



CONSTITUTING OF
WHISPERING HOPE METHODIST CHURCH



2ND METHODIST PRAYER
CONVENTION 2011

WHISPERING
HOPE

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
BUTTERWORTH CELEBRATED
HER 50TH ANNIVERSARY

TRAC METHODIST SENIORS
FELLOWSHIP CAMP 2011



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

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Whispering Hope Methodist Church Constituting Service, 10th July 2011

By Dr. Samuel Ong



The sanctuary was packed full with worshipers, well-wishers and witnesses. The mood was celebrative and the atmosphere expectant. Conceived as planned on 11th May 2008, and named Whispering Hope Preaching Point then, the baby was now about to be born. Nurtured well in Word and Spirit during its three years of gestation, she had grown in size and maturity and was now ready to face the world on its own.

And the mother, Emmanuel MC, duly delivered her first-born child, Whispering Hope Methodist Church, at 6 pm, Sunday 10th July 2011! Overseeing the delivery were the pastor-doctors Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik (President of TRAC) and Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan (Pastor of Emmanuel MC) and the lay witnesses Mr. Daniel Chan, Mr. Simon Teoh and Dr. Samuel Ong. Hallelujah! The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be praised!

Before and after the scheduled delivery, heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving, blessing and good wishes for the journey ahead were offered. Voices in harmony led by Samuel Ong were lifted high in celebrating our Triune God – his holiness, his redeeming love, his faithfulness and the sure and steadfast hope we find in

Him - accompanied by Doen Xian, Errol, Ern Wei, Wern Loong and Charles Tan.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory, great things he hath done!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies we see.
All we have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto us!

Esmeralda shared a little testimony of how she had lost faith in church but given time, space and faith-family love, she rediscovered anew the joy of being a Christian in community at Whispering Hope. From a whisper of hope, we were then taken on a soaring flight of hope as the Combined Emmanuel and Whispering Hope Choir sang of our God who lifts us up on eagle's wings (Psalm 91).



The adults and college students constituting the new Local Conference (in our Methodist language and polity) – some 75 in all – were a sea of yellow, decked in yellow T-shirts emblazoned with our logo specially made for the day. Coincidentally, yellow was the color for BERSIH 2.0, a history-defining event in our nation that had taken place just the day before on 9th July 2011. This yellow then was a poignant reminder that we are sinners who have been “bersihkan” in and by the blood of Jesus – brought out of darkness into His marvelous light, a people of God called to be salt of the earth and light to the world, a royal priesthood called to minister hope to a lost and dark world - to the glory of our God’s name!

Whispering HOPE ... Jesus the Saviour is near;
 Glorious HOPE ... He is coming again!

The service of constitution ended with the Choir sending us off with the Claire Benediction.

May the Lord show His mercy upon you;
 May the light of His presence be your guide.
 May He guard you and uphold you;
 May His Spirit be ever by your side.
 When you sleep, may His angels guard over you;
 When you wake, may He fill you with His grace.
 May you love Him and serve Him all your days,
 Then in heaven, may you see His face.

What a prayer to be sent off with as Whispering Hope MC begins it’s journey as a community of faith – serving Him, depending on Him and ever-looking forward to the coming of our Lord God again. Maranatha!

And we left after a time of joyous fellowship over a multi-course sumptuous dinner, cooked by the wonderful ladies of Emmanuel MC, our mother. Thank you for all you have done for us, to the glory of God!





WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID!

- “memorable” (Ruth Liew)
- “an honor to be part of this momentous event” (Joanna Lee)
- “a momentous evening” (Colleen Ooi)
- “humbling” (Mei K Kuan)
- “touching” (Yvonne Har)
- “a welcomed homecoming” (Yu Li Ching)
- “great is Thy faithfulness” (Bernie Chin)
- “all we prayed for and more – all by His grace and love” (Yeow Lee Wah)
- “beautiful ... and when the choir sang “Holy is He”, it was like a little bit of heaven” (Ong Doen Xian)
- “proud to be part of Whispering Hopers” (Chooi Kah Chun)
- “a rare and wonderful experience I would not trade for anything else” (Melissa Joy Choong)
- “humbling and joyous” (Poh Kok Kian)
- “moving ... God’s faithfulness so evident” (Herbert Tan)
- “the first step in an exciting journey” (Jacob David)
- “historical” (Lim Ern Wei)
- “indescribably amazing” (Priscilla Lim)
- “all for His glory” (Charles Tan)
- “God is good, yesterday, today and tomorrow” (Poh Tze Phei)
- “God is good! With Him, we soar on eagle’s wings” (Wu Loo Ling)
- “Wearing yellow was special that weekend” (Ronnie Yeoh)

For those of us who could not be there but who always have you all in our hearts :-). . . so wonderful to hear of all the heart-warming experiences that you all had. Praise the Lord for all that He has done and is doing!
Yay WH:-D (Kim Guat)

Acara Pendewasaan Gereja Whispering Hope

Nita Rasjidgandha

Acara pendewasaan gereja Whispering Hope diadakan pada tanggal 10 Juli 2011 di gereja Emmanuel, Petaling Jaya. Kebaktian ini benar-benar dipersiapkan beberapa waktu sebelumnya agar semuanya berjalan dengan lancar, namun semua ini dapat terjadi karena campur tangan Tuhan didalamnya.

Acara ini diawali dengan tata ibadah rutin yang diiringi dengan paduan suara gabungan dari gereja Emmanuel dan Whispering Hope dan pendewasaan secara resmi oleh TRAC President yang diakhiri dengan malam yang lezat hasil jernih payah dari ibu-ibu, pemuda/remaja gereja induk (Emmanuel).

Hari Minggu itu merupakan hari yang indah dan tak terlupakan karena kami boleh menyaksikan dan bukan hanya menyaksikan tapi menjadi bagian dari pendewasaan gereja tempat kami berbakti selama 2, 5 tahun terakhir ini. Bukan karena kami memakai pakaian yang sama tapi karena keterbukaan, kasih, kepedulian dan keakraban diantara sesama anggota membuat kami merasa menjadi bagian dari keluarga besar Whispering Hope. Syair dari lagu “Welcome to the Family” sangat tepat untuk mengekspresikan kehadiran kami ditengah-tengah keluarga Whispering Hope.

Dengan pimpinan Tuhan kami percaya bahwa Whispering Hope dalam perjalanannya sebagai gereja yang dewasa akan berubah dan menjadi saluran berkat bagi orang-orang disekitarnya.

Wesley Methodist Church, Butterworth Celebrated Her 50th Anniversary Declaring 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

***“Thus far the Lord has helped us,
thus will He continue to help us” (1 Samuel 7:12)***

Part-time Supply Pastor Andrew Yeoh's message which appeared in their Souvenir booklet is reproduced.



Hallelujah! All praise and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ! It has been by His grace that we have come this far. He is the God who has seen us through thick and thin. We recount the ways His presence has been so real to us. He has answered our prayers and granted us wisdom and knowledge. During the tumultuous times, He has given us His strength. As a church we have not been careful to be obedient to His voice in the way we have not loved each other as Christ loves the Church. In this, we seek His forgiveness. God is great. Again and again, we have seen His hand at work in our lives as He revealed His ways and purposes to us. One of which is that we have begun partnering many missionaries and organizations as a result of His guidance.

I thank Him for the pastors who have served in this

church. The list is long. They have laboured here, giving of their best. We are thankful, too, for the lay people who have served Him tirelessly throughout these fifty years. Many have gone away from Butterworth. Some have gone home to be with the Lord. We thank God for all of them.

I thank God for the decade where we have seen revival in our little church. God has touched us in a very real way. To us, He is always the God who is here and at hand. He leads us and guides us. He reveals knowledge and wisdom. He empowers us. There is nothing we can do without His enabling.

Such a mighty God we serve! But we cannot depend on revival after revival. It is this dogged, persistent,



church. We reflect upon what has been, and what will be. I can only conclude – Ebenezer- Thus far has He led us, thus will He continue to lead us. This, I believe with all my heart.

