

# B E R I T A TRAC

For Internal Circulation Only

2007 • VOL 30 - No.4



TRAC Cover

32nd Session Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) Methodist Church in Malaysia

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Session Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) Methodist Church in Malaysia

The 32nd Session was held at the Vistana Hotel in Penang from 24th to 27th November 2007. We thank the Lord Almighty for the smooth running of the worship, business and teaching sessions, elections and workshops.

TRAC President delivered his annual Presidential Address which gave an overview of the work of

the Conference and the vision for TRAC for the ensuing years.

The three teaching sessions by Bishop Hwa Yung were challenging, inspiring, insightful and thought provoking. He spoke on the Conference theme "The Church and Society." As spiritual descendants of Abraham, we are blessed by God but we must

not forget that we are also called to be a blessing to the nation. To be a blessing to the nation, we ourselves have to strive for exemplary Christ-like living, demonstrating the highest level of holiness and integrity, ridding ourselves of bitterness and extending forgiveness.

> continue to page 2





Rev. Joshua Kong Chee Leong and family Rev. Buell W. N. Abrahan and family photo taken after their ordination at the 32nd session TRAC



### > continue from page 1

The church is responsible for nation building as she is called to be “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.” Nation building is our responsibility and we have to believe that the gospel is the answer to many of the nation’s problems. We have to do our part to help shape her moral and social vision. However, this cannot happen if the church is unengaged, comfortable, middle class, focused on itself and unwilling to pay the cost of commitment.

Bishop Hwa Yung gave suggestions for areas of our involvement. For example he stressed that the least we could do was to register and vote. More Christians should be involved in politics, making a stand for justice, the poor and marginalized. We must be involved in social outreach programs like

the setting up of centers that care for the different able people of our community, giving support to Malaysian Care and setting up educational centers for autistic children. We have to encourage all Methodists to be members of small groups for discipling and holy living. Through such small groups lives can be touched and transformed, thus creating empowering communities. He also emphasized that if we want to change the church and country there must be concerted efforts in prayer. It is hoped that the Methodist Prayer Convention would start a prayer movement across the whole nation that would help bring about a powerful revival in our land. The battle is long and hard and even costly but that is the sacrifice we must be willing to make if we long to see a nation governed by justice and integrity.

## Content

**A Joyous Christmas & A Blessed New Year**

*From: The Editorial Team*

### Cover

- 01 32nd Session Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) Methodist Church in Malaysia
- 03 TRAC President Address (A synopsis)

### TRAC Event

- 07 Ground Breaking Ceremony, Wesley Methodist Church Kepong

- 08 TRAC Methodist Women Conference 2007

- 10 2nd TRAC Methodist Senior Fellowship Consultation Meeting

### Christian Education

- 12 How to Pray

### Testimony

- 13 Jakarta Camp

- 15 My Experience at the Methodist Prayer Convention 2007
- 17 Eagles Leadership Conference 2007

### 2008 Appointments

- 18 Pastoral Appointments for 2008

### Back Cover

- 20 TRAC Calendar 2008

CHURCH & SOCIETY  
27th NOVEMBER 2007  
SPEAKER: BISHOP HWA YUNG



In line with the conference theme "The Church and Society" two distinguished speakers were invited to give talks on "Current National Issues and our Responses." They were YB Datuk Dr. Tan Kee Kwong (Member of Parliament) and Dr. K.J. John who is the executive director, Oriental Hearts and Mind Study Institute. Both the speakers were eloquent and informative as

they elaborated on current national issues. Both emphasized that the need for fervent prayers for our government and nation. They too reminded our people to register and vote. Dr. K.J. John went on to say that we should form integrity circles of three to pray for integrity of our nation. Besides that, we must actively help to promote meritocracy and encourage careers

in teaching especially in the fields of science and technology. We can contribute towards the building of a balanced and wholesome way of life by making a personal pledge against corruption and ensure personal integrity by refusing to offer bribes.

*A lively Q & A session followed after the talks were delivered. ✱*



## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY AT METHODIST CHURCH SEREMBAN

Wesley Methodist Church Seremban is looking for a suitable candidate for the post of Director of Youth Ministry. The person must meet the following requirements:-

- A degree preferably in Theology. If without tertiary education, SPM/STPM with at least 5 years experience in youth ministry
- Minimum 3 years experience in youth ministry
- Good people skills, organizational ability and ability to interact with youth
- Preferred age 23 to 35 years old
- Be a committed Christian
- Music skills would be an advantage
- Computer literate and familiar with MS Office & Publisher

Good compensation and other benefits will be offered to the candidate who meets the requirements. Interested candidates may send in your application to the address below:

**Pastor**  
**Wesley Methodist Church Seremban**  
**380, Jalan Kenanga 1,**  
**Taman Bukit Chedang, 70300 Seremban**  
**Email:** [wmcshn@streamyx.com](mailto:wmcshn@streamyx.com)  
**Website:** [www.wesleysban.org.my](http://www.wesleysban.org.my)







# TRAC Presidential Address (A synopsis)

## 32nd Session Trinity Annual Conference

Date : November 24-27 2007

Venue : Hotel Vistana, Penang.

Mission Statement: Open Heavens, Global Missions.

Our vision: to be a Transforming, Redeeming, Abiding, Community (TRAC) in Christ.

In Malaysia, there are no shortages of challenges for us to wrestle with. As God's people called to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" (Matt 5:13,14) we must overcome our own fears, inertia and excessive preoccupation with our own church agenda. We have to humbly touch lives and intentionally seek to make a difference in our society with the Gospel and all these efforts are to be under girded by Christ-likeness. It is therefore appropriate that our theme for this 32nd Annual Conference is *"The Church and Society"*

### A brief Survey/Reflection of the Five Essentials.

The five essentials we have distilled to be our needed current areas of pursuit in order to be faithful and fruitful for the Lord are, leadership development, building community, missions and outreach, discipleship and spirituality, family: children, youth and seniors ministries. The following is a snapshot of the current progress of these areas in our Annual Conference life.

