

# BERITA TRAC



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# Shepherds and Shepherding.

By **Rev Joshua Khong**, TRAC President

In the church, pastors are set aside to shepherd God's people. In Luke's Gospel, an angel and the heavenly host appeared to shepherds keeping watch, announcing the birth of Jesus Christ,

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rest."

We praise God for our pastors. Christmas, one of the busiest seasons, for pastors. They shepherd God's flock, bear witness to Christ, uphold and pass on the flame of faith from one generation to the next. They faithfully and courageously usher God's favour, blessings and shalom to individuals, families, communities and nations.

In the Methodist Church, pastors are appointed and sent to the local church. There, as God sent them, pastors uphold the centrality of the

church in the lives of individuals, families and faith community. Together with their flock(s), pastors uphold the centrality of the church:

1. as a nurturing environment for discipleship,
2. for exerting godly influence and God's Kingdom value,
3. for Kingdom work; redeeming the broken world and creation, ushering salvation, redemption, restoration and sanctification.

In John's gospel, Jesus reinstated Peter and appointed him to shepherd and care for His flock. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter,

"Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs." Again, Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love You." Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep." The third time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He said, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."

<sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow Me!"

God will raise up men and women, like Peter, to be shepherds for His churches in TRAC. Men and women who courageously, faithfully and obediently go where God sends them to shepherd His people.

In the next few years, 13 elders would retire. These are pastors born in the 1960s. Almost 50% of TRAC's ordained elders would be retiring in the next few years. Additionally, many of the remaining pastors are born in the 70s, and they would be retiring in the 2030s. What shall we do?

Let us journey with our children to empower and prepare them for pastoral calling. A church cannot be without a pastor. Currently many TRAC churches are sharing pastors, and some churches do not have a pastor. We are critically short of seminary trained pastors. A realistic number to work towards meeting the Conference's need is to send minimally two from each district for seminary training each year in the next quadrennium. We trust that there are brothers and sisters in TRAC who resonate with Peter's response when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love Me more than these?" "Feed My Sheep", Jesus says.

God's people, God's Church, cannot be without a shepherd to care for them, to feed them and to nurture them. The Conference needs you. TRAC needs pastors to shepherd God's people.

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

## TRAC President and BOM Retreat 2023

*By Rev Ashok Amarasingham  
BOM Chairman, TRAC.*

This was the first time since Rev Joshua Khong was elected President of TRAC in November 2020, that this retreat was held in a retreat centre, mainly because the pandemic years had prevented us from going away for retreat. Last year, this retreat was held in the TRAC Office.

We went to Golden Sands Baptist Assembly centre in Port Dickson between 20-22 June 2023. Although the accommodation and facilities were quite basic, the joy of meeting in person away from the Klang Valley was greatly appreciated by all.

As normal, TRAC President led the Sessions and there was much group interaction by the fellow members of BOM. Nothing can match in person meeting in a retreat setting. Online conferencing was a necessity during the worst times of Covid 19. We thank the Lord that Covid is now an endemic.

There was sufficient time for informal interaction especially over meals. On the first night, we had dinner at a Mamak coffee shop. For the next night we had dinner outdoors at a Chinese restaurant.

We discussed matters of concern in TRAC in our current situation. We spent time praying together which is so important. One matter of great concern is that the number of itinerant pastors will decrease significantly in the next 5 years as many will be fully retiring. Conversely, we anticipate very few people coming into TRAC as itinerant pastors in the same period. Do pray for the need to have more itinerant pastors in TRAC.

We look forward to the next retreat in 2024. May God be always praised.

# WMCKL MSF Thanksgiving and 40th Anniversary Celebration

*By Terri Hew  
MSF President, WMCKL*



*MSF KL Wesley Group Photo - 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service*

On 25th July '23, MSF had a celebration to give thanks to God for all their blessings and remaining vibrant for 40 years in KL Wesley. The President, Terri Hew in her Welcome Address first thanked God that they are able to Praise God and Worship His Holy name in person after a break of more than 2 years because of the covid pandemic lockdown. She went on to say that what started WSF as it was called, 40 years ago was very much a social club of Seniors chit chatting, cooking together and having fellowship while enjoying lunch.

Today MSF has 10 Activities/Programmes including one online. They started a Morning Worship by putting God first on their MSF Tuesdays. Their vision now is to grow old with the Grace of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The Celebration started at 10am with a Worship Service in the Sanctuary and had the TRAC President, Rev. Joshua Khong to deliver the sermon. President Joshua used the scriptural text from Philippians 3:7-16 as his topic: Maturing with the Grace of God and







*40th Anniversary Cake*



*40th Anniversary cake cutting*

Growing with the Knowledge of Christ.

President Joshua emphasised that it is not Productivity that is important but Fruitfulness as we mature in age. He taught us to breathe on the Word and recite Psalm 121 prayerfully. He kept the 160 Seniors present spellbound.

The Service was followed by the members showcasing their weekly activities with songs conducted by their 90 year old, Lim Sooi Han and a solo by our oldest member Charlie Choong, 92 years old, who sang 'I Surrender All' in Tamil. Not to be let down, the Japanese and Mandarin Classes sang their hearts out in the language they are learning.

The Ukulele group stole the show with their uniformed red blouses and their bevy of 25 charming ladies. The Harmonica group which

started as an all male group gave a good performance with their new female members. It ended with what looked like a finale with the guitarist with her 'Sing Along Oldies' that doesn't seem to end.

A hot lunch was waiting to be served in the Cafeteria turned Dining Room with 21 tables. It was hard to control the happy reunion of many old friends and it took a while to get everyone seated to give Thanks for the food before us.

The cutting of the cake with Four and Zero on it, marked our 40th Anniversary. The founding members together with past and present MSF Presidents cut the cake to be served after the splendid meal.

It was indeed a joyous time and a great Celebration. All thanks to God.



*40th Anniversary fellowship and lunch*

## Christ-Centered Connectedness: To Draw Closer to One Another and to God

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard,  
so that you also may have fellowship with us.  
And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*  
(1 John 1:3, NIV)



On the 9th of July 2023, we held a combined celebration service for the English & Bahasa speaking congregations, as well as the Ayer Tawar Living Water Preaching Point congregation, to celebrate 71 years of God's faithfulness in Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan.

The morning began with songs of praise, but unlike the norm, the voices of the congregation blending as both languages harmonized and filled the sanctuary as the people made a joyful noise unto the Lord. The jubilant atmosphere from praise can only be overshadowed by the overarching presence of God in the midst of His people.

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! - Psalm 133:1*

Following the worship, LCEC Chairman, Dr Adrian Yeo, interceded for the church, thanking God for His grace and mercy, also praying for unity and fellowship among all the congregations. He prayed also for the

new building under construction due for completion at the end of the year, that the new building is a gift from God to be used to continue to build up the members of the church in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel Reading was read to the church in Bahasa by one of the children from the Bahasa congregation. Following the Tithes & Offerings, a video showcasing the updates from the New Building Project was shown. The Scripture was then read to us by one of the English congregation youths.

President Rev. Joshua Khong then brought forth God's word on "A Christ-Centered Church, A Connected Community" based on the words of scripture in 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. He led us to recall that we are centered in Christ and are vessels for God to do His work through us. He also reminded us that it is important for the older generation to be an example for the next generation, that discipleship starts at home and how the church's responsibility is to come alongside families as they do this.





The celebration came to fruition with a luncheon, where all three congregations came together to fellowship over makan-makan.

The celebration reminds us that we are One in Christ. As such, we continue to look towards ways that as a church, we will be able to continue to foster the connectedness and build up family ministry to continue to disciple the next generation that is to come.

*Then Sings My Soul  
My Saviour God To Thee  
How Great Thou Art  
How Great Thou Art*

*Kami Memuji  
Kebesaran-Mu  
Ajaib Tuhan  
Ajaib Tuhan*

To God Be The Glory!



# 九洞卫理公会禧悦堂 28 周年堂庆反思： 《携手同行：家庭与教会的未来之路》 Jubilee Methodist Centre 28th Anniversary Reflection: “Partnering Together: The Future Journey of Family and Church”



2023 年 7 月 9 日，九洞卫理公会禧悦堂 (Jubilee Methodist Centre, Jelapang) 迎来了 28 年的堂庆，这个特殊的时刻激发了我们对过去 28 年上帝的作为以及本堂的使命的深刻反思。当今社会，家庭面临前所未有的挑战，社会变迁、生活快节奏、信息泛滥，许多家庭渴望找到方向、希望和鼓励。在这个重要的里程碑时刻，我们怀着祷告和谦卑的心，寻求上帝的心意，同时探讨了教会未来的方向和计划。

回顾过去的 28 年，禧悦堂经历了成长、挑战和神迹。本堂亲历了上帝的信实，目睹祂如何引导禧悦堂度过风雨，展现祂的荣耀。这个回顾提醒我们要怀着感恩的心，珍视上帝的恩典，并对过去 28 年的上帝迹和成就心怀敬畏。

然而，反思也揭示了当今社会家庭所面临的新挑战。快节奏的生活、科技的影响、价值观的混杂，这些因素深刻影响了家庭和信仰。许多家庭不仅面临经济和时间压力，还需要应对

文化的冲击和价值观的动摇。在这充满变革的世界中，家庭需要一个坚固的根基，一个可依靠的灵性港湾。

主日讲坛成为提醒信徒的有效平台，教导我们如何成为“家庭与教会携手同行”的教会。从讲坛上传达的信息，我们将圣经的真理与日常生活相结合，帮助信徒明白家庭和教会之间紧密联系的重要性。这提醒我们在家中追求上帝的方向，同时在教会中得到支持和鼓励。这也强调了家庭和教会的相互补充，一个不可或缺另一个。

因此，本教会将继续努力，打造一个家庭友好型的教会，成为家庭的归属之地。我们将定期举办家庭聚会，鼓励亲人之间的互动和支持，培养他们的属灵归属感。这将有助于家庭成员更深入地了解彼此，共同追求上帝的旨意。我们还会提供丰富的家庭教育资源，如祷告指南和家庭圣经材料，帮助家庭在日常生活中建立并实践基督中心价值观。同时，我们鼓励







教会成员建立家庭支持网络，以促进相互扶持、经验分享和祷告。

我们深知每个家庭都面临独特的挑战和需求，因此我们将重视小组和外展工作。我们将提供多样的小组活动，满足不同兴趣和年龄的需求，鼓励家庭在小组中寻求属灵支持和鼓励。通过这些小组，家庭可以在小型社群中得到属灵支持，共同寻求上帝的旨意。同时，我们还计划组织各种外展活动，如社区服务和慈善活动，展现基督的爱，吸引慕道者和新的教会成员。

在我们反思九洞卫理公会禧悦堂过去 28 年的历程并展望未来时，《约书亚记》24:15 中的至理宣言：“至于我和我的家，我们必定事奉耶和华”尤为重要。

这段经文提醒我们，家庭是传承信仰的重要场所。我们有责任将上帝的道路传递给下一代，培养他们的信仰。同时，这经文也强调了家庭与教会之间的紧密联系，家庭是信仰的摇篮，而教会是信仰的支持。这正是我们教会未来的方向，我们要继续坚守信仰，将上帝的话语传承下去，建立坚固的信仰基础。我们要在家庭和教会之间建立更紧密的联系，共同努力，让信仰在每个家庭中扎根。这是我们对上帝的忠诚回应，也是对《约书亚记》中那句经文的真实体现。

愿上帝继续引导我们，赐予智慧和力量，使我们的家庭和教会都能成为祂荣耀的见证。愿我们在信仰的旅程中一同前行，坚守“至于我和我的家，我们必定事奉耶和华”的承诺。

文章撰写：黄俊民牧师



# Moulded in the Potter's Hand

*By Choong Zheng Lin (JMC@WMCI)*

One Sunday, our parents took us to a certain place. There was a church where a buffet lunch was served. They were celebrating an occasion which I could not remember. From that day onwards, my family and I were going to that church every Sunday to attend worship service. We four children would be upstairs for Sunday school while our parents worshipped in the adult's service downstairs. That was how Jubilee Methodist Centre (JMC) became our new home! I began my journey with JMC as a Sunday school kid along with my two younger brothers and my youngest sister. Back then I was 9 years old, and it was 2002.

Children's worship songs, games, snacks, presents, camps, handicrafts, and Uncle Tsang holding a large wooden cross in his hand were some of my fond memories back in the Sunday school days. The Sunday school taught us to recite the Lord's prayer and the reciting of the Lord's prayer challenge was organised to encourage us to memorize Lord's prayer. The challenge was open for a given time period, and everyone was given a chance to volunteer and recite the Lord's prayer. Anyone who could recite the whole prayer correctly without looking at the words would be given a prize. That was how I started memorizing the Lord's prayer.

After I reached secondary school, I began to join my parents in the adults' worship service. It was a totally new experience for me as the service was conducted in Cantonese. Although I spoke Cantonese at home, I struggled to follow along the worship service. I slowly picked up and as time went by, I became more fluent in reading the scriptures in Cantonese. During this time, I was a regular worshipper until one day I was called to serve by Uncle Choo. My first work of service at JMC was counting the number of worshippers and writing it down in the record book. I also took

record of the names of worship enablers who served that Sunday.

During my secondary school days, I joined my father to attend prayer meetings at 6 am every Saturday and my mother to attend evening small group meetings at the homes of the church members. At Friday nights, I joined my parents to attend discipleship class. We also had youth meetings every Saturday afternoon. In the youth meetings, Uncle Choo taught us English lessons and Uncle Tsang taught us to sing along while playing his guitar. At this stage of my life, my desire for Bible study and fellowship began to grow.

Back then there was no pianist among JMC members. Since I was 9, I started learning the piano. Many times, I was called to serve as a pianist for worship service, but I would always say that I was not ready. Until when I was 17, I played the piano for the first time in a worship service. From that day onwards, I became the pianist for every worship service until my younger brothers and sister joined in and we took turns playing on different Sundays. The LORD later expanded my works to leading worship, scripture reading and preparing PowerPoint slides for every worship service. Later, I became a worship coordinator, preparing monthly duty roster for every worship service.

Serving in the church had been a distant thought for me during primary school times because I was a very shy person. I was not talkative in schools and in any gatherings. On all parents' days, all my class teachers had told my parents that I was very quiet in class. I was also a person with poor commitment. I liked being at home and enjoying myself. I would always find it very difficult to stay back after school to attend club meetings. Until when I was doing Form 6, I joined the school's



Christian club. Contrary to my personal interest and personality, I was chosen as the vice president of the Christian club, apart from just being present in the fellowship, I did nothing to serve the club. At this stage I felt that leadership would never suit me because I was so afraid to speak up and I was a very reserved person.

My works of service at JMC and the experience I gained in university as one of the assistant group leaders of the Christian club that I joined helped build up my confidence to serve more in the church. Before that, I disliked meetings because I was so bad at contributing ideas during discussions, and I would always find them very boring. Although I was not a committee member of the Christian club in the university, all the times I was invited to join the committee's meetings for planning and evaluation. Rather than looking at it negatively, I began to take it as an opportunity to learn. During all the committee meetings, I jotted down all the things that they said regardless of its importance or its triviality. I did that not because I was a recording secretary, but I wanted to stay awake and alert throughout the whole discussion. Now, I am serving as a recording secretary for all JMC committee meetings! The training back then was very helpful to me.

My desire for God's Word grew during my days in university. I began to appreciate every sermon I heard in the worship service. I enjoyed all the Bible studies conducted at JMC and in my university. I began reading the Bible more seriously and spending more time to meditate on His word and to relate it to practical life. I was then encouraged by a pastor to register for Local Preachers' License (LPL) courses. I happily signed up and attended the courses, thinking that I would later serve JMC in ways God would show me. We were the first batch of students taking LPL courses in Mandarin. By God's grace, I passed all the 8 courses, obtained the preaching license and now I am serving as a local preacher for JMC. I was so grateful for the blessings He has bestowed upon my family. Today, all my family members

are actively serving in the church with different gifts. My mother once said that JMC is our second home. My father even remarked that they could not teach us to be good children, JMC Sunday School did that!

