

B E R I T A **TRAC**



2019 • Issue No. 2

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY





Rev. Ashok Amarasingham
 Pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, Klang
 District Superintendent for
 Central District 2

Making disciples of the younger generation

Many of us are familiar with the Sunday morning agenda. We get to church on time, are reminded not to hang around outside the sanctuary but find a place to quieten our hearts and prepare to worship God as a congregation. We know that our chief purpose to be in church on Sunday is to celebrate the resurrection of Christ – that we worship a Living Lord and Saviour. After the Benediction is pronounced, we fellowship with each other and spend time serving God in some area of ministry or merely enjoy each other's company. The other 6 plus days of our lives routinely pass by before the cycle repeats itself on Sunday mornings.

Scripture reminds us that there is more to being a Christian than being in church on Sunday mornings. The emphasis on discipleship has reemerged in our churches after decades of silence. Every church will highlight the Great Commission ... Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ... (Matthew 28: 19). Discipleship does not happen by merely attending Sunday worship service. Jesus initially called men to follow after him (e.g. Mark 1: 17 & 19) but it was much later that he purposefully prayed and selected his 12 disciples (Luke 6: 12-16). Jesus spent much private time alone with them.

Jesus selected his 12 disciples to carry the gospel message to the nations. Thereafter, Jesus personally appeared to Saul (Paul) and gave him his lifelong mandate to be a witness of Christ to the Gentiles. The epistles of Paul are testament that believing in Christ means growing as disciple of Christ until we attain full maturity (Colossians 1: 28)., Thus Paul personally took Timothy on his mission trips and took upon himself the task of being Timothy's spiritual father.

There are many young adults and teenagers in our churches that desire God but need some guidance. As Jesus spent time with his 12

disciples and Paul similarly with Timothy, are we willing to spend time with them? If we believe that our life purpose is to help others mature spiritually – especially the younger generation – then ought not we invest our lives in them?

You are being closely watched by this group. I am not saying this because I am a pastor. They also admire people who show care and concern for others and exhibit their faith by action. The only thing that hinders them is the “connect factor”. The good news is that connections are easily made. You need to make the first approach by beginning to talk with them. Talk to them individually or in groups of twos and threes. Jesus initially invited men to “come and see”. He didn’t frighten them with commanding them to make disciples of all nations.

George Whitefield powerfully preached God’s word to the masses but John Wesley did one better – he organized the new converts into discipleship groups called classes and bands. Wesley’s brilliance ensured that these young believers were able to grow unto Christian maturity through mutually sharing about their walk with God, listening to God’s Word collectively and encouraging each other to become more like Jesus. They also understood the process of multiplying disciples in each generation. No wonder Whitefield responded to a Wesleyan, “Thou art in the right place. My brother Wesley acted wisely – the souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in class, and thus preserved the fruits of his labour. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand”.

What then can we consider doing for the teenagers and young adults?

- 1) Begin by interacting with them through conversation. Relationships are not developed overnight. Hear their stories and challenges in life.
- 2) Join their already existing groups. This could be youth fellowship, young adults’ fellowship or young adults’ small groups. Relationships can develop in the context of group meetings.
- 3) Take them out for informal times over a meal or doing some common activity. There is power in sharing lives together.
- 4) Talk to your pastor or church leaders on how you can formally serve as a youth counsellor or advisor. God has put pastors and leaders as the spiritual authority in the local church so get their approval.
- 5) Read more on discipleship and glean from the New Testament how to be involved in multiplying disciples. Above all, pray and ask God for his wisdom.

May God grant our people the grace and love to be like Jesus and our church fathers who truly invested their lives in young believers. May we emulate John Wesley who had the passion to see Christians taking their spiritual life seriously and growing mutually in the context of group relationships.

God be praised.

