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Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

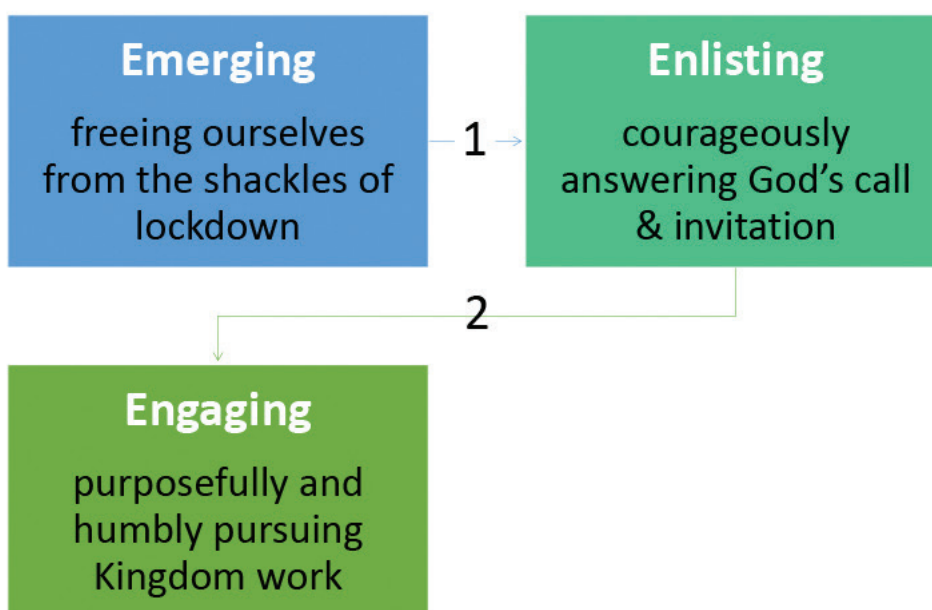
*Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.*



TRAC Bishop **Joshua Khong** and family

One of the lessons from the two and a half years of pandemic lockdowns is about waiting; waiting with hope, waiting for normality to return, waiting and trusting in God. We wait on God to provide for our needs, to renew our strength, to deliver, to save, to do what only God can do.

The lifting of pandemic lockdowns in Malaysia and globally ushers hope, a sense of normality, freedom, and a renewed spirit for all who wait and trust in Him. As we emerge from pandemic lockdowns, there are many things we need to attend to, individually and corporately, as God's people. We begin with the 3 Es of Emerging, Enlisting and Engaging:



EMERGE – breaking away from the shackles of lockdowns. Each of us have different shackles holding us back from emerging freely. Some have real fears and anxieties, some are due to habits and routine as a result of prolonged lockdowns and some are self-imposed shackles. Together, we seek God to free us from these shackles. And we need to help each other to be free from these shackles. For the able bodied, healthy and strong, let us be trailblazers, opening the way for others. However, remember, please do not be judgmental, some of our brothers and sisters have real issues with anxiety and fear. Therefore, let us do it lovingly, as a family, the body of Christ.

ENLIST - a military word and an appropriate word to describe the army of God. We are the army of God, conscripted for this unusual time of rebuilding and reconstructing the post-pandemic devastation. God is calling His sons and daughters to answer the call to rebuild and reconstruct. Come, brothers and sisters, we shall answer the call and enlist in the work that God has for us.

ENGAGE - As we enlist in God's work, God engages us for tasks most needed. Sometimes, God calls us to tasks not of our preference. As obedient children and a member of God's army, we enlist and march forth with courage, delight and zeal to accomplish what God entrusts and apportions for us that Christ be glorified and magnified, as we partake in ushering in the Kingdom of God.

Let us join hands and lend support and strength to one another, as we emerge, enlist and engage. Let this be the gift we bring to our church, community and nation, as we celebrate the Greatest Gift God gives to mankind, the birth of Christ, the Son of God.

Christ is the Son of God! Jesus Christ is born a King, not a prince, unlike other human births.

He is born a King, ushering in the Kingdom of God. At His birth, angel and heavenly hosts proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2: 14). Charles Wesley pointed to this distinct uniqueness in his hymn, " (Jesus) ... born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring." Brothers and sisters, as we attend to the 3Es; Emerging, Enlisting and Engaging, we partake in the ushering in of the Kingdom of God.

For many of us, this is the first in-person Christmas service after a long wait as a result of pandemic lockdowns. This Christmas singing "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus", the words of this powerful hymn resounds with greater oomph and meaning as we welcome Jesus into our hearts, homes, church, community and nation. Hallelujah, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus...

- Come and reign in our hearts. Fears and sin have no hold on us when Christ the King reigns in our hearts. He is the joy of every longing heart! Why? Because there's a God shaped vacuum in our hearts that cannot be filled by any created thing. Only Christ Himself, our Redeemer King, can fill that void.
- Come and reign in our home. The Lordship of Christ transforms our relationship with our spouse and children for He models for us the Christian home. Christ as the head and husbands are to emulate Christ and love his bride as Christ loves the Church. Our home is filled with love and life when Christ is Lord and King in our home.
- Come and reign in our church. Churches are alive and vibrant when Christ is lifted up and glorified. To glorify Christ is to love His church. Christ and His Church is ONE, we are in union with Christ, the Head, joined and connected to Him eternally. God's

word taught us that we cannot cut ourselves off from Christ's body lying inert somewhere as a severed finger or amputated leg (1 Cor 12: 21).

- Come and reign in our community, Lord Jesus. John 3: 17 says, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him". When Christ is made known and lifted up, men and women in the community see HOPE, SALVATION & REDEMPTION; thus, our church becomes a beacon of light and love, lifted up as a generational blessing, drawing men and women unto God.

- Come Lord Jesus and reign in our nation. Thank you, Father God, for answered prayers. Thank you for HOPE and RENEWAL in our beloved nation. In this time of hope and renewal, Truth, Righteousness, Justice and Love, show the way for our nation's redemption and restoration. Let Your people called Methodists arise and shine for Christ, and run with You, O God, in the great and marvellous things You are doing in our midst.

Wishing all brothers and sisters, a Blessed New Year, and thanking God for another exciting year of loving, serving and walking closely with Him, TOGETHER.

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”,
the words of this powerful hymn resounds
with greater oomph and meaning as
we welcome Jesus into our hearts, homes, church,
community and nation.
Hallelujah, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus...



The Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) Conference

by Jeremy Anggat anak George



The Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) 2022 was held from 7 to 14 August 2022 at the CCA Headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme of YAPA 2022 was 'Youth as Catalysts for Peace with Justice in Asia'. There were 26 participants from 11 Asian countries from different ethnicities, religions, backgrounds, and cultures.

From attending YAPA 2022, I believe there are three main lessons that I have learned. First is understanding who makes the conflict. Conflicts that arose over religious or racial issues, it is often caused by individuals who have a political and economic agenda behind them. It may even be caused for the fight for resources. We looked into the roots of the ethno-religious conflict that happens in Asian countries. In comparison, South Korea does not face religious conflict like other countries but a more gender conflict.

In identifying these roots, the causes of the conflict seem clearer and it makes more sense why such conflict occurs. In fact, because Asian countries were mostly colonised, the impact of colonialism is one of the eight roots of the ethno-religious conflict. During the lecture, participants were asked to reflect and share their countries and to identify the roots of the ethno-religious conflict. Through sharing, most Asian countries face similar issues.

Thus, a conclusion was slowly drawn that the differences in religion and their diversity is not the actual cause of conflict. Instead, it is because individuals use religion as a reason to advance their agenda on the people.

The second lesson is on the concept of peace. The concept of peace differs from person to person. The absence of violence does not necessarily mean peace is being conveyed to

the people. In fact, the idea of peace should be carried out together with justice. The word that was often used is 'justpeace' which looks at the combination of the word justice and peace. Thus, peace can only be achieved where justice is also delivered.

In advancing the idea of 'justpeace', we learned about conflict mediation and conflict prevention. Using these as tools to bring justice to both sides in a conflict and achieve sustainable peace. Sustainable peace means peace that can be kept and maintained even when a dispute arises. We also looked deeper and understood that the conflict stems from the minds of men and that is where the defences need to be constructed.

Therefore, with the idea of 'justpeace', conflict resolution is not enough. Rather, conflict transformation is more ideal. The difference is that conflict transformation not only looks to solve the conflict but professes a goal where constructive change, life-giving opportunities, and constructive change processes can be carried out. A focus on post-trauma healing where parties can express their feelings about the conflict and how they have been hurt emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

The third lesson I learned is localising the global. We looked at neo-imperialism and see how the locals are being globalised. Such globalisation threatens the locals in the practice of their culture and traditions. It begins by tempting the new generation to follow the modern trends that are being set usually by the Western culture. Then, the locals will be intimidated by it if they are not following it as they are not considered trendy or modern if they do not adopt the practices. Lastly, terrorising the locals is the final one that happens where there may be verbal or physical threats which escalate the conflict. Therefore, the idea of localising the global is

where the locals continue to be modernised but with what fits with their culture rather than adopting another country's culture into their local context.

This was a highlight for me as often times we are often pursuing the next best trend and hopping on the train rather than being left behind. The impact of colonialism causes us to look towards the Western culture as if they are the pioneers of advancement and modernisation. Instead, modernising with the local culture should be the way forward. Churning out locals who are the cream of the crop to help build the nation is one of the ways forward.

Towards the end of YAPA 2022, we were tasked to carry out a programme in our own country that carries the idea of catalysts of peace and justice. My own personal programme was to look at the attitude of Malaysians towards waste. In raising awareness and encouraging more recycling habits. It seems far off from peace and justice but it does shifts the mindset of Malaysians to take more ownership of the land.

Coming back to Malaysia after YAPA 2022, it makes more sense why there are many conflicts arising especially around political and economical viewpoints. From YAPA 2022, there seems to be hope in looking toward a more peaceful and better world as even people from different religions and ethnicities are able to come together to talk about building peace. Everyone wants to have peace and avoid conflict but the issues being faced are not easily overcome. It is also difficult to confront the parties involved as the repercussions can be severe. Hopefully, we will see a different world as more people stand up for peace and justice.

Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist Retreat 26 - 28 Julai, 2022

Perkongsian Rev. Anjang



Selama hampir 3 tahun PMSM tidak mengadakan Kursus Pastoral kerana PKP Covid 19. Pada Tahun 2022 ini, hasil usaha Bishop TRAC Joshua Khong telah berjaya mengadakannya pada 26 - 28 Julai, 2022 bertempat di Pusat Methodist Centre, Parit Buntar, Perak.



Kursus ini telah dihadiri oleh 32 orang pekerja pelayanan PMSM yang terdiri dari Guru Injil, Diakon dan Elder dari tujuh daerah PMSM iaitu Kampar, Tapah, Gopeng, Parit, Slim River, Raub dan Lipis.



MATLAMAT KURSUS

1. Mengingatkan peserta akan cabaran pelayanan masakini.
2. Meningkatkan pengetahuan peserta dalam pelayanan.
3. Berbincang dan mencari jalan penyelesaian masalah pelayanan yang timbul di daerah pelayanan masing-masing.
4. Melayani Tuhan dengan kebaktian melalui persekutuan doa dan doa peribadi.



Ketua Daerah membentangkan masalah pelayanan di daerah masing-masing.



Peserta juga telah sama-sama mengadakan permainan sukaneka yang dikelolakan oleh Rev. Haris Husin.



Diharapkan Kursus Pastoral ini dapat diadakan setiap tahun .Kursus berakhir pada 28 Julai, 2022.



Perkongsian Pengalaman PMSM Pastor School di Pusat Methodist Parit Buntar 26 - 28 July 2022

Saya sangat bersyukur kepada Tuhan terutama kerana Bishop Joshua sentiasa ada bersama dari awal program Pastors School hingga akhir program. Apa yang saya lihat disini ia sangat menggalakkan kami PMSM dan sentiasa memberi ucapan kepimpinan disepanjang program dijalankan. Amin.

PENGALAMAN 2 HARI SETENGAH :

1. PENGALAMAN SAYA

Saya sangat bersyukur kepada Tuhan kerana peluang yang diberi sangat bererti bagi saya dan sangat menggalakkan, membantu saya ke arah yang lebih bernilai.

2. BERKAT DAN MANFAAT

Apa yang saya dapat dari semua penceramah, bagi saya adalah sesuatu yang membawa perubahan dalam pelayanan saya dan sangat membantu saya di dalam iman dan memperoleh banyak dorongan di dalam pelayanan saya. Terutama memberi saya terang di dalam fikiran dan di dalam hati saya sangat bermanfaat.

3. PELAJARAN YANG DITERIMA

Pelajaran adalah satu langkah ke satu langkah. Yang membuat saya lebih mengerti tentang tujuan Tuhan kepada diri saya, membawa erti maksud seorang tentang hidup sebagai seorang hamba Tuhan. Dan hidup untuk dekat dengan Tuhan dan keberhasilan yang membawa hidup bersama Tuhan dalam apa jua yang diharungi. Tuhan adalah yang terutama didalam hidup ini. Semoga Tuhan memberkati kita semua. Amin.

Disediakan oleh,

Rev Shurriawaly

Ketua Daerah Kuala Lipis, Pahang.

Shalom..saya Pastor Nita melayani di gereja Bota, dalam daerah Parit. Retreat Pastor School yang saya hadiri baru-baru ini, saya harap ianya berterusan dimasa akan datang kerana ia memberi banyak manfaat terutama kepada pastor baru seperti kami, bukan saja dapat berkumpul, bertukar-tukar fikiran dan yang paling penting di Retreat Pastor School inilah saya memperolehi ilmu dan pengetahuan berguna, terutama dalam berkomunikasi dengan lebih baik.

Disamping itu juga pembelajaran yang sistematik dan mudah saya fahami. Ini juga dapat menjana pemikiran yang kreatif, seterusnya menterjemahkan situasi ini kepada pelayanan saya. Terima kasih kepada Bishop Joshua dan Pastor-Pastor yang memberi ceramah di Retreat Pastor School tempoh hari, Tuhan Yesus memberkati. Amin.

Rev Rosmanita

PENDAHULUAN.

Penulis merakamkan rasa bersyukur kepada Tuhan Yesus Kristus, kerana diberi peluang untuk Retreat PMSM Pastor School di Pusat Methodist Parit Buntar. Yang sekian lama sepi disebabkan Pandemik Covid 19 selama dua tahun.