I want to give thanks to God for His many blessings upon JMC. It is very encouraging to see more youths are involved in the church works. Seeing the importance of children's ministry which once brought us up to become the LORD's vessels, my prayer is that the children ministry of JMC would grow and raise future generations of godly men and women. There is one amazing thing about my family I would like to share. Back in my secondary school times, father taught us four children to recite Psalm 23 and the words now are deeply engraved in our hearts. Every day when we started our journey, together in the car, we would recite Psalm 23. Once we got into the car after running some errands of the day, we would recite Psalm 23 again. Every time after father picked up any one of us at schools or other places, together in the car we would recite Psalm 23. In one day, we could recite Psalm 23 many times depending on the number of trips or how many locations father's car would stop at to fetch anyone of us. Of course, the ones who stayed longest in the car would repeat the most times! This tradition carried on for many years until recently when we no longer recite Psalm 23 the way like before. While writing this, I wish to revive this family tradition again.

Looking at my past, I was amazed at the ways God trained me and used me for His purpose. I was a very shy person who did not like to talk much. I was also a bad-tempered person and a very dogmatic person who always started quarrels and conflicts with my siblings at home. Now God has moulded me to become who I am today. I was reminded of the Potter in Jeremiah 18:4, But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. All praise and glory to the LORD who shaped me. Amen!

# A Review of Jelapang Methodist Kindergarten Ministry Post Covid

**Proverbs 22.6:** *“Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won’t depart from it.”*

Jelapang Methodist Kindergarten (JMK) started its first enrollment in January 2010 and enters its 14th year with gratitude and thankfulness to Almighty God after pulling through safely from the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. COVID-19 dealt a devastating blow not only to the economy but also to the health and education systems of the nation, causing much death and massive suffering. By God’s grace and mercy, the disease was put under control, and the COVID pandemic was declared over on May 5, 2023. As we learned from the experience of the crisis, we seek God’s guidance to review, evaluate, and plan to enhance the quality of teaching and raise the effectiveness of the Ministry.

## Physical Facilities:

JMK has six classrooms, a computer room with computers, a play room and library and a Multipurpose Hall on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Jubilee Methodist Centre (JMC) building, and a Fellowship Hall on the ground floor. Except for two classrooms not in use at the moment, all are air-conditioned and have fans. The JMC Sports Arena was completed, and its dedication by TRAC President was held on July 9, 2023. It includes a roofed concourse, a mini basketball court, a water play pool, a playing grass field, and flower and vegetable gardens.

## Teaching Centre:

JMK has dedicated and experienced teachers; the subjects taught include Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mandarin, Mathematics, Science, Moral, Art & Crafts, Computer, Physical Education, and extracurricular activities like gardening to promote physical and mental health and training in social and learning skills with Christian values. Teaching methods are constantly updated, and teaching aids, audiovisual equipment, and computers are upgraded. A joint committee has also been formed with the more established Wesley Church Kindergarten and will regularly hold meetings for this purpose. Management of the kindergarten is overseen by the JMK Committee, which includes a retired school principal and teacher, a doctor, an accountant, and Pastors in Charge, on administrative compliance with Government rules and regulations and according to the Methodist Ministry.

## Community Service:

JMK is not profit-making and offers affordable fees for quality care and training for preschool children aged 4 to 6 years. For needy families, JMC provides subsidies and educational aid. Lately, we have been engaging in partnerships with the Ahli Dewan Undangan Jelapang and local community leaders, Ketua Kampung and Jawatankuasa Kemajuan and Keselamatan Kampung, to reach out to these needy families. ADUN has contributed to the JMC Sports Arena, and community leaders attended the Dedication Service of the Sports Arena.

## Ministry: Children, Family, and Outreach

**Mark 10:14.** *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these”.* Children are a special gift from God given to families, and investing in children’s ministry has kingdom value. In JMK, through the Sunbeam Hour every Friday, the children are encouraged to experience Jesus’s love and the Christian faith through Bible stories and given the opportunity to learn prayers and songs of praise to glorify the Creator and Saviour. The ultimate purpose of the family is to raise young children to be brought to the Lord Jesus. Efforts are made to get families involved in the activities of their children during Sports Day and Graduation Day and to take part in JMC outreach programmes. We are planning a Holiday Camp for the JMK children and their siblings and friends as well as a ‘mega’ Christmas celebration in JMC, inviting the children and their families and friends, the local community leaders, and the Jelapang community.

**Proverbs 16.3:** *“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”*

Though JMK will be facing many challenges in terms of financial resources, staffing of teachers and human resources for the ministry, enrollment, administrative compliance with Government regulations, safety measures against accidents, and transmission of diseases, let us be reminded of God’s faithfulness and provision. May we commit Jelapang Methodist Kindergarten and all activities that take place there to the Lord, trusting in his guidance and blessings. May JMK and JMC be a beacon of light and a source of physical and spiritual growth for the Jelapang community and beyond. In Jesus name, Amen.



# Coffee, Tea or Who?

*By Pastor Lewis*

*Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya*



2023 Chinese LPL Course “Christian Marriage” module was smoothly conducted by the Board of Chinese Ministry on 10th and 11th of June at Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya with 14 participants studied under Dr. Austin Sia, licensed counsellor and lecturer from Malaysia Bible Seminary.

Out of the 14 participants, five are taking credit while the other nine were auditing the course.

During the 2-day course, Dr. Austin utilised many interactive methods to encourage participants to share and exchange thoughts in small group setting.

The course covered various important topics that addressed the contemporary issues of marriage such as “The Tsunami of Marriage: Redefine the Meaning of Marriage”, “The Cores of Christian Marriage”, “Secrets to

Healthy Relationship”, “Understanding Love Languages”, “Being Single and Satisfied” and so on.

The exciting moments of the course were married couple in the attendance were guided to demonstrate how to express gratitude to their spouses through spoken words and the single participants’ shared on why they stayed single.

The organiser prepared many types of coffee and tea to keep the participants awake throughout the long hours of studies and this act interestingly reminded participants to carefully choose the right cup of tea, coffee or water.

Praise God for His sustaining grace that enabled all to complete this module.



# TRAC Chinese Churches Retreat

*By Rev Wong Chun Mun*



This believers' retreat camp, themed "Abide in Christ, Growing in the Lord!" (John 15:5-10), took place as scheduled from August 31st to September 2nd, 2023, at Harvest Haven Gopeng. It lasted for three days and two nights and had a total of 23 participants from various congregations, including JMC@Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh, Wesley Methodist Church Penang, Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan, Canning Garden Methodist Church, and Bercham Methodist Church. This camp was a meaningful spiritual journey, providing us with a moment to deepen our connection with God and with one another.

On the first day, in the evening, we were led by Pastor Yong Fui Fui. She reminded us that this retreat would offer us three special "gifts." We began with the melody and lyrics of the song "Quiet Valley," quieting our hearts and focusing on the purpose of the retreat: "Spiritual Exercise: The call to exercise our spiritual lives urges us to move beyond the surface of life and invite us to explore the inner depths of the spiritual realm, prompting us to be the answer to this empty world." Pastor Yong guided us to meditate on our relationship with God, symbolized by drawing a tree.

The first gift was "Breath Prayer," a form of breath prayer as a spiritual exercise. Many students were deeply moved by this new experience, as it not only restored our inner peace but also rejuvenated our bodies. Students shared their enthusiasm and the profound joy of encountering God.

On the second day, in the morning, we continued to delve into the theme of "Stepping Away from Busyness." Pastor Yong introduced us to the second gift, the "Jesus Prayer," based on Luke 18. Through this simple prayer, we learned to entrust our burdens and worries to Jesus, seeking peace and tranquility.

During the evening session, we experienced the third gift, "Sacred Reading" (Lectio Divina). This practice required us to prayerfully read and contemplate scripture passages, responding to God's word, and listening to His voice in moments of stillness and rest.

On the final day, a special couple from a church in Singapore, who were visiting, conducted a unique spiritual exercise—"Artistic Handcrafting for Spiritual Reflection." This process allowed us not only to encounter God and ourselves in the act of creating but also inspired us with spiritual insights. Before we began, Sister Xiao shared her family's testimony, recounting her son's miraculous healing from terminal cancer and how she grew deeper in her trust in God amidst adversity. Her testimony inspired us, reminding us that God can heal and use our gifts in various ways for His service.

As the retreat neared its conclusion, students enthusiastically shared their insights and experiences, concluding this spiritual journey on a high note. We eagerly anticipate the next retreat and commit to continue sharing the precious "gifts" we received from God, not only enriching ourselves but also sharing them with our church and those around us. This retreat allowed us to deepen our understanding of Christ and continually grow in the Lord.





# “Exalt the Lord our God; worship at His footstool! Holy is He!” - Psalms 99:5

*By Mr Jarreh Khoo  
Scripture Reader & Musician  
Trinity Methodist Church, Penang*



*Refreshed! Participant & Facilitators of the Northern District Worship Enrichment Day*

Holy, holy, holy is He indeed! Truly, God alone is worthy and deserving of our ceaseless and fervent worship, for He is good and His love endures for all eternity! Now, this begs the question, what exactly is worship? Quoting Rev. Ronald Yap, “Worship is an expression of worth in the way that is relevant to the worshipers.” Therefore, as children and stewards of God, it’s only proper that we hone our God-given talents to lay before our Heavenly Father a presentable offering of praise and worship to the best of our abilities. And that, in addition to encouraging and equipping worship ministries with the necessary groundwork, was precisely what the recently concluded Worship Enrichment Day set out to do!

This meaningful event organised by the TRAC

Board of Worship & Music was held on the 24th of June 2023, at Wesley Methodist Church, Penang. After brief fellowship before the event, we were brought into the heart of worship as we lifted up our voices in a session of worship. Led by Mr. Victor Tan & the Penang Wesley Team, we reflected upon God’s sovereignty and praised Him for all His marvellous deeds. After preparing our hearts to receive the message, we were provided with a thorough outlook regarding the general structure and significance of Methodist congregational worship by Ms. Christabel Wong.

Through the sharing, we came to understand that worship is also the expression of the relationship between God and His people. It is an acceptable and proper response or

acknowledgement to God's invitation into a lasting relationship with Him. When God calls, we answer. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Such a response is also embedded within the movements in Methodist worship, as we would later learn about. Generally, worship is structured around four movements which are: Gathering, Word, Response, and Sending Forth. Each movement has its distinct role and importance in initiating our tender dialogue with God and should not be neglected by worship enablers when preparing the liturgy.

After the session, we had lunch, enjoying the company of our fellow participants. We were then separated into several groups to attend our respective workshops that were led by various gifted and outstanding individuals. The "Leading with Hospitality" workshop, which focuses on the roles of Ushers was led by Mr. Peter Lim from DUMC. The responsibilities of the sound crew was covered by Mr. Jeffrey Kee, who is experienced in the Audio Visual field, in his "Leading with Sound" workshop. Mr. Terrence Ling, a Malaysian musician and music educator, shared the importance and know-how of coordinating with members of the worship team in his "Leading with the

Band" workshop. The "Leading with Visuals" workshop led by Ms. Gina Yap gave an insight to participants about controlling effective visuals during service. Last but not least, Ms. Juwita Suwito, a renowned singer-songwriter, trained worship leaders in her field of expertise during her "Leading with Words & Melodies" workshop. Each workshop provided timely and valuable information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various worship enablers, whilst emphasizing the importance of good communication and cooperation between fellow members.

Once the workshops were over, we gathered back together for worship and closing takeaways before being sent off in the grace of the Lord. Though the event only lasted for a day, it was undeniably an invaluable experience which has served to unveil the beauty and importance of worship. Aside from our Heavenly Father, we should also keep in mind that God, in whom we profess our faith, is a majestic, omnipotent and omniscient God. A consuming fire, an unapproachable light, the throne of grace. Therefore, as we go forth in the presence of the Almighty, let us never cease in our devotion to Him and continue to express our acknowledgement of His worth all the days of our life!



*Reflecting on The Heart of Worship*



*Rev Ronald Yap Reflecting on Worship*



## Some feedback from participants of Northern District Worship Enrichment Day 2023



*How to engage when \_Leading with Words \_  
Melodies\_ by Juwita Suwito*



*That Thing We Do\_ with Christabel Wong*

A good get-together for worship enablers in the Northern District to further equip us to give our best in the Worship & Music ministry. Many thanks to the organizers for getting professionals to conduct the workshops. And a big thank you to Penang Wesley for your warm hospitality as host.

**KC Koay**

**WMC Alor Setar**

The recent Northern District Worship Enrichment Day was a day of fruitful learning. The opportunity created allowed for a precious time of expression and learning that was curated to the needs of God's worshippers in attendance. Perspectives and topics that may have been sensitive in any other setting were shared in full trust and confidence, as guidance given were laced with tones of gentleness, sternness and empathy. My attendance left me with a refreshed heart for worship as I continue to explore my relationship with Him through it.

**Joyce Tan**

**WMC Alor Setar**

9 of us from our church attended the Worship Enrichment Day training. During the Worship Reflection by Rev Ronald Yap we were reminded that we are engaged in spiritual warfare every time we sing praises to God. He also shared that worship enablers are space makers who create space for God to be honoured and worshiped.

Our team chose different workshops to learn whatever we could from the different facilitators. I attended the workshop on "Leading with Words and Melodies" taken by Juwita Suwito. I believe all the participants were blessed by the 2 sessions. The most helpful thing I learnt was the importance of using my voice to lead clearly, engaging with the lyrics/text and accenting the strong beats/syllables. I am truly thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to attend this Worship training to improve my service to the Lord in the Worship ministry.

**Doreen Khoo**

**WMC Alor Setar**



*Leading with the Band\_ hands-on with Terrence Ling*



*Consider \_Leading with Hospitality\_ by Peter Lim*

The Worship Enrichment Day succeeded in its purpose to encourage and equip worship enablers. We learnt a lot of practical and useful tips, especially from the inimitable Ms Juwita Suwito whose elective workshop we attended. It was also a heartwarming and humbling experience, having believers from different churches and denominations gathered together in worship - a foreshadow of our eternity with Christ!

**Yen & Ai Ching**  
**WMC Penang**

Thank God for this day, I was touched by God's spirit during the reflection session. God had renewed my mind, refresh my soul, and prepared me better for His service.

**Dr Lai Huey Yoke**  
**Penang Trinity**

Am so glad I joined the Worship Enrichment Day! A big thank you to Juwita and team for taking the time to organise this event specially for us northern folk. Joined the session conducted by Terrence and learnt a lot about band dynamics and learning to listen and play to one another's strengths. Hope this workshop can be conducted more often!

**Melvin Saw**  
**Penang Trinity**



*Not just projectionists but \_Leading with Visuals\_ with Gina Yap Lai Yoong*



*Practical handles on \_Leading with Sound\_ from Jeffrey Kee*



*Fellowship after Penang Yummies.*



# Seven words - Splendid Workshop! All Glory goes to God!

*By Amos*

*Wesley Methodist Church, Penang*



*The Penang Wesley Welcome Team*



*Question Time!*

Overall, I'd like to extend a precious and warm thank you to the TRAC Board of Worship & Music, Juwita, Pastor Ronald, Sister Kim, Jane and the Northern District committee for organising this amazing Worship Enrichment Day which held in Wesley Methodist Church Penang on the 24th of June 2023.

Not only was the Enrichment Day organised in an extremely professional manner but all the information, discussions, Q&A, training materials which were shared were indeed useful and beneficial on how we can improve our worship.

There were a few workshop sessions but for me, since I'm involved in the music team, I took the opportunity to join the "Leading with the Band" workshop conducted by Terrence Ling. This workshop session started off by going through some slides on how we can lead, cooperate and serve together in a band. Coming from the education field, Terrence was a good trainer and truly indeed that session was very informative, and the materials that he shared were highly motivating. Also, the infographics that he created made it easy for the participants to understand better.

The second half of the session was the one everyone was waiting for. It was the demonstration part, where participants from different churches could come to the front to demonstrate what they had been playing over the years. From there, Terrence did some fine tuning where you could notice differences in terms of band dynamics, the highs and lows in a band, the balance in a band, the variety between songs etc.

Together with the Q&A session towards the end, it made that entire session very interactive and interesting. How we wished we could have more time so that more participants could come to the front and try from their end.

