



36th Session TRAC Annual Conference
November 26 to 29, 2011

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TRAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

36th Session, Trinity Annual Conference
26th - 29th November, 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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36th Session, Trinity Annual Conference

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As I was packing my little suitcase to check into the Swiss Garden Hotel on 26th November 2011 for three nights stay, I couldn't help but think how time had flown. It was conferencing time again and to me, it was just like not too long ago that I attended the 35th Session, TRAC. Although I've attended about twenty annual conference sessions, I still look forward to a time of meeting and fellowshiping with some old stalwarts of our churches and to take note of the exciting ways our TRAC conference has evolved through the years by the grace of God. As I checked in, I could not help but notice that the volunteers recruited by the local planning committee seemed to look younger with each passing year. Then, reality hit me. They were definitely not getting younger but that I was aging!

I would be amiss if I do not mention right from the start that in the last few conference sessions, the atmosphere has been that of oneness, peace and calmness as we move in synergy, embracing the vision of "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation." It is evident that God was in our midst and we thank all the prayer intercessors who stood in the gap and upheld the conference session in prayer for the whole duration.

The essential focused on at the Conference session was "A Voice to our Nation." At the Opening Worship Service, the TRAC President Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik preached on "Called to Nation Building." It was not a beautiful picture as he drew our attention to the landscape in our nation. It is undeniable that our souls are rattled by the waste and abuse. Some have decided to escape and change to another environment. However, the call is to engagement, to fulfill God's love for the people in this land and not to turn our face away from it. In his Presidential Address, Rev. Ong continued to emphasize on the importance of our role in effecting changes for good in nation building as responsible and proactive citizens.

That call to be proactive and dynamic citizens of the land was echoed by Datuk Dr. Denison Jeyasoorai who was the Conference guest speaker. He is currently the

Secretary, Special Implementation Taskforce, Cabinet Committee on the Indian Community, Prime Minister's Department and the Honorary Principal Research Fellow with the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Universiti

Kebangsaan Malaysia. He once served as a Methodist pastor 1981-1986 and having been theologically trained, he was able to elucidate how Jesus and the Apostle Paul related to the ruling superpower of Rome. Drawing examples from the ministries of Jesus and Paul, Dr. Denison emphasized that as a Christian



community, we need discernment and wisdom in order to respond to the issues of the world and our nation. The church has to take a stand, to be able to speak up in humility and compassion, to speak without fear or favour, not just on issues affecting the church but on those affecting the whole community. The role of the church is definitely broader and larger and as we engage, we need to be peace makers, remembering and adopting the approach of Jesus which is that of non-violence. He suggested that the church recognizes people in public service and intentionally pray, support and encourage them so that they can play effective roles in being the light and the "Little Daniels" where God has put them.

We thank the Lord for the report that the Persidangan Missi Sengoi Methodist (PMSM) thrust and vision of Wawasan Berdikari 2020 is gaining incremental momentum with the renewed emphasis on praying and planning. Detailed comprehensive reports on this were given by the TRAC President in his address, Rev. Bah Uda Aman, (PMSM Mission Conference Superintendent) in his report and Rev. Bernard Yogaraj Lazar at one of the workshops. TRAC will continue to uphold the Sengoi Mission Conference in prayer as it strives to be self-governing, self-propagating and self supporting by the year 2020. PMSM members collectively fast and pray

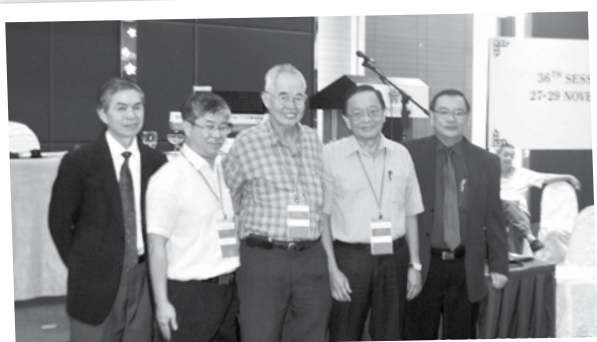
on the 1st of every month for WB2020 to become a reality.



A memorial service was held on Sunday 27th November 2011 and the families of the late Rev. Balahu Hassan and the late Rev. Tan Chi Kiong were invited. Rev. Balahu Hassan had served faithfully as the PMSM Mission Conference Superintendent and many of us knew him as a man who loved God and his own people. He was called home to be with the Lord on 10th January, 2011 at the age of 65.

The workshop session was very informative and opened our eyes to see the wonderful hand of God at work. Mr. Yeoh Beng Keat as usual, had the total attention of all present as he injected witty comical remarks to very serious issues pertaining to the East Malaysia Bumiputra Churches. A set of CDs were made available to churches to show in their local churches and for prayer. Mr. K.L Lam shared on the SSMC Outreach ministry called Pusat Penyayang KSKA. We were touched and encouraged by the impact this ministry has on the hardcore poor and needy in their church's neighbourhood. Mr. Steven Ooi gave a presentation on the formation of BU Methodist Centre, the preaching point of TMC PJ, testifying to God's wonderful provision. After one and half years of persistent prayer the Lord provided the fully furnished building to be used free of rental for a period of three years. Rev. Bernard Yogaraj gave a presentation on Persidangan Missi Sengoi Methodist, dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. Balahu Hassan. The Director of ICM, Ms. Ng Wai Ling shared the background on the formation of the courses and programmes in ICM and gave a description of the Organisational Leadership Module (OLM). A brief

introduction of the Life Giving Tools (LGT) series was also given.



The General Conference Special Session was held from 12th to 15th October, 2011 at Selesa Beach Resort, Port Dickson to discuss and deliberate on possible changes to update and revise the Methodist Discipline, as proposed by the Discipline Review Council. In the words of Bishop Hwa Yung, it is to make it a "user-friendly" Discipline. All changes to the Discipline will take effect on Jan. 2013 after the 17-22 September 2012 General Conference Session. At this 36th Session TRAC, delegates were elected to attend the 10th General Conference to be held next year.

At the closing/ordination service Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung stressed on the importance of prayer and living a life of holiness in his message entitled "In the Strength of the Lord." The Scripture text was taken from **1 Kings 18:30-40, 19:1-8**. From these passages he gleaned three lessons from Elijah, emphasizing the importance of prayer, the recovery of holiness and total dependence on the strength of the Lord which is greater than our own. These are timely reminders for our ministers as they face a myriad of demands in their ministry in the new year ahead.

Members of the congregation attending the closing/ordination service and last business session of the conference held in KL Wesley waited in anticipation as the appointment of pastors for the year 2012 was read out. Many had already got wind of the names of pastors to be posted to their respective churches but everything was fluid until the appointments list was announced and confirmed at the conference session. May God guide and grant divine wisdom and discernment to those who have received new postings and to those who are to continue serving where they are, may God continue to stoke their passion for Him as they serve with steadfast faith in His Kingdom work.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Federal Territory District which hosted the TRAC 36th Session. The Local Planning Committee worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the conference and we want to thank all who helped in one way or another to make the conference a success. We will meet again next year in the Eastern District.