Terimakasih Bishop TRAC Joshua Khong membuka peluang itu untuk PMSM Pastor School tahun 2022 dan sudah berjalan dengan lancar tanpa rintangan.

Khusus penulis menyediakan artikel ini secara ringkas tentang pembelajaran dari setiap pensyarah-pensyarah yang kami terima.

**PERKONGSIAN PENGALAMAN
PMSM PASTOR SCHOOL TENTANG
PEMBELAJARAN YANG DITERIMA.*****Pembelajaran SESI:1 "Injil & Komuniti".***

Sebagai pembuka tirai pembelajaran yang kami terima adalah didedikasikan oleh Bishop TRAC. Dari situ kami dilayani sebagai seorang gembala bersama domba domba dalam satu kawanan, dan pembelajaran yang sangat Alkitabiah yang mengenyangkan kerohanian.

Bishop TRAC Rev.Joshua Khong ~ Pembelajaran daripada teks Roma 1: 8-15.

Pelayanan Paulus adalah satu pelayanan mengkabarkan Injil dan kemasyarakatan yang sukar berinteraksi. Yaitu kepada orang Babar (Orang yang tidak bertamadun) adalah asal orang Yunani kuno, juga orang-orang yang mempunyai Pembelajaran.

Hal ini juga membayangkan kami tentang masyarakat kami sendiri yang sudah terdidik dari awal baik tentang budaya, juga istiadat yang lazim berkaitan berhala.

Namun, dalam pembelajaran itu harus mengalami ciri-ciri seperti:

- Kesabaran – unsur seseorang yang beriman juga mempersiapkan jiwa kita untuk memberitakan Injil.
- Keberanian – Kekuatan dari Tuhan (bertentangan dengan Masyarakat berbilang ragam budaya dan kepercayaan).
- Harus belajar – Yang paling dasar adalah memahami Firman Tuhan.

Saran dari penceramah, tidak membenarkan orang sembarangan mengambil untuk mengajar, haruslah Pastor sendiri memimpin kerana kamu sudah dipilih untuk pelayanan.

Seperti contoh Paulus yang mengalami dalam pelayanan nya di lapisan masyarakat yang tegar berpegan kepada istiadat dan gaya hidup mereka. Apa yang saya fahamkan, seorang pelayanan harus memainkan peranan penting.

PEMBELAJARAN SESI:2 "Kelompok kecil & Pemuriden di Rumah".

Rev Abraham ~ Pembelajaran yang sangat Alkitabiah, menggambarkan dari tajuk pembelajaran itu seperti kesaksian nya melalui di Pemuridenkan abang sulungnya yang tidak percaya kepada Yesus menjadi percaya.

Seperti mana mulanya, "abang sulung" mereka terdiri daripada tuju orang adik-beradik, abang sulung begitu marah beliau, kerana tidak mengikuti adat kekeluargaan. Satu ketika keluarga mereka membuat foto khas untuk keluarga, Abraham tidak ada dalam foto itu, kerana beliau ke gereja. Kesaksian beliau ini sangat terharu bagi kami.

Seterusnya gambaran itu juga, melalui satu orang percaya, dan mampu diinjili abangnya sehingga menjadi percaya, dan seluruh keluarganya menjadi percaya. Ini satu pelayanan kelompok kecil yang Berjaya memuritkan bagi Yesus.

Prinsip Perjanjian Lama:

- ◆ Pelayanan Musa di bantu oleh Yetro bapa mertua Musa – Musa terlalu sibuk sehingga menghabiskan banyak masa pelayanan, mungkin berlelah-lelah. Bagaimana untuk mengatasinya? Melalui pertolongan Yetro, beliau mengalami satu pelayanan yang lebih baik dan boleh mendapatkan masa untuk bergumul dengan Tuhan. Yaitu lewat kelompok kecil, yang diaturnya secara adil dan rapi.

Ini satu definisi yang menakjubkan didalam pelayanan berciri kelompok kecil yang membawa manfaat dalam pelayanan.

Penceramah juga memotivasikan Pastor-pastor dimana tempat pelayanan mereka harus mengadakan pelayanan kelompok kecil (sel). Dan paling bagus agihkan disetiap kelompok menjadi setiap kelompok ada ketua masing-masing yaitu dari orang yang sudah dilatih dan dinilai layak untuk dijadikan ketua dalam kelompok kecil.

Disarankan juga supaya sentiasa dipantau pelayanan mereka supaya tidak melibihi batasan sebagai ketua kelompok sahaja, bukan sebagai peranan Pastor. Dan ini memang sesuai dengan konteks Pelayanan Musa yang di bantu oleh Yetro.

Dengan tujuan itu, Pastor juga tidak kesulitan dalam pelayanan dan semakin mempunyai lebih waktu bergumul dengan Tuhan.

PEMBELAJARAN SESI:3 “Kemahiran Berkhotbah Yang Lebih Berkesan”

Rev. Uda Alang ~ membentuk Pembelajaran tentang “Penyampaian Khutbah yang berkesan” didasari daripada contoh-contoh Tokoh-tokoh dalam Alkitab.

Seperti terkaji dalam Alkitab:

- ◆ Masa Bapa Leluhur Israel – seperti Nuh, Abraham, Ishak, dan Yakob, mereka menyampaikan sangat berkesan tentang mesej dari Tuhan yang kadang kala secara langsung di terima dari Tuhan dan secara tidak langsung juga.
- ◆ Masa pelayanan Yesus – kita boleh lihat dalam buku Injil Matius, Markus, Lukas dan Yohanes. Dari situ kita temuka kaedah khutbah yang berkesan. Misalnya gambaran dari Khutbah diatas bukit.

Ini paling dasar untuk menjadi seorang pengkhotbah yang berkesan. Seterusnya disusuli karakter ciri-ciri khutbah yang berkesan:

Seperti ketetapan ringkas ini, bukan dari segi persiapan yang cukup sahaja, ianya juga melibatkan seluruh aspek kehidupan yang murni. Dan gerak-geri tubuh juga kontak mata berciri interaksi dengan Jemaah.

Dan khutbah yang berkesan adalah bermula dari orang-orang yang sungguh-sungguh memiliki hati yang taat kepada Tuhan.

PEMBELAJARAN SESI:4 “Pengenjilan & Penjangkauan”.

Darrel Saba ~ Pembelajaran “Pengenjilan & Penjangkauan”, tersedia lima daftar isi kandungan yang berdasarkan Fakta-fakta dan sumber yang lain seperti sumber secular dan terkait secara umum, dan pembelajaran sangat Alkitabiah:

- Fakta-fakta sejarah gereja ringkas – bermula Injil mengembang dari awal pelayanan Yesus dan MemuritNya pada abad pertama hinggalah abad ke 20 setengah pada masa kini.
- Perbezaan Penginjilan & Penjangkauan – dikatakan tidak sama kaedah dan pandangan, walaupun tujuan dan matlamat adalah sama, yaitu menyebarkan kebenaran dan supaya semua orang mendapat keselamatan. injil juga boleh dikabarkan kepada sesiapa sahaja (untuk semua pendengar), melalui telivisen, radio, media sosial atau media cetak, dan peralatak eletronik yang lain, selain di gereja. Seperti dalam ayat Firman,
- “ketika Aku lapar, kamu memberi Aku makan, dan ketika Aku dahaga, kamu memberi Aku minuman Aku seorang asing, tetapi kamu menyambut Aku ke dalam rumah kamu. Aku tidak berpakaian, dan kamu memberi Aku pakaian. Aku jatuh sakit, dan kamu merawat Aku. Aku dipenjarakan, dan kamu melawat Aku” Matius 25:35-36.
- Pemahaman Penginjilan – harus mengetahui tiga perkara yang asas: siapa Tuhan Yesus? Memahami tujuan Yesus datang ke dunia? Apa tugas kita sebagai pengikut Yesus? Ini melibatkan pelayanan sejati harus mempunyai karakter Yesus.
- Pemahaman Penjangkauan – satu tugas pelayanan yang memahami Yesus dan jiwa-jiwa yang belum mengenal Yesus. Ini melibatkan jangka pendek dan jangka yang panjang.
- Pembentukan pelayanan yang sejati – berdasarkan Matius 10:42, menggambarkan titik permulaan “Pembentuk pelayanan yang sejati”. Dilanjutkan dengan lima poin

Pembentukan pelayanan yang sejati:

1. Karakter seseorang pelayanan
2. Sentiasa memperhatikan keperluan
3. Melakukan yang terbaik dengan apa yang mereka miliki
4. Setia kepada pelayanan mereka
5. Sentiasa menjaga kerendahan hati mereka

Satu kesimpulan, melakukan Penginjilan dan Penjangkauan dari pada hati yang ada karakter Yesus, tujuan dan matlamat pasti terjawab.

PEMBELAJARAN SESI:5 “Bagaimana Meningkatkan Pelayanan Pastoral”.

Rev. Ronald YAP, dari teks Yohanes 17:9-10, Pelayanan Pastoral seperti pentingnya Yesus menjadika orang percaya itu kepihakNya. Nampak nya ada sesuatu peningkatan dalam pelayanan adalah bukan untuk diri sendir, melainkan untuk Dia pengutus kamu dalam pelayanan. Seperti Yesus melakukan untuk Allah Bapa ketika Dia sebagai Manusia seratus peratus. Pertanyaan tujuan dalam Pelayanan?

Supaya anak-anak Tuhan bersatu didalam Tuhan bukan didalam Pemimpin mereka, yang Cuma pendorong mengenal Tuhan. Tugas seorang Pelayanan diertikan sebagai Duta Perdamaian Tuhan (2 Korintus 5:17-19). Daripada kehidupan lama dan menjadi baru, juga dari musuh menjadi sahabat.

Yang menarik untuk meningkatkan lagi Pelayanan Pastoral, bila mengadakan interaksi bersama Pastor-Pastor dan Guru-Guru Injil untuk kongsikan cabaran yang dialami oleh setiap Pelayanan di tempat masing-masing.

Ini satu motivasi meningkatkan pelayanan Pastoral supaya lebih berani memperkongsi masalah yang dihadapi dari semasa-kesemasa.

Supaya penceramah dapat memberi pencerahan kemasalahan yang mereka alami dan hadapi.

PEMBELAJARAN SESI:6 “Bagaimana Mengembangkan Pelayanan Remaja Kita”.

Rev. Deni ~ mendefinisikan Pembelajaran tentang Remaja ini lebih kepada motivasi. Kerana Remaja-remaja kami banyak terdedah dari segi minat mereka yang tidak boleh dipisahkan dari hobi. Motivasi nya itu boleh diguna pakai sebagai tarikan Remaja-remaja kami supaya tidak terdedah ke gejala yang tidak sehat. Beliau menyarankan supaya PMSM mengadakan program Remaja setidak-tidaknya, sekali atau dua kali dalam setahun, supaya melalui program seperti itu remaja dapat dikembangkan dalam Pelayanan.

1 Timotius 4:12, adalah ayat motivasi bagi Remaja untuk menguasai diri kearah perningkatan dalam pelayanan. Jadi ini satu motivasi yang bagus khususnya remaja-remaja yang baru diperkembangkan untuk pelayanan Remaja.

KESIMPULAN

Perkongsian Pengalaman PMSM Pastor School Tentang Pembelajaran yang kami terima.

Adalah berdasarkan urutan setiap sesi, kecuali sesi 7, bukan kerana tidak baik pembelajaran atau mempertikaikan pembelajaran beliau di sesi 7, tetapi kerana cukup dikongsikan dari sesi pertamanya

terdapat dalam sesi 2 sebagai perkongsian untuk pengalaman dalam PMSM Pastor School.

Secara rumusan, rata-rata pembelajaran yang kami terima adalah sangat bermanfaat bagi kami. Dan diajarkan rata-rata seacara Alkitabiah.

Dimana setiap pembelajaran yang berbeza tajuk & cara mengajar, juga adalah sangat terpengaruh dihati kami sebagai bonus dari Tuhan untuk dimanfaatkan dengan sebaik-baiknya didalam pelayanan kami supaya melalui pengalaman itu ada matlamat yang tepat.

Penulis merasa bersyukur kepada Tuhan kita Yesus dan berterimakasih kepada Bishop TRAC juga pensyarah-pensyarah tahun 2022 ini daripada segelitir penceramah memang adalah seorang yang berpengalaman dalam hal pembelajaran baik dari segi akademik mahupun dari hal pembelajaran rohani. Penulis akhiri dengan ucapan penting dalam pelayanan dari seorang Gembala dinaungi PMSM mengatakan tentang Pelayanan,

“Jangan jadikan kerja pelayanan itu sebagai kerjaya yang melihat kearah kemewahan, jadikanlah Pelayanan itu sebagai melihat Misi Tuhan”¹

Kami diberkati disitu mulai dari itu, agar terjadilah pelayanan kami melihat misi dari Tuhan dan bukan keinginan misi dari hati sendiri. Tuhan memberkati.

Rev. Haris Husin

¹ Bishop TRAC Joshua Khong – Ucapan terakhir penutup Pastor School,” Pelayanan bukan kerjaya yang mendapatkan kemewahan, jadikanlah Pelayanan sebagai melihat Misi Tuhan” – 28 July 2022 Khamis di Pusat Methodist Parit Buntar (PMSM Pastor School).

Konferansi Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist Yang Ke 33

Tema: Cahaya Kebenaran Mengatasi Kegelapan • 20-21 Oktober, 2022

Disediakan oleh Rev. Anjang Sadang all Itam



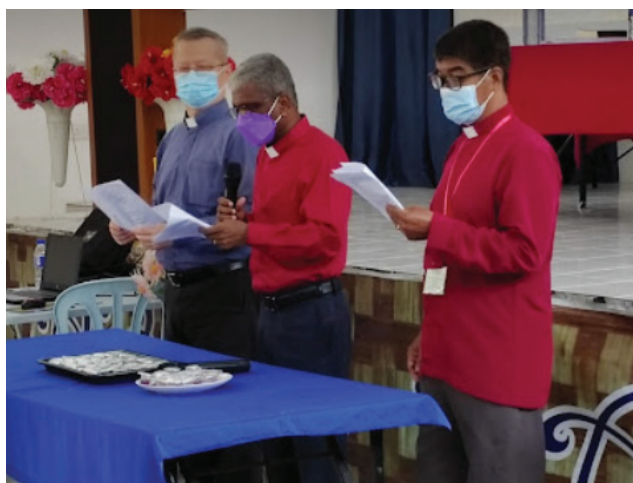
Konferansi PMSM pada kali ini telah diadakan di Pusat Kecemerlangan Pendidikan Orang Asli Kerawat, Persatuan Orang Asli Perak. Seramai 60 orang peserta yang terdiri dari elder, daikon, guru Injil dan pemimpin PMSM telah menghadiri konferansi ini. Turut hadir dalam konferansi ini adalah Bishop Gereja Methodist Malaysia Dr.T. Jeyakumar, Bishop TRAC Joshua Khong dan Superitendent Wilayah Utara TRAC Rev. Ronald Yap dan beberapa jemputan dari pastor-pastor Korea dan IMC (Indigenous Ministry Council).