Canning Garden Methodist Church, Ipoh Mission Trip to Sabah



Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lipis Church Camp

Sponsored by two TRAC Churches
Speaker : Rev Wong Mun Wah



Liturgy Workshop for Pastors by Dr Karen Westerfield Tucker

on 23 April held at Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya



Karen Westerfield Tucker is a United Methodist Elder affiliated with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. She served a congregation in Rock Island, Illinois and the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois (U-C) before pursuing the doctorate in liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame. She was on the faculty at Duke University for fifteen years, and has taught seminary and continuing education courses throughout the United States and Canada, and in Asia, Pacifica, and Europe. Her academic and research interests include North American liturgical history and theology, Methodist/Wesleyan liturgical history and theology, liturgy and pastoral care, and hymnody. In 2002-2003 she was selected as a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology to study the theological and cultural dynamics of hymnals.

Dr. Westerfield Tucker is the author of American Methodist Worship (Oxford University Press, 2001). She conceived and edited The Sunday Service of the Methodists: Twentieth-century Worship in Worldwide Methodism (Abingdon/Kingswood, 1996), and with Geoffrey Wainwright edited The Oxford History of Christian Worship (Oxford University Press, 2006). She is a writer for the Wesley Works Project (Abingdon Press), and is working on a book drawn from her research as a Luce Fellow.

Takeaways from the session:

In my setting in KL Wesley, historical knowledge of liturgy is helpful in helping the church grow in this area towards maturity based on understanding rather than familiarity. - **Pr Jonathan Chan**

Don't over-say or over-direct worshippers, but let the bread and the cup speak for themselves, and allow worshippers have their time of divine encounter. - **Pr Robert Khaw**

Whenever a new item is introduced in the liturgy, it is good to explain it to the congregation so that everyone participates knowledgeably. - **Pr Jeya**

Dr Karen Tucker's grasp of the historical sources and underlying theology and thought processes that went into formulating the order, structure and content of what is put into the Methodist worship services was enlightening. The depth of experience she shared and various anecdotes of what she had encountered in worship services in various places at different times was most helpful, engaging and provided a multi-perspective and nuanced view of worship that was not set in stone or empty ritual. - **Pr Ronald Yap**

God acts first and we respond to God through service. - **Pr Lucy Lee**

Ask why you do what you do. - **Pr Andrew Tan**

Pastoral visitation renders vital connection with our congregation which in turn aids in effective pastoral prayers during worship services. - **Pr Buell Abraham**

The workshop provided a good approach to the essence of true worship by explaining the intricacies of worship. - **Pr Eric Hue**

A reminder to pay more attention to the cohesiveness and overall direction of the worship service from start to finish. - **Pr Shearn Sya**

It is important to know what we do, and why we do what we do in our worship celebrations. - **Pr Gaurri**

The order of worship is a guide – we do not need to rigidly follow it. - **Pr Tan Chew Mae**

Interesting and useful. - **Pr Henry Yong**

Christian Worship is about recognizing God's worth above all else. - **Pr Teoh Lee Yng**



*First Local Preacher's Licence module conducted in Bahasa Malaysia from 21 to 23 June 2019.
Thirteen participants attended the Methodism module conducted in CGMC Ipoh.
The module was organised by Rev Richard Leow and taught in BM by TRAC President.*




18 persons attended the first Local Preacher's Licence module conducted in Chinese in CGMC Ipoh in June 2019. Rev Yu Chiew Song organised the Old Testament course and it was taught by Rev Aaron Ng.

Dedication of Hostel for School Children

A Project of TRAC Board of Missions





RUMAH HARAPAN
 Ulu Sapi, Sabah

VISION


Giving Hope for the Next Generation to contribute to Nation Building

MISSION


Provide a Home to nurture their Holistic Education that will bring Spiritual, Academic and Personal Transformation Into the Lives of the Youth

CORE VALUES


- God Centred through Godly Principles and Examples
- Academic Excellence through Learning and Knowledge
- Respect and Caring for one another
- Building strong relationship with good Moral Values
- Trust and Respect among the people group



