



TRAC



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Looking Ahead... as Lifelong Disciples"

As we continue in the midst of Easter Tide which will climax on Pentecost Sunday, seven Sundays after Easter, we have an example of what life in the hope and power of the risen and new life in Christ can do in Acts 2: 41 – 47. It is in this great hope that we can face the global economic and potential health crises, the season of uncertainty of political change in Malaysia that affects us and our children's children, and other more personal destabilizing issues we each face in life, home, office and church.

New life in Christ speaks about a discipleship journey of following the risen Christ, which lives out fellowship, learning, outreach, worship and service – all integrated and centered in Christ. To live this "risen" life in Christ, will not be easy, as we struggle against our own fallen humanity, the deep and pervasive influence of the world in which we are "immersed", and the invisible but real hand of Satan at work.

Our Trinity Annual Conference leadership has found that there is an important need for us as God's people to re-emphasize this evergreen issue as indicated by both our own internal faith community life, as well as by the current situation in Malaysia and the challenging global context today.

TRAC will be moving in alignment with our General Conference theme for this quadrennium, **Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation**. For us, we shall express this theme with the vision statement of **Lifelong discipleship, wholesome families, a voice to the nation, a vision for the world**.

As we prayed and sought the Lord, the TRAC Executive Board felt led into the above emphases at our Retreat in January this year. This will be further prayed and worked on at the coming Joint Board session in September and the 34th Session of TRAC in November 2009. Let me invite all our members and friends to keep this matter

in prayer, as we want to hear from the Lord of the Church pertaining to what He has in store for us in the days ahead as His people in this nation at this hour.

In the meantime, let us continue to be steadfast in being a follower and disciple of the living Christ. Discipleship is a personal journey we each must take, albeit in the company of community of faith that belongs to Christ. **Only when there is individually strong and grounded disciple, will there be a solid and fruitful congregation and Annual Conference.**

What then are some of the key elements entailed in becoming a follower and disciple of Christ, who really looks like Him? Let me suggest a few:

- Responding to Jesus' Initiative in our lives, ministry and service.
- Becoming a Lifelong Learner that is teachable, growing not only in truth, but also in the grace of a transformed character
- Commitment to Community – not living in isolation as a "dismembered" body part (which will die), but finding health and life in the body of Christ
- Listening obediently to Jesus – especially His example of the "Son... learnt obedience through what He suffered" (Heb 5:8)
- Following wherever He leads – knowing that He has promised - "I, I am with you always."
- Forsaking all that would hinder our response – always putting Christ first as His loyal and submitted follower
- Engaging in action/reflection – so that there is always time to examine if our heart is right with God, and our actions are Spirit led and Biblically sound.
- Leading by serving others, that it is not a matter of status but service in leadership.
- Finding people to invite them to journey with us: sharing with them the Good

News of Jesus, relating to and serving them in the spirit of Christ.

Two verses from Paul's writings that serve as a good summary of what it means to be a disciple and a discipler are:

• **Col 1:28,29:** *We proclaim him [Christ], admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect [mature, complete] in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling [agonizing] with all energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

May we as Christ's disciples and followers, be conspicuously

• **Rom 8:29:** *...conformed to the likeness of his Son...*

especially as we face a challenging global economic melt-down, the attacks of hitherto unknown but deadly diseases like the Influenza A H1N1, local political impasses that may threaten the freedom and longer term welfare of Malaysia.

The words of that great British evangelist of the Lord, Rodney Gypsy Smith (1860-1947) that remind Christian disciples to have the *heart of a child* (tender and compassionate), the *mind of a scholar* (trained and grounded in the truths of the Bible), and the *skin of a rhinoceros* (tough and resilient) – are most current for us today!

We are able to be faithful and transformed disciples – because we abide in the risen and prevailing Master!




Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik
President, TRAC

TRAC Young Adults Convention 2009

Speaker: Dr. Leong Tien Fock

29 – 31 August 2009

Empress Hotel, Sepang



IT IS SO TOUGH
AND LONELY
WALKING
ALONE!!!!

IN CHRIST,
TOGETHER,
OUT THERE

*For further information,
please refer to the church office*

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Berita TRAC is a quarterly newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference. We welcome articles, contributions, comments and feedback that will edify the TRAC churches. The editor reserves the right to edit and publish all submissions. Please forward all enquiries, comments and contributions to : admin@trac.org.my or call 03-7954 2836 website: www.trac.org.my



TRAC YOUNG ADULTS CONVENTION 2009

"In Christ, Together, Out There"

29th to 31st August 2009 (Saturday to Monday)

Location : Empress Hotel, Sepang



God is a master at putting people back together

Ever wonder:

Is the Christian faith relevant to the demands of life today?

Is it practical enough that I can live the abundant life?

Why are you feeling disconnected from your church community?

Why are you feeling burnt out and can anyone hear your cry?

If you are struggling with these questions, you are not alone!

Come and learn how we can ACE in life rather than just following the rat race which often leads us to put on a masked face. This Convention is a renewed call for us to embrace life's experiences and challenges with God's grace.

Plenary Sessions:

Anchoring in Christ

- How would we define ourselves? By our accomplishments or our material gains?
How much do we need to achieve or accumulate before we feel secure?

Cultivating Community

- How do we balance our responsibilities and relationships in our life? The relationships that mean most to us get sidelined and we find ourselves having to survive alone.

Engaging Society

- Is your job just another job? Do you want to discover how to be a blessing to your family, neighbors or at your workplace?

Other highlights of the Convention:

- ▶ Workshops - Sharing experiences, trashing out issues relating to God, family & work
- ▶ **FUN NITE** - Time for chilling out and "gila-gila"

Our speaker : **Dr. Leong Tien Fock**

- ✦ He is the research coordinator of Malaysia Campus Crusade for Christ focusing on application of the Bible to contemporary thinking and living.
- ✦ Adjunct lecturer of the East Asia School of Theology (Singapore) and STM.
- ✦ Graduated in Civil Engineering (UM).
- ✦ MA in Biblical Studies (Wheaton College).
- ✦ PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (University of California, Los Angeles).

Closing Date with Payment: **31 July 2009, 5:00 p.m.**

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Registration forms have been sent to the churches. Please contact your church office for the forms.



Anchor Your Life to
Something Reliable



All the Pastors appreciated the 'enforced rest' from their often times tiring and hectic ministries. Beholding God's amazing creation in the national park was a pleasant privilege and experience for all. Praise the Lord for His creation.

I have been much encouraged by Rev Yew Nieng Song, whom I casually came to know had made a prior trip to Taman Negara at his own expense to scout around for the best deals for the land and river expeditions just for us! He had to juggle many balls at one time - as Pastor, District Superintendent and holding several other responsibilities in TRAC, not to mention family responsibilities.

I reckon his servanthood, sacrifice

and thoughtfulness is a lesson in itself for Pastors. He has lived out what John Ortberg (Editor-at-large of Leadership and Pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California) once wrote:

"In the life of every teacher, every church, there is a formal and a hidden curriculum. The formal one matters. It's worth getting right. But it cannot overcome a hidden curriculum that is misshapen twisted. The hidden curriculum shapes souls."

Before we left for Taman Negara, a few session was conducted at Menara Wesley, KL.

Bishop Dr Hwa Yung urged pastors to go back to basics – "be engaged in the ministry of prayer and preach God's Word", apart from

PD 20-25 A

emphasising the importance of integrity and being truthful.

Before departing for Taman Negara (for Part 2 of the PDMS), we were updated on the socio-political happenings in the country, specifically the 'Ah Long' (loan shark) menace and their modus operandi. A wonderful ministry is being carried out by a group of committed Christians, who risked their lives to help those entangled with loan sharks.