#### 1. Leadership Development

The Local Preacher's License (LPL)

course has helped prepare and produce a few of our approved supply pastors. This will be a growing trend, as more come into the pastoral and Christian vocational ministry as a second career.

As leadership development remains a necessary priority for us, more churches are now organizing LCEC Retreats for planning as well as for leadership community building and bonding purposes.

#### 2. Building Community.

TRAC has been emphasizing what has been an accepted norm for us in our community life for care, personal growth, supporting the wider church life and outreach through the small groups in our churches. As of June 2007, we have 638 care groups.

More churches are organizing annual family camps and on a larger basis, Southern District had gathered for Prayer and Planning Retreats. Eastern District is planning to have a District Family Camp possibly next year. Although we have some way to go, our Annual Conference has been showing signs of a more connected response to

common needs and events such as helping the property rectification project of Kuala Lipis Wesley, contributing to the Millennium Ministry Fund, participating in the adoption of the 4 missions countries, involvement in the MPC 07- among others. More can be further achieved when we are united and committed to one another as an Annual Conference.

#### 3. Missions and Outreach

It is heartening to note that our churches are supporting at least 9 countries overseas apart from our involvement in the Sengoi ministry and work among 7 migrant groups in our nation. Many of our churches will join the 1,500 over other Malaysian churches to make a concerted effort in blessing our nation through the "Celebration of Hope, Malaysia" project. Another emphasis will be the planting of churches in the urban areas. We remain steadfastly committed to the work of the Persidangan Missi Sengoi and currently we are helping PMS in their financial review and planning.

#### 4. Discipleship and Spirituality

Our churches are organizing their own spiritual or prayer retreats and



also making use of the Maranatha Prayer Retreats organized at Janda Baik. The Methodist Prayer Convention 07 (31 Aug – 2 Sept) was well supported by TRAC. The cycle of training through the School for Intercessors will continue, as we work towards producing SFI trainers.

TRAC Prayer Desk Calendar 2008 will be sold and all proceeds will go towards the TRAC Missions Fund. The calendar will help our members pray for TRAC, as well as support TRAC's missions ministry.

The Board of Christian Education continues to help our Annual Conference by the revised Christian Growth Strategy and the Board of Worship has produced basic resource materials such as the Lent Meditations. The latter has also been conducting training for greater theological depth and exploring forms that make our congregational worship more relevant.

### **5. Family: Children, Youth and Seniors Ministry.**

It was a fruitful first TRAC Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Officers Consultation/Retreat that took place on the 17-19 August 07. Our TRAC churches need to continue and deepen our support for this promising harvest field by 'owning' our Companies even though they each belong to their respective national organization.

Increasingly, the needs of the young adults will also have to be addressed in a more focused way.

The MSF continues to grow with their MEALS emphasis (Membership, Expansion, ALPHA, Leadership Development and Social Concerns) I am most encouraged that they are positioning themselves to reach out with the theme "God in Christ Reconciling" for their 2008 Camp.

## **II. A Battery of Important Issues to Wrestle Through**

### **1. Growing leadership unity in our Annual Conference: Synergy in unity locally.**

We need to continue to work as a team in all our local churches. Let us responsibly ensure that the "bond of peace" in Christ is intentionally maintained and that we be gracious Christ-like servant reformists as we seek God's revival for our church and land.

### **2. Advancing Missions: Continuing to Grow in Global Perspective.**

We must not let up on pursuing the track of Global Missions especially through the Board of Missions. Our main objective is that every TRAC congregation adopts at least one of the 4 countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam. We want to see the following:

- churches giving voluntarily a tithe (10%) of their annual budget for missionary work overseas,
- churches send out missionaries/ personnel to the mission field
- churches praying for that adopted country
- members of churches visiting that country at some stage.

We must not forget that Malaysia is indeed one of the mission poly-centres- with 26 million people and many "nations in our nation" and only about a tenth of its population being Christian.

### **3. Planting new churches: Obeying the Kingdom extension mandate.**

Church growth specialists are agreed that planting churches is the most effective way to reach lost people. Dr. George Hunter III reminded us of the imperative of praying, planning, identifying and strategizing with a team of

appropriately gifted believers to do this. As an Annual Conference, we must pray for the intended church planting project that Emmanuel Methodist Church, PJ, will embark on next year as they target Help University College. This will also see the heartfelt desire of our Annual Conference to reach out to the youths in our institutions of tertiary education in the urban centers. This may yet pave the way for our future outreach to other colleges and universities.

### **4. Increasing the harvest work force: offering ourselves and releasing our children.**

We are glad that we have a few more joining in full-time vocational ministries, but we shall need more ordained ministers and Approved Supply Pastors. Each of us needs to make our self available should the Lord call us to serve Him in this capacity. Along with this, we must release our children to the Lord. To make it more possible for those who will join the remunerated ranks of ministry as a second career, our salary considerations have to be more 'realistic' in meeting their needs.

### **5. "Space for Grace": Building projects and more room for ministry.**

TRAC has something like 22 churches undergoing different stages in their building and property acquisition projects which need our prayer support and relevant help as a TRAC Family. This expansion of "space for grace" can be deemed as a sign of blessing of growth of the Lord as our congregations and ministries grow. However, it should not be made such a preoccupation that we neglect the main calling of the church.

*> continue to page 6*



> continue from page 5

## 6. Work in Progress: Some important on-going issues.

### (a) Task Force for Outreach to Universities and Colleges.

The Executive Board has set up a Task Force to study and recommend actions of making it a reality the ministry of outreach on campuses of universities and colleges in Malaysia.

- (b) Task Force for Studying the Possible setting up of a Retirement Village. The Annual Conference would want to consider the establishment of a "retirement village" where senior citizens can possibly buy or rent apartments or small units. It will be a place where social and spiritual support are in place for them to fellowship with one another and with God, and a place where their loved ones know they are being cared for. The matter is still under study by a Task Force which was set up on April 21 2007.