Above all, to God be all glory and praise!

TRAC President's Address, 36th Session TRAC

Introduction

This has indeed been an extraordinary year filled with events of **“earth shaking impact”**. Early this year, on 11 March 2011, a devastating 9.0 earthquake and tsunami brought great destruction to the nation of Japan. Other countries like China, New Zealand and Turkey have also experienced earthquakes of gigantic proportion. Thailand, recently experienced severe floods. The newly coined “Arab Spring” uprising, saw the overthrow of autocratic regimes in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. The governments in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain were also rattled. These uprisings powerfully remind us that people yearn to be free from oppression, intimidation, manipulation and corrupt governance.

The “tsunami” on the moral front is also evident when we read about lax rules in the US and Canada resulting in a market-driven phenomenon of sperm giving. What is governing this is market consideration, not consideration for the best interest of children. Possible tragic outcomes from this phenomena include the danger of inadvertent incest, the risk of transmission of genetic diseases and malformations. Others have tried to create “designer babies” – by careful selection of genes or characteristics from a donor!

The worldwide Christian community was saddened by the news of the death of **John R W Stott** (aged 91) on the 27 July 2011. His life, books and ministry are dominated by the Bible and filled with an unavoidable sense of Christ-centred mission. He was a key founding member of the Lausanne Congress for World Evangelisation.

In the local **“Church and State”** front, the Malaysian Church had to contend with very serious issues as well. The use of “Allah” issue (2009) is still pending a final ruling from the Court of Appeal, as the Christian community insists that “Allah” has been traditionally used by the Malaysian Church, especially in East Malaysia. The Catholic publication, *The Herald*, had won the case against the Home Minister’s revocation order of its publication permit. The import of the Alkitab, at least for the time being seems to be permissible. This is after strong protestations from the Christian community in March when 30,000 copies were impounded at Port Klang and Kuching. Then there was the *“Utusan Malaysia had reported on the gathering of priests in Penang recently that allegedly discusses making Christianity the official religion of*



the country” (New Straits Times 13 May 2011) saga. That led the Muslim Organisation in Defence of Islam, Pembela, asking police to probe Utusan’s Christian Malaysia report (The Malaysian Insider, 7 May 2011).

Then came the unprecedented Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) “search” on the 3 August 2011 of the Damansara Utama Methodist Church premises, when a Thanksgiving Dinner organised by Harapan Komuniti was taking place. The Sultan of Selangor had intervened to defuse the situation, by issuing a statement later that included saying, *“Therefore, after carefully deliberating the report by Jais and after obtaining advice from religious authorities and legal experts, We are in agreement that there would be no prosecution against any parties.”* (The Star, 11 October 2011). We are glad that the Selangor Menteri Besar had also said that “a committee would be set up by the state government to study ways to strengthen the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department’s (Jais) standard operating procedure” (The Star, 11 October 2011) Whilst we may be a marked and scrutinised community, it also gives us the opportunity to exemplify the message and the values of the Kingdom of God. Let us as a community remain vigilant as we are also facing other serious issues such as the implementation of Hudud law in Malaysia.

The outline of this address is as follows:

- I. **Reviewing the Implementation of the Vision of TRAC (2010-2013)**
- II. **Some Other Concerns in our Annual Conference**
- III. **News from the Wider Connection**
- I. **Reviewing the Implementation of the Vision of TRAC (2010-2013)**

As an Annual Conference, we continue to pursue our General Conference theme of **Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation**. Our 4 essentials are **Lifelong Discipleship** – Following Christ, Becoming like Christ, **Wholesome Families**- Growing Strong Families in Christ, **A**



Voice to Our Nation – Seeking our Nation's Welfare in Christ, and **A Vision for the World** – Embracing Local and Global Missions for Christ. Our 39 local churches are "together on the same page" with the GC vision and goals, albeit variation on emphases and types of action and programs are to be expected.

A. LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP

As we pursue lifelong discipleship as an AC - we continue to give priority to spiritual transformation. This is the process by which disciples of Christ enter into a lifetime development by which Christ is formed in us for the glory of God, for abundance of living in our own lives, and for the sake of and service to others.

The essential place of **small groups** shall continue to be emphasised in our AC life for training, spiritual health, tracking accountability, renewal, community building and effective implementation of AC direction. The ICM Board will work together with the Christian Education Board and other Boards to see how we can further deepen our understanding of the philosophy, practice, form and training for Small Groups within the pastoral caring and nurture structure for all our TRAC churches. TRAC's small groups (ie Bible study, care, and cell groups) have dropped from 676 at the end of 2012, to 636 as of June 2011. We must not let up on this emphasis.

Methodist Prayer Convention 2011 [29 April – 1 May 2011]: registered participants were 3350 and about 10,000 attended the Sunday Grand Finale Service at Dataran Sibu (see Appendix D). It was indeed a powerful time of intercession and edification for the Malaysian Methodist family as a whole.

The GCEC decided that the MPC will be held 2 years after each GC Session ie the next one will be in 2014 in W Malaysia. There was an increase of 7 prayer groups in TRAC as at June 2011 to 119 compared to 2010. The TRAC Pastors Intercession Retreat (#2) with 13 attending also took place. We are also glad that a TRAC Intercession Team has been started in

Penang (Northern District) this year.

The ICM Public Lectures (18-20 March 2011, Ipoh) pursued the theme of **discipleship in the market place and public square**. The ICM continues to spearhead our discipleship and spirituality thrust through the Spiritual Formation and Leadership weekends, Contemplative and Silent Retreats, and the Soul Talk series (see ICM Director's Report AC/21). In the coming year the Life-Giving Tools series will be organised to add to our pursuit of Lifelong Discipleship.

The Board of Ministry is looking into the strategy adopted for this Essential which is to challenge our people to take up **church-based vocations** ie organising a Life-Service Retreat for 2012.

B. WHOLESOME FAMILIES – Growing Strong Families in Christ

More of our TRAC churches are organising Alpha Marriage courses. Alpha Parenting and Pre-Marital courses are progressively being used in TRAC churches.

As an AC we recognise the importance of the family as the cornerstone of society and the church. The **BOYW** has continued to intentionally emphasise the place and role of the family in our youth ministry. This Board has set - *To empower parents for working with youth and creating an open atmosphere for engagement of youth issues at home* - as one of their goals for this quadrennium.

Let us all be reminded that included in our strategies for this Essential are: **Setting up Family Devotion in every home and Introduce inter-generational Family Worship services regularly every year**. The strategy of *Establish a Think Tank for Family Ministry* has been preliminarily discussed but further working on it will have to follow. Dr Herbert Tan has been in the forefront in developing the Family Ministry vis-à-vis the church setting. He is making some materials available for purchase (such as Family Ministry Consultation DVDs, and various volumes of Family

Devotional materials he had produced at EMC.