Sponsor Students




Upkeep




Activities

RUMAH HARAPAN
NEEDS





Wardens


Provide Tuition





ULU SAPI STUDENT HOSTEL PROGRESS



Land Cleared, Dec 2015



Ground breaking, 05/05-2015

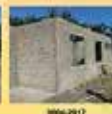

05/11-2016



13/05-2016


24/05-2017



04/06-2017



08/06-2017



08/06-2017



01/06-2017


Completed, August 2017






















Testimony of a student

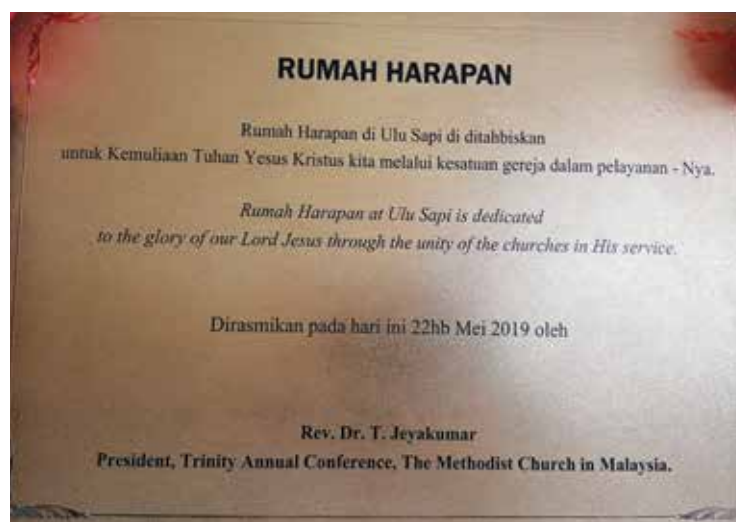


Testimony from a parent



Students in the Hostel.

TRAC has an ongoing commitment to support their living expenses and tuition fees.



Dedication of Nusajaya Methodist Church, Johor

Nusajaya Methodist Church was established on 1st March 2014 in a small shop lot at Taman Bukit Indah with an average attendance of 36. The Lord of the Harvest added numbers and the average attendance doubled the following year. Less than a year before NMC was constituted as a local conference on 17th January 2015, the attendance grew to the point where chairs were filled to the back of the sanctuary. Convinced that God was realizing His agenda to "Reach out, Touch lives with Jesus' love" to relocated Christians from Singapore and other Malaysian states, students from EduCity and residents from the Iskandar



Puteri neighbourhood, the leadership shortlisted and purchased new property in 2014. 11th May 2019 marked an important milestone for Nusajaya Methodist Church when the congregation dedicated their house of worship to God. TRAC President Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar was present to officiate, together with Southern District Superintendent Rev. Joshua Hong. An enlightening message entitled "Embracing Refreshing Changes" was preached.