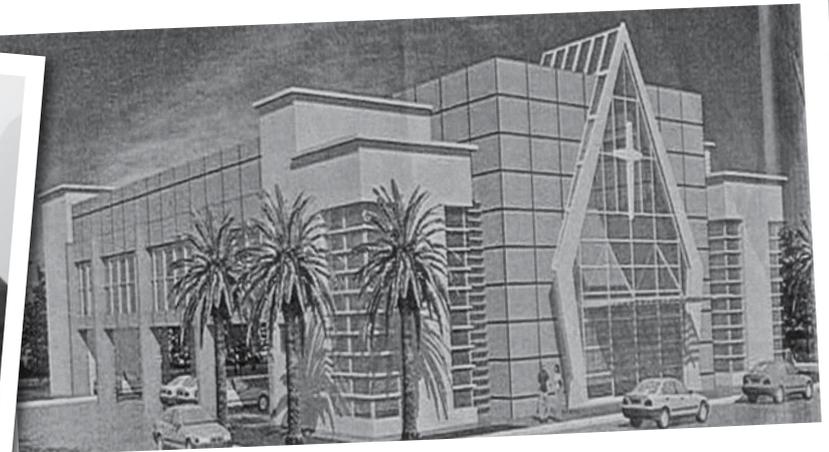
He is Lord. Glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Together with we thank the Lord for His faithfulness all those years. We will continue to pray with them as they look towards a new church building.

uncompromising faith in our Almighty God, with a constant awareness of His presence, and the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit. The church has to move as a church, the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is not about superstars, but about ordinary men and women faithfully carrying out the task our Master has called us to do. Ordinary people producing extraordinary results because we have an extraordinary God. That is what revival is supposed to bring.

Thanks to the TRAC President who has kindly agreed to be present to share with us in our celebrations. Thanks also to all the TRAC Conference leaders who have kindly availed of themselves to be with us today. I thank God for the LCEC and the Golden Anniversary Committee that has worked tirelessly to make this occasion a reality and a memorable one.

Today, we stand at important milestone of the life of the



An artist impression of the proposed new church building in Seberang Jaya

Pastors and Diaconal Ministers' School

26 – 29 April 2011 (PDMS 2011)

By Thomas Chin • Easter 2011

PDMS 2011 was a journey of reflections and events. It was like the journey of two disciples on the road to and from Emmaus (**Luke 24: 13-35**). The journey is filled with gladness and gloom, adventure and anxiety.

Pastors and ministers from TRAC Singapore and Malaysia were glad to meet again at the lush Santubong Golf and Resort in Kuching, Sarawak. As many of us suffered post-Easter syndrome, being highly charged emotionally during Holy Week, and then experiencing a sense of emptiness when all excitement was over. PDMS 2011 gave many of us time to rest and to slowly recover from tiredness and find rest in the Lord. Furthermore, the fellowship with fellow pastors and ministers in both TRAC Singapore and Malaysia gave us opportunities to share our joys and sorrows, our passion and problems in the Lord's ministry. It was truly a journey of rest, retreat and refreshment in the midst of gladness and gloom after Easter.

It was also a journey of adventure and anxiety. A visit to the Sarawak Cultural Village and Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, Padungan was an adventure to many of us, especially the city-dwellers. The visit brought new insights to us about the life and culture of the various tribes and races in Sarawak, and the orang utans. (It was an eye-opening experience as we learnt of the variety of ways that people had learnt to adapt themselves so that they could coexist harmoniously with one another.) Even the orang utans have an



amazing way of living on treetops with one another in the forest. The wildlife, birds, shoreline and forest-park around Kuching are really a sight to behold and they testify to the greatness of God's creation. We also witnessed God's amazing hand in sustaining our colleague, Rev. Lawrence Francis who was taken ill on the last day of PDMS. Upon admission to a specialist centre in Kuching, he had a heart-attack. He was then admitted to the cardio-unit in the General Hospital, Kuching when he suffered another heart-attack. It was an anxious moment for all. But God was merciful that it happened while we were in Kuching town, and not on the airplane (*as we are to board the plane for Sibu that evening*). The travel agent, Bro. Colin Tan also extended his invaluable assistance.

When we reached Sibu to attend the Methodist Prayer Convention, we received news that Lawrence was recovering and in a stable condition. We praise God for his constant help and presence in our time of need.

PDMS 2011 was a journey of rest, retreat and refreshing. It was a breath of fresh air in Borneo Island, an "oasis" to help sustain us as we journey in days ahead.





Looking Back with Thankfulness

By Pr Robert Khaw
Subang Methodist Church

The combined TRAC Pastors' School (26-29/4/11) and the Methodist Prayer Convention (29/4-1/5/11) were held back-to-back in Sarawak.

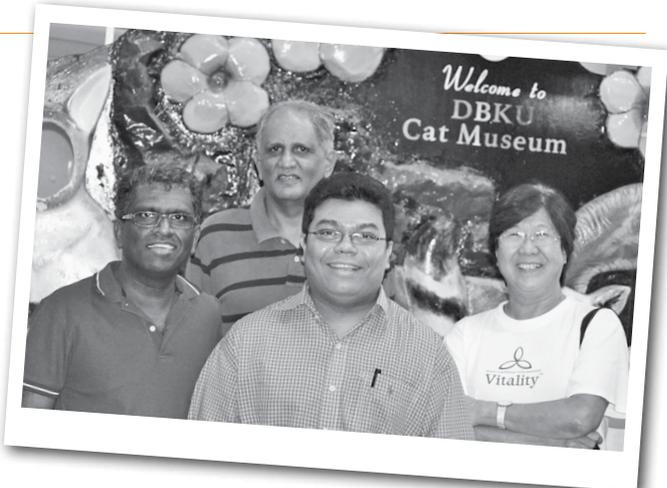
Two more events had come and gone in the Methodist calendar!

However, as I reflected on the above events, I asked myself what can I praise/thank God for?

Well, I can think of the following 10 items of praise/thanksgiving:

- 1) The beneficial 'enforced' and much-needed rest and recreation, and the meaningful informal fellowship among Pastors – one-to-one, as a foursome around the dining table, or as a large group as we travel from place to place together.
- 2) My room mate at One Hotel Santubong – Rev. Joshua Hong modeled to me by praying for my family and I, as well as my ministry before we left our hotel room for MPC in Sibiu. In the midst of a crowd, I was encouraged someone intentionally took an interest in me and my family. His thoughtfulness impacted me to consider doing likewise with my new room mate in Kingwood Hotel, Kuching, and others going forward.
- 3) A couple of fellow church members (*Peter Yii and Kum Yeap*), who came from afar to join the MPC. Their support for MPC was an encouragement to me, with the bonus of being treated by them to a healthy Sibiu dinner!
- 4) Rev. Lawrence Francis whom God showed His mercy toward him during his twin heart attacks in Kuching. Well, like others, I had wondered why our flight wasn't booked earlier so as to be on time for MPC (*we missed the first half of the opening session*). On hindsight, imagine if we had been booked on the flight just a couple of hours before the one we took, Rev. Lawrence may have been in the air
- 5) God's open door to share privately **Acts 13:36** (*"Serving God's Purpose in Your Generation"*) with half a dozen youths on three separate occasions, even though I attended MPC merely as a participant without a 'portfolio'. I pray the above verse will be special to these youths.
- 6) The couple of thousand people of God who showed up during the dawn worship and prayer session at the Sibiu Town Square. Significantly too, **Psalm 5** – a most appropriate Psalm in the context of our nation – was publicly read and affirmed.
- 7) The 1,500 people of God who stood up and affirmed their commitment to be unashamedly ethical in their personal and family lives, and business practices, and thereafter individually signed on the dotted line in the commitment form. This was in response to bro. Graham Power's challenge to stand up and be counted. He had earlier shared the pivotal text (**2 Chr 7:14**) with us.
- 8) The inspired and unforgettable moment when Rev. Dr. James Shia (*another MPC speaker*) encouraged us saying, "We can declare against Satan – 'You know my past (*I sinned*) – but I know your future (*you will be in hell*)".
- 9) All those who provided the diakoniva service to us in organising the combined TRAC Pastors' School and MPC – whether behind the scene or upfront – without complaints but cheerfully.
- 10) God's heart-burden for a revived Methodist Church communicated clearly to us by our Bishop Hwa Yung. At the Grand Finale Service at Sibiu Town Square, our Bishop said: "Prayer opens the way to revival, but it is holiness that will sustain it."