In conclusion, once again, thank you to Terrence for coming over all the way from KL despite his hectic schedule to teach and guide us. It was a great learning experience for all of us who attended his session.

Thank you also to the organising committee for organising this Worship Enrichment Day and making this workshop a success. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to attend this again in the future.

I'd also like to thank God for workshop and sessions like this where we can come together from different churches to learn and praise God together in worship. As the bible says in Psalm 107:21 -22:

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love

and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

Let them sacrifice thank offerings

and tell of his works with songs of joy.

And also in Psalm 147:7

Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.

God bless, Glory to God. Amen.

# The 2023 Methodist Convention, 26-28 August 2023, Kuching, Sarawak

*By Lim Chong Ho*  
*Conference Lay Leader*



## DAY 1

220 participants from the 6 conferences of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, converged to the Sedaya International University College Riverfront Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, for a 3-day convention organised by the Methodist Council of Laity, Malaysia. This convention is organised once in 4 years.

There was a hive of activity and a buzz of excitement as old friends met up as they arrived and registered themselves for the Convention. After a brief wait, the participants were efficiently assigned to their rooms. Sessions started after dinner.

Meeting started promptly at 7:30 pm with the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference worship team leading in worship. The Council of Laity Chairperson-cum-Organising Chairperson, Dato Alice Jawan, warmly welcomed everyone to Kuching for the convention and wishes all the participants a fun and meaningful time conferencing over the next 3 days.

The Methodist Bishop, Rev Dr T Jeyakumar, with the help of the 6 AC Presidents, led in Holy Communion. He then shared on the Deuteronomic Renewal from 2 Kings 23:1-7. Bishop noted that like King Josiah who introduced many reforms after finding the misplaced Scripture, the Word of God is very



*TRAC Participants*





important in reforms. We need to get the Word of God into our lives. There are 2 parts to the Wesleyan reforms. Firstly, bring people from outside the church into the church and secondly, of equal importance is to renew the hearts and minds of those already in the church from their spiritual slumber. Only the Word of God can do that. He then went on to say that the Methodist Church in Malaysia needs renewal in 4 areas viz in empowering the churches, enriching the families, enhancing education and engaging the nation. The Methodist Church at this time can do either one of 2 things, she can pretend that everything is okay with the church and let things run as usual or she can take cognition of the reality that we are not okay and take steps to be renewed. Bishop concluded by asking the participants to discuss what God is saying to the Methodist Church in Malaysia today. The session ended with closing prayer before everyone retired for the night.

## DAY 2

After breakfast, the Sarawak Iban Annual Conference Youth Worship Team led in the morning worship with songs in different languages.



Mr Tim Cheng (Director of the Christian Tribune Magazine, Taiwan) shared his personal testimony and then spoke on 'Empowering Churches Through Media'. He shared that churches need to embrace innovative media instead of being afraid of it. Churches must

be ready to change with time and use media to connect, attract and hold the attention of youths, otherwise we might lose them. Our core values cannot be changed but the environment, quality, packaging, culture can be changed with time. If we do not change, we may become obsolete and redundant and become irrelevant to the present generation and eventually lose them.



After lunch, Mr Eugene Yapp (Senior Fellow with the Religious Freedom Institute of the South and South East Asia team) gave an engaging talk on 'Secularism's Threat Against Christian Value'. He defined secularism and explain how it has become the dominant thinking today. He stressed that secularism is dangerous as it is an attack on the Word and Truth of God. It insidiously exalts the Self over God. He gave many examples of the impact of secularism in the public sphere in Malaysia and warned the church to be careful of this deceptive influence creeping into the church. He gave an equally engaging session after dinner entitled 'Engaging the Nation in the Age of Religious Contestation: Some Practical Considerations'. He started by noting that the over the last 2 years there is a religious resurgence in Malaysia leading to some pushback which can lead to religious contestation. This is not desirable. Though the church is not a political organisation, Christians are citizens of both the heavenly and earthly kingdom. The church must them participate in the affairs of the world. He went on to describe the social-religious landscape of the Malaysian

Society and how the church can be involved in a ministry of reconciliation given by God (2 Cor 5:18-20). He spoke about moderation, of taking the middle ground in conflict resolution and in bridge building relationship. He closed with some practical examples of how these can be done in his own personal experience.

President Rev Dr Lau Hui Ming of SCAC closed the night by leading in vesper and the closing prayer.

### DAY 3

Morning worship on the final day was led by an energetic SCAC worship team.



After worship, Pastor Matthew Ling (a leader of Family Challenge of World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)) gave a challenging talk on Family Renewal. He started by giving the biblical basis for family discipleship through the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-3, 18:18-19) where God instituted the family. In Deuteronomy 6, the Israelites were taught how to fortify the family and pass on the faith. Quoting from Eph 5:22-6:4, he said that there are 6 areas to focus on, building strong marriages (5:22-23); good parenting (6:1,4); home leadership (5:23); faith development (5:25-26); human sexuality (5:31) and elderly care (6:2-3). He stressed

on the importance of the home as it is where discipling takes place, where ministry capacity is developed and key players are mobilised for intergenerational discipleship. He also said the role of the church is to equip everyone to go home to live out and pass on their faith. He then went on to give some troubling statistics from the Do Home survey carried by the TRAC Board of Laity in 2022 which showed serious problems within the TRAC families and the need to help the families which was in serious decline.

He then gave a brief history of the crisis of rapid decline of the South Korean churches from 1995 onwards. A series of conferences were called in 2017-18 to identify the reasons for the decline came to the following conclusions.

1. We acknowledge that the failure to raise up the next generation of believers has contributed to the crisis in the Korean Church today.
2. We recognise that the church and the family must work together to save and nurture our children.
3. We acknowledge the parental role is the most important factor in nurturing the next generation. We believe God wants parents to be children's role models in the ways of following Christ.
4. We acknowledge that there is a need for the church to emphasize the family's role in rearing up the children and believe that the children and youth ministry should be shifted to a home-centred, church-supported one. So, the church will need to help the parents to own this ministry, and to develop a discipleship program that will have the church and the family working in concert for our young. In addition to creating the content of the discipleship program, the church will also need to





develop a working model that will practically equip the parents and grandparents toward the cause.

We must learn from the Korean situation to avoid going down the same slope. It is not only important but urgent to help our families now. Pastor Matthew ended his talk with a clarion call to action. He urged us to give this task priority. We must sound the alarm because the decline in our families which is evident now, will become very, very serious if nothing is done now.

The Bishop then led in a time of personal renewal. With everyone on their knees, he led in a time of confession and renewal of pledges to serve the Lord wholeheartedly. He pleaded with God not to pass us by but instead He will renew and bless us, the Methodists in Malaysia and to use us for His purposes in this land at this time. May glory and honour and power be His forever and ever. That brought an end to the Methodist Convention 2023.

After lunch, it was time to say goodbye, some leaving for home while others went to visit the new State Museum or the Sarawak Cultural Village. All in all, it was a very successful and spiritually uplifting convention with the participants leaving for home with a renewed resolve to do the work of the Lord together as Methodists in Malaysia.

Here are some comments from the participants. Thank you to the organising committee. You all have done a great job. Nice to meet our brothers and sisters from the other conferences. And the insights shared by all the speakers. It was indeed a fruitful and blessed convention. Praise the Lord.

Great gathering of Methodists. I admire the resilience of all the participants for their full attendance from 8am to 10pm...and listening to inspiring words. I come from the academic arena and if there is no two way interaction, we leave the hall empty by the next session.

I have attended Methodist conventions [but please] don't limit it to age groups. It really is meant for all Methodists who want to be renewed. I am 82 and was really moved by Bishop Jeyakumar's call for renewal.

Praise the Lord. I have landed safely and got home in one piece. TQvm to the hard working organising committee who helped make our convention a success. TQvm also to all the speakers who had delivered their presentations to make our convention very interesting without sending us "fishing". Methodist Church Malaysia boleh!

Thank you to the Organising committee and Bro. Ronnie for a well organised conference and great content. When is the next one, pls? I want to make sure I jom the date.

# D6 Conference Journey Continues with the 4th at DUMC

*By Yee Eh Horng,  
Conference Associate Lay Leader*



*D6 Conference Group Photo at DUMC 3-5 August 2023*

TRAC co-hosted the 4th D6 2023 Conference (3rd in-person) which was held in DUMC on 3-5 August 2023. The D6 conference is in line with TRAC and the Board of Laity (BoL) focus in seeing healthy, vibrant, and functioning families within the conference.

The conference was well attended by 115 people. Out of these 115 people, 88 are paying participants and 75 of these participants are from TRAC churches.

The plenary speaker was the D6 founder, Rev Dr Ron Hunter Jr who conducted 3 sessions. The 1st session was on ALL IN (Church and Home) which emphasized on 'ALL IN' a) Commitment to God, b) Commitment to Marriage, c) Commitment to Kids and d) Commitment to Family.

The 2nd session titled '5 Creative Faith Conversations with your Kids' illustrated with demonstrations together with the participants on various situations 1) Car, 2) Bedtime, 3)

Doorway, 4) Dinner Table and 5) Game Night. The 3rd session talked about 'Raising Tiny Disciples' and started with the sharing of Barney's Study survey indicating that 64% of teenagers will walk away from church and 50% who walk away will come back to church later because of their kids/teenagers are having some problems. The 'Basis for Family Ministry' and 'Guiding Objectives' were then covered.

There were 4 parallel workshops tracks namely:

- 1) Growing Family Ministry - Scripture, Models and Resources by Rev Moses Tey
- 2) Building a Family Friendly Church - Experiences and Lessons of Calvary Family Church, Kuching by Pastor Matthew Ling and in conversation with Dr Ben Freudenburg on The Earlier Years (2002 - 2014) and The Journey Continues (2015 - Present) by Benny Wong
- 3) Becoming a Mentor - Journeying with Couples by Dr Herbert Tan, Mdm Loh Ling Ming, Rev Dr Tan Soo Inn



- 4) Pursuing Biblical Parenting - A Heart Based Approach Changes Everything by Dr Scott Turansky, Obedience & Repentance and Encouragement for Discouraged Parents by Esmeralda Ng

There was a Consultation/Forum on some of the Family Discipleship Best Practices in Malaysia moderated by TRAC Conference Lay Leader, Lim Chong Ho and Pastor Matthew Ling, with 6 panel speakers; Ling Kay Yeow (DUMC), Pr Lillian Dorai (FGA, KL), Dr Austin Sia (MBS, Kundang), Rev Mike Ng (Straits Baptist Church, Melaka), Roslind Tay (TMC PJ), Datin Judy Chin (WMC Ipoh) and Rev Dr Ron Hunter. Each panel speaker was given a few minutes to elaborate the best practices in their respective churches or organizations followed by a time of Q&A which gathered a lot of enthusiasm from the participants, and the session had to be ended due to time constrain.

Dr Herbert Tan closing session on the D6 Conference titled 'Challenge: The Way Forward,' emphasized the 3-prong progress; 1) The Church is in Progress, 2) The Family is in Progress and 3) The Generation is in Progress.

Towards the end, the participants were reminded that this is not a ONE-TIME conference and participants are encouraged to continue to attend these D6 conferences which are like a series or a journey whereby participants attending time after time and overtime will develop the 'Family Discipleship' culture thus allowing them to grow in this aspect.

Below is a compilation of comments from some of the clergy and laity participations, gathered 2-5 weeks after the conference, on how the D6 2023 conference has impressed them.

D6 is not a program or event but a movement to remind the church of the call of discipleship.

Personally, it reminds me each time this conference is held, what is happening between this and the next one. D6 acts as a catalyst to the churches to start discipling their families every day. D6 is a wonderful buffet spread but the daily family meal is necessary to keep the church healthy.

**- Pastor Chris Kam**

*Damansara Utama MC, Central District 2*

D6 Conference is about empowering churches to help shape and challenge the home according to the stipulations of Deuteronomy 6. This conference reminded the participants that discipleship is not an event, it is a way of life. Therefore, generational discipleship is crucial in this modern complex generation. The church must show parents how to be a conduit, bringing the reality and influence of God into the home. This is fulfilled by connecting and conversing with their children on spiritual matters in "following" Christ. Furthermore, by establishing a family ministry, we can strengthen generational discipleship in the areas of faith formation, marriage, parenting, the ageing process, human sexuality, and resource management (e.g., finance, time, etc.). The church has to be intentional in doing generational discipleship and encouraging the home to practise it. Otherwise, we may lose the next generations 'that do not know the Lord' (cf. Judges 2:10).

**- Rev Paul Christie**

*Trinity MC PJ, Central District 1 District Superintendent*

D6 taken from Deuteronomy 6:7 provides me with a more wholistic understanding of the meaning of discipleship from biblical perspective. The head knowledge about Jesus Christ and his teaching needs to transition to heart knowledge in our daily living. Discipleship is really a way of living following Jesus. That clear purpose helps me to see how I can live a more purposeful life for God while on earth. D6 also helps me to understand how I can begin

to “intentionally” disciple my children in the normal routine of living from the time we got up from bed, sending them to and pick them up from school, having meals together, having fun time together until when we lie down to sleep. Our children are constantly watching us and learn, verify our belief against how we live and what we do and our claim to be disciple of Jesus Christ. They can smell hypocrisy from far away. Hence, an authentic discipleship involves our readiness to let our children see that we are also a work-in-progress following Jesus Christ.

**- James Hii**

*Trinity MC Penang, Northern District*

“D6 had taught me so many valuable ways to parent my kids in God’s way. Equipping me on how to reconnect to my girls, especially when my eldest daughter has reached her teenage stage. I especially like the ‘throwing ball’ method and the quick 1-minute prayer to help me to reconnect to them rather than correcting them all the time. “

**- Esther Yee**

*Wesley MC Ipoh, Perak District*

D6 2023, I will consider it as the 20th year in the Ministry as well as empowering youth for Christ as my personal calling from God. It is to bring young and senior together in an empowering family ministry. In this year D6 will be my 2nd In person Conference 2018 & 2023. As I have learnt via the Holy Spirit Deuteronomy 6 is and always will be the theme of the ministry

growing daily in Christ.

**- Rev Buell Abraham**

*Wesley MC Teluk Intan, Perak District*

There are so many good things that I can share. I loved Ron Hunter’s little impromptu skit about his conversation with his daughter (a volunteer from the Conference) in an imaginary vehicle about dating a non-Christian. We need such teaching methods even during the Sunday worship service.

The main thrust of D6 Conference is to reinforce the truth that parents are primary educators of their children in spiritual matters. Parents (and grandparents in a supporting role of education) must take Deuteronomy 6 seriously as our children need spiritual guidance.

I attended the workshop led by Esmeralda who stressed the importance of “The Break”... where parents can help the young children how to reflect upon their wrongdoings and then acknowledge their mistakes to their parents and thus know what is really right and wrong according to the Bible.

I hope more pastors and church leaders will come for the D6 Conference (first weekend of August 2024) and take back by practical teaching for their respective churches.

**- Rev Ashok Amarasingham**

*Wesley MC KL, CD2 District Superintendent*



*D6 Conference Plenary Sessions, Role Plays with Participants*





*D6 Conference Consultation/Forum on Family Discipleship Best Practices in Malaysia*

I enjoy the practical applications on how to do heart connections with our children. Also awakened by the key question: “What will your family or church look like in 50 years?”. We are called to live in and through the transforming power of Christ, grow this heritage and pass it on into our generations to come.

**- Agnes Chin Voon Choy**

*Grace Methodist Church Sentul,  
Central District 1*

Biblical discipline is an act of love (Pro 12:24) and not punishment. Not leading our children towards God may result them to greater separation from Him. The D6 workshop on Biblical parenting shared practical examples on how parents can show that love to their children. It takes a change of perspective and diligent practice to move from quick and easy “punishment” to love based “protection” approach of parenting. Thanks to facilitator Esme who made the workshop fun and hope she will be back again.

**- Alfred Long**

*Emmanuel MC PJ, Central District 2*

The gist of the 2023 D6 Conference Malaysia remained consistent: Healthy and growing churches are the results of strong family ministry and intentional discipleship. The key

message may be the same, but the insights and illuminations add depth, inspirations, and encouragement to keep the faith and stay true in the journey.