Perkara yang paling utama dan terpenting adalah pengumuman Bishop Gereja Methodist Malaysia Dr T. Jeyakumar iaitu

mengumumkan bahawa Rev. Ronald Yap akan dipertanggungjawabkan sebagai Pengetua (Superintendent) PMSM bermula pada 1 Januari, 2023 menggantikan Rev. Yok Selan a/l Yok Beng yang tugasnya tamat sebagai pengetua pada 31 Disember, 2022.

Dalam konferansi ini, beberapa penerangan penting untuk dilakukan oleh di gereja-gereja PMSM seperti peluang-peluang latihan dan kerjaya yang diperkenalkan oleh IMC (Indigenous Ministry Council) dan juga kaedah Radio Joy yang merupakan strategi membawa injil ke perkamp[ungan] Orang Asli yang diterangkan oleh pastor-pastor dari Korea di Malaysia.





KENANGAN BERSAMA KONFERANSI PMSM KE 33.



47th Session of TRAC

2-4 December 2022

Trinity Methodist Church, PJ

Reported by Dr. S. S. Gill



The 47th Session of the TRAC Conference was held at Trinity Methodist Church, PJ from Dec 2-4th 2022. It was presided over by Bishop of the Methodist Church of Malaysia, Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar and the TRAC Bishop Rev. Joshua Khong. A total of 117 delegates from TRAC Churches throughout Malaysia attended the conference.

At the opening Holy Communion Service, Bishop Joshua preached on the importance of the centrality of the church based on John 1:9-14. His message highlighted how the pandemic has taught us the meaning and importance of how the church is central for us as individuals, for our families and communities.

He shared on the 3 Es: Emerging, Enlisting and Engaging. As we “Emerge” from the pandemic we must not allow the shackles of lockdown to hold us back from serving God. The second E is “Enlisting” where we must purposefully enlist in God’s work together to reconstruct and rebuild the church of God. The third E is “Engaging” faithfully to the task at hand by putting our hands to the plough in Kingdom work.





A Retirement Service was conducted for two long-serving Pastors. These Pastors were appreciated for their diligent services to TRAC. They were Rev. Ting Moy Hong who took optional retirement after having served for 23 years from year 1999 to 2022. The other Pastor who retired was Pastor Robert Khaw who served for 25 years from year 2007 to 2022.

The Ordination Service was held on the final day and Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar preached a powerful message of encouragement to all delegates. The message moved everyone to repentance and concluded with delegates being moved to a renewed commitment in serving Christ. Two elders, Rev. Koe Swee Kee and Rev William Kwong Cheng Ho along with one Itinerant Deacon, Pastor Aaron Liu Teck Wai and one Local Deacon Pastor Thomas Jie Mahoda were ordained.





The 47th Session TRAC is especially humbling as the reality of being ordained into the fellowship of Deacon dawn upon me. I am humbled by the love of God that has been poured out on me and I am grateful that I have the opportunity to serve Him and others in the Church. At the same time, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the people who have been so instrumental in my life and ministry.

Bishop Joshua's message about the centrality of the Church and how her place as a source of generational blessing resonates with me. As someone who is passionate about journeying with individuals to see Scripture come alive, not just on a Sundays, but authentic discipleship that carries every day of the week, it is encouraging to hear Bishop Joshua sharing his heart to recapture our Methodist heritage of bands and classes. When like-minded individuals are encouraged to come together in order to spur one another to Christian perfection. I see my role as a deacon

to promote and facilitate these holy meetings that the reality of Christ is experienced in the lives entrusted to my care, that the body of Christ be a channel of God's blessing both within the church and to the community around her.

Bishop Dr T. Jeyakumar reminds us that ministry is difficult and there will be many challenges that lies ahead. His testimony of his struggles made me realise that even those whom we are to shepherd might very well turn against us in the midst of our service. It is so important to have people praying for us and with us throughout our ministry. The task ahead is difficult therefore all the more I need to walk humbly before God and draw from His bountiful grace to complete the task given to me. At the end of the day, I am merely a deacon, a steward entrusted to serve our Lord and His people - may I always remember to give Him the glory and the honour.

I entered into full-time ministry at the later stage of my life but nevertheless, better late than never! I think when God calls us, we got to respond and fulfill what He wants us to do in this short life. And today, I believed God has called many into full time ministry but very few are responding to His call. As for me, the prompting from God to enter into full-time ministry was most obvious after working almost 28 years in the corporate world. God had put a deep burden in my heart consistently and I started to realized that I can no longer avoid the calling anymore. I knew I have to resign from my job and wait upon Him although there was no clear direction where to go from there. After my resignation and without a proper full-time ministry work in hand, waiting in that season even though I was serving in some capacity in the church was really 'dry and lonely'; I believe God had led me through the wilderness so that I would seek wholeheartedly after His direction. So, when the opportunity came later for me to entered pastoral work, it was indeed liberating and reaffirming to my soul.

I want to thanked Bishop T Jeyakumar and Rev Ting Moy Hong for identifying and 'nudging' me into pastoral ministry when I was still struggling to find my place in God's service. I entered as a local pastor with my LPL credential and was posted to Kepong Wesley to begin my pastoral work there. The start of pastoral duties was a steep learning curve though I have served in the LCEC before, but I am glad the church was friendly and helpful in many ways. The pastoral ministry is totally a different scope and experiences compare with LCEC leadership but God has provided me wisdom, and sending people to walk with me. I also want to thanked my first DS Rev Ricky Ho and second DS Rev Andrew Lim coupled with Ex-BOM Chairman Rev Andrew Tan for their encouragement and support during the last seven years of ministry.



Over the many years of pastoral work, God has been good and powerful in ministry despite the many challenges that comes with the responsibilities. My wife, Christine Wong and my children, Ivan and Jon had been most supportive and being the pillar of my ministry life. I want to say, whatever we do and wherever He sends, let us remember Paul's admonition in Philippians 3:13 ESV: "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead". We need to press on and look forward to what God has installed for us in the future rather than be comfortable in where we are. May we always be found faithful to Him right to the end of this life.

Hi, shalom.

Pada waktu mula-mula Pastor-in Charge saya memberitahu supaya saya membuat permohonan untuk Local Deacon Ordination, saya agak terkejut. Pertanyaan pertama yang timbul dalam fikiran saya ialah, “apakah saya layak ditahbiskan sebagai reverend?” Saya sepatutnya telah menerima ordination itu pada tahun 2021, tetapi saya belum bersedia sepenuhnya pada masa itu. Bagaimanapun, setelah beberapa kali membawa perkara itu dalam doa dan berbincang-bincang dengan isteri dan juga dengan anak-anak, serta penjelasan daripada beberapa rakan sepelayanan di TRAC termasuk Pastor-in Charge saya, Pengerusi BOM dan Bishop TRAC sendiri, akhirnya saya memahami apakah maksud ordination ini secara asasnya.

Ketika bersama dengan denominasi gereja saya yang sebelum ini, pengertian mudah untuk ordination ialah, “pengiktirafan pencapaian dalam pelayanan.” Dengan kata lain, sekiranya gereja yang kita layani bertumbuh secara rohani dan fizikal (jumlah anggota) dengan sangat menggalakkan, maka kita akan diberikan pengiktirafan tersebut. Saya boleh katakan begini; di denominasi saya sebelum ini, seseorang yang dipanggil “reverend” adalah seorang hamba Tuhan yang sudah terbukti “berjaya dan berhasil” dalam pelayanan. Kalaupun gereja yang dia layani tidak sangat besar, tetapi tidak juga tergolong dalam kalangan gereja yang kecil. Pengertian seperti ini telah membuat saya “kecut perut” ketika Pastor-in Charge saya memberikan saranan untuk saya mengambil ordination ini pada tahun 2021 yang lalu. Malahan, isteri saya juga bertanya kepada saya sama ada saya “sudah layak” atau tidak untuk menerima ordination ini, kerana dia juga mempunyai pengertian yang sama dengan saya tentang ordination, kerana kami datang dari denominasi yang sama.

Bagaimanapun, pada tahun ini (2022) saya sudah bertekad untuk melangkah dalam ordination dengan hati yang yakin, kerana saya sudah mengerti, ordination sebagai Local Deacon bukan soal kejayaan atau keberhasilan saya dalam pelayanan, bukan juga soal ukuran saiz pelayanan yang berjaya saya capai di gereja Methodist, tetapi soal “apakah saya sudah siap melangkah sepenuhnya dalam pelayanan Tuhan tanpa menoleh ke belakang lagi” atau sebaliknya. Saya melangkah menerima ordination ini kerana saya yakin sekali, saya sudah siap. Bahkan saya sudahpun



siap sepenuh sejak tahun 2007, pada waktu saya melangkah dalam pelayanan sepenuh masa sebagai seorang pelayan independent, tanpa dinaungi atau dipimpin oleh mana-mana hamba Tuhan atau gereja sedia ada.

Tepatnya, pada 04 Disember 2022, di gereja Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, saya dan tiga orang rakan sepelayanan telah ditahbiskan. Pada waktu saya memakai baju clerical berwarna biru itu, dan ketika saya mengenakan collar di leher baju saya, saya seperti menerima satu suntikan baru untuk terus berkobar-kobar melayani Tuhan dengan penuh komitmen dan integriti di depan Tuhan. Penumpangan tangan oleh Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar dan Bishop Joshua Khong serta para hamba Tuhan yang lain yang turut menumpangkan tangan ke atas saya pada waktu ordination itu telah menimbulkan satu pengalaman baru dalam hidup kerohanian saya. Saya merasakan seperti ada suhu panas meliputi seluruh tubuh saya. Saya tidak mengerti kenapa itu terjadi. Hanya satu yang ada dalam hati saya pada waktu Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar memegang tangan saya yang sedang berada di atas Alkitab pada waktu itu, saya berkata kepada Tuhan; “Tuhan layakkan saya untuk melayani Engkau yang kudus dan mulia.” Jujur saya katakan, saya tidak mengambil ordination ini hanya sebagai formaliti kepaderian di gereja Methodist. Saya melangkah dalam ordination ini dengan penuh ketakutan kepada Tuhan. Saya takut saya tidak layak menerima ordination ini berdasarkan kehidupan saya dan keadaan pelayanan saya. Bagaimanapun, biarlah nama Tuhan turut dipermuliakan dalam ordination yang saya terima ini.

Sekian.

The Journey to being an Elder

by Pastor William Kwong

In my reflection, being an Elder is more of a confirmation, and not a promotion.

The journey was 4 years as a probationary pastor, 2 years at one church (Faith MC Cheras) and in the 3rd and 4th year with 2 churches (added appointment of Trinity MC Sungai Buloh).

It was a step of faith to take the role of a Pastor-in-charge and also later, as a Pastor-in-charge for 2 churches. It was a good learning curve, furthermore in these unexpected and uncharted territory of Covid.

One of the biggest points of learning is knowing that you are not perfect and you are letting God work through you in both strengths and weaknesses. It is also having the privilege of God using you for His mighty works and I have seen it clearly many times how God was moving and blessing.

Some points,

- It is not only by skills alone. There is an interview with the Board of Ministry and also Ministerial Session with the TRAC Pastors on the 'passing of character' and being accountable in our lives and spiritual life.
- Learning to see things through God's eyes and have a good hope and mindset.
- Being out of our comfort zone, and putting effort to constantly improve in skills, knowledge and ministering to all groups of people, from the youngest to the oldest and the poorest to the richest.
- Loving unconditionally as how God loves us, even when others may not appreciate or reciprocate. Burdens and hurts have happened in that past but were passed down to you. Forgiving and not holding any grudges. Being an instrument of restoration and a peacemaker.
- I understand more what is on the side of the itinerant pastor and have much more respect and empathy for all those who have gone before and kept faithful through the years.



I understand more, what it is to be an 'instrument of God's blessing'. It is never about me, but about God's work and ministry for the people and flowing together with where God points. There is so much more to learn.

*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.*

Amen."

—St. Francis of Assisi

LPL Holder 2022

Robin Liew

Sungai Way Subang Methodist Church (SSMC)

The greatest challenge as a LPL candidate is not the class attendance but the time constraint and personal discipline required to complete the book reviews and written assignment within the given period. We had to manage the reading and assignments, work, church, ministry and family commitments all together. By His grace, I completed and received the LPL recognition at the recent Annual TRAC Conference.

Two scriptures that motivated me to seek a preacher's license:

1. All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
2. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).



Liew Shyue Yih, Robin

The Bible is God's inspired word, the word of truth. The word is powerful, living and active (Hebrews 4:12). It is INFORMATIONAL and TRANSFORMATIONAL. The Bible informs and teaches. It gives us knowledge and understanding. When information is applied and obeyed it becomes transformational. The word renews our mind, rebukes, corrects and trains us in righteousness (living a life of right standing before God and man) and for good work. It is God's blue-print for our beliefs, values and life. We should seek to know the Word and allow the Word to know us !

The Bible exhorts us to present ourselves to God as one approved, unashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth with confidence and faithfulness. This is achieved through the personal spiritual discipline of regular self-feed, careful and systematic study of the word. A serious commitment from those who aspire to teach and preach and equally important, to live the word.

Therefore, the LPL provides a formal pathway and ordered process for a layperson to be prepared, gauged and validated against the expected standard for those who preach and teach Scripture in our churches.