Congratulations

Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

The TRAC Board of Presidency takes this opportunity to congratulate the TRAC President Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik who has been conferred the Doctorate in Ministry (D.Min) by Asbury Theological College. The commencement ceremony was held on 23rd May, 2009. We thank the Lord for the added equipping for the furtherance of His Kingdom and we thank all those who have supported and encouraged him in this journey.

Rev. Peggy Seow

Our congratulations to Rev. Peggy Seow as well, as she has successfully completed the MA Spirituality (Major: Spiritual Direction) Course at the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University, Chicago. The commencement/graduation ceremony was held on 7th May, 2009. She is grateful and appreciative of the prayers, support and encouragement from members and friends of TRAC.

—To God be the glory!—



MS April 2009

The sharing was interspersed with touching testimonies by two rescued victims, who honestly shared their “stupidity” in being involved with loan sharks during their financial desperation. It was nightmarish for them to experience harassment when they were unable to settle their repayments on time. The moral of the story is do not to get involved with loan sharks from the outset.

The other speaker was Tricia Yeoh



– a lady in her 20s – a beacon of hope and inspiration for our younger generation. She was formerly with Centre of Public Policy Studies. She has since moved on to be the Research Officer of the Selangor Menteri Besar.

During the question-and-answer session, she related her passion about applying what she had studied in the UK university. Significantly, the godly values and principles (e.g. integrity, justice and social concern) that were imparted to her while she was young were also instrumental in shaping her character and worldview, and involvement in the public policy domain.

She came across as idealistic, yet inspiring and innovative in thinking (e.g. take initiative to have regular

inter-faith dialogue with others rather than continue to live with a silo mentality). She is very much aware of the changing reality and is in touch especially with the younger generation, who represents the voice, the aspiration of Malaysians and those yet unborn.

It is such young people of God that we must be praying for. This is one important take-away from the informative and eye-opening session that we all had.

*Pastor Robert Khaw,
Subang Methodist Church*



*During an excursion into Taman Negara, Thomas Chin and I came upon this Great Argus Pheasant (Burung Raja Kuang) on Thursday morning along the jungle trail close to Lebuk Simpon. It was a once in a lifetime sight to behold
- Bernard Yogaraj*



TRAC Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) Public Lectures

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) launched its first ICM Public Lectures on the theme '**The Heart and Soul of Spiritual Formation**' in March and April 2009. This 5-part lecture series which was hosted by Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya in a span of 5 Wednesday evenings attracted an average crowd of 200 persons every week. Below are some highlights of the ICM Public Lectures 2009:

TEN folds of twenty and more – young and old, men and women, able-bodied and wheel-chair-bound were faithfully attending the weekly Wednesday evening lectures. Their presence and openness to learn each Wednesday evening were most encouraging and inspiring! This series was kicked off by the first lecture on 'The Heart and Soul of Spiritual Formation' by Dr Voon Choon Khing.



Contingent from Taman Ujong Methodist Church Seremban

NINE member-contingent (and more not in this picture!) from Taman Ujong Methodist Church, Seremban, faithfully travelled to and fro Seremban week after week, rain or shine just so they could be at the evening lectures! They finished their day's work, car-pooled, packed dinner and took off together on the PLUS highway every Wednesday evening for five weeks! Such desire to learn and grow is heart warming!

EIGHT and more tips on practicing spiritual disciplines were introduced as part of the training in Godliness and righteousness. Other ancient classical spiritual disciplines suggested in Alvin Ung's lecture on 'The Spirit of the Disciplines – Cultivating and Inner Life with God' include solitude, prayer, meditation, spiritual reading and study, simplicity, service, confession, thanksgiving and secrecy.

SEVEN ways to be transformed through imitation of Jesus - as prescribed by Rev Dr Chew Tow Yow in his lecture on 'Christlikeness through Discipleship and Spiritual Formation'. He talked about how transformation permeates the mind, the emotions, the will, relationships, body habits, service and influence as a servant leader.



Ushers from Trinity Methodist Church PJ

SIX ushers from Trinity Methodist Church PJ ushering with their smiles and extending their hearts of hospitality to visitors and guests of the evening lectures. Many helpers from Trinity Methodist Church PJ helped out in different ways during these five weeks – as pianist and sound and tech crew. We may have treaded on angels unaware!

FIVE men and women of faith brought us through various pertinent issues related to the heart and soul of spiritual formation. They were

pastors, theologians, academicians, writers and leaders in their own fields but all share similar passion in helping others to grow in their spiritual life.



Dr Poon Siew Kein (TMC PJ), Mrs Magdalene Tan (TUMC), Mrs Lily Ch'ng (TMC PJ) & Mrs Bee Galk Lawrence (Trinity Sg Buloh)

FOUR pretty maidens in a row representing three different churches – a common scene in the lecture series. At a random count, the ICM Lectures drew participants from over thirty churches in the Klang Valley. We continue to be attentive to the work of God in the hearts of men. How refreshing for the soul to witness the Spirit's movements having His way in His larger Body of Christ – irrespective of denominations and traditions!



ICM Info Counter

THREE faithful ICM Helpers at the ICM Information Counter – handling questions and taking CD orders week after week with great patience and care. Beyond being helpers, they are a community of friends. Following Christ in Three's signify a simple model for spiritual friendships



Bishop Dr Hwa Yung



Dr Voon Choon Khing



Rev Dr Chew Tow Yow



Alvin Ung



Placing Orders for CD's



Mr & Mrs Tan (TMC PJ) with family and friends



SUFES Book Table

as advocated by Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn in his lecture Building Spiritual Friendships for the Sake of the Soul.

TWO - in-one essentials must go hand in hand in spiritual formation. The knowledge of God and the knowledge of self according to St Augustine. The knowledge of God often leads us to the knowledge of self. So must the pursuit of holiness and godliness be done together with the pursuit of healing of our brokenness. This was the final challenge given at the last lecture by Bishop Hwa Yung on 'Spiritual Growth: Healing & Wholeness'.

ONE major theme that weaved across the five weeks of interaction with preachers, scriptures and reflection is that the heart and soul of spiritual formation is about Christlikeness and restoring our image into His. We are ultimately called to be His disciples, to follow Him at all cost and to be like Him - so that others may be drawn to Him!



Dr & Drs Ng Swee Ming (SSMC) with a friend



Mr & Mrs Tung Kum Seng (KL Wesley)



Participants



Robert & Dorothy Khaw of Subang Methodist Church



Grace Choong (TMC PJ), Dr Samuel Ong (Whispering Hope, EMC) & Ng Wai Ling (ICM Director)



Rev Ong Hwai Teik at the Closing Lecture

Spiritual Formation and Leadership (SFL)

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) recently organized its first Spiritual Formation and Leadership (SFL) Weekend – one at Harvest Haven, Gopeng (20-22 Feb) and the other at El-Sanctuary, Alor Gajah. (17-19 April). It was part-one of 4 parts of the training of leaders in spiritual formation. Each retreat took up to twenty-five participants with 4 spiritual companions and facilitators. This retreat's focus is on building the inner-life of the leader and disciplines like silence, solitude and scriptural meditations were integrated into a weekend of teaching, reflections and interaction.

Below is a reflection of two of the participants. Dr KT Lee was at SFL Gopeng and Dr Samuel Ong at SFL Alor Gajah.

A Reflection by Dr KT Lee

It was a quiet Friday morning at my clinic when I closed for the day at 1.00pm. My clothes had been packed the day before. The map to the camp site was surprisingly detailed and so I did not lose my way and actually arrived early. However the road was a bit run down deeper in and unless you do not mind scrapping cow dung from your car tires, you need to slowly weave on the road and negotiate your car like a commando to avoid the 'dungmines'.

