicated resistance was broken as both became more open to others helping them. I continue to learn to “join the Spirit” in prayer; to so live that He can pray through me!

May each of you find the joy of “praying in the Spirit”, as the Spirit prays through us. Let us also gather with others, whether in smaller “where 2 or 3 are gathered in My name” situations or in larger settings. But we must always be active participants, not passive by-standers, in joining the Spirit in interceding for others in every gathering. This is a key feature through which the Korean Church is honored by God. It was an unforgettable experience for me on the 13 April 2008 when I worshipped with at least 4000 youths in the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea. That was their regular Sunday Youth



Service in the afternoon. When it was time to pray, no one was a spectator (unlike going to a football match in a stadium where a passive 4000 watch 22 active others producing all the action) – the church reverberated with an unforgettable volume of passionate prayer that ascended to heaven for at least 15 to 20 minutes! That is why they are so fond of “all praying aloud in one voice”.

We in Malaysia are aware that this is indeed a season of necessary prayer. The events that have followed the 8th March 2008 General Election have been unanticipated and “breathtaking”. We are witnessing a more “open” era in the political sphere, public discussions on religious freedom and practices, signs of hope for a reformed Judiciary, the possibility of an independent ACA, greater latitude for moving towards a Bangsa Malaysia, a greater accountability in the governance of this land, etc. This “newborn” exciting possibility of a transformed nation is also fragile, and needs God’s people to interpose for this nation in prayer, if we want to see “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

As TRAC learn to seek the Lord more in prayer, He has granted peace “in the land” for spiritual territorial expansion. Since May 2008, we have witnessed the launching of Whispering Hope Preaching Point in HELP University College (11 May), the dedications of added “space for Gospel & grace” in Ipoh Wesley (24 May), Kampar Wesley (19 July), Segamat Wesley (20 July), Taiping Wesley (27 July) and Alor Setar Wesley (6 September). In addition to our quest to plant University-College churches, Canning Garden Methodist Church dedicated a ministry center (27 July) called the Lighthouse Community Centre with a view of planting a church among the poor and needy street people in the long term.

May we also pray for the coming 9th General Conference (15-20 September, Kota Kinabalu) where important decisions pertaining to the life and ministry of the Methodist Church in Malaysia will be made. Let us pray that the people called Methodists shall be a faithful community of Christ that focuses on Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation, which is the theme.

When we humbly but passionately join the Spirit in intercessory prayer, we shall witness God’s visitation in a powerful way in our life, in the Church and in this land, Malaysia. We shall experience what the apostle Paul says in 1 Cor 2:9 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” AMEN.

Ong Hwai Teik
President, TRAC

Resources for Family Ministry: the Alpha Marriage Course and Bringing Up Boys

The five essentials of TRAC churches are: Leadership Development, Community Building, Missions & Outreach, Discipleship & Spirituality and Family ministry. In this article we shall look at two of the resources available in Family Ministry.

The first is the Alpha Marriage Course. As part of the Alpha Ministry it has a similar structure in the format of the Alpha Course which most of the TRAC churches are familiar with. Meeting weekly participants will begin with a meal together followed by a talk (given either by a couple or through viewing a video CD).

However unlike the Alpha Course, discussion time is not a group session, instead it is a private time of discussion for the couple to encourage openness in the atmosphere of privacy and intimacy. It creates opportunities for couples to spend time together to discuss issues in their marriage which they have never brought up in the open before. There would be homework for the couple to do before they meet for the next session.

All together there are 8 sessions designed to help married couples strengthen their relationship. It is a very practical course which looks at some of the important issues in marriage i.e. building strong foundations, the art of communication, resolving conflict, forgiveness, parents and in-law

relationships, good sex etc. in order to equip couples with the tools needed to build a healthy marriage.

It takes about 8-10 weeks to complete which is ideal for many couples where both are working and are busy raising young families. The duration of the course is not too long and is especially helpful for couples with young school-going children who face tight schedules. It is not too brief either for couples will have the time to reflect and chew on deeper issues and work through some of the issues and challenges they encounter.

The Alpha Marriage course is not new. It was started in 1996 by Nicky and Sila Lee who are both staff at the Holy Trinity Brompton Church in London. As was in the Alpha Course the Christian values and biblical principles are clearly and accurately presented. Furthermore the welcoming approach of Alpha ministry is engaging and non-threatening and appeals to non-Christians.

The second is "Bringing Up Boys" by Dr. James Dobson (Focus on the Family Ministry). This video curriculum is based on Dr. Dobson's best-selling book of the same name.