姓名: 陈奕明 (TAN AIK MENG) LPL New Holder

教会: 怡保桂和园卫理公会 (中文堂)

CANNING GARDEN METHODIST CHURCH
23, Jalan Keliling, Canning Garden, 31400 Ipoh, Perak.

每个人在行走他的人生旅途当中，总会在某一天发生一些特殊事情或经历，以致这一天成他生命里的一个转捩点，一个值得纪念难忘的日子。我也不例外，已是「耳顺之年」的我有两个人生「始料不及」也是值得纪念的日子。

首先是2008年12月13日这个日期。

当天是我们夫妇及小儿三人在 Canning Garden Methodist Church《怡保桂和园卫理公会》受洗，正式归入主名下，是神家里的人了。坦白说，我自己从未曾想到我会成为「基督徒」，包括我的太太。

我的父母都是虔诚拜偶像，所以我是生长在一个传统“拜拜”信仰的家庭。我们兄弟四人从小就常被父母「千叮咛万嘱咐」不可信耶稣，那是外国人拜的神。所以「不可以信耶稣」是我们严格遵守的家训。在父母长期的“熏陶”下，我们兄弟四人成家立业后也跟随父母脚步膜拜偶像。

所以，「耶稣」，「教堂」，《圣经》，「十字架」，「作礼拜」和「基督徒」在我人生50岁前是「风马牛不相及」的，这些字眼及物件也从来不曾出现在我脑海里。

在2003年，我经营的生意开始出现下滑的现象，我就开始四处「求神拜佛」，寻访“名僧高人”指点迷津。然而几年下来的「东奔西走」及耗尽钱财，情况不但没改善，反而「每况愈下」外，更惨的是在这些过程中不知不觉招惹邪灵的搅扰，正是「一波未平，一波又起」。

那几年的日子我每天活在「惊惧痛苦」中，搞到精神也几乎崩溃了。人不是常说多拜神多保佑吗？怎么我越拜越不平安呢？

2008年某天中午，我驾车经过《桂和园卫理公会》，恰逢是与教会毗邻的学校放学的繁忙时间，我的车也被堵塞停在教堂入口处。在等待期间，我看到高挂在教堂建筑物上那「宏伟」的十字架，此时心中突然有股莫名的感动，对坐在副座的太太说：“「假如耶稣能救我，我就信祂。」”

坦白说，过去的几年，我尝试求助「佛教」，「道教」，「兴都教」，「密宗教」，「占卜算命」，但都如「水中捞月」，白费力气。

《基督教》是我唯一不曾接触，《耶稣》是我不曾拜

过的神，「教堂」更是我不曾进入的地方。然而很讽刺的是，过去这些我所「排斥」的此时仿佛是我最后的盼望。

感谢主，在同年的六月，上帝差遣祂的一位圣仆来我家传福音。我们三人也在同一天决志信主，并在第三天毅然将家里的所有偶像除去，也在过去拜偶像的地方挂上「十字架」，宣告如今「主耶稣基督为我家之主」。

靠主恩典，之前搞得我「惊惶失措」和「坐卧不安」的邪灵也因着耶稣基督的“介入”而「销声匿迹」了。这是上帝要向我显明祂才是那位；「叫一切在天上的，地上的和底底下的，因耶稣的名无不屈膝」（腓2:10）的独一真神。感谢主，救我和我家脱离黑暗权势的捆绑。

2008年12月13日是我重生的日子。「这样，我不再作外人和客旅，是与圣徒同国，是神家里的人了。」（弗2:19）

第二个日期：2022年12月4日

2018年得知教会将开办「本处传道课程（LPL）」，牧师也鼓励会友报读课程考取一纸证书，以便可随时协助牧者的教会事工。我虽感兴趣，然而因担忧本身的学历不足以应付深奥的神学课程和功课。

为此，我谦卑来到上帝面前祷告。上帝一句话：“「我要使用你。」”让我安心的报读课程。透过导师的「谆谆教导」教导，LPL课程提升我对《圣经》的认识，也帮助我厘清很多之前错误的观点。

坦白说，只是区区12个小时的听课，接着就是应对导师发下来的神学理论功课；我想，若非靠着主的恩典，我是无法应付来的，所以LPL课程也是让我经历神同在的恩典。

2022年12月4日我在Trinity Methodist Church,PJ从会督手中接过证书，当时除了内心澎湃也充满对上帝的感恩，这一切都是上帝赐给我这不配者的恩典。2008年12月13日及 2022年12月4日皆是我领受从上帝而来的怜悯和恩典的日期，也是我人生中最值得纪念和感恩的日子。

我只能如此对主说：“「主啊，我在这里，愿我是祢合用的器皿！」”

TRAC Joint Boards Meeting

By Rev Aaron Liu



The Trinity Annual Conference had its Joint Boards Meeting on 10th September 2022 in Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya. This is the first physical Joint Boards Meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a feeling of warmth and fellowship among board members as they interacted with one another and caught up.

The session began at 9 am with a time of worship after which Bishop Joshua Khong preached a sermon on the Centrality of the Church and Living a Gospel-Worthy Life. Drawing from the letter to the Philippian church, the bishop reminded us of the role the Church plays in the life of an individual, family, and society. Christ is the Head of the Church and we are united with Christ as fellow servants of the Kingdom. Bishop Joshua went on to

encourage board members to live gospel-worthy lives by obeying Christ, fearing God, and living lives that are true to the Word of God. By doing this, our lives will be a beacon of light that shines in this dark world.

After exhortation of the Word, the board partook in the Holy Communion and reaffirmed our oneness in serving Christ through the various ministries. The various boards later met and discussed individually before presenting their plans and budget for 2023. As some ministries are picking up again post Covid-19, a number of initiatives have been planned to further strengthen the Church and her mission. TRAC Joint Boards Meeting ended at with thanksgiving worship and prayer at 6.30 pm.



D6 Conference 2022

Reported by Lim Chong Ho

After a 2-year hiatus due to the MCO, the Malaysia D6 Conference made a comeback in 2022. The Conference was shortened to 1 day and held online on July 2, 2022. It was jointly organized by the Family Ministries and the Methodist Trinity Annual Conference Board of Laity. A total of 152 people signed up for this Conference coming from a wide variety of churches and Christian organizations in Malaysia. The group also consists of pastors, church leaders, children ministry leaders, grandparents, parents and youth.

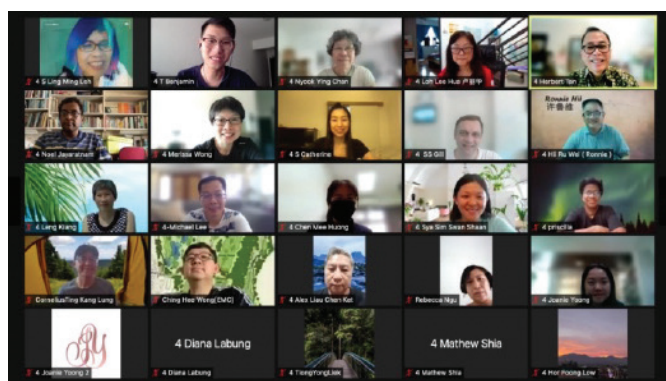
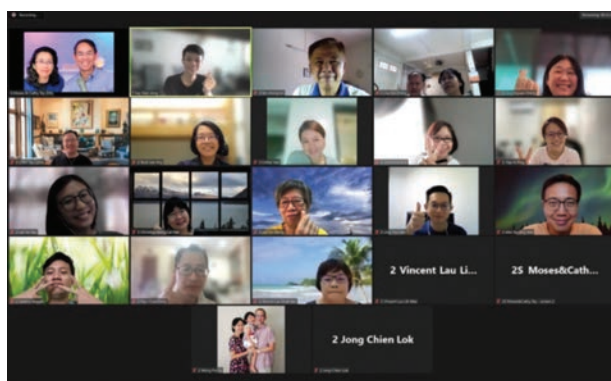
The Plenary Speaker was Dr. Rob Rienow, the founder of Visionary Family Ministries. He shares the Biblical message of Family Discipleship at national and international conferences for parents, couples and church leaders. He partners and consults with numerous churches, encouraging them to accelerate evangelism and discipleship through families. He serves as a pastor and church planter and is the author of numerous books.

During the conference, Dr Rob shared 4 sessions, two in the morning and two in the evening. He shared on 'Healing Family Relationships', 'Parenting Priorities in Challenging Times', 'Helping Children Engage

in Church' and 'Family Ministry Starts in Your House'. His in-depth teachings were very touching as they were based on his many years of real personal experience as a pastor in Family Ministries. His sharing touched many hearts and left some of us teary eyed as we identified with the struggles that he went through. He also left us with many useful practical lessons on dealing with family issues.

Besides the plenary session we had a workshop session in the afternoon. Participants had to chose 1 out of 5 workshops conducted by well known and experienced speakers in Family Ministries, including Dr Herbert Tan, Mrs Tan Ling Ming, Pr Mathew Ling, Ms Esme Ng, Rev Moses Tey, Mrs Cathy Tey, Dr Doris Hoo and Dr. Austin Sia. The workshops covered a wide variety of family issues and I wished I could attend all of them. The feedback from the participants to both the plenary sessions and workshops were very positive.

At the end of the conference, all conferees came away a little tired, but with a clear sense that it had been a day well spent. May what we have heard and learnt be taken to heart that it will challenge us to make a difference for Him in our families, churches and society.



Trinity Annual Conference Methodist Seniors Fellowship 31st Annual General Meeting

Venue: Kinta River Front Hotel • Date: 29-30 November 2022

By: Choy Yuet Moy



Bishop Joshua Khong praying for the newly elected TRAC MSF Management Board

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| President | : | Mr. Daniel Chan Weng Kay | (Emanuel MC, PJ) |
| Vice President | : | Mdm. Lim Chwee Ling (Peggy) | (Emanuel MC, PJ) |
| Hon. Secretary | : | Mr. Toa Kim Meng | (Ipoh Wesley MC) |
| Hon. Treasurer | : | Mr. Bernard Tan Hock Huat | (Sg Way-Subang MC, PJ) |
| Board Members | : | Mr. Yong Cho Kiat | (Penang WMC) |
| | | Ms. Tay Choon Neo | (Life MC, Puchong) |
| | | Mdm Lee Saw Hoon | (Trinity MC, Sg Buloh) |
| | | Mr. Quay Kian Hwat (Albert) | (WMC Kuala Lumpur) |
| District Co-ordinators | : | -- to be appointed -- | |
| Hon. Auditor | : | Mr. Francis Choo Ann Lock | (Trinity MC, PJ) |

The TRAC MSF Delegates Conference cum AGM 2022 was held from 29-30 November in the Kinta Riverfront Hotel in Ipoh. It was attended by 60 delegates and 5 observers. TRAC MSF has not had any camp since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was the first time that TRAC MSF had such a large scale gathering after the last MSF Annual Camp in 2018. It was a good time for renewing friendships and making new friends.



The opening worship was led by Rev David Loo. It was indeed a worship with a difference because there was no sermon. Instead, it was a time during which Rev David Loo gave an opportunity to the delegates to share a blessing or a testimony about the goodness of God. It was encouraging to hear about God's working in the lives of individuals and MSF chapters. One sister from KL Wesley shared about how God healed her of her serious eye problem. She suffered from eye stroke and was temporarily blinded for 3 months. The KL Wesley church members shared messages and songs for her to listen to. GB officers and parents of the girls visited and cooked for her. Besides that, 19 members from Life Methodist Church MSF, Puchong had a 3-day, 2-night camp in Fraser's Hill despite the Covid-19 still lurking around and on the prowl. Various other individuals shared about God's protection and guidance in ways that exceed our understanding. Everyone was touched by the marvellous ways in which God worked.

That evening, all delegates attended a briefing on the 5-point MSF vision presided by Rev David Loo and Mr Daniel Chan. The MSF aims to be relevant in meeting both the surface and deeper needs of the elderly in the Methodist churches. MSF members are encouraged to be actively engaged in the body life of the local church. There was a lively question and answer session after that.

The 31st AGM was held on 30 November followed by the Installation and Holy Communion service. Bishop Joshua Khong shared an inspiring message on the theme of "Looking Forward". It was an excellent 7-point reminder on how to move forward in our lives of service. The 7 points were:

- Looking forward by turning our eyes to Jesus
- Looking forward by giving thanks in everything
- Looking forward by remembering
- Looking forward with trust and obedience
- Looking forward by casting out fear
- Looking forward by practising the presence of God
- Looking forward by receiving His shalom and rest

All in all, it has been an enjoyable and encouraging conference in which delegates touched base with one another after a long separation.

Methodist Women Trinity Annual Conference 47th Session Conference

By Theresa Yip



THEME: Drawing on Romans 12:11-12, “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”, the theme for the TRAC MW 47th Session Conference is “Fervent in Spirit.” The Lord has blessed the Methodist Women with fervour and zeal to serve God, the Church and the community that evidently needs help as the people and the world emerge from the pandemic’s hardship and pain. The Methodist Women, as true disciples, filled with the Spirit, are challenged to live a fervent life of devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, responding to the call of God and going forward to accomplish things in new ways given our current realities.



VENUE & DATE: The event was held at Eastin Hotel Kuala Lumpur on the 16th-18th of September 2022. After a hiatus of 2 years online, we can finally return to in-person this year, much to the delight of many. About 100 women registered and attended the conference.



OPENING SERVICE: The Rev Paul Christie, District Superintendent of Central District 2, was the guest preacher at the Opening Service on 16th September at 3.00 pm, and Holy Communion was celebrated. His sermon is entitled “A Call to Personal Holiness”, Scripture taken from 1 Peter 1:13-25 and Romans 12:11-12. Quoted by Elisabeth Elliot, “The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian makes me a different kind of woman.” Unquote. Living in the “new normal” after the pandemic, one must continually seek the Lord through His Word and prayer for guidance. We depend much on His divine counsel to know if our plan and decision today will have a far-reaching impact on the next generation of women!



LOVE OFFERING: A love offering was collected at the Opening Service, and the amount collected was RM2,017 which will be channelled to the TRAC MW Senior Citizen Welfare Aid. There were also some goodies and cookies on sale at the conference, and the proceeds from the sale amounting to RM2,445 will also be channelled to the Senior Citizen Welfare Aid Fund. This fund is to provide medical financial assistance to the poor and needy. Aid application has increased substantially over these 2.5 years, perhaps due to the hardship brought on by the pandemic.

