

BERITA TRAC



2023 • Issue No.1

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY



HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



Easter Message 2023

My Rabboni, My Teacher.

By **Rev Joshua Khong**, TRAC President



A Blessed Easter to you and your family, my brothers and sisters. We praise God for His favour and blessings this Easter. This year we see an increase of worshippers coming back for in-person Holy Week Services in TRAC Churches. We praise and thank God for the holy gatherings of His people, as we resume our rich Methodist tradition, celebrating God's love for us in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. And this is God's words, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* Truly, we are an Easter people, a new creation in Christ. Amen!

In the Old Testament, in Deuteronomy Chapter 6, God prepares His people to take possession of their new life in the Promised Land. God instructs them, "These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, **and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you** and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you."

Similarly, in the New Testament, Jesus Christ prepares His disciples and us to take possession of our new life as Christians. Jesus instructs and teaches in John Chapters 14; saying, "If you love Me, keep My commands. And I will ask the Father, and HE will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever the Spirit of truth." And Jesus continues, "Anyone who loves Me **will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them** and make our home with them."

Obedience is the common denominator. How do you view obedience? Oftentimes, we relate obedience with submission and surrendering. We view it as an act. Obedience is more than that. Obedience has to do with the human condition, not merely human action. Firstly, there is a change in our condition, we are a new creation in the Risen Christ. Secondly, we obey God out of love, not fear. The condition of heart is changed to one that loves Christ. Jesus says, "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching." The third change in the human condition is that we are no longer sinners separated from God, we are God's children, His beloved sons and daughters. A blessed Easter, brothers and sisters. And God's blessings and favour be with you and your loved ones.

¹ 2 Corinthians 5: 17

² Deuteronomy 6: 1-3

³ John 14: 15-17

⁴ John 14: 23

Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM 2023 Anjuran KM3

Disediakan oleh Rev Haris all Husin



Pendahuluan

Kem ini bertempat di MBS Recreation & Training Jalan Kundang Rawang, selama tiga hari dua malam, 7-9 February 2023.

Hamba-hamba Tuhan PMSM rasa bersyukur kepada Tuhan Yesus Kristus dan berterima kasih kepada Rev Abraham Chung dan Para Pastor Korea (KM3) Kerana sudi mengadakan Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM.

Terima kasih juga kepada Pengetua PMSM Rev Ronald Yap dan Bishop Joshua Khong yang turut terlibat di kem tersebut dengan menyampaikan Firman Tuhan yang bernas dan berguna untuk menguatkan hubungan suami isteri di rumah dan pelayanan.

Puji Tuhan semuanya berjalan dengan lancar tanpa ada halangan dan rintangan sehingga masing-masing balik ke destinasi dengan selamat.

Pengalaman sepanjang berada di kem

Semasa ketibaan kami di MBS, sambutan begitu baik sekali oleh KM3. Mereka menyambut kami seperti orang terpenting, padahal kami merasakan diri kami seperti biasa-biasa sahaja, inilah kasih Tuhan yang luar biasa kami dapat lihat. Setiap pasangan dikhaskan bilik yang begitu bagus dan selesa, disitu kami percaya setiap Pastor dan Guru Injil mengalami keadaan yang bahagia kerana mungkin sebahagian daripada kami tidak mempunyai keselesaan bilik seperti itu, apatah lagi bilik berhawa dingin.

Selain itu juga, kami dimeriahkan dengan permainan yang sesuai sepanjang kem itu berjalan. Kami merasakan amat terhibur dan senang sekali, lebih-lebih lagi disediakan dengan hadiah untuk setiap pemenang. Walaupun sederhana tetapi berharga bagi kami kerana bukan senang bagi orang yang menyediakan.



Kem ini bertema “BEREHAT, PEMULIHAN, SEMANGAT”, kami tidak menemukan erti tema itu ketika menikmati makan dan minum atau ketika diadakan berbagai acara yang lain akan tetapi kami menemui erti itu ketika setiap hamba-hamba Tuhan memberkati kami dengan Firman Tuhan.

Masih kami ingat lagi setiap pengkhotbah secara urutan bermula didedikasikan oleh:

Rev Ronald Yap dari Amsal 5:1-23
(tentang tujuan berkhawin adalah memenuhi hasrat Tuhan).

Rev Abraham Chung dari Matius 11: 28-30
(tujuan datang kepada Tuhan adalah kamu akan di anugerahkan kelegaan yang luar biasa).

Rev Eddy Marson dari Lukas 5: 1-11
(diberi judul “Anjakan Baru” ada tiga hal yang didefinisikan: DIPILIH OLEH ALAH, MASUK LEBIH DALAM, KETAATAN. Dan akibat dari tiga itu, kita boleh menemukan erti IDENTITI BARU, yaitu menjadi penjala manusia.).

Bishop Joshua dari Efesus 5: 23-33
(mengenai pasangan hidup yang perlu hidup dalam kekudusan, diakhiri dengan sebuah motivasi: menjadualkan waktu-waktu pemulihan keluarga, itu adalah keharusan bukan pilihan.).

Setelah kami diberkati dengan Firman Tuhan biarlah kami juga memberkati pengalaman itu kepada gereja-gereja kami dan keluarga kami yang lain. Dan akhir sekali kami juga sangat-sangat diberkati seperti sebuah pepatah ini, datang dengan dua beg pulang dengan enam bag, maksudnya kerana membawa pulang hadiah yang diberkati oleh team KM3.

Harapan kami Pastor-Pastor dan Para Guru Injil. Semoga akan datang ada lagi kem seperti ini, siapapun yang menaja Tuhan pasti memberkati mereka. Puji Tuhan, semuanya diberkati oleh Tuhan kita Yesus Kristus.





Salam damai sejahtera Tuhan Yesus Kristus..

Saya Guru Injil FandisriWana a/p Hasan amat berbesar hati dapat berkongsi pengalaman saya dan keluarga semasa berada dalam Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM dan keluarga pastor-pastor dari Korea Malaysia. Masa yang amat bernilai dan diberkati. Suasana yang amat nyaman dan tenang di MBS Rawang serta amat selesa. Apatah lagi dengan layanan yg amat istimewa dan tidak di jangka dari semua hamba-hamba Tuhan, kita akan diberkati oleh Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Amin.

Sepertimana Tema Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM tahun 2023 adalah 'Berehat, Pemulihan dan Semangat, penyertaan saya dan pasangan dalam kem ini dapat berkenalan semua hamba-hamba Tuhan serta pasangan mereka. Di samping itu juga saya juga mengalami kata-kata semangat dan dorongan untuk pelayanan saya daripada para pengkhotbah. Atas usaha yang amat bertungkus lumus daripada pihak KM3 dalam setiap perkara sehingga emosi dan bebanan dapat ditinggalkan malah diringankan dengan permainan yang amat menyeronokkan. Puji Tuhan. Tidak lupa juga tempat istirahat yang amat istimewa dan nyaman serta makanan yang amat menyelerakan.

Tuhan Yesus mengerti setiap keperluan hamba-hambaNya. Dia akan sentiasa memberikan yang terbaik untuk pemulihan pelayananya. Sentuhan kata-kata semangat dan layanan yg amat baik dari semua hamba-hamba Tuhan terutama dari pihak KM3 yang melayani membuat saya dan pasangan amat di berkati dan berterima kasih. Harapan dari saya kem seperti ini dianjurkan lagi dimasa akan datang. Amen!

Guru Injil FandisriWana a/p Hasan



Shalom dan segala puji bagi Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Saya Rev Denni a/l Jugit dan pasangan berasa sungguh bersyukur kerana menjadi salah seorang daripada pilihan Tuhan untuk menyertai Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM yang dianjurkan oleh KM3 yang mana telah berlangsung pada 7hb sehingga 9hb Februari 2023 yang lalu bertempat di Malaysian Bible Seminary (MBS) Rawang, Selangor bertema ‘Berehat, Pemulihan Dan Semangat’.

Kami begitu menghargai pengalaman yang kami perolehi daripada Program tersebut. Ia banyak mengajar kami untuk lebih bersyukur dan berkasih sayang antara satu sama lain serta memupuk semangat kerjasama diantara semua peserta.

Terima kasih yang tidak terhingga juga kepada KM3 yang memberikan layanan yang begitu baik sekali dalam semua aspek bermula dari segi pengangkutan, penginapan, makan minum, ubat ubatan, pelbagai sumbangan dan lain-lain lagi kepada kami semua.

Kami juga amat teruja dengan pelbagai aktiviti yang disediakan dan berbesar hati kerana diberi peluang untuk beribadah dan mendengar Firman Tuhan yang disampaikan oleh Rev Ronald Yap, Rev Eddy Marson dan Bishop Joshua Khong. Hamba-hamba Tuhan yang hebat sekali dan menjadi pembakar semangat kepada kami sebagai Hamba Tuhan supaya memberikan yang terbaik dalam tugas pelayanan kami di masa akan datang.

Semoga Kem seperti ini akan dianjurkan lagi di masa akan datang kerana ianya memberikan pelbagai manfaat kepada semua peserta.

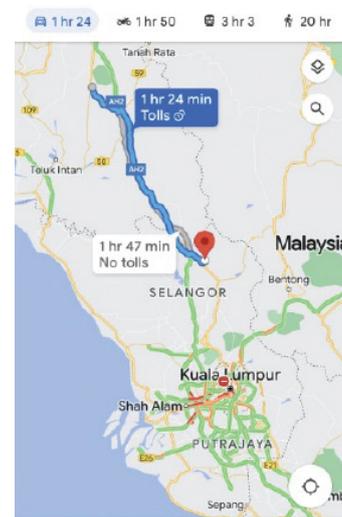
Akhir kata Semoga Tuhan Yesus Kristus Memberkati KM3 dan semua yang terlibat secara langsung dan tidak langsung serta yang banyak berkorban dan bertungkus lumus dalam menjayakan Kem Pasangan Pastor PMSM 7-9hb Februari 2023 yang lalu. Amen!

Rev Denni a/l Jugit



PMSM Task Force & Leaders Retreat

Disediakan oleh Rev Ronald Yap



1 hr 24 min (105 km)

Fastest route now due to traffic conditions

[Preview](#) [Steps](#) [Pin](#)

1 Kampar ke Beacon Resort

Perjumpaan antara ahli Jawatankuasa Petugas untuk Transformasi Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist telah berjumpa di Beacon Resort Tanjung Malim, 28 Feb - 1 Mac 2023, untuk sesi perancangan tahun 2023, analisis keadaan semasa dan sumbangsaran untuk maju ke hadapan.

Ahli Jawatankuasa Petugas yang bertemu bagi tujuan pebincangan ini terdiri dari petugas TRAC dan juga Ketua-Ketua PMSM yang hadir seperti berikut:

Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung (*TRAC*)
 President Rev Joshua Khong (*TRAC*)
 En. Lim Chong Ho (*TRAC Lay Leader*)
 En. William Phua (*TRAC Ketua Lembaga Kewangan*)
 En. Darrel Saba (*TRAC Pekerja Lembaga Misi*)
 En Michael Williams (*Wakil IMC NEEC*)
 Ps Abraham Chung (*KMS 3 - Misi Korea*)
 Rev Ronald Yap (*TRAC Elder, PMSM Pengetua*)
 Rev Denni Jugit (*PMSM-Setiausaha Konferansi*)
 Rev Uda Alang (*PMSM - Ketua Lembaga Pelayanan*)
 Rev Haris Husin (*PMSM - Ketua Pemimpin*)

Rev Shurriawaly Rosli (*PMSM - Ketua Daerah Lipis*)

Cik Syamira Jusin (*PMSM Pekerja Misi Hantaran DUMC*)

Cik Rita Uda (*PMSM Pejabat*)

Agenda yang telah dibentangkan bertujuan untuk memberi ruang bagi semua yang terlibat supaya berkongsi pendapat dan perspektif mereka dari segi apa yang perlu untuk PMSM berdikari. Ternyata pendapat ahli-ahli PMSM amat penting dalam perbincangan ini dan ia hanya merupakan titik permulaan bagi kerja yang perlu untuk memperkuat PMSM bagi tujuan mereka pentadbiran sendiri (self governing), pembiayaan sendiri (self resourcing) dan penyebaran diri (self propagating).