VOICE TO OUR NATION – Seeking our Nation's Welfare in Christ

There is a noticeable increase this year in the number of our churches organising talks by politicians and political analysts, and accompanied by a voter registration exercise.

Let us not underestimate our own position and role as believers in advocating for and **effecting changes in nation building as responsible and proactive citizens**. Malaysians were gratified by the Prime Minister's Malaysia Day announcement of major changes in controversial laws including the repealing of the draconian Internal Security Act (1960), and the annual licence renewal requirement for newspapers and publications. However, the PM then went on to say that 2 new laws will be enacted to replace the ISA. As concerned citizens of this country, we remain vigilant as to what these replacements are.

MISSIONS

We rejoice that **Whispering Hope Methodist Church** was constituted on the 10 July 2011. A preaching point, Bandar Utama Methodist Centre, was launched on the 25 September 2011 by Trinity Methodist Church, PJ. At the same time it is with sadness that the preaching point at Mentakab (Eastern District) had to be closed on the 24 April 2011 due to diminishing membership.

TRAC continues to partner the **Lower Myanmar Methodist Church** under the leadership of Bishop Saw Shwe in the coming years - helping to rebuild the areas affected by the Nargis cyclone 3 years ago. This phase II of help will see a more "evangelistic impact" approach where amongst other things, together we hope to see the multiplication of congregations/ planting of churches.

The **Persidangan Missi Sengoi Methodist** (PMSM): the Rev Balahu Hassan, a retired PMSM Mission Conference Superintendent, was called home to be with the Lord on 10 Jan 2011 at the age of 65. We thank the Lord for this faithful servant who had left behind a legacy built on love for God and for his own Sengoi people. The pursuit of the Wawasan Berdikari 2020 vision is gaining incremental momentum, in which there is renewed emphasis on praying and planning. This will pave the way towards a greater realization of the PMSM being self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting. There is a gaining acceptance that the majority of the PMSM 77 strong paid/ employed staff will have to consider a bi-vocational paradigm, which is a more realistic model of ministry contextually. There are also deliberate strategies to open the way for a greater involvement by the laity in the life of the PMSM. TRAC continues to be committed to helping

the PMSM advance spiritually, economically and educationally.

The PMSM collectively fast and pray on the 1st of every month for WB 2020, even when it is during their Annual Conference Session.

As an AC we need to seek justice for the OA community, but also remember to treat and **engage with them as equals**, including when we visit them in their villages. May I also take this opportunity to remind all our TRAC churches to liaise with the PMSM HQ in Kampar whenever you plan to visit their villages and partner them in development projects. This will prevent internal organisational misunderstanding, enhance accountability and ensure that we do not contravene the spirit of BERDIKARI in the PMSM where such **partnership** work is concerned.

TRAC is glad and privileged to play a facilitating role in the recent **General Conference Indigenous/ Bumiputra Work Consultation** held in Sibu on the 15-16 August. This is held for the purpose of updating shared information, mutual support, integration of common areas of work and ministry, and to pray for this important mission work. We are emphasizing the need to strengthen our bumiputra brethren / Orang Asli and indigenous communities in both E and W Malaysia. The 2000 census indicates that the Malaysian Church is made up of more than 70 percent of Christians from E Malaysia. Integration Work Committees are being set up for the Iban, Sabah outreach and Sengoi work respectively so that our ACs will be coordinated and synergistic in our mission partnership to these groups in the areas of witness, equipping and social transformation ministries.

One of the significant ways to strengthen the indigenous Bumiputra Church is to work with para-church organisations such as Pristine World in identifying and financing **translation projects** of books and teaching materials that will strengthen the majority segment of the Malaysian Church. Hence TRAC has financed the publication into BM (as textbooks and workbooks for children) - *The Gospel Story vols 1 & 2* published by Pristine World. This amounted to about RM 64,000. The recent second translation project also with Pristine World is *The Story of Early Christianity (by Ms Goh Kim Guat)* which will cost RM 28,000. Let each of our 39 churches send in their contributions as we commit ourselves to this worthy Kingdom building task. This has become a TRAC mission priority.

The Board of Missions has been doing a good job in revitalising our Missions thrust led by Col (rtd) Leong Pook Seong. He reports that more churches are now involved in the migrant outreach ministry. The total number of non-English speaking services

is: 6 in BM, 10 in Chinese, 3 in Nepali, 1 in Tamil, 4 in Myanmar, and 1 in Cambodian.

Our TRAC churches continue to give support to the mission work of the **4 selected countries** of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam. A small team will be visiting the United Church of Bangladesh (**UCB**) in the early part of 2012 as we review how we can best partner them in the work of the Gospel in that poor and needy nation. About 10 of our churches are participating in mission partnership with Lower Myanmar Methodist Church and in the Eastern Shan state. The partnership with Operation Mobilisation in Nepal is anchored by KL Wesley (since 2003) with annual mission trips to Kathmandu and Lahan organized. This also links up to the local Nepali ministry in this church. The re-connection to Vietnam has been preliminarily done by Penang Wesley.

There were 64 participants and facilitators from 15 churches at the **TRAC Mission Consultation** on 22-23 July 2011. It our hope that more will attend the next one on the 20-21 July 2012 which will also be held at Sungei Way Subang Methodist Church.

II. SOME OTHER CONCERNS IN OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We thank the Lord for His gracious provision of 2 Marina View Villa apartment units, PD, through the generosity of a family who worship at Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore. These 2 properties were given in June 2011.

The **TRAC Disaster Relief Fund**: an Operational Guideline has been adopted by the TRAC Executive Board. This will enable our AC to be systematic and timely in our response to such urgent and dire situations.

TRAC Organisational Leadership Training Module (**OLM**): this significant module is to provide basic understanding of our Methodist structure/polity, direction, unity, operational competency and generally to enhance our cohesion as an AC body. The target groups include pastors, Lay Leaders, LCEC members, church ministry staff, Small Group leaders and Ministry Dept heads. The OLM was launched in January 2011 and so far the Northern and Eastern Districts have completed all 4 modules. Next year the OLM will be held in the Perak and the Southern Districts.

We are glad that the emphases on the **youth and college ministries** have begun to bear fruits by the grace of the Lord. This year Kampar Wesley has dedicated a Ministry Home on Easter for KTAR and UTAR students which they have purchased. We have seen our Jeremiah School program started 9 years ago producing Christian vocation workers as well as facilitators for our other youth events.

We continue to persevere with our **young adults**

ministry as we plan for the 4th Young adults Convention (YAC) which will be held in Melaka on the 15-17 September 2012. This year, the YAC was ably organised by the young adult groups in Penang Wesley and Penang Trinity in Penang. There were 62 participants from 10 churches who found the community time together most enriching as they fellowshiped. We must encourage more of our young adults to attend so to receive relevant input, mutual encouragement and strategic networking among themselves.