- (c) Institute for Christian Ministry. The Interim Board is looking for suitable full-time Director who will be systemizing priority areas of training needed in our Annual Conference.

- (d) TRAC Millennium Ministry Fund has successfully enabled the TRAC HQ Renovation and Extension to be undertaken successfully. The next TMMF Projects are:
- Making the 'Sabbatical Leave' (MBOD Section XII, para 333) realizable for itinerant ministers
  - Funding the establishment of the ICM in its first 2 years.

## 7. Social Holiness: Blessing and "Salting" Malaysia.

We must network through the Board of Social Concerns and

other NGOs in order to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" in Malaysia. We have to be wise, discerning and courageous in order to address social-religious-political issues of our nation. As we are not too far from the national elections, encourage those eligible to register and exercise their voting rights as we keep this matter in prayer.

## III A Bigger Family Involvement.

### 1. General Conference.

- (a) Pray for the 9th GC Session that is scheduled for 15-20 Sept 2008. The 4 topics that will be the focus are: Evangelism and Church Planting, Discipleship, Church in Society, and Overseas Missions (including migrant groups in our land)
- (b) The GC is also in the process of revamping the Methodist Headquarters to make way for a more effective and efficient centre of operation and ministry. An Advisory Committee on Asset Management and the Advisory Committee on Tax have been set up and the Council of Education is undergoing the processes of updating and upgrading.
- (c) GC will be publishing soon the 'Small Group Guidelines' and 'The Rules Governing Marriage in the Methodist Church' Plans are underway to publish a Methodist book of liturgy and a book of catechism so that we can benefit both from Biblical teaching and our rich Wesleyan heritage.
- (d) We hope to have the Port Dickson Methodist Centre re-developed so that we can have a large venue for all church functions including a "home" for holding TRAC session.
- (e) Regarding the official stand of the Methodist Church in Malaysia

on the issue of the "Gay pastor" which appeared in The Star, Monday 13 August, 2007, let me quote the official position *"We affirm that homosexuals are persons of sacred worth, who need the healing and transformation of Jesus Christ through the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment. However, the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with the teaching of the Christian church. Same sex union is also unacceptable in our church."* (General Conference Resolution, Sept 2004)

### 2. CFM and CCM

CCM has made an urgent request for financial support for its operational costs. Another project that needs support is the "Research Commission Fund". This fund will help establish a research centre to study local religious and political issues so that the Malaysian church can be informed and engaged in timely responses. For the good of the citizens of Malaysia, we must collaborate with other fair minded citizens and groups to resist the erosion of our rightful space and constitutional rights.

### Conclusion

It is my prayer that each of us would so hunger and thirst after God that we would be a Christ – like Annual Conference, with Christ-like pastors, lay leaders and members that bear authentic witness to the Christ whom we proclaim. May the Lord grant us all grace and strength to serve and continue on this glorious and fulfilling journey of a "long obedience in the same direction" in every sphere he places us.

Rev. Ong Hwai Teik  
President TRAC, Methodist Church in Malaysia. ✱

(visit [www.trac.org.my](http://www.trac.org.my) for full text)





# Groundbreaking Ceremony

Wesley Methodist Church Kepong

Ehsan Industrial Park • 9th September 2007



**W**e give thanks and praise to our great and awesome God!

Wesley Methodist Church, Kepong, Kuala Lumpur has finally found a home.

On the morning of Sunday, 9th. September, 2007 around 70 members of WMCK gathered at Ehsan Industrial Park, Kepong to witness the groundbreaking service for our new and permanent church building.

Our shop-lot church of 7 years in Desa Aman Puri, Kepong is inadequate to accommodate our growing congregation and we have been praying for God to bless us with a bigger place.

The congregation had a hearty breakfast and after that, at 9.30am TRAC President, Rev Ong Hwai Teik arrived to officiate in the dedication. Our pastor, Rev Yew Nieng Song, led in the service and the TRAC President then made the declaration, bestowing upon the members the responsibility and privilege of building God's church in this place. The bungalow industrial lot had been bought for RM2.668 million.

As a symbolic claim of ownership Rev Ong, Rev Yew and our Lay leader, James Ong dug some earth from the ground and placed it in three wheelbarrows,



which the youths wheeled over and dumped in the adjacent semi-detached lot, which we are praying will be purchased by a generous buyer who will then rent it to us for church use.

The occasion concluded with Rev Yew and the church leaders walking around the lot and anointing the boundary markers, claiming the property for the Lord.

To God be all Glory!

*Report by Julia Chua* ✱



*The MW Conference Choir led by Ivy rendering their hymns of praise to God*



*TRAC MW President Irene Khoo with some of the MW ladies. (the young and young at heart)*



*Wow! What an attentive group of ladies. "Hey, Ivy what is going on?" "Elizabeth says, "I must capture this moment with my camera!"*

# TRAC

## Methodist Women

## Conference 2007

**Venue:** Port Dickson Golf & Country Club

**Date:** 18th – 21st August 2007

**Theme:** Abiding Disciple in Christ

**120** MW Ladies (12 local societies) met at Port Dickson Golf & Country Club. The Annual MW Conference was organized by our Seremban MW sisters who did their best to ensure that our stay was comfortable and that all the logistic problems were attended to. They were wonderful hosts and we were all touched by their hospitality. Syabas to the Seremban ladies and men who spared no effort in making it a fruitful and pleasant/memorable stay.

It was a nice drive for the Penang ladies who drove to Port Dickson in two cars stopping in Ipoh for breakfast and lunch in the outskirts of PD before arriving at the Conference Venue.