Clearly, it is hard and heart work because discipleship is not an event, but a way of life. Amen.

**- A Participant**

*Wesley MC Seremban, Southern District*

The D6 Conference held in DUMC has been viewed positively as can be read from the comments of the above participants.

It is the hope of TRAC that all the leaders of the local churches, district leaders and her members will catch the vision and family discipleship to take root in all the local churches. It is with this in anticipation that the BoL is putting up a budget of RM12K in 2024 to be allocated to each of the 6 Districts a sum of RM2K to subsidize 10 participants to the D6 2024 Conference which will be held in Kota Kinabalu in the 1st week of August 2024. It is also encouraged that every District conference will allocate a matching budget to subsidize more participants to attend this conference and local churches to do likewise.

## TRAC ICM Spiritual Formation & Leadership (SFL) Weekend



ICM is deeply grateful to God that we were able to run our first two (out of four) modules of SFL this year with a new cohort comprising of thirty eight participants from seven churches. We were blessed to have Rev Ronald Yap and Dr Herbert Tan teach at the first and second modules respectively, covering two very pertinent topics for leaders on 'Personal Spiritual Formation' and 'Personal Leadership Journey & Development.' We are also thankful for a group of faithful spiritual companions who serve alongside us to provide the safe space for spiritual conversations. It is our privilege to share with you some of our participants' responses of their experience at SFL below:

### Merissa Wong

SFL accords the time and space for me to be open to God. During SFL1 in March 2023, I experienced deeper insights from the imaginative prayer exercise and through the individual spiritual direction session, I became aware that I did not really know God, and I desired to know Him. I was drawn to work on cultivating a love relationship with God and sensed the invitation from Him to draw closer. During SFL2 in September 2023, upon reflection, I can see that God has answered my prayer—almost unknowingly (to me)—as I went about my day-to-day, in obedience, and



*Merissa (seated 2nd from right) together with her team members from Damansara Utama Methodist Church*



there He was, putting things into place. I can see now how our relationship has deepened over the past 6 months, evident through how I approach Him in prayer. From this place of intimacy, I now sense His call to continue to take the next step in faith, trusting in Him to provide all that I need to follow Him.

### Dr. Lim Seck Ee

I attended SFL2 at the Chefoo Methodist Centre in Cameron Highlands. The venue was to my liking as it provided the cool restful environment full of greenery. Being mainly a silent retreat for guided self-reflection, we were afforded the time and space needed to enjoy personal time with God. I could take long walks just to work up the sweat and commune with God's creation. In the sessions we had, what resonated with me most was, like most Church leaders, I have had and will have many wounds in my personal life and my ministry roles. I have often held back sharing about my spiritual dryness or darkness in my soul for fear of disapproval from fellow leaders. I felt expressing my failures and struggles will only discourage or burden them. SFL 2 gave me a taste of that safe space to be vulnerable and honest about where I am in my Christian journey. I understand now that I can minister to others even in my own brokenness. This is what I will bring back to Seremban Wesley.



*Seck Ee (2nd from Left) together with his team members from Wesley Methodist Church, Seremban*

### Joseph Sam

"Meeting God (again)"

In the last 2 SFL weekends, the Holy Spirit has worked in my heart and shaped me better for God's Glory. Prior to attending SFL, I was a very busy college student with a life full of college assignments and church ministry commitment. I have close to zero time for myself and for God due to the busyness. As a leader in my college and a particular ministry, I always operate on a performance-based gesture for my leadership and value everything only up to the skills. I have almost neglected my heart as a leader. While assuming attending SFL weekend is just another course to improve my personal spiritual formation skills, God has opened my eyes and my heart to something deeper. In SFL 1, through the inputs and exercises of silence and prayer, I discovered God's commandment for rest and pace in life. I start to realize the importance of making time and space for rest and let God take charge of my life. I have learned to surrender to God in my time management. In SFL 2, God dealt with the core issue of my heart as a leader, which is to love Him as I have first known Him. SFL as until now has been a breaking-through journey for me, in knowing God, loving Him and surrender to Him. I will look forward to how God is leading me in the upcoming weekends.



*Joseph (seated left) together with his team members from Emmanuel Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya*



*Por Shen (seated right) together with his team members from Trinity Methodist Church, Penang.*

### Seah Por Shen

"Encountering God in Solitude and Silence" SFL weekend has helped me to take a break from work. During SFL weekend, I was able to rest, take a pause, be still and reflect upon the scriptures. I have learned the importance of spiritual rhythms, rhythms of work and rest. It has helped me to create margins and to have a balance in all aspect of life in the marketplace and church. I enjoyed my quiet time spent during the SFL where I get to encounter the Lord. One of my key takeaway is leadership begins from the heart rooted in the word of the Lord.

### Doreen Ti

I am so thankful that I am able to be part of this 2 year sojourn and for my 2 sojourners who have also been so blessed by our commitment to set aside time to consider our spiritual foundations in our leadership responsibilities. SFL1 & 2 were like rest stops to fuel me and send me out again super encouraged.

SFL 1 brought such refreshment as if stumbling upon an oasis of gushing waters from a hidden source. As I rested in the solitude and pondered upon various reflection points, God spoke volumes and volumes helping me understand and integrate past experiences with current realities. SFL1 was a precious reminder of the importance of rhythms of rest - Jesus is just waiting to speak such words of confirmation and encouragement.

In SFL 2, a rubric and a spiritual mapping time line activity brought quite eye opening insights to see so clearly that God sojourned with me in my darkest moments and how I have actually come out victorious after each challenge. There can be no resurrection without the agony of Gethsemane nor the death of the cross. The dark nights were so necessary for me to wrestle with God and so needed for maturity. It was so helpful to see how God used me even in my wounded disposition with warts and all. I was reminded that I can walk alongside others just as God walks with me just as I am. The image of a camp fire which lights up a dark night with warmth of fellowship around a banquet bar-b-q feast was the image which summarises SFL2 for me!



*Doreen (seated right) together with her team members from Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang*





*Joshua (2nd from Left) together with his team members from Subang Methodist Church*

### Joshua Yap

My major takeaway from SFL2 is for me to commit to the Prayer of Examen every night. It is a perfect opportunity for me to reflect on where God has been with me throughout the day. It is also a time for me to be vulnerable to God, and to share and commit everything to Him. After SFL2, I have reflected on myself in Chefoo to learn not to take offence especially from my loved ones. This is one of the significant baits of Satan. Not only that, I am to continue a God-driven ministry in my campus CF and make sure I do not fall into any of the traps of spiritual leadership.

### Noel Jayaratnam

I appreciate the process of unpacking key aspects of spiritual life development that help me connect with God amidst of heavy roles and responsibilities. I find Lectio Divina, prayer of Examen, and the extended period of solitude, rest and reflection help me to experience God's love and the assurance to remain in Him. I have applied these practices sporadically due to my busy routines and found deeper sense of conversing with God. When serving in ministry or developing a business, I tend to fall back on my capabilities. God's invitation to serve in various positions in church and work is not solely because of me but more so because of His plan and purpose in His Kingdom. I am learning to practice withdrawing into silence to engage with God so to align myself with His plan.



*Noel (2nd from Left) together with his team members from Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya*

In the 2nd weekend, I had the opportunity to plot out my life map to see the experiences of pain, celebration, faith and doubt as God's imprint in my life rather than just accidental coincidences. I was encouraged to own each of my experiences as opportunities for God to do a deeper work in preparing me to minister and journey with others. The session on 'Challenges and Traps of the Leader' was good reminder for me to guard my heart under siege so that I grow to be authentic and vulnerable within the larger community of faith. I realize the need for me to check my heart condition and allow God in so that I lead not from a false pretense but from the safe space of fellowship and relationship with God.

I am glad to be part of the SFL experience to deepen my fellowship with God and listen to His voice. While I thought it to be an intensive course, I see the intentionality in developing my character and spiritual shaping as a child of God and disciple of Christ through spiritual rhythms in life. I look forward to the coming sessions to experience more extended periods of silence, teaching and personal reflection as well as a good breakaway from my busyness.

## TRAC Joint Boards 2023



### ***“Come, Follow, Become Like Jesus”***

This reminder rang over the weekend, as the members of the various Boards and Organisations under TRAC got together for a time of “re-grouping,” planning and fellowshiping. While the rest of the nation stayed up to catch the best of the 9.9. online sales, the rest of us caught up with familiar faces and got to know some not-so-familiar ones.

This year, we were delighted to welcome about 10 first-timers to our Joint Boards session. In particular, we were thrilled to have the President of Boys’ Brigade Malaysia (BBM), who was able to join us for the very first time in many years since he is now from the Methodist Church! (As I understand it, past BBM Presidents were from other denominations.)

Joint Boards 2023 kicked off with a time of community prayer led by Rev Gaurri Maniam, followed by a sumptuous dinner. First up on the agenda after dinner and a brief welcome and introduction, was a presentation by TRAC Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) on the revised OLM (Organizational Leadership

Module) which has been re-branded to “Christian Leadership Series” (CLS). A Q&A session invited the members of other Boards to provide their feedback and responses to the proposed CLS. The night ended with a vesper led by Rev Jonathan Chan.

Day 2 began bright and early with breakfast at 7am followed by a meaningful time of worship and an inspiring message on working in unity by Ps Edward Lee to focus us all in our time of planning ahead. The rest of the day saw the Boards meeting and planning as well as Inter-Boards meeting, whilst District Superintendents and the Vision Task Force met concurrently. Durian and mango lovers were given a delightful treat when Dr Ting Cheh Sing from Ipoh Wesley shared some of the harvest from his very own garden! The night ended with vesper led by Rev Elaine Low. Being an auspicious weekend, three of our pastors celebrated their birthdays on 9.9. (perhaps we have them to thank for the 9.9. sales). They are Northern District Superintendent Rev Shearn Sya (my very own beloved brother), Ps Kelvin Yong of DUMC and Ps Dr Cheah Sene Kar of Canning Garden Methodist Church. Rev



Dr Andrew Tan joined our TRAC President Rev Joshua Khong to lead us all in a prayer of blessing for each of these three brothers-in-Christ.

All were refreshed on Sunday morning with a Holy Communion service, with our TRAC President Rev Joshua Khong delivering the message once again reinforcing our call to “Come, Follow, Become Like Jesus.” Once the various Boards and Organisations presented their plans, budgets and calendars for the upcoming year 2024, all were invited to a group photo session to immortalise the gathering in picture. While the rest of us made our way back after lunch, the TRAC Executive Board stayed back for their meeting before returning to their various points of origin.

For the work of the Lord that we do together, I believe the members of various Boards and Organisations were gratified to have had the opportunity to meet in person and build stronger bonds both within their respective teams as well as across the other Boards and Organisations. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our hearts and hands.

# TRAC Joint Boards 2023 Highlights

*By William Lim*

TRAC Joint Boards is an annual affair where all the various Boards of ministry come together to seek the Lord and discern what we as a conference is to carry out for the coming year(s). This year the Joint Boards met from 8th to 10th September 2023. The evening of 8th September started off with Rev. Gaurri Maniam leading the Boards in “Community Prayers.” This was then followed by ICM presenting their comprehensive plan on building the servant leader’s spiritual life. Rev. Wai Yin (Chairperson of ICM) presented the draft plan of “Leading the Church into God’s Agenda” to all and ended with a request for further comments and feedbacks. The boards were then invited to further discuss the ICM’s proposed plans in the breakout sessions in the coming days of the meeting. The 8th of September evening was duly closed with Rev. Jonathan Chan leading the Boards in vespers.

The second day opened with worship and the word from the Lord. The sermon was delivered by Pr. Edward Lee in Bahasa Malaysia. The passage for our morning meditation was taken from Psalm 133 which focuses on “God’s people living in unity.” 9th of September saw the boards busy with their own discussions and plans. These were to solidify the plans each board had already discussed prior to the Joint Boards meeting. With President Joshua Khong’s guidance and advice, each Board were to do “pre-wire” meetings of their own and also inter-board cooperation meetings before coming to Port Dickson for the group meetings. In between these meetings, Board members got to catch up with each other and agreed that it was a good time to finally meet up face to face after the covid pandemic. There were also adequate timeslots allocated for inter-board’s discussion and exploring possible inter-boards’ cooperation, which was much needed and applauded by all. The 2nd day ends with each board re-grouping and finalizing their plans for 2024.

The final day of the Joint Boards’ meeting, 10th September brought a sense of excitement but also one of relief where Board members anticipates to hear from each Board’s Chair of their plans and readying themselves in heading home. The day was opened by worship and a sermon from the TRAC President Joshua Khong. President’s message was taken from 2 Chronicles 34. Everyone present were reminded of these key highlights or application from the sermon, namely, being key influencers of young people’s life, being consecrated and forsaking sin and seizing the moment to live our lives for God’s purposes. All the Board’s chairs then took turns to present their plans. The plans were all geared towards the betterment of TRAC churches. We hope that the various boards can bring to bear all that had been planned working together leveraging each other’s gifts and strength for God’s glory.

## 2023 三一年议会联合部门会议

一年一度的三一年议会联合部门会议于9月8日至10日在波德升卫理中心进行。

今年有十位新的委员及代表加入各部门，朝着年议会的异象 “来，跟从和效法耶稣” (Come, Follow, Become Like Jesus) 共同商讨来年的事工计划。

首日的议程以集体祷告开始，接着是晚餐以及“基督徒事工研究所”（简称ICM: Institute for Christian Ministry）的汇报。经过修订后，ICM的组织领导学课程（简称OLM: Organizational Leadership Module）更新为“基督徒领导学系列”（简称CLS: Christian Leadership Series）。

次日，所有部门开始进行个别部门和联合部门的会议，并在晚上的议程结束前，为9月9日生日的庆祝生日。

第三天，大家在主日崇拜中一同领受圣餐，并再次被会长Rev. Joshua Khong 的信息挑旺，继续透过各部门的事工来引人归主和栽培门徒，以实现 “来，跟从和效法耶稣” 的异象。

和往年一样，部门会议结束后，执行部（Executive Board）留步进行最后的会议。

蒙主恩典，一连三天的会议顺利完成，荣耀归主。

## Antara banyak pengalaman “Kali Pertama”

*Ditulis oleh Pastor Edward Lee*

*Joint Board 2023* adalah salah satu daripada pengalaman “kali pertama” dalam perjalanan saya sebagai seorang Pastor Methodist. Saya menjadi seorang yang penakut dan pemalu kerana tidak mengetahui siapa yang akan berada di sana dan bagaimana rupa mesyuarat Joint Board. Namun, saya gembira kerana Presiden TRAC Rev. Joshua Khong telah memperlawakan saya untuk menghadiri mesyuarat Joint Board. Pengalaman kali pertama ini, telah membantu saya memahami dengan lebih baik bagaimana sistem kerja di dalam TRAC. Mendengar laporan bagi semua program yang telah dilaksanakan dan akan datang, membuat diri saya menjadi teruja untuk terlibat pada tahun-tahun yang akan datang.

Salah satu manfaat terbesar daripada ini ialah saya dapat menjalin persahabatan baharu dengan ramai orang yang luarbiasa hebatnya dalam Persidangan Tahunan TRAC. Dengan persahabatan baharu ini, saya melihat peluang pelayanannya dan menjadi satu sumber dimana kita boleh belajar dan berkongsi antara satu sama lain. Hal ini pasti membantu dalam meningkatkan dan memperluaskan impak pelayanannya kita.

Sungguh menggembirakan juga apabila melihat generasi muda dan generasi emas dapat duduk semeja berkongsi makanan dan berjenaka bersama.

Mendengar setiap pengalaman kehidupan mereka dan pekerjaan baik yang Tuhan sedang lakukan di dalam pelayanannya mereka mendorong saya untuk terus maju dan melayani dengan setia. Sekarang saya menantikan lebih banyak perhimpunan persidangan untuk dihubungkan dan bersama-sama melakukan lebih banyak perkara yang hebat untuk Tuhan!