The design of the course is user-friendly, each session involving a video presentation followed by small group discussion. An experienced facilitator who could get all the participants to discuss

and share and stay focussed on the topic would enhance the sessions greatly. Included in each session would be time set aside for Bible study for the heart, information for the mind and activities for the home. Some of the topics discussed are:

- What role does competition play in a boy's development?
- How is a father's contribution to the parenting process different from a mother's?
- What is the best way to educate boys?
- What causes homosexuality? Can it be prevented?
- What special advice is there for single mothers with sons?
- How should I show affection for my son?

The course would take about 10 weeks to complete. A leader's guide and participant's manual are available. The course is suitable for parents and all who work with young boys growing up, young boys seeking their identity and place in the community, church and home.

Rev. Joshua Khong
Board of Christian Education



REVIVAL

Meeting

(April 19-20, 2008)

Wesley Methodist Church,
Kuantan, Pahang

19th and 20th of April 2008 were two special days for the Wesley Methodist Church, Kuantan as we were so privileged and honoured to have Bishop Dr Hwa Yung, the Bishop of the Methodist Church Malaysia to conduct the Revival Meetings. On the 19th of April the message "Call to Holiness" was based on the following texts (1) Ex. 33: 1-3, 12-13 and Matthew 5:16,48. The second part on

Sunday 20th of April entitled "Call to Repentance" was taken from Gen. 3: 1-10 and Eph 5: 3-20. In the 10 weeks leading up to the Revival Meeting, at the weekly Cell Groups meetings and the Friday Prayer Meetings the church had given top priority in upholding the Revival meetings in prayers. Pastor and leaders visited and prayed for members who had stopped coming to church to invite and encourage

brothers and sisters who had grown cold and lukewarm to come back to church. It was answered prayers when 85 people came on the 1st night and 165 people on the following day. We praise God for the opportunity given to a big number of people to listen to His Word. We were very thankful to see five members who had not been to church for many years attending the Revival Meeting.



The two sermons taught us very important truths and lessons. We're so thankful to Bishop for giving us a clear picture of holiness and repentance.

The following were feedback and responses I got from the people I talked to:-

Many felt that the Revival Meeting was very timely, necessary and encouraging. Those who came with a desire for change and wanted to obey said, "Indeed it was a 'wake-up call' to all of us!"

As the meaning of Holiness struck us, we realised that we're to take holiness seriously. Firstly we must dare to pray; there must be self examination and allow God, His Holy Spirit to search us and let us know reality – the truth and we must desire to seek to live holy lives and long to see holiness growing in this beloved land where God has placed us. We need to surrender the ownership of our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to change us. The key to holiness is repentance.

We were also reminded that God is a consuming fire and can't tolerate sin. Therefore we're to heed God's call to repentance. We need to

seek God's help to turn away from everything that is wrong and displeasing to God, forsaking sin and turning to God. God is Holy, therefore God's presence cannot come in if there is sin in our lives. But praise God, everything is possible with God if we deliberately choose obedience. This act of will causes an inward change of attitude and behaviour.

Zachaeus, the tax-collector and Peter, Jesus' disciple are 2 perfect examples from the New Testament who are testimonies of transformed lives.

Eph. 5: 1, "Be imitators of God". Therefore let us not join the crowd and be partners of the evil one.

We're also reminded that the obstacles to holiness is the 'Kingdom of this world' – money, sex and power.

True Holiness will emerge when we desire it and seek God's help to change us. It does not come instantly; it requires a lot of hard work, self-examination, to be open and transparent to our friends and spending time with God.

Moses' desire was that God walked close with Him (Ex. 33: 14,15). Is

that our desire or kept God at a distance in certain compartments of our lives?

May it be our prayer too that like Moses, we seek the Lord's presence and power wherever we go or whatever we do. May the church activities and programmes that are planned and carried out be always covered by the Holy Spirit's presence and power.

Ex 33: 15 Moses said to the Lord, "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us from here".

After Bishop concluded the message, the following song was sung:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy,
Tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

May the lyrics of this song be our prayer for us and the church.

Mrs Grace Mathew



REVIVAL Meeting

(July 19-20, 2008)

Wesley Methodist Church, Kuantan, Pahang

Since the Easter season Revival Meeting in April 2008 with clear messages on the theme of 'Call to Holiness' delivered by our Bishop Dr Hwa Yung, the church has continued to keep up the momentum and fervour in preparation for the Renewal Meeting scheduled for 19 - 20 July 2008. In corporate prayers & personal prayers in CGs, church-wide Friday Prayer Meetings, Sunday Services etc. at every opportunity we were united in prayer and intercession. We also held a week-long prayer watch where nearly half of the congregation signed

up for prayers. Day of Fasting and Prayers on 12 July & 18 July saw 25 and 42 members coming together for breaking of fast and prayers respectively. Our pastor Rev Joshua Khong led the church to intercede for personal growth and discipleship and the renewal of commitment and service as a community of faith, and that WMC Kuantan will grow in greater zeal and love for God.