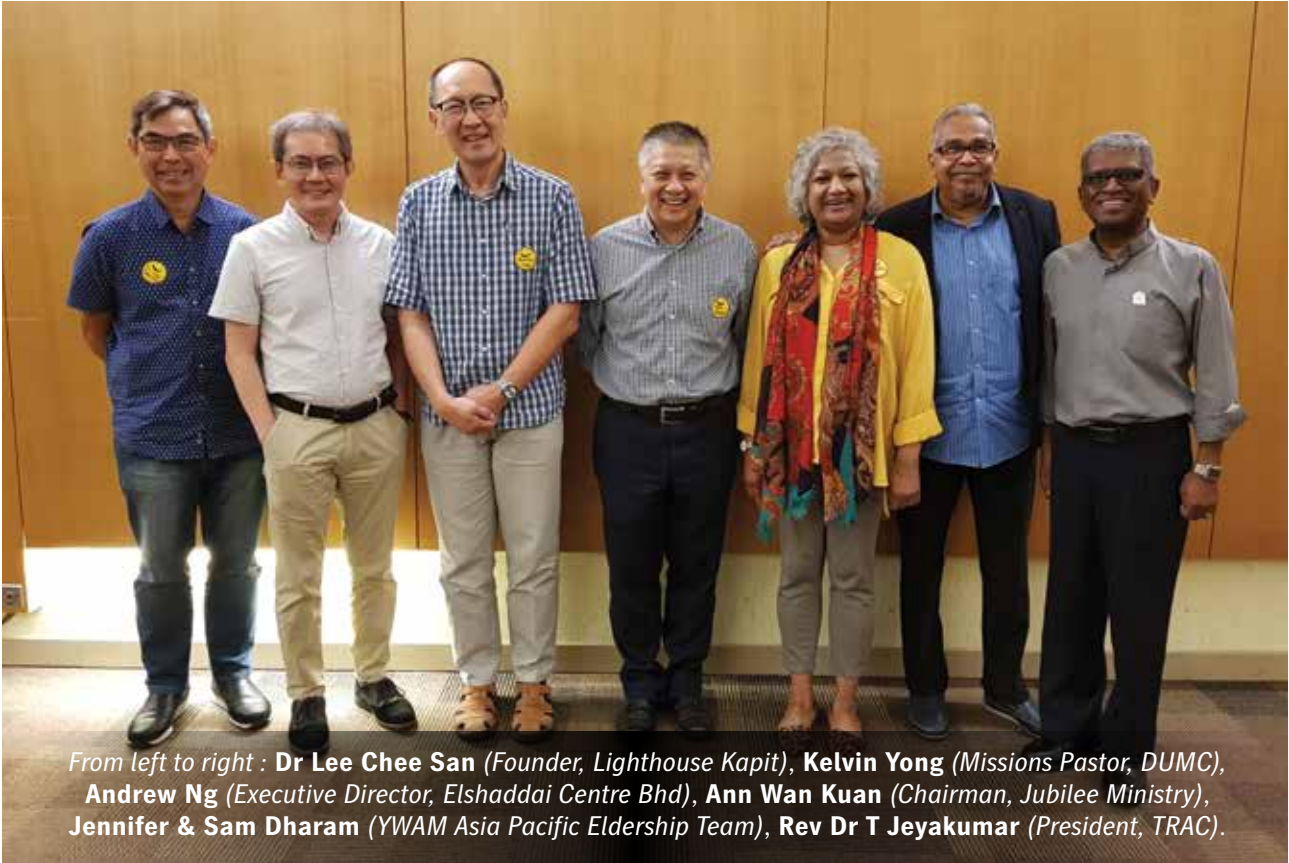
The dedication service was followed by the commissioning of the dedication plaque before all present proceeded to celebrate with food.





TRAC Missions Conference 2019

We thank Pr Kelvin Yong and DUMC for hosting our TRAC Missions Conference from 5-8th June 2019.



TRAC Missions Conference 2019 attended by 140 participants



OASIS - Knowing God, Knowing Self



Starting off the day with the theme
"Knowing God, Knowing Self"



Learning how to meditate scriptures
together



Facilitator, Ms Ng Wai Ling sharing about
what it means to know God and Self



Sharing our discoveries in
small groups

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) together with SSMC organised a one-day retreat called Oasis Women focusing on the theme 'Knowing God, Knowing Self' on Saturday, June 15th, 2019 from 8.30 am - 4.00 pm. The sanctuary was transformed into a contemplative space as 80 women from 18 churches in Klang Valley gathered for a day of reflection, prayer, meditation and conversation. This introductory workshop gave an opportunity for the women to get a taste of stillness, silence and solitude in community and out of that attentive posture to engage with God in listening prayer and meditation of Scripture as well as with each other in conversations. Space was also created for the women to review and map their life in God's presence and discover His invitations for growth. The ICM team who facilitated the retreat comprised of Tang Swee Kit, Lim Siew Lan, Jamie Tan and Ng Wai Ling. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to witness God's amazing work in the hearts of the women!

We welcome churches who wish to partner with ICM for future Oasis. Please contact ICM Director, Ng Wai Ling at wailing.ng@trac.org.my

Here are some of the responses from participants of Oasis SSMC:

Rev Dr Ng Kok Moi

(Children Pastor of SSMC & Co-Organiser of Oasis)

SSMC has been running our Ladies Bible Studies for the past 10 years. Most ladies have heard of Spiritual Formation but the thought of attending a Silent Retreat scares many of them out of their wits. So when Wai Ling spoke about ICM's Oasis, I jumped at the idea and hence started SSMC's journey of hosting the Oasis @ SSMC. Initially we were looking at max 20 - 30 ladies signing up. So the final figure of 80 participants was really beyond our expectation. This indicates the hunger in many ladies' hearts. Praise the Lord for not only the good turn out, but also the way many of the ladies were blessed and ministered to.