May we all respond by bringing back to our respective churches and intentionally share with God's people what we have heard from our heavenly Father (**2 Chr 7:14; 1 Pet 2:9**), trusting God to work in us to will and to act in order to fulfil His good purpose (**Phil 2:13**), despite the challenges ahead.



2nd Methodist Prayer Convention 2011

29th April - 1st May 2011

Theme: "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation."



It was an unforgettable experience for the 3,600 (approximate figure) Methodists who converged on Sibu Town, Sarawak, to attend the 2nd Methodist Prayer Convention, 2011.

Break down of participants:

General Conference :	11
Chinese Annual Conference :	348
Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference:	2326
Trinity Annual Conference	204
Tamil Annual Conference	64
Sengoi Mission Conference	22
Sabah Provisional Annual Conference	128
Sarawak Iban Annual Conference	285

Organizing Committee members:	51
Volunteers	161

Malaysian Methodists from the six Annual Conferences and the Sengoi Mission Conference gathered as one big family of God, giving each one a heightened sense of oneness and togetherness. The teachings, sermons and testimonies were inspiring and enlightening while the worship services and the times of prayer, whether carried out corporately or privately were times of encountering God.

On 29th April the Opening Worship Service was held at the Kingwood Hotel Ballroom, Sibu, Sarawak. Rev. Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung extended a warm welcome to all participants to the 2nd Malaysian Prayer Conference. Rev. Dato Dr. Su Chii Ann, the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference President also welcomed all participants and led in the worship service. The combined choir and the "Unity Dance" presented by the SIAC Sibu Jaya Church edified the worship service.

The guest speakers at the conference were Mr. Graham



Organising Team of MPC 2011

Power from Cape Town, South Africa and Rev. Dr. James Shia Chung-Chien from Taiwan. Both of them are mightily used by God in the prayer movement. There were 4 plenary sessions, 2 for each of the guest speakers. After each plenary session, about an hour was allocated for prayer and each prayer session was facilitated by each Methodist Annual Conf. All stood in the gap and prayed for the Methodist Church in Malaysia, the nation of Malaysia and other issues that were highlighted.

At the first session, Mr. Graham Power gave a powerful personal testimony of how the Lord touched and transformed his life. He was a business man who once dreamt of worldly success and buried himself in the construction business to achieve his goal. However, the Lord touched him and in his obedience, Mr. Power surrendered his life, family and business to the Lord in 1999. In doing so, he found peace. In 2000 God directed him to initiate the **‘Global Day of Prayer’ (GDOP) movement** in South Africa which subsequently grew into a global movement, observed in 220 nations in the world. GDOP is a call to repentance and prayer to transform the nations in line with **2 Chron. 7:14**.

At the second plenary session on Sunday afternoon, Mr. Power spoke on **“Unashamedly Ethical – Integrity and Holy Living”**. He spoke on **“Unashamedly Ethical, the Second Wave”**, calling on Christians to declare their willingness to lead lives that are consistent with Christian beliefs, honouring God by working and conducting themselves with integrity, especially in the Market place. Delegates were challenged to sign a declaration to that effect and most if not all promptly did so. *(Check out unashamedlyethical.com in the internet for more).*

Rev. Dr. James Shia taught on **“Prayer and the Bible”** during his first session on Saturday morning and in the evening, the teaching was on **“Prayer and the Holy Spirit.”**

He emphasized that prayer is a love relationship with God and stressed the importance of using God’s Word to speak to God. When the Bible and prayer are held in balance in our daily walk with God, we will then know and do His will. We are called to meet with God daily, spending time not only to speak to God but also to listen to Him as well, especially through the meditation and reflection of His Word. Quiet time is important for our spiritual growth and intimacy with God. As we surrender to His control and understand His will, the Holy Spirit will work in and through our lives, transforming our lives so as to manifest the fruit of His Spirit.

He also emphasized that praying in a small group and reading the Bible together can be enlightening and life changing. Group members are encouraged to read and reflect on Bible passages and pray accordingly. When one prays in a group, the others can be attentive and affirm with words of agreement like, **“Amen”**, **“Hallelujah”**, **“Praise the Lord,”** or **“Lord have mercy on us.”**

It is worth noting that Rev. Shia mentioned that **praying in tongues** is for personal edification, not for a public show of holiness. Paul exhorted that we pray with understanding so that others can benefit from our prayer.

There were altogether ten workshops and they were well attended.

10 workshops: (conducted in the afternoon) were as follows:

1. “Prayer and Wesleyan Tradition”
by Rev. Wong Tik Wah
2. “Love to Pray Together”
by Rev. Kong Chong Ling
3. “Prayer and Transforming the Nation” by Rev. Lau Hui Ming
4. “Prayer and Church Revival”
by Rev. Dr. James Shia
5. “Prayer and Current Church Issues”
by Rev. Thomas Lau





Sunday Evening Service at Sibu Town Square.

6. "Prayer – intimacy with God"
by Rev. Dr. Chew Tow Yow
7. "Prayer & Spiritual Discipline"
by Dr. Voon Choon Khing
8. "Practice of Prayer in Individual and Church life
(in Iban) by Rev. Danil Raut
9. "Preparing for Revival" (*Tamil*) by Mr. Watson
10. "Malaysian Youth Prayer Gathering"
by Mr. Michael William.

Sunday morning - Worship at the Sibu town square at 5 am in the morning. That was followed by Sunday worship service at different Methodist Churches in Sibu. All the participants of MPC testified to the warm hospitality of each local congregation.

Closing service on Sunday evening.

The closing worship service was carried out at 7 pm in the Sibu Town Square. Delegates and locals, young and old, Christians from other denominations (about 10,000 in all) gathered for worship and prayer. There was the occasional drizzle but the people were well prepared with their umbrellas. Their spirits were not dampened by the weather as they gathered with expectant hearts to meet with God Almighty at the worship service. The combined choir of about 1,000 led in the singing of Psalm 1 and the 'Prayer of St. Francis.' The prayer session was led by Rev. Tie King Tai. There were fervent and passionate prayers of intercession as the people prayed for the coming General Election, for peace, justice and religious freedom in the nation.

Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung preached on "**Spreading**

Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation." He reminded the Methodists gathered of the Wesleyan Revival and he challenged all present to return to holy living, without which no transformation could take place. It was holy living and prayer that brought about revival and the growth of Methodism. For revival to take place, the church must be holy for without holiness, the church is powerless. Revival should be our goal and pastors and spiritual leaders must set the example. As our lives are transformed so will our churches and our society and eventually our nation.

Holy Communion was administered by all pastors present and it was a solemn occasion as we were reminded of the love and grace of God. We were reminded that we were all one in Christ and Jesus Christ was the reason for our gathering in Sibu.

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who helped to make the 2nd MPC a success and it is our prayer that as our lives have been touched we will be led deeper in our relationship with Christ and to a transformation of our lives, to the honour and glory of His Name.



Impressions Of The Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC) in sibu, sarawak

By Lily Lee

I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to participate in the prayer convention. Trinity PJ delegation of 35 was joined by 3000 others from Methodist churches throughout east and West Malaysia. Although it was not the first MPC I had attended (*the 1st MPC was held in 2007 at Sunway Resort*) Nevertheless it was a heart warming experience to witness and be part of the family of God praying in earnest and in unity for the outpouring of the holy spirit as we unite as one to pray for our nation, society and community.