In God's goodness, on 19 July 2008 despite the rain 115 members filled with great anticipation and excitement came to worship

God and to renew their love and commitment to HIM. Rev Dr Philip Siew is a Lecturer, Director of Post Graduate Studies at STM, and pastor-in-charge of Nilai Chinese Methodist Church shared the Word. The introduction of the speaker as being 'a powerful dynamite' was aptly described for Rev. Dr. Philip Siew spoke God's message with great exuberance drawing every strength he could to bring God's word. The texts were taken from 2 Chron 7:14; Ps 81:10; Zech 4:6. Why the need for renewal and what should be the church motives in pursuing renewal? He emphasized

on the importance of understanding the fundamental truth – God's tremendous and unconditional love for us. He will pour out His blessings and it will overflow to His people, and many will be blessed and brought to His Kingdom of love and light when renewal and revival come.

The speaker brought to our understanding the different types of revival:-

- Doctrinal: a hunger for the Word of God and mastering it;
- Emotional: manifestation of joy. Always fired up and aflame for God and a life full of hope even amidst all kinds of circumstances;
- Devotional: with eagerness and anticipation as we draw close to God;
- Moral/Ethical: life-style and character transformed into Christ likeness;
- Ministerial: commitment to serve God and others;
- Missional: the urgency and compassion to care for the lost around us, obeying the great commission – Matt 28: 18-20;
- Personal: personal commitment of our lives to God;
- Relational: reconciliation and forgiveness abound and spirit of acceptance and love prevail;
- Communal Revival: renewed in communal sense and purpose as God's people;
- Societal: the influence and impact on society.

The process for renewal and revival require the understanding of the mighty work of God (Zechariah 4:6). Our human responsibility requires us to do our part, however, it is only God who can convict, renew and illumine us. Genuine repentance (2 Chronicles 7:14) leads to self-reflection and examination of our lives, and reaching out to the lost and bringing them to God (Psalm 81:10). The speaker implored us quoting from John Wesley's exhortation, "Fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God."

The speaker challenged us to turn to the one seated next to us and say "Revival begins with Me". Indeed, revival is not about waiting for our leaders or others to be revived first.

In closing, some soul-searching questions were asked. Do we strive to live a God-centred life? Are we willing to give things up for God? Are we prepared to respond by saying, "Send me Lord, here I am?" Members responded by completing the "Pledge & Renewal Commitment Form" indicating the areas of pledge to Personal Holiness, Personal Worship, Corporate Holiness and Public Worship. And as an act of our commitment to God, members brought their pledge forms to be placed at the altar. The meeting closed with prayer and altar call.

The following day, 20 July 2008, was STM Sunday and the attendance on that day was 150. The second part of the message, 'Vision for Revival' was expounded based on Isaiah 6:1-13. Isaiah saw the awesomeness and glory of God, seated high above with His glory covering the whole temple, just before his eyes, and his response was one of deep humility. He felt ruined and wretched before God's holiness and in humility confessed his sins. When Isaiah was cleansed, the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?", he had no hesitation to respond "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6: 1-13). He wanted to be what God wanted him to be. It is a clear vision of revival.

Seven main points were drawn from the above vision and encounter Isaiah had with God:-

- Know God Deeper: We need to translate the intellectual knowledge of God to love Him with our heart and obey Him with our will;
- Know Self Clearer: What is our true self? Many put on a mask. Is there consistency between appearance and inner-self? When

revival comes, all hidden sins will be revealed.

- Renewal of life: No one who conceals transgressions will be blessed. We need to confess our sins and be cleansed, and renewal will follow. When we truly know God, His light will shine in our lives.
- Know the heart of God: It is when we are cleansed that we are able to hear God clearly and our hearts become good soil. In the state of being cleansed, transformed and renewed we are able to know the heart of God.
- Committing ourselves for God's purpose: Respond to the highest calling to be used by Him. Live for His Kingdom and His glory.
- Willing to pay the cost: Are we responding to God's call only on our own terms? We must do our part in obedience and leave the outcome to Him.
- Mission accomplished: Isaiah 6:13 – "...But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land." God gives hope. No matter how rough and difficult, victory belongs to Him. Indeed when we know God, humble our hearts, be transformed, renewed, obedient, and committed with willingness to pay the cost to accomplish His mission, we will see victory in eternity. Victory belongs to God. He is calling you and me.

The message left with many convicted in their hearts and some have shared that God has spoken to them in one way or another. Rev Dr Philip Siew closed with a prayer in light of all that had been shared seeking God to stir our hearts to be renewed and committed to serve Him. It is our hope and prayer that there will be a deeper conviction amongst the people of God in Wesley Methodist Church, Kuantan, as a body of Christ to move forward and extend God's Kingdom.