### Sessions for the MW Conference:

- **Opening Worship & Welcome Tea:** Sharing by Rev. Yew Nieng Song
- **Business Sessions ( 5 ) and Evaluation:** led by TRAC MW President Mrs. Irene Khoo
- **Fellowship Nite:** led by Johore Bahru ladies. The activities conducted had everyone in stitches including TRAC President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik. There were some "brave men" who joined / observed us.  
"Wow you MW ladies like this oh, aiyo..... Really MW LADIES can let their hair down."
- **Morning Devotions:** Personal and Group
- **Sunday Worship:** Led by KL Wesley MW . Sharing by Rev. Paul Shantosh Christie
- **Bible Study:** 2 Sessions led by Rev. Ong Hwai Teik
- **Inspirational Hour:** 2 Sessions led by Mrs. Lily Ch'ng (LPL & former GCMW President)
- **Workshops:** Grooming: by Ms. Angelene Chong: after this talk you will see "the change" in our ladies.

Health Talk on Anti-aging & Andropause Therapy (Now MW is known as AA - anti-aging & NGO - Never Grow Old) by Dr. Subramaniam & Dr. Khoo Kong Beng

Talk by Tenaganita on "The 21st Century Slave Trade" by Aegile Fernandez & Soo Choo

- **Closing Service & Holy Communion:** Preacher: Rev. Ong Hwai Teik





209th Session, TRAC MW Conference, Penang

In between sessions, during free-time the energetic ones had line dancing and games.

It was good to see new faces at the MW Conference and "young veterans" like Mrs. Tan Boon Lin, Mrs. Lim Say Huat, Mrs. Esther Lau and Mrs. Lily Ch'ng. Their presence and words of advice / encouragement have inspired our women to be God's handmaiden for His ministry to the Methodist women. The TRAC MW Exco members and Local Presidents stayed back another extra day to discuss and consolidate plans for 2008. **For you ladies who have not joined the MW, we hope you will consider joining us. Contrary to your thought that it is for "old women" the MW caters for the ministry and issues of women in our Methodist churches. You have to join to see for yourself!!!! There are not always serious sessions but also light and hilarious moments too!**

At this time of writing, I have to mention someone who was very dear and very much a part of our MW. Our Immediate Past TRAC MW Ms. Dorothy Heng, always had the heart and welfare of the MW. Even though she was unable to be with us for the last 2 Conferences due to illness, she would still enquire about it, wanting to know how friends and the sisters-in-Christ were doing. The MW feels the loss of her demise when we heard the news of "her home-going" on 18th September 2007. *"The light you carried while here with us Dear Dorothy will remain in our hearts and may it continue to glow with the leaders and members alike! God heard our prayers and wishes for your recovery, but He knows what is best because He gives eternal rest for those He calls His own!"*. **Till we meet again!**

by Ivy Tan (TRAC MW Coordinator of Social Concerns) ✱



In fond remembrance of our former TRAC MW President Ms. Dorothy Heng During our 29th Annual Conference here in Penang 2004 and Retreat up in Fraser's Hill with MW Exco members



32nd TRAC MW Group Photo with Rev. Ong Hwai Teik & Rev. Paul Christie



The MW Conference Choir led by Ivy rendering their hymns of praise to God.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> TRAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Consultation Meeting

29-31 May 2007 • YMCA Kuala Lumpur

The aims of the 2nd TRAC-MSF Consultation Meeting are for the leaders of the MSF

- i) to be familiar with the views of TRAC concerning the seniors and its vision for us,
- ii) to learn from our brothers and sisters in Singapore of the development and growth of the seniors ministry and
- iii) to reflect on the activities and objectives of the MSF and to plan the way forward. It is our hope that through this meeting we will be able to have a clearer vision for our organization and of our mission.

The first TRAC-MSF Consultation Meeting was held almost two years ago on 15-16 October 2005 at Shah's Hotel in Petaling Jaya. This second meeting was held at the YMCA in Kuala Lumpur from 29-31 May 2007. It was attended by the board members of TRAC-MSF, the presidents (or their representatives) of local chapters, our Director of Seniors Ministry, Rev. Hwa Jen, and six representatives from the Singapore TRAC Board of Seniors Ministry, namely Mr. G.D. Balakrishnan (Chairman), Rev. Peter Goh (Director), Mrs. Heng-Lim Gaik Kee (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Sheila Dhamaratnam (Programme Co-ordinator), Mr.

Alex Liew (Treasurer) and Mr. Willie Dhamaratnam (Observer). On the second day of the meeting we were blessed by the participation of our TRAC President, Rev. Ong Hwai Teik and also our TRAC Lay Leader, Dr. Samuel Ong.

In the paper by Rev. Ong Hwai Teik on "TRAC Vision and Mission for the MSF" and read by Rev. Hwa Jen it was mentioned the President would like the MSF to move intentionally towards a more balanced blend of fellowship and ministry. There is a need for our Annual Conference to actively encourage and support the seniors ministry in all churches and for the MSF to include elements of caring to meet the needs of members and other senior citizens. Besides helping to run Alpha courses for seniors and organizing annual prayer retreats, there could be greater involvement by the MSF in various district prayer events and the Conference-wide Prayer Conference and Schools for Intercessors. The seniors must not miss the opportunity to grow spiritually and to be equipped to live a life of significance in our community and society. To find significance in life we need to encourage more members to give of themselves in the many ministries that cry out for help.

Mrs. Sheila Dhamaratnam, Director of Board of Discipleship and Nurture at TRAC Singapore and also the Programme Co-ordinator for the Seniors, presented her paper on "Discipling and Nurture of Seniors – the Singapore Experience". She stressed that there is no such thing as 'retiring' for seniors. The seniors need to grow and mature in Christ, to take an active part in the life of the church and to live their lives to the fullest. They have much to share in terms of knowledge, experience, special talents and abilities. The Board of Seniors Ministry in Singapore has programmes to nurture the spiritual growth of seniors through Bible Study and Christian Education, to lead a transformed life through spiritual formation by the renewing of the mind, and to reach out to others in love and kindness as Christian disciples. They have courses such as "I.D.E.A.S. for Seniors" and "Learning To Care" which are participated by seniors from various TRAC and other denominational churches.