We were told that there were 40 Methodist Churches in Sibu alone, all within the confines of the township and adjoining villages!! Sunday worship at the local Church made us feel very much at home.

The 3-day Convention went on smoothly, thanks to the excellent coordination and teamwork efforts of the Sarawak Conference organisers. Scores of adult and youth volunteers served as ushers and direction guides whenever we got lost or running late for the sessions. The transport logistics were so well planned and synchronised from the time when we met at the airport on arrival to our departure at all odd hours of the early morning and night. The local churches in Sarawak are to be congratulated and thanked for their spontaneous hospitality. They spared no efforts to make us feel at home and ensured that we were comfortable throughout our stay in Sibu. In spite of our tight schedule our local hosts readily responded to our request after sunday service, to visit some Methodist historical sites like the Centennial park dedicated to the early pioneer founders such as The Hoovers, Wong Nai Seong who laid the foundation of Sibu's Foochow Methodist heritage. We were treated to lunch of local delicacies and Foochow noodles by one of the local

church LCEC members who was our guide for the visit. Programme wise, I found Dr Graham Power's introduction Of 'Being Unashamedly Ethical' i.e in all our dealings in the workplace, business, profession and at all levels of personal conduct most refreshing and appealing. He ended with a challenge to us to make a written pledge on this at the end of his session. The high point of the convention was the finale when we all got up at 4.30am to take a 10 minute walk to the Sibu town square to pray. We were also to pray for the evening closing service which was expected to draw nearly 11000 people.

The highlight of the closing service was our prayer for the nation, people of Malaysia and for our rulers and those in authority, racial harmony, religious freedom and rights. Our Bishop Hwa Yung gave an inspiring sermon which was followed by Holy Communion administered by all the attending pastors. It was very heart warming to see young and old fervently praying for the drizzle to stop as we assembled in the park from 6.00pm for the closing service. It stopped drizzling when the service commenced at 7.00pm. umbrellas were opened and shared whenever it drizzled intermittently.

As the evening ended, all of us took the 10 minute walk back to our different hotels with warmed and refreshed hearts awakened by the holy spirit as we witnessed to God's grace, presence and blessings on that eventful evening and throughout the duration of the convention. It was rise and shine at 4.00 am the next morning as some of us made our way to Sibu airport for our journey home.

To God be the glory .

Rev. James Shia teachings at the Methodist Prayer Convention 2011

By Lai Yen Choo

In Rev. Shia's "Prayer & the Bible", we learnt that we need to bring prayer and the Bible together if we are to grow and bear fruit for God. We need God's Word to speak to God as the Holy Scripture is like the wings of the bird.

He said, many read the Bible, gaining a lot of knowledge but do not pray resulting in a lot of thorns in our eyes. There are those who like to pray but put little effort in studying the Word of God and thus go off track.

In the session, "Prayer & the Holy Spirit", we were reminded in Jude 20-21, to build ourselves up on our

most holy faith,. We are to pray and to guard and keep ourselves in the love of God, expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us to eternal life.

To sum up, let us continue to grow and bear fruit as we pray unceasingly seeking God's grace and mercy and always remembering that when we pray, the whole spiritual realm is mobilised, thus the Holy Spirit helps us to cry out to God.

May God continue to use Rev. James Shia mightily and bless him in his ministry.

“Gray Skies, Muddy Waters But Prayerful Hearts”

By Yin Kam Yoke

The skies were gray and overcast, most often drizzling gently, necessitating some rainproof gear during the Second Methodist Prayer Convention at Kingwood Hotel, Sibul, Sarawak, 29 April to May 1, 2011. Contrasted to the gray skies were the muddy brown waters of the River Rejang on whose banks our hotel was situated. But our hearts were immediately warmed by the Opening Worship on 29 April, 2011 at the Kingwood Hotel Ballroom which seated 3404 of us delegates to the Prayer Convention. Led by the liturgist, Rev. Dato’ Dr Su Chii Ann, the President of the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, the service highlighted the best of Methodist worship - liturgy, music, dance, prayer, word and exhortation. With over 3000 voices united in musical tribute to the LORD, singing Methodist favourites like ‘And Can It Be That I Should Gain’ and ‘O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing’, it was a foretaste of what we will be doing in the heavenly realms!

Many of us had also been praying since January 2011 for the Convention, the speakers, the revival of the Methodist Church in Malaysia and the transformation of the nation, starting with Methodists. And the participants were from the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, the Sarawak Iban Annual Conference, the Chinese Annual Conference, the Tamil Annual Conference, the Sengoi Mission Conference, the Provisional Annual Conference of Sabah and the Trinity Annual Conference. All our main talks were translated from English to Chinese and from Chinese to English. Iban and Tamil were also used periodically. There was also a room allocated to 24 hour on-site travelling prayer.

Our morning prayer at the Sibul Town Square started at 5 am in a drizzle and with some umbrellas up but Rev Lenita Tiong, the pastor in charge of the dawn prayer asked us as an act of faith to close our umbrellas and depend wholly on God to hold back the rain. Obediently we closed our umbrellas and the rain stopped! We had a wonderful prayer service that morning, one which rivalled the dawn prayer in Bupyeong Methodist Church, Korea. After the service, our group was taken in buses to Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul, Pastor Lenita’s church. We were glad we chose to go to that church because we listened to Pastor Dr Peter

Tie preach on “The 3 Not So Famous Confessions” (*Nathaniel, Martha, Thomas*)! When we confess Jesus as our God and Lord, we should live our Christian lives in a Christlike way, giving our all to Jesus and not holding anything back.

At the evening service at the Sibul Town Square, Bishop Hwa Yung in his message reiterated that revivals always began with prevailing prayer but must be sustained by holy living. He gave an example of the Wesleyan revival started by John Wesley’s holy living campaign to transform England. The ethical values John Wesley’s movement emphasized helped to eradicate the slave trade which was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1833, thus changing English history. He further gave examples from South Africa and Korea where through committed prevailing prayer movements, South African and South Korean societies were impacted. He emphasized that holy living was essential for revival to be sustained. He pointed out that of South Korean churches are stagnant today because of division and factionalism.

Indeed the Lord was with us throughout the whole service. 8000 chairs had been laid out but more than 8000 attended for there were people standing at the sides and the people living near the Town Square heard the 1000 strong choir sing and the 8000- 10,000 congregation from all over Sarawak worshipping God. The taximan who sent us to the Town Square (*due to sciatica, I could not walk the 1 kilometre distance to the Town Square*) marvelled that we still wanted to attend the service in spite of the rain. But praise God, the rain was not torrential and for most parts of the service, stopped completely. Again at the service, we prayed for the country, the Methodist Church in Malaysia and the forthcoming general elections.

Truly, it was a prayer convention undergirded by prayer for church revival and the transformation of the nation. I am sure all of us who participated came away feeling blessed spiritually. Holding it in Sibul was a different experience for we could sample Sibul culinary delights. In spite of gray skies and muddy waters, we enjoyed our time in Sibul at the Second Methodist Prayer Convention.

TRAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship (MSF) Camp 2011

By Winnie Ng Swee Wan

Theme: "A Voice To Our Nation"



TRAC MSF Annual Camp is an event which many members look forward to every year, when they meet up with old friends, make new acquaintances and have their spiritual life refreshed. This year TRAC MSF held its Annual Camp in Hotel Avillion Legacy, Melaka from March 8th to 11th, 2011. The theme for the Camp was **"A Voice to Our Nation"**, reflecting one of the TRAC Vision Essentials for this quadrennium. It was hosted by MSF Wesley Methodist Church, Melaka. **254** participants from 14 Chapters (*out of 17*), including 18 seniors from the Growing Years Ministry (GYM) of Singapore, attended the Camp.

The general consensus was that the 2011 Camp was enjoyable, spiritually uplifting and well organized, with meaningful daily worship services led by the different Chapters. The theme Messages and the Fellowship Night contributed much to the meaningful fellowship and renewal of spirit of all camp participants.