2 Tempat Perjumpaan Terbuka



Perbualan Petugas banyak menyentuh kepada isu pemuridan Pastor, Pekerja, Pemimpin, Ahli Jawatankuasa, Belia, Kanak-Kanak dan Jemaat PMSM. Banyak usul yang dipertikaikan namun persetujuan umum terdapat tentang pentingnya pemuridan semua pengikut Yesus Kristus supaya mereka semua mengetahui dengan lebih mendalam firman Tuhan dan hidup taat beriman mengikut perintah Yesus Kristus. Dalam isu ini, ahli petugas bersetuju untuk bergabung tenaga supaya menimba sumber dan pengalaman dari pekerja Misi Korea, IMC, Wawasan Penabur dan Gereja TRAC untuk melaksanakan kerja pemuridan yang sepatutnya.

Selain dari isu pemuridan, juga dibangkitkan isu disiplin dan penyeliaan tanggungjawab dari segi watak Elder, Deakon, Guru Injil dan Pemimpin di-dalam PMSM. Beberapa perkara dibincangkan yang berkaitan dengan perlunya setiap pekerja PMSM yang menerima panggilan Tuhan untuk melayani di gereja dibantu memenuhi panggilan mereka, disokong apabila menempuh kesusahan dan ditegur apabila mereka mengabaikan tanggungjawab mereka. Petugas semua bersetuju bahawa prinsip prinsip tadbir urus, pengurusan dan akauntabiliti harus di titik beratkan dan dilaksanakan di dalam semua gereja PMSM.

Ahli Jawatankuasa Petugas juga mengimbas isu kurikulum pemuridan terutamanya bagi tujuan pembaptisan jemaat belia dan dewasa. Perbualan juga menyentuh kelas mingguan kanak kanak, ibu ibu dan Program Belia.

Terdapat focus perbualan tentang isu remaja belia dan dewasa muda kerana banyak antara mereka disasarkan dunia untuk dipengaruhi dan keluar agama atau hilang haluan. Antara usulan yang dipersetujui adalah untuk program pemuridan belia jangkamasa 3-4 tahun dan kerjasama TRAC Board of Youth Work dan IMC untuk menjayakan program bersama yang memupuk persaudaraan Kristian dan juga mendatangkan kematangan iman dalam Yesus Kristus bagi semua yang terlibat.



4 Tempat Tidur dan Berdoa



PMSM Taskforce Retreat Feb 28 – 1 March 2023
 Venue: Beacon Resort, Mukim Sg Gumut, Tanjung Malim.



Agenda and Schedule (Agenda dan Jadual)

Tuesday, 28 February, Selasa

1.30 pm	Arrival and Registration
2.00pm	A. Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks Ucapan Selamat Datang, Pengenalan dan Kata Pendahuluan Bishop Joshua Khong & Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung Worship and Prayer – Rev Ronald Yap
2:30pm	
3.00pm	B1. Current State Analysis (Analisis Keadaan Semasa) I - PMSM Structure, Dependencies and Autonomies (PMSM Struktur) - Finance, Payroll and Accounting (Kewangan, Gajian dan Perakaunan) - Board of Ministry (Lembaga Pelayanan) - Discipleship and Christian Education (Pemuridan dan Pendidikan Kristian) - Women, Youth and Children Ministry (Pelayanan Wanita, Belia dan Kanak ²) - - - Communications (Komunikasi)
4.00pm	Kopi/Teh & Check-in
4.30 pm	B2. Current State Analysis (Analisis Keadaan Semasa) II AOB – Perkara Berbangkit
6.00 pm	Rehat
7.00 pm	Dinner / Makan Malam
8.00pm	Prayer and Intercession (Berdoa) Rev Uda Alang
8.15 pm	C1. Feedback and Brainstorming (Maklum Balas dan Sumbangsan) I
10.00 pm	Closing Prayer and Rest (Doa Malam dan Rehat) BE Hwa Yung

Wednesday, 1 March, Rabu

7.00 am	Breakfast / Sarapan Pagi
8.00 am	Prayer and Scripture Contemplation (Doa dan Renungan Alkitab) Rev Denni Jugit
8.20 am	C2. Feedback and Brainstorming (Maklum Balas dan Sumbangsan) II
9.00 am	D1. Solutions and Actions Going Forward (Penyelesaian dan Tindakan Seterusnya) I
10.00am	Break & Check-Out
10.30am	D2. Solutions and Actions Going Forward (Penyelesaian dan Tindakan Seterusnya) II
12.00pm	E. Conclusions and Work Summaries (Simpulan dan Ringkasan Kerja) Benediction (Doa Berkat) Bishop Joshua Khong
12.30 pm	Lunch End – Selamat Jalan

Walaupun pasukan petugas bergelut dengan banyak isu sampai lewat malam, mereka juga tahu bahawa Kerajaan Tuhan akan maju kedepan dengan kuasa Tuhan dan tiada apa yang boleh halangnya. Kami boleh tidur lena kerana Tuhan Yesus berserta kami dan dia sudah menyelesaikan kerja penyelamatan bagi gerejanya. Kami hanya hamba Allah dan pergi melakukan kehendak-Nya. Kesemuanya akan terlaksana dalam masa dan kehendakNya. Semoga Tuhan berkati kami dalam kerjanya. Amin.

Sekolah Pastor 2023 Di PDMC

Saya amat bersyukur dan berterima kasih atas segala rancangan Tuhan Yesus Kristus bagi kita semua. Dalam Sekolah Pastor ini telah memberi saya pengalaman dan pelajaran yang baru serta berguna untuk pelayanan saya. Terima kasih kepada penceramah iaitu Rev Dr. David Doong dan Mr. Asiri Fernando yang banyak memberi pelajaran dan kesaksian yang begitu luar biasa. Itulah suatu tanggungjawab bagi kita semua dalam pelayanan kita sebagai pastor terutama sekali dalam keluarga Kristus. Selain itu, program ini juga telah mempertemukan semua pastor dari seluruh negara dan dapat berkongsi pengalaman antara satu sama lain. Saya berharap berkat Tuhan untuk semua pastor dalam pelayanan masing-masing. Sehingga bertemu di masa akan datang. Amen!

Oleh : Guru Injil Sufayrie (PMSM)

Saya mengucapkan penghargaan terima kasih atas kedua-dua penceramah yang membuat jiwa saya tergerak dalam menyatakan pekerjaan pelayanan dan perjuangan bersama-sama Yesus Kristus serta menjadi saksi tentang kebenaran dan keselamatan melalui Tuhan Yesus. Sehingga menjadi berkat dan tertarik di hati saya kerana mereka BERANI memberitakan keselamatan dan BERHASIL dalam pekerjaan pelayanan di ladang Tuhan yang memperolehi sumber hikmah seperti aliran air yang memancar menerusi pengalaman lampau yang saya alami dalam kehidupan sangat berbeza keadaan pada hari ini. Saya percaya proses pendengaran melalui firman Tuhan, kejutannya sangat mendorong saya untuk bangkit bersama denganNya. Saya bersedia membentuk dan memimpin kepada anak-anak rohani di gereja tempatan untuk sama-sama bangkit, bersyukur dan puji Tuhan. Amen!

Oleh : Rev Bah Uda Aman (PMSM)

Shalom..pertama sekali saya bersyukur kepada Tuhan Yesus kerana dengan izinnya dapat menghadirkan diri ke program Sekolah Pastor di PDMC. Terima kasih juga kepada Bishop, Prsident dan Pengetua PMSM kerana menjemput kami pastor2 dari PMSM untuk turut serta dalam program ini. Ia memberikan saya pengalaman yang cukup indah dan manis kerana disitu saya dapat mengenali lebih ramai pastor dari seluruh negeri termasuk Sabah dan Sarawak dimana kami dapat bertukar fikiran dan pengalaman dalam pelayanan saya dimasa kini dan akan datang.

Kedua saya berterima kasih kepada penceramah jemputan Rev David Doong dan Mr. Asiri Fernando yang sangat hebat kerana memberikan saya motivasi dan memberkati saya melalui pelayanan Firman Tuhan yang dapat menyuntik satu semangat dan jiwa yang baru kepada saya untuk menginspirasi dalam pelayanan saya di masa akan datang. Saya berharap wajarlah program seperti ini diteruskan di masa akan datang kerana ia amat berguna untuk saya terus belajar bagi mempersiapkan diri saya dalam pelayanan. Bagi saya secara pribadi keseluruhan program Pastor School tempoh hari amat memberkati saya. Amen!

Oleh : Pastor Rosmanita (PMSM)

Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya ushers in the new year with its restored Sanctuary 1

by Colin Wong

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’

Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

That is where the tribes go up - the tribes of the LORD - to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.’

For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.”

Psalm 122



On 15th January 2023, Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya held a combined service of the English-speaking and Chinese-speaking congregations to rededicate her restored Sanctuary One to the glory of God after a 64-week hiatus during which it underwent thorough restoration.

First dedicated by Bishop H.B. Amstutz on 22nd December 1963, the rededication and return of the Sanctuary into a place of prayer and worship enabled the current congregation to experience what the founding fathers must have felt the first time they stepped into the place of simple beauty and dignity, with its concealed lighting and a ceiling that seems to float effortlessly as lines radiating from the central Cross – which itself appears to be suspended freely in the Altar area.

Brighter, airier and cooler than before, thanks in part to the new lighting complete with chandelier-like fixtures, the new windows and doors, wood-panelled columns and walls and air-conditioning system, what brought the warmth were the hundreds of worshippers who streamed inside with a sense of joyful expectancy to worship our true and living God.

So exuberant was the rededication service that the worshippers who came could not be contained in Sanctuary 1 and had to overflow to the larger Sanctuary in Trinity Living Stream where they connected to the service via live-streaming.

After putting the new audio and video systems through its paces with exultant praise



and worship songs, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, Bishop T. Jeyakumar was invited to the pulpit where he delivered his sermon entitled “Come to Worship”, drawn from Psalm 122.

It was a solemn yet uplifting reminder of the importance of worshipping in Church. Worship and prayer in church are not merely food for the soul, but also an act of faith and service to the Lord and a responsibility of all Christians.

Much like the restoration of Sanctuary 1, which was done in recognition of its legacy and importance to TMCPJ as opposed to merely abandoning it when it was no longer optimum for regular use (given the wear-and-tear over the years), our worship and communion in church is out of reverence for the Lord rather than for our own convenience and pleasure.

After the sermon, Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar, Bishop Joshua Khong (TRAC Bishop) together with Pastor-in-Charge of TMCPJ, Rev Paul Christie, led the congregation in the rededication of the restored building of Sanctuary 1, thanking God for his favour in

enabling human works to maintain His earthly house, which embodies the obligation of each generation to impart its treasures of wisdom and knowledge to the next.

The rededication service ended with the unveiling of the rededication Commemorative plaque by Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar and Bishop Joshua Khong, witnessed by the church congregation.

It was a Sunday to remember, and may there be many more like it for the ages to come. Amen.