Mrs Joyce Hue

“The Journey”



It was 7.30 pm on Thursday, the 24th July 2008. One by one walked through the entrance of the Training Room of TRAC. Each had a smile on their faces. And behind each smile, there was anticipation and excitement. There was also a sense of uncertainty as to what they might be expecting. Who else would they be meeting? What is ‘The Journey’ exactly about and what does it require of me? Those were unspoken questions.

Then they spoke their hearts.

‘What happens after these six months?’

‘I am so afraid that at the end of this course I will return to square one.’

‘I joined this course so it could help me find myself.’

‘Not only I desire to know God, but I desire that God knows me.’

The ‘Journey’ started for this first cohort of participants not by chance. They represent seven different churches in Klang Valley. Their ages range from thirties to sixties. They are a pretty good mix of men and women, single and married, mostly strangers to one another. What struck me about them as 19 of us met for the first time on the evening of 24th July at TRAC Training Room was their common reasons in responding to this course. What would it take for people to be committed to twelve Thursday evenings that extends throughout the second half of the year? What would people be willing to add on top an already filled plate of commitments, demands and activities of life, of

ministry and of family? It feels like a tall order for most. But for those who came, it sounded like an answer to prayer for some and a journey of discovery for most. What struck home for me that evening was the genuine desire of all in wanting to grow in their walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. What came across that first meeting was people’s deep anticipation of what they will become by the end of the course. Will they have grown? Will they remain in ‘square one’? What happens after these six months? I hear in these questions a reflection of their sincere desire for growth for themselves and perhaps for others. If you have been a Christian and a keen follower of Christ for awhile, it is not surprising that you

would have attended more seminars, conferences and camps than you can remember. Therefore, if you have been further along in your faith it should not be surprising too that some of us would find ourselves hitting the wall and wonder if this is all there is to the spiritual life.

Therefore it does not come as a surprise to me to hear in the hearts of these participants of their concerns – what happens at the end of this course? Will I return to square one?

This is the cry of the human heart – a heart that resonates with a thirst and desire for the reality and authenticity of the Christian life. And so the human

heart cries to make sense of the meaning of life in abundance in light of what the world, society, families and the institutional church teach or end up teaching. The heart created by the Truth will only seek and hunger for what is truth. Until then, Augustine says, ‘the heart is restless till they find their rest in Christ!’

‘The Journey’ is ICM’s (The Institute for Christian Ministry) first training event. It is a spiritual formation training to equip disciples with the theology and practice of spiritual growth. It is a partnership between TRAC ICM and Talbot School of Theology’s Institute for Spiritual Formation (ISF). ‘The Journey’ discusses and interacts with the spiritual formation materials of Dr John Coe, the Director of the Institute for Spiritual Formation in Talbot School of Theology, California. There are a total of 5 audio lectures which covers five major themes like ‘Resisting the Temptation of Moral Formation – Moving from Moral to Spiritual Formation’; Why We Sin When We Know So Much – Healing the Hidden Heart by the Spirit; Drawing Near to God When God Seems Far Away; Going on with God in Dark Nights and ‘How to Put on Christ – Doing Spiritual Disciplines from the Heart in the Spirit’.

The course is still ongoing and will end on 4th of December 2008. By that time, all participants would have

had listened to Dr John Coe’s five 2-hour lectures. They would have been in group spiritual direction once a month to share their journey with a small spiritual community. They would have met up with an assigned spiritual director individually for three sessions to process their prayer times at whatever life stations they are in. In addition, they would have also gone away for a weekend or a 48-hour personal silence and solitude retreat somewhere. We hope by then that they have begun to break into the discipline of meditating scripture passages, *lectio divina*, prayer of recollection, prayer projects, silence and solitude, having spiritual conversations, processing their life journey, journaling and retreat, all to inculcate the habit of the heart of listening to themselves, to each other and to Him.

Truly, beyond all structures and requirements, my hope for them is that these spiritual disciplines built into the program in the 5 months of learning as a community will open their Spirit and heart to the Truth of who they are and whose they are in Christ. And out of this renewed place they would desire freely to live out the greatest Commandment of Christ, that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul

and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I am grateful to the Lord for His providence of local fellow sojourners who share in the ministry of spiritual formation and spiritual direction, two of whom are working closely with me in leading the spiritual direction groups and journeying with the participants.

In asking what their hopes and desires are for the participants of the Journey, one of the Spiritual Directors, Dr Lilian Koh says. “I believe that people who signed up (for the course) are at a place in their journeys where going deeper with the Lord is important to them. I pray that the participants will remain open in mind, heart and spirit as they prepare to be met by the Lord himself. My desire for the participants would be that they encounter the Lord through this spiritual formation process, that they get to know themselves better and through it all, discover Christian communities where being and doing are intertwined.”

