



33rd Session of the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC)

22 – 25 November, 2008
Holiday Villa & Suites,
Subang.

Ministers, lay delegates, observers and some pastors' wives gathered at the Holiday Villa & Suites, Subang for the **33rd Session, TRAC Annual Conference from 22nd to 25th November, 2008.** The two fraternal guests from Singapore Rev. Dr. Wee Boon Hup who is the President of TRAC Singapore and Mr. Kim Seah, the Vice President brought greetings. Bishop Dr. Hwa

Yung, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, was present throughout the conference. We are indeed grateful for his encouraging and supportive presence and his challenging and insightful message delivered at the Closing and Ordination Worship Service held at the end of the Conference.

The Opening Service and Communion Service was led by Rev. Woo Kit Sang, Superintendent of the Selangor District. Conference President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik gave the message entitled "Superior To

Overwhelming Times" based on the text Hebrews 3:1-6. The writer addressed the Hebrews who were despondent and struggling with their faith. The same message of encouragement is relevant to us today as we face uncertainties and overwhelming odds in the world we live and times of weariness in our ministries. We are called to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ who is our counterpoise and who is far superior to anything or anyone. Therefore, we must be blind to the enticing things that dazzle our eyes and consider only Him.

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During the **business sessions**, reports from the District Superintendents, Boards Chairmen, Methodist Seniors' Fellowship, Methodist Women, Directors of Methodist Seniors' Fellowship and Institute of Christian Ministry were received. Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri presented a report on the Council of Churches while Rev. Dr. Ezra Kok gave a report on Seminari Theoloji Malaysia. Dr. Lim Boon Hock, the Director of the Council of Education spoke passionately about the need for Methodist Church members to be more supportive and involved in the Methodist schools in Malaysia. He highlighted the exciting plans for MHS Klang which has been undergoing significant restructuring and will be renamed Wesley Methodist School Klang as part of COE's long term rebranding exercise for our private schools, with the aim to provide quality education to the children of this nation. His plea is for more of our people to enter the teaching

profession to meet the needs of these schools.

As we have come to an end of the quadrennium, **elections** had to be carried out for positions in the TRAC boards/agencies for 2009-2012.

We wish to thank God Almighty for the smooth election process and for the re-election of Rev. Ong Hwai Teik as President of TRAC on the first ballot. We take this opportunity to congratulate him and may the Lord continue to guide and lead Rev. Ong as he submits himself to the call. The others who were elected to important positions of responsibility are as follows:

Conference Secretary :

Rev. T. Jeyakumar

Conference Treasurer :

Mr. Gary Soh

Conference Statistician :

Mr. Stephen Cheah

Conference Lay Leader :

Dr. Samuel Ong

Assoc. Conference Lay Leaders :

Datin Judy Chin and Mr. Khaw Choon Keat

At every Annual Conference the conference gets to listen to a broad overview of the state of the Annual Conference through the **TRAC Presidential address**. In this address, the President outlines the work done at conference level and highlights the significant ministries of the local churches as well. The delegates also get to hear the heartbeat of the President through the Holy Spirit's leading as plans for the future are tabled. The following are a few highlights of the Presidential Address.

Rev. Ong pointed out that TRAC in the past four quadrenniums had stayed focused on the five essentials of Leadership development, Community building, Missions and outreach, Discipleship and spirituality and Family (children, youth and seniors ministries)

These five broad goals enhance the life of our Annual Conference and are necessary for the development and growth of our local churches. In the area of leadership training, the



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President reports that there are 286 currently enrolled in our Lay Preacher's License (LPL) program and at least 5 will be completing their course by the end of the year. There has been greater emphasis on missions resulting in exciting developments in the TRAC churches. TRAC churches have missions connections with at least 9 countries and at the local level, we are also involved with the migrant workers from other countries. Presently, TRAC has about 15 "non-English" speaking congregations, in line with our emphasis on reaching the "nations in our nation." To advance this important outreach work, we are seriously looking into the establishment of a TRAC Missions Society. In the meantime, we shall continue to fulfill our support for **Persidangan Missi Sengoi** (PMS) The TRAC Executive Board has set up a small team to help our Sengoi brethren in reviewing and reforming their financial situation, in preparation for the day when they shall become a Provisional Annual Conference. TRAC churches can continue to help them in planting congregations by building chapels/multi purpose halls. Some Sengoi children are now beginning to enroll in colleges for diploma-level studies and a few aim to study in universities. There is therefore a growing need for an Education/Scholarship Fund to be set up. They are also seeking help to have local tuition classes conducted in their residential centres such as Kampar.

TRAC will also continue to help them in the Bible translation project that they have undertaken in collaboration with other concerned parties.



In the essential of Discipleship and Spirituality, it is reported that the number of churches organizing annual prayer retreats has grown. We now have more prayer coordinators and "activities of prayer." It is hoped that in time to come we can have TRAC churches coming together to pray such as the TRAC Shekinah Prayer Hour which was launched on 13th September, 2008. In the area of nurture, the Board of Christian Education has helped systematize our teaching and training curriculum for our local churches and has conducted "road shows" to motivate and train personnel in the different Districts. The Board of Worship and Music has been providing training for worship enablers and has produced devotional and liturgical materials for our Annual Conference use, the latest being the revised resources for funerals.

Ms. Ng Wai Ling has been appointed Director of the TRAC Institute of Christian Ministry. The ICM Interim Board together with our TRAC churches is working at shaping the syllabus to strategically give training and input to strengthen the ministries of our churches as a whole.

For "Family: Children, Youth and Seniors Ministries," the President stresses that we continue to place emphasis on our Church/Sunday Schools. We thank the Lord that Whispering Hope Preaching Point at HELP University College and the outreach to the KTAR and UTAR campuses in Kampar are making progress. There is the continual tracking of the graduates of the Jeremiah School, YLDP, College Camps, National Youth Prayer Conference and Mission Trips participants. The older ones are now helping out in our youth programs, training events and forming our TRAC youth district councils. Let us continue to love and co-invest in our young people, being open to inputs from them as well.