Jaime Lim *(Final Year Psychology Student)*

The reflection questions and the mapping my life activity was a good indicator of how God has been very present in my life and a reminder of how faithful He has been throughout. This really put things into perspective as it helped me to understand my sinful nature and how sometimes we can be ungrateful and forget about God's sovereignty in the present moment.

Furthermore, questions such as "for this season, God feels like..." helped me see where I am in my walk with God. However, I felt as if I learned more about myself and my feelings more than about God. It was how I perceived God and not so much God's nature.

The devotions session where we had to use our imagination, as I heard the few examples of what people imagined it was all quite different. Personally, it did help me be more empathic and really dive into the passage.

"Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because he shows us both God and our own wretchedness" (Blaise Pascal). This quote was given and it really set the tone for the day. Reminding ourselves that we are wretched sinners and this realization helps us understand our need for Christ.

Overall, I found the sessions useful in terms of reflection and knowing how God has been faithful when I looked back upon my life.

Rosalind Chong (SSMC)

"Oasis provided me a space to slow down, meditate and reflect on my rhythm of life with God. I found the reflection session My Image of God and My Experience of God really helpful as it helps me identify and trace the nature of my experience with God."

Fam Mei Yoke (SSMC)

"I was apprehensive about attending Oasis Retreat but I signed up for it. I found it was easy to follow though I cannot answer all the questions. It sets me thinking about my time spent with the LORD. Did I spend enough time sitting at His feet, meditating on His Word? If I want to hear from Him, I have to change myself and spend more time in prayer, reading and meditating on His words."

Hew Kuen Hin (SSMC)

"Oasis was indeed a refreshing time of knowing God & knowing self. As one goes in for the workshop the set up itself ushered the participants to a settledness of body, mind & spirit. The facilitators gave clear & succinct guidelines to help us through the various meditations & reflections. I find the last session on tracing God's hand in my faith & life story challenging & insightful."



Retreatants at the one day retreat

Beneficial neighbours

By Stephanie Choo (DUMC)



Ocimum basilicum var. thyrsiflora (Thai basil)



Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)

I just cannot thank God enough for the many encouraging friends I had during the time I was unemployed. Looking back they were the best people I have ever known in my life as they just knew how to show that they care.

We served and pioneered the Nepali sangati together. When I started a blog to share my garden stories, those who have a Google account or blog were among my first followers. When one brother pointed out to me that I was able to identify plants well, the remark worked like magic on me in building my confidence.

From being a blogger, I went on to contribute gardening articles to a local newspaper and even published a book, all happened within the span of just about six years. Unintentionally, my hobby has helped me land a new job, as a freelance garden writer. How amazing is that?

Good friends in our lives are people who will cheer us on no matter what situation we are going through. I liken them to the culinary herbs we often use to season meats, dishes and even drinks. Their pungent flavours not only make our food taste better but also more appealing, hence, help us to eat better. That is why there is always some herbs growing somewhere in my garden.

New mint, rosemary, basil, sage and thyme plants can easily be started with their seeds or stem cuttings. When buried with some fertile well-draining soil that is kept evenly moist in a bright and sheltered spot, those plant parts will sprout roots and develop shoots.

Once established, the new plants will need a sunnier spot to continue growing. For the plant to stay productive longer, prune before they bloom and the more often the plant is pruned or harvested, the leafier it becomes.

Herbs excel in the pot as well as in the ground, bringing beauty to life while their aromatic fragrance makes the surrounding smelling pleasant. Interestingly, bugs are bothered by aromatic odours therefore avoid them. The effect actually benefits neighbouring plants especially vegetables by helping to ward off various types of pesky bugs. See this for yourself when you tuck in a herb or two in the midst of your plantings.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Salvia officinalis (sage)

THE ALPHA COURSE – An Evangelistic and Discipling Tool

By Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar (TRAC President)

After years of having run the Alpha Course, I am convinced that it is both an evangelistic and a discipling tool. I submit my reasons below.