BUSINESS SESSION: The Business Session proceeded immediately after the Opening Service concluded. Bars were set with Delegates and Reserves ushered to the designated seat. Proceedings were adopted, and the presentation of reports by the TRAC MW President, Treasurer, Coordinators, Local Presidents and Representative to NCWO and CCM Women’s Work was swiftly carried out. Mrs Evelyn Lim, President GCMW, was invited to present her address, and an update on the Methodist Women Centre in Ulu Klang was also given. The election of new Office Bearers for 2023-24, presided over by Rev Paul Christie, was conducted.

MEET THE NEW TRAC MW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-24

| Position | Name |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Mdm Julia Tan |
| Vice President | Dr Mary Bien |
| Hon. Secretary | Mdm Ng Loo Ee |
| Hon. Treasurer | Mdm Lee Poh Goek |
| Coordinators | |
| Spiritual Life | Mdm Vicky Hiew |

| Position | Name |
|------------------------|---|
| Christian Education | Mrs Angela Khong |
| Social Concerns | Mrs Roslind Yong |
| Nomination Chairperson | Mrs Cindy Goh |
| Counselors | Mdm Theresa Yip Mrs Gladys Christie |
| Ex-Officio | Bishop Joshua Khong Mrs Elaine Khong Mrs Evelyn Lim |

MALAYSIA DAY OF PRAYER 2022: 16th September was Malaysia Day, Churches and Christians across the nation came together to spend a day in praise and prayer to bless Malaysia. In Christ, we continue to find common ground, celebrate our differences and come together, acknowledging the sovereignty of God over Malaysia. Not wanting to miss the opportunity to pray for our nation Malaysia, the MW incorporated MDOP into its programme by coming together to pray at the Methodist slot from 7.00 pm-8.00 pm. After dinner, participants gathered in the meeting room, waiting expectantly to pray together online. It was truly memorable hearing prayers aloud in unity and proclaiming God's peace, love and righteousness over Malaysia, her people and the future.



Malaysia Day of Prayer



Pastor Dr Lew Lee Choo

PLENARY SESSION: The plenary speaker was Pastor Dr Lew Lee Choo, currently the Deputy Senior Pastor of SIBKL, which today has a congregation of 4500. Pastor Lee Choo is very passionate about Women's Ministry, and her focus is on raising Godly Women who can influence their families, workplace and the next generation. She is a much sought-after speaker, and we are indeed honoured and privileged to have her speak to us for three sessions. In her talk, she reminded women of the biblical context in reference to:-

Session I: Womanhood

The Worth of a Woman:

- Our Identity ~ created in God's image (Genesis 1:27)
- Our Worth ~ purchased by Blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18)
- Our Womanhood ~ distinctly different; men and women complimenting, not competing (Genesis 2:18-20)

Session II: Submission

- The purpose of submission
- The plan of God – equal worth, different roles
- The problems women face in submission

Ephesians 5:21-6:9

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

Session III: Building The Men in Your Life

- Women have great influence over men
- Building the men in our lives
- What do men fear most

Proverbs 31

2 Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb! Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers! 3 Do not spend your strength on women, your vigour on those who ruin kings.

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

WORKSHOP: The Workshop speaker was Ms Anne Abraham. Anne is a strong advocate and supporter of women's leadership development, and she frequently speaks at events and sits on panels focused on empowering women in leadership and Board positions. She has an illustrious career spanning 25 years, serving in key leadership positions in the corporate world. Anne is the founder of Leadwomen Sdn Bhd, developing and advancing women into leadership positions across the corporate and government sections.



Ms Anne Abraham

Two Workshop Sessions were conducted.

- Workshop 1 ~ **“The Power of Biblical Diversity & Inclusion”** in calling women to church leadership and ministries.
- Workshop II ~ **“Nurturing the Future”** offers women in the church not just a range of crucial and timely skills but new leadership development and networking opportunities.

Women can come together in a diverse group to explore ways to connect, improve, enhance and develop capabilities to address pressing concerns and much more. There has never been a more critical time to raise more women to leadership roles. Diversity of thought is essential to harness effective outcomes, building trust and sustainable solutions to the pressing onslaught of challenges we face locally and nationally.

GALA DINNER & FUN NIGHT: The highly anticipated Gala Dinner on 17th September is a milestone event for Methodist Women. It takes months of planning, and it's where the women come together to celebrate and have fun. One of the critical decisions to make early on is

the gala theme. That decision will determine the programme and decor and the costumes the participants will turn up in! A classic theme to embrace the era relatable to most ladies was by taking inspiration from the 70s. The theme “Nostalgia 70s” comes with many statement pieces to remind us of that era, including 5-stones, bubble balloons, and snacks we grew up with like ice-gems, haw flakes, white rabbit candy and kacang putih. The incredible 70s fashion moment includes bell bottoms, floral prints, crochet and platform shoes. One thing is for sure: the unsaid rule is that we will have to dance with a disco ball hanging above. A lavish spread of international buffet and the top 3 Best Dressed winners completed the programme for the Gala Night.



Gala Dinner & Fun Night

BISHOP JOSHUA KHONG'S MESSAGE: In his message to the TRAC Methodist Women at the Closing Service, he spoke on “Fervent in Spirit, Our Eyes on the Unseen” Scripture taken from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly, we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Bishop Joshua highlighted that when we are fervent in Spirit, we do not grieve the Holy Spirit in reference to Romans 12. Let's.....

1. Be devoted to one another in love.
2. Honour one another above ourselves, and give preference to another.
3. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think.
4. Our human flaws are making way for Christlikeness.
5. We jointly use our gifts/talents for the common life in Christ.
6. Pursue peace, do not avenge.
7. Lift up love and abhor hate.
8. Overcome evil with good.



In addition, he also urged the MW to use our gifts and call to.....

- Connecting and encouraging younger sisters
- Engaging and integrating creatively
- Impacting and influencing for Christ

He brings his sermon to a close, reminding us to make “Fervent in Spirit” a TRAC Methodist Women Common Identity! Therefore, let’s shine brilliantly for Christ and in Christ. We are much encouraged by Bishop Joshua’s presence and affirmation that God has blessed the TRAC MW with a meaningful 47th Session Conference steeped in love, unity and joyful service amongst MW sisters.

The newly elected Office Bearers for 2023-24 participated in an Installation Service by Bishop Joshua before bringing the TRAC MW 47th Session Conference to a close with a Benediction.



Installation of new Office Bearers 2023-24

LOOKING AHEAD: The TRAC MW 47th Session Conference ended on a high note. We were amazed by the many positive feedbacks we received. The conference left a remarkable impact, with many women bonding and making new friends. We look forward to the 48th TRAC MW Session that will be held from 13th-15th October 2023 in Taiping.

All Praise & Glory to God.

TRAC Appointments For The Year 2023

EASTERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: The Revd Thomas Chin

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wesley MC Kuantan | Revd Christopher Rao | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Kuala Lipis | <i>No Conference Appointment</i> | |
| Wesley MC Raub | Revd Koe Swee Kee | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Christ MC Bentong | Revd Koe Swee Kee | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |

NORTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: The Revd Shearn Sya

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wesley MC Alor Star | Revd Luke Ng | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Sg Petani | Revd Luke Ng | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Kulim | Revd Joshua Chia | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Parit Buntar | Revd Joshua Chia | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Butterworth | Pr Andrew Yeoh | <i>Pastor-in-Charge (Part-time)</i> |
| Wesley MC Penang | Revd Ronald Yap | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| | Revd Andrew Lim | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| Trinity MC Penang | Revd Shearn Sya | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |

PERAK DISTRICT

District Superintendent: The Revd Dr Andrew Tan

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Wesley MC Taiping | Revd Jonathan Chan Revd John Baru | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| Wesley MC Ipoh | Revd Dr Timothy Ong Revd Wong Chun Mun | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> <i>Assistant Pastor</i> |
| Wesley MC Sitiawan | Revd Lester Lim Pr Edward Lee | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> <i>Assistant Pastor</i> |
| Wesley MC Teluk Intan | Revd Buell Abraham | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Kampar | Revd Elaine Low | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Grace MC Pasir Putih | Revd Lim Chaw Leong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Bercham MC | Revd Anna Ng, | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| CGMC Ipoh | Revd Dr Andrew Tan Revd Yu Chiew Song Revd Richard Leow | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> <i>Associate Pastor</i> <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| Living Faith MC | Revd Lim Chaw Leong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |

CENTRAL DISTRICT 1

District Superintendent: The Revd Paul S Christie

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Wesley MC Kuala Lumpur | Revd Teoh Lee Yng Revd Ashok Amarasingham Revd Thomas Jie | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> <i>Associate Pastor</i> <i>Assistant Pastor</i> |
| Whispering Hope MC | Revd James Ong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Kepong | Revd Lucy Lee | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Living Stone MC | Revd Lucy Lee | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Faith MC Cheras | Revd William Kwong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Christ MC Ampang | Revd Chang Choy Quin | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Grace MC Sentul | Revd Chang Choy Quin | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Trinity MC Sg Buloh | Revd William Kwong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |

CENTRAL DISTRICT 2**District Superintendent: The Revd Ashok Amarasingham**

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Wesley MC Klang | Revd Gaurri Maniam | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Living Hope MC | Revd Eric Tan | <i>Pastor-in-charge</i> |
| SSMC | Pastor Robin Liew | <i>Pastor-in-charge</i> |
| Trinity MC PJ | Revd Paul S. Christie | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| | Revd Joshua Hong | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Lewis Loke | <i>Assistant Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Shaan Sya | <i>Assistant Pastor</i> |
| Subang MC | Pr Robert Khaw | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Life MC Puchong | Revd Eric Tan | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Emmanuel MC | Revd Thomas Chin | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesleyan Community MC | Revd Joshua Hong | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Damansara Utama MC | Pr Chris Kam | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| | Pr Mike Ngui | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Tan Moy How | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Kelvin Yong | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Gilbert Tan | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| | Pr Eddy Marson | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**District Superintendent: The Revd Wong Mun Wah**

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wesley Seremban | Revd Yong Wai Yin | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Taman Ujong | Revd Yong Wai Yin | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Wesley MC Melaka | Revd Aaron Liu | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| | Revd Danny Chiew | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| Taman Asean MC | Revd Aaron Liu | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| | Revd Danny Chiew | <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| Wesley MC Segamat | <i>No Conference Appointment</i> | |
| Wesley JB | Revd Wong Mun Wah | <i>Pastor-in-Charge</i> |
| Nusajaya MC | <i>No Conference Appointment</i> | |

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Seniors Ministry Director | Revd David Loo |
| PMSM Superintendent | The Revd Ronald Yap |
| Prayer Coordinator | Pr Robert Khaw |
| Part-Time Coordinator in PMSM | Revd Richard Leow |
| National Youth Director | Revd James Ong |

Celebrating Christ Methodist Church Bentong 65th year – Tell of God's Glory!

By Tui Soke Lai



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9 NIV

It was in early August 2022 that Rev. Pastor Ting Moy Hong proposed to the LCEC to celebrate Christ Methodist Church (CMC) Bentong’s 65th Anniversary.

A few dates were proposed and after much prayer, 13th November was chosen. The theme for the celebration was “To Tell Of God’s Glory”. Church members were invited to contribute stories to testify to God’s marvellous works in their lives or stories related to their spiritual journey as members of the community of faith. A task force led by lay-leader John Ha was formed for the celebration. The committee members comprised of Sister Tan Leong Hee, Sister Alice Lee, Sister Jessie Chang, Sister Karen, Sister Chan Yoke Chan, Sister Agnes, Brother Philip, Brother Victor and Sister Soke Lai. It was both exciting and stressful for most

of the members since it was the first time being involved in such an endeavour. Everyone worked hard together to make the celebration a meaningful one and glorify God.

The task force decided that all members of the church invite their non-Christian friends to the celebration. A few expressed doubt that their non-Christian friends would come. The task force was pleasantly surprised as the list of guest went beyond the number expected. We had more than 50 guests, of which more than 20 were non-Christians. Praise be to the Lord! It is hoped that these guests would also be invited to the church outreach ministry in the days to come. All past pastors, were also invited. Brothers Philip Chow and Victor Veloo were tasked to trace and invite all former members and members who are outstation.



It was a daunting task indeed. Due to prior commitments, most of the pastors sent their apologies. We were delighted to have Rev. Roland Chan and wife, Dorcas who came all the way from Ipoh to join in the celebration.

To commemorate the special day, a 65th Anniversary Book was published carrying with it messages from the TRAC Bishop, the District Superintendent, the Pastor, Rev. Hwa Jen and wife Tsyh Yong and the seven beautiful testimonies which were shared by members of CMC Bentong.

This time of the year, rain is frequent and members of the church were asked to pray and ask the Lord for good weather and that all plans go smoothly. Members of the task force worked together beautifully till the very

day before 13 November. As early as 8.00am, members of the hospitality team turned up at the church grounds to see to the last details of the celebration and be ready to receive guests and worshippers. The Lord graced the day not just with His loving and gracious presence, He granted our prayer for a pleasant and balmy weather.

Worshippers and guests joined their voices in a resounding and joyous praise to the Almighty and Gracious God with hymns of praise: "Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee", "For the Beauty of the Earth" and "To God be the glory". TRAC Bishop Joshua Khong, Eastern District Superintendent Rev. Thomas Chin and their wives graced the occasion. Bishop Joshua Khong preached from Mathew 11:25-30, a sermon entitled "Take My Yoke, Learn





from Me". Rev. Thomas Chin prayed for Christ Methodist Church. The offering received at the anniversary service was designated for the church's ministry for children with learning disabilities.

As a token of remembrance, worshippers and guests who attended the 65th anniversary worship service were gifted a mug embossed with the words "Tell Of God's Glory" CMC Bentong 65th. At the end of the worship service, Mr Allan Yong, a ventriloquist shared a story based on John 3:16.

As in most anniversaries, Christ Methodist Church Bentong also had a cake for the 65th anniversary which was cut by TRAC Bishop together with the District Superintendent, the pastor and leader of the church. Thereafter,

all were invited to a hearty lunch contributed by Mr and Mrs Chow Chee Hoi as their thanksgiving offering to the Lord for His mercies and lovingkindness.