BCE's Talk on "Salvation" by Bishop Dr Gordon Wong on 11 Feb 2023 over zoom

"Salvation" is a "huge" topic for Christians. Christians shares the Good News of Jesus Christ in the hope that the hearers may understand and be saved by Christ in the process. But what is "Salvation" and why do we need to be "saved" in the first place? Are we in any trouble at all? To some, to be saved, is to say a prayer and be baptized. To others, to be saved is to do more good works. Still others, do not think they need to be saved at all! What are we to be saved from? Who saves? And "How are we to be saved?" These are just a few of the basic questions we ask to determine what "Salvation" is all about.

Once we "graduate" from the basic Christian perspectives of salvation on the above queries, we tend to ask further questions regarding "salvation." Usually, these questions come in the following forms:

What am I saved for?

Did God choose me or I chose God?

What about people who have never heard of Jesus?

What happens to people who do not accept Jesus as their Savior?

Can someone lose their salvation?

Can someone be saved without being baptized?

How can I know if I am saved?

Granted, the above may not be worded exactly as listed but at the core of our curiosity is to get answers to the above questions. Some,



if not all of the above questions were indeed asked in the recent BCE talk on this topic.

Zoom has been and continue to be a good platform to get geographically dispersed participants together. A platform of choice if travel is not an option. BCE received 248 registrations for this talk. 167 persons attended.

Bishop Gordon expertly crafted the talk to address these key questions:

Saved For Good?

- Not Saved By but For Good Works? (Ephesians 2:8-10 & Phil 2:12-13)
- Not Saved By Faith but For Faith? (Phil 3:9 & Romans 3:22,26; 8:28)

Once Saved, Always Saved? (Israel in Romans 11; Galatians 6:16; Romans 9:6)

There was an interesting angle in how Bishop Wong looked at Romans 11. He made it simple by categorizing the talk into these bite sized subheadings:

V1-11 Once Fallen, Not Always Fallen

V12-16 Good can arise out of bad

V17-21 Good can become bad (Once In, Not Always In)

V22-23 All can be saved (and all can refuse)

V33-36 To God be all Glory!

The talk was designed with "Question and Answer" sessions in between sub-topics. Expectedly, many questions were asked. Bishop Wong answered every question posed, treating each with much care. Bishop Wong

displayed exceptional skills in being pastoral, comprehensive, and insightful in his responses, always using easy to understand, layman terms to make his points. The attendees, were also highly engaging in this session. Questions were fed into the “zoom chat box” and moderated by Mr. William Lim in order to streamline and get the “Questions & Answers” session done more effectively.

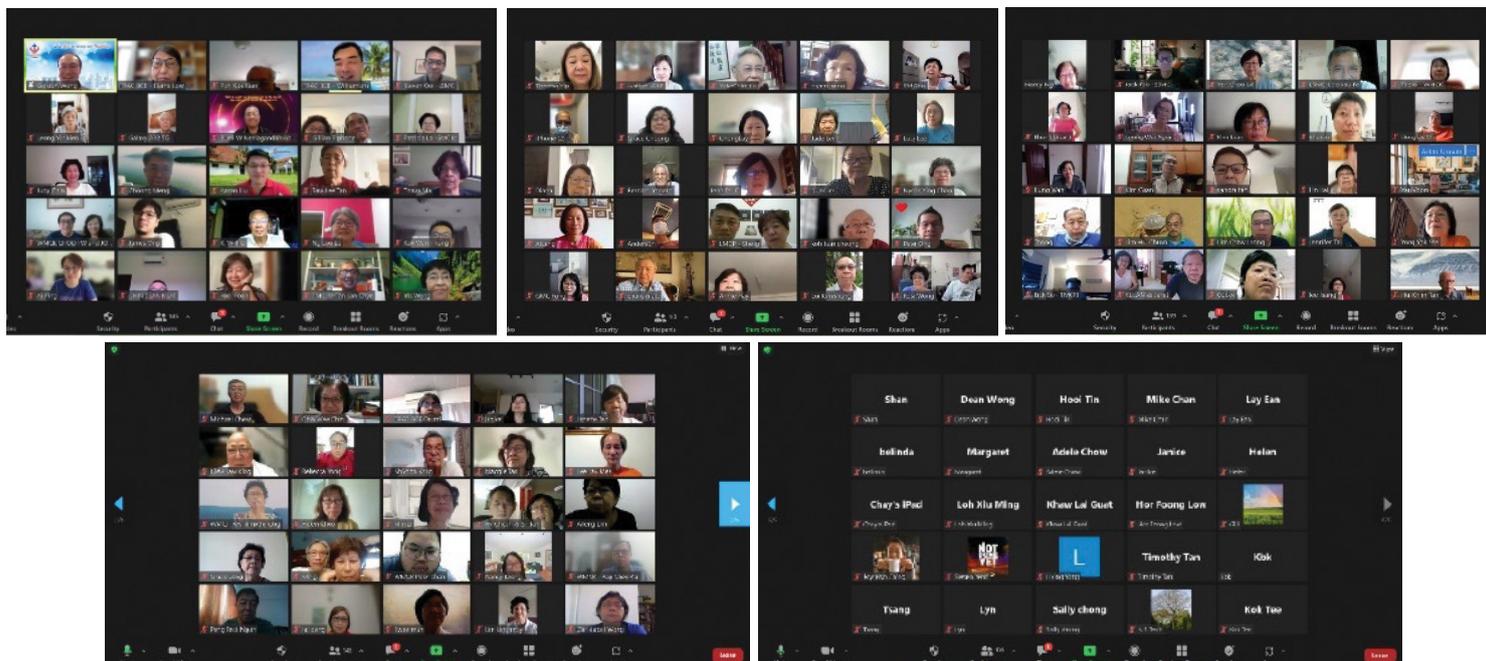
Overall, most people who attended agreed that this talk done by Bishop Wong went well. Many have sounded their satisfaction through their feedbacks. Some of the captured feedbacks (verbatim) are as follows:

- “Such talk is helpful and keep it up”
- “Excellent!”
- “Useful”
- “Well done! All Christians need this reminder”
- “The message is well delivered”
- “Excellent event”
- “Praise The Lord and Thank you to everyone who made the seminar possible. Glad I’m blessed to have attended.”
- “Well managed and facilitated. Thanks Bishop for clear explanation and well prepared slide and readiness for answering the questions”
- “A real privilege to hear God’s word from Bishop Gordon”
- “Bishop Dr Gordon Wong explained the

topic very clearly, as usual.”

- “Comprehensive and always good to learn from different angles/perspectives.”
- “Clear short succinct can understand easily”
- “Presentation was very good and meaningful”
- “Very grateful to BCE for this event”
- “Overall it was good. Glad there was sufficient chance for Q&A. Assistance to follow the registration process as well as instructions to join the session, and excellent teaching sessions”
- “Thank God for good response and thanks to all BCE members for organizing relevant, essential and controversial topics where many are often confused and uncertain.”
- “Keep up your good works for the Kingdom of God.”
- “Speaker was very clear in his explanation.”

Indeed, we want to thank and praise God for Bishop Gordon Wong in availing himself for this talk. I would like to also extend my personal thanks to Pr. Elaine Low, Pr. Gaurri Maniam, the BCE team and Ms. Mabel Chin together with Ms. Surina from the TRAC office in extending their services towards the success of this event. A BIG THANK YOU too to all our generous attendees who had contributed towards the defraying of the cost in organizing this event. May the God of Peace and Salvation be with you from here and forevermore. Amen.



The Unshakable Kingdom

Report by Pr Robert Khaw, TRAC Prayer Coordinator

Prayer United, a fellowship of 22 prayer networks, organised its Leaders' Annual Retreat on 14-16/2/23 in Trinity Methodist Church, Kuching. The Retreat Theme was "The Unshakable Kingdom", Hebrews 12:28-29, the focus for the message, prayer and worship.

Prayer United summarised the Theme as follows:

"In the context of Malaysia and the whole world going through a period of instability and unpredictability in various areas of life, believers can walk in confident faith in the Lord. Through seeking the Lord to know His will, devoting themselves in prayer and worship, and being light and salt in God's unshakable Kingdom, we will not be afraid but will fix our eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith, our Lord Jesus Christ."

The main speakers were MCM Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar, Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung (PU Chairman), Pastor Raynor Lim and Sis. Chrisanne Chin.

There were about 227 participants who joined the Retreat either in-person or online, out of which 69 of them or 30% were from TRAC, SCAC and SIAC.

1) Highlights from Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar's messages

In his two messages, our Bishop Jeyakumar highlighted the salient points concerning the unshakable Kingdom as follows:

Firstly, faithful living in a rapidly changing world.

a. Focus on God's unshakable Kingdom

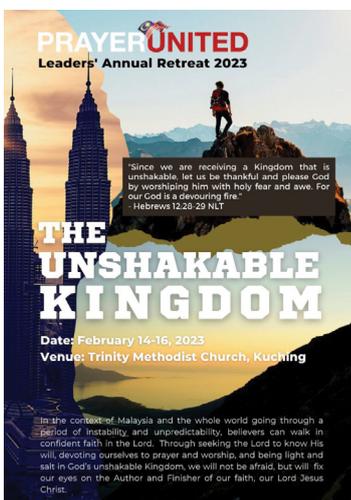
Nothing is lasting. No place is secure. The safest place is in the Kingdom of God. Invest in people that they may know the kingdom of God. Help them see the Kingdom of God that our Lord Jesus had already demonstrated. Our first, last and all is God - God's Kingdom. Don't offer programmes as an end in itself. Offer them the Kingdom of God.

b. Uphold moral standards

Live holy lives. Holy lives are attractive. Amid evil around us, living holy lives is powerful.

c. Fear God

God is a loving God. He is also a consuming God. Fear of God will help us to avoid sin and judgment.



PU Leaders Annual Retreat
2023 brochure



MCM Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar



Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung



Methodist participants



Trinity Methodist Church, Kuching

In summary: Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3), but the apostles did not get it initially. We are often like that – earth-bound and inward-looking. We need to widen our perspective on the unshakable Kingdom of God.

Secondly, faithful intercessors in a rapidly changing world.

a Pray because God is an unshakable God, and His Kingdom is unshakable.

God’s plan will prevail. Only God is great. Evil is increasing. God is on the throne. Nobody is. We gather on our knees. Our God is charge of everything. When something is catastrophic, at times certain people think God has fallen off His throne or gone through the back door. We don’t fear because of who our God is.

b. Maintain spiritual hunger

Don’t neglect God’s Word. Pray daily. Fast regularly. Don’t forget to fellowship with one another. Worship God, who is good and also a consuming fire. Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness of God.

In summary: We focus on what God has placed in our hearts. God is able to take care and watch over us. Everything is unstable. But we can trust God. As intercessors, keep our eyes on God and know God’s Kingdom is unshakable. Yearn for intimacy with God.

2) Quotable quotes

Here are some selected quotable quotes from the three other speakers:

- + “For us, no mission is impossible. When God is present, it matters not who is in power. Give me Malaysia or I die!” (Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung)
- + “Don’t sell God like a product which we can use. Rather let God use us for His purpose.” (Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung)
- + “Prayer movement must be a mission movement (i.e. proclamation of gospel of the Kingdom).” (Chrisanne Chin)
- + “Be strategic in praying as we discern trends viz. migration, aging population, decline in birth rate and unreached people group.” (Chrisanne Chin)
- + “If church is not aware, the evil spirit can attack and deceive the church. If church is not strong in the Lord, the church can come under the evil influence. However, in our Lord Jesus, we will have the spiritual breakthrough. So, build ourselves up in our most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20), so that we won’t be deceived by the evil spirit.” (Pr Raynor Lim)

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

Marriage and Parenting Seminar by Board of Laity on 7 January 2023

by Ngu Chie Kieng and Loi Kim Shung, DLL of CD1 & CD2 respectively



CD1 & CD2 jointly organized the Marriage and Parenting Seminar on behalf of the Board of Laity (BOL) which was held at Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, 7th January 2023. The speakers were Dr. Chong Kwong Tek and Mrs. Goldie Chong. Dr. Chong, who was the first Conference Lay Leader for TRAC, and his wife are currently residing in Australia. They were so kind to accept our invitation to present this seminar when they were back in Malaysia for holiday then.