Located on a fenced area of 6.8 acres, the campsite - Harvest Haven appeared like an oasis popping out of a monotonous listless plantation landscape. It boasted of a swimming pool, football field, basketball/volleyball/futsal court and table tennis table. Alas, none of these facilities were enjoyed as the participants were not supposed to talk, gesture or even have eye contact with each other when they practiced the 'disciplines of Solitude and Silence' [one would be allowed to scream, "Fire! Fire!, ...etc" if the need arose]. Here, I must confess that I 'cheated' a little, sometimes nodding and smiling upon receiving a simple courtesy from other participants, most of whom were equally amateurish in playing the role of monastic monks.



SFL Gopeng sharing a meal Harvest Haven, Gopeng

The retreat officially started during dinner time at 6.30pm and we were given the some ground rules. We were also expected to eat our meals together at the same table in silence and solitude. When a group of adults is plucked from the hustle and bustle of daily responsibilities and told to basically be alone and avoid outside stimulus (except the Bible), each would be compelled to pause, rest and reflect on his/her life. If during that same period, a sprinkling of teaching sessions were added, where each participant was invited to go to God with his/her wounds, many souls would instinctively seek out Jesus for healing and for rest.

I could not help but compare this to my own medical practice of 'insisting' that very vertiginous (giddy) patients be admitted in the hospital for complete rest in bed. I know from experience that if I were to allow these patients to go home, they would not be resting in bed but rather be pandering to the needs of their family or sneaking in some home/work chores! The more they force their bodies beyond their limit, the sicker they become and the longer they will need to finally recuperate. So also, a period of silence and solitude is very often NECESSARY to rest one's soul and allow it to rejuvenate and bask in



Participants at SFL Gopeng.

God's presence. Quite often too, like the patient with vertigo, Christians will not admit they actually need soul rest.

Among the interesting things I learned during the weekend was to read the Bible using *Lectio Divina* – read the scripture slowly, prayerfully, meditatively, repetitively and invite the Holy Spirit to guide me and bring God's words to life for me. We were taught that to focus on God, we had to let our cluttered thoughts fly over us. The facilitators encouraged us to still our wandering hearts in a quiet place. There we were to read and reflect on scripture while listening with our hearts. Only then did we respond to that which stirred our souls.

In another session, the participants were invited to reflect on the whole of their life story and to identify their strengths and weaknesses. St. Augustine wrote that 'Man possesses wisdom through dual knowledge – the knowledge of God and the knowledge of self'. We were also introduced to the need to schedule our lives in a realistic and practical manner, by integrating spiritual disciplines in our lives suitable to our life stage, personality and interests. In other words as good stewards, we need to know our body



Coffee break and Fellowship.



and take care of it holistically – what author Ruth Haley Barton called “Sacred Rhythms”.

When life suddenly grinds to a snail pace, we tend to slow down and start looking at life around us. The surrounding becomes suddenly more interesting and we tend to appreciate God’s creation better. The humble shrub too can become an object of fascination with its unique branches, canopy of leaves and its glorious flowers each in its God-appointed place.

On Sunday during breakfast, we were allowed to break the Great Silence! Oh what joy it was to be able to talk, yak, laugh and have sweet fellowship... The group sharing session was refreshingly candid and encouraging. Many were refreshed and spiritually drawn closer to God. A few confessed that they had been granted much needed rest for both their body and soul. All felt the closeness of God; personally real and collectively invigorating.

We were challenged to serve God and put Him first in our lives. I came away from the retreat strengthened and realizing that today the need is for faithfulness and obedience to build up the one body of the bride of Christ – His Church. God is patiently waiting for His people today – ordinary men and women, like you and me, to stand up and be counted.

A Reflection by Dr Samuel Ong

We were asked to be silent, in solitude, to be present to God. But El Sanctuary was noisy (with the chatter and fun of the youth) and burning hot (even in the shade). There were other distractions to contend with too - weariness, sickness, ongoing struggles with people and God.

Yet, GOD met us, in His grace and mercy.

The first night, when the ‘small silence’ began, I stood in the open field, leaned against one of the cars, and looked up to the sky - something I don’t do in my ordinary days. And GOD surprised me. The sky was filled with stars! Millions of them, I suppose. Big and small, near and far, bright and not-so-bright, but all twinkling, smiling. The more I looked, the more I saw. I closed my eyes and opened them, and the stars were still there, even brighter. And then, a red light, flashing, cutting across the sky, like a paintbrush, steadily.

And GOD spoke. The stars spoke of His grace upon grace to me, a wretched sinner. The flashing light of the plane spoke of The Hand that paints the sky. The vastness of the canopy spoke of an infinite God yet with time to look at me, smile at me ... a little speck, on a field, one night! “What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?”

And I broke out in song, in my heart, under my lips ... chastened, humbled, yet affirmed.

*Wonderful grace of Jesus,
Greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it,
Where shall it’s praise begin;
Taking away my burden,
Setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus,
reaches me!
Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Wonderful grace, all sufficient for me, for even me.
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious Name of Jesus.
Praise His Name!*

I met with GOD in the stars that night at El-Sanctuary (God’s Hiding Place).



El-Sanctuary, Alor Gajah



Attending a teaching session at SFL, Alor Gajah



Sumptuous food at El-Sanctuary, Alor Gajah

SFL 2 will be held from 6-8 August at Stella Maris, Penang and 2-4 Oct at Methodist Centre, Fraser’s Hill. Part 2 of this SFL Weekend will focus on building Personal Leadership Skills for Leaders. The focus is on looking at leadership skills from a spiritual formation perspective. For more information, please visit www.trac.org.my and the Institute for Christian Ministry link or CALL 03-7954 2836 (ICM)

Reflections on

Jeremiah School (JS) 2009 saw the 7th run of the six-week leadership development programme of TRAC aimed at bringing school leavers deeper in their journey with God. There were 22 of them facilitated by 3 fulltime mentors and 1 part-time mentor who journeyed with them in their ups and down as they learn to lead and live for God.

What made me want to go back again and again all these seven years to be part of this school ... some years as a part-time and some as a full-time mentor? Set on a backdrop of my missionary work as well as family responsibilities, I chose to invest these key six weeks with the students knowing that I am investing in something important for the future of TRAC and God's Kingdom. As one friend would remind me how important JS was – Paul sometimes would spend only 6 weeks in a location and a new church would be planted.

The prophet Jeremiah noted in Jeremiah 1:4-10 – The word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” “Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.” But

the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” I believe that passage sums up what Jeremiah School is about – to raise up a generation of young people who would go where God sends them, who will not be afraid to speak out for God, and who will bear the Words of God over nations and kingdoms. So the vision statement of JS – To raise a generation of God-fearing, faithful, persevering and selfless young leaders who will be of a different spirit (*like Caleb in Numbers 14:24*). One of the biggest challenges that I faced is the process of producing such leaders. During sessions as I teach, I ask myself whether what I share comes from merely my head or from my heart and life, overflowing with God's life and love. Only life can produce life. When I sit down to talk to my mentees, I seek

to let them see my heart and life as I challenge them to see theirs and how they can grow further. My passion and mission in life is to see people become “crazy” about growth and transformation towards the ideals of my Creator God. Often, I wish the students would grow faster but I have to learn that one can only plant and water, but it is God who gives the growth (often I will need to step back a little for that to happen). My biggest struggle is to be authentic and a co-learner with the students that I minister to. That means I must be willing to hold on to and live by the same standards we place on the students. In fact, if my former Sunday school superintendent taught me anything when I was a teenager, it was that if the class starts at 10 am, the teacher must be there by 9:50 am and the superintendent must be there by



9:40 am. Basically, if JS students have to rise at 6:30 am, I will need to wake up by 6:20 am. If they are required to memorize Scripture, then I must be willing to do the same and even more. And if I struggle, to be authentic would mean I share my struggles with them including how I am trusting God to deal with it.