Due to the diligent effort of the more recent leadership in the seniors ministry and with the help of the part-time Director of the Seniors Ministry, the MSF has put together a more holistic "road-map" that incorporates the spiritual, physical, discipleship, outreach and ministry spheres.



We had four **workshops** at this session of Annual Conference which are based on the General Conference theme of "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation." Based on this theme, 4 Essentials applicable to the life of the church were presented and discussed during the workshop sessions. They are: Evangelism and Church Planting, Discipleship, Church and Society, and Missions. The five groups comprising all present at the conference looked into the issues involved in each and noted specific actions that could be taken to address these issues. The findings and feedback were presented when all came together as a group and they will be taken up at the next Executive Board, to help in planning the way forward for the conference with the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Ordination and Closing Service was held at Trinity Methodist Church, PJ.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Pastor Yong Wai Yin who was ordained deacon at the service. It was also significant that she was ordained at Trinity Methodist Church, the church she grew up in and served for so many years. May God continue to anoint her ministry and provide her with His wisdom and power as she remains faithful to the calling. Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung brought the message to the people entitled "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation" which is the General Conference theme for

the next quadrennium. He based his message on the text found in Exodus 3:1-12. In that text of God's call to Moses, he pointed out two distinct obstacles that would hinder the Christian's faithfulness and obedience to the call of God.

The first is the danger of self sufficiency and human pride. He drew on the example of Moses who had grown up in the Egyptian palace and had received the training besides having all the privileges of a prince. Moses seemed to have and seen it all. He thought he could do it all until he had to flee after killing the overseer. It was then that his self sufficiency was removed.

He also gave the example of Christianity in China. In the period before the Communists took over, the church had great resources provided by western missionaries. The latter built great hospitals and the best universities but there was no revival in the church. John Sung was the one who stated that the missionaries and the money must leave China before there would be revival. When the communists took over, the missionaries and money were gone. It was then that the Christians turned to God and became totally dependent on Him and His resources. When human pride and resources were removed and when the people turned to depend totally on God alone for His provisions, God then began His Kingdom work in China leading to a great revival.

Are we depending on our own resources, our abilities and our skills? We are reminded that spiritual pride causes one to be unteachable, critical and judgmental. We have to come before God and say, "Lord, please change me."

The second obstacle is our refusal to move out of our comfort zones. Moses had got married in Midian and was raising a family. God's call had come at the most inconvenient time and he gave all kinds of excuses. In the same way, many find it difficult to move out of their

comfort zones in our middle class setting to answer the call of God. He urged the people to listen to God's call and decide to be obedient, make up the mind to serve and not wait till one is too old.

Moses heard God's voice at the burning bush, "the place where you are standing is holy ground." We stand before the same holy God. Let us repent of our pride and self sufficiency and move out of our comfort zones to serve Him.

We thank the Bishop for the timely reminder.



Conclusion

We thank God Almighty for His presence in our midst throughout the conference. There was a greater sense of unity pervading as expressed in the elections and the smooth running of the business sessions. We are definitely in one accord in the way we want to move forward as evidenced by the animated discussions in the workshops and the reports given. There is so much to be done in God's Kingdom work through TRAC and in the different local churches and we know that with God's grace and empowering we will be found faithful as we depend fully on Him.

Pastoral Appointments for 2009

EASTERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent	Rev Ashok Amarasingham
Bentong Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kuala Lipis Wesley MC	Rev Joshua Khong, Pastor Assigned
Raub Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kuantan Wesley MC	Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong

NORTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent	Rev Hwa Jen
Alor Setar Wesley MC	Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Approved Supply Pastor
Sg. Petani Wesley MC	Mr Lee Peng Chiat, Approved Supply Pastor
Kulim Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Butterworth Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Penang Wesley MC	Rev Hwa Jen, Pastor
Penang Trinity MC	Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor
Parit Buntar Wesley MC	Rev Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor

PERAK DISTRICT

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

FEDERAL TERRITORY

District Superintendent	Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon
Kuala Lumpur Wesley MC	Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon, Pastor
	Rev Raymond Wong, Associate Pastor
	Ms Veronica Ting Ling Yin, Director of Social Ministries
Ampang Christ MC	Rev Raymond Wong, Pastor Assigned
Cheras Faith MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor
Kepong Wesley MC	Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor
Sentul Grace MC	Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor
Miss Tan Chew Mae, Puchong Life MC	Approved Supply Pastor
	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

SELANGOR DISTRICT

District Superintendent	Rev Lawrence Francis
Petaling Jaya Trinity MC	Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock, Pastor
	Rev Buell Abraham, Associate Pastor
	Damansara Utama MC-- to be appointed
Petaling Jaya Emmanuel MC	Rev. Ting Moy Hong, Pastor
Sg. Way/Subang MC	-- to be appointed
Subang MC	Mr Robert Khaw Hock Pang Approved Supply Pastor
Kelang Wesley MC	Rev Ashok Amarasingham
Sungai Buloh Trinity Methodist Church	Rev Lawrence Francis, Pastor

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent	Rev Yew Nieng Song
Johor Bahru Wesley MC	Rev Timothy Lam Yuen Yi, Pastor
Segamat Wesley MC	Mr Ngoh Peng Teck, Part-Time Approved Supply Pastor
Melaka Wesley MC	Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Pastor
	Mr John Baru, Approved Supply Pastor
Taman Asean MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Seremban Wesley MC	Rev Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor
Taman Ujong MC	Rev Anthony Loke, Pastor Assigned

Special Appointments

* on behalf of Bishop

Seconded to Faculty of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia*	Rev Anthony Loke
Seconded to Council of Churches Malaysia	Rev Dr Hermen Shastri
Superintendent, Methodist Sengoi Mission	Rev Bah Uda Aman
Senior Advisor to Methodist Sengoi Mission Conference	Rev Balahu Hassan
Part-time Coordinator, Sengoi Workers Training Centre (SWTC)	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar
Part-time Director, Methodist Seniors Ministry	Rev Hwa Jen
Conference Prayer Director	Rev Ong Hwai Teik