It was heartwarming to see guests enjoying not only the food but the fellowship with one another. They stayed and lingered till about 2.00 p.m. One of the worshippers shared, "Christ Methodist Church Bentong is very important to me because it is here that I came to Jesus Christ and was baptised by Rev. Peggy Seow."

May Christ Methodist Church Bentong be that important place to many more people in Bentong and her vicinity – May God be always glorified in her!



Christ Methodist Church, Bentong

1957-2022

As early as 1927, under the watch of the founding Bishop Rev. WF Oldham, Rev. Blasdell, the District Superintendent of the Kuala Lumpur district, identified Bentong town, situated in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur to be an important place for street preaching and English school work¹. The said District Superintendent, commented thus: *‘Evangelism identified the central idea in the DS report through street preaching and English Schools.’* “...Pahang lies before us as a great Promised Land flowing with possibilities for new work and challenging our powers to start it. Our local preachers await organization to enter more largely into the work of the Kingdom...”

That was how Christian service and ministry began in Bentong in 1928. Even though one Tan Ghi San was appointed by the then Malayan Annual Conference of the Methodist Church to serve as the first religious worker in Bentong, the founding church ministry was the Tamil speaking work, not the English speaking.

True to her observation and mission, the Methodist Church then launched into school missions as was the case in the other parts of Malaya where the Methodist Church began work. Rev. Joseph V Ayaduray was appointed the pastor for the Tamil work in 1953.

Then, the Malayan Annual Conference was one conference of different languages, not until 1976 when the Trinity Annual Conference was constituted. Tamil work as reported by the District Superintendent was progressing well. However, there was no mention of an English speaking work or congregation until 1956. Be that as it may, a large school was mentioned in the District Superintendent report and J Henry was the headmaster.² This school would later be the important Methodist English School of Bentong that played a very important role in offering second chances to those who were not successful in the usual public schools.³ Ted C. Miles was one of the faithful principals who served for many years until the school stopped operations in the 1970s.

The school mission and her story are much intertwined with the story of the beginning of the English speaking congregation of Methodists in Bentong. The teaching and learning community were the first congregation. It is not untrue to say that the mission of the school was the base for the beginning of a “Bentong Wesley Congregation”.

“Bentong Wesley” recorded a membership of 9 persons in the year 1956.⁴ For most part of her developmental years, she was known as “Bentong-Mentakab Circuit”. There were a few conference years where she was placed under “Bentong-Lipis” and “Bentong-Raub” circuits. To know with greater details of those years, the conference journals and reports of the district superintendents may offer more insight.

Sufficient supply of pastors was often a challenge faced by the Methodist Church. There were years (1971-72, 1982-83) where Christ Bentong was without a pastor. In those years, the District Superintendent, Rev. Won En Mien specially recorded his thanks and appreciation to the laity for the faithful watching over the church and for carrying on with the ministry of the church. From 2008-2013, Christ Methodist Church was placed under her District Superintendent as “Pastor Assigned” while the District Superintendents would have their respective districts and local churches to watch over.

¹ Minutes of the 35th Session of the Malaya Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1927

² Minutes of the 57th Session of the Malayan Annual Conference, 1952

³ Noted by one of its principals, Ted C. Miles in his report reproduced in the minutes of the 69th Session in 1963.

⁴ Minutes of the 60th Session of the Malayan Annual Conference 1955

The pastors of Bentong Wesley Congregation- Bentong/Mentakab Circuit – Christ Methodist Church Bentong 1957-2022 are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1957 | Rev. Hobart B Amstutz (DS KL District) Ted C. Miles (Resident Missionary) |
| 1958 (till July) | Betty Yap Phiu Yoke |
| 1958 (after July) | Rev. KC Knutsen |
| 1959 | Pastor Edwin Khoo Boo Teck ⁵ |
| 1960 (till mid year) | Rev. Ng Ee Lin |
| 1960 (from mid year) - 1963 | Rev. Donald Turman ⁶ |
| 1964-1965 | Pastor Tan Chi Kiong |
| 1966 | Pastor Michael Wong Chee Wun |
| 1967-1970 | Pastor Yeoh Keat Ban ⁷ |
| 1971-1972 | No pastor appointed |
| 1973-1978 | Pastor S. Jasmine Joseph ⁸ |
| 1979-1980 | Rev. Ong Ing Pee |
| 1981 | Pastor Matius Ooi |
| 1982-1983 | No pastor appointed |
| 1984-1989 | Rev. Henry Yong |
| 1990-1995 | Rev. Yew Nieng Song ⁹ |
| 1996-1998 | Rev. Roland Chan |
| 1999-2003 | Rev. Peggy Seow |
| 2004-2007 | Rev. Buell Abraham |
| 2006-2007 | Rev. Hwa Jen |
| 2008 ¹⁰ | DS Rev. Lawrence Francis, Pastor assigned |
| 2009-2011 | DS Rev. Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor assigned |
| 2012 | DS Rev. Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor assigned |
| 2013 | DS Rev. Woo Kit Sang, Pastor assigned |
| 2014-2017 | Rev. Eric Hue |
| 2018-2021 | Rev. Bernard Yogaraj Lazar |
| 2022 | Rev. Ting Moy Hong |

⁵ Congregation here known as “Bentong-Mentakab Circuit”

⁶ 1961, the minutes of 68th Session Malayan Annual Conference (MAC) recorded a membership of 11 and attendance of 40-50 at worship services on Sunday.

⁷ During Pastor’s Yeoh’s watch in 1969, the congregation moved out from the sanctuary of Chinese Methodist Church in town and moved in the hall of Methodist English School (MES)

⁸ During Pastor Jasmine’s watch, the congregation experienced rapid changes which required diversified ministries to ensure a financially self-sustained church. Pastor Jasmine attempted good changes for the use of the “former MES” for kindergarten. She also submitted a proposal to develop the “former MES” into a retreat center for the Methodist Church in the country (p75 of the minutes of the 6th Session SMAC, the DS report).

⁹ Rapid numerical growth of the church is recorded in successive years under the watch of Rev. Yew Nieng Song. See more in the relevant annual conference journals.

¹⁰ 2008-2013, the Christ Bentong received help also from ministers and lay preachers from other districts – a testimony to the strength of the Methodist connectionalism.

The list above is extracted from journals of the annual conferences over the years. It is important to state that much more are left unrecorded in the journal that pertains to the life and ministry of the congregation. One of which is that, from 2008-2013, in the absence of a resident pastor, Richard Leow and his late wife, Betty, faithful members of Christ Methodist Church stepped in to give the pastoral care for the church, in his own words, “for all intent and purposes, he served as pastor for Bentong and Raub congregations”. Theirs are the names that so often flow from the lips of members of the congregation who were blessed by their love and ministry.

Indeed, over the many years from the beginning, there were many others like Richard and Betty who gave themselves for the care and growth of the church. Their ministries are not officially recorded but this has not in any way devalued or undone their invaluable contributions. They poignantly reminded us that the church is not about the size of the building nor the numbers, the church is God’s people – there, where God has placed them – they stay, they live, they love and they continue to tell of God’s love for the world. Thanks be to God for each of them. This 65th anniversary is every bit a grateful celebration of them.

Examining the journals of the church, Christ Methodist Church continues today because of God’s miracle and grace. She has no other story to tell except God’s glory and grace on this, her 65th anniversary.

Contributed¹¹ by,
Ting Moy Hong
Pastor
13 November 2022

¹¹ By no means this contribution tells the whole and the most accurate account of the story of Christ Methodist Church. It is an attempt to start telling the story, which I hope will inspire others of you to contribute towards a fuller one. I humbly seek your forgiveness for unintentional omissions/mistakes but deemed important. Please correct them in your story which I will welcome wholeheartedly for a fuller story be told about Christ Methodist Church Bentong for the greater glory of the Head of the church, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.



Krismas di Haknook Jenang pada 10 Disember 2022

Oleh Marta Mahadir



Salam sejahtera dan shalom kepada umat Tuhan Yesus yang dikasihi sekalian. Saya ingin menceritakan persediaan kami di Haknook Jenang menjelang sambutan krismas akhir tahun 2022. Kami berasa sangat gemuruh dan teruja apabila menjelang hari sambutan krismas. Kami dilatih oleh Pastor Ting sepanjang persediaan kami dari segi nyanyian dan lakonan bagi memberikan persembahan yang terbaik kepada Tuhan dan hadirin yang akan datang menyaksikan persembahan kami. Pembaptisan dan confirmation akan dijalankan juga semasa berlansungnya sambutan perayaan krismas. Kami amat bersyukur kepada Tuhan sebab berpeluang untuk membuat pembaptisan dan confirmation pada hari yang sama.

Kami amat berbesar hati sebab dapat belajar lagu krismas yang baharu dalam Bahasa inggeris iaitu Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart, O little town Bethlehem, Mary's boy child Jesus Christ, We are the reasons, Be it unto me according to your word and Away in manger. Namun kami menghadapi masalah nyanyian lagu krismas iaitu dalam sebutan bahasa inggeris yang betul tetapi kami amat bersyukur kepada Tuhan sebab Pastor Ting sudi mengajar kami tanpa henti

sampai kami menyanyikan lagu krismas secara betul sebutannya.

Sepanjang persediaan kami menjelang krismas kami telah melakukan aktiviti gotong-royong di kawasan rumah Haknook Jenang iaitu membersihkan Kawasan persekitaran dan mengutip sampah yang berada di Kawasan sekeliling. Selain itu, kami juga telah membuat hiasan dalam rumah seperti membuat kertas menjadi pokok krismas dan menghias belon serta terdapat hiasan dalam bentuk tulisan iaitu Merry Christmas bagi mencantikkan kawasan dalam rumah sempena sambutan krismas. Aktiviti tersebut berjalan dengan lancar dan sempurna kerana semua penghuni dalam rumah Haknook Jenang bekerjasama dengan baik sepanjang aktiviti tersebut berlangsung.

Walaupun bagaimanapun, kami amat berasa gembira dan teruja apabila hari yang dinantikan semakin dekat. Namun terdapat kebimbangan dalam hati kami iaitu kerisauan dari segi nyanyian dan lakonan yang akan dipersembahkan. Apabila berlansungnya hari yang dinantikan kami amat berasa gemuruh dan gementar pada masa yang sama namun



kami bersyukur kerana terdapat dorongan dan sokongan daripada Pastor Ting, Kakak Han Leyek, Teacher Wee Wee dan Kakak Laida serta Kakak Daya yang memberi semangat kepada kami supaya melakukan yang terbaik dan ikhlas untuk Tuhan Yesus serta kepada yang hadir semasa berlangsungnya sambutan krismas tersebut.

Di samping itu, kami juga sedar bahawa kerjasama antara satu sama lain dan saling menghormati serta mengambil tanggungjawab masing-masing amat penting supaya dapat melakukan sesuatu perkara dengan jayanya. Kami juga ingin mengambil kesempatan

ini dengan mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada pihak gereja dan comitte dan pihak yang sudi menyumbang dan memberi sumbangan ke Haknook Jenang. Selain itu, kami ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Pastor Ting yang rela membantu kami sepanjang persiapan krismas serta ribuan terima kasih kepada semua pihak yang hadir semasa berlangsungnya sambutan krismas tersebut. Kami berharap krismas kali ini disambut dengan penuh bermakna dan meriah secara bersama-sama dalam kasih Tuhan Yesus yang terlalu besar kasihNya terhadap kita.



Tuition Ministry in Haknook Jenang, Raub Hostel

By Vi Vian

The Orang Asli children staying in HJ face great challenges in catching up with the school syllabus. Most of them come from a very weak academic background. In many subjects, they are a few years behind the expected level of education in their age group.

It is therefore compulsory for every child to attend tuition. When the hostel started in 2020, the students went to a tuition centre that is also attended by non-OA students. There was no way to monitor their progress closely as the centre could not give us feedback on how well each student is doing.

When the pandemic hit schools badly in 2020 and classes went online, we decided to try online tuitions with the secondary students. The aim is to give personal attention and help them at their current level. As many as 21 Christian tutors from all over Malaysia volunteered themselves. English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Bahasa Melayu were taught. Valuable feedback from each tutor every month gives us satisfaction that the students' behaviour and progress can be closely monitored. To motivate the students to attend classes and do the work given, tutors give points to their behaviour online and this is rewarded with cash at the end of the year. The students have begun to show better attitude and skills with the computer, being able to interact with their teachers online.

SUCCESS and ACHIEVEMENTS

After a year of intense tuition, we see some success. From the 2021 batch, 100% of the SPM students in HJ successfully passed and obtained an SPM Certificate. 50% went on to take Form 6.

Online behaviour in 2022 has 49% of students scoring very good, 15% good, 27% needs improvement, 6% needs more improvement, and 3% only is not good.

SUPPORT and PRAYER NEEDS

We need more physical and online teachers. Some online teachers are not continuing in 2023 due to personal reasons. The need is very urgent.

Those who live near Raub can go to the hostel to teach physical classes. We have only 2 physical teachers now. Those who stay far from Raub, can serve through the online platform. They only need an available device (handphone, computer or tablet) to communicate with the students. Many online tutors see this as an opportunity to serve God and to impact the lives of these OA children far away in Raub. As an online tutor serving since 2020, I can truly say that it is a joy to be involved in this ministry. Though we may not be able to go there, we can still meet them weekly, teach and help them academically. This is one way to get close to the students and bless them.

Please pray that the Lord will send more of His workers to teach these children and be part of His work in HJ. Pray that the students will learn well from their tutors, both physical and online, and benefit from the personal attention they receive. Pray for the current tutors to be encouraged, strengthened by God daily and always available to teach them.

Anyone interested to be an online or physical teacher, please contact the **Warden Ms Chua Wee Wee**, at **09-3550385**, or the **Tuition Coordinator Vi Vian**, at **012-2141545**.

A Preview to Girls' Brigade in the Lives of the OA Girls at Haknook Jenang, Raub

*By Adele Chow
Captain, 1st PJ Girls' Brigade Company 2022*



Time for Roll Call



Praise & worship



Badge work - Tambourine Dance

In June 2022, Girls' Brigade (GB) Captains in the Selangor and Federal Territory (SFT) Group Council were informed by our GB Central Region Representative, Lt. Janice Sek that GB has been invited to visit an Orang Asli Home @ Raub, Pahang with an interest to start a GB company. After a few discussions held online, we decided to take turns taking GB into Rumah Kesayangan Haknook Jenang from July 2022 onwards. A few Selangor and Federal Territory GB Companies committed (a month each) to run weekly GB parades. It was a wonderful and fruitful experience having GB parades at Haknook Jenang, not only for the OA girls but also for the SFT companies. The OA girls looked forward to every Saturday

afternoon, waiting patiently for the arrival of their new GB friends.

