

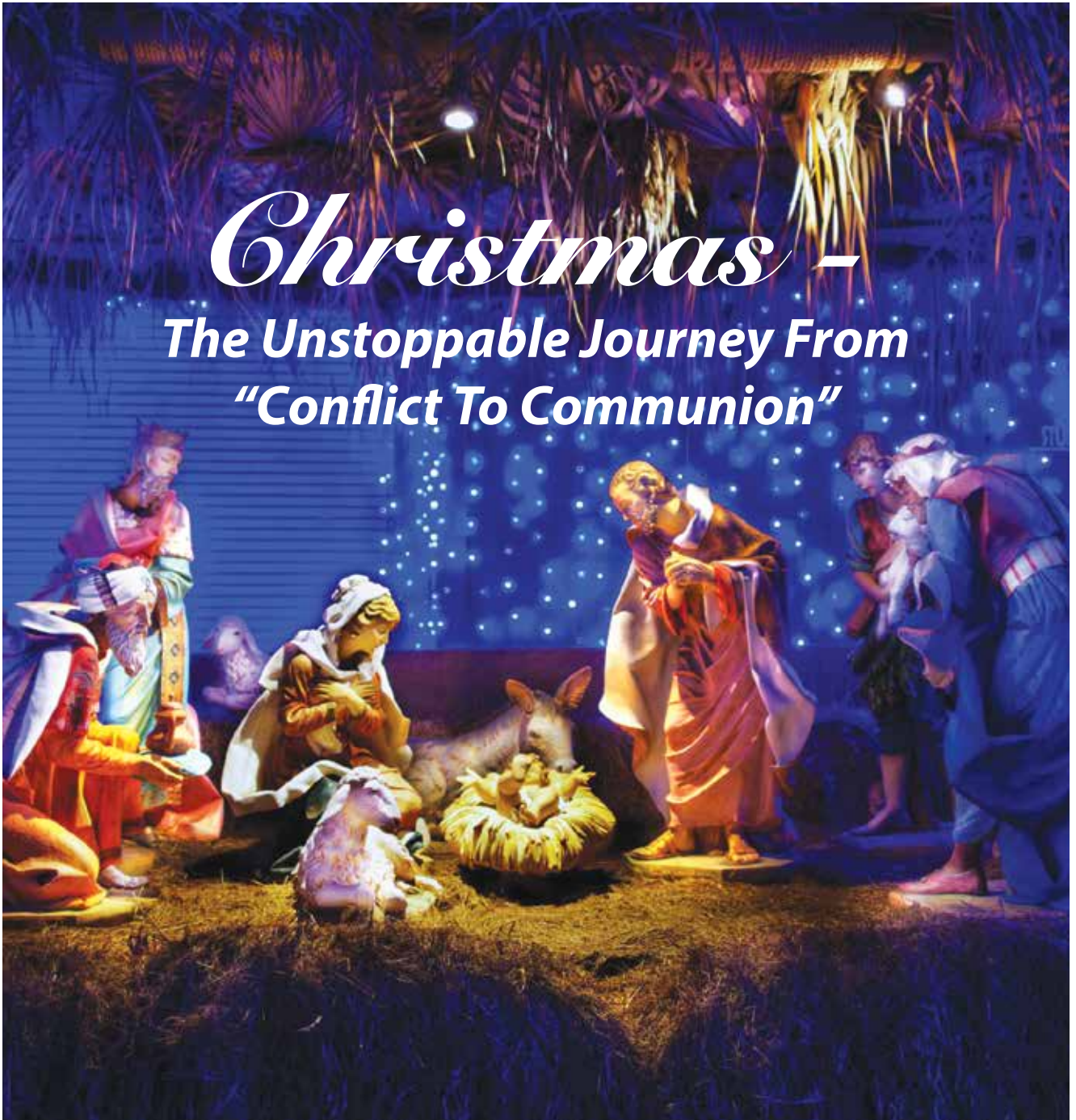
# PELITA METHODIST

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## *Christmas -* **The Unstoppable Journey From "Conflict To Communion"**



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# Moment

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Wishing you *The Joy*  
of CHRISTMAS

From:

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik and Family  
and all staff members of Methodist HQ



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"A Church After  
God's Own Heart  
in Turbulent Times"

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一间教会、一间学校 One Church, One School

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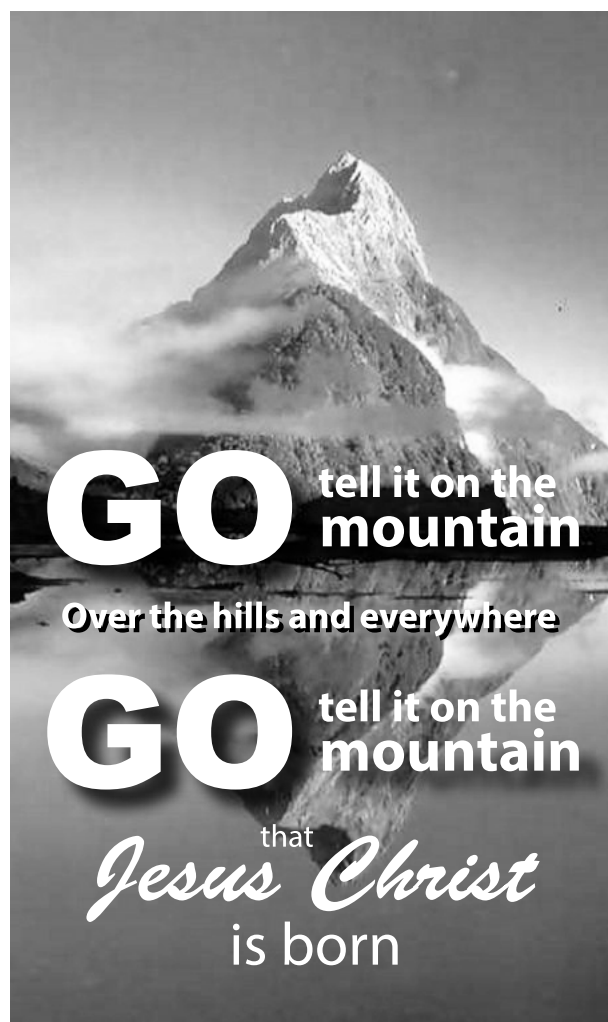
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# Christmas - *The Unstoppable Journey* From “Conflict To Communion”