The best times in JS are also the most emotionally moving. They happen during the last week when we are in a location for a whole week doing mission work. The few days before we part, as we share our hearts and the precious lessons we learned, more often than not,



Jeremiah School



we talk about what that JS community means to us. Tears would flow, and with hugs, one by one they depart with the mentors leaving last usually. Now that 7 years (7 batches) have passed by, we are beginning to see some of the fruit of our investment. We were trusting God to raise up labourers for His own harvest field ... we are beginning to see solid commitments to full-time ministry as some graduate from college. We see others in continuing education through different forms of TEE. At the youth level where we had seen a lack of leadership for youth work both at the local and national level, we are beginning to see JS alumnae taking

the leadership in youth councils as well as national youth programmes. I don't think we will have 100% success rates but we do know that the investment we have made in these lives will bring forth fruit one way or another. But the process involves a long-term



partnership starting with the local church selection of students to send, followed by a JS mentor selection process and acceptance of student applicant; a 6-week deeper experience of God with mentors and trainers facilitating them; back to the local church again for the post-JS mentor to follow-up on their development.

On behalf of the JS principal (Miss Chang Choy Quin, TRAC Youth Ministry Coordinator), and all the mentors, I would like to thank the parents of our JS



alumnae, the local churches, and TRAC for seeking to make this important investment in the lives of these young ones for the future of our churches.

Dr. Herbert Tan
Chairman
TRAC Board of Youth Work

Jeremiah School - It's impact on our lives

The last week of JS was mission week in Taiping. We stayed in Taiping Wesley Methodist Church. The church was very hospitable. It was the time when we applied what we had learnt from the past 5 weeks. It was a great experience and an eye opener for me. It was the first time that I shared the gospel with strangers. We did a lot of field work on the street, outside the schools and in different houses. The people in Taiping were friendly. There were a lot of strongholds in Taiping. We prayed over Taiping and we did spiritual mapping. Although there were many rejections by different people in Taiping I still persevered in sharing the gospel. I really had a wonderful experience in JS. I will always remember those 6 weeks of my life.

*Woo Jun Arn
TMC, Penang*

Daily, we battled with Satan. He tried very hard to deceive us and dampen our spirits and passion for God. In JS, I rediscovered the authority I possess as a child of God. I learnt to pray more and develop more spiritual disciplines. I have learnt to rely on Him and surrender all my hurts to Him. JS indeed has met my own expectations. It has helped to establish a strong foundation before I start building a skyscraper.

*Poh Tze Phei
WMC, Sitiawan*

I have been told countless stories and heard many an inside joke about JS since I was in Form 4. I've been told that for 6 weeks JS students would go to a seminary to study or that they had their handphones confiscated and heard about whole day silent retreats. All pretty scary stuff. So what on earth motivated me to go to JS? To be frank, I was sent to JS. My parents signed me up for JS, with my consent. They were my main motivation. This is not to say that I personally did not want to go...Through JS, I have learnt to practice the spiritual disciplines.

Before this, I had only done my quiet time inconsistently. I had never fasted nor attended a quiet retreat. After going through JS, I am no longer completely naive nor afraid to practice these spiritual disciplines.

*Lim Ming Han
WMC, Kuala Lumpur*

There was one session about surrendering yourself to God. After watching a movie about dying for God, I was very afraid of surrendering my life to God. I ran out of the hall and cried, but I felt God comforting me by petting my back. The next morning, I read a verse from the Bible which says, "Do not worry, for I have plans to prosper you and not to harm you". After a few days, God slowly revealed himself to me and I am now able to surrender myself to Him.

*Mak Sheng Yong
GMC, Sentul*

When I came back from the Chinese New Year holidays, I found that God was with me throughout "The Journey". He was always there to pull me out of the bad times. Where can I find a friend who is always there for me? He is just awesome. During the last Quiet Retreat, I knew then that He had put me here in JS for a purpose and that was to reveal to me that I am born to be a missionary. He is so precious to me.

*Beatrice
Grace*

*Jayasingh
WMC,
Teluk Intan*



Youth Prayer Conference 2009

In the past, prayer had been a scary aspect of living as a Christian for me. This was because I had the perception that praying has to be as the way “Godly leaders” pray - using fancy vocabulary and extensive grammatical phrasing in order for God to hear us. I assumed that the lavishness of our prayers determine the attentiveness of God towards us. However I truly thank God for eventually opening my eyes to see that it is not how we present ourselves outwardly, or about how ‘prevailing’ our prayers may seem to others. What matters most to Him is the truth that dwells in our hearts as we speak and petition to our Father in Heaven.

I was truly encouraged to witness the power, anointing and grace of God working within the TRAC MYF during this year’s Youth Prayer Conference 2009. The theme for this year is **‘Move that Mountain’** and it was amazing to see the youths being united as one body in Christ, crying out to God for his saving grace and blessings to fall upon our churches, families, friends, and nation. The Bible does tell us that:

“where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20)

Truly through prayer we can believe in what Jesus Christ has promised us:

“If you have faith as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this hill, ‘Go from here to there!’ and it will go. You could do anything!” (Matt. 17: 20)

On a personal note, Ipoh Wesley has started a weekly prayer meeting, interceding for our youths since March 2009, every Wednesday @ 7am involving both youth leaders and youth counselors. Consequently we are witnessing miraculous changes happening within Ipoh Wesley’s MYF. Many of our youths are now willingly committing themselves to serving God through MYF with the gifts and

talents He has freely given to them, with joy in their hearts and without any reluctance to serve. Our hope is that they will share the passion to pray continuously and seek God first in everything they do, a similar passion most of the participants of our TRAC Youth Prayer Conference 2009 did experience.

I truly thank God for his enduring love for us, allowing us to communicate with Him in a very personal way through prayer. Let us believe that He has much greater plans for our churches and ministries (especially for the Methodist Church of Malaysia), that we will willingly take part in God’s plan and be history makers in this land. May we always turn to God in prayer with submissive hearts in everything we do, for the power of prayer can move the highest of mountains.

Chin Fung Hao
WMC, Ipoh

We interceded for Malaysia during the first session. It was quite intense since the camp was held in Perak, where there was so much political turmoil. Besides the political situation, we prayed for many other issues as well. It was a session where we were reminded that in everything we need to stand up for God without fear...*I learned that without God, nothing is possible; but with God, nothing is impossible (Lk 1:37).* After all, our theme was **“Move that Mountain”** -- and we shouldn’t limit what God can do with our lives and our country...“Laying the Foundations #4” was led by Loh Ling Ming (Dr Herbert Tan’s wife). It was a truly great session about spiritual conflict. She was cool, funny and a tad eccentric! But I was definitely tuned in to that session. She talked about the different heavenly realms and fighting in the spiritual battleground. One thing that stuck in my head was that Satan looks for holes in our armours, and that he blacklists God’s faithful

people...Thereafter, spiritual warfare praying began. It was the climax of the camp. As the band played, we prayed fervently for many different and important issues. I sensed the awesome presence of God. Just purely watching so many teenagers praying and crying out to God was so amazing.

Hannah Khaw,
SMC

When I was told about this year’s Youth Prayer Conference I found myself on the fence. Should I go, or not? Weighing out the pros and cons was not easy. The good news was that I was free on the exact dates of the conference. The bad news was that I had exams right after it. In the end, of course, I chose to attend the conference.

To be honest, I first attended the camp expecting it to be quite a fun-filled camp. God was not the main thing on my mind and I was constantly distracted during prayers. But then, I remember that we learnt different ways of prayer, and through that, I found that my mind stopped wandering so easily during prayer.