The main theme speakers were **Dr. Samuel Ong** and

Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik. There were also two guest speakers: **Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria** and **Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham**.

Dr. Samuel Ong spoke during the first two worship sessions. His first message, entitled **"True Religion"** gave emphasis on Holiness - personal, pure, untainted, and has social dimensions, drawing people closer to God so that He can change them to go out to the world to serve justly. He spoke on fasting which strengthens self discipline that must bring about spiritual transformation and life change reflecting Jesus' love and service. The fruit of fasting should result in breaking the chain of oppression, feeding hunger and getting rid of unfair practices.

Dr Ong's second message, entitled **"Salt and Light to the World"**, advised that before we could be a voice to the nation we must know who we are and who we belong to. Followers of Christ are called to be different. We should have the condition of "salt" to preserve the

values and character of Christ and to add “flavour” to the people we serve. Like “light” we should shine as followers of Christ reflecting His attitude and lifestyle. Our voice must be God’s voice when addressing issues of social concerns.

Rev. Dr Ong Hwai Teik gave sermons at the third worship session and at the closing Worship and Holy Communion Service. His first message, based on **1 Peter 2 :9-17**, reminded the gathering to remember that being “chosen” people we must represent God to others and proclaim His mighty acts. In spite of being “aliens and strangers” in this world we must at all times show Christ in our life reflecting His character and His virtues and abstain from sinful desires. Having God’s spirit and trusting in His grace, we will be able to overcome all problems and challenges. He said we have freedom to make choices and freedom to speak the truth against injustice, discrimination and all evil deeds, and in so doing, lend a voice to the nation and bring glory to God.

Rev. Dr Ong’s second message was based on **Jeremiah 29:1-14**. He affirmed that God always care for His people and will not forget us whatever the circumstances, however unpleasant or distressing the situation. What is required of us is to trust Him and He will see us through to a glorious conclusion. Rev. Ong reminded the gathering that they must remember who God is in the midst of “irony of reality” and what we are sent to do even in “exile”. God is sovereign and we can seek the Lord at all times. He can be found when we seek Him wholeheartedly. As God’s people we need to be involved in the welfare of the people, engaging in Christian public advocacy, and be a voice to the nation. He encouraged us especially the seniors to “add value” to our lives and to the Church, praying for others and doing what we can one thing at a time; to be contented and accept each day as a gift from God.

The first invited talk was by **Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria** on “**Caring for the Poor and Marginalized**”. He spoke on Biblical principles, social realities and new practical suggestions. Among numerous injustice issues, one of them he highlighted was the rampant exploitation of the indigeneous people, the ownerships of whose land were taken away unfairly, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. The social reality is that there will always be poor and uniformed people who are persecuted and marginalized. As Christians we are duty-bound to help the poor and needy in our community. A voice needs to be given to their plight.

Dr Denison appealed to the Christian community to help such people under duress through some practical services to help uplift them and give them a better quality of life. Christians are encouraged to assert influence for change in society. Senior people with their realm of knowledge, experience and influence can play a great part in matters of social concerns and social justice. They can create linkages with authorities and institutions to bring about social action and changes.

Datuk Ngeh Kee Ham spoke on “**Social Justice**”, giving an overview of the political scenario in Malaysia. Concerns were expressed on the judiciary, injustice, corruption and other wrong doings prevalent in the country. There is a need for check and balance in national matters and policies. As a Christian himself, he opined that believers and the Church must be more visible and should make a stand on moral issues without fear or favour, trusting in the Sovereign Lord for guidance. He also felt that the Church must be relevant to society and must help to address social ills and injustice whenever and wherever they occur in our midst.

The Camp was not all talk and no play as participants were treated to much fun and entertainment. A sumptuous Welcome Banquet enabled participants to feast and have good fellowship. Line-dancing helped to relax their taut muscles. The optional Melaka City Tour which showcased the historical landmarks, heritage and culture of Melaka including the Museum on Baba Nyonya tradition was popular. Some of the highlights included the River Cruise, Revolving Tower Ride (*Menara Taming Sari*), lunch at MAKO Restaurant (*Baba Nyonya food*) and shopping (*especially for antiques and Melaka delicacies*) at the famous Jonker Street.

What must be the high point in entertainment was the much look forward **Fellowship Night!** Presentations by various Chapters (*9 in all*) enthralled the audience with their delightful performances of sketches and singing and also an interesting dance exercise led by a GYM Singapore member with audience participation. As usual, the presentation by TMC PJ took top billing with their creative costumes and alluring performances of song and dance from Hawaii and the South Pacific. It was most heartening to see senior people participating so actively and joyously in the performances. Syabas to all who took part to entertain us and make it a night to remember!

From the feed-back to the **Evaluation Session** of the

Camp, the consensus was that all had an enjoyable and meaningful time and that the Melaka Chapter did a great job. Congratulations and a vote of thanks was extended to all the Members of the Organizing Committee, especially to Mr. Jimmy Tan, for a very well-organized and successful Camp.

The **TRAC MSF AGM** was held on the morning of **9th March 2011**. The President, Mr. Daniel Chan welcomed members from the newly established Chapter of Sungei Way –Subang MC for their first attendance. He enumerated some areas of needs that MSF would be looking into in the coming years, namely:

- (i) Growth target for the MSF to establish two new Chapters a year and to increase membership by 10 % per year at local Chapters;
- (ii) Inter-Conference Relationship: to work towards a General Conference Methodist Seniors Council of Methodist Church Malaysia (GCMSC);
- (iii) Constitution of MSF and its proposed amendments;
- (iv) Rights of members over 70 years old to vote and to hold office in various committees in the Church so that all full members of the Methodist Church of Malaysia will be treated justly without age-discrimination;
- (v) Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation in line with the TRAC Vision Statement: that seniors be encouraged to attend retreats, devotions and courses such as Alpha, New Life, Experiencing God etc;

He mentioned that the TRAC MSF Newsletter, with **Dr. Chan Chee Yan** as the editor, was launched last year, with two issues published so far, to keep members informed of its activities. The President thanked his Board Members for their cooperation and service to MSF and especially the Hon Secretary, **Dr. Khoo Soo Ghee** and the TRAC Director of Seniors Ministry, **Rev. Hwa Jen** for their unstinting support and encouragement.

The Closing Worship and Holy Communion Service, conducted by TRAC President Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik, also saw the **Installation of the TRAC MSF Board of Management** for the term 2011-2012. The Board consists of the following:

President:

Mr. Tung Kam Seng WMC KL

Vice-President:

Mr. Tham Leong WMC Kampar

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. Toa Kim Meng WMC Ipoh

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. Jimmy Tan WMC Melaka

Board Members:

- 1. Mr. Daniel Chan Weng Kay EMC PJ
- 2. Miss Winnie Ng Swee Wan WMC KL
- 3. Mr. Michael Goh WMC Seremban
- 4. Peter Chen Kait Leong TMC PJ

District Co-ordinators:

1. Northern:

Dr. Goh Kong Chuan WMC Penang

2. Perak:

Mr. Tham Leong WMC Kampar
(also Vice President)

3. Fed. Territory:

Ms. Winnie Ng Swee Wan WMC KL
(also Board Member)

4. Selangor:

Mr. Daniel Chan Weng Kay EMC PJ
(also Board Member)

5. Southern:

Mr. Michael Lim Keng Wa WMC JB

6. Eastern:

To be appointed.

Hon. Auditors:

Dr. Chan Chee Yan EMC PJ
Mr. Chew Teik Hock CGMC Ipoh

It was noted that the President, Mr. Daniel Chan and Hon Secretary, Dr. Khoo Soo Ghee had both declined re-nomination as they had served the Board for many years and would like to see new members taking over the offices and leadership. Votes of thanks and appreciation were extended to both of them.

Caring For the Poor and Marginalised

By Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria

More than 300 members met in Malacca from March 8th to 10th 2011 for the TRAC Methodist Senior Fellowship Annual Camp. One of the speakers was Human Rights Advocate and activist Datuk Dr Denison, who shared on how the church can be involved in caring for the poor in our midst.