We are glad to share that TRAC has developed and dedicated on 2 Oct 2010 the **Parit Buntar Methodist Centre** for training, retreats and reflection groups (see <http://www.pb-mc.org>). This is a smaller place that can accommodate up to 78 people. For more information and booking, do contact Mr Stephen Chew (012 5724559 or email **pbmcboking@gmail.com**).

TRAC had also organised the **GC Aldersgate Public Lectures** in conjunction with the Episcopal Office (17-18 May 2011) and **TRAC Pastors' Seminar** (19-20 May 2011) held in KL Wesley. The speaker was Dr William Abraham, a Wesleyan scholar who is committed to missions. He spoke on "Revival from the Wesleyan experience and perspective" in the Public Lectures. He then gave significant input on the role and mission of the Church from the Scriptural and Wesleyan perspectives important to the pastoral role today in the TRAC Pastors' Seminar.

Let us be prepared to be available to be nominated to serve in the various boards in our Annual Conference as we prepare for the coming new quadrennium. **Elections** for the next quadrennium will take place in the 37th TRAC Session next year. Above all, let us keep this matter in prayer.

III. News from the Wider Connection

The PD Methodist Centre Building Project is proceeding well; the Lord willing it should be opened for use in January 2013. It will be our aim as a total Methodist Family in W Malaysia to make this venue our regular "Home of the Annual Conferences". This will ensure it has adequate financial support whilst we too get to cut down costs for our AC Sessions.

GC Special Session, 12-15 October 2011, Selesa Beach Resort, 5th Mile Jln Pantai, PD. Except for the few Constitutional amendments of the MSF and MW regarding time of AGM, election and voting taking effect from 1 Jan 2012, all other changes to the Discipline will only be effective on 1 Jan 2013, after the 17-22 Sept 2012 General Conference Session.

The **3rd Asian Methodist Conference** on 25-28 June 2011, Hong Kong: Malaysia had a delegation of 38. Altogether there were about 150 representatives from 10 nations.

Among the key issues discussed was how collaboration in the migrant workers ministry and outreach to the youths can be enhanced.

The **GC Youth Council** will be formally set up to form a stronger network for youth work among the ACs. GC Youth website: this project was officially launched at the GCEC in Sibu (18-19 Feb 2011). The address is **www.methodistyouth.com.my**

A **GC MYF Conference** is planned for **2013**, targeting 50 youths from each AC. There will be Bible Expositions, talks on Wesleyan spirituality and caring structures, tracking contemporary youth issues, opportunity to forge a greater sense of being one in the Methodist family etc.

The **Council of Churches Malaysia** continues to look forward to the completion of their Building Project which has been rescheduled to mid-May 2012. However, CCM still needs our collective support as the project cost has risen to RM 12 million, with RM 6,005,000 raised so far.

Conclusion

John Stott, a great man of faith who had finished the race faithfully outlined 4 ways in which Christians have power to influence the world.

Firstly, there is **power in prayer**. Stott reminds the Church that our *“first duty toward society and its leaders is to pray for them”* (1 Tim 2:1-2). He goes on to call the Church to take with *“increasing seriousness the 5 or 10 minutes of intercession in which, as a congregation, we bow down before God and bring to Him the world and its leaders, and cry to Him to intervene.”* The Church is not to be parochial, but global – sharing in the *“global concerns of our global God.”*

Secondly, there is the **power of truth** especially the truth of the Gospel that *“brings salvation to everyone who believes”* (Rom 1:16). Stott states thus, *“All God’s truth is powerful. God’s truth of whatever kind is much more powerful than the Devil’s lies... Truth is much more powerful than bombs and tanks and weapons.”*

Thirdly, the Church has the **power of example**. Stott goes on to say, *“Truth is powerful when it’s argued. It’s more powerful when exhibited. People need not only to*

understand the argument. They need to see the benefits of the argument with their own eyes.” The world is watching Christians as the agent of transformation and hope. May they see in us the difference, to the end that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matt 5:16**).

Fourthly, the Church has the **power of group solidarity**. The power of a dedicated minority is enormous! Stott strikes a common but powerful chord with those of us who believe in the power of “dedicated godly networks” – especially for Malaysia. John Stott says, *“There is a great need for dedicated Christian groups committed to one another, committed to a vision of justice, committed to Christ; groups that will pray together, think together, formulate policies together, and get to work together in the community...”*

May we as an AC be seen to be a community of faithful disciples of Christ. We may be living in an “earth shaking” season both locally and globally, but let us also **never forget** that our God is the one who can so command that “the sun stood still, and the moon stopped”. May we always live to His glory and for His purpose.

(For the full text of the Presidential Address, please visit our website www.trac.org.my)



Pastoral Appointments for 2012

EASTERN DISTRICT

	District Superintendent: Rev Paul Santosh Christie
Bentong Christ MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kuala Lipis Wesley MC	Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong, 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	DS, Pastor Assigned
Sg. Petani Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kulim Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Butterworth Wesley MC	Mr Andrew Yeoh Boon Lay, Part-time Approved Supply Pastor
Penang Wesley MC	Rev Hwa Jen, Pastor
Penang Trinity MC	Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor Mr Shearn Sya Seng Shen, Assistant Pastor
Parit Buntar Wesley MC	Rev Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor

PERAK DISTRICT

	District Superintendent: Rev T. Jeyakumar
Ipoh Wesley MC	Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai, Pastor Mr Lim Chaw Leong, Assistant Pastor
Canning Garden MC, Ipoh	Rev T. Jeyakumar, Pastor Rev Yu Chiew Song, Associate Pastor Rev Richard Leow Kok Khuen, Assistant Pastor Ms Elaine Low Chooi Ling, Approved Supply Pastor
Taiping Wesley MC	Mr Tan Yee Ho, Approved Supply Pastor Mr John Baru, Approved Supply Pastor
Bercham MC, Ipoh	Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai, Pastor Mr Lim Chaw Leong, Assistant Pastor
Grace, Ipoh MC	Ms Elaine Low Chooi Ling, Approved Supply Pastor
Kampar Wesley MC	Rev Yong Wai Yin, Pastor
Teluk Intan Wesley MC	Mr Lee Chee Keat, Pastor
Sitiawan Wesley MC	Rev Henry Yong Wei Choong, Pastor Mr Leong Chick Seng, Approved Supply Pastor

FEDERAL TERRITORY

	District Superintendent: Rev Dr Timothy Ong Seng Kee
Kuala Lumpur Wesley MC	Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock, Pastor Mr Andrew Lim Teng Siang, Assistant Pastor
Christ Ampang, MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor Assigned
Faith Cheras, MC	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor Assigned
Kepong Wesley MC	Ms Tan Chew Mae, Approved Supply Pastor
Grace Sentul, MC	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor
Life Puchong, MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