Conference Officers, Chairmen and members of the Various Boards/Committees and Agencies for new Quadrennium 2009-2012

Conference President	Rev Ong Hwai Teik
Conference Secretary	Rev T. Jeyakumar
Conference Treasurer	Mr Gary Soh Keng Hian
Conference Statistician	Mr Stephen Cheah
Conference Lay Leader	Dr Samuel Ong Boon Leng
Associate Conference Lay Leaders	Datin Judy Chin
	Mr Khaw Choon Keat

01 Executive Board

Chairman Rev Ong Hwai Teik

Ministerial members	Lay members
Rev T. Jeyakumar, Conference Secretary	Dr Samuel Ong, Conference Lay Leader
Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock	Mr Kwong Choong Vai, Chairman, Board of Finance
Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon	Mrs Evelyn Lim, MW President
Rev Yew Nieng Song	Dr Ting Cheh Sing
Rev Hwa Jen	Mr Khaw Choon Keat
Rev Timothy Ong	Mrs Lily Ch'ng
Rev Ting Moy Hong	Mrs Judy Chin

02 Board of Appointments

Conference President	District Superintendents
Conference Lay Leader	Chairman, Board of Finance

03 Board of Archives and History

Chairperson Mrs Goh-Tan Phing Choo

Members	Rev Buell Abraham	Rev Henry Yong
	Rev Hwa Jen	Ms Aileen Khoo
	Mr Bobby Lee	Mdm Chang Tsyh Yong
	Mr Chuah Hong Khoon	Mrs Maureen Szetho
	Mdm Patricia Khaw	Ms Vicky Lee

04 Board of Christian Education**Chairman** Rev Joshua Khong

Members	Rev Andrew Tan	Pastor Tan Yee Ho
	Mr Daniel Ong	Mr Stephen Cheah
	Mr Lim Peng Leong	Ms Ng Wai Ling (ICM Director)

(+ Chairman of District Commissions & representatives from Organisations)

05 Board of Evangelism**Chairman** Rev Paul Christie

Members	Rev Audrey Yap Yin Har	Pastor John Baru
	Pastor Robert Khaw	Ms Carol Pan
	Mrs Dorothy Leong	Ms Loi Ling Peng

(+ Chairman of District Commissions & representatives from Organisations)

06 Board of Finance**Chairman** Mr Kwong Choong Vai

Members	Rev Ricky Ho	Dr Chan Kook Weng
	Rev T. Jeyakumar	Mr Julian Lau
	Rev Ting Moy Hong	Dr Mary Bian
	Rev Yew Nieng Song	Dr Ting Cheh Sing
	Mr Yeoh Beng Keat	Mr Yip Chee Seng
	Conference Lay Leader	Conference MW President

Ex-officio Members Conference President and District Superintendents**07 Board of Investigation****Members**

Rev Lawrence Francis
Rev Hwa Jen
Rev Dr Timothy Ong
Rev Henry Yong
Rev Anthony Loke

Reserves

Rev Peggy Seow
Rev Thomas Chin
Rev Woo Kit Sang
Rev Andrew Tan
Rev Bernard Yogaraj

08 Board of Laity

Chairman Conference Lay Leader, Dr Samuel Ong

Members Associate Conference Lay Leader, Datin Judy Chin
Associate Conference Lay Leader, Mr Khaw Choon Keat
District Lay Leaders
Conference MW President
Conference MSF President
Conference MYF President
Conference MYAF President
Conference Director Youth Work

Ex-officio Members Conference President and District Superintendents

09 Board of Ministry

Chairman Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock

Members Rev T. Jeyakumar Rev Yew Nieng Song
Rev Ting Moy Hong Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon
Rev Hwa Jen

Ex-officio Members Conference President and District Superintendents

10 Board of Missions

Chairman Mr Oon Lai Seng Mr Richard S. O. Leow

Members Pastor Lee Peng Chiat Mr Yeoh Beng Keat
Rev Christopher Rao Mr Leong Pook Seong
Rev Timothy Lam Yuen Yee Rev Woo Kit Sang

(+ Chairman of District Commissions & representatives from Organisations)

11 Board of Nominations

Chairman: Dr Chan Kook Weng

Members: Rev T. Jeyakumar Rev Ting Moy Hong
Rev Dr Timothy Ong Mrs Lily Ch'ng
Mr Daniel Khoo Dr Herbert Tan

12 Board of Presidency

Chairperson Mrs Lily Ch'ng

Members	Rev Lawrence Francis	Mr Richard S. O. Leow
	Rev Dr Timothy Ong	

13 Board of Social Concerns

Chairperson Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar

Members	Rev Lawrence Francis	Rev Raymond Wong
	Pastor Tan Chew Mae	Col. (rtd) George Leng
	Mrs Sheila Ramayah	Ms Veronica Ting
	(+ Chairman of District Commissions & representatives from Organisations)	

14 Board of Worship and Music

Chairperson Rev Yong Wai Yin

Members	Rev Ashok Amarasingham	Mrs Jane Khoo
	Ms Liew Cow Yuan	Ms Ng Su Yin
	Mr Ng Yuk Keong	Ms Susan Tan
	Ms Michelle Chen	Dr Samuel Ong

15 Board of Youth Work

Chairperson Dr Herbert Tan

Members	Rev Thomas Chin	Mr Lim Chong Ho, BB representative
	Mr Alan Seow	Ms Tan Ser Joo, GB representative
	Ms Chan Lay Wah	Ms Chang Choy Quin, Youth Ministry Co-ordinator
	Ms Tan Shu Yi	Associate (District Directors of Youth Work)
	MYF and MYAF Representatives	