The seminar was a half day event attended by 27 registered participants.

The first part of the seminar was mainly on marriage and Dr. & Mrs. Chong shared with us their experiences and struggles in their early cross-cultural marriage life (Mr Chong grew up in Melaka while Mrs. Chong grew up in Hong Kong), the importance of good and effective communication between the husband and wife, especially in using word of life to encourage one another rather than the use of negative words. Two important values that they shared: We are priests to those close to us and we are pastors in our family (1 Peter 2:9). They also shared with us the Luke 10 Strategy and used skits to demonstrate their points.

The second part of the seminar was on parenting. The speakers highlighted the importance of parents in the training and instruction of the child (Eph 6:4) and not leaving the responsibility to the church, the youth groups or the Sunday School. As in

Deuteronomy 11:18-20, parents are to use every opportunity and occasions to share about God to their children. We are reminded to start the practice from young, practice “table talk” where parents to share their own struggles before asking the children about their struggles. Parents are also reminded to pray for their children and to persevere in praying. Towards the end, Dr. and Mrs Chong shared a touching personal testimony on their parenting journey and how God has helped them in their struggles and how God has redeemed the family. Glory to God!

The seminar started with a worship session led by CD2 District Superintendent & Associate Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, KL, Rev Ashok Amarasingham, and ended with a Q&A session followed by lunch fellowship.

“Sheau Yin and I found the Marriage and Parenting seminar to be thoroughly enjoyable as Dr. Kwong and Goldie were very candid about their joys and struggles with marriage and parenting. They often drew on their life experiences and this made the content very relatable. The skit they presented at the start of the seminar on the interaction between husbands and wives was light hearted yet filled with profound lessons. One lesson which will stick with us for a long time is this: in essential things - unity, in non-essentials things - liberty, in everything else - charity.” A review by Alfred and Sheau Yin Long, a couple who attended the seminar.

From Good Friday to Easter – The word “Forgiveness”



What is one word that you will like to remember on Good Friday or the Holy week?

The Christ Methodist Church Bentong congregation were given this question to think about it as they came together to remember the suffering and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus on Good Friday service. We had often taken for granted how much Jesus had suffered immensely under the hands of mankind whom He loved while on His earthly ministry. Despite that, He did not go against His Father will as plan for Him to die for all mankind. And Jesus went humbly to be crucified on the cross just as a lamb chosen to be killed for sin offering to the Almighty God.

In Luke 23: 34, we see Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”** as He hung in agony to die. This particular Jesus’s word: **“Father, forgive them”** from the Cross was the first recorded words by Luke in addressing to God the Father. We want to remember how powerful these words spoken from the cross and what it also meant to us in this present day. During the church service, three (3) reasons were given for the need for us to discharge forgiveness in our life. First reason, we are to forgive because God forgives us. Jesus Christ died for all of our sins, without even expecting any good on our part. We are in fact so broken in this life and sinful in nature, and yet Jesus will die for us. What burden is there in us that Christ will not bear for us? That the cross cannot carry, and because of this, we have this very good reason therefore to response by forgiving others; and ourselves as He had already forgiven us.

Second reason, we are to forgive because we need forgiveness every day. The Bible teaches that we cannot receive what we are unwilling

to give; for this is the way for a new beginning in Christ. Forgiveness must be continual; flowing freely, given without expecting anything in return. It must be enjoyed and it must be employed to the meaning of our life. Unless we breath the *‘air of forgiveness’* or be forgiving, we will not be able to experience how great the love of God had in store for us.

Third reason, we are to forgive because unforgiving is real self-torture. An unforgiving attitude is self-inflicting wound on ourselves. Whenever we are resentful, unforgiving towards somebody, it always hurts us more than the person we are bitter with. Our past is already in the past, and it can’t hurt us any more unless we hold on to it. We don’t have to live in our past hurts! The reason is that Christ now carries that disappointment, that pain or hurts for us on His cross.

So, what is one word that you want to remember in this Holy week and Easter celebration? Congregation were asked to write down who they want to forgive or areas of unforgiveness and they are to paste it on the wooden cross prepared for the them. Everyone wrote something on an empty paper and surrender it the Lord that day. It was a touching moment and for those who harbor unforgiveness for very long found it so relief to do so – an act to surrender all the bitterness. All the unforgiveness “pasted on the cross” were taken out to be burnt symbolizing a total surrender of all our past unforgiveness.

From here, the congregation moved forward and cherished their Easter day service because we have let go our past. The resurrected Christ now represents a promise of new day, new life and new hope by leaving behind what hold us down spiritually in the past.

Holy Week @ Wesley Penang

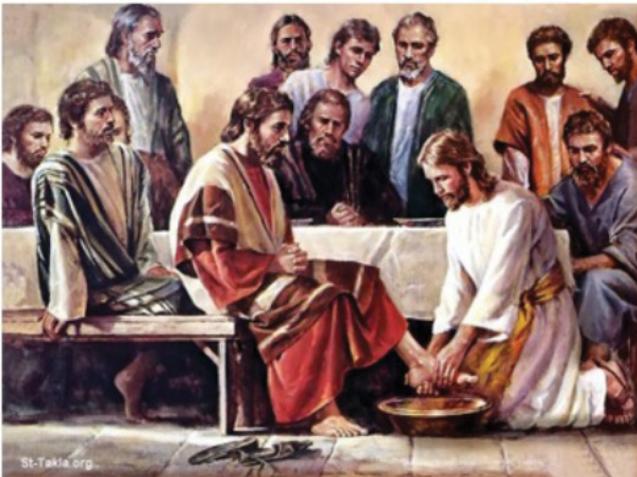
by Rev Ronald Yap

Holy Week @ Wesley Penang started off with the Girls Brigade 2nd Company Penang opening the Palm Sunday Service of 2nd April 2023 with an Angklung, Percussion and Violin Processional Song titled 'Hosanna to the Son of David' welcoming Jesus into our midst. It provided a suitable opening background reflection on the Church's Lenten Series following on from TRAC's Lenten Meditations on "Living Inside Out". The Holy Week sermons focused on the Johannine perspective of the Passion Week and began with the Rev Andrew Lim preaching from John 12:12-37 a sermon titled "Seeing But Unbelieving". Despite the people coming to celebrate Jesus on the first Palm Sunday, yet they did not understand nor fully comprehend who Jesus is. This resulted in the same multitude being swayed to crucify Jesus merely 5 days later. Living inside out: we need to learn to bridge the gap between knowing and believing.



Maundy Thursday Worship Service

6 April 2023 | 8.30 pm



Do you understand what I was doing?
 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.
 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.
 I have given you an example to follow.
 Do as I have done to you."
JOHN 13:12b-15

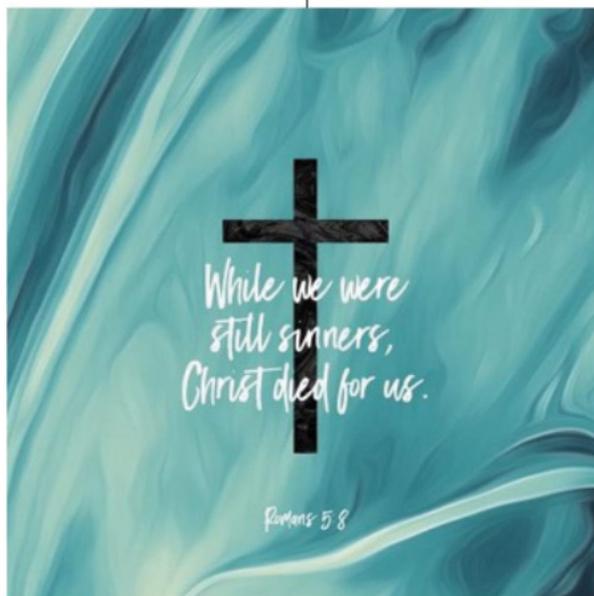
Here we see Rev Andrew interacting with the congregation asking a question of faith and belief. Would you give him RM100 in exchange for an angpow that he says has RM200?

Maundy Thursday saw Bro William Lim preaching from John 13:1-17 a sermon titled "Be Washed and Be Washing". He posed the question of our identity as servants or as masters and asked if we are regularly being washed by Christ and washing others feet as well. We were challenged to consider Living Inside Out: Is to not only love those we like, but also those we know will betray or hurt us. Jesus gave that example in his act of washing not just the disciples' feet, but also Judas' feet! The MSF Choral Group demonstrated that example of service as they presented a Choral Response of "For God So Loved the World" and "Let Us Break Bread Together" in response to the message, leading the congregation also to the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Rev Andrew Lim shared the Good Friday service message based on John 19:1-16, 'Believing But Unable to Act', a reflection on Pontius Pilate's struggle with truth and right action arising from that truth. We were brought to consider that Living Inside Out: is to reconcile one's belief and action. Pilate, though he believed Jesus to be innocent was reluctant to do so. The congregation were led through Litanies of Remembrance and given space to reflect, repent, pray and confess before God and ask forgiveness. The Wesley Choir led in a Choral Response titled "Were You There?" (setting by Dale Wood) before the congregation responded with the Hymn by Graham Kendrick "Come and See (We Worship at Your Feet)" and thereafter departed in prayer and silence into the darkness of night.

Good Friday Worship Service

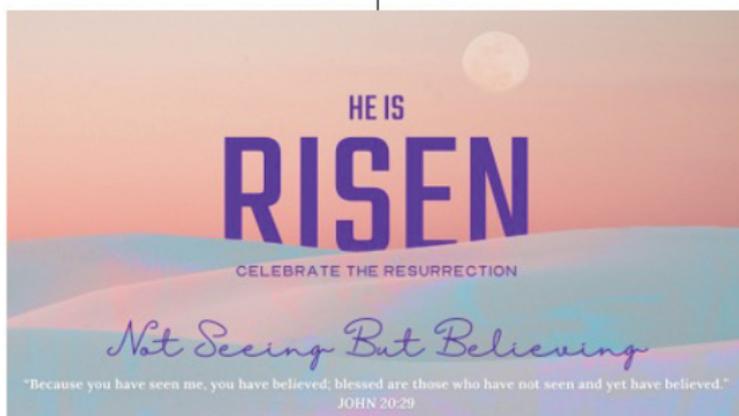
7 April 2023 | 8.30 pm



Easter Sunday Services for the English and Hokkien-Mandarin congregations were celebrated with joy in song, dance, drama and food. Rev Ronald Yap brought the Easter Message from John 20:18-31 and we observed from the reactions of the women, the disciples and Thomas the blessedness of "Not Seeing But Believing". The final test of "Living Inside Out" is that we believe and act not just based on what we can see physically but what we know by faith. For we live by faith and not by sight. The Wesley Choir presented their Anthems of "They Have Taken Away My Lord" (J. Stainer) and "Risen With Him" (Deborah Craig-Claar, Charles Wesley, Mark Hayes) to mark the joyous occasion in songs of praise.