Pastoral Appointments for 2012

SELANGOR DISTRICT

Petaling Jaya Trinity MC	District Superintendent: Rev Lawrence Francis Rev Dr Timothy Ong Seng Kee, Pastor Rev Ting Moy Hong, Associate Pastor
Damansara Utama MC	to be appointed
Emmanuel MC, PJ	Rev Andrew Tan Kok Khoon, Pastor
Sg. Way/Subang MC	Dr Ng Swee Ming, Approved Supply Pastor
Subang MC	Mr Robert Khaw Hock Pang, Approved Supply Pastor
Kelang Wesley MC	Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor Miss Courtney Teoh Boi Theng, Diaconal Minister
Sungai Buloh Trinity Methodist Church	Rev Lawrence Francis, Pastor
Whispering Hope, MC	Rev Dr Andrew Tan Kok Khoon, Pastor Assigned

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Johor Bahru Wesley MC	District Superintendent: Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong Rev Joshua Hong Kee Soon, Pastor Ms Lucy Lee Siew Seng, Assistant Pastor
Segamat Wesley MC	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar, Pastor
Melaka Wesley MC	Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Pastor Mr Danny Chiew Hock Chwee, Approved Supply Pastor
Taman Asean MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Seremban Wesley MC	Rev Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor Mr Ronald Yap Quan Nyian, Student Approved Supply Pastor
Taman Ujong MC	Rev Dr Anthony Loke Yin Fai, Pastor Assigned

Special Appointments

* on behalf of Bishop

Seconded to Faculty of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia*	Rev Dr Anthony Loke Yin Fai
Seconded to Council of Churches Malaysia	Rev Dr Hermen Shastri
Superintendent, Methodist Sengoi Mission	Rev Bah Uda Aman
Part-time Coordinator, Sengoi Workers Training Centre (SWTC)	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar
Part-time Director, Methodist Seniors Ministry	Rev Hwa Jen
Prayer Director	Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik
Prayer Retreat Director	Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai
Prayer Coordinator	Rev Christopher Rao

TRAC Calendar 2012

JANUARY

01	Sun	New Year's Day
02 - 20		Jeremiah School
04	Wed	School Term Begins
06 - 08	Fri - Sun	Executive Board Retreat
10 - 12	Tue - Thur	CCM Heads of Churches Retreat and Consultation
14	Sat	Birthday of Yang di-Pertua Besar Negeri Sembilan
15	Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kedah
18 - 25	Wed - Wed	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
23 - 24	Mon - Tue	Chinese New Year
30 - 19 Feb		Jeremiah School

FEBRUARY

01	Wed	Federal Territory Day
02 - 19		Jeremiah School
05	Sun	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
07	Tue	Thaipusam
09 - 11	Thur - Sat	Council of Presidents / GCEC - Sibul
15	Wed	Statistical Return to be sent to Churches
18 - 19	Sat - Sun	ICM Organizational Leadership Module – Perak District
22	Wed	Ash Wednesday
23-25	Thur - Sat	BM Forum (SCAC/GC) – K.Kinabalu

MARCH

01 - 03	Thur - Sat	President / Ds Retreat
02 - 04	Fri - Sun	ICM SFL 3 – Discernment: The Heart of Spiritual Leadership
03	Sat	World Day of Ecumenical Service
04	Sun	Anniversary of Installation of Sultan of Terengganu
06 - 09	Tue - Fri	TRAC MSF Camp
10 - 12	Sat - Mon	Cameo History Writers' Workshop
10 - 18		Mid Term Break
13 - 15	Tues - Thur	ICM - LGT Trainers' Training
15	Thur	Statistical Return to reach Statistician
15 - 17	Thur - Sat	TRAC BB/GB Junior Camp
16 - 19	Fri - Mon	ICM - LGT Facilitators' Retreat
23 - 25	Fri - Sun	Youth Ministry Partners Retreat
24	Sat	Board of Evangelism meeting
27	Tue	CCM Board of Management Meeting

APRIL

05	Thur	Maundy Thursday
06	Fri	Good Friday
08	Sun	Easter
15	Sun	Declaration of Melaka as a Historical Day
17 - 21	Tue - Sat	PDMS - Ipoh
19	Thur	Birthday of Sultan of Perak
24 - May 5		UMC GC, USA
27 - 29	Fri - Sun	Retreat for WAM Chairpersons (by the Board of Worship)

MAY

01	Tue	Labour Day
01 - 05	Tue - Sat	UMC GC, USA
01 - 05	Tues - Sat	ICM 5-Day Individually Directed Retreat (Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik)
07	Mon	Hari Hol – Pahang
05	Sat	Wesak Day
06	Sun	Mother's Day
14 - 18	Mon - Fri	World Prayer Assembly, Jakarta
17	Thur	Birthday of Raja Perlis
25 - 27	Fri - Sun	Christian Vocation Series
26 - June 10		Mid Year Break
26 - 29	Sat - Tue	GBM – NOR 55th AGM
27	Sun	Pentecost/Global Day of Prayer

JUNE

01 - 03	Fri - Sun	ICM Renewed to Teach Retreat
02	Sat	Birthday of Yang Di Pertuan Agong
06 - 09	Wed - Sat	Youth Prayer Conference
08	Fri	BOM Retreat / Meeting
09	Sat	Executive Board Meeting
17	Sun	Methodist Education Foundation Sunday
17	Sun	Father's Day
17	Sun	Israk & Mikraj (Kedah, Negeri & Perlis)
22 - 24	Fri - Sun	SG Conference (#2) CGMC, Ipoh

JULY

07	Sat	Board of Evangelism Meeting
10 - 11	Tue - Wed	PADERI Lecture (M. Cassidy)
14	Sat	Birthday of the Governor of Penang
14 - 16	Sat - Mon	GC MW, KL
09 - 14	Mon - Sat	Social Concerns Week
15	Sun	Social Concerns Sunday
16	Mon	Statistical Returns to be sent to Churches
20	Fri	Birthday of the Sultan of Terengganu
20 - 21	Fri - Sat	GC Laity Convention
21	Sat	Awal Ramadhan
23 - 25	Mon - Wed	Retreat with Dr Steve Seamands
26 - 28	Thur - Sat	PADERI Conference – Dr Steve Seamands

AUGUST

03 - 05	Fri - Sun	COP / GCEC – K.Kinabalu
03 - 05	Fri - Sun	TRAC GB/BB Consultation
03 - 05	Fri - Sun	ICM Pentecost Retreat (Rev Peggy Seow)
06	Mon	Nuzul Al-Quran
15	Wed	Statistical Return to reach Statistician
18 - 22	Sat - Wed	Camp 18 UP
18 - 26		Mid-Term Break
19 - 20	Sun - Mon	Hari Raya Puasa
26	Sun	CCM Sunday
31	Fri	Merdeka Day
31 - Sep 2	Fri - Sun	Christian Vocation Series
31 - Sep 2	Fri - Sun	37th Session TRAC MW