Once again we are in the advent and Christmas season. Notwithstanding the wet weather, we remember the comforting words of the Bible in **Galatians 4:4** “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.*”

The Sovereign God of history and time kept His promise of sending the Chosen One or Messiah at the exact right time. God’s mercy is sovereign – it will triumph. Likewise, He will not forever tolerate a world in which mercy is not the vital and ultimate rule of life.

In the most unexpected way and unsuspected timing to an incredulous human world – the hidden plan of God became visibly fulfilled. It was so unexpected that there was no room for the birth of the Son of God!

I am much comforted and assured to be a witness at Christmas to this perennial truth – that *God is at work in arranging the fulfilment of His plans and purposes in spite of, through and against the efforts of human beings*. Without sounding fatalistic, we can be assured that God’s purposes are *unstoppable* – as demonstrated by the first Christmas, when He accomplished the plan of salvation for human kind – in the most unexpected of moment and method. In the words of the Lord Jesus – “*My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.*” [John 5:17]

God’s timeliness of action in history was at a time when things looked hopeless as powerful men and a dominating hostile society were having the upper hand in persecuting the Messiah. It looked so hopeless that Peter [John 18:10] had to take matters into his own hands in defending the Saviour – he drew his sword to cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest at the Garden of Gethsemane!

But the anointed Son of God, Maker of heaven and earth, was unstoppable in fulfilling His journey “*from conflict to communion*” – facing off with the unrelenting human and demonic evil forces, and sovereignly accomplished restoration of communion for a fallen world that had been in conflict with its Creator.

*From Conflict to Communion* is the intentional theme of the joint celebration this year by the Lutherans and Roman Catholics worldwide. It marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation that began when a devout priest and sincere Christian was at conflict with his church. Martin Luther on 31 October 1507 nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Castle

Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

That began the Protestant Reformation movement that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. Much blood was spilled, insults traded, mutually inflicted suffering etc. followed in a chapter which the Church is not proud of.

*From Conflict to Communion* is a document jointly released by the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity that warms our heart. It is a historic Lutheran-Catholic common commemoration of the Reformation in 2017 – a first during the ecumenical age that is an occasion that seeks to deepen reconciliation, restoration and communion globally between Lutherans and Catholics.

May we too, as we celebrate Christmas, be intentional in asking for the grace of making our **own personal unstoppable journey from conflict to communion** – bearing fruits of reconciliation, restoration and goodwill, no matter how old these conflicts may be. These conflicts may be “clashes and fights” with God, with ourselves, with family members, with other believers in the congregation, in the work place or with other citizens and residents of this land. Let us seek and work towards the fruits of peace – reconciliation and restored communion, in as much as it depends on us. Paul calls us to *make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace* [Ephesians 4:3] within the church and on *earth peace, good will toward men* [Lk 2:14].

May the blessings of the Prince of Peace be with you and your loved ones as we enter the Advent and Christmas season, remembering what a wondrously loving, omnipotent and self-sacrificing Saviour we have – Who made that *unstoppable journey from conflict to communion* for each of us.

As we remember and celebrate Advent and Christmas, may we “*lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God*” [Col 1:10].

**F**or a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

Isaiah 9:6-7

“A Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year”

Bishop Ong Hwai Teik



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6th December 2017

**A CALL TO THE CHURCHES IN MALAYSIA  
PRAY FOR PASTOR RAYMOND KOH**

The Christian Federation of Malaysia strongly urges the churches in Malaysia to pray for Pastor Raymond Koh and his family this Sunday 10th December 2017 as we approach the 300th day of his abduction in broad daylight in Kelana Jaya.

Let us come together to remember him in prayer and to pray for his wife Susanna Liew and their children Jonathan, Esther and Elizabeth Koh who have been in great anguish since the morning he was forcibly taken on 13 February this year by as yet unidentified persons and for unknown reasons.

Let us call on God to grant His presence, peace and persevering strength to Susanna and their children so that they may be able to pass through this time of uncertainty over his whereabouts. May God's people continue to be close to them and to be their ever-present community of support in their journey through such dark times.

The CFM calls on the churches to pray for him and his family specifically on Sunday the 10th of December and when possible throughout the week in church, in small groups and in personal prayer so that we stand in solidarity with them. At the same time do continue to pray for all others who are missing.

Let all the churches in Malaysia also pray for the success of our police force and law enforcement authorities in locating Pastor Raymond Koh so that the family may be re-united again.

Signed,



Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim  
Chairman and the Executive Committee,  
The Christian Federation of Malaysia.