Another session that helped me was sharing and praying for personal needs. Sharing on this topic with people whom I barely knew and having them pray for you was, at first, a bit awkward. But God answers our prayers, and I’m glad to say that this particular session really helped me in my daily life and my walk with God.

I’m really glad that I went for the conference because it really opened my eyes and brought my relationship with God to a new level. I also thank all the counselors and all my friends that I met there who helped me on the way. As for those who haven’t been to the conference, I hope to see some new faces next year! God bless!~

Joella Faith Choong
TMC, Penang

4th TRAC Prayer

Transformation through Scriptura

We thank and praise God for the 4th TRAC Prayer conference held on 20-22 Mar.2009. The theme was **"Transformation through Scriptural Holiness"**. There were 150 participants from the TRAC Churches from more than 23 churches. The speaker was Pastor Julius Suubi, a Pentecostal preacher from Uganda, whose message for the conference was to pray for our nation.

Pastor Julius Suubi was called into full-time ministry in 1996. During his ministry, he witnessed what the power of prayer did in transforming his nation Uganda – once ravaged by AIDS but now has the least number of cases on the African continent. Out of this firsthand experience of the grace and power Almighty God, he developed a deep passion to mobilise intercessors in different nations of the world to pray for social transformation. He was also given a vision in 2007 to intercede for Malaysia.

At the Prayer Conference, Pastor Julius testified about the horrendous trials Uganda went through under the tyrannical rule of Idi Amin. He spoke of bloodshed, the mass conversions of Christians to another

sanctioned religion, the conversion of churches into religious premises of other religions, and the terrible scourge of HIV that followed. There were whole villages where everyone had died from the disease. In his own family, Pastor Julius lost half of his siblings of 28. He said that no one could be called a Ugandan without having suffered personal loss in some way.

Deliverance for the nation only came with deep repentance and continuous collective fasting and prayer. Pastor Julius testified that Uganda had been given a prophetic message to pray and fast for 40 days for the nation. So, Christians gathered together with those afflicted to pray and fast. However, after the 40 days, nothing happened as the sick continued to die. They were then told to pray and fast for a second 40 days. Again nothing happened. That would have been a good time to give up but they were told once more to pray and fast for yet another 40 days. Finally, deliverance came on the 120th day of fasting and prayer. The first miracle happened to a woman who was completely healed of HIV. Mass healings soon followed. A group of people thus healed formed a choir of 80 and aptly called



themselves "The Lazarus Choir". Pastor Julius declared with great conviction that what God has done in Uganda He can do for any nation.

Before the onslaught of AIDS in Uganda, he said God sent prophets from Kenya to actually warn Christians of a severe judgement that was going to come upon Uganda if they did not repent. Pastor Julius shared that the Ugandans went through all that suffering because they did not heed the warnings given then.

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets – Amos 3:7

Pastor Julius earnestly called on God's people to intercede for our nation Malaysia and for our leaders and unreached people groups. As the Church is the light and prophetic voice for the nation, we need to pray for our leaders to make righteous decisions and bring positive influence, so that God's blessings can be received. God can and will use people of other faiths to accomplish His purpose, just as He did with Nebuchadnezzar.

God will judge individual as well as corporate sins in a nation. In reference to Biblical teaching in the Old Testament, he



Conference 2009

Holiness – A Call for Watchmen

said that there are 3 things that defile the land: bloodshed, immorality and idolatry. Truly there is cause, today, for us to seek God's mercy upon our nation. The Church has a responsibility to stand in the gap. God is looking at the Church at this moment because we are the ones called to pray and intercede for the people.

I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.
– Ezekiel 22:30

Pastor Julius asked us to follow Jesus command to "Watch and pray". We need to watch with the heart of God and pray. He is not necessarily looking for many people but those who are committed to Him. We have to come to God with a "holy desperation" for His mercy to spare the nation from His wrath and to heal the land. If we, the Church, continue to be in our comfort zone instead of obeying His commands, God will move us out of this zone by bringing on a crisis. God has blessed us much, and so, much is expected of us. The Church must return to holiness and then stand in the gap for the nation. Pastor Julius implored us to repent of the insincerity towards a big group of locally unreached people and for not having the burden to pray for them. This may be caused by unhappiness over issues of economy and opportunities, but Pastor Julius asked us to consider it from God's point of view. He asked, which was worse, to deprive someone of earthly gains – be this economic opportunity etc, or to deprive someone of the chance for everlasting life? Surely, God desires all to be saved and for none to perish.

Let us come to God in repentance and ask Him for grace and His forgiveness for our lack of desire and passion for the lost. We need to pray with the heart of God, having His desire and passion. Praying with

passion requires us to get into His presence and hear clearly what He is saying. Coming into His presence in prayer should not be a chore or burden. Instead we must be excited in prayer as we are communing with Almighty God. We are to pray until there is a breakthrough. We must have the desire for fervent prayer as the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (Jas 5:16).

I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give Him no rest till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.
– Isaiah 62:6-7

Let us in the Methodist Church, not be found slothful but be found to be in our posts as watchmen calling on the Lord day and night until He establishes Malaysia and makes her the praise of the earth to the Glory of His Name.

During the Prayer Conference, the Lord led us to spending much time in praying together for different nations, including Malaysia and Sudan. In view of the dire needs in this poor African nation, a small team of intercessors responded to committing themselves to praying for this country. A second offering for advancing the work of prayer as our mission support was taken; there was indeed a generous response. This will be channelled through our prayer and mission partners working in that land.

Accompanying each session was also a time of ministry for personal dedication, seeking God for healing, dealing with our woundedness, and receiving fresh strength and empowering for the prayer ministry at the local church level. There were also opportunities to share, followed by intercession in groups, about the prayer activities & practices at local church

level. While TRAC has made progress in establishing and deepening the prayer life and ministry in our churches, we still have some way to go where this essential undergirding stream in the life of each church is concerned. Following this Prayer Conference, there will be a "Watch Hour Retreat" in May 09 for those who feel called to deeper intercession and hearing from the Lord for our country, TRAC, our churches, the Methodist Church in Malaysia, and missions to our world. All agreed that we need to come together for annual Prayer Conferences to specifically seek the Lord, and also to receive fresh anointing from His hand.

We thank the Lord; He was present to bless us, so that we left with *"glad and generous hearts, praising God"* (Acts 2: 46-47).

Shared by:

TRAC Prayer Conference Participants

TRAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Camp 2009

“Renewing Our Lives”

The 18th TRAC-MSF Annual Camp was held at the Bayu Beach Resort, Port Dickson from 10-13th March 2009 and this year's theme is “Renewing Our Lives”. It was attended by 170 participants, including 22 seniors from the Glowing Years Ministry of Singapore led by Lim Gaik Kee, the Chairperson of the Singapore TRAC Board of Seniors Ministry. The largest contingent, with 31 participants, was from the Seremban Wesley MC chapter. Despite the low attendance, as compared to previous Camps, it nevertheless was equally enjoyable, refreshing and spiritually uplifting. To the seniors it was an important time for the renewal of old friendships and the making of new ones. As one grows older there is an attenuation in number of old friendships and the few that remain become very significant.

Instead of a half-day tour, the participants were kept occupied by “telematches” – games that were a reminder of their childhood days. There was also a linedancing session that attracted the participation of quite a number of seniors. During

the day-time there was a health talk on “Diabetes” by Dr. Koh Choo Nea as well as a presentation by the “Persatuan Berdikari Seremban Negeri Sembilan (PBSNS)” on its work in providing training for people with learning disabilities. There was also a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Chan Kook Weng on “Road Map of the Methodist Church in Malaysia for the next 20 years” with the emphasis on “Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation”. Besides Dr. Chan the other speakers in the panel were Rev. Yew Nieng Song and Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri.