SEPTEMBER

1 - 2	Sat - Sun	37 Session TRAC MW
02 - 07	Sun - Fri	BOYW Retreat
02	Sun	Heritage Sunday
06	Thur	BOM Meeting
07 - 09	Fri - Sun	Joint Board
07	Fri	President/DS Meeting
07	Fri	BOYW meeting
15 - 17	Sat - Mon	TRAC Young Adults Convention
16	Sun	Malaysia Day
18 - 22	Tue - Sat	9th GC Session – W. Malaysia

OCTOBER

02 - 06	Tue - Sat	ICM 5-Day Individually Directed Retreat (Rev Dr OHT)
05 - 07	Fri - Sun	ICM SFL 4 – Spiritual Formation in the Church & Beyond
13	Sat	Birthday of Governor of Malacca
12 - 13	Fri - Sat	ICM Org. Leadership Module (OLM) – Southern District
21	Sun	MSF Sunday
23	Tue	CCM Board of Management Meeting
24	Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Pahang
26	Fri	Hari Raya Haji
26 - 28	Fri - Sun	Training Workshop for Church Historians

NOVEMBER

01 - 08	Thur - Thur	ICM 8-Day Individually Directed Retreat (Dr Voon CK)
06 - 08	Tue - Thur	PMS Session
10 - Jan 01, 13		Year End Break
11	Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kelantan
12 - 20		National Youth Missions
13	Tue	Deepavali
15	Thur	Awal Muharam
15 - 21	Thur - Wed	Evangelism & Prayer Training – Buyong, Korea
22	Thur	Birthday of the Sultan of Johor
29 - 30	Thur - Fri	BOM Meeting & Pre Conference Session

DECEMBER

01 - 04	Sat - Tue	37th Session TRAC
11	Tue	Birthday of Selangor Sultan
12 - 16	Wed - Sun	YLDP
14 - 16	Fri - Sun	Parents Weekend (YLDP Track)
20	Thur	Hari Hol - Johor
25	Tue	Christmas Day
31	Mon	New Year's Eve/Watch Night Covenant Service

Stand In The Gap - Disaster Relief

Submitted by:
Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar
Chairman, TRAC Board of Social Concerns

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods can often come at the least expected time. Others, such as hurricanes and cyclones are increasing in severity and destruction. Typically, the poor are the worst hit for they have the least resources to cope and rebuild.

How does one deal with the realities of disasters in the magnitude of the Nargis cyclone that hit Myanmar in May 2008 or the more recent Japan tsunami. We often ask why God permits an earthquake or a tsunami to afflict so many. We will not get an answer this side of heaven. In times of disaster, it is not so much seeking for answers, rather, Christians should pray and give generously to those victims during their time of need.

Over the last several years TRAC through the collective giving from local churches has been able to respond effectively and responsibly. Listed below are the amounts collected and disbursed:

Disasters	Amounts Collected		Amounts Disbursed	
Year 2010				
Pakistan floods	RM	36,340.00	RM	36,340.00
Haiti		56,993.55		50,271.05
Bangladesh		17,647.40		19,931.80
Myanmar		215,577.98		180,445.16
Szechuan		8,329.68		24,873.28
Gaza		641.00		641.00
Indonesia		57,138.70		20,000.00
Philippines		1,000.00		1,000.00
Others		71,110.39		2.39
Year 2011				
Indonesia		1,177.40		
Japan		78,671.65		59,376.15

TRAC Board of Finance has formulated a Disaster Relief Fund Guideline. The Fund is set up so that TRAC will be able to respond quickly to the needs of the victims of any disaster and to participate in the rehabilitation and recovery work. Aid is extended to all victims of disaster who are in need irrespective of race, nationality and religious belief. The guidelines are drawn up allowing TRAC to respond speedily through a small committee headed by the TRAC President who will work closely with the Episcopal Office where such projects are concerned.

To avoid funds being left unused, guidelines have been drawn up for unused designated funds to be re-designated for similar relief purposes. Our first priority is to ensure the full utilization of funds as designated/intended in the first place.

All of us can stand in the gap for survivors of disasters. Your generous financial donations in response to appeals provide the much needed funds to meet immediate emergency needs and long – term rehabilitation.

Third Convention of Asian Methodist Council, Hong Kong 25-28 June 2011

*By Khaw Choon Keat
WesleyMethodist Church
Johor Bahru*



Some Impressions:

Attending the Convention caused me to re-look at one of the basic ministries of our church, both at local and national levels. As I listened to the discourses at conference sessions, as well as from information gathered on visits to local Methodist churches in Hong Kong, I was confronted with the stark reality that to evangelize effectively, the church must be perceived as caring, concerned, kind and prepared to involve itself with the masses and their myriad problems of daily life.

Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung, the outgoing President of the AMC spoke at the opening service. He reminded the convention of the key strengths of early Methodism in Wesley's time. (He called that era "primitive Methodism") One of the 4 key strengths Was the social impact it had; the others being evangelistic passion, small group Ministries and the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Wesley sought the elevation of people from poverty, and the breaking down of habits and mindsets that bound people to that very poverty and mindset. He cared for their physical needs as much as he wanted them to turn to God in repentance.

Then Dr. Sung Bae Chung, a missiologist from South Korea, in his talk on "John Wesley-A foundation for holistic mission", pointed out that among other roles, Wesley was a true servant . Dr. Chung defined "servanthood" as a loving heart that works out in loving activities based on the needs of the people to whom he preached.

These thoughts reconfirmed in my heart that God is as concerned about social, economic, personal and moral elevation of the poor masses, as well as political restoration of societies, as His desire for people to come to a saving knowledge of His Son. Throughout the Convention this thought became progressively clearer. First, seeing how effectively the social services of a

couple of Hong Kong Methodist Churches brought about transformation of poor, handicapped, illiterate people and infusing them with a sense of liberty and hope, resulting in a good number of these people coming to faith in Jesus Christ, convinced me that taking care of the physical and emotional needs of people must go together, if not preceded by telling them the Good News of salvation.

At Ashbury Methodist Church, the social service arm is central to its ministry. It serves a vast public housing area in its midst, and the services cover care of the handicapped and infirm, literacy classes, skills and cookery training, physical therapy sessions, art and music lessons. Its kindergarten also comes under the social services wing. These activities are all undergirded with Bible studies and worship sessions. The service extends to 2 units of flats nearby to cater for children who need a place to go after school. All these are done daily with full time staff and some volunteers.

The social service arm of Epworth Village Methodist Church is even more extensive. Besides the above mentioned activities they also run neighbourhood centers for the elderly, seeking out those who are extremely restricted in connecting to other people. These integrated house service provides physical therapy, food and counseling to help deprived families. Not left out are the youths and children whose needs for academic help, counseling and healthy activities are met. The whole social service is run by 173 full time staff, 56 of whom are professionally trained. Important point to note for us is 82% of the funding comes from the government and about 10% from the community chest of Hong Kong.