1st Petaling Jaya Pioneer GB Girls and Officers were excited going to Raub every Saturday for the month of October. The change of environment and the OA girls with teachable spirit were such a joy to our Pioneer girls and officers. Our weekly parades started with praise and worship, followed by a short time of devotion, badge-work and ending with drill. We also had a time of fellowship with the OA girls during lunch and tea (hosted by the OA). We pray that God will bless GB with the birth of a new company in 2023 - 1st Raub Girls' Brigade.



Games



Drill Time

Celebrate Christ's First Coming, Preparing for His Second Coming

By Lee Siang Ling

Christmas is the day of celebration for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was born on this day 2000 years ago.

Together, as a church, we not only celebrate Christ's first coming on Christmas, but we also must realize that it is equally important to prepare for His second coming. We are to be reminded that Christ is the focus in everything that we do in every occasion. As followers and disciples of Jesus Christ, there are many preparations and "work" to do as we await His second coming. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus presented His plan for kingdom-building clearly. Many call this the divine "Great Commission".

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age".
 (Matthew 28:18-20)

The plan is to "make disciples of all the nations". The goal of the Great Commission is to tell people about the offer of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This command is applicable for all believers. Everyone plays a

role in reaching out to those who have yet to know Christ.

This Christmas, we are grateful that we are able to have a Children Christmas party physically. Months before December, when we were told of the plan, Sunday School teachers were excited as the Sunday School kids have not had any special events physically since the pandemic. Besides, this is one of the few outreach events participated by kids from non-christian families. The flow of the programme clearly showed that much time and effort had been put in planning and countless rehearsals must have been carried out by the team from St James Church, Singapore, specifically to create an impact on the sharing of the good news of salvation to the children.

On that eventful day on 10 Dec 2022, I could see Jesus' love for the children through the Singapore team and our Wesley Melaka Children Ministry's team. The interaction and engagement with the children were simply amazing. All the children, even the very young ones were able to participate in the activities and to enjoy themselves. The immediate reward for a tiring day was when a pair of 7-year-old twins sent a message through their mother's mobile, that read: *Thank you, teacher, I am very happy today. I want to come to Sunday School.*



Registration and welcoming the children



Goodie bags, food packs and Yakult drinks for refreshments



Ice-breaker games



Group activities



Ice-breaker games



Group leader guiding children in saying the sinner's prayer

I always like to connect the Great Commission with the Great Commandment. Jesus taught His disciples the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37-39 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls, with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." As believers and followers of Christ, obeying His commands helps us to be prepared when He comes again. His command for us is to love God and love one another. His plan calls for action.

Wesley Melaka Church is very privileged to have about 200 flat-dwelling neighbours around us. The church pastors and leaders had unanimously agreed upon the Christmas

Cookies distribution project to be carried out on 11 Dec 2022, with the intention to reach out to these neighbours this Christmas. The church embarked to spread God's love to our neighbours by blessing each household with a box of Christmas cookies. Oooops... pardon me, to be exact, it was a double blessing, as the church also invited some single mothers to bake and sell their cookies to members to purchase for the Christmas Cookies distribution project. Come 11 Dec 2022, each group was led by a guitarist to sing Christmas carols to cheer on the festive mood. May this little act of giving opens up to share the love of God to all the recipients, who are His creation, regardless of their social status and religious practices.



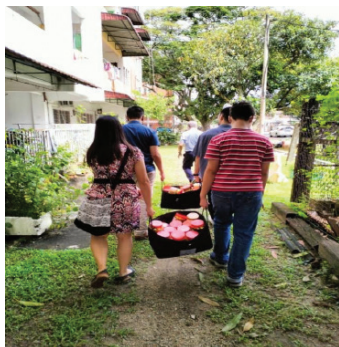
Single mothers



A nicely wrapped jar of cookies ready for distribution



Assorted cookies baked by the single mothers



Distribution teams



Guitarist singing carols to cheer on the festive mood.

Flat-dwellers receiving the cookies from church members

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service

All glory to God! Christmas eve and Christmas Day services were joyous occasions celebrated as a family of Christ. Wesley Melaka had just celebrated its 125th anniversary on 9 October 2022. Assuming that we celebrate Christmas in church every year, then this would very much be the 125th Christmas Day celebration

and service for Wesley Melaka.

Christmas eve service was held at 8.00pm. The church was well decorated with colourful lightings externally around the sanctuary and decorative ornaments in the sanctuary. There were mistletoe, snowflakes, and christmas trees.



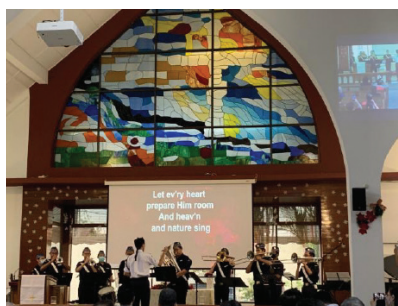
The gospel and good news was shared through scripture reading from Genesis 3:8-15, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-16, Matthew 2:1-11, John 1:1-14 and a hymn was sung after each and every scripture reading. The meditation message, *"The Light of the world has come"*, was shared by Pastor Teoh Lee Yng, reminding the congregation that Jesus is the Light of the world. Jesus has come. Jesus is our hope and light in this world of darkness. Christmas is a reminder that The Light of the World has come. Whoever follows the Light will never walk in darkness. Jesus has come to bring light. Jesus has the light of life. Because Jesus is the light, we no longer live in sin and darkness. As Jesus is the light, He guides us to the truth of who we are, the truth about Him and His unconditional love to us. Jesus is the "Lighthouse" to the way to eternity. Pastor Lee Yng invited those who have not experienced Jesus in their lives to invite Jesus to be the Light of their life.

25 Dec 2022, Christmas Day service was held at 10am. Members and visitors alike were warmly greeted "Merry Christmas" by the greeters at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pews were almost fully occupied by 9.45am. The worship team led the congregation

to give praise to God and to worship Him through songs of praise and Christmas carols. The congregation were then entertained by a special presentation from the Boys' Brigade Band to the music of *"Joy To The World"*.

The good news was shared by Pastor Lee Yng entitled "Don't Be Afraid, It's Good News!", taken from Luke 2:1-20. The good news of salvation is for every season, every person and every nation. This was the last sermon by Pastor Lee Yng in Wesley Melaka, as she will be transferred to KLWMC in 2023. Her service and love for Wesley Melaka will always be remembered and her style of bold preaching on God's Word will definitely stay deeply etched in our hearts. The Christmas service ended with the congregation singing "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".

Christmas is a reminder of God's greatest gift to the world - His Son. All glory and honour belongs to our God for His goodness and faithfulness to all who love Him. Wonderful is His Name! Wonderful are His works! Let us all be encourage by the apostle Paul, who wrote in *1 Corinthians 16:14* *"Let all that you do be done with love."*



25 Dec 2022



Dedication Service of the Methodist Girls' Kindergarten, Ipoh 17 December 2022

By Leonard Lim, Chairman of the Pre-school Ministry, CGMC (2008-2022)



The long-awaited Dedication Service of the Methodist Girl's Kindergarten, Ipoh finally came on 17 December 2022 and God blessed us with a bright and beautiful Saturday morning. The Dedication Service was led by Bishop Joshua Khong with Reverend Dr Andrew Tan, Pastor-in-charge of Canning Garden Methodist Church, as the Liturgist.

Bishop Joshua shared a very meaningful message from Matthew 7:17-21. He reminded us that every good tree bears good fruit and Methodist Girls' Kindergarten (MGK) is recognised by the fruit it has produced over the years. Indeed, MGK Ipoh has provided early childhood education to thousands of children in and around the city of Ipoh since its inception in 1973. For the past 49 years, she has produced many individuals who are highly successful people in our country today. By the grace of God and the work of His faithful servants, this good tree will continue to produce good fruit for many, many more years to come.

Methodist Girls' Kindergarten is not only a community project to provide early childhood education to children, but also a place where

we sow the word of God in young hearts. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared with the children every week during our chapel time. Christian values are imparted, and we believe that they will have an impact on the children throughout their lives.

The Kindergarten Transformation Project was mooted by the Management Committee in 2017. We realised that it was time to upgrade our old kindergarten to keep up with the needs of the 21st Century teaching and learning approaches in early childhood education. Upgrading our physical facilities, operational, and teaching and learning aspects is a necessity for MGK to continue to be a good and productive feeder-school to MGS Ipoh.

However, this labour of love could only commence with the completion of MGS (primary) new school block and after the handing over of their old science lab for MGK to renovate. We want to thank the Board of Governors of MGS (secondary) and the Board of Managers of MGS (primary) for their help and cooperation to create a clearly demarked area in the school complex for our kindergarten.



Phase 1 of the Transformation Project began in early December 2019 with the construction of the boundary wall along Jalan Chamberlin Hulu and behind the MGS primary old science lab, new drains along the boundary walls, an independent entrance gate and a car park, a new walkway and waiting area for children, new piping and water meters and a new roof for the old Science Lab building which we were to renovate and occupy. Praise the Lord, our kindergarten did well in the past and with the blessings of the church leadership in CGMC, we were able to utilise the funds we accumulated in the past for Phase 1 of the Transformation Project.

As a private kindergarten, we do not enjoy any yearly allocation from the government. We are totally dependent upon the collection of school fees to operate the school. Due to Covid19, we had to cancel all our fund-raising projects for Phase 2. We needed help to cover the cost to renovate the interiors of

the building, construct new pre-schooler's toilets and internal walkways, remove old trees in the garden and spruce it up with new turf, replace the roof of our mini concourse, tile the floor, repaint the building, fix new electrical wiring, buy new furnishings and fence up our newly demarcated area to make it safe and conducive for preschool children and their teachers to carry out their teaching and learning activities. An appeal for donation towards the completion of our kindergarten transformation project was made in Canning Garden Methodist Church and we thank God for all the generous donors of our church. We were able to collect enough money to complete the renovation project. It is truly an offering of devotion and love to Christ Jesus to serve the little children and their families.

Today, MGK has all the facilities of a modern kindergarten with Smart TVs, CCTV and Internet and almost all our teachers are ECE (Early Childhood Education) qualified or are



doing their diploma or degree in ECE in various colleges and universities.

With a grateful heart, we thank all our guests, our pastor, church leaders, and members of CGMC who came to join us for this joyous occasion. We thank our Bishop Joshua and his wife for gracing this occasion and we thank Bishop Joshua for doing the honour of unveiling the plaque to commemorate the occasion.

We are forever grateful to all our pastors and our brothers and sister in Christ in CGMC for your support and encouragement. Most of all, we thank God for his provision and wisdom to embark on this massive and complicated project which started on 3 December 2019, was delayed by Covid in 2020, and completed on 31 January 2021.



TRAC Christmas Thanksgiving and Appreciation Lunch for Mr. Lim Cheng Hin

By Lily Ch'ng



With grateful hearts, 10 of the TRAC office staff, ministry workers and a few invited guests gathered for a pot-bless lunch held on Wednesday, 21st December, 2022 at the TRAC Conference Room. We are indeed grateful to God Almighty for the opportunity to meet in person for fellowship and lunch after more than two years of lock down due to the pandemic.

We started the celebration with praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God. Rev. James Ong led with the singing of two worship songs, while Bishop Joshua Khong said a prayer and read the Scripture text, Isaiah 9:6-7, a reminder of the reason for the season:

*"For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given,*

*And the government will be upon His shoulder
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isa. 9:6)*

During a time, such as this, when we are surrounded by unprecedented bad news, both local and international, we desperately need this message of hope which was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His eternal Kingdom. This is the Good News worth celebrating.

We were individually called to share how the Lord has blessed us as we reflect on the year 2022 and as we stand on the threshold of a



new year. All of us shared on the reality of the living God, who worked in and through our lives in real and significant ways. His guidance, leading, encouragement, and comfort were experienced in the different circumstances of our lives. They were experienced through, the assuring promises of His Word, answered prayers and often manifested through loving relationships around us, especially those in the family of God. Undoubtedly, there were difficult and trying moments in life, but we thank God for the way He helped us look at our circumstances from His eternal perspective. We were blessed with hope, comfort and encouragement as a result.

Mr. Lim Cheng Hin who is retiring, recalled the wonderful opportunity of getting to know so many in the same family of God while serving in the TRAC office. They were not only colleagues working in the same office but others who were from TRAC churches throughout West Malaysia. Bishop Joshua Khong said a prayer for Cheng Hin and wife Evelyn, praying that God would continue to cover them with His blessings, protection and guidance, that they

would continue to grow in the Lord and be channels of blessing to their children and grandchildren, thus leaving behind a godly legacy for generations to come.

We take this opportunity to wish Cheng Hin and Evelyn "Blessed Retirement" and to thank Cheng Hin for his years of dedicated service in the TRAC office. His gentle demeanor and quiet efficiency contributed much towards the smooth running of the office and the multi-faceted ministries of the Bishop. Both Cheng Hin and Evelyn, will remain faithful and continue to serve the Lord, even in their senior years, using the gifts accorded to them.

We want to thank Bishop Joshua Khong and the TRAC Office staff for organizing the pot bless and also a big 'thank you' to all those who brought an assortment of dishes. There must be special mention of the 'petai fried beehoon' especially cooked by Bishop. All petai lovers, you have missed something 'out of this world'!

All praise and glory to God, our Father.

Wesley Methodist Church Segamat

60th Anniversary Celebration (1962 – 2022)

27th November 2022

By Rev. Woo Kit Sang



Sunday, 27th November 2022 was a dawning of a bright and beautiful day. On this blessed day, our church family celebrated with very grateful hearts our diamond 60th Anniversary Sunday with a thanksgiving service in our church sanctuary which is located in Bandar Putra, Segamat. The church premises, beautifully decorated, was dedicated to the glory of God by Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung for kingdom use on 20th July 2008.

Pastor Woo expressed much appreciation to all present who came from far and near to rejoice together with us God's faithfulness over these 60 years. In addition to our former members from outstation, our guests included many local church pastors and elders. Our guests of honor were our TRAC Bishop Joshua Khong and his dear wife Elaine.