16 TRAC Property Board

Chairperson Mr Peter Desmond Wee

Members	Rev Dr Timothy Ong	Rev Ting Moy Hong
	Mr Aldrin Chan	Mr Eric Hue
	Dr Ting Cheh Sing	Mr Sam Tuck Wah

Prayer Director

Rev Ong Hwai Teik

Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) Director

Ms Ng Wai Ling

Aldersgate Day in Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh 24.05.2008



Aldersgate Day 270 Years later, on Saturday the 24th May 2008, Ipoh Wesley Methodist Church congregated with Pastors, families and friends to dedicate (1) the MYC (Methodist Youth Centre) complete with full sized basket ball cum volley ball courts, and a third floor apartment to accommodate our Youth Worker; (2) the CEB (Christian Education Block) Extension – a 3 storey, 9 classrooms building with a new access road (Wesley Avenue), a large car park, a covered walkway connecting the CEB to the Sanctuary, and a turf 200 meters track-field. Associated with these 2 building projects were several other infra-structural upgrading and constructions, namely

- (i) A brand new, relocated Indah Water approved septic tank for the ACS Primary, our neighbour;
- (ii) Improved security with strategic fencing & gating;
- (iii) Major overhaul of the environment including upgrading of drainage for the ACS Secondary Badminton Hall area, and clearing loads of accumulated rubbish!
- (iv) Additional car parks for both the ACS Primary & Secondary Schools; and other works for the common benefit of all users entering the Ipoh Methodist Complex.

We praise “God who granted us success as we prayed and built...” Neh 2:20, oftentimes against odds. The total cost of RM1.8 million was financed from funds raised and internal resources – thanks to all generous cheerful givers and members. The significance of these projects are

- (a) A major completion of structures to serve the children and youth ministries for decades to come
- (b) Rationalization of land stewardship and usage, as historically assigned by the Methodist COT
- (c) Advancement of God’s Kingdom.

We thank God for His faithful and fruitful servants who persevered against myriads of problems and persecutions. Our Father in Heaven empowered and enabled all the way.

Praise the Lord! His call to reach out and draw in the software for character building and configuration is ever relevant.

To former pastor and now TRAC President Rev. Ong Hwai Teik, we thank God for your persevering prayers, wise counsel and personal interests and participation all the way. To our Bishop Dr Hwa Yung, we thank God for your judicious, firm and strategic leadership that enabled & ensured crucial changes necessary for our projects to succeed. Thanks, both Bishop & President, for the meaningful messages, prayers and participation during the Dedication Service. Indeed, the full scope of Project Nehemiah begun post-fire of 23.2.1992 can be declared as complete for this season in time. Project Galilee’s call to be “fishers of men” must continue earnestly and fervently.

As we savoured the food at Thanksgiving Dinner to conclude the Dedication Service, we savoured all of God’s goodness to us at Ipoh Wesley over the 114 years. Praise the Lord indeed! To Him be all honour & glory. Amen.

Submitted by Dr C S Ting
Chairman Building Committee





Station Leaders and Crew Leaders

Vacation Bible School 2008

Wesley Methodist Church Kuantan



“Faith Fusion Finale”



The “Crew” (participants)

Each year, the Church School at the Wesley Methodist Church in Kuantan organizes a Vacation Bible School for children from ages 6 to 12. This year, the VBS was held from 24th to 26th October 2008 at our church compound, with the theme “Power Lab – Discovering Jesus’ Miraculous Power”.

Preparations started 4 months in advance, recruiting 47 volunteers, 13 of whom were youths. The team was led and trained by our Lab Director, Chen Min Li and assisted by our Crew Director, Susie Phua. Our Pastor, Rev. Joshua Khong, was always at hand to support the team, from helping with the promotions to giving advice and praying with the team.

Within 3 weeks, there were 87 participants from our own Church School, nearby churches, Raphah (children’s) Home, day care centres and primary schools. The children were grouped into five teams. The youths were given the responsibility to lead a team as a Crew Leader or Assistant Crew Leader.

The theme was taught in 5 sessions over the 2½ days. Each session focused on a Bible point:

1. Jesus gives us the power to be thankful (Colosians 3:15)

2. Jesus gives us the power to help others (Romans 12:13)
3. Jesus gives us the power to be brave (Psalms 23:4)
4. Jesus gives us the power to live forever (John 14:19)
5. Jesus gives us the power to tell others about God (Mark 16:15)

About 85 children were present each day. At the beginning of each session, the children who were addressed as “Professors”, gathered as one large group for “Sonic Sing & Play”. After that, the 5 teams went to five stations in rotation and were engaged in fun-filled activities. The stations were named:

1. Bible Blast
2. Hyperspeed Games
3. Test Tube Treats
4. Cinema Science
5. Wacky Works Crafts & Missions

The Station Leaders and co-leaders shared Bible stories of the 10 lepers, the blind man, Peter walking on water, Jesus’ resurrection and the Pentecost experience. Two young boys were so touched in the account of Jesus’ crucifixion that they shed tears.

Each session ended with all the children gathering at the “Faith Fusion Finale”. The Bible point and

Bible memory verse were reviewed as well as exciting experiments conducted. During the session, the children were encouraged to share their personal experiences in completing their “daily challenges”.

We were joyful to witness 44 children accepting Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour by the end of the VBS. Another 11 children indicated that they were sure they had received Jesus earlier in their life.

It was an enriching experience for volunteers who had to handle a few very active children. On the first day, we prayed for them and their behaviour improved tremendously for the next 1½ days.

The Holy Spirit moved mightily amongst us. We were truly blessed in many ways although some of us were exhausted at the end of the action-packed sessions. God showed us how much He loves the children and wants them to experience His love through us. We are grateful for the opportunity to be humble vessels of God’s grace.