The same sentiments are echoed by fellow spiritual director, Ms Lim Siew Lan, who desires that the participants become more aware of what God is doing and working in their lives and in the lives of others. She also hopes that they may go away with a positive experience of spiritual communities. ‘I desire that they may experience

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what it means to be present to God and to others. I hope that they can sit down and talk about their journey in Christ and perhaps catch a glimpse of what it means to have a deeper journey with the Lord, so that they would themselves begin journeying with others.'

Dr John Coe in his personal note to these participants exhorts the group to allow God to use this next five to six months in a profound way in their lives as they open their heart to the Truth, to the Spirit and to one another for the sake of growth. He also challenged them that their effort would in turn equip them with greater wisdom and care of souls for the sake of Christ and His people in the church.

Yes, indeed the care of souls for the sake of Christ and His people in the church is the heart of 'The Journey'. And that would be my prayer, our prayer for you and your church.

Amen.

Ng Wai Ling

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM)

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) is TRAC's newly established training agency. Its chief aim is to consolidate the training needs of the TRAC churches and design curriculums and offer courses relating to spiritual formation, leadership and ministry skills to the conference. For the next two years, ICM will place its emphasis on spiritual formation and leadership. This emphasis came about out of ICM's initial exercise of meeting up with pastors and key leaders of TRAC to gauge the needs of the conference. This exercise will continue through a formal platform of involving the local church leadership through a SWOT analysis exercise. More information will be given at the Joint Board Weekend where all pastors and leaders will congregate for the purpose of discussing conference issues, direction and planning.

ICM requests that you pray with us as we:

i) Meet with all **leaders and pastors** during the Joint Board in Sept to introduce **SWOT analysis** as a tool to evaluate the state of the church – its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Pray that this will provide opportunities for local church leadership to have honest and prayerful conversations with one another as they hear each other out, build on the gifts God in His grace gave to their church and asking the Lord for wisdom in areas of weaknesses and possible threats. May this exercise open themselves to greater reality of the condition of the church and especially, the heart of God for His Church, His Shepherds and His sheep. Pray for Dr Herbert Tan as he facilitates this SWOT training at the coming Joint Board. We hope that the results of SWOT in local churches would give ICM a glimpse of the needs of the conference and the implications for training.

ii) Begin putting together a **curriculum integrating spiritual formation and leadership** which is relevant, integrated and practical to the needs and issues of the local churches which can be offered in **year 2009** onwards for the church. May the components of the curriculum reflect the biblical view of spiritual growth and servanthood and that they may respond and address needs, issues and challenges of local churches of this generation.

iii) Continue with the **on-going 5-month spiritual formation training 'The Journey'** that all 16 participants will find the training a growing few months for their own hearts. Pray too for perseverance in this intensive season of opening their hearts to the Spirit of God so that all that He has purposed for each can be accomplished.

iv) Continue to respond to the requests and needs from churches and groups to run spiritual formation retreats and a one-day **spiritual formation foundations & orientations** that it may be relevant and life-giving to individuals and groups in the season the Lord has placed them in. May every opportunity lead to the deepening of truth, grace and growth.

ICM welcomes feedback and input from those of you who has a heart for spiritual formation as well as a heart for training and equipping of the saints for the work of the church. If any of the above resonates with your heart or that you have further suggestions or comments, please drop me a line. I can be contacted at wailing.ng@trac.org.my or tel. 03-79542836 (O).

Ng Wai Ling
Director of ICM

"God is LOVE"

If God is real in one's life, how real could He be?

How could one be able to recognize that God is with them and not be troubled?

How would one feel God's peace?

These were somea questions that I often pondered over without answers.

However, recently, I experienced God's very real love in my life and would like to share my testimony with all of you.



March 15, may have been another routine Saturday for me – got home after half a day at work; had a quick lunch with my husband and off we went to church in Ampang for choir practice.

Just as we were going up to church, Vincent, who is physically disabled, lost his balance. I rushed forward to support him from his back. I heard a cracking sound and the next thing I knew; we were both on the ground!

Vincent had fallen on my left leg and I was in great pain. I couldn't stand up on my own so I sat helplessly on the ground. Thank God nothing happened to him.

Two Korean men witnessed the incident and helped us back to the car. Soon after, a few choir members arrived and a couple among them sent me to the hospital. After getting me settled at the hospital, they drove my husband home and even got dinner for him.

X-rays showed that my left tibia (bone) was fractured and the doctor said that I had to be operated on; to secure the fractured bone with steel plates and recovery will take at least 2 to 3 months.