1. An Evangelistic Tool

Evangelism is defined in the Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church in this way:

“Evangelism is the winning of the lost to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord through the agency of the Holy Spirit..... Evangelism is the task of the whole church.....”¹

John Wesley the Father of Methodism constantly reminded his preachers:

“You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore, spend and be spent in this work.”²

The two statements above show us that one of the distinctive marks of Methodism is its passion to save souls through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Alpha helps us gain this sense of urgency for evangelism and rekindle our passion for the lost. Alpha makes an impact as an evangelistic tool in the following ways:

a. Clear Presentation

Alpha is systematic, clear in its presentation and covers many important questions that people are asking. Alpha presents the gospel unmistakably.

b. Evangelism Done by Every Member

As people come to know the Christian faith better and come into a deeper relationship with God, they begin to invite others to church and to Alpha specifically.

c. Church Becomes an Evangelistic Center

Alpha is always to be done in the local church setting. This is to ensure that the participants become familiar with the hosting church, her style of worship and her members, when they decide to join the church. As Nicky Gumbel says, “We are finding on Alpha that belonging comes before believing for many people.”³

d. People Convincing People

One of the strengths of Alpha is that participants do not only listen to the talk by Nicky. The participants are placed in small groups in which they will stay on throughout the course. In these groups, those who already know Christ share their beliefs and experiences of Christ. As a result, the participants become more convinced as they listen to testimonies of the living God working in the lives of people.

e. On-going Evangelistic Effort

Alpha is a systematic program that can be repeated many times in a year. Basically, the repetition of the Course ensures that there is ongoing evangelistic effort on the part of the church.

f. Relationship-centered Ministry

Alpha makes us conscious that we are not running a program but we are carrying out a “relationship-centered ministry.”⁴ When Christians in the Course reach out to the un-churched (in Alpha and in church services too) the church begins to develop an environment of love. This love leaves a formidable impact on the participants’ lives.

g. Holistic Evangelism

The model of evangelism employed is a very holistic one. Those who come to know the Lord in this course are both informed of the Lord in their minds and have personal experience of the Lord in their hearts.

2. A Discipling Tool

The greatest setback to Christianity today is evangelism without discipleship and that is, a calling of people to believe without calling them to become disciples. This “great omission”⁵ according to Dallas Willard has resulted in the misconception that one can be a believer without becoming a disciple. This “great disparity” will result in the lack of “quality of life he (Christ) makes real in the life of his disciples.”⁶

a. Discipleship Contents

While many today do not make discipleship a

¹ *The Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church in Malaysia 2016*, Para 532.3.2 (Selangor: Methodist Church in Malaysia, 2016) 142

² *The Works of John Wesley, Volume VIII Addresses, Essays, Letters* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan) 310

³ Nicky Gumbel, *How to Run the Alpha Course: Telling Others* (New York: Alpha North America, 1994) 15

⁴ Stephen A. Macchia, *Becoming A Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics* (Michigan: Baker Books, 1999) 21

⁵ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’ Essential Teachings on Discipleship* (New York: Harper One, 2006) xii

⁶ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’ Essential Teachings on Discipleship* (New York: Harper One, 2006) xiv

condition for being a Christian, Alpha emphasizes the need for the believer to move on to become a disciple.

b. Trinitarian Model

Nicky Gumbel says, “Our motivation for living the Christian life is the love of the Father. Our model in life is the example of the Son. The means by which we can live this life is the power of the Holy Spirit.”⁷ This is why George Hunter III says “the curriculum’s theology is patently Trinitarian.”⁸ Alpha lays emphasis on all the three Persons of the Trinity and their respective works. Like the Trinity that is in eternal relationship, the whole course is arranged in such a way that we are called to come into an eternal relationship with the living Trinity. This emphasis on a relationship with the living God forces long time Christians who attend the Alpha Course, to evaluate their standing before God. Indeed, many come to realize that while they come to church and are involved somewhat in some activities yet they do not have a relationship with the living God. This revelation is alarming to them and so they renew their first love for Christ and begin to work on a meaningful relationship.