# 卫理妇女会第四十二届常年代表大会

报道：黄珍琳

摄影：戴秋月、黄珍琳

9月1至3日，卫理妇女会第四十二届常年代表大会，在关丹武吉甘密度假村进行，共有三百九十四人出席，包括十二位嘉宾和讲员。

1日下午二时五十分，东部教区长——王祖兴牧师为开幕典礼暨圣餐礼拜致辞，主题是：动荡是一件好事。王牧师表示，要正面看待动荡的时刻，动荡未必是坏事。有些动荡是从恶者撒但来、别人惹动、自己招惹，以及主所许可。最终，上帝将彰显大能作为，以各种管道教导、鼓励和培养我们的信心。**动荡正是启示、恢复、成长和成熟的时刻。**王牧师勉励会众面对动荡时，必须果断、坚守献身给上帝的心志、谦卑、有远大的宏观、有敬虔者的代祷与圣灵的帮助。

吾会会长——郭汉成牧师主持圣餐礼，率众作祷后，年会妇女会会长——张鸣凤便致辞和介绍嘉宾，即泰北美赛华语卫理公会的同工——熊福溢传道伉俪与冯丽萍姐妹。

大会邀请马来西亚神学院院长——萧帝佑牧师（博士）担任主题讲员，其两场主题信息是“动荡时代中体贴上帝心意的敬虔女性”。首先，萧牧师嘉许姐妹们以爱神的心，用心定下2017至2018年的年会妇女会主题。

萧院长将大会主题分成二个部分，即我们的处境（动荡时代）和我们的使命（成为体贴上帝心意的敬虔女性）。他说，末世必有危险的日子（提后3:1），从国家局势、国家现况、天灾人祸和世人伦理道德的状况来看，人类的处境与其末后的趋势实在堪忧。然而，就在这样不堪的局势中，基督徒仍有盼望，因在社会治安不靖、各文化冲突、魔鬼掌权的残酷现实下，主便会回来！

因此，信徒要做醒，以免随波逐流；要放准焦点在上帝，确信宣认：耶和華坐着为王（诗29:10）。无论处在顺境或逆境，真正的动荡是在生命里显明，信徒们应反思自己的身份，作神托付的使命。际遇不会祝福、造就，或压碎人。因此，信徒要定睛仰望神的爱、得胜、大能的光芒，为祂发光。

“体贴”（set your mind）是将思想放在最在乎的事物，以致常常思考；“敬虔”（Godly）是敬畏神，与神的关系密切，同时体贴和遵行祂的心意。萧院长激励大家要学习按神的真理做抉择，常常自我操练、成长，成为体贴上帝心意的敬虔信徒，完成自身的使命。

何榕生牧师晨更崇拜的查经题目，是“使徒行传与大使命”（徒13至28章）。<使徒行传>的地位很特别，不仅贯穿于福音书与书信之间，也传递了护教学的神学涵义，进而促使使徒和教会采取积极行动，来回应大使命。何牧师说：“圣灵的工作与大能背后的一个秘诀，就是‘祷告’。”他鼓舞会众在动荡时代中，效法圣经里的使徒们，正面回应大使命，藉祷告和依靠圣灵的大能，活出神满有能力的话语。

何牧师次堂讲述<使徒行传>归主后的保罗三次旅行的布道经历，要点有四：一、福音大能的扩展；二、福音传给外邦人；三、奉差遣，第一次的宣教旅程；四、传福音与属灵争

战。即使布道路上遇到重重困难和危险，信徒仍可清楚领会从神而来的呼召与使命，同时接收从上而来的权柄，且靠着圣灵的力量，继续前进。

3日是主日，郭会长在崇拜仪式中，以“马利亚：我心尊主为大”（路1:46-55）为题证道。马利亚原是平凡的童女，当天使向她报喜后，她内心不无挣扎，然而，面对属灵生命的重大抉择时，她毅然作出抉择：遵主为大。她去找亲戚——伊丽莎白时，与她一起歌颂上主，成为后世信徒广泛采用的歌词。在以后的种种考验中，她看清上主确实伟大，而人很微小、很有限，故而活出超然、持之以恒的生命价值。

崇拜结束后，张鸣凤会长分享2017年的妇女事工报告：如装备姐妹们在灵性与悟性上继续长进、支持年会宣教事工（支持南板勳康卫理学校学生的开销、印度的宣教事工和领养泰北美赛基督教卫理公会华语教会）、社区关怀事工，以及为总会妇女会的卫理妇女中心（MWC）修建工程筹款。

本届圣经笔试测验，共吸引六十九人参加；诗篇朗诵比赛，则有十六人报名。参赛者们有备而来，无不以具有水准的演出和能力，期待获得评审们的青睐。

来到大会的闭幕礼时，郭会长以“非比：保罗的得力助手”为题（罗16:1-2），提到<罗马书>中的非比，不只是使徒保罗的得力助手，且是教会执事（地方教会的领袖）、赞助人/施恩者（经济强人/热心助人）和使者（保罗的带信人）。会长激励姐妹们，回去后要在各方面努力发挥自身的影响力。

语毕，郭会长率众作祷，大会圆满结束；午餐后，散会。

## 2017年诗篇朗诵比赛A组（六十岁及以下）得奖者名单

冠军	谢妮苓（加影堂）
亚军	刘慧芳（大山脚堂）
季军	李爱梅（淡边堂）

## 2017年诗篇朗诵比赛B组（六十一岁及以上）得奖者名单

冠军	黄秋雁（油较路）
亚军	曾美莺（芙蓉堂）
季军	陈奕兰（关丹堂）

## 圣经笔试测验（使徒行传1-12章）得奖者名单

冠军	王金花（亚罗士打堂）
亚军	谢桂梅（士毛月堂）
季军	张秀萍（班台堂）



左：大会主题讲员——萧帝佑院长，将大会的主题分为两大讲纲，阐释清楚。  
右：左起为郭会长、王祖兴教区长、张鸣凤会长、叶月娥副会长和何榕生牧师。



左：诗篇朗诵比赛A组（六十岁及以下）得奖者：前左起为张会长、刘慧芳（亚军）、谢妮芬（冠军）和李爱梅（季军）。  
右：诗篇朗诵比赛B组（六十一岁及以上）得奖者：前左二起为颁奖者——沈瑞益前会长、黄秋雁（冠军）、曾美莺（亚军）和陈奕兰（季军）。



左：圣经笔试测验（<使徒行传>1至12章）得奖者：前右起为郭会长伉俪、王金花（冠军）、谢桂梅（亚军）和张秀萍（季军）。  
右：在大会安排下，营员们在甘孟山城野生动物园度过悠闲的半日游。



# Growing by the Grace of God

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

James 1:17



By the hands of the sovereign Lord, the Ray of Hope establishment celebrated the dedication service of the "Beatrice Benjamin Girls' Home" on the 29th of October 2017. The first and the oldest premise of Ray of Hope was upgraded with the help and support of Mrs Beatrice Benjamin Richards from Singapore. The former "Ray of Hope Girls' Home" which was inaugurated in 2009 was a rented property and being this, it was a financial onus to the establishment. However, through the prayer of the children and the grace of the Almighty in 2016, Mrs. Beatrice Benjamin was introduced to us by our Bishop. She wanted to purchase a property to house needy Indian girls. Hence she willingly purchased this house at the selling price and borne every payment for the renovation as well. Today the house is equipped with an additional room, bathroom and a balcony. The girls living here are happier with the extra space they have for themselves.