Easter Sunday Worship Service Resurrection Day

9 April 2023 | 9.00 am (Traditional Service) | 11.00 am (Contemporary Service)





As the Holy Week had begun with the Girls Brigade leading us in processional song on Palm Sunday, it ended on Easter Sunday with a bang with The Boys Brigade 2nd Company Penang presenting an Easter Afternoon - Drama "Have You Reached Your Verdict" and Dance Presentation of "We Are The Reason" to a group of more than 150 invited guests. The Drama and Dance were well presented and choreographed and it was all kudos to the dance and drama teams and the whole company of friends as they made a meaningful and heartfelt presentation of the Gospel. The event was capped by a testimony and witness by BB Captain Ch'ng Ewe Hong and altar call by the BB Chaplain Rev Ronald Yap that saw some respondents from among the audience. Many words would be required to describe the drama and dance, but pictures say a thousand words, what more moving pictures and sound. So, you are invited to watch the show and

celebrate the Easter Drama & Dance with the Boys Brigade 2nd Company Penang at:

Full Video:

<https://fb.watch/jYtqyi7fLH/> (Facebook)

https://youtu.be/uRI5s_HdHM4 (Youtube)

Drama Performance Video:

<https://youtu.be/rrpoQrxOSOc>

Dance Performance Video:

<https://youtu.be/krnFzKNA3JU>

We pray your Easter and Holy Week was blessed as ours at Wesley Penang was. The Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and always.

Reflections from Sungai Way Subang Methodist Church (7-9 April, 2023)

by Heather Dennis Liew

The Good Friday service was indeed a blessed evening of worship in songs and listening to God's word reminding us again of the finished work of Christ on the cross. The invitation was to encounter Jesus afresh and to experience the joy of being forgiven and set free from sin, knowing with confidence that for all who believe in Jesus, the pollution of sin has been remedied, the penalty of sin paid in full, the power of sin has been broken and the partition because of sin has been bridged through Christ. We were led to renew our commitment to Christ, our Saviour, Lord and King.

Holy Saturday was spent "Beholding Jesus" through reading the Gospels, worship and prayer. Reading the gospels non-stop from 8.30am to 7.20pm was significant because Holy Saturday was also Nuzul Quran. Many in our nation finds the cross a stumbling block, but as the Apostle Paul declares, "*we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greek, Christ is the power and wisdom of God.*" 1 Cor.1:23-24 The truth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, needs to be proclaimed to the spiritual realm that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). We had participation across the generations from children, youth, young adults and adults. It was truly heartening to hear God's Word read

by different ones including one of our 85-year-old senior member and also a sister who read with the aid of her portable oxygenator. Such love for God's word touched our hearts deeply. The Chinese Church participated by reading the gospel of John in Chinese. Some from the Kebaktian Bahasa Malaysia read some portions of John in BM as well. We ended the evening with "Incense Arise" where we worshipped the Lord, opened the altar for ministry and ended with intercessory prayers. We received a testimony from a sister who came for "Incense Arise". She shared that as she was coming that evening, she sensed the Lord saying to her that she will receive healing for her hearing issue and God indeed healed her and restored her hearing as the evening worship begun. Glory and praise to God alone!

An evangelistic message was powerfully preached on Resurrection Sunday to a congregation of about 440 in-persons and about 100 over devices online. A few people came to be ministered to for different needs. Although no new commitment to follow Jesus was recorded on that day, we trust that through the Holy Spirit, the word of God planted will germinate in due time for the glory of God. All in all, we can only offer our lives as living sacrifices unto the Lord for all that He has done for us.

Easter 2023 at Wesley Melaka

by Chuah Seong York



Emerging out of Covid, Holy Week at Wesley Melaka this year was graced by the presence of Reverend Joshua Khong, President of Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) who preached on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Rev. Joshua repeatedly affirmed our tradition:

1. Tradition validates our faith.
2. Tradition is an important part of our journey of faith.
3. Tradition is the witness of the growth of our faith together as Christ's Body.

Maundy Thursday

Unless I wash you, you have no part of Me
- John 13:1-17

What struck me most about this sermon was that when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, Judas was still in the Upper Room. Jesus must have washed his feet knowing that this was his betrayer's feet. What humility for us to emulate! Rev. Joshua taught us 5 lessons:

1. Obedience
2. Humility
3. Love
4. Serving others
5. Collegiality (see last section)

Good Friday

A New Commandment for you and me
- John 13:31-38

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. Love means to will for the good of others.

Easter Sunday

Rabboni! - John 20:11-16

Jesus calls us by name as He called Mary that 1st Easter morning. Although Mary addressed Jesus, "Rabboni!" which means "Teacher", Jesus is more than just a teacher. Otherwise Christianity would have just ended up as another moral philosophy. Last but not least, we are EASTER people of Light, Hope and a Future.

Easter Cross Project

The last time Wesley Melaka decorated the Easter Cross for the Sunrise Service was in 2013. At 8.30 am on Saturday morning many church members were already up, gathering Frangipani from various pre-identified sites. These were transported to the church where the cross was to be decorated starting at 10 am. Creepers and weeds served as the base layer. Tooth picks were then painstakingly inserted into the stalk of each flower before each flower was inserted into the base layer according to a pre-determined colour scheme. This was indeed a "Gotong-Royong" project judging by the happy faces in the 10-minute YouTube clip prepared by Siang Ling. Lunch was prepared by the hospitality team. The completed Easter Cross was finally erected at 2 pm and touched up at 5.30 pm.

Skit to Re-enact the Passion of Christ was very refreshing and the cross-generational involvement was very heartening. The skit was a combination of live action, pre-recorded

video and movie snippets. The choir sang “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” just before the Crucifixion and concluded the skit with “Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord?)” Great attention was paid to details, for example Simon Peter cutting off Malchus’ ear, and Simon of Cyrene compelled to help Jesus with the cross. Many hidden talents were unearthed by this production, for example 81-year old Ho Chak Foh who acted as Pontius Pilate. However, the Oscar for best actor goes to Zachary Sim who acted as Jesus and best supporting actor goes to Shawn Yap. I supposed it was not difficult for Shawn to act as a teacher of the Law, being a lawyer himself.

New Songs & Unfamiliar Hymns

For a music-lover like me, another highlight was the rendition of hymns and songs not often sung. Good Friday service started with worship leader, Ng Jui Jien, leading the congregation in worship with the hymn **“O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done”** (UMH 287), a Charles Wesley hymn composed in 1742.

Just before the Good Friday Proclamation we sang gospel singer, Twila Paris’ 1985 composition of **“Lamb of God”**. During the skit, the choir presented **“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”** (UMH 286), translated by renowned German composer, Paul Gerhardt in 1656; and closed with **“Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord?)”** (UMH 288), a hymn

of Afro-American origin. No wonder our choir leader, Wan Sim Tung, instructed us to sing this song soulfully and to really question the congregation, “Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord?)”

The Hymn of Preparation for the Easter Sunrise service was **“Up From The Grave He Arose”** (UMH 322), a Robert Lowry (American Baptist preacher/hymn writer) 1874 composition. I could really feel the congregation singing with fervour and gusto.

Opening of the New Extension to the Tamil Methodist Church at 8.30 am. The Easter Sunrise Service did not just end with the customary Easter breakfast. TRAC President, Rev. Joshua Khong and Rev. Aaron Liu had to rush off to attend the opening of the new extension to the Tamil Methodist Church. For the past 7 weeks Tamil Methodist Church Melaka had been worshipping at the Youth Centre of Wesley Melaka. We have participated in their fund-raising projects like food sale, shared our car park and our premise without any disruption whatsoever. This reflected collegiality, one of 5 lessons taught by President on Maundy Thursday. **Collegiality** means coming together as a college of disciples. It also demonstrated the **Connectionalism** we have within the General Conference and our existence as the Body of Christ.



Holy Week 2023 at Canning Garden Methodist Church, Ipoh (CGMC)



Holy Saturday Service - Pastor Andrew



Holy Saturday Service - kids practice run

We began with a special Palm Sunday weekend. Our main Shekinah Sanctuary had been refurbished as our 30 year old air conditioner and ceiling boards needed replacing, and this was done over a 6 week period from mid-February to the end of March.

We had also been sending out invitations to church members who had been attending online services for the past 2 years to return to attending in person worship services.

Praise the Lord we had a good turn out of 437 people worshipping in person for the Palm Sunday weekend and the children came to wave Palm Leaves during worship too, together with our flaggers. Pastor Andrew preached from Matt 16:13-28 on "The Messiah must suffer and be killed".

During the Holy Week itself, we had morning reflections from Monday to Friday at KMH at 6:30-7:15 am. Zoom was also made available. After the sharing by a PCT member, we were given time to meditate and reflect and then we gathered in groups of 2-3 people to share and pray together.

On Monday Leonard shared from Luke 23:32-34 and emphasised how Jesus said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". He also contrasted the two thieves

who were crucified with Jesus and how they responded to Jesus differently. It is never too late to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, as long as we still have breath.

On Tuesday Lai Yin shared from John 19:25-27 on The God who sees. She mentioned how Jesus showed care and concern for his mother Mary and entrusted her to John, the disciple he loved.

On Wednesday Pastor Andrew shared from Mark 15:1-39 on The Centurion. He highlighted the centurion who executed people on a daily basis and who had been with Jesus from the time of the trial to his death on the cross. He was able to observe how Jesus reacted and faced death and his conclusion when Jesus died was that he was truly the son of God.

On Thursday Philip shared from John 19:28-34. He drew our attention to the fact that even though Jesus had the power to step down from the cross but he stayed there out of obedience to God the Father and because he wanted to complete his mission to die on the cross for our sins. At the end he said "It is finished" to signify that the penalty for our sins had been repaid, the believers in Christ had been redeemed, and we have been reconciled with God.

On Friday Alan shared from Luke 23:44-46. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain of the temple was torn signifying that we have bold access to the throne of grace through faith in Jesus, who is our High Priest.

We were also blessed to have Bishop Jeyakumar to come and preach at our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday night services. Both services were well attended and during the Good Friday service we even had to use plastic chairs as the pews were fully utilised.

Bishop Jeya preached on "The Mighty Cross" (1 Cor 1:17-31) on Maundy Thursday. God uses the apparent weakness of the cross to demonstrate His power. Jews demanded miracles and Greeks rely on human wisdom but the cross is the stumbling block for them. We too must not place our faith in Jesus only when God performs the miracles we want Him to do.

Bishop Jeya then continued with "The Victorious Cross" (Colossians 2:6-15) on Friday where we were reminded that we have everything we need in Christ. We were also reminded that we are either progressing in our spiritual walk or we are backsliding. We cannot be stagnant Christians. Many people stayed back to be prayed for after the service.

On Holy Saturday we had a half day of prayer in KMH from 7 am to 5 pm where members could drop in to pray for whatever duration they wished to. Then at the 8 pm service Pastor Andrew preached from Matthew 17:1-8 on the Glory of Jesus. We were taught about the implications of the transfiguration and how the Glory of Jesus will give us Hope, will

change our world view, and will motivate us to listen to Him. We also had baptism and transfer of membership into CGMC.

On Sunday morning we had Sunrise service in the concourse. Pastor Andrew preached from Matthew 28:1-10 on the "Four Markers for Easter Proclamation".

Later on Easter morning our lay leader Dr Gill preached from John 11:25-27, 20;11-16 on "How Great is our God. He touched on God's creation of life, the great "I Am", and Jesus, the people around Him and the events around His death and resurrection. We were reminded to celebrate Jesus Daily, to be devoted to Jesus, and to share Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also were blessed by the Youth choir who sang beautiful renditions of "Bless the Lord O my soul", "How Great is our God" and "How great thou Art"

Our total attendees for Easter weekend services (English) Saturday, Sunrise and Sunday was 667. Praise the Lord.



Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar



Holy Saturday Service - practice run



Holy Saturday Service - Youth Choir

Holy Week and Easter Celebration at Grace Methodist Church, Sentul

*by Rev Chang Choy Quin
Pastor-In-Charge*



This year for Lent season, we came together as a church to read the Lent Meditations produced by TRAC Board of Worship. This was to prepare us for our journey with Jesus to the Cross. Towards Holy Week. The members met in their Small Groups after church service and shared their heartfelt thoughts of the readings with one another. It was indeed a good time of hearing, praying and encouraging one another through God's word during this season.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Good Friday Service was observed. We followed the Tenebrae service order. Many who came for the service felt that it was a meaningful time of journeying with the Lord to the cross. We went through the bible readings

of Jesus' time of betrayal, denial, aloneness, accusations, sufferings, crucifixion and death. To the end when Jesus cried, "It is Finished!" After each reading was a time of responsive song and silent mediation. We truly entered into the journey to the cross with Jesus. We are grateful for his sacrifice on the cross and his sufferings to bring salvation to all of us.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

We had a sunrise service at 6.30 am at the church's basketball court. We thank God for his beautiful creation and giving us a beautiful sunrise experience. Besides the members, there were friends of members who joined us and are pre-believers who found the worship meaningful and a new experience for them. We continue to pray that they will come to the Lord in His timing. Sharing of testimonies is a great way to touch the hearts of people with God's love. I shared with them three





testimonies that I chose from TRAC Board of Evangelism's Book of Testimonies. Many were touched by these testimonies and a number of hearts were opened to the Lord again. There is always hope in the Lord.

love, His Word and His presence in our lives. There is always hope in the Lord.

My takeaway of this year's Lent season, Holy Week and Easter celebration is that God never give up on his people. He is always there for us and reaching out to us. It does not matter where we are now in this season of our lives or the challenges we face, His love is unmeasurable. I feel he brought us to a new hunger for his Word and his presence in our lives. He is continuously renewing and restoring our lives in Him. For his faithfulness we need to respond to Him. Respond to His

Isaiah 40: 28-31
28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



Organizational Leadership Module (OLM) Chinese

by Rev Lester Lim



The OLM Chinese was held at Canning Garden Methodist Church in Ipoh on the 18th of March 2023.

The Board of Chinese Ministry (BCM) organized this module for the first time and was district-focused, starting with the Perak District, with a total of 25 participants from 4 churches in the district attending. The Perak District was selected as the beginning point as there are more Chinese-speaking congregations. The BCM intends to host this module in a different district next year; or to provide training at a local congregation's request.

Due to an increase in congregations and members who speak Chinese in recent years, the BCM has recognized that more people need to be trained to serve as church leaders in addition to raising up more local preachers through its Local Preacher's Licence Modules.

In light of this, the BCM believes it is important to hold the OLM Module in order to aid members in understanding the church, the organizational structure of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, the role of Chinese-speaking congregations in the Trinity Annual Conference, and the spiritual

formation needed of a leader. The following sessions were therefore facilitated by three Chinese-speaking ordained elders:

- Session 1: The Biblical Basis of the Church (Rev Yu Chiew Song)
- Session 2: The Methodist Church in Malaysia & Organizational Structure (Rev Lim Chaw Leong)
- Session 3: The Spiritual Qualities of a Leader (Rev Wong Mun Wah)
- Session 4: Handling Meetings and Decision-Making (Rev Yu Chiew Song)

Some participants have stated that this training has improved their understanding and familiarity with our own Methodist system of church government and polity – something they had previously been unaware of. We give God the glory for that and are grateful to the facilitators for leading the sessions despite their busy schedules in the ministry.

The BCM will continue enhancing its teaching methods and materials in this module in order to more effectively develop more leaders and bless the Chinese-speaking churches in TRAC.



Wesley Taiping's Church Camp

29th April to 1st May 2023 at Flamingo Hotel, Penang



After 4 years, WMCT finally had its own church camp! The theme of 'Anointed and appointed for such a time as this' is in-line with our church's mission that is 'To point all of Taiping to Jesus by depending on the HOLY SPIRIT'. The purpose of the camp is not only to have a great time of bonding and fellowship which we sorely missed with the pandemic lockdown and restrictions imposed in the last 2 years, but to seek God intimately and to know His purpose for our lives as we serve Him in Taiping. 51 adults and 11 children signed up and all eagerly looked forward to this exciting event!

Rev Joshua Khong was our camp speaker, no stranger to WMCT! His inspiring and enlightening talks were such a blessing and encouragement to us. Yes, truly we all are ordinary people but special in God's eyes. We are SPECIAL ORDINARY people!

Here are 3 special ordinary campers who will share their experience and what they have learned and how God has blessed them at the camp. All glory to God!

Annie Phuah (*Camp coordinator*)

This is my first church camp with WMCT. God planned it all for me. Praise the Lord. I am not a sociable person and always run away after church service. In this church camp, the Lord is with me, giving me courage to fellowship with the members. I felt I am now a family with the church members!

I am spiritually inspired by Rev. Joshua Khong in his sessions and sharing of the challenges his family faced while he was growing up. As we believed and received Christ in our life, He is always there for us giving us light in our darkest times. I learned that, though we are ordinary, but God sees us as special. Learning to talk to God all the time, feel His



presence from the time the sun rises until it sets. Learning to listen to God's words, reading and studying His words. God's love endures forever as we love Him and love our neighbours.

Thank you Lord for hovering over us all the time. Thank you to everyone participating in the camp and greatly appreciate all the efforts of the organizing committee. Looking forward to next church camp!

Connie Chong



My wife and I are regular members of a care group in my church. I am glad that the members of this CG are always so patient attending to my many questions about bible scriptures. I was encouraged to join this church camp to allow God to speak to me in His way. I didn't experience any vision or God speaking to me or God touching me directly during the 3 days of campbut God did speak to me through Rev. Joshua and brothers and sisters and even non believers.

Rev. Joshua delivered God's message clearly that we are His chosen ordinary people to be anointed and appointed for a task or a role according to His will, in His way and in His time. The time together at the camp with all the brothers and sisters was wonderful and enjoyable. There was established a strong bonding amongst us through all the sessions, meal times, fun times and chit chat times.

Many thanks to the organizing committee and camp speaker, Rev Joshua Khong. My question-list is still building up and may the sovereign God's mercy be upon me that He will continue to lead me to brothers and sisters who will share their journey of faith and help direct me to the path He has chosen for me. Praise God for He is Good all the time!

Andrew Koay

This camp was a blessing of itself, we were gathering as a church for the first camp since 2019. The response from the church members was wonderful! The enthusiasm of the 2 organizers, Annie and Dolly and their team was a blessing for their efficiency and cheerful disposition as they coordinated the church camp well and smoothly. Rev. Joshua Khong presented his sessions in a clear and understandable manner to us so that we had a clear concept of his message.



Chris on far left

We had such golden opportunities to connect with the other camp participants whom we seldom have the chance to do so in a more personal manner rather than just wave to them in our normal church setting. The fun-filled activities with everyone especially the children were hugely enjoyable and everyone had a great time! The hotel staff was polite and helpful to us and the hotel management even donated a delicious cake to us! It was indeed a great time of sharing and bonding!

Christopher Pressling

Family Camp Blessing



Jeremiah School 2023

TRAC BOYW



Caption: Jeremiah School 2023 Commissioning and Graduation serve at Wesley Methodist Kampar, Perak. 30th April 2023

Moving Back To The Norm #slay | #sheesh | #plsla | #walaowei

----- REV. JAMES ONG (NYD)

Strangers arrived on PD's Coast;
Breakfast munched on Gardenia Toast.

Strangers greet with awkward Post;
Crazy laughs filled us Most.

Strangers in friction, conflict brewed;
In love and grace, unity stewed

Strangers no longer, as friendship
birth; Every inch endeavoured with
every bit worth.

Walaowei, sheesh, slay, our
vocabularies sway;

This! indeed has become our way.
Doctrine, theology, and what?! with
clueless stares;

Revising them for quizzes to fare!

Friends, brothers, and sisters, a new
reality;

Deep bonds in Christ beyond formality.

For He loves us, He calls us to the
same;
Every bit for His glory and fame.

Time and tide wait for none;
Six weeks came and gone;
Yet in us, Christ's work is yet done.

I am grateful to God for the successful completion of this year's Jeremiah school, that consisted of 8 girls and 5 boys, from TRAC, SCAC, and CAC. And we could finally resume JS in GSBA Port Dickson, where the students can experience what Christian community is like as a whole.

Through the 6 weeks, students are taught in the area of:

Christian Doctrines, Biblical Theology, Christian leadership; Christian Spirituality and living, Spiritual Warfare, BGR and Sexuality, Freedom in Christ, Missions, Evangelism, and etc.

It has always been a privilege for me to have this opportunity to invest and teach these youths and to witness how God works in each one of them unto Himself.

I am also thankful for the mentors, namely, Dr. Herbert Tan, Helen Khoo, Jeremy Anggat, Andrew Gan, Regina Yew, and Noelle Ngo for their commitment and dedication to the gospel work in JS.

Soli Deo Gloria

Vision & Statement

----- BOYW

Vision Statement:

To raise a generation of God fearing, faithful, persevering, and selfless young leaders who will be of a different spirit

Scripture:

"But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it"

Numbers 14:24

Objectives:

1. To develop Godly disciplines & habits
2. To facilitate the discovery of God's calling
3. To develop basic leadership skills
4. To impart a vision for the World
5. To develop basic people skills
6. To facilitate a meaningful and personal encounter with God
7. To facilitate an experience of authentic Christian community





Caption: Celebrating 20th year of Jeremiah School with a reunion held in EMCPJ.

Testimonies



Caption: A Christian Seder meal

“Forgiveness is from Jesus Christ. With Christ I can forgive myself for the mistakes I have made in the past and forgive those who have hurt me. This leads me to hear God more accurately...”

Sian Ai

“In preparation for my UEC examination, I neglected my time with God and was reluctant to serve in church. As a result, my relationship with God became distant. During the third quiet retreat in JS, God showed me that He knows my needs and provides for me. Through my experience with God I am reminded of Matt.6:30-32 and that I can cast my worries and anxieties to Him.”

Jolynn Tan

“Through the JS community, God has used them to help me change from my old ways and work He wants me to be. I want to commit towards who my whole life to trust God in everything I do, no matter the circumstances.”

Jehann Lee

“Learning the importance of silence through quiet retreats and morning devotion, I reached the important realization that God in His omnipresence has always been near... This peace from God is available to me and made possible through Christ’s work on the cross. All these have compelled me to take Him more seriously, to be intentional in how I live.”

Janice Lau

“JS has been an enriching and spirit-filling experience. I have learnt a lot here. It was during the quiet retreat, God reminded me of the need to trust in Him...the most life-giving lesson I learnt was of the sufficiency of God’s love.”

Clarence Choong

“God has change me through JS. I found joy in Christ, and also living out the fruit of the spirit here. Being in a community has helped me experience God’s love and has taught me how to love others despite our difference. I’ve also learnt to forgive others because God has forgiven me.”

Amber Lee

“Among all the insightful sessions, I enjoyed God’s Big Picture as it provided factual evidence about how God’s plan worked out and is still going on. Besides that, I learned a lot from the BGR session, especially in the sharing where we can be honest and vulnerable with each other with being judged.”

Mabelle Tan

“I struggle with feeling inferior which results in my communication with others. But I have witness God working with me through a mentor who encouraged me to be courageous and find confidence in God.”

Jonathan Lim

“The deep dive into the nature of Christ opened my eyes to a whole new world of Christianity. The various truths and explanation of how Jesus is truly God and truly man absolutely blew me away – we also walked through the process of debunking Christological heresies.”

Caroline Hii

“I can see growth in my spiritual life in JS. Coming into JS, my spirituality was at 1 on a scale of 5, but as weeks progresses, the sessions and activities has helped me grow spiritually – I could even feel God’s warmness and hear him through his words.”