The news startled me as I did not expect it to be so serious! How could I afford not to work for that

long? How would it affect my job? Will I have enough MC to cover? What was going to happen next? I had never been hospitalized before let alone operated on? Who was going to take care of Vincent and the household? No ..., I was very troubled and worried; one question after another stormed my mind.

As I lay helpless on the hospital bed, I began to question God as to why all that had to happen. If it happened so that God's purpose be fulfilled; then, what was His purpose?

Why, of all places, it happened right before the 'foot' of His sanctuary? Was it an indication that I should consider moving on to another church (without having to climb stairs) for the safety of my husband?

Tears began to flow without control, at the idea of leaving that family of Christ. It was the ringing of my mobile which brought me back to my senses.

On the other end of the line was a caring tone from our choir teacher and she told me not to worry so much but to get some rest instead. She said that many church members were informed about the accident and all of them would be praying for me. I was much comforted and grateful for God's love through them and I began to thank God for that.

My phone rang again and it was a brother in Christ who had called to inquire of my condition. As we were both in the Worship & Music Ministry, he encouraged me to focus on songs of God's faithfulness and His healing grace. He also reminded me not to ask 'Why' but rather ponder over 'What God was telling us through this incident. I was much assured after the conversation and tried to rest my mind in God.

That night, I prayed and cried to God. I asked for His forgiveness that I had doubted Him and pleaded with Him for His mercy and grace. I confessed all my fears, worries, concerns and responsibilities to Him.

I prayed for wisdom and discernment in handling the situation that He would keep me brave and strong. I prayed for healing and miracle that I would not need any operation and that He would lead me to a suitable doctor when I sought a second opinion.

Then I began to sing songs of praise and healing to God and slowly fell asleep.

I woke up fresh and confident the next morning. With the help of my friends, I was transferred to another hospital nearer to home in Bandar Sunway.

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After the CT scan, the doctor confirmed that I didn't need an operation! "Praise The Lord !" He answered my prayer and my main fear was lifted though I had to wear a knee immobilizer for 3 months to allow the fracture to heal naturally.

During my stay in the hospital, a caring sister in Christ visited me daily. One day, while helping me to borrow a set of crutches from another sister in Christ, she encountered a flat tire and was almost involved in an accident. Thank God that she was alright and managed to drive to the nearby petrol station for help. I felt so sorry that I had to put her through such danger and I praised and thanked God for protecting her. I was discharged the same day and got home safely.

Back home, there were phone calls from friends asking me not to worry about preparing meals as they would be bringing cooked food for us. Among them was an elderly lady in her 80's and a sister who had a heart condition. I was lost for words and very touched by all their kind gestures. They had cooked so much food that it could last us a week. We had great times of fellowship, shared testimonies and they prayed for me before they went home. Who am I and what have I done to deserve all these blessings? I thank them and the Lord for His love demonstrated through His loving children.

From then onwards, my house was always filled with visitors from far and near. Some offered transport while others helped run errands. There was a day when a retired professor with his wife brought their special vacuum cleaner and cleaned the bed and all the cushions in my house just because I had an episode of allergy.

While others brought physical food, another sister provided us with spiritual food. Realizing that we were unable to attend church services, she volunteered to come to our home every Sunday evening to conduct worship and bible study sessions with us. Through her guidance, we have gained deeper

insight and understanding from the Word of God. She encouraged us to memorize bible verses which serve as reminders of God's faithfulness and love. We also learned to cultivate a habit to always remember to turn to God in all things, eg by simply asking: "Lord Jesus, what do You think?" or "Father God, what are You saying to me?"

Though I was struck with injury and not able to attend to a lot of things, I never seemed to lack anything; instead I had gained more than what I could possibly imagine.

I also praise and thank God for my understanding and caring employer. Soon after my office confirmed 60 days of medical leave, the M.D. (who is also a Christian) phoned personally, from Singapore, to inquire of my condition. She even prayed for me and my household. That was something which I least expected and was deeply touched by her thoughtfulness. In fact, my company also approved an extension of my MC recommended by the doctor later. However, I was concerned for my work and tried to do what I could from home. My colleagues were also very helpful whenever there was any need.

All those happenings were just too amazing to be true. Very often, my thoughts were: - "Oh Lord, I'm speechless, what favor have You found in us that we are rewarded so abundantly?" But I know that God is love and He is gracious and merciful! Even though I doubted Him in the beginning, He forgave me and continually opened my eyes and heart to experience His love through family and friends; especially from the church. Our Pastor also visited us to pray and conduct a Holy Communion just for the two of us.

