

# PELITA METHODIST

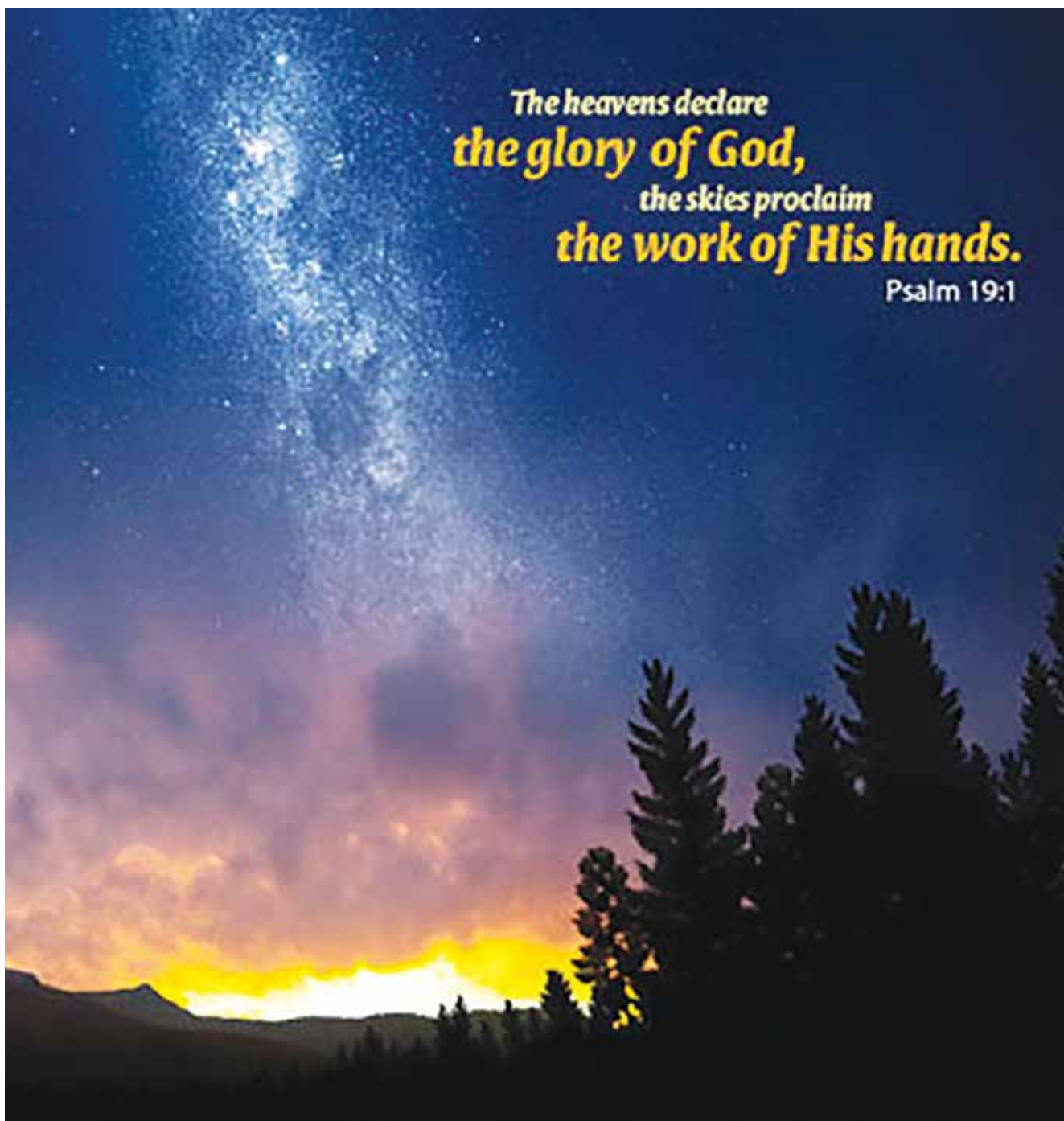
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*The heavens declare  
the glory of God,  
the skies proclaim  
the work of His hands.*