The worship was wonderfully & appropriately led by our regular worship leader, Paul Alexander.

Anthony Wong with the help of Joshua Kew, took us down memory lane with a comprehensive account of the history of the Church, from her conception in 1962 to present 2022 – an incredible journey of God's mercy, amazing grace and faithfulness in His dealings

with His people in WMC Segamat.

Bishop Joshua ministered to all present with a meaningful, encouraging and challenging sermon based on Matthew 11:25-30 – *"Take My Yoke, Learn from Me"*. The take home lessons: – When we are yoked with the Lord Jesus we walk in step with Him, intimately with same view and vision, as well as we find true rest in kingdom work at the centre of God's will and purpose.

Pastor Woo led the Church to rededicate herself in the challenging Act of Commitment. The LCEC Chairman, Lee Kim Seng led the Church in his heartfelt & grateful thanksgiving prayer. After which Pastor Woo led the Church in the corporate Prayer of Commitment.

No anniversary celebration is complete without a fellowship lunch which was held in a local restaurant for church family and guests to rejoice and renew friendship together.

It is because of God's unfailing love and everlasting faithfulness, that the anniversary theme is "Great Is His Faithfulness" and the theme verse is Lamentations 3:22-24 (NLT): *"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness;*



His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!'"

We can trace the humble beginning of our church to the year 1962 when JKR engineer, Mr. Edward Cheah and his wife, Nellie started worship services in their quarters. They also started the English Sunday School in the Chinese Methodist Church with the help of a few OMF missionaries. Subsequently the Sunday Worship Services were held in the evening in the Chinese Methodist Church building in Jalan Aji, Segamat. Wesley Methodist Church Segamat was officially constituted on 30th November 1962 by the Rev. Wong Hoon Hee, the District Superintendent.

Throughout our spiritual journey of 60 years, God used many clergy and lay people from all walks of life to play their part in building the Church. Indeed, God uses ordinary men and women to plant and to water but He Himself is the One who attends to the growth. God's call for us today as we honour and remember His faithfulness is to renew our commitment and service to carefully build upon this foundation – 1 Cor. 3:5-11.

The Church is strategically located in the midst of a low income and mainly poor Indian community which is right in front of our

doorstep in Bandar Putra/IOI. We are called to be a lighthouse to shine in this dark place of poverty, idolatry and oppression. With God's enabling, we praise and thank God for this ministry of compassion amongst them via various concerted efforts to reach out with visitation, monthly provisions, subsidy of house rental, Christmas Open house and caroling, which results in much trust and friendship built over the past 10 years.

God is indeed so gracious by blessing the Church this anniversary year with the recent significant breakthrough in our Children Ministry, in partnership with the Tamil Methodist Churches in Chaah and Segamat. This ministry partnership began with the Vacation Bible School (VBS) in June 2022 with the theme *"Wonderful Jesus"* with attendance of 50 Tamil children and youths. The weekly Children Ministry resumed after 2 years (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) on 15 July 2022. Now instead of just using English and BM to communicate with them as before, we have Tamil speaking teachers ministering effectively to these children in their heart language and mother tongue. We rejoice to see their enthusiasm and joy in coming weekly, with attendance touching 40 children. Through the Pastor, teachers and helpers, we pray that these children and youths will find acceptance and experience the unconditional



love and compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another significant milestone of our 60th anniversary year is the Christmas Open House and Evangelistic Outreach for our Tamil speaking friends, held recently on 17th December, with about 120 in attendance. The parents were evidently proud to watch a wonderful and vibrant performance of songs and dance by their children. Rev David Rasahpandy shared a powerful salvation message with many of them responding positively to an altar call to repent and accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Thereafter many also came forward for prayer and ministry. We give all glory and praise to God Almighty for the many lives touched by the Holy Spirit and for those who have come to

faith in the Lord Jesus. We pray for effective follow up and hope a group of Tamil speaking believers will be established in the near future. As we continue to move forward & look to the next 50 years or until our Lord Jesus' second coming, it is important to be reminded of what our God has to say to us (Psalm 127:1, NLT):

"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good."

This is a call to all of us to always be vigilant and go to God in prayer, to seek Him and be sure that it is God who is building WMC Segamat! So let us humble ourselves, live holy lives and only do what our God reveals to us. Amen!



Board of Youth Work Retreat

By Rev. Jonathan Chan
BOYW Chairman



The Board of Youth Work had been given the task of assisting and looking into how our churches in TRAC raise godly young people, that one day, they may become men and women after God's own heart and serve Him where He places them.

This year, the task is no different from the years past and I am personally thankful for the people who were in the board before me, and the new ones who joined us this year.

To help us work better as a team, we took the opportunity of our retreat in February 2022 in Taiping to get to know each other, share our passion for God and youths, and the challenges we faced while obeying God's call to ministry during the pandemic.

Covid-19 revealed the following issues that pre-dates the pandemic:

- *Youths are apathetic to church and youth ministry because the classroom approach to learning scripture is not relevant to their lives. Youths are not able to make any connection between scripture and their life.*
- *All members of the church should not assume that children of members know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Many youths of members, don't have this personal relationship unless someone shared the gospel and journeyed with them.*
- *There is a great need for youths to see that scripture has the answers to ALL their life questions.*



- *There is a great need for youths to personally discover and experience God in their lives for breakthrough.*
- *Youth ministry counselors & volunteers across churches need to support each other in ministry. Often there are not enough counselors/volunteers and not enough of “older brother/sister” figures in church. However, the challenge is less about age gap, but “heart gap” – willingness of an adult to go the distance to understand a youth (among same gender). If done with love instead of obligation/desperation, this can give birth to personal mentoring.*

The above are only part of a list of challenges mentioned at the retreat. Many of which require close partnership among counselors/volunteers across churches to share solutions

and encouragement. BOYW acknowledges this need and have begun working among members of the board and are reaching out to all TRAC churches to begin to unpack and prayerfully work on ministry solutions. It will take a lot of effort and a lot of time, simply because the need is great.

If you are a youth counselor or volunteer, we invite you into a partnership to create new ministry solutions together, that will be effective in your church and your context. If you are a concerned church leader or church member, you can pass on this invitation to your youth counselor/volunteer and pray for us. That God’s wisdom, discernment and humility will be among us to discover new ministry solutions to the need of young people, that is Jesus Christ.

Renewed Through Worship

*By Juwita Suwito, Chairperson,
TRAC Board of Worship & Music*



*Touching base before going solo to
“Breakfast with Jesus”*



*All together at the CCM Ecumenical Centre in
Petaling Jaya*

“Plan for and prepare a place, a quiet and comfortable space to be alone with God. Preferably, a place where you will be least interrupted or distracted. This could be in your room, a corner of your living room, balcony, garden etc. What makes a space sacred is the intention and desire of the person entering it — to retreat from normal life to be with God and God alone.”

These were the preparatory words for the 32 retreatants who set aside the long weekend of 4-6 June 2022 to be “Renewed Through Worship” in the quadrennial TRAC Worship Ministry Leaders’ Retreat. After over two years of serving and continually transitioning beyond our comfort zones, it was a timely call to pause, reflect, worship in Word and in wonder, and commune with God and one another. Perhaps a timely call to all of us too, as we manoeuvre the turn of year. Here are three takeaways that might help us take stock through our rear view mirror, and get into the right gear to forge ahead in the new year.

1. Reflect to Connect

Upon entering that sacred space, we were invited to ask the Holy Spirit to help us recall anything in the past year that was important to us, and to consider its meaning and significance to us. What were some comforting or encouraging moments? Was there pain and testing of faith? Were there repeated questions that kept getting asked? Were there promises or warnings for the coming months?

As we look back, perhaps the dots will begin to connect in our heart and mind, and we will see God’s faithfulness to us in our journey. We might also recognize the kairos moments that we have been placed in and draw strength from His promises.

2. Worship with Wonder

The next segment of the retreat immersed us further into His Word, but armed with colours to fill an empty canvas. Interesting how an empty canvas holds endless

possibilities — evident in the canvases of the retreatants — as long as we are willing to be open and commune with God.

Then, early the next morning, we were whisked to Taman Jaya with sandwiches and coffee in tow to have “Breakfast with Jesus”. We were guided with a booklet to spend time with God in nature, and interact with His creation through two prayer exercises, noticing and paying attention to both the outside world and our inner experience. What can we see, hear, smell, feel, and taste? What is being stirred inside us?

As we open our eyes, ears, and other senses to our outer and inner landscapes, we might become more aware of what God is saying to us. May we take the time to talk to Him as one friend speaks to another, that His seedlings may take root and bloom in us!

3. Respond and Point

Coming back to our retreat base, we considered Worship in the New Norm with Bishop Joshua Khong. Foundational yet tough questions were asked. Is there a

balance between our personal sacred space and public sacred space? Does our worship glorify God? Does it involve our entire relationship with God, i.e. all our heart, mind, soul, and strength? Does it build up the body of Christ? Does it transform us to be what God wants us to be in the world? We then entered into a time of mutual sharing, worship in song, and receiving what the Holy Spirit had in store for us before closing the retreat in Holy Communion.

As we respond to the stirring of our hearts and minds, may God grant us the grace, discernment and wisdom to proactively draw near to God, build up disciples in Christ, and point others to the worship of the living God.



The view via Zoom Organising Team



The “Renewed Through Worship” TRAC Worship Ministry Leaders’ Retreat was jointly organised by the Board of Worship & Music and Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM).

OLM Plus Perak District

7th and 8th May, 2022

By Elaine Low (Wesley Methodist Church, Kampar)

Organizational Leadership Module (OLM) PLUS organized by ICM for Perak District had a total of 114 registered from the 9 churches in the district. It was divided over four sessions, held over two days via Zoom, led by Bishop Joshua Khong and Rev Ronald Yap. The emphasis of OLM PLUS is on the aspect of spirituality in God's community, particularly those in leadership or embarking on leadership roles.

Session One

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP - LEADING WITH GOD'S AGENDA

Bishop Joshua gave an overview of what spirituality is especially in the context of leadership roles in God's community. Participants were able to understand (among the other topics covered):

- How one can grow in spirituality and tools to measure spirituality were made available for participants for assessment and what to do next to work on their spirituality.
- The 'how' and 'where' including the outward manifestation of spiritual leadership within the Methodist church framework.
- The topic of toxic leadership was tremendously helpful as often it is something that we do experience but hardly talk about.

A sober reminder that we are called by God to serve and fulfill His agenda and not make our personal agenda become God's agenda.

Session Two

SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY - CULTIVATING A LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

Rev Ronald Yap helped us to understand that although we are called the Local Church Executive Committee, we do not stop short of coming together to complete the many tasks at hand. A spiritual community moves beyond tasks to relationships and the picture of a spiritual leadership community is something we should yearn for and work towards.

Session Three

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION - FOSTERING

HEALTHY DIALOGUES AND CONVERSATIONS

Rev Ronald Yap started the session with a poll to help us gauge the quality of our listening skills to self, others, God and those in the world before moving on to share what is spiritual conversation is and why such conversations are important. Where and how spiritual conversations can take place pave the way to build spiritual communities. As in the other sessions, the breakout sessions provide the practical hands-on practice for participants to engage in spiritual conversations.

Session Four

SPIRITUAL LEGACY - WHAT LEGACY ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND?

Bishop Joshua's moving personal account of how one person, his aunt Winnie, and her godly influence in his life had greatly influenced and impacted the spiritual formation of his faith. One needs not be great in order to influence another person but all of us can, as in the example of Aunty Winnie, leave holy imprints in the lives of those we care for and invest in/ do life with.

HOPE Methodist Vocational Centre

By Rev Lester Lim



Hope Methodist Vocational Centre (HMVC) is committed to:

1. Equip the low income (B40) and Orang Asli (OA) youths and young adults with vocational and technical skills that will enable them to be self-reliant and seek employment for their future. In doing so, they could contribute their skills and services to the community at large.
2. Provide practical education and know how that is applicable and relevant to the current market needs.
3. Provide holistic education that brings about spiritual and personal transformation in the lives of these youths and young adults.

HMVC has been licensed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) – Private Education Division (Putrajaya) to provide technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Thus far, it has successfully trained 35 students in five batches for the course in **Air Conditioning Fixing & Maintenance**.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Movement Control Order (MCO), the centre has stopped providing training since 2020. It is now focusing on renovating its premises, upgrading equipment, and redesigning training courses to better serve the students and prepare for the resumption of the training.

This year HMVC introduces two new courses:

- 1) **On-site Free-Range Chicken Farming** is a four-month, eight-lesson mobile course. It was launched from April to August 2022 at Kampung Tebang Lama, Tasik Temenggor, Perak, to provide skills to the Orang Asli of the Jahai tribe. This off-centre course was conducted in view that the Orang Asli, in general, found it difficult to leave their communities and adapt to the lifestyle in urban areas. This new approach would

bring living skills to them at their doorsteps and, hopefully, build bridges with the OA communities. This would then gradually draw others to make a transition from their villages to the training centre for the vocational courses. We praise God that this first mobile course by HMVC was successfully completed with eight students graduated on 3rd of September 2022.

- 2) **Motorcycle Repair and Maintenance** course. HMVC is currently in the process of hiring suitable trainers and obtaining a proper syllabus in order to be licensed by the MOE in Putrajaya.

Prior to converting to the HMVC, it was known as the Methodist High School (MHS) with 4 Blocks of buildings (Administrative, A, B and C). The premises are in the care of the Methodist Council of Education (MCOE).

Recently, MCOE has approved the Board of Missions of the Chinese Annual Conference (CAC) to establish an “Asrama” (“Rumah Hope Kanak-Kanak Orang Asli”) on the premises of HMVC. It has been registered and approved by the Social Welfare Department (“Pejabat Kebajikan”) in May 2022 and is scheduled for operation in March 2023. As such, Blocks B and C will be leased by MCOE to CAC to run the said “Asrama”. Consequently, Block A and Administrative Block will remain to be used for the HMVC students to have their in-house courses and hostel facilities. In other words, the current premises of HMVC will not only be used to run courses for the vocational students but will co-exist with the CAC Asrama which provides accommodation and care for the Orang Asli children.

We praise God for the good work that He has begun in HMVC, and we believe He will carry it on to completion. All glory to God!