**“Lihatlah, betapa baik dan menyenangkan hati apabila saudara-saudara seiman hidup bersama dengan bersatu-padu!”  
(Mazmur 133:1)**



# TRAC Methodist Senior Fellowship Camp 2023 “A Grateful Life”

10-13 October 2023, Cititel Penang

*By YLee Saw Hoon and Tay Choon Neo*



Thwarted by the pandemic for 3 years, 170 “Young Seniors” and Senior Seniors from MSF chapters throughout Malaysia, and 20 Seniors from TRAC Singapore expectantly came together for the 29th TRAC MSF Annual Camp & AGM to Cititel Penang.

The Young-at-Heart Participants praised and worshipped God exuberantly, experiencing God’s presence, and they were touched by the Messages.

“...Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good; for His Steadfast Love endures forever”.

The Speakers, Bishop Emeritus Wee Boon Hup of Singapore and Mr Kon Onn Sein gave a series of heartwarming messages, focussing on two main topics: “Living a Grateful Life” and “Missions”.

Yes, God was present with us at the camp as we paused to think of the years of experience He has allowed us to go through. Even for the bad ones, we can be Grateful and Thankful, and turn them for good.

At this stage in our lives, many of us tell many a young person I have eaten more salt than you have eaten rice! We have gone through a lot, experienced ups and down, counted our blessings. But at this camp, we paused to reflect and be Grateful – an attitude – and be Thankful – a doing. Such is the difference which I had never thought of, and was reminded by Bishop Wee.

The call to all of us, irrespective of age or circumstance, rang out loud and clear as Kon Onn Sein shared with us his 30 years’



experience in the mission field among the Aborigines. His trust and faith in God to persevere in his work touched our hearts.

His testimony of God's faithfulness challenged us to share in partnership in the unfinished Task of Missions.



At the AGM, TRAC MSF President Daniel Chan highlighted the TRAC MSF VISION which is a 6-point initiative to address new challenges in the Seniors Ministry for the next two quadrennium. Director, Seniors Ministry, Rev. David Loo expanded on the Season of Growth with the MSF Vision :

- Ministry Growth - establish new local chapters, revive old chapters
- Spiritual Growth - instil Spiritual Empowerment and Growth, e.g Alpha course, LPL course and others
- Missional Growth - pitch in with time, money, energy, etc
- Care Growth - establish Residential Care Centres and Day Care Centres; and Hospice Facilities and End of Life Ministry
- Connectional Growth - establish the General Conference Methodist Senior Fellowship, GCMSF, with other Conferences; a draft constitution has been prepared, TRAC is taking the lead. Bishop Jeyakumar has mentioned that GCMSF could be set up by 2025
- Personnel and Resource Growth - provision for a National TRAC Director of Seniors Ministry with an office.

## Two proposals from TRAC MSF Board to TRAC Executive Board

### Proposal 1

- MSF Sunday collection to be taken in churches - offering for mission and outreach as has been done in the past
- Any Sunday in October can be set aside as MSF Sunday

### Proposal 2

- To establish a General Conference Methodist Seniors Fellowship with an executive identity with an organizational structure (an Executive and Administrative staff, at the HQ under the supervision of the Conference President and Executive Board

The Fellowship Nite was an Evening of hilarious Fun and camaraderie, as various Chapters came forward to share their talents in singing, dancing, acting and what-have-you. A few individuals, inspired by the cheerful air, volunteered some impromptu talent displays as well. What a memorable Evening full of fun and laughter! *Who said Seniors were boring!!*



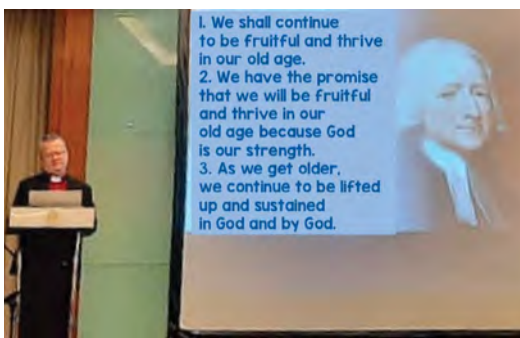




In the Closing Message for the Camp, President Joshua Khong gave an analogy of the palm tree and cedar tree, reminding us :  
to be dedicated to God (like the palm tree growing straight and tall), and  
to remain in connection with others as we serve in His Kingdom (like the cedar spreading out its branches).

What a solid ending for us: A clarion call to us Seniors that the work is not done while we still have breath!

Our appreciation to the Northern Local Planning Committee for a wonderful camp – good hotel, good food (spiritual and physical), good hospitality. All Glory be to God!



# LPL Module On Church History

By Joyce Choo

Coordinator, WMC Kampar



The Church History Module of the LPL was held on 27-28 October 2023 in Wesley Methodist Church Kampar. The classes were facilitated by Ms Aileen Khoo.

There were 16 participants from various churches, namely, SSMC, DUMC, TMC PJ, TMC Penang, Whispering Hope, WMC Klang, WMC Sitiawan, CGMC and WMC Kampar.

The sessions were conducted over a Friday evening and Saturday. The following responses and feedback speak volumes about the classes.

*The Church History LPL module has been a transformative experience for me. I've delved into the fascinating evolution of the Christian Church, from its early origins to modern times. Learning about key historical figures like Augustine, Luther, and the impact of major events like the Council of Nicaea has given me a*

*deeper appreciation for the foundations of my faith. Exploring the diverse array of Christian traditions, from Catholicism to Protestantism and beyond, has shown me the rich tapestry of beliefs within Christianity.*

*This module has been a personal journey that has enhanced my spirituality and enriched my faith by connecting it to its historical context. It's given me a profound appreciation for the enduring legacy of the Christian Church and the role it plays in our lives today.*

**Emily Dass**

**Sitiawan Wesley Methodist Church**

*I thank the Lord for guiding me to attend LPL Church History as an elective module. Sister Aileen Khoo has been wonderful with her lively teaching and sharing of her heartfelt life stories. She has made learning history an enjoyable experience.*



*I am motivated and encouraged to complete the assignments at the earliest time possible while it's still fresh in my memory! In addition, I would like to extend my appreciation to Kampar Wesley Church for hosting and for their warm hospitality. All Glory to God.*

**Sara Chan Yim Ping**  
**CGMC IPOH**

A word from Ms Aileen Khoo, the facilitator of the Module on Church History.

*Why study Church History?*

*The goal is to comprehend the forces that have brought us as Christians to where we are and to where we are going.*

*To see forces and influences that compelled the church to change direction, little changes that the church has had to make in order to continue to function effectively in a rapidly changing world.*

*To see the fundamental and bedrock concepts without which the church could not be the church; that which is central, unchanging for these have survived the tests of history.*

*The persons chosen for considerations were ordinary people Augustine, Gregory, Leo , the early monastics monks and nuns. These are simple people seeking to know God and to serve God as they understood that service. Aquinas, Erasmus, Huss, Wycliff, Joan of Arc, Savonarola, Gerard too commenced their life of faith as do you and I. And even giants like Luther and Calvin struggled long and hard to discover God's will for their lives.*

*The 2023 class of 16 participants that I am fortunate to facilitate is amazing. For starters there were no drop outs and they stayed to the very end. We had to cramp everything literally into 1 full day but I can see their enthusiasm and keenness through their participations and insights shared. I commend this class who has added a new chapter of history to the church as they prepare themselves to become local preachers!*

It has been a joy and privilege for WMC Kampar to host the LPL Modules for 2023 as we continue to receive encouraging feedback of lives being enriched by the classes.





# Konferansi Persidangan Misi Sengoi Ke-34

*Disediakan oleh Syamira alp Jusin*



Shalom, Damai sejahtera dalam Kasih Tuhan Yesus. Pada tahun ini PMSM telah mengadakan koferansi Persidangan Misi Sengoi tahun yang ke-34. Koferansi tahun dipimpin oleh pengetua PMSM iaitu Rev Ronald Yap dan juga ahli lembaga PMSM.

“ MARI, IKUT, MENJADI SEPERTI YESUS ”- 1 Kor 3:5-9

<sup>5</sup> *Sebenarnya siapakah Apolos itu? Siapakah Paulus? Kami hanya hamba Allah, yang memimpin kamu percaya kepada Kristus. Kami hanya menjalankan tugas masing-masing yang diberikan oleh Tuhan. <sup>6</sup> Aku menanam benih dan Apolos menyiramnya, tetapi Allah sendiri yang menyebabkan tanaman itu tumbuh. <sup>7</sup> Orang yang menanam benih dan orang yang menyiramnya tidaklah penting. Allah sahaja yang penting, kerana Dia yang menyebabkan tanaman itu tumbuh. <sup>8</sup> Orang yang menanam benih setaraf dengan orang yang menyiramnya; Allah akan mengurniakan pahala menurut kerja masing-masing. <sup>9</sup> Kami orang yang bekerja bersama-sama untuk Allah, dan kamu bagaikan ladang Allah. Kamu juga bagaikan bangunan Allah.*

Ini adalah pembacaan Alkitab yang dibaca oleh Ps Shuriawally dari Pahang. Petikan ini telah dikongsikan oleh President TRAC iaitu Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong dimana 3 poin yang dikongsikan iaitu taat kepada penginjilan, Ikhlas dengan kehidupan dan jelas dalam pengajaran.



*Ucapan President TRAC: Rev Joshua Khong dan upacara pembukaan beserta Perjamaan Kudus.*





Pengetua PMSM Rev Ronald Yap memberikan laporan.



Rev Haris a/l Husin dan Rev Long Kaseh a/p Bah Belkoi telah ditahbiskan dan sebagai Elder Oleh Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar.



Wakil dari Malaysian Care.



Pujian & penyembahan dipimpin oleh Pemimpin Fandisriwana, Pastor Rosmanita dan pemusik dari Slim River.



President mendoakan kepada pemimpin yang dilantik. Dari kiri ke kanan - En. Bah Long a/l Bah Bulu, En Uda a/l Ngah Gading dan Pn. Andak Zaini.



Elder dan Pemimpin Baru PMSM Bersama Bishop Methodist Malaysia, Presiden TRAC dan Pengetua PMSM.

# Perkongsian oleh Rev. Haris Husin

*23 Oktober 2023*

Shalom.....

Konferansi 2023 adalah bersejarah bagi saya kerana saya juga salah satu pekerja gereja (Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist (PMSM) di angkat sebagai Elder.

Isi hati dari hamba Tuhan gereja PMSM,

Bersyukur saya kepada Tuhan, kerana Dialah yang memanggil saya untuk menjadi pengikut Kristus dan sebagai hamba-hamba Tuhan dari peringkat awal sehingga hari ini.

Semua itu adalah berkat kasih kurnia dari Tuhan untuk lebih membesarkan keluarga dalam Kristus yang masih banyak lagi di luar sana.

Puji Tuhan masih lagi Dia memakai hamba-hamba-Nya bekerja lebih keras lagi untuk meninggikan kerajaan-Nya saya percaya itu adalah tujuan mengapa saya diangkat sebagai Elder.

## **1. PERKONGSIAN SEBAGAI ELDER YANG BARU PMSM.**

Seperti biasa semua kewujudan pelayan sebagai hamba Tuhan mesti bermula daripada peringkat awal. Sudah tentunya kami akan menempuhi cabaran dalam perjalanan di setiap peringkat seterusnya. Saya sebagai hamba Tuhan perlu siapkan hati yang ikhlas dan jujur dalam pelayan sebagai Elder yang baru.

### **1.1 MENERIMA JAWATAN ELDER.**

Menerima jawatan Elder bagi saya adalah anugerah dari Tuhan. Izinkan saya perkongsikan sedikit tentang petanda dalam perjalanan ditahbiskan sebagai Elder. Ketua daerah Slim River awal lagi pernah kemukakan di mesyuarat daerah dan nampaknya ada unsur sokongan dari rakan-rakan setugas. Juga diperingkat Exco dan Lembaga pelayan PMSM, ada sokongan bila beliau mencadangkan saya layak dipertimbangkan untuk jawatan Elder.

Sebenarnya apa yang dicadangkan itu bukanlah menurut kehendak saya dan saya pun tidak pernah meminta untuk

diangkat sebagai Elder. Ini adalah budi bicara beliau yang mungkin melihat pelayan saya yang tidak seberapa ini sehinggalah beliau membawa perkara ini ke peringkat seterusnya sebagai orang yang bertanggungjawab.

Namun saya akur ini adalah pemerhatian beliau untuk pekerja PMSM Daerah Slim River, yang sewajar beliau sebagai Ketua Daerah. Beliau membuat cadangan ini untuk meningkatkan peribadi hamba-hamba Tuhan secara benar, jujur dan adil dan juga untuk dikemukakan di peringkat Exco untuk dipertimbangkan.

Hari ini saya bersyukur apa yang dirancang sudah diterima untuk dibawa ke peringkat seterusnya. Pada 21 September 2023 saya di temuduga di Pusat PMSM Kampar untuk pentahbisan sebagai Elder dan hal-hal pelayan. Temuduga yang terakhir sekali pada 17 Oktober 2023. Dan keputusan saya diterima tanpa ada halangan di Exco tertinggi masa itu di hadapan Presiden Rev. Joshua Khong, Pengetua Rev. Ronald Yap dan juga semua Ketua Daerah PMSM.

Perancangan itu sudah menjadi kenyataan pada 19 Oktober 2023 di Kerawat semasa Konferansi 2023. Dan saya disempurnakan menerima Pentahbisan sebagai Elder melalui Bishop Dtr. T. Jeyakumar, dibantu oleh Presiden Rev. Joshua Khong dan juga Pengetua Rev. Ronald Yap Pengetua PMSM serta semua pekerja PMSM.

Ada satu perkara yang saya mahu kongsi adalah berkenaan Pentahbisan Elder, pada 18 Oktober saya dikejutkan seorang Elder senior," Bahawa sebenarnya belum tentu lagi kamu akan ditahbiskan sebagai Elder, kerana sekiranya ada yang bakal menyuarai bahawa kamu tidak layak atau kamu mempunyai isu yang tidak baik dan kamu akan dibatalkan untuk ditahbis sebagai Elder" saya akur kenyataan beliau, kerana saya sudah membaca Buku Displin Methodis 2016.



Semalaman saya tidak dapat tidur, kerana saya lebih mengambil masa untuk berdoa dan secara jujur saya katakan saya menangis sepanjang malam itu, bukan kerana keinginan untuk menjadi sebagai Elder, tetapi takut semua itu bukan menurut panggilan Tuhan untuk saya diangkat sebagai Elder.

Puji Tuhan sekali lagi Tuhan Yesus itu baik Dia tahu siapa kita, Dia sudah melihat hati kita yang siap untuk belajar menurut kehendak-Nya.

### 1.2 HARAPAN SAYA SEBAGAI ELDER.

Walaupun sekarang sudah menerima jawatan Elder yang sah pada 19 Oktober 2023, juga merangkap sebagai ketua Daerah Slim River 2024. Semua ini bukanlah untuk meninggikan diri, melainkan untuk nama Tuhan ditinggikan. Dan pelayanan itu bukan setakat gereja tempatan Sahaja,

juga turut menjalankan tugas sebagai ketua Daerah di peringkat Daerah dan Pusat, baik hal pentadbiran mahupun lain-lain hal.

Saya sedar siapa saya, dimata Tuhan saya adalah orang yang paling kerdil sekali, maka harapan saya untuk membantu PMSM semana boleh.

Dan bekerja sama dengan saudara yang membantu PMSM mencapai kearah wawasan, saya percaya harus ada hati sebagai hamba yang menuruti kehendak-Nya, apa yang kurang nanti pasti ditambahkan oleh Tuhan.

Akhir kata dari saya, bersyukur kepada Tuhan, PMSM masih ada orang yang peduli untuk membantu dan mengangkat pekerja PMSM ke peringkat sebagai Elder. Tuhan memberkati Gereja Methodist Malaysia.

*Pengetua Rev. Ronald Yap dan Peresiden TRAC/Bishop Methodis Malaysia.*





## 48th TRAC Methodist Women (MW) Session

*By Julia Wong & MW Team*

We give thanks to our Almighty God for enabling our Methodist Women to conduct our 48th TRAC MW Session in person consecutively for the second year following the Covid pandemic.