Susie Phua
VBS Crew Leader Director

LPL Modules for WMC, Kuantan



The month of November saw the monsoon rain pelting in the East Coast of Pahang. Kuantan is one such east coast town not to be spared. But from 14 – 16 November 2008, though the weather had been quite threatening, along with it came good tidings. For the first time, all LPL modules would be conducted in Kuantan. It was a blessing for WMC Kuantan to have Dr Chew Tow Yow bring us through the first module on Spiritual Formation and Discipleship. Yes, more modules will definitely follow – LPL at our doorstep means not having to journey to other towns to equip and train our members for Kingdom work.

Since the beginning of the year much encouragement, prayers and exhortation were given by our pastor pertaining to the LPL long-term programme for our church. Rev Joshua Khong saw the need and urgency to build up a team of lay preachers in the Eastern District. We praise God for the positive response of 42 participants registering for the course. 38 of the

participants completed the 12 hour lecture over the weekend. We have 6 students taking the course as a credit whilst the rest were on audit. Rev. Dr. Chew Tow Yow had set the pace right in focusing on spiritual formation and discipleship. This direction was also in tandem with Rev Joshua Khong's objective to set a right footing for WMC Kuantan members to be guided in the area of spiritual formation that would lead to discipleship development. All the sessions proceeded well without any hitch. Each session lasted one and a half hours interspersed with short breaks. Of course, the tea breaks were an added privilege, timely it may be to freshen up, to chit chat and fellowship among members, most of whom have a 'hi' and 'bye' encounter at our weekly Sunday worship.

As the sessions proceeded, the reading assignments and write-up on books recommended to the credit participants had been laid down. For most credit participants, it was back to classes again. The LPL weekend had been very challenging for all participants. Reference books had been placed to order in anticipation of reading assignments. For many of us, the LPL weekend was one of the best weekend workshops that we have had. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Chew Tow Yow and Mrs. Chew for spending the weekend with us and we were indeed richly blessed. We pray that God will grant us strength, perseverance, wisdom and a teachable heart to be trained through the LPL modules that we will become a channel of blessing to the church and the community of faith here.

**Submitted by
Eric Hue**



The Evolution of **Pusat Berdikari Seremban** into a Society

Anne Cherian & Peter Yew



On 5th July 2008 Pusat Berdikari Seremban, a community project of Wesley Methodist Church, Seremban to train learning disabled people for the job market celebrated its 10th anniversary at a fund raising dinner at Restoran Min Kok, Seremban where 820 diners were entertained by Francissca Peter, a well known Christian singer since the 1980s. It was a memorable evening that helped the guests become aware of this social work.

Pusat Berdikari Seremban began as a social concerns project of the church in June 1998 to fulfil a niche not available in Seremban. It provides training for the learning disabled between 18 – 40 years age group. It runs under a management committee that reports to the LCEC and has two staff and a team of volunteers to take care of its day to day activities.

The centre has a capacity to train up to 25 trainees. They started with the job of packing straws, definitely not an awe-inspiring task! However, they learned to count, learned co-ordination and other skills, which we “normal” people take for granted. Slowly other activities were added with volunteers teaching simple maths, reading, writing their names, identifying their home addresses and hopefully, their phone numbers.

Many of them did not have a clue about “simple” things like these. Perseverance has paid off and many now look forward to their reading and writing sessions and proudly display their written work.

As the years progressed, new vocational skills were introduced. Card making took off slowly and is now a major source of revenue with the more artistic trainees making cards for sale. The fact that they are paid is an added incentive for them.

Baking is another area in which we have progressed by leaps and bounds. From not being able to differentiate between a spoon & a fork, a number of them can now bake a variety of cakes and bread and even do simple icing. Sale of cakes brings profit for the centre and income for the trainees. Even the “slowest of slow” can now make cup cakes. Baking is not just about making cakes but also about the importance of cleanliness, use of various utensils, washing up and putting them back in their proper place.

Card making and baking have been very helpful in teaching discipline and cooperation. Volunteers also teach simple basic cooking skills like making fried rice, soups and other simple dishes. Some of the trainees

have even tried out these dishes on their own at home!

The lighter side of PBS training is the dancing. Every week they learn to dance to music and their success in this area was obvious at our anniversary dinner when they danced their way into everybody's heart.

In April 2008 we were informed by GCH Retail, the parent company of Giant Supermarket and Guardian Pharmacy, that they are seeking trained disabled persons to join their workforce. Several trainees responded excitedly. In July we were pleasantly surprised when Giant management sent some officers to interview our trainees. 10 trainees were interviewed and 7 passed the test. After their successful medical check up on 22nd July, Mei Ling began work at Guardian Pharmacy, Poh Leong, Chong and Yoga at Giant Supermarket at Seremban Terminal One, and Khairi and Shiraz at the Giant at Ampangan. This employment opportunity given by Giant was indeed a giant step for PBS. For a long time both the trainers and volunteers at PBS were hoping that someone would come and offer our trainees jobs and our prayers were answered. This mass recruitment by GCH Retail has certainly encouraged us



tremendously. We understand that this is the first group of disabled trainees they employed outside of the Klang Valley. We hope to be able to provide more trained people into the open job market to employers like Giant.

At our 10th anniversary celebration we also celebrated our 'promotion' from the church-run Pusat Berdikari Seremban (PBS) to Persatuan Berdikari Seremban Negeri Sembilan (PBSNS), which was granted legal status on 5th April 2008. The smooth transition is like that of a relay team passing the baton. We thank God for granting us this change that will enable PBSNS to grow and expand beyond its present scope. Two years ago no one would have predicted what is to take place this year. It is indeed God's wisdom that sees how PBS has evolved to what she has become today. Our prayer is for all Christians in Seremban and nationwide to support this meaningful work to 'teach our trainees to be self-reliant, giving them the right to live meaningful and full lives, with a hope to move towards independent living and to be competent members of society' as embodied in our Vision Statement.

Update:

PBS was formally closed as at end of 2008. For information about PBSNS work please check our website www.pbs.org.my and our blog at pbssbn.blogspot.com.