A paper on "Active Ageing: A Triumph and A Challenge" was presented by Rev. Peter Goh who, on the first TRAC-MSF Consultation Meeting in 2005 spoke about the Vision and Mission of the Singapore



TRAC Board of Seniors, including the formation of GYM (Glowing Years Ministry) and also on the topic of Volunteerism. Both topics have a bearing on the current talk. He stated that "Ageing is more than just growing old; it is a part of our growing up. The progress of successful ageing makes us more Christ-like. We can grow old graciously with active ageing and to finish it with grace. Being old does not necessarily imply something negative because the second half of our lives is the best for the Lord as the psalmist in Psalm 92:12-14 says, 'It is the happiest and the crowning phase of our lives for the "righteous will flourish like a palm tree ....will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord.... will flourish in the courts of our God....will still bear fruit in old age.... will stay fresh and green".'

Rev Hwa Jen spoke on "M.E.A.L.S. for Seniors – the TRAC- MSF goals and objectives for 2006-2009". The alphabet 'M' refers to Membership drive and the organization is aiming for an increase in membership by 10% each year, mainly through the existing chapters in the larger churches. The strategy would involve active invitation of seniors to join the organization or through organizing social activities, outings and Annual Camps to attract them to join the MSF. The next alphabet 'E' refers to Expansion - meaning the formation of new MSF chapters. It is envisaged that two chapters be formed per year from 2006-2009. The District Co-ordinators in TRAC-MSF are to work closely with the District Superintendents and local pastors of churches especially those with more than 100 members. 'A' refers to Alpha course, meant essentially for seekers, which the seniors are encouraged to attend and to work with the church in training facilitators for the course. 'L' refers to Leadership Development whereby the seniors are encouraged to equip themselves by attending long-term discipleship courses, LPL courses and others that might be available through other bodies or through the proposed



TRAC Institute of Christian Ministry. The last alphabet 'S' refers to aspects of Social Concerns directed towards other seniors in the church and the community. As a start the TRAC-MSF Board will appoint champions for each for the aspects mentioned.

Dr. Samuel Ong (also a member of the MSF) presented his paper on "The Role of the Laity in TRAC – with particular reference to the Seniors. He shared his personal experience as a 3rd generation Christian, baptized as an infant, who has given his life over to Jesus as his Lord and Saviour and who is continually seeking to follow Him faithfully and humbly as a disciple. Although a member of the laity, his knowledge of and his living the faith, much of it derived from personal reading and practice, have much to be admired and to be imitated by others. One cannot hope to grow and be transformed by just depending on sermons alone without a conscious effort at spiritual formation through personal reading and practice and/or through systematically following courses that are available in the churches and other Christian bodies.

The members leading the Panel Discussion were Rev. Ong Hwai Teik, Rev. Peter Goh, Mrs Sheila Dhamaratnam, Dr. Samuel Ong and Mr. Daniel Chan. The long-standing issue of the apparent lack of support from some of the clergy

on the formation of certain MSF chapters drew much discussion but ultimately it was the spirit of love which prevailed and this led to a better understanding and the need for patience with one another.

The MSF should look beyond its original emphasis on supportive fellowship and mutual encouragement and needs to consider itself also as an avenue for ministry. There are many areas which the seniors can be involved but awareness is one thing and commitment to serve is another. Members need to be prepared for service through training and systematic spiritual nurturing and growth in Christ-likeness. Some are able to grow in spiritual maturity through personal reading and practice but most others need to follow courses and training that are made available to them. They need also to be involved in prayer and personal reflection. If, through our reflection, we can truly experience the love of God then, the altruistic giving of oneself becomes a possibility. In giving, one has much to receive as well. It is this that one begins to realize what it means to live a meaningful and abundant life in Christ!

*Khoo Soo Ghee*  
Hon. Secretary, TRAC-MSF ❀

# “How to Pray”

The TRAC Board of Christian Education has been writing a series titled “Know Your God” in Berita TRAC because one of the goals of the Board for this quadrennium is to encourage church members to go back to the fundamentals of the Christian life – to know our God.

The first three articles that have been published in previous issues were “Growing in God’s Word”, “How to Spend Time Daily with God” and “How to Study God’s Word for Yourself”. The last topic of the series is titled “How to Pray” and the following is the first part of this topic.

## Part I - Praying Using Scriptures

Hi! What made you read this article? Hopefully it is because you have that thirst to pray but sometimes you just feel you are not making the most out of it. Well, we are all in the same boat here. Let me try to help out a little by introducing a ‘method’ of praying by using the Scriptures.

Let me make two points right on the onset.

- 1. Praying is communication with God.
- 2. We learn to pray by praying.

How do we communicate with anyone? It is more than just talking. Our faces, our gestures are also

communication. In fact, often they communicate a truer picture than our words! Prayer is communicating with God. It is heart-work. So do not worry about the grammar, or who is listening in. We just want to talk with Father.

And how does the Father talk to us? By the Holy Spirit through His Scriptures! Let prayer be a two-way communication, not a monologue.

As a guide, there is this useful acronym ACTS i.e.

- A for Adoration
- C for Confession
- T for Thanksgiving
- S for Supplication

What is adoration? We adore God by telling Him just how great and wonderful He is. We are amazed by His love and care. We are overwhelmed by His grace. Tell Him that in your own words.

Confession is agreeing with God regarding a certain matter in our lives. Yes, God is always right. We say, ‘Yes, Lord, you are right and I am wrong. Sorry.’

Thanksgiving is saying ‘Thanks’ to God for things He has done for you. His peace, His assurance, His help, His guidance ... the list is endless!

And Supplication is bringing our needs and concerns before God our Provider.

We are going to start a conversation with Father using the Scriptures as our basis. I suggest the familiar Psalm 23 (NIV) for starters. Please follow me as I guide you along. And then you are on your own because your Heavenly Father wants YOU to talk to Him.