It was a joy to be part of their worship service that caters for the old, infirm and physically handicapped. A volunteer each took care of one of about a dozen people in wheel chairs, fetching them in specially equipped vans, staying with them during service and sending them home, week in week out. It is a loving commitment in practice and a good number of these old, friendless, weak people have come to receive Jesus as Saviour over the years.

I ask myself whether we in TRAC churches can commit fully and in a sustained manner to one or two particular service that will meet the physical, emotional and economic needs of a target group of people, that will help restore some joy and comfort to their lives and meet some of their deprivation. This is not a social concerns programme but an arm of the local church to be true to our Wesleyan heritage. Will not people more easily acknowledge the saving grace of Jesus if they

experience His love for them in practical ways, when their dire needs are met by the church?

Second, we will not be able to understand the heartaches, challenges and painful problems of societies that send out migrant workers. I had an inkling of these at the Session on "Missions in the context of migration." Malaysia has been a migrant worker receiving country for some years already. Is there any church within TRAC that has a structure in place to help 'settle' migrant workers in as they relocate here? A structure that gives real assistance in areas of need (for example, health and dental treatment, 'pocket money' before their first pay), within boundaries of governmental regulations? I may be ignorant or uninformed, but almost all the time I hear of churches trying to contact migrant workers to bring them to church activities. Is there any church out there which first takes care and positively assists the migrant workers in their very basic needs that are part of relocation to a new country, well before thinking of busing them to church services and wanting to evangelise them? Pray, tell me. Can we look at them as real people with real needs and fears, irrespective of their race and religion before thinking of them as targets for evangelism? We need to remould our strategy as far as the migrant worker is concerned.

Third, even as "primitive Methodism" changed the face of the countryside in England and transformed the social fabric to a great extent, when people are restored to dignity and morality and families healed, the social agenda of our churches need to be modified. We simply cannot think of transforming the nation in any way without giving concrete attention to our society with its myriad needs.

The Methodist churches in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Burma are growing because one of the most important factors is that the people see the church caring, providing relief in disasters, helping to alleviate their sufferings, helping to bring some hope.

When individuals and their societies are changed, as their very, very basic needs are met, they will begin to see things very differently. When it has impactfully lifted groups and communities from poverty and deprivation, the church's message of Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ will be more readily received. People who have tasted real practical care and love will more readily seek repentance and be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Am I stating the obvious? Perhaps.

On earth the body and soul must be cared for equally. The 3rd AMC left this thought deeply ingrained in me.

Trusting God All The Time

By Mrs Yap Lay Pin

*The Life MSF group from Puchong made a trip to New Zealand.
Here are accounts from two different members.*



Willowbanks
Christchurch, New Zealand (April 7, 2011)

On the 23rd October 2011 which was MSF Sunday, I was asked to share on our trip to New Zealand which took place in April the same year. I thank the Church and also our TRAC President, Rev. Dr Ong Hwa Teik for this opportunity to share God's grace, love and faithfulness.

Our God is indeed a gracious God; full of love and compassion. When the MSF was planning a trip to New Zealand last year, I was not interested because I was worried about my husband whom the Church fondly remembers as Uncle Yap. He was due for an operation and my mind was fully occupied with his health. The operation was successful, thanks to the many prayers and concerns of a caring church. He was subsequently discharged on 28th January 2011 and God gave him 3 wonderful weeks at home with the family. Many of our Christian brothers, sisters and relatives came to visit us and he was very happy to receive all of them.

However, due to his age (81) and weak health, he developed pneumonia and God took him home on the 19th Feb. 2011. God is so merciful and Uncle Yap was hospitalized for only 3 days with breathing difficulties. I was extremely confused and very sad at the sudden loss and my mind just couldn't focus on anything. I thank God for providing me with many caring Christian friends who consoled me with encouraging words.

My family was worried and wanted me to go for a holiday and my son asked me to follow him back to

Ireland. I didn't want to go anywhere but to be alone. I remembered God's promise in Hebrews 13:5 which says "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" and I claimed his promise. I prayed to God for courage to sustain and guide me in what I should do. God answered my prayers in the form of the New Zealand trip! Praise God for his faithfulness!

One couple decided not to go and was looking for others to take their places. When I told my children, they encouraged me and sort of pushed me into going for the trip as a replacement. Everything went smoothly and I only needed to pay an extra \$200 for the change of name. Thanks to sister Choon Neo for doing all the paperwork. Our God is an amazing God who hears and answers prayers in His own time!

It was indeed a revealing trip in many ways and I thank God for making it possible for me to have a good time with my Christian brothers and sisters. The trip also allowed me to witness God's marvelous and magnificent creation in another part of the world!

Upon reflection, I now feel so blessed and privileged that God shared my husband with me for 50 unforgettable years! For his words in Revelation 4:11 says "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created". All Glory to God!

Life MSF Trip to New Zealand

By Tay Choon Neo

This trip was covered with much prayer because it came at a time just after the Christchurch earthquake and the Japan earthquake and tsunami. Despite the two natural disasters just prior to the trip, the senior members said "YES! we will go! We have faith in God!" OK, I thought, with such faith, we will carry on. I believe the Lord honoured that faith and gave us such a wonderful and God-centred trip.

There were 8 of us, the eldest being 75 and the youngest is an associate young chicko in his 40s. That was my first time bringing a group of seniors (other than with family) to a far-away country. One of the first things I said was everyone must be fully covered with insurance! By the grace of God, we had such fun and adventure on the trip, with big bags of medicine and all.

We learnt to pray in all circumstances and everyone had to be able to PRAY OUT LOUD by the end of the trip, which all did. In the car we prayed, and tried to remember bible verses and songs. We shared our experiences in the Lord whenever we had a place, private enough and large enough for 8 people. We prayed for Malaysia from NZ; it was the time of the Sarawak elections. One of the church member's father passed away and we prayed for him. It was wonderful. In the beauty and serenity of God's awesome creation, we were assured that truly He is the Great and Mighty God unto whom we put our trust.

We came home safely, raring to go for the next trip!



My Salvation Testimony

By Felix Thai Kong Meng

My journey to know Christ started when I was invited by bro. James Wong to attend an Easter event on 4 April 2010. It was exploratory then and I wanted to know more about the small family church that he had mentioned.

Of course, I had nothing to lose. In a way, I was given a second chance in life; reborn by God's grace. I suffered a major heart attack on 19 February 2009. It was just tragic. I never ever thought that I could suffer a heart attack, what more a major one.

I thought to myself that if it is not for God's grace, I would not have been here today. I have quit my job since then, as I needed the time to recuperate.

After my gradual recovery, I dabbled in the unit trust industry, working solely on the 'warm' market like friends and neighbours. It has been difficult since.