It was also Mrs Beatrice who commended the idea of a dedication Service. The event that begun at 5pm was sublime with the presence of our Bishop Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik and the President of the Tamil Annual Conference (TAC), Rev Dennis Raj. This entire event was funded by Mrs Beatrice too. It

was a blessed event with an inspirational message from the Bishop and the presence of our donors and supporters made the ambience merrier.

Despite being weak as a result of ill health, Mrs Beatrice is looking forward to paying a visit to the "Beatrice Benjamin Girls' Home" and spend some quality time with the girls here. We pray that Christ would give her the strength to accomplish this desire and He would vouchsafe her with a long and blessed life.

The Ray of Hope committee would also like to convey their utmost gratitude to all those who gave their support and attended the event on that day. Truly, none of this would have been possible without the favour of God, support of our patrons and the special assistance of Mrs Beatrice Benjamin.

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

1 Peter 5:10

"Come, let's make a difference"  
-Ray of Hope



# TAC History Forum 2017



தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாடு  
வரலாறு கருத்துக்களம் 2017

**T**oday in History, Saturday 8th April 2017, the Tamil Annual Conference Board on Archive and History (BOAH) with the help of Board of Laity organized the first TAC History Forum 2017 at Emmanuel Christian Assembly, Taiping with the theme, 'Looking back to look forward'. A total of 210 people from the Northern and Perak Districts, including the speakers, attended the forum. TMC Sg. Petani sent 40 participants and that was the largest number sent by a local church. A short quiz was made available to gauge how much the participants know about our history.

Mr. Steven Sekhar thanked God for the role of the BOAH. He shared that the History Forum is a platform for us to review, understand and move forward in the mission and purpose God has for TAC in Malaysia.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the TAC History Forum 2017 for the remaining Central, Selangor, Southern and Eastern Districts was held on Saturday, 20th May at Wesley Kuala Lumpur with exactly the same theme and speakers.

The keynote address, entitled 'Looking Back to Look Forward' was presented by Rev. Victor Vethamani. He emphasized that only when we look back in history, will we begin to understand our present situation better and get a clearer direction for the future.

Rev. Dennis Raj gave the closing address on 'Where do we go from here?' He stressed that where we are now and what we have are because of the past and what we have learnt. What we do now will determine our future. The FUTURE is NOW! We must work hard and invest in our youngsters too. Our future is in God's hands. We must patch up all our shortcomings and weaknesses. Rev. Dennis Raj invited us in making a commitment to do what the Lord says and to go where he points. In the closing remarks, the BOAH Chairman, Mr. Steven Sekhar thanked all the speakers.

‘முன்னோக்கி பார்ப்பதற்கு பின்னோக்கி பா’ என்ற கருபெ பாருளில், தைப்பிங் இம்மானுவேல் கிறிஸ்தவ சபையில், 2017-ஆம் ஆண்டு ஏப்ரல் 8-ஆம் தேதி (சனிக்கிழமை) தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாட்டின் ஆவணக்காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று வாரியம், சபை மக்கள் வாயித்துடன் இணைந்து முதலாவது த.வ.மா வரலாற்று கருத்துக்களத்தை நடத்தியது. வடக்கு மற்றும் பேராக் மாவட்டங்களில் இருந்து , செய்தியாளர்கள் உட்பட மொத்தம் 120பேர் இதில் கலந்துகொண்டார்கள். சுங்கை பட்டாணி தமிழ் மெதடிஸ்ட் திருச்சபையில் இருந்து 40பேர் கலந்துகொண்டனர். பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் நம்முடைய வரலாற்றை எந்த அளவிற்கு தெரிந்துவைத்துள்ளார்கள் என்பதை அறிந்துகொள்ள, ஒரு குறுகிய வினாவிடை நிகழ்ச்சி நடந்தது.

திரு ஸ்டீவன் சேகர் அவர்கள், ஆவணக்காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று வாரியத்தின் பங்கிற்காக தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்தினார். மலேசிய தேசத்தில் தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாட்டிற்கு தேவன் வைத்திருக்கும் நோக்கத்தை நிறைவேற்ற, மறுஆய்வு செய்யவும், புரிந்துகொள்ளவும் மற்றும் முன்னேறி செல்லவும் வரலாறு மனற் ம் ஒரு தளமாக உள்ளதாக அவர் பகிர்ந்து கொண்டார்.

தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாடு வரலாறு கருத்துக்களத்தின் 2-ஆவது அமர்வு கோலாலம்பூர் வெஸ்லி திருச்சபையில் மே 20-ஆம் தேதி (சனிக்கிழமை) நடந்தது. இதில் மத்திய, சிலாங்கூர், தென் மற்றும் கிழக்கு மாவட்டங்கள் கலந்துகொண்டது. அதே கருப்பொருளில் நடந்தது. முதல் அமர்வில் செய்தி வழங்கியவரே, இதிலும் செய்திகளை வழங்கினார்கள்.