Abigail Lim

“The lesson of God’s Big Picture has helped me appreciate the Bible more and see how wonderful, seamless, beautiful and amazing God’s plan is because it gives me a bird’s eye view...From a person who did not intentionally want to spend time with God, now I crave spending time with Him.”

Joanna Yip

“Because of my past, I am afraid to open up to people, that they would judge me for who I am. During my time in JS, some of my peers ministered to me by praying for and assuring me of God’s love. I felt God’s love and that has really helped me.”

Howard Ngu

“I am reminded that God is control over everything, He will not forsake me and loves me even if I do not feel it. This has helped me understand better what it means to have relationships with others.”

Nicholas Yeap

LPL Weekend – Old Testament Module

Praise the Lord for the LPL Weekend held on 25-26th March 2023 in Kampar Wesley. Our facilitator was our TRAC President, Rev. Joshua Khong. There was a good response, with a total of 32 participants from 6 churches. The breakdown of participants:

Church	Credit	Audit	Total
1 KAMPAR WESLEY	5	14	19
2 CANNING GARDEN MC	4	0	4
3 SUNGAI WAY SUBANG MC	4	1	5
4 PETALING JAYA TRINITY MC	2	0	2
5 PENANG TRINITY MC	1	0	1
6 DAMANSARA UTAMA MC	1	0	1
TOTAL	17	15	32

Rev. Joshua Khong guided the group through a broad sweep of the books of the Old Testament, highlighting their background, literature types and their importance. There was good interaction from the participants through questions and answer sessions, which were dealt with adequately by the facilitator. The participants came away with a greater interest in the Old Testament.

There was good fellowship with laughter and sharing during meals and breaks. All thanks to the participants for committing time to learn and equip themselves and to the local organising Comm. under Joyce Choo for seeing to all the organisational details of the course. Hope to see more register next. Get more details on the LPL courses 2023 at the TRAC website.



Developing Spiritual Leaders That Leave Behind Lasting Legacies : OLM+ @ CD1

by Ngu Chie Kieng, CD1 District Lay Leader



More than 100 leaders from 8 churches in Central District 1 gathered at Grace Methodist Church in Sentul on 11th and 12th of March 2023 for the long-awaited leadership training program called OLM+. The program was organised by Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) under the capable leadership of Ng Wai Lin, Director of ICM. This is the first physical gathering of its scale for Central District 1 leaders since the Covid-19 related movement control measures were imposed in early 2020. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as new faces met, forging connections and fostering a sense of unity among the participants. Grace Methodist Church was a gracious host for the occasion, providing a warm and welcoming environment for the participants. Mak Lin Yin led the dedicated host team and their committee members, who went above and beyond to ensure that every aspect of the 1.5-day program ran seamlessly. The program aimed to equip leaders in spiritual leadership, guiding them to lead according to God's agenda, fostering a transformative leadership community and leaving behind a godly legacy.

The program featured two exceptional speakers, Rev. Joshua Khong, the President of Trinity Annual Conference, and Rev. Ronald Yap, who shared their knowledge and passion in equipping leaders, and encouraging them on their spiritual leadership journey.

Rev. Joshua Khong led the session on "Spiritual Leadership - Leading with God's Agenda." He emphasized the importance of leaders recognizing and embracing their divine calling. Participants were encouraged to seek God's agenda, align their leadership with His purposes, and exemplify servant leadership, drawing inspiration from Jesus Christ. President Joshua stressed the need for leaders to continually seek God's guidance and wisdom, cultivating a vibrant and intimate relationship with Him.

Rev. Ronald Yap conducted sessions on "Spiritual Community - Cultivating a Leadership Community" and "Spiritual Conversation - Fostering Healthy Dialogues." He introduced the concept of a transformative and life-giving leadership community instead of a typical committee structure that is functional oriented. He emphasized the significance of listening, honoring, and discerning within such a community. Participants were encouraged to engage in spiritual conversation and keeping a spiritual friendship group.

Throughout the program, participants had the opportunity to reconnect with one another, fostering a sense of oneness in Christ that was sorely missed during the Covid-19 period. The atmosphere was filled with joy and gratitude as leaders from various churches came together, sharing experiences, challenges, and aspirations.

The program included uplifting worship sessions, moments of reflection, and a meaningful closing Holy Communion, all of which added to the spirit of renewal and rejuvenation experienced by the participants. The OLM+ program provided leaders with valuable insights and practical tools for fostering a spiritual community among leaders. It not only equipped them with new knowledge but also reignited their passion and commitment to serving their respective congregations and communities. Together, these leaders are poised to "leave behind holy footprints and godly imprints" as they faithfully carrying out God's agenda, bringing hope, transformation, and a renewed sense of purpose to the churches in Central District 1.

Special thanks also to Rev. Paul Christie, the District Superintendent of CD1, all the pastors and lay leaders of churches in CD1 for the support, encouragement and participation in OLM+. All Glory be to God!

Seven Moments of Gratitude

ICM Board Retreat 2023

by Ng Wai Ling



I came away refreshed, inspired and encouraged. And I suspect I was not the only one. Together with the Board of ICM, we went away for a 4D3N get-together at a quiet, cozy bungalow, in Cameron Highlands from 28-31 March 2023. It was our first time coming together in this way (since the pandemic), to review the ICM work and ministries and discern the way forward while spending time with one another as friends and ministry partners.

Here's a snippet of my top SEVEN moments of gratitude!



SEVEN in Hebrew language gives a sense of completeness and fullness. That's how I felt about our retreat. Attendance was full - the ten of us! How rare is that, considering the board comprises pastors serving in different congregations around the country, marketplace retirees with a full active schedule and an active marketplace leader who had to take 4 days' leave from work to join us! Their dedication and commitment inspired me!



SIX hours (times two or more easily!) were carved out for serious work - reviewing the ministry of ICM and what God was doing and discerning His invitations for our way forward. Discussions from like-minded partners in ministry is really a gift from God to us! He placed each one in the board with different gifts and experiences to shape the work allotted to us for the season. I was deeply grateful for the group's ability and willingness to listen to one another and her generosity in sharing their thoughts and experiences with each other. I am grateful for witnessing an emerging sense of a collective wisdom.



FIVE special family members joined us for meals and fellowship – steamboat, tea & scones, ice-cream and the whole works! They say that behind every successful man or woman is the wife or the husband. Likewise, I believe that behind every faithful person is a significant other, a community of friends and family that we do not always get to see or meet in our work arena. And so, it was a real privilege for us to meet some of these precious folks and get a glimpse of their sense of ‘home & significance’ and the persons they return to daily!



FOUR cars (& amazing drivers!) drove a return trip of 400 kilometers, in an entourage (well, almost)! Traveling together as companions on the journey meant precious opportunity to get to know one another in ways we would not have otherwise in ordinary days. I am deeply grateful for the conversations in the car, the sharing of life struggles and the stories of God in our lives. And to discover that we are not alone in our struggles. These moments are still etched in my heart.



THREE mornings of worship in community helped to redirect our hearts and minds towards God, the One who called us together. The scriptures we meditated on, the songs we heard and sung, the stories we reflected on prepared our hearts for greater receptivity towards God and one another in the course of our day of work and fellowship.



TWO sacred hours of sharing our hearts & our lives with each other took place as we gathered in the cozy hall on the first evening. We took time to check-in with one another, chose a picture that speaks of ‘where we are’ and shared a story of our life in the recent season. It was the first time I shared openly and vulnerably about the loss of my sister and the painful effect on my life (both with sorrow and candidness). I came away grateful for ministry partners who could hold space for one another in the reality of our lives. I often thought if I could laugh and cry in the same space, it means I found a sacred space – a gift from heaven! One that made me feel loved and accepted.



ONE Lord, one heart and one mind – The best of all is to experience God as the One who ultimately connected our hearts and minds, our lives and our ministry, both in our work and our play. Only He can give us meaning in what we do and who we are – alone and in community. And only He can renew and redirect our life and ministry. And so, it is to Him we learn again – to abide in and to return to, over and over again!



Reflective Insight into the Probationary Minister's Retreat 2023

by Rev Aaron Liu



TRAC Probationary Minister's Retreat (PMR) 2023 took place from the 16th to 18th of May 2023 at the Rumah Methodist Fraser's Hill. This year's retreat saw the attendance of five probationary ministers - Shaan Sya, Cheah Sene Kar, Edward Lee (with wife, Rou En), Isaiah T. Jie, and Aaron Liu - who were eager to engage in the journey of spiritual and ministerial growth facilitated by our respected leaders, TRAC President, Rev Joshua Khong, and BOM Chairman, Rev Ashok.

Navigating the long, winding road to the hilltop venue, attendees were greeted by a welcome wave of cool weather and the rejuvenating scent of fresh air, providing a beautiful reminder of the wonder of God's creation and a fitting environment for reflection and growth. This year's smaller group lent itself to more intimate interactions, fostering a closer bond among the attendees. This deeper connection allowed for thoughtful discussion and heartfelt sharing to take place. We recalled the unique circumstances that led us to hear God's calling to ministry. Our diverse experiences illuminated a powerful commonality - our shared purpose in heeding the call to shepherd His flock.

Rev Joshua reinforced this message, reminding us of our multifaceted role as shepherds, leaders, and mentors. He emphasized the balance required in fulfilling these roles, with none being neglected in favour of another. Importantly, he also reminded us of the critical need to maintain our spiritual life and discipline amidst serving the body of Christ.

Rev Ashok, contributing his wealth of experience, presented practical aspects of our ministerial roles. He explained to us about conducting various worship services, organizing meetings effectively in the local church setting, and managing conflicts. His input was invaluable, grounding our understanding of ministry in tangible, day-to-day skills and wisdom.

The retreat became a place for productive discussion and mutual learning, effectively strengthening our congeniality as co-labourers in the Lord's harvest field. It was a time of profound gratitude as we received knowledge handed down by ministers of the past (through living documents like the MBOD and Book of Worship), and creative wisdom for adapting it into everyday pastoring.

Of course, the retreat wasn't all work. Amid our purposeful conversations and learning, we relished wonderfully cooked food by the Leo (Liu) sisters, adding to a delightful companionship and warmth that pervaded the entire retreat.

In conclusion, the Probationary Minister's Retreat 2023 was an inspiring and transformative journey, blending fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth. As we left the tranquillity of Rumah Methodist Fraser's, we carried with us not only the tangible skills and knowledge shared but also a renewed sense of purpose and camaraderie that will undoubtedly fortify our commitment to the ministry and the people we are called to serve.

Methodist Heritage Weekend: 27-28 May 2023

by Tan Chong Jin



Trinity Methodist Church Penang hosted the Northern District Methodist Heritage Weekend from 27-28 May, 2023. Pastor Dato' Daniel Ho was our speaker over the 2 days. A total of 69 people were in attendance (including helpers) for the Saturday session.

Pastor Daniel delivered the following sessions on Saturday:

Session 1: Learning from John Wesley: Evangelist, Revivalist, Pastor & Organiser Par Excellence

Session 2: Translating Wesley's message, means and methods in the Methodist Church today

Pastor Daniel's lessons from Wesley's life were inspiring and impactful. Mr. Lim Lai Keat, a Penang Trinity church member, was impressed by how Wesley would wake up at 4.30am to pray, and later in life, the temptation to wake past 5.30am was considered laziness to him. Wesley also had a relentless pursuit of holiness and formed accountability groups. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Wesley preached more than 40,000 sermons, and traveled 250,000 miles on horseback. Some of Pastor Daniel's practical lessons that Lai Keat took away was that we should keep fit if we want to serve well until we are old, to get serious with God, and to take every opportunity to share the Gospel.