### Verse 1 - The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

*All right, this is what the Lord is telling us, talking to us. Do we hear Him? How can we respond to Him?*

*Thank you, Lord, that you are my shepherd. Thank you, Lord, for your care. (That is Thanksgiving!)*

Let us go on as our hearts overflow.

*Thank you, Lord, you take care of all my needs. I am not in want. How wonderful! Lord, who can be compared to you? Why should you consider me so important that you actually and really care? Lord, you are great! You are totally, absolutely dependable. Lord, I worship you, O Great and Wonderful Father! (Look, we are adoring!)*

*Lord, I just remembered. Yesterday, I was so worried because the payment was late. Lord, forgive me. Yes, it came in the afternoon. Lord, I am so ashamed that I did not trust you, my Shepherd, for this little*

> continue to page 13





# Jakarta Camp... A Journey Of Faith In God



I doubt that any of the 9 KL Wesley JrSS teachers knew what we were in for when we agreed to run a 4 days 3 nights Children's Camp in Gunung Geulis, Jakarta from June 20– 24 this year!

About a month before the camp, we received news that it was no

longer a Children's Camp but a Teens Camp! Then 2 weeks later we were informed that 80 campers between the ages of 5 – 15 had signed up! The Teens Camp had evolved into a "Children cum Teens camp"!

> continue to page 14



> continue from page 12

*matter. Lord, forgive me. (We are confessing as the Spirit reveals our non-compliance with God's truth!)*

*Lord, I have so little faith. Increase my faith, Father. With you as my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. Burn this into my mind, Lord! (And this is Supplication!)*

Let us pause for a moment here to recollect. We meditate on one verse and respond to the Spirit talking to us from that verse. It could be a longer passage. And we use ACTS as a guide to our responses. Note how the thoughts flow naturally. As we pray, we are actually aligning our lives and thoughts to the Scriptures.

All right? Now let us look at verse 2.

**Verse 2 - He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**

And it is YOUR turn to pray! Try it right now. Go on. Remember, we learn to pray by praying.

Did you have a good time communicating with Father? Now go on to the next verse and so on till the end. Wasn't it a good two-way communication time with the Shepherd? Did you grasp His assurance and His peace – even in the valley of the shadow of death? Did you not want to respond in whole-hearted worship? Did you see how foolish you have been to be worried sick about so many things you have no control over?

That is praying. This is not the only form of praying but it is a start. Like I suggested before, use the Psalms and communicate with Father. The more often you communicate with Father, the more you will know Him. You will find your relationship with Father deepening and your praying more personal and more meaningful. And God's Holy Spirit is able to talk to you more clearly and about more definite matters.

So remember, praying is communication with God. And set aside a daily time to pray the Psalms because to learn to pray, you must pray!

Tan Har Yong ✱

> continue from page 13

Imagine the apprehension we felt as correspondences between the camp organizers in Jakarta and our team flew back and forth through email! Did we make the right decision? Do we have what it takes to run this camp? It was something we had never done before! Running a SS camp outside of Malaysia and for kids of a different culture?! And how do you minister effectively to so wide an age group??

But having committed ourselves there was no turning back! And so what did the team learn?

"This camp has inspired me to want to serve the Lord even more especially when I saw the kids in Jakarta hungering for God's Word ... God was doing something in the midst of us!"

"What an amazing experience it was! As the 9 of us prepared for this trip, God challenged our faith, put our perseverance to the test with uncertainties and challenges and in the process stretched us

to take hold of more of Him as He empowered us to serve the children and teens in Jakarta."

"Based on the life of David we shared with the campers how God wants us to live the X-treme Life of Purpose, the X-treme Life of Victory and the X-treme Life of Service ... it was a memorable experience and fruitful time spent at the 4 day camp."

"Despite putting every ounce of our energy into all the preparation, planning, and rehearsing for the camp, things still went wrong especially on the second night. From the sound system to the lap top, every thing that could go wrong went wrong! But nothing could stop the campers from experiencing His presence. Many of the kids and teenagers responded to the altar call and came forward for prayer. It's all about Him and not about us!"

On our flight back home, we finally succumbed to the hectic schedule of the past 4 days as well as the weeks of preparation prior to the



camp and most of us snoozed for much of the journey. Some of us did fall sick during and after the camp but none of us have regrets going to Jakarta. We will not easily forget the many precious lessons the Lord taught us as a team as well as individually. Truly God has not only called us to live the X-treme Life of Purpose, Victory and Service for Him and the people He has called us to serve and He empowers us to do so!

*From the 9 musketeers who went to Jakarta* ✱





# My Experience at the Methodist Prayer Convention 2007



**S**o much has been written and spoken about prayer these days and yet there is still such a poverty of this discipline in many of our spiritual lives. Before deciding to attend this convention, my fear was to hear some more and be left the same as before.

One deep impression from the MPC was the urgent reminder that there is

no substitute for prayer. Obedience to God is an overflow of our prayer life. If we are in constant communion with God, we will be willing to do what He wants us to do. Though it is our privilege to have access to God, it is also our responsibility to intercede for the needs of others, the church and the nation. The power of transformation is the cross, and prayer is the key to that power.

The thoughts from the message given on Sunday stirred my spirit and lingered on in my mind for many days. Do I trust God to fulfill His promises just as He did to Abraham, Joseph and the others? Though we can be Christians anywhere, is He calling us to trust Him and to be His light in this land?

*> continue to page 16*





> continue from page 15

Lessons such as this kept my mind busy and my heart longing to hear what the Lord may be speaking to us as His people in this country. I found the sharing from the two Christian politicians enlightening. The session left me with the realization that as God's people in Malaysia, we need to pray urgently and unceasingly for the country, to ask for boldness and wisdom for

those in authority and those who can make a difference. In moments of helplessness, "prayer is action". The servants of God who have been invited to speak were themselves an encouragement to me. God's call to Christians to make a difference begins with the individual response of each believer to live out a life of obedience and commitment to God. In my struggle to surrender more/all, it's

heart-warming to see these servant-leaders being totally committed to obeying God and doing His will any time, any place and anywhere. Even as we returned to our different states, as God has spoken, we cannot remain the same.