அருட்திரு விக்டர் வேதமணி அவர்கள் ‘முன்னோக்கி பார்ப்பதற்கு பின்னோக்கிப் பார்’ என்ற தலைப்பில் முகவுரையை வழங்கினார். வரலாற்றை நாம் பின்னோக்கிப் பார்த்தால்தான், நம்முடைய இப்பொழுதுள்ள சூழ்நிலை-



லயை அறிந்து கொள்ள முடியும். அதன் மூலம் நாம் முன்னேறி செல்ல ஒரு தெளிவான வழியை பெற முடியும் என்று வலியுறுத்தினார்.

அருட்திரு டென்னிஸ் ராஜ் அவர்கள், “இங்கிருந்து நாம் எங்கு செல்ல வேண்டும்?” என்ற உரையுடன் நிறைவு செய்தார். இப்பொழுது நாம் எங்கு இருக்கின்றோம், கடந்த காலத்தின் மூலம் நாம் எங்கு வந்திருக்கின்றோம் மற்றும் நாம் என்ன கற்றுக்கொண்டோம்? என்று வலியுறுத்தினார். நமது எதிர்காலத்தை தீர்மானிக்க நாம் என்ன செய்ய வேண்டும்? எதிர்காலம் இப்போது உள்ளது.

நாம் கடினமாக உழைக்க வேண்டும், நம் முடைய வாலிபர்களையும் ஈடுபடுத்த வேண்டும். நம் முடைய எதிர்காலம் தேவனுடைய கரங்களில். நமது குறைபாடுகள் மற்றும் பலவீனங்களை பிடுங்க வேண்டும். தேவன் யாரை அனுப்புகின்றாரோ, எந்த இடத்தை இடத்தை குறிப்பிடுகின்றாரோ அதற்கு அர்ப்பணிக்க அருட்திரு டென்னிஸ் ராஜ் அவர்கள் அழைப்புக்கொடுத்தார். இறுதியாக, ஆவணக்காப்பகம் மற்றும் வரலாற்று வாரியத்தின் தலைவர் திரு ஸ்டீவன் சேகர் அனைத்து செய்தியாளர்களுக்கும் நன்றி தெரிவித்தார்.

## Features

News from Borneo Post

# ‘School’s commitment to be a top school through collective effort’

By Raymond Tan



Ting (centre) and Yong (fourth left) and others during a cheque presentation ceremony to SMK Methodist by its alumni association.

SIBU: SMK Methodist School Board of Management chairman John Ting praised the school’s commitment to be one of the top schools in the country.

Praising the collective efforts of the staff, parents, students and former students, he said education was not only about academic performances, but also about moulding the young generation and preparing them for future challenges.

“Education is about the upgrading of life to make the world a better place. Therefore, in the awards ceremony today, it is about giving recognition to students in all scopes.”

Education is about the upgrading of life to make the world a better place. Therefore, in the awards ceremony today, it is about giving recognition to students in all scopes.

John Ting, SMK Methodist School Board of Management chairman

“Life is about learning. Students who have not received awards today will do so if they continue striving,” said Ting during SMK Methodist’s award presentation ceremony held recently.

SMK Methodist principal Yong Choo Tiong, in his speech, said the school had produced the highest number of

students with straight A’s in last year’s Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination.

*Article is sourced from Borneo Post dated November 3, 2017*

# BB Love Box 2017 to collect and distribute gifts for the less fortunate

By Karen Bong



(From left) Law, Dr Wong, Fatimah, Sim and Rev Poh jointly cut the ribbon to launch BB Love Box Community Project 2017.



Dr Wong (fourth right) presents a token of appreciation to Fatimah (third left).

KUCHING: Donating to charity is an opportunity to make a difference and achieve genuine happiness.

Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah, Welfare, Community, Well Being, Women, Family and Childhood Development Minister, pointed out that giving is one of the best investments as the reward is priceless.

“We all know how great it feels to receive gifts. Truly giving from the heart fills our lives with joy and nourishes our soul. Giving provides an intrinsic reward that is far more valuable than the gift,” she said.

“True joy lies in the act of giving without any expectation of receiving something in return. True giving comes from the heart, with no expectation of reciprocation. Our lives are richer when we share, and that great inner joy comes from helping others,” she added.

Fatimah highlighted this during the launch of the 2017 BB Love Box Community Project by the Second Kuching Company Boys Brigade at VivaCity Megamall here yesterday.

The project hopes to collect and distribute 5,500 to 6,000 Christmas gifts to the less

We all know how great it feels to receive gifts. Truly giving from the heart fills our lives with joy and nourishes our soul. Giving provides an intrinsic reward that is far more valuable than the gift.

Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah, Welfare, Community, Well Being, Women, Family and Childhood Development Minister

fortunate, irrespective of race and religion, in and around the city this year.

Commending the Second Kuching Company for carrying out the project for six consecutive years, she assured that the ministry will continue to support projects that benefit the underprivileged in the community.

“We have a responsibility to care for other people and help the less fortunate. I’ve always emphasise that welfare is a collective responsibility,” she reminded.

“Regardless of our circumstances in life, we have the ability to give. So I encourage all to look for opportunities to give and help others,” she urged.

Captain Sim Tze Sian said that the project, which has received overwhelming response year after year, was a testament of the generosity of Kuchingites.

“It is a privilege to be able to share Christmas joy with the needy in our diverse community,” he said.

“Moreover, this charity drive also strives to promote the spirit of sharing, giving and building a caring society,” he added.

The BB Love Box Community Project 2017 is supported by Crown Square management, VivaCity Megamall, CityOne Shopping Mall, Lodge Private School, Eden On The Park Nursing Care Residence and Tea FM.

Also present were chaplain of the Second Kuching Company Rev Poh Chin Sing as well as Trinity Methodist Church Lay leader Dr Simon Wong and its local church executive committee (LCEC) chairman James Law.