The theme speaker for the Camp was Rev. Khoo Cheng Hoot from the Hakka Methodist Church Singapore. His opening message for Day 1 was “Renewed Day by Day” and this was followed by two other messages entitled “Methodist Covenant Discipleship” and “The Best is Yet to be” on consecutive days. He was an interesting speaker and the participants were much encouraged by his very practical and spiritually-uplifting messages. The sermon given by our TRAC President, Rev. Ong Hwai Teik at

the Closing worship was on “**The Life that God Blesses**” based on Romans 8:28-32.

The fun and fellowship in the evenings were taken up by a night of “Karaoke Competition” during which individuals were encouraged to sing for others to hear instead of singing only to themselves in the bathrooms. A number of hidden talents were “discovered”, among whom was our TRAC-MSF president, Daniel Chan. On the “Fellowship Night” there was a presentation of items by the various participating chapters, including the seniors from GYM Singapore. As usual the TMC PJ chapter gave an elaborately-costumed presentation, inspired by Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones. On the Opening Night of the Camp we were entertained with the singing of “Oldies” by the President of the Seremban chapter, Mr. Robert Tan accompanied by his guitar.

On the whole the participants fully enjoyed the Camp at Bayu Beach Resort. I would like to record a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Camp Organizing Committee, Mr. Michael Goh and the rest of his team from the Seremban Wesley Methodist



Church for having successfully organized this year's Camp.

The AGM, on 11th March 2009, proceeded very smoothly and the election of Office bearers for the Board of Management of TRAC-MSF 2009/2100 was chaired by Rev. Hwa Jen, the TRAC Seniors Ministry Director. The following elected members of the board were installed during the Holy Communion Service led by Rev Ong Hwai Teik on the final day of the Camp.

Submitted by:
Khoo Soo Ghee



TMC PJ chapter

Rev Khoo C Hoot

President:	Mr. Daniel Chan Weng Kay	EMC PJ
Vice - President:	Ms. Pauline Looi	WMC Penang
Hon. Secretary:	Dr. Khoo Soo Ghee	TMC PJ
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. Toa Kim Meng	WMC Ipoh
Board Members:	1. Mr. Michael Goh	WMC Seremban
	2. Mr. Tan Fu Tee	WMC Seremban
	3. Mrs. Maureen Szetho	TMC PJ
	4. Mdm. Coleen See Toh	TMC PJ
District Co-ordinators:		
1. Northern Distr:	Mr. Roland Chan	WMC Penang
2. Perak Distr:	Mr. Tham Leong	WMC Kampar
3. Fed. Territory:	Ms Winnie Ng Swee Wan	WMC KL
4. Selangor:	Mdm Coleen See Toh (also board member)	TMC PJ
5. Southern Distr:	Mr. Michael Goh (also board member)	WMC Seremban
6. Eastern Distr:	To be appointed	--
Auditors		
	1. Mr. Chew Teik Hock	CGMC Ipoh
	2. Dr. Chan Chee Yan	EMC PJ

1st Joint Asian Area Seminar

“Asian Women – Breaking Barriers & Building Lives”

The unit Presidents and their delegates arrived at the city centre of Medan checking into Danau Toba International Hotel. We were given a grand reception of colorful flower panels highlighting our event – what a warm welcome! We had the privilege of having Bishop Doloksaribu of Indonesia at the opening ceremony and keynote address from Dr. Mrs Chita Millan from the Philippines, the President of WFM and UCM.

360 women from 12 countries attended this seminar from 14th – 18th April. Our theme was “Asian Women – Breaking Barriers & Building Lives”. The Weaving Together Program was led by world officers. Reports from EAA & SAA were presented by President, Mrs Shaorn Eun Young Choi from Korea and President, Mrs Dorathy Sampath Kumar from India respectively.



TRACMW- Iris Wong (TRACMW-VP & LP WMC Melaka) and Shakuntala Abraham (LP WMC Klang) with their Filipino counterparts.

Bible studies for the next 2 days based on (1) “Breaking Barriers in Life”, Scripture text taken from John 4:4-30 and (2) “Building our Lives” taken from Luke 15:8-10. The speaker was Rev Hea Sun Kim, Director of Scranton Women's Leadership Centre in USA. Dr Kim is a Korean involved in Leadership Training for the past 20 years in USA. Dr Kim's interactive approach on bible study was truly remarkable!

The Millennium Development Goals and Life Enrichment sessions were helpful, particularly the one on “Family Enrichment” by Ms Maimunah Natasha from Indonesia. She shared that a Healthy Family must have the right priority based on Mathew 6:33. She touched on different aspects of a healthy family agenda; (1) teaching, (2) empowering, (3) mission and roles, (4) relationship-communication & (5) modeling. Movies recommended were – “fire Proof” & Facing the Giant”.

There were creative workshops for all to attend – every group offered skills from different countries; Indonesian traditional cake making, Indian puppetry, Sri Lankan Corsage, Shi Bashi from Philippine, bead jewelry



From left: LPC member (Indonesia), EAA Unit President-Sharon Eun Young Choi (Korea), EAA Unit VP-Laureen Ong (Singapore), Indonesia Unit President & Seminar Hostess-Rita Doloksaribu, WFM&UCW Treasurer-Lyra Richards (Caribbean), WFM & UCW President- Chitta Millan (Philippines) 2 LPC members (Indonesia)



The Malaysian GCMW with EAA Unit President-Sharon Eun Young Choi (Korea) 5th from left followed by, WFM&UCW President- Chitta Millan (Philippines) and WFM&UCW Treasurer-Lyra Richards (Caribbean).

from Singapore and Indonesian Joget. There was Country nights presented every evening – countries of Asia Area highlighted their written reports and shared their cultural presentations on music, dance and drama. These items presented were truly entertaining – fun and laughter filled the air.

Helen Kim Scholars from Helen Kim Memorial scholarship program shared the leadership training that they benefited from attending the World Assembly. Who are those eligible for the scholarship? Young ladies of the age of below 40. Two from each area belonging to a



At the Opening Ceremony Hall before it began. From left: TRACMW- Iris Wong (TRACMW-VP & LP WMC Melaka), Roslind Yong (TRACMW-Secretary & MW-TMCPJ VP), Carol Pan (TRACMW & JB WMC Spiritual & CE Coordinator), Shakuntala Abraham (LP WMC Klang).

Methodist church, active and with leadership qualities. Isn't it easy? Surely we gave ladies that fit the criteria! At the end of the seminar, the ladies were taken for a free and easy shopping tour while the business session was being carried out to elect the new officers. The newly elected EAA President, Mrs Laureen Ong, Singapore and Vice President Mrs Rita Doloksaribu, Indonesia, SAA President, Mrs Sarojini Nagendran from Sri Lanka as well as the Vice President from India.

On the last night, a dinner was hosted by Bishop Doloksaribu near the Methodist University, Indonesia. It was another great gathering for us to fellowship and exchange contacts and gifts. At the closing service on Saturday, communion was shared, followed by induction of new officers who will serve the next quinquennium.

I thank God for the opportunity to attend this seminar it was indeed an eye opener for me. I have been enriched by the sharing of the different countries and learnt from them; especially from Myanmar and Pakistan. The ladies serve under such adverse conditions yet are filled with the spirit of love. I am amazed and encouraged.

Submitted by: TRAC MW Delegates



Aileen Khoo

We know her as Aileen Khoo but her friends in her younger days knew her as Hooi Ai, (meaning the grace and love of God) the name given her by her Grandfather Tan Mah Ku, a lay missionary. This is her story.

I recall Ah Kong (Grandpa) made his annual travels from Penang up north to Southern Thailand, crossing over to Kelantan and down South to Singapore and then back up home again. This journey took him away from home almost a year each time while Grandma stayed home to sew bridal dresses to help with finances.