This year we are truly grateful to see 112 participants in our Conference with our MW coming from not only our existing eight local societies but friends and guests from other TRAC churches such as Ipoh Wesley, Teluk Intan Wesley, Sungei Buloh Trinity and JB Wesley and not forgetting the faithful MW stalwarts, some of whom we have not met for ages and their attendance at our Conference was truly a great encouragement for MW. Not forgetting to mention a special 'Thanks' to President Joshua Khong and wife Elaine, who have always been faithfully present at our MW Sessions to grace the occasion with us.

In our efforts to be inclusive, and to bridge the generational gap to include the young and senior women, we are pleased to inform that this year we had amongst us some young woman, four of them (in their 20's) and seven of them (in their 40's). At this juncture, we wish to thank the respective local MW societies for sponsoring their young women to our Conference.

Our theme this year is "One Heart One Purpose" extracted from Romans 15:5-6 'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one

mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

Our plenary speaker is Dr Joanna Pae from Korea and her biodata is as follows :

Dr Joanna Pae currently serves as a missionary at Shiloh International Missions, and English ministry in Korea. She is also a translator and interpreter for the Center of Movement of Redemptive History.

- B.S. in Biochemistry, University of Washington, USA
- M. Div. Presbyterian General Assembly Theological Seminary, Korea
- D. Bs. Berit Theological Seminary, USA
- English Translation Committee of the History of Redemptive Series
- Missionary at Shiloh International Missions, Pyungkang Cheil Church, Korea

This year we have incorporated an optional half day tour for our participants to visit Kuala Sepetang (Port Weld). It was our aim to enable our women and friends the opportunity to gather together to foster friendship and sisterhood amongst themselves in an outing such as this.

We thank God that our business sessions and plenary sessions were conducted smoothly and as planned. We had several positive feed backs on the Conference and this would be shared below.





It has always been my prayer to be able to take home something from every MW Sessions I have attended. Honestly, it took me a while to realise what the Holy Spirit has been prompting me about on our theme 'One Heart, One Purpose' until after the Conference.

At the Conference I was truly impressed and first spotted the good efforts and team work displayed by our new Conference Worship Team led by Mrs Gladys Christie, our TRAC MW Counselor and her members comprising Co-worship Leaders, Ms Mercy Christie, Associate MW member TMC PJ, Mdm May Leong, MW KL Wesley, Mrs Elaine Khong, TRAC MW Counselor as dancer & tambourinist and Mrs Jane Ashok, Counselor, MW KL Wesley, the keyboardist. Somehow, I don't know why consecutively for two mornings they'll always be the first group of people whom I'll uphold in prayers during my personal devotion and I get to share with them my reflections or my prayers for them during the pre-Worship time. On the final Sunday morning, during our pre-Worship time I casually told the team that now they have formed a Worship team amongst themselves, they should perhaps consider assisting smaller TRAC Churches in Worship whenever the need arises for eg if their Worship Team wishes to take a break to go for Planning retreat, training, etc. I've encouraged them to pray about this and seek the Lord for future actions and assuring them as stated in Deuteronomy 31:8 that the Lord Himself will go with them and be with them .... This was the scripture text that was given to me when I prayed for the Worship Team that Sunday morning.

Friends, I'm extremely delighted to note that our Worship Team has finally called themselves "His Little Quintet" (why Quintet, because there are 5 of them in the team) and recently they've gathered together post Conference and deliberated on the way forward for their team, and under separate cover, you would be able to read about what Mrs Gladys Christie and team had to share. Truly this is their head start to 'One Heart, One Purpose!' Presently, I'm very excited to hear that 'His Little Quintet' has consented to help us plan a half day 'Worship Workshop' for our participants attending our forthcoming TRAC MW 49th

Session in September 2024. Praise The Lord ! I must say that I've benefitted much from the plenary sessions by our speaker Dr Joanna Pae, the teaching & sharing of which you'll be able to read in the Conference write-up contributed by one of our young woman, Ms Ailyn Lim from Trinity PJ.

President Joshua Khong's sermon during our opening service entitled 'Being United With Christ, One in Love, Spirit and Mind' was a reminder to all of us that when we are united with Christ, we are united with one another, we are united in His Love, we are united in His Spirit and when our heart is right with Him, His Spirit is Right With us. We are advised to be united within the MW body, to foster Christian Sisterhood, fellowship and bonding, impacting and influencing our younger sisters, historically 'A voice for Women' now let MW be 'A voice for Christ'. Continuing from our last year's theme "Fervent Spirit, he reminded MW to work at what God has impacted us, to find a place for our MW to have their voice because if they have their voice, they'll be able to impact the younger ones. God need our voice to be the voice that he needs to use as a vessel and to find creative ways for growth, the way forward for MW's growth and ministries through these three important areas namely Christian Education, Spiritual Life and Social Concerns. We were advised to furtherance outside these areas via :

- 1) One Heart & One Purpose with the local church
- 2) One Heart & One Purpose with the community
- 3) One Heart & One Purpose with the nation

In order to impact Christian Education and to make it effective in the local churches, MW should co-labour and make Christian Education effective through the Acronym :

### **R I C E**

**R** elevant, **I** mpactful, **C** reative & **E** ffective

MW can impact the Spiritual Life in church incorporating One Heart, One Purpose by being part of the Spiritual Life in the church, pioneering life, supporting the church among Seniors, Young adults, children in Sunday

School through the Acronym :

### **W I S E**

**W**ealth, **I**nfluencing, **S**ustaining, **E**xpanding

NB : Without the Spiritual part of the life we'll be half wealthy physically and mentally. The last area on how MW can impact the lives of the community in social concerns is through the Acronym :

### **N I C E**

**N**eighbour, **I**nspire, **C**are, **E**xhort

President Joshua Khong concluded above session by inviting all Local Presidents from our respective local societies to share on the work that they've carried out so far pertaining to Social Concerns.

In our Closing Service, Rev Dr Andrew Tan, DS for Perak District preached on the sermon entitled "United Services in one Body". A

synopsis of Rev Dr Andrew's sharing can be found in Sister Ailyn's write up.

I thank God for equipping our plenary speaker, Dr Joanna Pae, our two preachers, President Joshua Khong and Dr Rev Andrew Tan, to come and share His Word with us based on our theme 'One Heart, One Purpose' all of which were shared and expounded powerfully and impactfully to touch u!

Finally, just to share my personal take home message following the Conference from the Lord is that our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ desires me to worship him all the days of my life on earth, so in whatever position or ministry I'm holding or serving, its not about me but its all about Jesus, Yes, its not about Julia but its all about You Lord ! Thank You Jesus !

**To God Be The Glory!**

*Some photos taken at the Conference*





# “One Heart One Purpose”

*By Ms Ailyn Lim, TMCPJ*

The TMCPJ Methodist Women (“MW”) assembled at Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, at 7.00 a.m. on 13 October 2023 for the trip to the 48th Session Conference (the “Conference”) held at Novotel, Taiping. The entourage travelled to Taiping by coach. Amongst those who joined us in the coach ride were the Conference speaker, Dr. Joanna Pae (“Dr. Pae”), TRAC MW President, Mrs Julia Wong and TRAC MW Vice President, Dr. Mary Bien as well as Bernice (V-President, MW Seremban Wesley) and several members of KL Wesley Church. The journey to Taiping took approximately 3 hours.

Mrs Julia Wong officially launched the Conference at 3.00 p.m. She welcomed all attendees to the 3-day event. It was followed by a sermon delivered by the TRAC President, Rev. Joshua Khong (“Rev. Khong”) entitled, “Being United with Christ. One in Love, Spirit & Mind”. At the end of his sermon, Rev. Khong invited everyone to partake in the Holy Communion.

Thereafter, the Conference Lay Leader, Mr Lim Chong Ho gave a short speech followed by a message from the President, East Asia Area, Mrs Mary Devadason. Finally, the General Conference MW President, Mrs Evelyn Lim, presented a message on the opening of the Ulu Klang MW Centre by Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar. At 8.00 p.m, a guest speaker, Deborah Grace Louis shared her heartwarming experiences as a recipient of the Helen Kim Memorial Scholars with the audience.

Dr. Pae started day 2 at 8.00 a.m. with her message entitled, “Save by Paying the Price”. She explained the history of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. From the book of Genesis, we are able to trace the account of man’s original sin, a record of subsequent sins committed after the original sin and a record of those who clung to the promise of the “seed” of the woman. The Hebrew word for “sin” means “miss the mark/miss His ways” whilst the Hebrew word for “righteous” means “right relationship”.

She further explored the themes of humanism, hedonism and sexual corruption. “Only those who sincerely repent acknowledging that the evil of the times is the result of their sins, can possess true faith to conquer this world”. Dr. Pae ended her message by quoting Genesis 22:17, “indeed I will greatly bless you and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies”; and Galatians 3:16, ““now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “and to seeds” as referring to many but rather to one, “and to your seed” that is, Christ””.

The plenary session 2 began at 10.30 a.m. with another insightful message from Dr. Pae. The title of this sermon was “The Second Commandment”. She quoted from Exodus 20:4-6, Deuteronomy 5:8-9, John 14:9 and Matthew 5:8. Ephesians 1:18, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”.

According to 1 Timothy 1:5, “the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith”. We were advised to go through our own spiritual journey to discover the Father’s image in us. 2 Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit”.

1 John 3:2, “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him just as He is”. 2 Peter 1:4-7, “For by these, He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust”.

Philippians 2:1-4, “if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any

participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others". Dr. Pae reminded us that Jesus is the only way upon which we can move from brokenness to restoration (Genesis 1:26-27).

After lunch on day 2, we went on a half-day tour to Kuala Sepetang. There was a brief stop at the Taiping Lake Gardens for photos. Subsequently, we visited the Antong Coffee Mill which is the oldest coffee mill in Malaysia. The women bought lots of products and many enjoyed the triple shot espresso ice cream freshly made daily at the centre.

The next stopover was at the Eng Huat biscuit shop for purchase of local delicacies, which was followed by another short trip to the charcoal factory. We learned first-hand how charcoal was made the old-fashioned way using kilns. Our guide, Erika, is a local expert and was very helpful and knowledgeable. It was drizzling heavily as she told us that it was usual to expect rainfall as Taiping is known for its frequent, if not daily, showers. Another interesting local information!

From the charcoal factory, we proceeded to Kuala Sepetang, a.k.a. Port Weld, for a boat ride to watch the eagles feed on food provided by the locals. It was an interesting sight to behold different species of birds native to that area. Everyone was excited to catch a glimpse of the birds.

Later, we feasted on a sumptuous seafood dinner comprising of prawns, fish, crabs, etc. At the end of the dinner, we were taken on a boat ride to watch the fireflies. It was a marvelous display of lights, akin to Christmas trees' light up. It was raining throughout the outing, but the weather did not dampen our spirits. There was much joy and laughter during the trip. We experienced God's goodness and faithfulness in providing and protecting the entire entourage from any mishaps.

On the final day of the Conference, Dr. Pae

delivered yet another powerful sermon entitled, "Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come". Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. In Exodus 25:31, "then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand and its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it". Exodus 25:32, "six branches shall go out from its sides; 3 branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side". Exodus 25:36, "their bulbs and their branches shall be of one piece with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold". Bulbs function as food storage organs during dormancy.

In Colossians 4:2-3, "devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving". Jesus is the Light; He and the Father are one. In Revelation 1:20, "as for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands; the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches". The lampstand is the Church in the end times.

She also shared from Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven".

In Isaiah 60:1-6, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms. Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you; the wealth of the nations will come to you. A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;



All those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense and will bear good news of the praises of the Lord”.

Jesus asked us to abide in Him. In John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing”.

The closing service was led by the Perak District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan. His sermon was entitled, “United Service in One Body”. The introduction began with apostle Paul’s advice on how our renewed minds should think rightly about ourselves, the body of Christ, and our gifts when serving in God’s church.

We are not to think of ourselves too highly; we are to think of ourselves with sober judgment. We are united in the body of Christ; we are individuals in the body of Christ. We all have differing spiritual gifts; we exercise faith in using our spiritual gifts. We should serve in unity because we are each a member of the one body of Christ.

The Conference officially ended with a prayer of thanksgiving and benediction given by Rev. Khong.

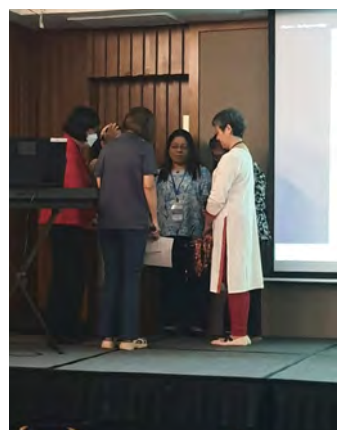
In conclusion, the Conference was truly amazing, inspiring and impactful. We had a wonderful time worshipping, fellowshiping, sharing and caring for one another. We were greatly blessed, deeply loved and highly favoured by our almighty God. His awesome presence, power and peace were strongly felt and demonstrated throughout the 3-day event. There was an abundance of joy, laughter and food. New friendships were formed; old friendships were renewed. The 48th session will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on every attendee and participant of the Conference.

May the grace and love of our heavenly Father continue to abound towards the MW. He will lead and guide each one of us as we seek Him always. Praise the Lord!

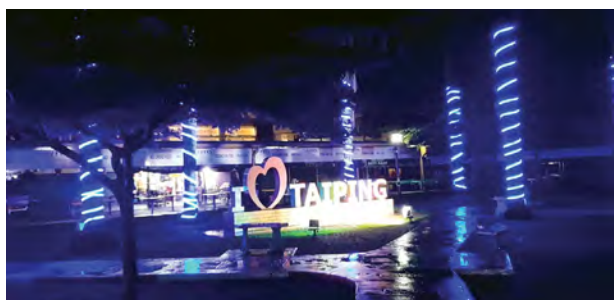
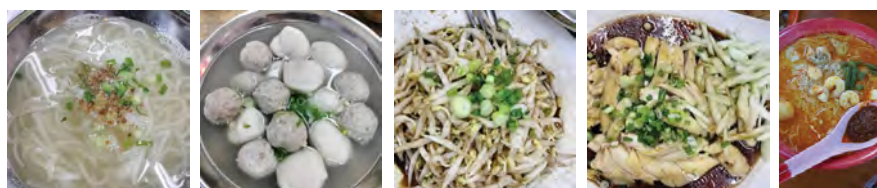
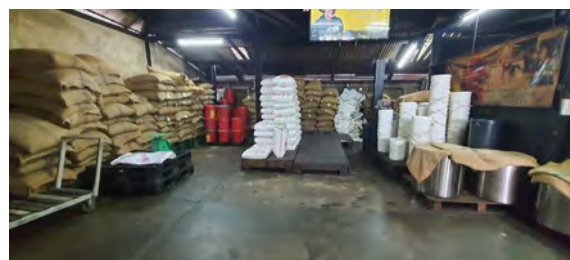
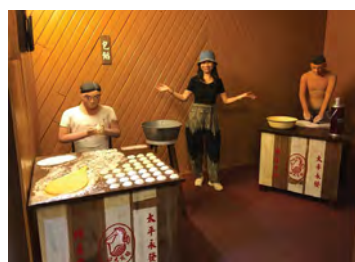
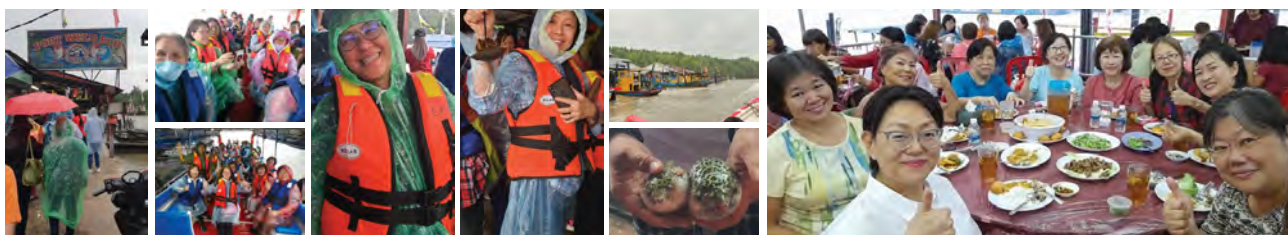
Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



*Sharing by Helen Kim Memorial Scholar 2022, Ms Deborah Louis*



*Conference Worship Team - 'His Little Quintet'*

*Night View of Taiping**Taiping Lake**Taiping food**Antong Coffee Mill/Cafe**Eng Huat Biscuits**Charcoal Factory**Kuala Sepetang (Port Weld) Boat Cruise*



## “F E E D B A C K S”

### From Some of Our Participants (MW & Friends) On the Conference :

The message shared by our special invited guest, Dr. Joanna Pae was very informative and profound as it affirmed us the great insight towards God's plan. It has reminded us that no matter how sinful we are, Jesus' coming for once redeemed us from our sins. We are very blessed with her message.