I had no excuse to feel any self pity. The fervent prayers of many covered me with His healing grace, gave me comfort and good sleep at night. Once, I even had a dream that God prompted me to ignore the pain rather than just enduring it. He took care of all my needs even before I could anticipate them. But

most of all, He gave me the peace of mind that I could surrender all my cares to Him and let Him lead me day by day.

He cleared my doubt and told me "my child, I allowed you to fall right at the foot of the sanctuary not because I am angry with you or want to stop you from going to my house but rather that you will be well taken care of after the fall."

Indeed! God has taken care of every aspect of my needs. During this time of recovery, I had also witnessed for myself, how blessed I am with a wonderful husband. Despite his handicap, he did his best to prepare all our meals and helped around with the chores. He kept me company and prayed for me whenever I was in pain. He reminded me to turn to God and seek His healing grace each time I was overcome by pain and there was a time when we sang and cried to God together. God had brought us through a journey which deepened our relationship and taught us to treasure the lives He gave us and to appreciate each other more.

Most of all, He gave me peace so that I could focus my mind and spend more time studying His Word. By doing so, I drew much closer to Him. I had never enjoyed reading the Bible and dwelling in God's Word the way I do now. I understand what it means to have a personal relationship with Him.

He has revealed Himself in ways most suitable for me so that I can recognize Him. Indeed, God has been real in my life and I know it! I thank and praise Him for all that He has done for me. May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified!

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

"Praise Be To God, Amen"

By Juliet Lai
Christ Methodist Church
Ampang, Selangor

The TRAC Shekinah Prayer Hour

The TRAC Shekinah Prayer Hour was launched on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 6.30 am in the Multi Purpose Hall of Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur by TRAC President, Rev Ong Hwai Teik.

38 TRAC intercessors/prayer ministry members largely from the Klang Valley Methodist Churches representing 39 TRAC Methodist churches in Peninsular Malaysia participated in the 1 hour intercessory prayer watch where we experienced the Shekinah presence of God.

We started off at 6.30 am with a welcome word from Rev Ong and a few songs of praise and worship. Rev Ong explained the meaning of Shekinah which is a Chaldean word not found in the Bible but referred in Genesis 3:24 (Garden of Eden); Exodus 13:21 (pillar of cloud by day...and pillar of fire by night); Exodus 40:34 (cloud covered Tent of Meeting...glory of God filled the tabernacle).

He explained the 3 "Presence of God":-

- General presence of God in the world for all mankind

- The indwelling presence of God, the Holy Spirit in all believers of Jesus Christ

- The manifested presence of God as in John 14:21 which is the revelatory presence of God where people fall under the power of God and God manifests His presence very distinctly.

Wherever we are, God is with us and His Presence must be with us as a distinctive attribute of Christians. In Exodus 33:14-16, God said that His Presence will go with Moses and his people. Moses replies to God. "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all others?"

He then led us to pray for the churches we represented. As we worshipped God and sought His face, He enabled us to know what to pray for and confirmed our petition with a manifestation of His presence. I prayed for Wesley Methodist Church, Parit Buntar, the Lord gave me a Bible verse. "Let the word of

God dwell richly in your hearts" and I had a vision of the Sunday School Superintendant of Emmanuel Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, Mrs Christine Loi. It made me reflect that the Sunday School children must be fed with the Word of God as a distinctive attribute of God's presence in our midst.

We basked in God's presence and He manifested Himself in clear and distinct ways to us. I can only speak for myself that I felt heat and warmth coming over me, saw visions and heard a Bible verse. I am sure others felt His Presence too.

Our God is a living and loving God who will bless us and show us His Presence when we praise and worship Him with all our hearts. He will listen to us and grant our requests within His will.

Come join us every second Saturday to bask in His presence and intercede for His churches.

Miss Yin Kam Yoke

TRAC Shekinah Prayer Hour

An hour of Intercession especially for TRAC members in Klang Valley begins on September 13, 2008 and thereafter every 2nd Saturday)

Time : 6.30am – 7.30am

**Venue : Kuala Lumpur Wesley Methodist Church
2, Jalan Wesley**

Tel : 03-27020338 / 03-20720339

- To gather to seek God's presence
- To pray for purpose and blessings for our churches, the Annual Conference and for our nation Malaysia

Youth Leadership Training (YTC)



The Youth Leadership Training in Kuantan was held on the 3rd and 4th of May, 2008 at the Wesley Methodist Church Kuantan. We were honored to have Uncle Alan, Uncle Jimmy, Uncle Abel and Auntie Mindy from SU to be our speakers. On the first day, we were introduced to the session on 'Know Your Type', personality profiling using the 'DISC' personality test. Besides knowing our own personality type, we also learned how we could communicate and relate more effectively. Through this session, we had learned a lot about our own personalities and other people's too. God made man in His own image and therefore we are all unique and different from each other.

involves the ear and the mouth. The leader should be a good listener and an effective speaker.