Dr Denison recalled his “social conversion” which came about after attending a seminar organised by CAP in the early 80’s where Dr Martin Khor spoke on how the church could be more actively involved with the poor. In his training as a pastor in India for five years he was not oriented nor worked with the poor as part of Christian mission and ministry. He used to pray for the poor estate workers when he saw how poor they were due to injustice and exploitation, but did not think of making social changes e.g. to bring in the union or seek political action to see lasting change.

It was during this time that he went through a spiritual renewal through rereading Scripture. That eventually took him from Pastoral work with the Tamil Methodists to full time work at Malaysia CARE. In due time he undertook post graduate research in sociology at Oxford Brookes University, UK and then worked for a political think tank in public policy research.

Opportunities opened up to serve in the Second national Economic consultative council, Royal Police Commission, Human Rights commission and many public policy initiatives of the Federal government.

In his talk Datuk Dr Denison pointed out that the Methodist tradition has a rich heritage in social care and social action. John Wesley’s preaching of the gospel made a huge impact which gave rise to attention to the needs of the poor, namely improving the working conditions of coal miners, improved wages and in addressing issues pertaining to injustice and oppression in the then industrial society. The Methodist movement started created institutional transformation in directly improving the quality of life of the working class. That was a direct outcome of the evangelistic revivals. As conditions improved and impact felt, subsequent generations of Methodists have moved further and further away from the poor. There is therefore an urgent need to recapture both our historical and biblical heritage.

The socio economic conditions of two poor and marginalised communities in Malaysia was highlighted by our guest speaker. These are:-

1. Indigenous poor.

One of the poorest communities in Malaysia who are also rural and forest based are the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia and the interior based natives of

Sabah & Sarawak such as the Penan community. Their major issues impacting their socio-economic position are ownership of their native customary land which is under the purview of the state government.

Christian compassion for the indigenous must also address land ownership issues and enable the community to have rightful access to their land and the resources from their lands. We must address the injustice and exploitation that is taking place

2. Urban Poor

The rapid rural-urban migration especially of Malays from the Kampongs and displaced plantation workers has created sizeable urban poor and low income families. These are mainly flat dwellers who have moved into the city, typically with large families. Their issues involve financial debt and becoming victims of loan sharks and many crime related concerns. Many among them have unpaid utilities bills with subsequent water disconnection. Many issues impact them including affordable housing, urban public transport, safe environment and good paying jobs.

Dr Dennison went on to challenge the church to reflect, review even take a bit of risk to do something that will impact policies that will bring wholistic improvements for the urban poor in our society. One cannot be a caring person if one is unwilling to stand up for someone in need and also speak up for one who cannot speak.

In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 15 :1-11 provides a framework for people going to occupy a land God is giving them. In it are God’s principles where we can draw and apply, though not literally. The principles behind God’s law in the cancellation of debt is that there should be no poor among them. There should be no overly rich or overly poor. Then as a reminder, the Bible says there will always be poor people in the land. There is enough land for human need but not for their want or greed.

Verse 7 says “And if there is a poor man among you.. do not be hard hearted or tight fisted toward your brother. Verse 8 “ Be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.”

Datuk Dr Denison concluded by highlighting many practical suggestions that are in line with Biblical principles in helping the poor such as Micro credit lending and Microfinance initiatives and Community Development programs. There is much we can learn but what is urgent is making a difference for the poor and being part of the global movement to reduce poverty.

We cannot think of caring without thinking of justice, inequality, human rights and empowerment.

Willing Hearts For Christ's People In Nepal

By Mrs Goh-Tan Phing Choo



For six years, willing hearts from Wesley Methodist Kuala Lumpur have been quietly “doing their bit” in Nepal in obedience to Christ’s Great Commission. God has enabled some of us to go out to share His message and to strengthen the faith of the Nepalese in Him. He has been doing the rest. He has been bringing much fulfilment into the lives of His people there in spite of the difficulties, upheavels and even killings. Right now, our brothers and sisters-in-Christ in the Terai district (*near the mid-Northern Indian border*) where we have been going, have started the first Christian Kindergarten with help from KL Wesley. It is also hoped

a Christian community centre will be set up in the near future. JAIMISHI! (*Victory to God*)

It has been more than eight months since my fellow team-mates and I went on our Mission trip to join in God’s work in the Terai district. We were blessed with a most fruitful time of learning, teaching, sharing, growing, singing and laughing in spite of problems in logistics, delays, bad roads, electricity breakdowns, cancellation in our flight home and too much of a potato-rice-dhal diet. But I must say we ate the best cooked dhal, better than most cooked in Malaysia.

“Jesus appointed twelve, that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach” (**Mark 3:14**). I thank God for sending TWELVE of His present willing disciples to Nepal, getting through a process of discipleship with Jesus – being with Him, following His instructions, trusting in Him, living His example very much depending on Him. And this time round, God included SEVEN first-timers - Ms Lee Swee Fun (*heading the children’s ministry*), Ms Allana Yap, Ms Lim Pek Boon, Ms Elaine Teh (*heading the youth ministry*), Mr Albert Quay (*heading the men’s ministry*) and his son Alex Quay Tze Kang, and our dear Pastor Buell Abraham. These seven brought fresh ideas and innovations into our assignments there. The rest of us - Mr Low Chee Teng, Ms Ng Su Yin, Ms Veronica Ting (*our capable team leader*), my husband Keat Seng and I (*heading the women’s ministry*) - were much refreshed and recharged. God indeed used twelve ordinary people to work as a loving, willing, fervent and joyful team for Him.

Five hundred Nepalese not including babies, toddlers and other drop-ins, were at the hall belonging to a Hindu association, to attend the Bible Camp. Because of the long holiday break of their Daishan Festival, many were able to come from villages near and far. Many walked, some cycled, many by sardine-packed buses, many by tractors and bullock-carts. A few pastors came by motorcycles. There was a sea of faces – men, youth, children and women (*clad in their colourful saris and “Punjabi-style” clothes*) - seated cross-legged in the hall. There were shouts of “Jaimishi” as we walked through the crowded hall towards the front. I stopped every now and then to grasp the hands of “old friends” reaching out to me. It was like a “homecoming”. We were heartily, joyfully and even tearfully, welcomed indeed!

The Bible Camp adopted our church theme (2010): “Let Your Light Shine Among Men”. And “The Lord will guide you always, he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scotched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail” (**Isaiah 58:11**). The Nepalese Christians in this Terai district indeed walk in His Light. There are

now fourteen churches compared to three in 2003 when we first went! And thirteen preaching- points! Such good news! Such good and faithful work from their pastors and leaders! Indeed God will continue to help and bless them as they walk in His Light.

Worship time was most resounding, joyous and bursting in energy and reverence for God. The people prayed with great fervency and faith. And all of us from the young to the old, raised our hands, waving and clapping, singing songs of praise and even dancing before the Lord! Throughout we had simultaneous translations even at our teaching ministry sessions for the four groups - the children, youth, women and men. The teachings, games, craftwork, singing and even the dancing (*for the women*), were diligently, carefully and specially prepared by the team. All went well in spite of some minor hiccups. Everyone had an enthusiastic, meaningful and fruitful time. The team had an exhausting and humbling time too.

On the last day, some six Nepalese who were specially prepared, were baptised in a public pond. Pastor Buell, with the help of a Nepalese pastor, An OM representative and Keat Seng, had the honour of doing the baptism. There was joyous singing and tambourine music in the background. (*This accompaniment of song was first started by the late Ms Noeline Cheah who was our beloved Missions Chairman, with the voices of Veronica and the rest of the team of 2004.*) What a blessed day!

The camp ended with comments, feedback, the giving of gifts (generously donated by church members and friends), promises to continue to shine for God in word and deed, wonderful powerful prayers and finally lots of photo-taking.