Lim Ai Leng  
Melaka Wesley Methodist Church ✱



# Meeting Joni Eareckson-Tada at the Eagles Leadership Conference 2007!

I was truly blessed by God to have been given this wonderful opportunity to attend the above conference held on July 26-28 at the Raffles City Convention Center-Singapore. I benefited so much by listening to the panel of gifted speakers as well as business leaders who shared their experiences and vast expertise in the areas of their career and ministries.

We were also blessed by songs presented by gifted singers from Asian Countries such as Juwita Suwito from Malaysia, Khun Anchalee from Thailand, Long Tao from China, Anne Evenou and Francis Chua who is a multi-talented worship leader.

The Organizing Committee members of this conference had really worked very hard indeed to make this conference a great success to the Glory of God. At the conference, I had the opportunity to meet a remarkable person by the name of Mrs. Joni Eareckson-Tada. She is a quadriplegic who goes round the world witnessing to the power and love of the living God. When people wanted to pray for her healing she would say, 'Physical healing is a good thing, but it is not the most important thing. If people want to pray for my healing, I ask if they will pray for God to get rid of the selfishness in my heart, my pride, and my sin instead. I will get a

new body someday but getting rid of selfishness, pride and sin will have a direct bearing for eternity. I want to get crowns because these increase my capacities to worship, serve and enjoy the Lord in eternity'.

Joni Eareckson-Tada and Rev Dr. Chip Kingery of the Joni and Friends International Disability Center shared the truths on how to turn our struggles into strengths. She shared that God who raised Jesus from the dead can give us hope and He uses our weakness to bring glory to His name. She realizes that the weaker she feels on her wheel chair means that the harder she clings to God. It's a great challenge to us who are not incapacitated for we are so blessed and yet we still complain that we are not ready and equipped enough to serve God.

If you have not read about Joni, here is a brief history of this unique person's testimony. A diving accident in shallow water back in 1967 left her a quadriplegic and she had to struggle to accept her disability all her life. She faced numerous struggles before coming to terms that she would never walk again and that she has to endure excruciating pain all her life as well. Yet, she can still serve God with her limitations. During her early years of searching, seeking and questioning about life, she found her inner strength from the Word of God. This brought life back to her mortal body as she keeps in tune with the immortal, invisible God of this universe. She quickly grabs hold of her faith in this God and continues to live on till today witnessing, helping and sharing her life with the world. God has indeed given her an angelic voice to sing praises to God, to be a dynamic speaker of the Word and a great encourager.

Together with her loving husband Mr. Ken Tada, whom she married in July 3, 1982 they faithfully serve the Lord. Looking at Joni's life, we learn that God is able to work through us no matter what circumstance we are in. He just needs us to love Him, our obedience unto His call and our faith in trusting in His Word-Alleluia!

Jacqueline Abraham ✱



# Pastoral Appointments for 2008

## **EASTERN DISTRICT**

District Superintendent: Rev Lawrence Francis

Bentong Wesley MC*	Rev Lawrence Francis, Pastor Assigned
Mentakab Wesley MC*	Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong, Pastor Assigned
Kuala Lipis Wesley MC*	– to be appointed
Raub Wesley MC	– to be appointed
Kuatan Wesley MC	Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong

## **NORTHERN DISTRICT**

District Superintendent: Rev Hwa Jen

Alor Setar Wesley MC	Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Approved Supply Pastor
Sg. Petani Wesley MC	Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Approved Supply Pastor
Kulim Wesley MC	Mr Tan Har Yong, Approved Supply Pastor
Butterworth Wesley MC	Mr Tan Har Yong, Approved Supply Pastor
Penang Wesley MC	Rev Hwa Jen, Pastor
Penang Trinity MC	Rev T. Jeyakumar, Pastor
Parit Buntar Wesley MC	Rev T. Jeyakumar, Pastor

## **PERAK DISTRICT**

District Superintendent: Rev Ashok Amarasingham

Taiping Wesley MC	Mr Tan Yee Ho, Approved Supply Pastor
Ipoh Canning Garden MC	Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor
	Rev Audrey Yap Yin Har, Approved Supply Pastor
Bercham MC, Ipoh	Rev Dr Timothy Ong, Pastor
Grace MC, Ipoh	Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor
Ipoh Wesley MC	Rev Dr Timothy Ong, Pastor
Kampar Wesley MC	Miss Yong Wai Yin, Pastor
Teluk Intan Wesley MC	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar, Pastor
Sitiawan Wesley MC	Rev Henry Yong Wei Choong, Pastor
	Mr Milkias Padan, Approved Supply Pastor