Mrs Jane Khoo, another church member, felt Pastor Daniel made an important point

that work-life balance is unbiblical because it focuses on us juggling many things in life. Instead, we should have work-life integration where work, home, ministry, etc. are integrated with God and His purpose for our life. She was also impressed by Wesley's visionary model for effective ministry involving 1) Classes/bands for discipleship, 2) using Lay Preachers, 3) involving women in ministry (Wesley's own mother was an example of this). These practices were unheard of in the 1700's.

On Sunday, 28 May, Pastor Daniel preached on "Learning from Wesley: Investments that Last" where he exhorted the church to be passionate and committed to evangelism. He emphasised that evangelism cannot be limited to a program or church event, rather it must be part of our lifestyle. We evangelise through our conduct (visual evangelism), but we must also evangelise through our words (verbal evangelism). Pastor Daniel shared that John Wesley travelled tirelessly to preach, often having to change horses during his journey, bringing great impact to England as an example of Wesley's commitment. Pastor Daniel challenged the church to commit to sharing the Gospel in every opportunity God places us.

We give thanks to the Lord for the impactful sessions and preaching over the Methodist Heritage Weekend.

Methodist Archives Seminar 2023

by Organising Team, Methodist Archives Seminar



Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar expressed his gladness, seeing participants from Peninsular and East Malaysia

The Methodist Church in Malaysia (MCM) hosted the in-person Methodist Archives Seminar 2023 on 6-7 May 2023 in Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya with the assistance from the TRAC Board of Archives and History.

In his introduction, Pr Robert Khaw encouraged participants saying: “We will never know what we archive today may have a big impact on the work and the people of God in the future.” This was the case with what was found in the archives in Babylon, which had a huge implication on the temple project and God’s people (Ezra 6:1-22).

Thereafter, our Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar was invited to share his thoughts pertaining to the MCM Archives Seminar. He encouraged all present in this vital work of archives and history in our churches. He then prayed for the MCM churches and a fruitful seminar.

Participants came from TRAC, TAC and SIAC churches, and also from a Presbyterian church. Altogether, there were more than 50 attendees present, including Bishop, speakers and organising team members. They came from the length and breadth of the country.

Our two guest speakers were very knowledgeable, and their presentations were most engaging and instructive:

† “Ministry of History” by Dr Tai Kim Teng, who enlightened participants saying: “History opens our eyes to the obedience of past heroes and heroines that stretches their faith and ours.” He also forewarned us that “a generation that ignores their history has no past, and probably has no future as well.”

Dr Tai also shared on the “Responsibilities of Church Historian”, stressing four essential attributes of a church historian, i.e. calling, character, capability and commitment.

† “Oral History” by Dr Tan Miao Ing, who offered two reasons why church oral history is important. Firstly, it allows people to use their own words to capture aspects of their faith, testimonies, and experiences that may not be recorded in writing. Secondly, it is a valuable tool for capturing and preserving information about historical events, major developments in the church – lives of individual members, testimonies, and memories that may otherwise be lost.

It has also been said by some quarters that “the collection of oral history is always most urgent because we are dealing with a frail historical source – people die.” Further, “there is every reason to treat oral history seriously to help us in understanding our past if that oral history is conscientiously gathered, well-documented, and critically evaluated.”



Dr Tai Kim Teng asserted that history helps the future to understand and remember



Dr Tan Miao Ing presented several videos on how to conduct the oral history in different ways

Members of TRAC Board of Archives and History also shared during the seminar as follows:

- † “Survey of Churches’ Records” by Ms Aileen Khoo, who gave invaluable tips on, inter alia, what to keep and what to toss regarding church records, apart from arranging for a practical session on caring for our church records.
- † “How to Set-up Archives Online?” by Mr Jason Yap, who helped participants to understand about digital archives, including choosing the right digital archives plan.
- † “Promotional Ideas on Celebrating Church Anniversary” by Mrs Goh Phing Choo, who shared her invaluable experience on archiving, as well as organised the exhibition of books and anniversary souvenirs.

“Always be able to remember these things for generations to come!”

Retelling our history is important. It is this memory that sustained the people of Israel. It told them who they were, where they came from and where they were going. We are historical beings. If we are to know God’s saving grace at all, we must experience it in our history. The recitation of salvation history does not merely help us remember “back when”. The story powerfully influences us here and now. It tells us, just as it told the Israelites ... God delivered us from slavery ... God guided us through the terrible wilderness ... God prepared us for the land of promise.

It is for this reason that the Methodist Church in Malaysia, with the assistance of TRAC Board of Archives and History, embarked on this initiative to help our MCM churches preserve their records, so that we may continue to learn from our past and anticipate our future with the help of God.



Practical session on how to store up files for easy filing and retrieving in acid-free archival storage boxes



Organising team (L-R): Pr Robert Khaw, Ms Aileen Khoo, Ms Vicky Lee, Mr Noel Jayaratnam, Mrs Goh Phing Choo, Mr Jason Yap, Mrs Susie Chin, Ms Diana Kuah, Mr Chua Hong Koon, Bishop Dr T Jeyakumar

Participants' Takeaways

I learnt more about archives and oral history/ interviews, as well as how to store old documents and the tools. I was glad to get a chance to visit TRAC archives room and TAC archives room during the seminar.” (**Nensey, TMC Rawang**)

“I have never thought of history as ministry. This is my main takeaway from this seminar.” (**Choy Yuet Moy, WMC Kampar**)

“Overall, a good insight on the importance of archives. I would like to have more detailed sessions on specific areas of expertise/ technical archiving skills, e.g. handling of photos.” (**Darryn Chiew, Grace Methodist Church, Sentul**)

“Very good, knowledge-based seminar. Looking forward to more seminars ... have a yearly conference.” (**Kenny Chen, WMC Sitiawan**)

“It is an eye-opening session to the importance of preserving the church story, so that the generations to come will know how their forefathers started the church, and how God has blessed the church through the years.” (**Juliana Chia, Christ Methodist Church, Ampang**)

“Realised the importance of keeping good records for our churches. Importance of history. Very enlightening seminar. Enjoyed the sessions. Thank you so much for organising this seminar.” (**Doreen Chua, Subang Methodist Church**)

“It’s a new experience to me. I learnt more about archives and history. Very knowledgeable speakers. It was amazing seminar ... very inspiring ... amaze me with their enthusiasm! Thanks so much and may God bless you.” (**Easter John, Methodist Church Bahau**)

As a young man, I learnt the importance of preserving the archive and historical documents of my church. I also learnt the importance of accountability when handling the church’s documents, monitoring the flow of documents, and people going in and out of the archives room. There is a need to establish the do’s and don’t’s of archiving.” (**Alfred Raj Chelliah, TMC Sg Pelek**)

“I learnt how those from other churches are recording and keeping their historical documents. A very good initiative by the organiser to educate us more about archives. Also, this seminar has been a great source of motivation to let us know we are not struggling alone in the ministry of archives and history.” (**Joshua Jacob, TMC Tamil Settlement**)



More than 50 attendees comprising Bishop, speakers, participants and organising team members attended the Methodist Archives Seminar 2023.

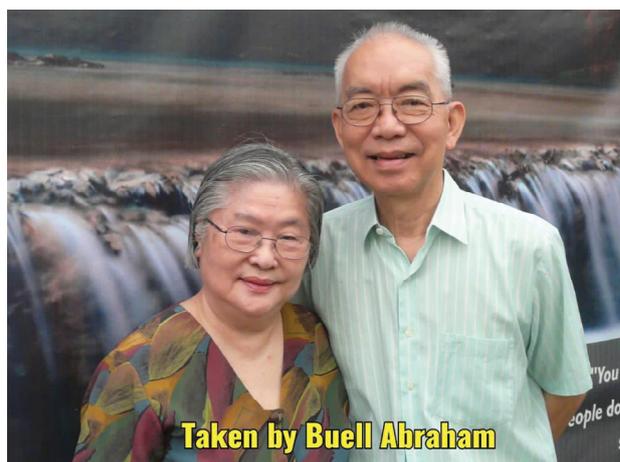
Rev. Ng Ee Lin (11/01/1935 – 11/12/2022)

by Rev. Ashok Amarasingham (BOM Chairman, TRAC)

Rev. Ng Ee Lin served the Lord faithfully in Malaya Annual Conference (MAC), Singapore-Malaya Annual Conference (SMAC) and Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) from 1957 to 2000. He served as pastor to several churches in Malaysia and Singapore before settling down in Petaling Jaya and serving the Lord between 1973 to 2000 at Trinity Methodist Church. This record will never likely be broken. During this tenure, he was also District Superintendent of Selangor District (1973 – 1974 & 1978 – 1979), the Eastern District (1979 – 1980, 1988, 1993) and the Northern District (1994). The pinnacle of his leadership in TRAC was being the President of TRAC (1989 – 1996).

I was privileged to begin to serve the Lord in TRAC when he was the President. Although his face seemed serious and stern to me as a young pastor, I soon got to see a man who loved to share jokes and was ever willing to help me with useful advice in pastoral ministry as a Senior Minister and President of the Annual Conference.

I will never forget him asking me this question at my entrance interview into TRAC as he knew that I was already engaged to Jane in 1992. He asked: Will your future wife be supportive of your ministry as a pastor? I answered: Yes.



Thirty years later, I can testify that Jane has been very supportive in God's ministry and as my wife.

Rev. Ng Ee Lin knew the Book of Discipline very well. I remember Rev. Hwa Chien who took over from him as TRAC President used to frequently get his advice of matters pertaining to the Book of Discipline.

We offer our tribute to Rev. Ng Ee Lin and remember him as a faithful and dedicated servant of the Lord. Many retired pastors and currently serving pastors of TRAC attended his funeral service at Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya. It was indeed a fitting place for us to bid our final farewell to him.



Flood Relief

Heavy downpour for a prolonged period in many parts of Johor in early of March has created much devastations to tens of thousands of flood victims. Properties and belongings were badly damaged, and lives were lost. Affected residents have no choice, but to endure much pains and inconvenience to regain the normalcy of life.

As Albert Einstein once said, *"In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity."* Segamat Wesley initiated a fund raising among TRAC churches and friends, in response to the magnitude of the disaster. The church has received contributions amounting to RM50,200. The breakdown (by church & members of congregations) is as follow:-

Seremban Wesley	- RM10,000.00
JB Wesley	- RM 8,100.00
Whispering Hope	- RM 5,500.00
Segamat Wesley	- RM 5,300.00
Penang Wesley	- RM 5,000.00
PJ Trinity	- RM 5,000.00
TUMC	- RM 3,000.00
Klang Wesley	- RM 3,000.00
Kulim Wesley	- RM 2,000.00
NMC	- RM 1,000.00
Individuals	- RM 2,300.00

Relief aids were then channelled to 20 families and 7 Christian Centres / Homes in Segamat and Chaah, badly affected by the flood.



Post-flood at Exodus Home.

We thank churches and individuals for your generous contributions, prayer support and concerns for flood victims. Their partnership in ministry has enabled the leadership of Segamat Wesley to undertake this important relief work, making the church relevant to the wider communities of Segamat. To God be the glory!



Post-flood at Calvary Home for Male.



Residents at Grace Home narrating the level of flood water that hit them.



Praying for a family badly hit by flood water at Segamat.



Immediate release of flood relief while awaiting for more contribution to come in post-flood.



Handling of flood relief by Mr. Lee Kim Seng of Segamat Wesley to affected family, with the participation of Tamil Methodist Church Chaah.



Immediate release of flood relief while Handling of flood relief by Mr. Lee Kim Seng of Segamat Wesley to affected family, with the participation of Tamil Methodist Church Chaah.



Handling of electrical items to affected Christian home.