As for the logistics and preparation, the organiser for this year's conference has done a great job. The program started promptly and efficiently according to the scheduled timeline. There is no issue in registration process and most of us were able to check into our room without any delay. We loved our door gift as it is very practical. Overall, it was very well planned and executed - a great meeting!

**By Mdm Foo Pei Gee and Mdm Shellen Ng**  
**MW KL Wesley**

I thought the focus of the Conference was on the life and challenges of a lady missionary and decided to sign up. I only realised my mistake when the speakers at the Conference started speaking about "One Heart One Purpose" in the MW ministry. I did not regret participating as during my second MW Conference, I have gained more insights on the role of MW ministry in our church.

**By Mdm Susie Phua**  
**MW Kuantan Wesley**

This is the third MW Conference that I have attended and looking forward to more. Each time I was sent home with deep thoughts which prompted self reflection. Was made to realize we are significant and to understand the power of submission. This time, I carried home with me - "do not miss the target". Yes, we can't turn back the clock, and should "aim accurately" (focus) ahead and not miss out. Our gracious and loving God would want us all abroad.

**By Madam Soh Suan Choo**  
**MW Kuantan Wesley**

#### **From some participants (MW & friends) On the Taiping/Kuala Sepetang Tour**

Our thanks and commendation to the Planning Committee for organizing an enjoyable and memorable outing. It was not just a day to sight-see, eat and shop. Most importantly, it was a great opportunity for all of us to get to know one another. We laughed a lot together and make great connections and hopefully, lasting friendships.

**By May Leong & Wong Hua Swee**  
**MW KL Wesley**

We spent the longest time at the "Antong Coffee Mill", busily taking pictures with the murals on the walls. We also had the opportunity to take a snap-shot with the speaker Dr Joanna Pae from Korea, at the famous coffee mill.

We also spent some good time at Kuala Sepetang taking the ferry ride in the rain scarily. Attention was more drawn to the waters and rain rather than the fishes and eagles which were supposed to be the center of attraction. As we were hungry, we just took some pictures with the waters in the background and then went back to the Sepetang restaurant to wait for dinner.

**By Phyllis Ng Yeoh & friends from TMC Sungei Buloh**

## “His Little Quintet” (HLQ)

*By Gladys Christie on behalf of the Conference Worship Team*

We are in great awe of how God, by His sovereign power, has put us together for His purpose at the TRAC MW 48th Session! We also have been assured by the encouraging words from those who attended the conference. It was a refreshing experience for each one of us to have God lead us all the way, from the day of our practise till the final worship session. Upon the nudging of Julia, our TRAC MW President, we decided to call for a meeting to ponder on the question below.

### **What is God’s calling for the HLQ?**

We evaluated on our selection of songs (not knowing what the invited speaker wanted to share then). We recalled the fun we had during the practise (but not without dedication). We marvelled at how we could work together (even though we have not been a team before). It was a treasured time of pooling our gifts together. Each of us in the team encountered God in different ways while leading in the sessions. We have our stories to tell!

So, why did we feel so much joy as part of this worship team? Only one conclusion – it was the power of the Holy Spirit! With all our imperfections, He empowered the five of us to serve Him in unity. Talk about ‘One heart, one purpose’!

After hearing from each other, this could be God’s calling for HLQ:

- 1. Minister to women’s needs for healing and freedom in Christ**
- 2. Assure women on their identity in Christ**
- 3. Encourage women to be steadfast ambassadors of Christ**
- 4. Pass on the essence of worship to the next generation**



*His Little Quintet: Mercy (leader), Jane, May, Elaine and Gladys*

We know that only by **God’s grace, wisdom and power** are we able to do the above.

Therefore, HLQ will wait upon the Lord as to what is next. We need the TRAC MW’s prayers. However, for a start, we see the possibility of coaching other Methodist women to serve God in the worship ministry with the gift of music He has given them. Our proposal is to hold a worship workshop during our next TRAC MW 49th SESSION CONFERENCE in Kuantan.

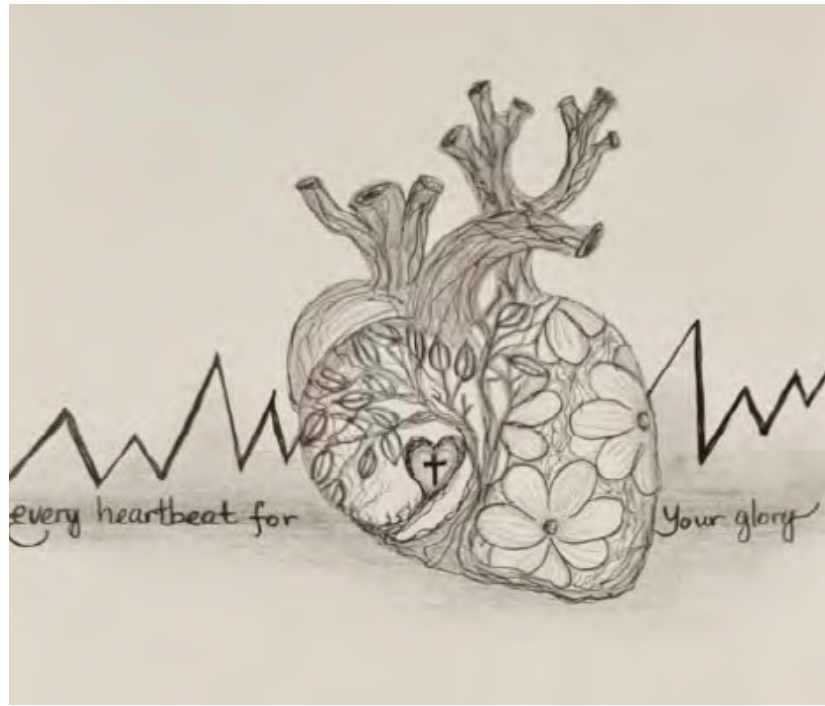
‘His Little Quintet’ (a name born out of the question by Julia as to what we would call ourselves) is a reminder to us that we are God’s treasured children, always loved by Him, always needing Him.

All Glory to God !



# Alabaster Heart

*By Cindy Ong, MW Kuantan Wesley*



## **A heart with a growing tree rooted in Christ. A sketch work inspired by a song title: Alabaster Jar**

This song was led by the worship team - Little Quintet Sisters during our TRAC MW 48th Session Conference from 13th - 15th October 2023 at Taiping, Perak with the theme of 'One Heart One Purpose' (Romans 15:5-6).

Mercy, one of the Worship Leader started the song with her soft and gentle voice and it reminded me of the woman who washed Jesus' feet (Luke 7: 36-50). She brought her alabaster jar of perfume and stood behind Jesus at His feet, crying. She washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, kissing and rubbing Jesus' feet with the perfume. This scenario touches my heart and set me thinking of how Jesus accepted her actions and forgave her sins.

As for me, an Alabaster Jar is a jar where we keep our best in it and offer them all to our

Lord. What is in my jar (heart) and what can I offer? As the speaker Joanna Pae was sharing about Genesis & genealogy, it again reminded me of my Creator.

I started to sketch out a heart with veins and arteries which is like a jar. Then a tree with leaves and roots rooted in Christ. Because of His great love, I am able to grow flowers with sweet fragrances which is also the feminine side of a woman's heart.

I thank my Creator for calling me His daughter as President Joshua Khong has been reminding us during the conference. As the song we sang - **EVERY HEARTBEAT IS FOR YOUR GLORY, TAKE ME**. Lord, here is my humble alabaster heart, take it and use it for Your Glory !

# Ordination Service at 48th Session TRAC in Port Dickson Methodist Centre on 19 November 2023

*By Rev. Ashok Amarasingham  
Board of Ministry, Chairman*

It has been four long years since the ordination service was held in Port Dickson Methodist Centre. TRAC is grateful to Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya that hosted the ordination service in recent years. All this was possible in 2023 because God answered our prayers to end the pandemic of Covid-19 that caused havoc to our nation and the world.

The two ordinands for Elder's Ordination were Rev. Luke Ng Say Ming and Rev. Chang Choy Quin, while the two ordinands for Deacon's Ordination were Rev. Shaan Sya Sim Swan and Rev. Edward Lee Kit Siang. The four of them had done well in their respective parishes and TRAC was ready to receive them as Elders and Deacons.

The respective District Superintendents introduced the ordinands prior to their ordination. Rev. Shearn Sya introduced Rev. Luke Ng who recently married Ms. Lydia Lee while Rev. Paul Christie introduced Rev. Chang Choy Quin who was transferred to Central District One at the start of 2023 to pastor both Christ Methodist Church, Ampang and Grace Methodist Church, Sentul. Rev. Ashok Amarasingham introduced Rev. Shearn Sya who is well supported by her husband Dizzy Ling and their daughter Chloe. Finally, Rev.

Andrew Tan introduced Rev. Edward Lee who became a father in 2023.

Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar preached on Colossians 1:29 (Striving with Christ's Energy). As normal, he preached passionately. He emphasised relying on God's strength to do mighty things for God rather than relying on human strength.

The reading of TRAC appointments concluded the 48th Session TRAC. The newly ordained pastors were congratulated by all present and had photos taken with family members and friends. The service was meaningful and all present thanked the Lord for watching over us and giving us his blessings.





# 48th Session TRAC

*By Tang Siak Kwan*



## Welcome

*Welcome*

17th November, 10am. The registration team was all ready to welcome delegates to the 48th Session TRAC at Port Dickson Methodist Centre. We were all smiles, as delegates started streaming in after 11 am, some travelling from as far north as Alor Setar and as far south as Johor Bahru. In total, close to 220 lay delegates, pastors, their spouses and children, and friends from Singapore TRAC, the Korean Methodist Church and various Christian organisations attended the 3-day conference.



All set to welcome and register delegates

### President's Sermon During The Opening Service



President Rev. Joshua in his opening sermon reminded the delegates of our conference's Quadrennium Vision : **Come, Follow and Become like Jesus.**

He encouraged all members of our TRAC churches to live up to the vision by :

- 1) Inviting others to COME to Jesus
- 2) Discipling others to FOLLOW Jesus
- 3) Inspiring others to BECOME like Jesus



### Communion during the Opening Service

### President's Address To The Delegates

In his presidential address, President Rev. Joshua pointed to the following - in post-pandemic restructuring and rebuilding - for doing ministry in our churches and for the re-gathering of lost sheep:

- (a) Seizing opportunities - where conditions are favourable - as we emerge to enlist and engage for Kingdom work.
- (b) Creating opportunities - where conditions are not favourable - by going forth with creativity, courage and obedience to do God's Kingdom work.
- (c) The President emphasised and encouraged every member to identify, re-gather and bring back to church the lost sheep that have stopped going to church.

He also highlighted the urgency for men and women to answer God's call for Pastoral Ministry. Currently, there are 22 TRAC churches sharing pastors, that means One pastor for Two churches. Furthermore, three churches are do not have any pastors assigned.

Another sobering fact is that 13 ordained Pastors born in the 1960s will be retiring in the coming years. Thus, we will be left with only 15 ordained Pastors to meet the needs of 44 TRAC churches if no new pastors join TRAC.



### Episcopal Message During Ordination Service

In the Episcopal Message entitled “**Striving with Christ’s Energy**”, Bishop Rev. Dr. T Jeya shared:

1. God’s ministry is not easy. Yet, if it’s God’s calling, we have to put in the hard work. There are no short cuts.
2. If we do the job with God’s strength (energy), we will be able to perform many things. If we do the job with our own strength, we will be weak and burn out.
3. Consciously rely on God’s energy. Strive in HIS energy. Know it is available to you.
4. Make sure you know that you are doing work for the Glory of God.
5. You don’t have to prove anything to anybody. Ministry is not a competition.



Rev Dr T Jeya also highlighted the following :

1. The nationwide celebration for the 140th year of the Methodist Church in Malaysia in 2024; in Kota Kinabalu for Sabah, in Sibu for Sarawak and in Petaling Jaya for Peninsula Malaysia.
2. Methodist Young Leaders Conference for those aged 18 years old to 40 years old, from 12-15 June 2024, at PDMC. The speakers will be BE Hwa Yung, Rev. Dr. Isaac Lim, Rev. Dr. David Doong, Mr. Asiri Fernando, Pr. Samuel Neesan.
3. Converging and working together for the OA Ministry in MCM. Currently the various Annual Conferences are doing OA work at Conference level. Perhaps, it would be more efficient for OA work to converge and for the ACs to start working together.

In the **Ordination service**, Rev Luke Ng Say Ming and Rev Chang Choy Quin were ordained as Elders. Pastor Shaan Sya Sim Swan and Pastor Edward Lee Kit Siang were ordained Deacons.



Ordination Service

We welcome 3 new pastors to TRAC Pastor Dr. Cheah Sene Kar, Pastor John Lai and Pastor Lim Pei Ling. The LPL certificates were presented to 12 local preachers.

A retirement service was held for Rev Andrew Tan who has faithfully served the Lord and His people for the last 40 years.



I give thanks to God for a great team - the local planning committee as well as the helpers who have tirelessly served and ensured the comfort of the delegates throughout the conference. Soli Deo gloria.





# TRAC Appointments For The Year 2024

## EASTERN DISTRICT

**District Superintendent: The Revd Gaurri Maniam**

Wesley MC Kuantan	Revd Christopher Rao	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Wesley MC Kuala Lipis	<i>No Conference Appointment</i>	
Wesley MC Raub	Pastor John Lai	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Christ MC Bentong	Pastor John Lai	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>

## NORTHERN DISTRICT

**District Superintendent: The Revd Shearn Sya**

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

## PERAK DISTRICT

**District Superintendent: The Revd Teoh Lee Yng**

Grace MC Pasir Putih	Revd Lim Chaw Leong	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Living Faith MC	Revd Lim Chaw Leong	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
CGMC Ipoh	Revd Dr Andrew Tan	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Yu Chiew Song	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Revd Richard Leow	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Pastor Dr. Cheah Sene Kar	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
Bercham MC	Rev Wong Chun Mun	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Wesley MC Ipoh	Revd Teoh Lee Yng	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Wong Chun Mun	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
Wesley MC Kampar	Revd Elaine Low	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Wesley MC Sitiawan	Revd Lester Lim	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Edward Lee	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
Wesley MC Teluk Intan	Revd Elaine Low	<i>Pastor Assigned</i>
Wesley MC Taiping	Revd Jonathan Chan	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd John Baru	<i>Associate Pastor</i>

## CENTRAL DISTRICT 1

**District Superintendent: The Revd Paul S Christie**

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

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

Wesley MC Klang	Revd Gaurri Maniam	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Living Hope MC	<i>No Conference Appointment</i>	
SSMC	Pastor Robin Liew	<i>Pastor-in-charge</i>
Trinity MC PJ	Revd Paul S. Christie	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Shaan Sya	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
	Pr Lewis Loke	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
Subang MC	Pr Robert Khaw	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Life MC Puchong	<i>No Conference Appointment</i>	
Emmanuel MC	Revd Ashok Amarasingham	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Wesleyan Community MC	Revd Shaan Sya	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Damansara Utama MC	Pr Chris Kam	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Pr Mike Ngui	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Pr Tan Moy How	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Pr Kelvin Yong	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Pr Gilbert Tan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
	Pr Eddy Marson	<i>Associate Pastor</i>

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

Wesley Seremban	Revd Yong Wai Yin	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Taman Ujong	Revd Yong Wai Yin	<i>Pastor Assigned</i>
	Pastor Lim Pei Ling	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
Wesley MC Melaka	Revd Aaron Liu	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Danny Chiew	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Taman Asean MC	Revd Aaron Liu	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
	Revd Danny Chiew	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Wesley MC Segamat	Revd Koe Swee Kee	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Wesley JB	Revd Wong Mun Wah	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>
Nusajaya MC	Revd Koe Swee Kee	<i>Pastor-in-Charge</i>

**SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Seniors Ministry Director	Revd David Loo
PMSM Superintendent	The Revd Ronald Yap
Prayer Coordinator	Pr Robert Khaw
Part-Time Coordinator in PMSM	Revd Richard Leow
Youth Work Coordinator	Mr. Shaun Yeoh



# Wesley Teluk Intan Christmas Candlelight Evangelistic Service 2023

*By Mrs. Naidu*



As Grace Yip Sook Fun (Mrs Ho Kum Weng) would say that it was by the grace of God, she was able to write and produce "Emanuel God with Us." It was a Christmas Eve night of carols. Friends were invited and by the grace of God, about 44 came from a total 95 attended.