Many were in tears as we said our last “Jaimishi” and “Pheri beh taula” (*see you again*). We pray for God’s blessings over them and that they will continue to shine and bring their people to God. We also pray that more willing hearts from the Methodist Church of Malaysia will go to make a difference for God’s people in Nepal. JAIMISHI!

Those Who Sow In tears Will Reap With Songs Of Joy Ps 126: 5-6

From: Kulim Wesley Methodist Church

1. Mission - Journey with the PMSM

As a small church like the KWMC, we have never thought of one day we can involve directly in mission and to take mission beyond our doorstep. In 2009, we felt the LORD directing us to be involved more directly in missions related to the Methodist.

Through the TRAC Annual Conference 2009, the LORD led us to the Sengoi Ministry – PMSM. As we flipped through the reports, one of the immediate needs we observed was the need of chapels. Many congregations do not have a proper place for worship.

At the Annual Conference, we met up with Rev Bah Uda Aman to make clear our intention. Our following first meeting with Rev. Bah Uda was in March 2010. He led us to Kg. Sg. Limau settlement where we first met the LCEC Chairman Bah Suda and the pastor in-charge Rev Bah Putih. We worshipped together with the congregation (about 20 people) packed in a quite run down chapel (10 x14 ft). The meeting reinforced the need.



The run down chapel (10 x 14 ft) used for Sunday service.

The Sg. Limau Orang Asli settlement is located 15 KM from Kampar town and about 220 KM from Kulim. It is about two to two and a half hours away

from Kulim. We made several subsequent trips to locate suitable location to build the chapel. They finally decided to build the chapel on a piece of land in the Oil Palm plantation which is located about 200M away from the side of the settlement.

The work of building the chapel started in mid September 2010 with 5 half-paid workers. After 3 months of intensive work and many weekly trips to supervise the progress of the building, the chapel 24ft x 60ft with sitting capacity of 100 and equipped with basic facilities was finally completed in mid of December 2010 with a total cost about 62K.



A new chapel equip with basic facilities.

The dedicated of the chapel was done on the 30th December 2010 by the President of PMSM – Rev Bah Uda Aman.



Our partnership with the PMSM has begun with this mission project. It leads us further to help PMSM in their "Wawasan Berdikari 2020". Our future involvements include:

1. Helping the Kg. Sg. Limau Church to work on any possible project which can help to generate income to support the church.
2. Supporting the programs organized by the Sengoi Workers Training Center (SWTC).
3. Upgrading project of the center itself.
4. Reaching out to the neighbouring orang asli.

May God grant us success and may God be the glory forever!

2. Evangelism – The born of Mandarin Ministry

After two years of intensive help and work on a mandarin family, they finally opened their heart to receive Jesus Christ, not only as personal Saviour, but the LORD of their whole family. This event marked the beginning of the mandarin ministry in Kulim Wesley in July 2010.



Baptism conducted by Rev. Hwa Jen 25.12.2010.



Nine persons were baptised.

Three from the youth were confirmed in their faith. Among them five were received as members of the Kulim Wesley Methodist Church. The baptism was conducted by Rev. Hwa Jen after the Christmas service.



The family from Mandarin Ministry.

The family – seven in all and together with two other children from the church school was baptised.



Confirmation of faith and received into church membership.

To God be the praise and glory through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Captured by God's Amazing Love

By Hazel Ch'ng Seok Bee



On 28 May 2011, my husband, Lim Keong Goo, and I attended the B'worth Wesley Methodist 50th Anniversary Celebration. We met the TRAC President, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik, who suggested that we share about what had been happening to us as some friends had enquired about us. I thank our TRAC President for giving me this opportunity to share of God's unfailing love and faithfulness to us.

The year 2010 was a challenging year but through the circumstances we are truly grateful to God as we could see the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ leading and guiding us. At the beginning of last year, our daughter-in-law was diagnosed with 4th stage breast cancer. We were of course very shocked but the Lord Jesus Christ gave us His reassuring love and peace through John 11:4- "This illness is not unto death, it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it". It was itself a miracle that she went through a strict regime of chemotherapy and radiotherapy with minimal side-effects. In fact she came out even stronger physically, and emotionally and greater in her love and faith for our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for He is indeed a great and mighty God.

During the second half of the year Keong Goo was getting weaker as he would pass out blood each time he had bowel movement. Initially we thought it was his piles causing him this problem, but even with the removal of the piles, he continued to pass out blood. That caused his red blood count to be very low. In November he collapsed in the kitchen and broke his right collar bone. At the emergency ward of the Penang General Hospital our son phoned our doctor friend in Kuala Lumpur, Dr Ryan Ponnudurai, who immediately contacted the top consultant in the G.H. We are truly thankful to Dr Ryan for all his help. The consultant decided to do a colonoscopy for Keong Goo but because of the colon cleanse I hardly had any sleep that night attending to him. The colonoscopy revealed that there was a tumor as big as a golf-ball obstructing the upper colon. A biopsy was done but even then the surgeon told me it didn't look too good. Seeing that Keong Goo was still under sedation, I left him in the care of my sis-in-law to go back for a rest.

I was driving along Green Lane and remembered entering the short tunnel. The next minute I was jolted by a loud bang. I remembered looking up in horror at a

huge, red lorry looming up above my car. Only then did I realize I must have dozed off. I remembered thanking God that there were no broken glasses or cuts on me as the windshield only had “cobweb” cracks. I was even able to phone my son and daughter-in-law to let them know what had happened and to call for an ambulance from G.H. so that I could be in the same hospital as Keong Goo. Only then I felt the excruciating pain in my chest and I slumped back on the driver’s seat. When I regained consciousness at the emergency room, I could hear the doctor telling my son that I had five broken left ribs and likely perforated lung and heart. However the CT scan showed that there were no perforated lung and heart. I kept on praising God. The next day the lorry driver and his wife came to see me. They were not sure if I had survived the horrible crash. He then related the whole story of what happened. It was like a scene from a James Bond movie. My car was speeding towards him. To avoid a head-on collision, he swerved to his right and hit the bumper on the passenger side of my car. Logically, the impact would have swung my car sideways and I would have been crushed against the wall of the tunnel. Surprisingly the car instead moved backwards by itself as if someone was pulling it back and then releasing it to stop in front of his lorry. And what was even more amazing there were no other vehicles on the road at that busy hour of the day. Otherwise there would have been a pile-up of cars and my car would have been sandwiched in between. Who else could have done this, my friends, except our wonderful and loving God? How great and merciful He is! Our God is the One whom we can trust and believe that in all our sufferings and tribulations, He is there with us to protect us; He is there in us to give us added strength and peace. Within three days I was able to sit up and was discharged five days later. Praise the Lord!

Meanwhile Keong Goo’s biopsy result confirmed that the colon tumor was malignant. The consultant told my children he would remove the tumor, do a triple by-pass for the bile-duct so that there would be no necessity to keep on changing the stent and also to remove the cyst adenoma at the head of the pancreas. Removing the cyst would take a longer process as its exact location was not clearly seen. As Keong Goo’s health condition was too weak to withstand a double major surgery our children decided against the removal of the cyst. The surgery for the colon tumor and the triple by-pass was successfully done. Praise the Lord that Keong Goo does not need to carry a colostomy bag. The tumor was confined to the colon and has not spread but two lymph nodes tested cancerous . Although I was not able to take care of him God provided people who took shifts

to be with him – a pastor from Indonesia, our children and their spouses, our sister-in-law and two wonderful ladies from the B’worth Wesley Methodist Church . God also provided a good temporary Indonesian maid to care and cook for us during our recovery period.

Keong Goo has opted not to do any chemo because of his weak condition but to trust God, living each day at a time “captured by God’s amazing love”. Judging by the test reports on his health, his liver and kidney function including the CA markers are all normal. Even the CT scan result on 24th June 2011 reveals that the cyst at the head of his pancreas has shrunk from 7.7cm by 6.1cm to 5.0cm by 4.6cm. All surrounding organs nearby are also free of cancer. Can such good health reports mean that doctors may be wrong when he was only given 6 months to live? Having been “captured” by God’s amazing love makes him want to serve God in whatever way he can. He has started the Lighthouse Watchman’s Prayer Meeting at our taman.