I thought the best way out of my wilderness was to know and understand more about Christ the Lord. I wanted to find out how he could help and lead me to the right path in life.

I am still trying to find a business to venture into or a job to keep going, as I have a family to support. My children are still very young and they are school-going. I just hope and pray that God Almighty will give me spiritual strength, guidance and perseverance to go through this rough period.

It has never struck me that I have to endure such a bad patch in my life. Things were so different in the past when I was in the corporate world. I notice business associates shy away from me now that I am down and out.

So I thought the best way is to find comfort and solace in God.

Having gone through the Baptism and Membership class

on 4 December 2010, I found some of the Scripture verses very reassuring. They are as follows:

- "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, that it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." **(Romans 10:9-10)**
- "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his Name, he gave the right to become children of God." **(John 1:12)**
- "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call." **(Acts 2:37-38)**
- "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." **(1 John 5:11-12)**
- Jesus said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **(John 8:32)**
- "Don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." **(Romans 6:3-4)**

This is my personal testimony which I am attesting today by the grace of God. By accepting the Lord Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour, I have also the wish of my late father. Praise the Lord!

Note: Felix Thai was subsequently baptised and received into the membership of Subang Methodist Church on 9th January 2011.

TRAC Youth Worship Camp 2011

31st Aug-2nd Sept at TMC PJ

Forward and compilation of testimony done by Khong Mei-Yan

Worship means nothing less than giving ourselves to God. Most of us Methodist Youths grew up in Sunday school knowing that our God is to be worshipped yet not really knowing what worship means other than the 15 minutes spent singing songs every Sunday that has become somewhat of a chore to many of us. Worship is of course, much more than that. It is a call to love God and to pursue His heart.

Proverbs 16:9 *“In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps”*

The idea of conducting this camp began early this year with a vision, followed by months of prayer and seeking the Lord's direction. Planning began only a month before the 31st of Aug. When things seemed hazy, we prayed together and God assured me, “Trust in me, with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding, in your ways, acknowledge me and I will make your paths straight”. When the date drew nearer, the camp committee met up more regularly to pray. God was true to His Word. He provided everything – the speakers, Dr Samuel Ong and Christopher Sam, skills workshop facilitators, helpers, finances, participants who were eager to learn, TMC PJ for accomodation, and even our church caretaker, Guru to help us out. A big heartfelt thanks to all of you for availing yourselves to serve God.

Here are some of the things the participants had to say about camp ...

Worship is often defined as singing songs of praise, quiet time, Sunday service. Truth be spoken, it's much simpler yet much more difficult than that. It's simple because we can do it anytime and anywhere. It's hard because we have been so accustomed to our bad habits like worrying, thoughtlessness, failure to prioritize correctly that it's so difficult to lead a godly life. Yuen Xin, 18, TMC PJ

I learnt how to be more confident in playing the drums and also how to play together as a band. I understand now the deep meaning of worship. For me, this camp was different from the others that I attended before.

Shaun Choo Kok Sum, 15, TMC PJ

I have always been the type of girl who is shy to try things which I'm not good at. But at the piano workshop, I was patiently taught how to play chords in a worship band setting. Uncle Sam was very funny. He taught us so many things we didn't know. I think I not only enjoyed the camp but my walk with God has changed a lot.

Jacqueline Ong May, 14, TMC PJ

The camp was really awesome. It really taught me how to worship the correct way and helped me understand the true meaning of worship. Lindsay Lim, 13, TMCPJ

I learned that prayer is a time when we choose to give and receive from God. I am now much more confident in front of a congregation. This camp offered me a truly different experience. Besides the many new friends I met, I can now play the guitar much better. Khong Zhi-Yang, 14, TMC PJ.

At the camp, I saw God working amongst us and keeping us safe. Even in just 3 days, I learnt so much about worshipping God and taking God more seriously. James Leong, 19, TMC PJ

I think the worship workshop exposed both current and future musicians and worship enablers to the biblical concept of worship, not merely the knowledge of it, but the application and seriousness of it.

Michael Sam, 20, helper, TMC PJ

The worship camp was awesome. Even as a facilitator, I got to learn some skills. Connecting with other youths was a blessing, but the best part were the devotions where we shared, prayed and heard God speak.

Melody Yew, 19, helper, KL Wesley

One word - AWESOME! I definitely learned something new at this camp. Putting worship in a different perspective now, I can feel the changes in my relationship with God. **Kelly Choo, 19, TMC PJ**

It's very encouraging to see so many musicians coming together to share their mutual bonds, and to also see the sharing of technical knowledge. One of the best feelings when musicians come together is the absence of a competitive spirit. I had that feeling throughout the camp. **Addison Ooh, 21, helper.**

I learnt the proper techniques of singing and this worship camp has drawn me much closer to God. The camp turned out pretty good and I think we should organize more camps like this one for the youths so that they're able to use their talents and skills to shine for God!

Gaby Choo, 18, TMC PJ

This camp was a great opportunity for the youths to learn what worship REALLY is and at the same time learn how to be a better musicians for God! We should do this more often!

Jeremy Chew, Kepong Wesley, Helper

This Workshop has been an eye-opening experience for me. I made some friends and learnt a lot from the speaker, Dr. Samuel Ong. The camp's theme was 'Cultivating a Heart of Worship'. Luke 9:23 comes to mind, 'Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'

Hua Zai Heng, WMC Kepong

I want to thank God for this camp by which He truly spoke and revealed so many things to me. Am blessed and encouraged by seeing so many young people getting back to the heart of worship, knowing that worship is not just about songs but a lifestyle. Throughout this camp I learnt many things about the heart and the art of worship. It was really worthwhile! **Justin Ooi Han-Juan, 20, Acts Church**

I've learnt from camp that worship does not just involve me as an individual but also involves bonding with other members around me - a bond to glorify God. I'm also reminded that worship is for everyday life and not just the few minutes we spend singing. **Egbert Nah King Jin, 17, SSMC**

Camp was really great! Not only did I have fun, but I also learned a lot about the true meaning of worship. It is a lifestyle and should be done together with our whole church family.

Loke Weng Mun, 14, TMC PJ

Through this workshop, I learned many things from Dr Samuel Ong. The main thing was that we should put God first in our lives and in everything we do. To me this was an extremely-fun-and-yet-we-learnt-a-lot camp. I enjoyed the jamming sessions most and would like to thank God for all the great people He put as helpers in the camp. I will definitely attend again. **Joylene Ling Ai Hui, 16, SBMC**

Before this workshop, I never knew how big worship ought to be in my life. I never knew that worship could mean things like the way I present myself, the things I do and even the things I think about. I used to focus so much on how loving and forgiving our God is during worship, but through this workshop I've realised how great and majestic our God is. I've definitely learnt to worship God with a different and new attitude.

Beatrice Ho, 18, Kepong Wesley