TRAC MYF 1st MUSIC WORSHIP WORKSHOP CAMP (MWWC)



All glory and honour be to our Lord Jesus, for it is through Him all things are made and all things are possible. He became sin, who knew no sin giving up His life for us all that we can stand before God holy and righteous. Truly He deserves all glory and honour, worthy of our Praise and worship!

Earlier this year, the TRAC MYF committee set out to plan for a "Music Worship Workshop Camp", with the objective of teaching the youth from the TRAC churches about the meaning of worship and also to help in the technicalities of music. The committee agreed to set up a sub-committee (lead by Han How) that would further plan the details of this camp and to also execute the plan. It was a lot of hard work, there were even at one

point doubts in some of us, but we held on to our faith and put our hope in the Lord that He will bring it to pass. It took us approximately 4 months to plan and prepare for this camp.

Initially, the plan was to organize a national-level event (MWWC), but with much consultation and assessment of resources, the committee decided to stick with a district level event, this was also because it was our first time planning and organizing such an event. Praise the Lord none.

On the 15th August the organizing committee sets out for Ipoh, with excitement and wonder filling our hearts and minds, because we didn't know what to expect of the participants. However, we



prayed and trusted the Lord to do something that would amaze us. When we arrived, we were warmly greeted by Fung Hao one of the youth leaders, as well as Mrs Judy Chin the youth councillor. The first thing upon arrival was to set up the instruments and do a sound check, setting up the registration booth and await the arrival of the participants. As we watched the arrival of the participants, we could only give thanks to God for He was gracious to have provided us with such a large number of respondents, all in all there were 44 participants coming from 5 different TRAC churches such as, Sitiawan Wesley, Ipoh Wesley, Canning Garden Methodist, Teluk Intan Wesley, Taiping Wesley. Praise the Lord!!

The second day of the camp (16th Aug- Saturday) was a full day of theory, practical as well as technical workshops. Workshops were divided into 4 categories, which were: Musical Theory, individual instruments, Team dynamics, and Band dynamics. The amazing part of these workshops was that we didn't have any professional to conduct it; it was purely conducted by our very own youth helpers cum musicians.

This alone shows the gifts of God given to us, and ultimately they are to be used to glorify His name.

It was really encouraging to see the passion and the excitement instilled within the hearts of the youths. They were enthusiastically exploring and expending their skills and talents. For us the facilitators, it was especially encouraging because what we saw in those youths, reminded us of our yester-years, when we at their age also eagerly learnt and improved on our talents as God had gifted us.

It was truly an awesome time we had in Ipoh, and to see and hear the responses of these youth only motivates us to want to continue the MWWc in the years ahead. One full day of workshop was definitely not enough! Please keep us in prayer as we seek God for next year's workshop.

Here are some comments by the participants about the camp:

1. This praise and worship workshop really blessed me so much because since I've been in Malaysia, I've really missed good praise and worship (English), hence I've been attending a

Tamil Church most often since I've been here...You all are such a great group and Jesus' light shines so brightly through you all, and you have really blessed me with your Christ-likeness. (Victoria Leggett- USA)

2. Firstly, thanks for everything!! I appreciate the care, the food and all that you guys have taught us, appreciate it a lot! I'm really glad that you all decided to organise this camp because this is one of the things that I wanted to learn for so long, such as how to improve our vocals and how to lead worship. Thanks a lot. (Jamie- Sitiawan Wesley)

3. I've learnt to always remember what worship is really all about – GOD (One of the participants)



My Journey

as a Local Preacher



It is now 31 years since I became a Lay Preacher in Wesley Methodist Church Seremban, Negri Sembilan, Malaysia. I first was encouraged to become one by the then Southern District Conference Superintendent, The Rev. Patrick Yeoh in 1975. I had just been transferred to Seremban three years earlier from Layang Layang, Johore and been nominated into the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC). My children, three boys, were young then, Andrew 7 years, Aldrin 6 years and Antoni 2 years. I was hesitant to join initially but Alice, the Pastor's wife offered to look after my children while the lessons were being conducted, Alice was so gracious to my family and even helped to feed my boys especially the younger one who still required milk.

Out of the five candidates only Mr. A Kovalan and I graduated upon passing a three-hour examination on homiletics, church history, the New and Old Testaments and church polity. We were granted the LPL certificate at the Southern District Conference in 1977. Since then we

have been faithful in renewing our LPL annually by submitting two prescribed book reviews, reports on the number of sermons preached, number of baptism classes conducted, wake and funeral services assisted, and school chapel services carried out for approval by the Southern District Conference. Over all these years there has been commitment, discipleship and perseverance.

There are practical experiences to be gained. Being a Lay Preacher I quickly realise that it is not just about preaching that we must be good at but, at the same time, I have to manage my time well and apply my biblical knowledge learned to help the members of the whole church that comprises members of varying age groups and stages of spiritual growth. So opportunities were taken to learn as much as possible especially on occasions when the Pastors passed the chair us to accompany him, for example,

- i) Visitations to meet the personal needs of members
- ii) Preach at churches within and between Districts and Annual Conferences
- iii) Preach at School chapel services
- iv) Be present and assist at birth, birthday, marriage and death occasions
- v) Hear divorce discussions with the aim to encourage reconciliation

Through these exposures, I was able to understand the value of faith, obedience and prayer that had since deepened my fellowship with God. The valuable experiences have stood me well that God is with us all the time and He is faithful and we only have to trust Him.