**FEDERAL TERRITORY**

District Superintendent: Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon

Kuala Lumpur Wesley MC

Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon, Pastor

Rev Raymond Wong, Associate Pastor

Ms Veronica Ting Ling Yin, Director of Social Ministries

Ampang Christ MC

Rev Raymond Wong, Pastor Assigned

Cheras Faith MC

Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

Kepong Wesley MC

Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor

Sentul Grace MC

Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor

Miss Tan Chew Mae, Approved Supply Pastor

Puchong Life MC

Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

**SELANGOR DISTRICT**

District Superintendent: Rev Woo Kit Sang

Petaling Jaya Trinity MC

Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock, Pastor

Rev Buell Abraham, Associate Pastor

Ms Aileen Khoo Hooi Ai, Director of Christian Education

Damansara Utama MC

– to be appointed

Petaling Jaya Emmanuel MC

Rev Ting Moy Hong, Pastor

Sg Way/Subang MC

– to be appointed

Subang MC

Mr Robert Khaw Hock Pang, Part-Time Approved Supply Pastor

Kelang Wesley MC

Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor

Sungai Buloh Trinity MC

Rev Lawrence Francis, Pastor

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

District Superintendent: Rev Yew Nieng Song

Johor Bahru Wesley MC

Rev Timothy Lam Yuen Yi, Pastor

Segamat Wesley MC

Mr Ngoh Peng Teck, Part-Time Approved Supply Pastor

Melaka Wesley MC

Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Pastor

Mr John Baru, Approved Supply Pastor

Taman Asean MC

Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Assigned Pastor

Seremban Wesley MC

Rev Paul Christie Santosh, Pastor

Taman Ujong MC

Rev Paul Christie Santosh, Pastor

**Special Appointments****\* on behalf of Bishop**

Seconded to Faculty of Seminari Tholoji Malaysia\*

Rev Anthony Loke

Seconded to Council of Churches M'sia and Christian Federation of M'sia\*

Rev Dr Hermen Shastri

Superintendent, Methodist Sengoi Mission

Rev Beh Uda Aman

Senior Advisor to Methodist Sengoi Mission Conference

Rev Balahu Hassan

Part-time Coordinator, Sengoi Workers Training Centre (SWTC)

Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar

Part-time Director, Methodist Seniors Ministry

Rev Hwa Jen

Conference Prayer Director

Rev Ong Hwai Teik

# TRAC CALENDAR 2008

## • January

01 Tue	New Year's Day
03 Thurs	School Term begins
03 Jan-Feb 4; Feb 13-24	Jeremiah School
10 Thur	Awal Muharam
10 Thur	BOM Meeting – PJ Trinity
11-13 Fri-Sun	Executive Board Retreat, Fraser Hill
15 Tue	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches
18-20 Fri-Sun	School for Intercessors #5, Penang
20 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kedah
18-25 Fri-Fri	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
23 Wed	Thaipusam

## • February

01 Fri	Federal Territory Day
06 Wed	Ash Wednesday
07-08 Thur-Fri	Chinese New Year
15 Fri	Deadline for Statistical Returns to reach Statistician
18 Mon	Council of Presidents meeting
19-20 Tue-Wed	1/2008 GCEC
28 Feb-March 1 Thur-Sat	CE Resource Workshop in Alor Setar

## • March

04 Tue	Anniversary of the Coronation of the Sultan of Terengganu
06-09 Thur-Sun	BOYW,GB.BB Retreat
08-16	Schools Mid-Term break
15-18 Sat-Tue	National Youth Prayer Retreat
20 Thur	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
21 Fri	Good Friday
23 Sun	Easter
24-31 Mon-Mon	National Youth Missions trip (rural)
25-28 Tue-Fri	TRAC MSF Annual Camp
29 Sat	BCE Board Meeting
30 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kelantan

## • April

08 Tue	Birthday of Sultan of Johor
09-14 Wed-Mon	PDMS – Sibul, Sarawak
15 Tue	Declaration of Melaka as Historical City
19 Sat	Birthday of Sultan of Perak

## • May

01 Thur	Labour Day
06-08 Tue-Thur	President/DS Retreat
07 Wed	Hari Hol – Pahang
11 Sun	Methodist Women Sunday / Mother's Day / Pentecost Sunday / National Youth Prayer Day / Global Day of Prayer
17 Sat	Birthday of Sultan of Perlis
18 Sun	Trinity Sunday
19 Mon	Wesak Day
24 - June 8	Schools Mid-Year Break
25 Sun	Aldersgate Sunday / Call to Ministry

## • June

06-08 Fri-Sun	SFI Trainers & Prophetic Songs Retreat, Fraser Hill
07 Sat	Birthday of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong
08 Sun	Methodist Education Foundation Sunday
12-13 Thur-Fri	BOM Meeting cum Retreat
14 Sat	Executive Board Meeting
15 Sun	Christian Education Sunday / Father's Day
20-21 Fri-Sat	CE Resource Workshop – Taiping
28 Sat	TRAC Board of Youth Work Meeting

## • July

04-07 Fri-Mon	SFI (cycle 2) #1
06 Sun	STM Sunday
06 Sun	Social Concerns Sunday
09 Wed	Hari Hol Almarhum Sultan Johor
10 Thur	Council of Presidents Meeting
11-12 Fri-Sat	2/2008 GCEC
12 Sat	Birthday of Governor of Penang
15 Tue	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches
18-20 Fri-Sun	TRAC Missions Consultation
19 Sat	Birthday of T.Y.T. Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan
20 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Trengganu
30 Wed	Israk & Mikraj – Kedah, Negeri Sembilan, Perlis

## • August

8-10 Fri-Sun	9th Session GCMW
15 Fri	Statistical Returns to reach TRAC HQ
16-24	Schools Mid-Term Break
24 Sun	CCM Sunday
31 Sun	National Day

## • September

15-20 Mon-Sat	9th General Conference Session
17 Wed	Hari Nuzul Al-Quran (Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, S'gor, T'ganu)
25 Thur	BOM Meeting cum Interview – PJ Trinity
26-28 Fri-Sun	Joint Board/Executive Board Meeting
30 Tue	Submission of 33rd Session Annual Conference Reports

## • October

01-02 Wed-Thur	Hari Raya Puasa
05 Sun	World Communion Sunday
11 Sat	Birthday of Governor of Melaka
24 Fri	Birthday of Sultan of Pahang
26 Sun	MSF Sunday
27 Mon	Deepavali
31 - Nov 2	SFI Trainers Retreat

## • November

04-06 Tue-Thur	Sengoi Mission Conference
15 - 4.1.2009	Schools Year End Break
20-21 Thur-Fri	BOM Meeting & Pre-ministerial session
22-25 Sat-Tue	33rd Session TRAC
30 Sun	First Day of Advent

## • December

08 Mon	Hari Raya Qurban
11 Thur	Birthday of Sultan of Selangor
09-14 Tue-Sun	YLDP
24 Wed	Christmas Eve
25 Thur	Christmas Day
29 Mon	Awal Muharam
31 Wed	New Year's Eve / Watch night
	Covenant Service