We have learned much in this weekend training with uncle Alan and the team from SU. It was a most enjoyable training where we build deeper friendship and introduced our friends from outside to MYF Kuantan. We praise God for new friends who joined us for the training.

Reporting for WMC Kuantan MYF
Lai Chien Li
MYF Treasurer

We learned about team work through games, character building of a Christian leader (commitment, teachability, empowering others, godly vision, positive attitude, servanthood leadership etc), the different levels in leadership with the ultimate level of leadership being one who builds others up as leaders.

Effective leaders will grow in their 'Relational' and 'Communication' skills. In the Relational Skills, the head, heart and hands are involved. Good leaders should use their head, heart and hands to relate with their members. They would use their heads to understand people, hearts to love people and hands to serve those who are in need. Communication Skills



TRAC

Youth Leadership Development Program

for TRAC Methodist Young People

2008

Theme : Second Wind

Date : 9th-14th December 2008
 Venue : SUFES Campsite, Tapah
 Speaker : Mr. Daniel Singh
 Cost : RM180.00

pre-level

(for ages 12 - 14)

- God And You (G.A.Y.)
- Know who you are in God's sight

levels 1, 2 & 3

(for ages 15 - 19)

4 Areas of Development

- Spiritual - Connecting With God, Holiness, Life of Christ
- Character - Start Right, Red Flags, Celebration of Discipline
- Skills - DISC, Time Management, Heart of Leadership
- Handling Critical Issues - Moral Decision-Making, Influence & Effect Of Media, Q&A

Note: Those registering for Levels 2 & 3 must have gone through Levels 1 & 2 respectively.

Closing Date: 30th October 2008

To download registration form please visit: www.trac.org.my

For more information, please contact Ms. Chang Choy Quin,
 Hp: 019-3136680 or email: choyquin@trac.org.my



Date : 13-18 Dec 08
 Venue : YMCA, KL
 Cost : RM200
 Theme : Plug In! Log On!...
 Closing Date : 08 Nov 08

Objective

To build **hardy** Christians
 who have an **integrated** and **holistic** faith and
 who are **engaged** with the world God has placed us in

TIMETABLE

	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
		"Lifestyle"	ENGAGEMENT "Societal Dysfunctions"	"Suffering"	Q.A Forum	"I Have A Dream"
Ice Breakers		EXPRESSIONS				
	_ Into GOD'S HEARTBEAT	_ God's Take on LIFESTYLE	_ God's Take on SOCIAL DYSFUNCTIONS	_ God's Take on SUFFERING	Fun Night	

For more information, please contact Ms. Chang Choy Quin,
 Hp: 019-3136680 or email: choyquin@trac.org.my

Eulogy

Pastor Tan Har Yong

(called home by His Master on August 10, 2008)

Pastor Tan Har Yong is well known in our district. He was a local preacher. He worked as a Christian Education Director in Wesley Penang and was one of the key persons responsible in starting the Hokkien Ministry. He was Chairman of the Christian Education Commission for the Northern District. Book were some of the other things he brought in regularly to be sold of cheaper prices.

Two years ago (2006) he offered to serve as a Supply Pastor. He was appointed as Approved Supply Pastor of Kulim Wesley for the year 2007 while still serving as CE Director in Wesley Penang. In 2008 he served as Pastor of Kulim and Butterworth Wesley churches. That meant a lot of traveling out of the island but he did not complain. I noticed that he had brought about good changes in Kulim Wesley (and

I told him so). He encouraged more people to participate in seminars, training programs and LPL courses held in the district. That was Pastor Tan Har Yong: everything he did, he did well. He is the only person as far as I know who obtained full marks (100 marks) for the Old Testament knowledge test in our LPL course.

He was always punctual. In fact, he was always fifteen minutes early in fetching me to Kulim, when we went there to serve communion. He was a hardworking Pastor who wanted to see people grow in the Lord. There was much that he did in the district, all for the love of God and the people. One sometimes wonders how he had so much strength to serve. The answer lies in the verse that says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." I think it is when we lose the joy that we lose

the strength. Pastor Har Yong was full of strength because he was full of the joy of the Lord.

We in the Northern District will miss Pastor Tan Har Yong and his valuable contributions, ideas and suggestions. All of us in the district wish to thank Mrs Tan and their two sons for releasing Har Yong to serve in the district. Thank you and we will continue to pray for the family.

Shared by Rev T. Jeyakumar on behalf of the Northern District at the funeral service of the late Pastor Tan Har Yong



Our Condolences

Our condolences to the family of the late Mr Tan Har Yong on his recent demise. Our prayers are with you in your time of grief.