This is also one of the reasons non-Christians turn to Christ. They find that Alpha emphasizes relationship with God as opposed to mere practice of rituals. Alpha helps people come into that relationship and shows them how to maintain that relationship. Alpha shows that it is when we come into a meaningful relationship with God that we find meaning in life. As Nicky puts it:

“How great God is and what a privilege it is to walk in a relationship with Him, to be loved by Him, and to serve Him, all our lives. It is the best, most rewarding, fulfilling, meaningful, satisfying way to live. Indeed, it is here we find the answers to the great questions of life.”⁹

c. Discipling Methods

Alpha gives those who have gone through the course, the confidence to assist in the small groups the following season. The person selected to lead may even be a new convert but that is fine. In this way the Alpha graduates are encouraged to equip themselves to know more and become disciple-makers. Alpha graduates are also given pastoral care roles which include praying for others, encouraging others to read the Bible and regularly attend the Alpha sessions.

These help them mature as disciples as they express love for God and others.

d. Testifying Disciples

Part of the Alpha strategy in discipling those who become believers is by training them to give testimonies at the end of the Course to various groups. In his book Michael Green lists six values that are found in personal testimonies. He says, firstly it is intriguing, secondly it is a very natural thing to do, thirdly it is simple, fourthly it opens up conversation, fifthly it brings Christianity out of the expected area into the real world, and finally it is unanswerable.¹⁰ In this way we are making sure that every believer is immediately equipped to proclaim Christ as His disciples.

e. A Summary on Discipleship

Decades ago, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.... In such a religion there is trust in God, but no following of Christ.”¹¹ In other words, there should be no such thing as a convert without being a disciple. Alpha is a blessing in that it has a two-fold emphasis – namely evangelism and discipleship. It does not only seek to convert people but it seeks to disciple them into obedience to Christ as Lord and enables them to continue in a relationship with Christ. As a result of participating in Alpha even those who have been in church for some time begin to mature in their faith as they come to know and love Christ through a relationship with Him.

A Final Word

Alpha makes an impact because it carries with it both an evangelistic and a discipleship thrust. However, all said, we must remember that our ultimate trust is in God as we evangelize and make disciples. All our strategies and plans, methods and paradigms will be utterly useless unless we turn to HIM and trust in Him to lead and guide. Michael Griffiths cautions us that we may become “method orientated” and “program orientated” instead of being grace and power orientated.¹² If we fail to look to God and be prayerful, we may not be doing the work in the power of God. The One who makes our efforts fruitful is God and not our methods.

⁷ Nicky Gumbel, *Questions of Life* (Malaysia: Blessing Books, 1993) 246

⁸ George G. Hunter III, *The Celtic Way of Evangelism* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2000) 114

⁹ Nicky Gumbel, *Questions of Life* (Malaysia: Blessing Books, 1993) 246

¹⁰ Michael Green, *Evangelism through the Local Church*, (Great Britain: Hodder & Stoughton, 1990) 489ff

¹¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (London: SCM Press, 1959) 50

¹² Michael Griffiths, *The Church and World Mission*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 1980) 145ff.

Alpha @ Wesley Methodist Church Penang

by Rev Ting Moy Hong



By the grace of God, Whose desire is that all come to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, His Son, the community of faith embarked upon the Alpha ministry as her evangelistic thrust for the year.

The Alpha ministry was introduced to the congregation in early February to invite all who would be interested to be part of the Alpha Team. As the Lord led and encouraged His people, the community of faith began interceding for the ministry from mid-February. A group of more than 30 persons gathered in faith to be part of the Alpha Team 2019 to be trained on 5 March. Following from that the F&B Team, comprising of primarily the MW of Wesley Penang set out to plan for the Alpha hospitality and F&B. The leadership further gave encouragement by setting aside RM25K for the ministry in its March LCEC meeting. The congregation was challenged and encouraged to name persons they would invite to the Alpha and pray for them. The positive response further encouraged the Alpha Team and the rest of the congregation. At the formal launch of Alpha Ministry, the congregation was challenged to personally invite their family, friends, colleagues, neighbours even business associates to the Alpha Welcome Hi-Tea to "Come and See".