*Article is sourced from Borneo Post dated November 5, 2017*

## Offering Thanks

The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.  
(Mother Teresa)

**IN WORD:** Hebrews 12:28 says that gratitude is an acceptable offering to God. Why? Because it acknowledges who He is better than any other attitude. It recognizes that He is a Blessor, a Giver, and a Redeemer of incomparable worth. Gratitude sees God as He is.

Gratitude especially sees God accurately when it sees Him through Jesus. After all, the Incarnation was God's plan to make Himself visible to human eyes. It was His aggressive strategy to make Himself accessible to sinners in need of salvation. Jesus is the ultimate act of God in this world.

For the early church, Jesus quickly became the identity of the believer. Paul, for example, saw himself to be crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised up with Him, exalted with Him, seated in heavenly places with Him, and united with Him forever. When someone is that identified with his Redeemer, the attitude of his heart becomes a clear statement of the Redeem-

er's worth. If gratitude isn't there, the Redeemer isn't worth much to that person. If we value Jesus as our identity, we will be exceedingly grateful for what He means to us.

**IN DEED:** You may faithfully make offerings of money and time, but what are you offering God with your attitude? Is it an acceptable offering, declaring His worth accurately? Or does it underestimate His value in your life by neglecting the thankfulness due Him? Or were you even aware that the attitudes of your heart are, whether you mean it or not, a statement about Him and an offering to Him?

Watch your heart carefully. Whatever fills it will soon dominate your life and experience. With that in mind, let thankfulness flow from within as a sacrifice to God. Insist that your heart make statements of truth about your Redeemer, acknowledging the enormous sacrifice He made in order to offer you enormous glory. Recognize the salvation—the utterly complete, comprehensive salvation—that now defines your life. Whatever you do, do it in His name with thanks for who He is.

*Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks.*

Colossians 3:17

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# 一间教会、一间学校

吴常健牧师



(左起：大同小学陈校长、蒋副校长、吴牧师及踊跃出席参加的五年级及六年级同学)

From left: Principal Madam Tan, Vice Principal Chiang, Rev. Ng, and students of primary 5 & 6

今年10月5日山打根卫里公会华美国布道，我们揭开事工的新一页——开拓校园事工。这一天我们与临近的大同小学举办了两场讲座，讲员梁婷婷辅导员教授辅导课程：「做更好的自己」，踊跃出席参加的有百多名五年级及六年级的学生。而在同一天下午三个小时的老師工作坊，受邀的本区域十间华小有七十二位老师参与工作坊，以「你也可以栽培优秀的孩子」为题彼此激励，增强老师们的信心，使他们在教学方面能够发挥到极致。笔者特别要感谢校方师生的支持，深信藉着这些课程与工作坊能带给相干人士助益。更不忘要感谢上主更盛的供应和带领，使得这两项看似艰辛的事工能圆满结束。

## 教会需要积极主动走进校园

我们是如何开始的呢？对于我们这间弱小的布道所而言，开拓校园事工？人力、财力足够吗？踏出了第一步后，能否继续坚持下去吗？又如何继续走下去呢？笔者是第一年被派司到这里呢？每周平均出席崇拜的人数仅仅只有30多位罢了！就在徘徊各项挣扎中，笔者记得某次王怀德会督提到：「一间教会、一间学校」、「卫理公会教会要进入校园改变今天的孩子，及下一代」。

(Pelita Methodist, VOL.41, NO. 1&2 JAN/FEB 2015)。  
这些话在笔者心中激荡了一些日子。

更重要的是，我们知道所信的上帝是又真又活的上帝，基督徒要刻意塑造教会文化于所处的社区中。让人可以体验「耶稣基督」是如何道成肉身进到人群当中，我们参与关心社区民众的利益，以他们为服事对象，更能证明基督徒所信的才是又真又活的神。而校园事工是其中一项重要塑造教会文化的事工，毕竟为主得着今天的孩子，就是预备明天的教会。于是笔者与弟兄姐妹经过多

番祷告就抱着「不懂就问、不会就学」的心态主动积极接洽大同小学开始了校园事工。

## 教会需要长期委身于有「生命影响力」的事工

下一步如何走呢？长城不是一天建成，人的成长同样不能一天速成，生命的建立不在朝夕。也深深明白这是项「十年树木，百年树人」的工作，果效是看长远的。在接下来的日子，布道所将竭力尝试形形色色的活动带进校园，目的旨在在小學生的心田下种。笔者不敢过问上帝这项事工什么时候才可见果效，却坚信一件事：教会要转化社区，她需要从走出四堵墙，进到校园（社区）开始！



(图示：吴牧师代表布道所接受大同校长颁发的感谢状；十间华小七十二位老师参与工作坊)

# One Church, One School

By Rev. Ng Shiong Kim

On 5 October 2017, Sandakan Taman Mawar Methodist Preaching Centre (TMMPC) started a new ministry initiative – Campus Ministry. Our church partnered with Miss Leong Ting Ting, the Lead Counsellor of ‘The Bridge Communication’ in conducting 2 different seminars for SJKC Tai Tong Sandakan.

For the morning session, we held a self-improvement workshop “Being a better self” for Primary 5 and Primary 6 students. There was an overwhelming attendance of more than 100 students. In the afternoon, we conducted a professional seminar ‘You can nurture and inspire the extraordinary in students’. There were 72 educators from 10 neighbouring primary schools who participated. Through the session, the speaker provided guiding principles with relevant examples for the betterment of educating the students, and took the opportunity to encourage the educators to be positive influences in the students’ lives. It has been a fruitful day and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the schools and teachers for their participation and support. Most importantly, I am thankful to the Lord for His guidance and providence that enabled the event to end on a high note.