Educated in Light Street Convent from Kindergarten up till Form 5 I acquired the Roman Catholic tradition. But my parents Mr. Khoo Hock Seang and Mdm Tan Chye Lian made sure I was grounded in Methodist roots. Sunday School was not an option. At the Chinese Methodist Church Madras Lane Sunday School I witnessed the birth of Trinity Methodist Church Penang. Dad, a civil servant had to move from Butterworth to Bukit Mertajam. It was then that we saw the birth of Wesley Butterworth, BM, Kulim circuit. My sister Eveleen and I were 'dragged' along after attending Sunday School in BM in the morning to go to Butterworth in the afternoon and then to Kulim at night to be the organists. We were only in primary school then.

Having a father who was the District Officer had its advantages. We stayed in a large bungalow house by the beach in Butterworth. The MYFers from Trinity Penang used it for their retreats. I watched with envy their activities and fun. I could not wait till I was eligible to be a member. On my 12th birthday I signed up as one. The next year I got elected as Librarian, a task which shook me so much that I was sick for nearly a year. After gaining some confidence, I was

elected outreach chairman. I remember Mr. Khoo Cheok Sin who was the MYF Counsellor cycling to my home to teach me my responsibilities. His brother Khoo Cheok Peng was MYF President then. It was a matter of time when I became President of MYF, a position that I valued greatly. The church was my second home and our home was our second church.

It was soon after my Form 5 exam that my family made our annual trip to Petaling Jaya. Going to Kuala Lumpur was such a treat. It was to send my

Everyday can be a Sunday or a Monday and everyday a Public Holiday

father to Melbourne on a Colombo Plan for studies. We stayed with Mr. & Mrs. Khoo Oon Soo every time we went to P.J. On this visit, Mrs. Khoo Cheng Hoe, the mother of Mr. Khoo was there and she asked what I wanted to do with my life. She asked "Why not Trinity Theological College". I said I didn't want to be a pastor. I disliked preaching, marrying, and burying. She then took me over the numerous possibilities of ministry. As she spoke I got more and more excited. The rest of the story you know. I celebrated my 18th birthday at Trinity Theological College.

Upon graduation I was invited to go to Ipoh (Perak District) as Christian Education field worker. Back then the church had just become autonomous and did not have the means to employ a full time person other than pastors. But before I could start packing there was a crisis at Alor Setar Wesley Methodist Church. The pastor had to leave suddenly because of his work visa. He was from Indonesia. Bishop Yap Kim Hao asked me if I would hold the fort as supply pastor for 3 months. Since it was only for 3 months I thought I could manage. But the 3 months dragged on to 9 months. Rev. Ronnie Goh was the District Superintendent and he was most encouraging. It was a small church made up of largely young professionals. The average age of the members was 35. Church visitation was done on bicycles. Twice a month I travelled to Kangar to conduct services. I don't want to name names for fear of missing out some. But you know who you are and I thank you

for contributing greatly to my growing years in the ministry.

At age 23 I made my way to Perak and worked with Rev. Ng Ee Lin and then again with Rev. Ronnie Goh at Wesley Methodist Church, Ipoh. I covered Kampar, Teluk Intan, Sitiawan in my mini-minor as Christian Education/Field worker. I was there three and a half years before I was awarded the Crusade Scholarship to study at Scarritt College, Nashville Tennessee. I did my graduate studies in Christian Education and Church Music Education. It was the

summer of 1978 that I got an invitation from Dr. Joe Hale, the then General Secretary of the World Methodist Council to be the 2nd International Hostess in Lake Junaluska. Since then I have never seen a more beautiful place. I told stories of Malaysia and the Methodist Churches to groups that went there for conferences and retreats.

Upon graduation I was invited to come to Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, in June 1980. Rev. Ng Ee came to me while I was seated at the large table in the wide corridor one day during break at an Annual Conference in the Methodist Centre, Port Dickson. He said that Mrs. Sheila Dharmaratnam their Christian Education Worker was leaving for home in Singapore and they needed someone. Will I come? I did not know that when I said yes, I would be saying yes to 28 years. My interest in music helped me in the production of Trinity's numerous musicals and tours. The handbells choir toured as far south as Singapore. We were the first Handbell Choir in Malaysia (and even in Asia, I can safely claim). Bible Study is the heartbeat of any church. The DISCIPLE program has taken root and is growing numerous church leaders and teachers. Among the many happenings in our church, one exciting thing which happened was the keenness which the Disciple Through Bible Study Program has stirred our congregation. It is a joy to see this DISCIPLE program taking root and spreading so effectively to other churches and even to the Roman Catholic churches.

My stay at TMC took me to even wider

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areas of experiences. In the ecumenical front I was involved with the Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia especially in Women's Work, CE work and designing worships for their assemblies. For many years I was secretary as well as a member of the Accreditation and Resource Commissions of ATESEA.

As member of the Faith and Order Commission of WCC I attended their Assemblies in Stavanger, Norway and Budapest, Hungary. Also, the World Evangelism Congress in Jerusalem of the World Methodist Council, and Hans Rudi Weber Participatory Bible Study in the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Geneva

I also taught Christian Education and Church Music as well as helped with the Choir at STM's 3 campuses, in Brickfields, Sentul and Jalan Gasing.

At Annual Conference, since day one I was involved with the Board of Christian Education under the late Rev. Larry Cheah, Mr. Ernest Lau and later when Malaysia separated from Singapore under Ms. Jeanette Hui and Rev. Philip Chan, finally becoming moderator for the 1985-88 quadrenium. The Board of Christian Education oversee work in Audio Visual Aids, Bahasa Malaysia translation program, Archives & History, Worship and Music, Library, Literature, Sunday School materials and Youth Development. The main project we did was the production of the Integrated Program Syllabus for Christian Education.

I was also moderator of Council of Christian Education in the same quadrenium. We successfully conducted a Church Management Seminar held in the Hokkien Chinese Methodist Church, Jalan Hang Jebat, KL.

When the Board of Archives and History became a separate board I moved from the Board of Christian Education to the Board of Archives and History under Mr. Sam Goh. I dropped archive work to moderate the Board of Worship & Music for 1993-96 quadrenium. We organised 2 ritual writing workshops and a choir festival. I continued to serve as member when Rev. David Loo became the moderator.

My interest in archive work brought me back as moderator for the 2001-04 quadrenium and at the same time member of the Council of Archive & History. We had intensive training programs and projects.

Quadrenium 2005-2008, I moderated for the Council of Archives & History. We organised the Oral History Workshop in Sitiawan, among many other programs.

I have now retired from my job at Trinity Methodist Church P.J. but have not from ministry work. My friends have asked me what my plans are for retirement. The nice thing about retirement is that I don't have to make plans; I don't have to watch the clock or count the days. Every day can be a Sunday, or a Monday and every day a holiday! There is a line from the musical Paul & Co. based on Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey which goes like this "When you don't know where you're headed and no path to you is clear, then you've got to simply wait for the voice you need to hear." So I am waiting for God's direction.



Your

By Richard W. De. Haan.