Praise God that inspite of all that had happened all is well with our soul and we can still say our God is indeed a good God. We wake up each morning with this hymn bursting forth from our hearts:

Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see,
All I have needed Thy hands have provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

We continue to thank God for all of you who have supported us in prayer and other assistance. May God’s love and peace be multiplied in you. Keong Goo can be contacted for further updates at agape223@gmail.com. Shalom



Praise Dance (Zan Mei Cao)

By Jacqueline Abraham



It is truly amazing to know how I came to be fond of Praise Dance. Praise Dance is written in Mandarin and for your information, I do not have any knowledge of Mandarin. This is how the story begins. Last year 2010, my husband Rev. Buell Abraham had a preaching assignment to the Eastern District somewhere in September. He went to preach in a little town named Raub in the State of Pahang. We had been to Raub way back in 2004-2005 whereby, when Buell was given the first posting after he came out of STM, the bible college which is located in the State of Negeri Sembilan. Therefore, Raub is not relatively new to us. We have made good friends there and they are part of a big family to us. My son Joel has been really found favor with this one particular person, whom he calls Auntie Kim. She too seems to be very fond of Joel as she has special inclination with children. She has become too attached to my son and we call her Joel's god granny.

By the way when we were there last year, Auntie Kim who has started going for Praise Dance Exercise at the park with her friends from Chinese Methodist Church, Raub introduced me to Praise Dance. In the beginning, I was quite reluctant as I realize it was all in Mandarin and I do not understand a word of what is sung. She was quite persistent and being my son's god granny, I did not want to offend her. She took me that night to Chinese Methodist Church, Raub and introduced me to the instructor, Mrs. Chow and she gave me a private

class with one to one attention that night. The moment the song was played, I suddenly got attracted to the music, rhythm, and songs. It was so soothing to my ears even though I did not understand what was sung. The instructor encouraged me that when I return to Kuala Lumpur, I must get in touch with the Full Gospel Assembly in KL whereby the Chinese Ministry there does the Praise Dance Training. I was very encouraged with them as they took so much time and trouble teaching, guiding and motivating me to join the Praise Dance Class in KL.

When I returned to KL, I did not delay. I contacted FGA, KL immediately and signed up for Teacher's Training Classes. When I arrived in FGA, KL the trainers were too shocked to see an Indian coming for the class. They did not discourage me but continued teaching me for three to six weeks. As soon as I got the first training of Volume 1, I introduced it to a group of women from Wesley Methodist Church, KL. They were so encouraged and I started classes, teaching Praise Dance in November, 2010 and continued thereon. Some of them even took the class seriously and went for further training in FGA, KL. Then on, I started teaching seriously at WMC, KL on Saturdays with the BB and GB mothers and GB girls, Lake Gardens on Tuesdays, TMC, PJ on Sundays and have helped in Hokkien Church, Full Gospel Church and done workshop with the youths in TRAC encouraging them to take up Praise Dance as a part of evangelical

ministry. I told the youths it is not only for the elderly but for all age groups.

I am glad that I came to know Praise Dance, because all songs are biblical and they minister to my soul. With the help of my good friend Ms. Jolie Ho, she helped translate the words in English for me and it has become useful not only for me but for all those who do not speak or read Mandarin. Praise to God.

I used to have very severe back aches since 2004 and was on painkiller most of the time when my pain gets bad. Doctors advised me to do brisk walk everyday for 25-30 minutes. Praise God, after doing Praise Dance, I do not get back pains any longer. This also encouraged me to continue Praise Dance and teach others so that others too are blessed by the Lord.

I had a wonderful opportunity meeting the founder of Praise Dance, Madam Wu Mei Yeen at Full Gospel Assembly, Johore Baharu recently when I went for the Praise Dance Workshop, Volume 5 on the 8th to 9th June, 2011. Madam Wu was so excited to see a non Chinese coming to learn and do Praise Dance. She even got her assistant Ms. Jolene Yen to stand by me and translate whatever been explained by Madam Wu there. I was also privileged as I had a translator arranged by Ms. Lucy Tee of FGA, JB by the name of Ms. Jeannie who translated word to word of the two days workshop. Madam Wu's explanation was so detailed and taken from the bible. I was so encouraged and thrilled at the same time as she took an extra effort to explain in person, to me. I praise and thank God, for this privilege and attention given to me in the midst of such a big group. I also want to thank my husband Buell and my son Joel for supporting me by accompanying me to Johore Baharu. Without my husband's encouragement, I would not have made it this far. He invested much in purchasing a player, all the five volumes and the uniform for me as well

as provided all my expenses for all the classes and workshops.

On the other hand, Madam Wu has asked me to come to Taiwan next year, so that she can give me personal training and also give an official certificate as trainer. God willing, if this is possible, I pray that God will grant me an opening in His time. Praise God as God works mysteriously and in marvelous ways. By the way, because of Praise Dance I have come to learn some Mandarin and understand a little now. God willing, I hope to improve and pursue on to be much better in the near future for God's glory. All praise to our Father In Heaven, who never short in His giving. I want to thank God for all the people whom God sent as pace setters towards my learning Praise Dance and people, God sent across my path who are keen in learning Praise Dance.

On the other hand, Praise Dance has given me an opportunity to witness and share Christ. Two friends gave their lives to Christ during these sessions. Madam Wu's vision is also to go and witness Christ and have compassion for those who have no knowledge of the Messiah, reminding us of Jesus' Great Commission stated in Matthew 28:18-20. As what I understand from her workshop, she is very passionate in serving the Lord. Age is not a barrier to her and this is one way, God has imparted the gifts of Praise Dance to her. She is sharing it to others around the world. God's work is not limited. Only a willing heart will see and experience that. All above are only possible through Christ, our Lord.

Praise Dance (Zan Mei Cao), is an evangelical ministry reaching out the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through exercise, dance, and music.

All Glory to God!



TRAC MYF Penan Project 2010/11 Report



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to inform you that our nine-month Penan Fund Raising Project has finally come to an end. This project, which was organized by the TRAC MYF National Council ran from August 2010 up until April 2011. All in all we managed to raise RM29,746.40 with 12 churches participating.

The aim of the project was to raise funds and awareness for these people as they belong to a much discriminated part of our society in the present time. We wanted to encourage youths to raise funds as a way of helping the poor and needy, and more so in the long run to cultivate the manner of giving and helping in the hearts of the youth. This is in line with our vision this year “Step up in maturity, Step out in mission, and Step towards God-Given Motives”.

The allocations of the funds are as follows:

(i) UPSR Coaching

We are funding a small team of university students to work with the UPSR students for a whole month in July/August to coach them and help them prepare for the UPSR.

(ii) Student Subsidy (Bario/Marudi)

The village children who leave their homes for Bario or Marudi for the first time need help in getting started. They are usually given RM50 each as a subsidy to help them subsidize their cost of living.

(iii) Foster Parenting & Tertiary Development

The idea was first mooted in 2007 that Penan students who survived PMR may be considered for foster parenting by Peninsula Malaysian Christian families who are willing to adopt them and coach them to success through their upper secondary so that they are able to move into tertiary educational development.

The purpose is to raise more leaders for the development of the Penan community and for Long

Lamai in particular.

(iv) Homestay Micro-economic Development

Homestay is a program that involves visitors coming to the village and experiencing life among the locals. Here, the funds will be used to fund preparations for example, prepare and upgrade housing for homestay-ers and purchasing resources like airbeds, tableware, sleeping bags, life jackets, etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Lord and Saviour for His blessings, wisdom and guidance and for ensuring the success of this project to the glory of His name. Without Him, we definitely would have not been able to do this.

Next, we would like to thank all local churches (*Pastors, Youth Counselors, Youths and all their church members*) for all the kind support, prayers and efforts in raising funds for the Penan villagers. Your partnership has been invaluable.