## The Church Must Take A Proactive Role In Reaching Out To Schools

How did TMMPC begin our campus ministry? TMMPC is a small church that has an average of 30 worshippers for our Sunday service. Do we have the resources to start this ministry? Are we able to sustain the ministry should we embark on this journey? If we were to start this ministry, how should we progress? Although the church has been in existence for 4 years, we are still seeking God for His guidance on potential ministry opportunities. In the midst of seeking, I recall Bishop Ong Hwai Teik sharing the vision of ‘One Church, One School’. In order for us, the Methodist church, to make an impact on our younger generation, we need to reach them at where they are - School Campus (Pelita Methodist, VOL.41, NO. 1&2 JAN/FEB 2015). This vision kept lingering in my mind for a long period.

After seasons of praying, I was reminded that our God is a true and living God. We, as His followers, ought to make a conscious effort to shape our church and our society’s culture; where they can experience the love of the incarnated Christ amongst them. Therefore, our churches need to play an active role in serving our community and campus ministry is one of the avenues in which we would do so. TMMPC spent some time praying about this matter and

decided to begin the campus ministry with the mindset of “asking when in doubt, learning when in lack”. With this, we started to reach out to the relevant school authorities with various outreach programs. As the saying goes “we need to win the younger generation for Christ for they are the future of our church tomorrow” and we are committed to win the young for Christ.

## The Church Needs A Long-Term Commitment To Impact Lives

There is a Chinese saying that goes “Great wall of China was not built overnight, a man’s maturity is also not achieved within a day, it takes ten years to nurture a tree, but a hundred years to train a man”, it would take time before one is able to see results. Therefore, as our next step, TMMPC will give our best effort to introduce and conduct meaningful activities in the hope that we will sow good seeds in the hearts of our students. Although I am unsure of the end results, Our Lord who is the God of harvest will make all things beautiful in His time. And my conviction is - We, as the church of Christ, need to take the step of faith, go out of our “four walls” and enter into campuses (society) in order to make an impact.



Principal Madam Tan hands over a Certificate of Appreciation to Rev. Ng and Miss Leong;  
At the back, 72 educators from 10 neighbouring primary schools who participated.

# Reflections on the Methodist Women Convention



There was a feeling of excitement and anticipation as I stepped into the lobby of Acapella Hotel for the 42<sup>nd</sup> TRAC Women's Convention. It was held from 22 to 24 September 2017. I had no idea what was in store for me as that was my first time attending such a convention. With the presence of two wonderful international speakers in the persons of Rev Hea Sun Kim and Rev Hikari, I knew that it was a convention not to be missed.

The theme 'Women of Strength & Dignity' was most apt for this convention as we wanted to remember God's blessings on TRAC MW. As women, we play important roles in the various ministries in the church. Each of us has special gifts. We complement each other and work as one united body in God's kingdom.

The plenary sessions were conducted in a relaxed manner. We were divided into groups for discussion on topics given. I was truly inspired by Rev Hea Sun Kim's sharing on 'The Seeds'. The choice is ours to make, to be a good or a bad seed. The seeds sown may take a while to blossom but they will, for God will do the rest. They will sprout and grow to become big plants, impacting the next generation.

The next interesting sharing was on 'being connected'. Each branch is connected to a tree. Everyone has an important role but if we are connected to each other, we are stronger and more faithful to God. We can be a tree to someone else, offering shade and support in need, at the right time and at the right place.

The convention was not all about serious matters. The 'Fun Nite' was an opportunity to showcase the talents and creativity of our ladies. It was indeed a nite where all of us let our hair down.

In summary, the plenary sessions and the workshops were inspiring & meaningful, fun & fulfilling, informative & insightful.

Most of all, I enjoyed the active interaction among the ladies. It brought us to-

gether for friendship and inspired us for future challenges. The plenary sessions also provided much input for my soul.

Let us put our focus on the Lord! We trust in Him to give us grace & strength. I would want to live a life of worship, prayer & service. There is so much that needs to be done.

God is always at work!

To God be the Glory!

Sharing by:

Mrs Jenny Tay (Kuantan Chapter)





The 42nd Session TRAC Methodist Women's Convention was held in Acappella Suite Hotel, Shah Alam from 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The theme of the convention is 'Women of Strength & Dignity' taken from Proverbs 31:25. Twelve ladies from Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya were blessed with a relaxing time, good accommodation and both physical and spiritual food. We had a time of fun, good fellowship and learning. Below are the reflections of some of the participants.

This was my first time attending the Women's Convention. Being a working mother of four with kids from 4yr+ till 15yrs, I battled in my mind if I should sign up and go. I have my share of struggles such as having no spare time, so many things to attend to and my son's PT3 exam that would take place in 16 days' time. Yet I yearned to be strengthened and to gain some insight from Rev Dr. Hea Sun Kim (Korean) and Rev Hikari Kokai-Chang (Japanese) from United Methodist Church, USA. The workshop "Women at Work" and "Cultivating Life-giving Disciplines" appealed to me.

This convention has blessed me tremendously. My spirit was lifted up when Rev. Dr Hea Sun Kim affirmed that each of us is God's unique, special and POWERFUL SEED! In the past, there were times when I felt unworthy. My family and friends deserve someone better. But through sharing from fellow sisters-in-Christ, I am assured that God did not make any mistake. We are God's unique and powerful seeds. The two plenary session speakers were captivating and their messages spoke to our hearts.

I learnt that I must remain in God and dwell in Him; then my roots will be strong and healthy for me to stand firm and bear fruits. In order to know my God, I must spend time with Him. I need to be mentored by older women and subsequently I need to mentor younger women.

My fellow sisters, do sign up for the Methodist Women's Convention in future. You will be blessed. There will be one next year!

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Psalm 145:13b-16)

Dr. Loo Peh Ling

From the conference, I am reminded that God is the sower, we are the seeds. However different we are in looks, His desire is for us to bear delicious fruits for His Kingdom's glory. We are on a continuous journey of learning and growing even into our twilight years.