I have benefitted as a Lay Preacher in that:

- i) When preparing my sermons, I have to be true and faithful to the Word and its interpretation. My wife is my biggest critic of my sermons because I feel that if she understands what I am going to convey then it is most likely that the whole congregation will be able to understand too. In the early years, I got the brickbats and I had to change the text often. Since then I have learned and improved with much encouragement from her and the congregation.
- ii) In understanding repentance, just like the cross, the redemptive relationship with God vertically must be matched equally with the relationship with fellow members horizontally. The latter relationship is developed with the deeper understanding through the care group settings. I value the two care groups of Abraham and Moses CGs under my charge because together we have learned to cling on to the promises of God that free salvation is given to the unsaved.
- iii) In touching lives, I have learned the ability to bring the gospel of God's love to another. As the person responds to the gospel with both repentance and faith, the Spirit of the God then brings about the miracle of new birth within his soul. That person becomes a new creation and I have to nurture and mentor that person with a place in one of the care groups for further nurture.
- iv) In serving the Lord, I have benefitted in that I have learned to be humble and grateful. I know that it is the Holy Spirit that is working within me and the work I accomplish and my progress

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Eulogy for Matthias Ezekiel Christie

Let me begin by sharing this psalm:

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb, I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139: 13-16)

Today, Gladys and I celebrate the life of our son, Matthias Ezekiel Christie. Even as we are saddened by the passing away of our little one, Matthias was a beautiful gift from God.

Like most expecting parents, when Gladys and I first learned we were having a third child, we were filled with anticipation and expectations.

Every parent has dreams for the future of their children - Who will they look like? What will they grow up to become?

And, we were faced with this particular question countless times - “Is it a boy or a girl?” – but our prayer was that the baby would be healthy, and would grow up to be a faithful follower of Christ.

In the 7th month of Gladys’ pregnancy, our gynae, Dr. Chow, was alarmed when he saw in the scan there was a lot of amniotic fluid. He referred us to a specialist in KL for a 4D scan of our baby to determine the cause of the excess fluid in Gladys’ womb.

We received the news that changed our perspective of life. The doctor reported to us that our baby Matthias had high possibility of Trisomy 18 (or it is also called Edwards Syndrome) – it’s a genetic abnormality. After hearing such sad news, Gladys and I decided to find out as much as we could about Trisomy 18. In a way, it was to prepare us. A baby with Trisomy 18 has multiple complications and our Matthias was diagnosed to have a hole in the heart and clenched fists, among other features typical of Trisomy 18. Babies like this will eventually die, shortly after birth.

As anxious as we were, we placed our hope in God. In Isaiah 55:9, God says, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” In times like this, we have to allow God to be God. Gladys and I prayed for God to give us strength to meet Matthias and to love him. Every day, we lifted up our questions, desperation and helplessness to God.

One of our questions was, “God, is this baby a gift from You?”

Today, both Gladys and I have learnt something new about the meaning of “gift from God”. Matthias is a “perfect” gift from God to our family. He is a “little” gift of “great” value. He is a gift of “permanent” love, joy and peace, all wrapped up in a “temporary” 1.85 kg body. He is a “perfect” gift that reveals the “imperfections” in both of us who are still alive and kicking.

Matthias had a hole in his heart. This made us realise that we too have a big hole in our hearts. We need Jesus to fill up that hole with His love. We can’t live without Jesus. Matthias has clenched fists. This made us realise that we clench our fists tightly around treasures that are less than that of the kingdom of Heaven. We clench our fists when we question God in anger. Then, we noticed that after Matthias had passed away, Gladys and I could easily unclench his fingers and let his feeble fingers go around ours. Similarly, God can easily unclench our fists if we die to self. Then, we can hold on to his hands.

Our baby’s death has reminded us what life with Christ is all about. And so, Matthias Ezekiel Christie is a perfect gift of God for his imperfect daddy, mummy and brothers.

Matthias was born on 23rd October at 1.10pm in the afternoon. Gladys, who was wide awake, did not hear any first cry from the baby. When the baby was brought to her in the operation theatre, the paediatrician told her that his heartbeat was slowing down. Gladys’ immediate words were, “Take him to Paul”. And, so the baby was brought to me, and I was told that his heartbeat was slowing down. I carried him for 45

minutes, very close to my heart. I saw him breathing gently. In moments of being alone with my son, I said to him, Matthias, "Daddy and mummy love you very much no matter what happens to you." I also said to him, "Matthias, Jesus loves you very much."

I did not realise that Matthias was slowly passing away.

Matthias passed away in his father's arms and now he is safe in the loving arms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Job 1:21

One day, Gladys, the boys and I will see Matthias Ezekiel Christie in heaven. Till that day comes, we will continue to live in hope, walk in faith, and serve in Christ's love.

Gladys and I want to thank our Almighty God for giving us Matthias. We thank Him for the surprisingly wonderful weather during the Wake, Funeral and Committal Services. It had been rainy for the past few days. This shows God loves baby Matthias.

We thank our boys, Silas and Lucas, for their unique prayers and love for their brother Matthias.

We thank our parents for their love.

We thank Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung, Rev. Ong Hwai Teik (TRAC President), Rev. Yew Nieng Song (Southern District Superintendent) and Rev. T. Jeyakumar for their prayers, presence and messages that came from their hearts.

We thank all pastors in TRAC for being there for us. We thank our gynaecologist, Dr Chow Heap Yeong, for journeying with us.

We thank all doctors and hospital staff for their assistance.

We thank leaders and members of both Wesley Methodist Church Seremban and Taman Ujong for their sincere love, shown to us in many ways, big and small.

We thank all friends, relatives near and far, pastors and members of other churches for their continuous support in our time of bereavement.

We thank you all for your never-ending support.

Gladys and I truly appreciate all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

To God be the Glory and All Praise. Amen.

With love,

Rev. & Mrs. Paul Christie (Gladys Tan Siew Hean)

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towards Christlikeness is due the work and faithfulness of the Holy Spirit. My time is no longer my time. Even after a hard day's work at the office and if some



members are going for, say, an operation the following day, I still have to go at late hours to pray for the person, to assure him God will be with him and the operation will be smooth and uneventful. In stewardship of our time, it has taught me to save ourselves of our selfishness of time and I find I have a lot of energy and joy in doing so. I give all glory to God.

v) In my daily task, I have benefitted as a Lay Preacher that my commitment to do the will of God must be expressed in all circumstances in the home, through the church community, through my place of work, in my social activities and in every assignment I do even as I travel around often overseas and locally. I have learned to do good, help others and establish long-lasting friendship and above all, these are done with humility and gratitude so that I may project the fruit of a full Christian life.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to: i) God for the opportunity to serve, ii) the Pastors over the years for their partnership, iii) My wife, for her strong support and prayers as we journey together with Christ as the head of our family, iv) My children who are now Christians themselves that they should pass the baton of serving God even to the next generation and v) Members of Seremban Wesley for the opportunity to share together our joys and trials as we uphold each other

May our Great God continue to bless Seremban Wesley Church richly in the years ahead as we celebrate our 93rd Anniversary. To God be the glory!