Surely God in His goodness continued to place that excitement and sense of anticipation in the hearts of many to "see" what the Lord God would do. The Alpha Welcome Hi-Tea was set for 16 June, Father's Day. The F&B Team was under a "sustained stress" on how much

food to prepare because the plan was to prepare for 50 persons but as the response came, the team knew that they were to be expecting more than 170 persons. The intercessors team prayed in teams of 3 or 4 as well as in bigger groups and as the Alpha Team as a whole.

On the day, 16 June, the Lord brought more than 170 guests to the Alpha Welcome Hi-Tea at Wesley Penang. All glory, thanks and praise belong to our Loving Saviour Jesus Christ. We acknowledge it is wholly the Lord's doing. We could only thank Him for His gracious invitation to us to be His partners. At the end of the Welcome Hi-Tea, more than 100 guests indicated their interest to come for the Alpha Course although many also indicated that they would not be able to attend all the sessions due to prior commitments.

It has just been the third (3rd) session last Sunday, the topic "Why did Jesus die" (Alpha Film Series) was most touching to many. There were 93 guests (non-Christians and Christians) with us.

In as much as we pray and hope that the guests would be touched by the Lord and come to His saving grace, we, of the Wesley Penang Alpha Team too desire the Lord's refreshing touch upon us that we may persevere and joyfully complete the work the Lord has entrusted to us. We have a long way to go.

Let us sincerely covet your prayers for us – join us to pray for our guests. Pray for us. May God be greatly glorified!



Probationary Pastors School

by Pastor William Kwong

From the 18th to 20th June, 20 pastors went for a retreat at the Methodist Bungalow at Fraser's Hill. It was guided and led by Rev. T. Jeyakumar, Rev. Andrew Tan and Rev. Joshua Khong. It was a good time of meeting both new and old friends, and also learning and sharing experiences.

We had insightful sessions about the importance of reading led by Rev. Joshua Khong. He shared with us a letter that John Wesley wrote as he counseled a fellow minister to keep up the good habit of reading to feed his soul or he will be left dry. Reading is also not constrained to only the Bible or spiritual topics, but also to vary it and learn from other fields. Pastors were also encouraged to share books with each other.

Rev. T. Jeyakumar led us on sessions about expository preaching. He taught us how to preach through the Bible and its advantages in doing so. He also shared his many

experiences and tips on preaching God's Word where it impacted lives. Pastors were also sharing with each other various preaching techniques that they use which help minister to the congregation.

Rev. Andrew Tan compacted skillfully and taught us Wesley's doctrine of salvation and it was very eye opening to see how detailed John Wesley had written and thought about the various areas of theology. Rev. Andrew Tan also led us through the Board of Ministry handbook for pastors and the Methodist Book of Discipline. Questions were asked to clarify certain areas, and we are reminded that the MBOD is a guidebook of wisdom and accountability to help a church run fairly and wisely.

In short, the retreat was refreshing, building, mind-digging, caring, and ministering.





Organized by TRAC Institute For Christian Ministry
and in collaboration with TRAC MSF

GRACE, GRAVITY & GROWING OLD

This retreat looks at the theme of aging reflectively
and seeking new insights and life-giving ways to live
in the later seasons of life, thus cultivating
a vibrant inner and outer life.

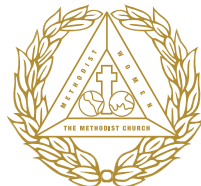
AUGUST 2 - 4, 2019

PORT DICKSON METHODIST CENTRE

FACILITATOR: DR ALEX TANG



For enquiries, please contact TRAC MSF at
019-3887651 (Mdm Lee Saw Hoon) or
ICM at 03-79542836
For online registration please log into
www.trac.org.my



The Significant Women

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago". Ephesians 2:10*

TRAC METHODIST WOMEN CONVENTION

14th – 16th Sept 2019

Best Western i-City Shah Alam

A-GF-01, No. 6 Persiaran Multimedia
CityPark, i-City, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor

SPEAKERS :

Hannah Yeoh • Juliette Arulrajah • Heidy Quah • Kimberly Foo

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT **Betty Tan @ 012 221 8982**