(An excerpt)

(Recently, a small booklet entitled "Your Pastor and You" by Richard W. De. Haan was given to me. After reading through it, I felt that the message had to be shared with the church for many like me, have not given much thought to the pastoral ministry and what our relationship with our pastors should be like. Besides that, those of us who have been with the church long enough would have heard all kinds of comments regarding the pastors, whether negative or positive. In almost every church there seems to be at least one group who, although making favorable comments about the pastor, cannot refrain from also publicly pointing out his shortcomings. Because of this, many pastors, are waging a difficult and discouraging battle. It is my prayer that an excerpt on this booklet written by Richard W. De. Haan will be used of God to give us insight into the proper relationship between the pastor and his congregation, and that it would help to foster harmony and love in the local church)

Although the work of a pastor can be most satisfying and rewarding, it also involves extremely, difficult, discouraging, and disappointing experiences that can sap the energy and frustrate the efforts of even the most dedicated servant of God. It is not only the work of preaching, the calling and the administrative duties that tax the energies and endurance of a pastor but the physical weariness and nervous exhaustion that can result in strained relationships between him and his congregation. When there's misunderstanding and opposition involving honest differences of opinion and earnest convictions on the part of respected members, he feels the pressure of his position most greatly. The inability to please the very ones he loves the most, and the disappointment of being opposed by those he was depending on for moral support – these are the things that prompt him, on occasion, to throw up his hands in despair.

In many churches it seems that the pastor just cannot do anything right. No matter how sincere he may be or how hard he tries, there are always some who stand ready to find fault and criticize. Someone has described it this way:

If the pastor is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is gray, he's too old for the young people.

If he has five or six children, he has too many; if he has none, he's setting a bad example.

Pastor and You

If he preaches from notes, he has canned sermons and is dry; if his message is extemporaneous, he isn't deep enough.

If he caters to the poor in the church, he's playing to the grandstand; if he pays attention to the wealthy, he's trying to be an aristocrat.

If he uses too many illustrations, he's neglecting the Bible; if he doesn't include stories, he isn't clear.

If he condemns wrong, he's cranky; if he doesn't preach against sin, they claim he's a compromiser.

If he preaches the truth, he's too offensive; if he doesn't present the 'whole counsel of God,' he's a hypocrite.

If he fails to please everybody, he's hurting the church and should leave; if he does make them happy, he has no convictions.

If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he buys a new one, he's setting his affection on earthly things.

If he preaches all the time, the congregation gets tired of hearing just one man; if he invites guest ministers, he's shirking his responsibility.

If he receives a large salary, he's mercenary; if he gets a small one, they say it proves he isn't worth much anyway.

Even though he is doing his very best to shepherd the flock faithfully, longing for the rich blessing of the Lord on his ministry, there is always someone who finds fault, opposes him behind his back, or publicly denounces his actions.

To help church members understand the calling and role of the pastor, De Haan points out the three things said about John the Baptist as found in John 1:6-8, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light"

Three facts can be drawn from these verses regarding John the Baptist:

He had human limitations – he was "a man."

He had divine authorization – he was "sent from God."

He had a heavenly commission – he came "to bear witness of the Light."

These same characteristics mark every God-sent pastor today.

The man of God ("There was a man...") All ministers are also men who are restricted and hampered by the very same human limitations as everyone else. This truth, however, seems to be so easily forgotten when making our demands on their lives and ministry. As a result, too many people in our churches are expecting too much and continually criticizing their preachers. As a man, the pastor can't possibly be proficient in all things, nor can he do everything to perfection. He's going to have his failings and shortcomings simply because God sees fit to use a man. We should then pray for the pastors instead of criticizing them. If however, you just can't keep your complaints to yourself and you must talk to someone, talk to God. And while you're at it, pray for him. If anyone who needs the prayers of God's people today, it's the man who labors in the pastorate. The pastor not only faces the temptations of his own sinful nature and the world but also the criticism of unsanctified church members and the hatred of sinners. Because of this, he is a special target of Satan's fiery darts. So pray for him, help and encourage him – just as you appreciate a "pat on the back" for a job well done, so also your pastor welcomes the expression of thanks and the assurance of your moral support.

Divine authorization ("A man sent from God.") While it's true that the pastor is just a man, it's a fact that those who have a genuine calling are men sent from God. Many would have to admit that their attitude, actions and words would have been much different toward their pastors if they had been told that God had placed them in the churches for a definite purpose. As such, they deserve the respect and honor – not because they're better necessarily, but rather in consideration of their heavenly calling. If only congregations would pray for their pastors and show respect for them as men sent from God, many problems could be avoided. The church would have a better image in the community, and the children would have a more favorable attitude toward the work of the gospel. It's your duty as faithful parents to cultivate respect in the minds of the small ones for those who are sent from God to

serve as under-shepherds of the flock.

Heavenly Commission ("to bear witness of the Light")

Like John, the calling of the pastor is to bear witness of the Light. And this gives us the answers to our questions about the activities of the pastor. Expounding the Word must take priority over everything else in the life of those called "to bear witness of the Light."

Whenever you find a church with a born-again, dedicated pastor who gives himself faithfully to prayer and to study and ministry of the Word, you'll discover a spiritual, vibrant, and growing assembly of believers. But when a congregation places such exacting demands on its leader that he must officiate at every committee meeting, attend all fellowship functions, and be active in a myriad of civic affairs to the extent that his life of prayer and Bible study is interrupted, you'll find a lethargic, lukewarm or cold, dead church. It's possible for a church to have numerous activities, meetings, clubs, projects and many "wheels going around" without really doing anything as far as its intended work is concerned.

Make certain your pastor isn't burdened down with administrative and civic obligations to the extent that his spiritual life suffers and the ministry of the Word does not remain central in his life and in the church. Remember, the spiritual tone of a congregation is keyed to its pastor.

So, when you are asked to do something for which you're qualified and time and circumstances allow, don't say, "Let the pastor do it; that's what he's getting paid for." Rather, do your part and help the man "sent from God" so that he can more effectively "bear witness of the Light."

The pastor and the church need you. And together you can do great things for God.

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 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 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



FEDERAL TERRITORY

Sentul Grace MC	Rev Yew Nieng Song, Pastor
	Miss Tan Chew Mae, Approved Supply Pastor
Puchong Life MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

SELANGOR DISTRICT**District Superintendent: Rev 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



MEEKNESS & MAJESTY

A Power Prayer Seminar

With

Pastor Dr Philip Lyn

CHURCH NEWS

This is the event we have all been looking forward to:

Come for a great weekend encounter with the Living Almighty God, as Pastor Dr Philip Lyn speaks on several interesting topics such as **“The Glory”, “Hearing God”, “Faith and Boldness”, “All Night Prayer” & “Fasting for Breakthrough”**

Make a appointment with God this 17th – 18th July 2009.

He wants to speak to you. Come and be blessed.

**17th – 18th
July 2009**

Time	8.00 - 9.00 am	9.00 - 9.30 am	9.30 - 10.30 am	10.30 - 11.00 am	11.00 - 12.00 pm	12.00 - 1.00 pm	1.00 - 2.30 pm	2.30 - 3.00 pm	3.00 - 5.00 pm	8.00 - 8.30 pm	8.30 - 9.45 pm
Friday (17 July)										Worship	Session 1
Saturday (18 July)	Registration	Worship	Session 2	Tea Break	Session 3	Lunch	Session 4	Tea Break	Session 5		
Sunday (19 July)	Preach at 8.30am (open to public) service		Preach at 10.45am (open to public) service								

For more info please contact
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Organized by: Lay Training Institute TMC PJ



Pastor Dr Philip Lyn

He is the senior pastor of Skyline SIB, a city church of some 600 members in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. He trained in medicine at Oxford, did biblical studies in London and currently works as internal medicine specialist. He leads a team of eight bi-vocational pastors who are committed to ministry in the workplace and church as one and the same calling. The church has an intentional disciple-making and also coaches marketplace leaders to make disciples and transform communities by living out God's Kingdom principles in the city and ministering to the poor in the power of the Holy Spirit.

He has a passion to see godly men and women rise up and make the difference in the family and at work. He has spoken at conferences in Asia, Australia and the UK and has also been involved in the national prayer movement and prayer retreats. He is married to Nancy and they have three wonderful children.