I particularly enjoyed the plenary session by Rev Hikari who used the analogy of Kintsukuroi, the repair of broken ceramic with gold seams, hence making the object more

beautiful for being broken. God put us through trials and difficulties but these experiences need not be wasted for we can later empathize with others in their struggles. In our brokenness we can trust God to patch, heal and make us whole again. I am enriched by the interactive and vibrant sharing of many sisters during the conference. I look forward to the next MW conference.

Carrie Chew

Rev Hikari's sharing on the appearance of Jesus to his disciples in the Upper Room, has been very insightful. Jesus showed his nail-pierced hands. I was encouraged when she reminded us that God does not judge us on the basis of our pains, hurts, frustrations, difficulties or challenges as He Himself had also experienced them. Such an insight will make me sensitive to the struggles of other women when I interact with them and listen to their stories of their lives.

Esther Chan

Everybody has a gift. A gift is something that you enjoy doing. Sometimes we think that we cannot do much as an individual; but if each of us work together we can produce much. Just like music notes. If each note stands by itself we cannot hear much effect; but if all notes play their parts a song will be produced. There is much strength in unity.

We always measure ourselves to the standard that others set. A good leader does not have to have all the good qualities: strong, smart, perfect. God does not expect us to be perfect. Abraham, Paul and the disciples were not perfect. So why do we think we are not good enough, strong enough to be a leader? This is something we have to ponder.

Everyone was asked to think through what kind of fruit one wants to bear as a child of God. We wrote down what we wanted to achieve and pasted it on the 'tree of life'. Hopefully we will work at it and bear fruit.

Our imaginations were stretched when we had to depict Bible stories using recycled items. This enhanced our working together in a group.

The fun and laughter that we had and the lessons that we received as well as the smooth running of the programme all contributed to the success of the convention. I would say that it is when we, the participants put into practice what we have learnt or what we perceive God has called us to do that really determines the success of the convention. So let us do our part and answer the call. Be women of strength and dignity.

Girlie Wong

# Coins of the Realm

By Harold Robbins

There is something that all of us use, whether we are young or old, rich or poor, and whatever nationality we are—and it's money! If we refused to use money we should not be able to obtain food, clothing or places to live, unless we chose to live like savages in the jungle—and I don't think many of us would want to do that!

But there is one thing we must know about the money before we use it—whether it is *good* money! In every country there is a lot of bad money to be found which looks very much like the real thing but is actually worthless. In countries which have kings, like the parts of the British Empire, there are two things which show whether a coin is a good one or not—first, that it is made of good metal, and second, that it has a clear image of the king on it. If it has both of these it can be called a 'coin of the realm'.

When Jesus was on earth, He talked a lot about the Kingdom or Realm of God, and showed us by many different stories and actions what that Realm is like. And we can think of ourselves as coins of that country. Are we good coins or bad ones? If we are good ones we shall first of all be made of good metal—or rather of good metals, for coins are a mixture of more than one metal. The reason for this is that they must be strong and lasting, and not easily damaged. The life of a coin is a hard one. It is thrown about on counters of shops and banks, it is pushed into automatic machines where it has to meet sharp edges and all kinds of machinery, and it spends most of its life crushed uncomfortably up in pockets or purses with a lot of other money, just as hard as itself! So if it was made of soft metal it would be very soon wear away and become thin, and then the image of the king would wear off and no one could tell to what country it belonged, or even whether it was a coin at all.

So the coin makers at the Royal Mint in London where the coins of England, and the coins of some other countries too, are made, make certain that the metals are pure and good and then carefully blend them together. Of course as you know metals are full of dirt and impurities when they are dug up out of the ground and they have to be put through all sorts of treatments and furnaces before they are ready to be used for anything—and the coin makers are very particular to have only the very finest and purest metals. So if we are to be good coins of the Realm of God, we must first of all have our metals purified. How is that done? It is done by getting rid of all impurities—the wrong things. God is the only one who can help us do this, and if we ask Him, we can be sure He will help us. It may be a difficult thing for us to do, just as it is hard for the metal to go through the fire and be pounded and beaten to make it pure. It is always hard to lose the little things in life we would like to keep, but which make us impure metals. But if we let God take them away, we shall be a mixture of good metals, strong and ready to be used.

But first we must have the stamp of the King's head placed upon us. This is a fine illustration for us of the truth that we must show a likeness to our King if we are to be true coins of His realm. However fine a man or boy's character (or metal) is, he is of no use in the Kingdom of God unless he owns that he is the property of the King. But if we have a character made good and pure by God, and if we are proud to belong to His Kingdom, we can be sure that, wherever we go, we shall be as useful to the people we meet as the coins they have in their pocket. In fact we may be more useful than their money!

Once Peter and John were going into the temple when they saw a lame man lying at the gate, asking for coins. Peter said to him, "silver and gold have I none, but I

have something else I will give you." That "something else" was healing, and we can help to make people happy in hundreds of ways as we go through life, even if we can't give them money. That's what it means to be 'coin of the realm' in the Kingdom of God.

It's a very sad thing but there are people who pretend to be true coins, but all the time they are counterfeits—imitations, frauds and worthless. Little boys in England like to put silver paper over farthings, which are copper coins, and pretend they are silver sixpences, as the two coins are about the same size. That is only a game, but don't you think it is a dreadful thing for people to spend their lives pretending they are good coins when all the time underneath they are made of base metal? Jesus called such people 'hypocrites,' and that means a man who is cheating other people just as much as if he gave them a bad coin. I'm sure we all want our lives to be real, honest, useful, coin.

And that word "useful" reminds me of one more thing—that coins are sometimes hoarded by people, or kept in museums, so that they are no use except to be looked at. The real usefulness of a coin is in its moving about among the people and helping them in their daily lives. The hymn tells us to "spend and be spent" in doing the Master's will. That is a good motto for the coin of God's realm, for the true Christian who wants to serve the Kingdom of God must not keep himself apart, as the old hermits did, but move about among other people helping all as he passes on his way.

The wealth of the Kingdom of God lies in its true coins, and each of us can be one of them.

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