It was a Christmas Eve night of sharing and proclaiming God's love through the singing of the ever green carols.

It was a Christmas Eve night of proclaiming what Christmas is all about: - the birth of Jesus Christ. "Jesus came into this dark world to be the light of the world." As said on that Christmas Eve "Emmanuel God with Us". Yes this is a dark world we live in but all is not lost. We have hope! How? Where? John 14: 5 says. "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness have not overcome it.

It was a Christmas Eve night of ushers lighting their candles and passing on the light. We all sang:

"It only takes a spark to set a fire going.  
And soon all those around ran warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love.  
Once you've experienced it, you spread the love to everyone;  
You want to pass it on.  
("Pass It On" by kurt kaise)



Christopher M Rice in the final stanza the song "Carry Your Candle" said:

"We are a family whose hearts are blazing;  
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky;  
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus.  
Make us a beacon in darkest times.

It was a Christmas Eve night of being reminded, when we sang: -

"Oh the best present is Jesus  
The best present of all is God's Son.  
Yes, the best present of all is the one God gave to me.  
The best present is all from Him.

And the prayer on that night (and for the rest of our lives) was in our singing:

"May your best present of all be Jesus May  
your best present of all be God's Son.  
May your best present of all be the one God gave you.  
May your best present of all be Jesus.  
May your best present be all from Him." The service ended with our pastor, the Rev Buell Abraham, praying and pronouncing the benediction!

And the night ended with all singing joyously "Feliz Navidad." Gifts were given to all present. To God be the glory



# Christmas Celebration at Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lipis

*By Christabelle Chan*



On the 25th of November 2023, Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lipis organized its early 2023 Christmas Celebration. Our little sanctuary was once overwhelmed by the huge attendance of 118 people, consisting of local church members, teacher trainees from IPG Kuala Lipis and some guests from the local community. About 50 non-Christians were among those present and for most of them this was their first time attending a church event. The celebration began with praise and worship led by Erica, Nini and the worship team. Songs of praise and Christmas carols echoed the walls as everyone present sang and clapped along.

The emcees, Madame Cheam and Wei En then announced the next section of the night: the performances that were specially prepared not only to entertain our guests, but ultimately to bring glory to our Lord God. The performances began with two songs that conveyed the message of God's love: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Joy to the World

and 你的爱 (Your Love) were presented by Ze Liang, Vicky and Kah Lok, accompanied by Evie and John on the Piano, and Shin Ci on the Chinese flute and acoustic guitar.

Next, after a brief explanation of the symbolism of the music instrument Rebana (the tambourine) in the context of the Christian celebration, we were blessed to witness our church's very first worship dance (tarian rebana). The elegant movements of Erica, Faithenny, Nini and Lily with their ribboned tambourines captivated us all as they danced to the music of Symphony Worship's "Gloria". After the dance, Tom Lean (accompanied by John on the piano) presented a heartfelt performance of a timeless classic: Jim Reeve's C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S, which encapsulates the true essence of Christmas, and reminded everyone of the importance of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and emphasized the virtues of love, unity and redemption. Following that, Mark and Ze Liang then came forward to read the story of Joseph Accepting Jesus as his son (Matthew 1:18-23) in Bahasa and Mandarin respectively.







The performances came to a close with a presentation of Christmas Hallelujah by Fionney and myself, accompanied by Ivan on the piano. The modified lyrics of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah read: I know You came to rescue me. This baby boy would grow to be a man one day and die for me and you. My sins would drive the nails in you. That rugged cross was my cross too. Still every breath you drew was Hallelujah - reminding everyone of the ultimate reason why Jesus left heaven and came to earth.

It was then time for Dr. Richard Chan's sharing (translated into Mandarin by Michael). He

reminded us that Jesus' birth was the greatest gift that we could ever receive. Because of His love for us, He sacrificed Himself, not only by coming to earth, but also by being crucified on the cross and dying a shameful death to pay for our sins. At the end of the service, everyone enjoyed the fellowship meal together. We were also blessed by some attendees who brought some traditional cakes to share.

We believe that through this simple Christmas celebration, everyone present brought home the gift of the good news- that God loved us so much that came down to earth to save all of us.







## Christmas Celebrated at Haknook Jenang Raub

*By Theresa Yip*



On December 16, 2023, the residents of Haknook Jenang (HJ) came together for a joyous Christmas celebration. The event drew a crowd of 180 people, including invited guests, resident students, staff, Management Committee, TRAC Eastern District Superintendent Rev Thomas Chin and Mrs. Chin Siew Yi, Pastor-in-Charge Rev Koe Swee Kee, and the incoming Pastor-in-Charge Pastor John Lai & Mrs Linda Lai. Notably, over 60 parents of the resident students traveled from Pos Betau, Pos Sinderut, and Semenyih to attend the celebration.

Under the guidance of Warden Ms. Chua Wee Wee and Assistant Warden Mdm Han Leyek, the resident students crafted a meaningful programme, showcasing songs, dance performances, and singing accompanied by

guitar playing taught by Dr. Peter Chin in less than 10 days.

It brought me great joy to witness countless pure smiles on the faces of students as they flawlessly performed with pride and joy, especially in the presence of their parents and siblings. Undoubtedly, they put in significant effort and hard work.







The event commenced with a worship session led by Assistant Warden Mdm Han Leyek and the HJ students. DS Rev Thomas Chin gave an opening address, followed by a message from Pastor John Lai entitled “Maksudnya Krismas.” In his Christmas message, Pastor John Lai emphasized that God loves all the people in the world, the sinners and the lost. Importance must be given to the core of Christmas, that God gave His one and only son to us so that we can be reconciled with Him. Highlighting the core ideals of Christmas, he said, “who ever believe and worship Jesus Christ would not perish but instead have the hope to live pure and eternal lives. Christmas invites all of us to cultivate the attitude of worshipping God and looking forward to eternal living with God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ because God loves us so very much.”

A significant highlight was the “Students Award,” recognizing students with remarkable improvement or those meeting specific criteria. The “Academic Scorecard” is regularly updated by the online tuition teacher after each lesson, with a point system converted

to cash prizes at the end of the school term. Their noteworthy accomplishments, achieved sometimes in challenging circumstances, are a source of pride. Whether receiving awards or not, limping or skipping across the finish line, there is reason to be proud and celebrate the progress these children have made. The cash prizes will undoubtedly come in handy for them to buy presents for their family members during this Christmas season.

A dedicated time was also set aside to pay tribute to the following Pastors involved in HJ who will be transferring out.

Rev Thomas Chin, TRAC DS Eastern District plans for his sabbatical and concludes his term as DS. The words that come to the minds of the staff and Management Committee regarding his service to HJ are compassion and competency, driving him to find resources and solutions. The Management Committee is privileged to have partnered with Rev Thomas in serving HJ, and they are grateful for his leadership and contributions to enhancing the HJ ministry throughout the years.





Rev Koe Swee Kee, PIC Wesley MC Raub & Christ Methodist Church Bentong will be transferred to Nusajaya MC and Wesley MC Segamat in 2024. His discipline, endurance, and extreme patience are noteworthy. His resilience, reticence, tenacity, and strength in quietness endeared us to him. We could see the high value he placed on family life. In spite of his intense ministry schedule, he was clearly a devoted husband and a loving father. His capacity to maintain individual and personal relationships with his many spiritual children in HJ is extraordinary. Although for a short stint, a gloom of sadness can be seen on the children's faces when Rev Koe's transfer is announce by Rev Thomas.

Rev Guok Shu Yau, Pastor-in-Charge Raub Chinese MC will be transferred to Kuantan Chinese MC. She serves as HJ Treasurer for the year 2023. Her tireless willingness to give her time to serve in HJ is commendable despite her workload as a PIC. She always ensures that the accounts are up-to-date and financial oversight closely monitored.

Our prayers for our beloved three pastors are that the Lord will continue to bless their ministry and their family immensely. They have been a tremendous blessing to HJ and in His Kingdom work.

A Christmas celebration is not complete without Christmas presents. We praise God for the Methodist Women of Wesley Methodist

Church Kuala Lumpur for sponsoring the Christmas gifts this year. Each of the resident children received a present, carefully selected and packed, much to their delight.

The celebration concluded with a closing prayer and benediction pronounced by Rev Koe Swee Kee. The joy of the celebration continued with a catered buffet lunch thereafter.

The Christmas Celebration, set on the weekend at the start of the school holidays, provided opportunities for parents to take their children home to their respective "kampung" right after lunch. May God grant each family a meaningful bonding time during the school holidays and may each of them have a splendid and blessed Christmas.





# Christmas at Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur

*By Lynette Loh*

Here is a collection of heartwarming snippets, snapshots, and vignettes of how we celebrated the joy of having the most precious gift and Presence of our Lord Jesus, Emmanuel God with us, here at Wesley Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur during the Christmas 2023 season.

*(Photos Credits: People involved in all the various featured ministries and events)*

## Methodist Women (MW) Christmas Celebration



*Sharing the joy of Christmas via visits and food fellowships with various shelter homes*



*MW Evangelistic Gathering at church on 9th December 2023*

## Methodist Seniors Fellowship (MSF) Christmas Celebration



*MSF Christmas Celebration Service and Carol Singing in the Sanctuary on 12th December 2023*



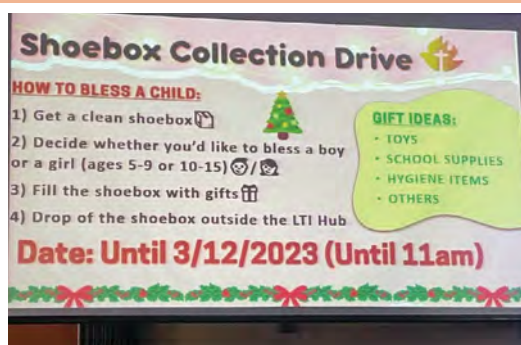
**Missions Christmas Celebration**


*Christmas celebration with the Orang Asli children at Kampung Runchang in Muadzam Shah, on 9th December 2023*

So good really, to see and know that the diverse and sprawling groups of people in our church, can be and are united, at our best, as we all do our own parts in both seen as well as unseen ways, to be bearers of glad tidings - sharing our blessings, gifts and resources, to bring good cheer, merriment, and most of all the love, light, joy, peace, saving grace and hope from the One who is the True Reason for the Season and life itself - with the world around us; as our joyful, thankful and grateful response to the overflowing love of God in Christ that we ourselves have been so blessed to receive and experience.

**Bahasa Malaysia (BM) Ministry Christmas Celebration**


*BM Ministry Pre-Service Christmas Carolling, on 3rd December 2023*

**Bahasa Malaysia (BM) Ministry Christmas Celebration**


*Christmas Shoebbox Gifts Collection Drive to bless a child, on 3rd December 2023*



**Christmas Eve Cantata "A Promise Kept"**

*Christmas Eve Cantata, "A Promise Kept", on 24th December 2023, during the Sunday morning service*

**May the Lord Himself, the True Vine to our branches, the Righteous One who alone can make our offerings pleasing to Him and fruitful for Him, may He establish all the works of our hearts and hands for His Kingdom and to His glory.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Evening Service**

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Evening Service, on 24th December 2023*

**Christmas Day Worship Service**

*Christmas Day Worship Service, on 25th December 2023*

# 5 Amazing Ways God Worked at YLDP & 18UP 2023

*By Jonathan Chan*

YLDP & 18UP 2023 was such an encouraging experience for both youths and organizers alike. New friendship forged, lessons learnt, questions answered and the love of God very much felt through the community of helpers and speakers all throughout the 5 days and 4 nights of camp. Here are 5 amazing ways God worked at YLDP & 18UP 2023.

## 1. Hunger for God

Both at YLDP (13 – 17 years old) & 18UP (18 – 25 years old) we allocated time for youths to ask questions regarding our faith and challenges they face. The number of questions that came in were very encouraging. It tells us that they are searching and interested to know what God thinks of issues they face. Many of them could have chosen to remain quiet or be disinterested. Instead, they choose to engage with the speakers and asked many questions. So much that the conversation extended beyond the sessions! It resulted in youths seeing issues with biblical perspective and bringing home scriptural principles to face their challenges. The conversations are still on going, and we are thankful because the questions allow us to journey together as brothers and sisters in Christ, maintaining the relationship well beyond the camp.

## 2. Relationships Forged

Board of Youth Work (BOYW) was concerned about the youths' social skills post covid-19 lockdown, as our observations after YLDP 2022 tells us that we will need to first address

social skills even before we can tackle relational challenges that youths face. But praise God that this issue had diminished from Day 2 onwards. Teambuilding that was very well planned with object lessons included in each activity. These memorable fun games had brought them together. Many from different churches had exchanged Instagram handles to keep in touch with each other at the end of the camp because of the new bonds that formed. Prayerfully, these relationships will continue and become their support for each other as they grow in faith.

## 3. Authenticity in Worship

Learning from Youth Quake 2010, the organizers made sure to schedule teambuilding activities as early as Day 1. Because we noticed that after teambuilding, and when bonds began to form, youth's attitude towards worship became a lot more authentic. They were less focused on the quality of the music and more on God.

To our pleasant surprise from Day 1, their attitude towards worship had been authentic. Truly, there is a hunger for God and desire to draw close to Him. This attitude also extends to the worship teams from different churches who lead us into God's presence every day.

On top of this, Rev. Ronald Yap, who is also our camp speaker shared with us about Holy Communion and gave us a deeper understanding of what we proclaim every month at our local churches.







It's our prayer that from there, youths will be able to express their worship and adoration towards God through the celebration of Holy Communion at their local churches as well.

#### 4. Visible Spiritual Growth

This is something that brought smiles to many pastors and mentors at YLDP & 18UP this year. We saw spiritual growth!

People who were camp participants last year, came this year as a helper, assisting in sessions. Those who were once helpers took on the challenge to be session speakers at YLDP, while others became mentors at 18UP! When I spoke to one of them who became a speaker at YLDP, she wasn't full of confidence that she could run her sessions well, but with humility and care reviews her sessions and check if her activities employed at the sessions were helpful to the youths. Or if the tools she used helped communicate God's word effectively to them.

The common denominator among the helpers, speakers and mentors who came, were present not because they know they have the skills for it, but because they saw a need for it and vailed themselves to be used by God.

For this, we are truly thankful and give glory to God for raising such fantastic examples for the youths to follow.

#### 5. Desire for Spiritual Growth

Immediately after the camp, we began to receive feedback from youths that they want to be back at YLDP/18UP 2024. I had a parent telling me that since getting home, her son had been telling her everything he learnt from camp for 2 hours! He is more interested than ever to discover God and what He thinks of current issues.

18UP youths responded on the feedback form that they appreciated the forum sessions and wanted it to be kept for 2024. Others appreciated the walk & talk sessions with mentors where they get to ask questions about life and get a personal Christian perspective response. Still others recall the lessons they learnt about faith, relationships and God's nature.

Our initial reading of these feedbacks are that youths are drawn to God; they want to learn more and grow spiritually. All towards living out God's purpose for them.

This is also our prayer for them. That they ultimately grow in Christlikeness.

So while we say goodbye for now, we look forward to the next YLDP/18UP to see more amazing ways God chooses to work among His people. All to His glory!