**Dr Chan Kook Weng,
Lay Preacher
Methodist
Church
Seremban**

JANUARY

01 Thur	New Day's Day
05-22	Jeremiah School
05 Mon	School Term Begins
08 Thur	BOM Meeting
09-11 Fri-Sun	Executive Board Retreat, Fraser Hill
18 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kedah
18-25 Sun-Sun	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
26-27 Mon-Tue	Chinese New Year

FEBRUARY

01 Sun	Federal Territory Day
02-22	Jeremiah School (cont...)
08 Sun	Thaipusam
13-14 Fri-Sat	GCEC - Sibü
16 Mon	Statistical Returns to be sent to churches
17-19 Tue-Thur	CCM Heads of Churches Retreat
20-22 Fri-Sun	ICM (SFL Weekend 1) – Northern/ Perak Districts – Penang
25 Wed	Ash Wednesday

MARCH

03-05 Tue-Thur	President/ DS's Retreat???
04 Wed	ICM (Spiritual Formation Public Lecture) - PJ
04 Wed	Anniversary of the Coronation of the Sultan of Trengganu
06-09 Fri-Mon	BOYW Retreat
09 Mon	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
10-13 Tue Fri	TRAC MSF Camp
11 Wed	ICM (SF Public Lecture) – PJ
14-22	Schools Mid-Term Break
16 Mon	Statistical Returns to reach Statistician
18 Wed	ICM (SF Public Lecture) – PJ
19-22	Thurs-Sun BOYW –National Youth Prayer Conference
20-22 Fri Sun	TRAC Prayer Conference
25 Wed	ICM (SF Public Lecture) – PJ
30 Mon	Birthday of Sultan Of Kelantan

APRIL

01 Wed	ICM (SF Public Lecture) – PJ
05 Sun	Palm Sunday
08 Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Johor
10 Fri	Good Friday
12 Sun	Easter
15 Wed	Declaration of Melaka as Historical City
14-18 Tue-Sat	GCMW – Joint Asian Seminar in Medan
19 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Perak
20-25 Mon-Sat	PDMS
27-30 Mon-Thur	CFM National Christian Conference – Penang

MAY

01 Fri	Labour Day
07 Thur	Hari Hol – Pahang
09 Sat	Wesak Day
10 Sun	Methodist Women / Mother's Day
17 Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Perlis
17 Sun	Aldersgate Sunday/Call to Ministry
31 Sun	Pentecost Sunday

JUNE

01-14	Schools Mid Year Break
06 Sat	Birthday of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong
07 Sun	Pentecost Sunday
07 Sun	National Youth Prayer Day (BOYW)
12 Fri	BOM Meeting
13 Sat	Executive Board Meeting – TRAC HQ
14 Sun	Methodist Education Foundation Sunday
21 Sun	Christian Education Sunday/Father's Day
27 Sat	BOYW Meeting
29 Mon	Hari Hol Almarhum Sultan Johor

TRAC

Calendar 2009

JULY

11 Sat	Birthday of Governor of Penang
12 Sun	Social Concerns Sunday
14-17 Tue-Fri	Paderi Conference
15 Tue	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches
19 Sun	Birthday of T.Y.T. Yang di-Pertuan Besar of N. Sembilan
20 Mon	Birthday of Sultan of Trengganu
20 Mon	Israk & Mikraj – Kedah, Negari, Perlis
23-25 Thur-Sat	Eagle's Leadership Conference 09

AUGUST

07-09 Fri-Sun	ICM (SFL Weekend 2) Northern/ Perak Districts – Penang
14-15 Fri-Sat	GCEC, KL
17 Mon	Statistical Returns to reach Statistician
22 Sat	Awal Ramadan
22-26 Sat-Wed	MW Conference/Convention
22-30	Schools Mid Term Break
29-31 Sat-Mon	TRAC Young Adults Consultation/Convention
30 Sun	CCM Sunday
31 Mon	National Day

SEPTEMBER

04-06 Fri-Sun	BOYW – National Youth Counselor's Retreat
06 Sun	Heritage Sunday
07 Mon	Hari Nuzul Al-Quran (Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, Selangor)
10 Thur	BOM Meeting
11 Fri	President / DS's Meeting (morning) in TRAC HQ
11-13 Fri-Sun	TRAC Joint Board/Executive Board
20-21 Sun-Mon	Hari Raya Puasa
22-27 Tue-Sun	World Methodist Council, Chile
25-27 Fri-Sun	TRAC BB/GB Consultation

OCTOBER

02-04 Fri-Sun	ICM (SFL Weekend 2), Southern District - Melaka
10 Sat	Birthday of Governor of Melaka
17 Sat	Deepavali
24 Sat	Birthday of Sultan of Pahang
25 Sun	MSF Sunday

NOVEMBER

03-05 Tues-Thurs	PMS Conference
21-Jan 3rd 2010	Year End Break
19-20 Thurs-Fri	BOM Meeting & Pre-Ministerial Session
21-24 Sat-Tue	34th Session TRAC
27 Fri	Hari Raya Qurban

DECEMBER

08-13 Tues-Sun	YLDP
11 Fri	Birthday of Sultan of Selangor
11-13 Fri-Sun	Matthew & Friends weekend – TRAC Board of Evangelism
18 Fri	Awal Muharam
24 Thur	Christmas Eve
25 Fri	Christmas Day
31 Wed	New Year's Eve/Watch Night Covenant Service