Psalm 19:1







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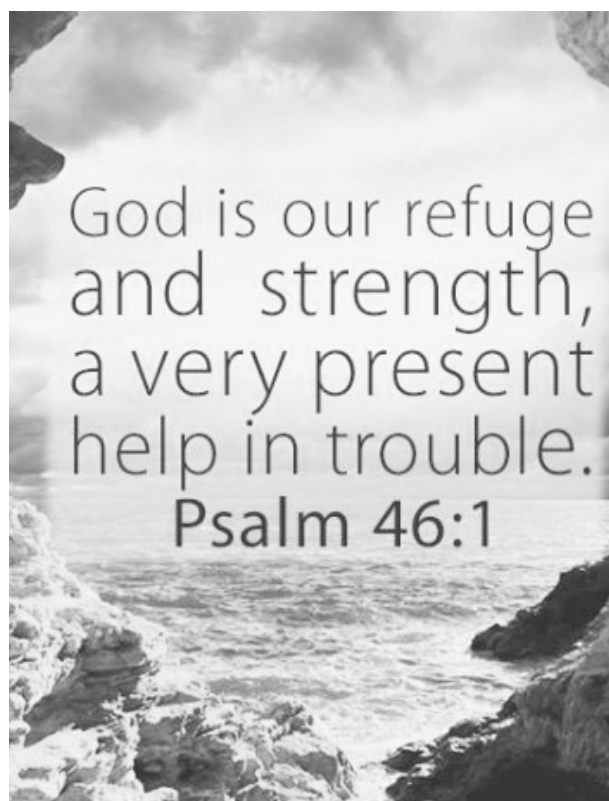
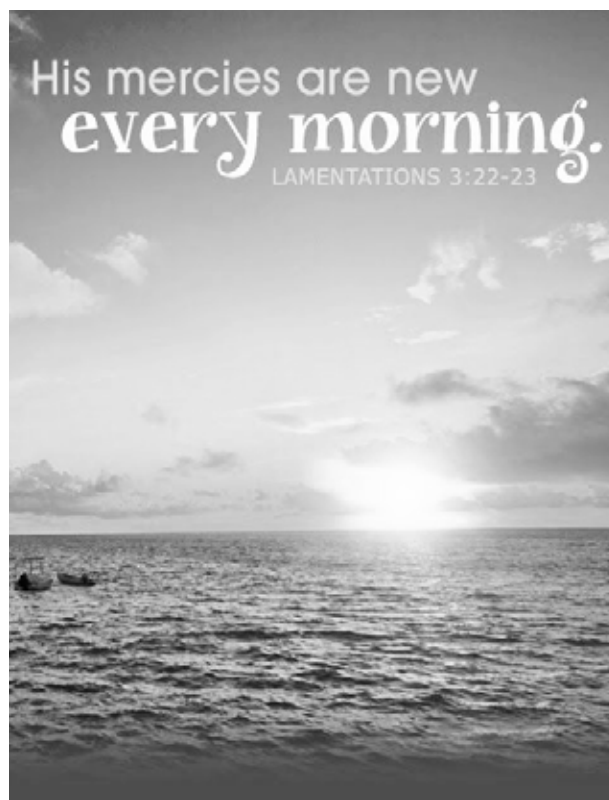
## **Essay**

A New Social Order – A Meditation



"A Church After  
God's Own Heart"

- Every Methodist personally renewed in his/her first love for Jesus
- Every Methodist congregation revived as in the Book of Acts
- The Methodist Church to be refocused and reframed after the Word of God and the Holy Spirit



# Speech at Beautiful Gate [CAC]

## Dedication - 3 March 2019

By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

It is a joy to be at this joyous and auspicious occasion of the dedication of the Beautiful Gate Centre.

I bring greetings, best wishes and warmest congratulations of the Methodist Church in Malaysia Family to this celebration.

We are indeed most thankful to Almighty God for this ministry that has touched many lives. We have witnessed the progress and growth of the Beautiful Gate ministry, with its establishment of 8 such Centres.

We thank the many CAC churches, individuals, 17 NGOs (including Christian ones), companies and corporations who have given financial support as well as help rendered in various ways in making today's celebration possible.

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> reason why the Methodist Church in Malaysia carries out this Beautiful Gate Foundation Ministry is because of our **biblical roots**.

A. **Caring And Giving is rooted in God's very being.**

He is The God Of Compassion as seen in the Old Testament: An important image of God in the Bible is that of parent or father. God is Father. He is the responsible Creator who has a bond of love with His creation, especially humankind that is made after His own image. Our Father God especially cares for those in need: in the Old Testament world the most needy and vulnerable in society were the widows, orphans and aliens/migrants.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Proverbs 19:17** *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*

<sup>NIV</sup> **Proverbs 19:17** *He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.*

When we carry out good deeds especially to the needy and the poor – we become salt and light for God in touching, transforming, bringing needed help and awaited healing for those in need.

B. **He is the GOD of healing in the New Testament:**

The New Testament continues this same active theme as it is filled with the explicit demonstrated life of compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ as He met the needs of body, mind and spirit of the people around Him. The needs of body, mind and spirit of the people around us have not changed. We witness the countless cases of how the Lord Jesus healed the scarred bodies of **lepers**, gave sight to the blind eyes of **Bartimeus**, freed **Mary Magdalene** from 7 evil spirits, delivered the guilty conscience of a

rich tax collector like **Zacchaeus**, as He told them that the power of the Kingdom of GOD/ Heaven was upon them. We, the Church, follow in the footsteps of our Beloved Saviour and Master in fulfilling the mission He came to fulfil: <sup>NLT</sup> **Luke 4:17** *The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, <sup>19</sup> and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."*

2. The second reason why the Methodist Church in Malaysia does this is because of our **historical roots**. The Methodist Church was founded by Rev John Wesley [1703-1791]. John Wesley in 18<sup>th</sup> Century England was well known for His outspoken resistance to the slave trade, **alcohol traffic, excessive interests charged to the poor**. He undertook advocacy for the **poor in education**. He started and superintended **schools and orphanages**, supported **women** preachers and their rights, and helped to relieve the sick. He also pioneered the **electric shock** treatment for the mentally ill, dealt with **alcohol abuse** severely, advocated **prison reform**, was involved in the **abolition of slavery**; and administered aid **charities**. John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts titled **Primitive Physick** that went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England. Because of his charitable nature he died poor, having lived by his own convictions: **'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'** The second is -**"Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can"**.

3. We are glad that **today**, in the Methodist Church in Malaysia – **our caring and giving continues to be rooted in God's very being** as the God of compassion, and founded on the great historical heritage of the Methodist Church left to us by God's servant John Wesley. Today, our Methodist Churches in Malaysia, amongst many of our social outreach work are Prison Ministry, Homes and Caring for the elderly, Orphanages and Homes and tui-

tion centres for poor children especially in Sibu, Bintulu, KK, Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Health Clinic Sessions, free legal clinics, 69 Mission Schools, 2 Private Colleges and 6 private schools, operating Dialysis Centres, our Methodist Education Foundation [with text exemption status] gave grants to 128 students amounting to RM 375,275 in 2018. We thank the Lord for the Ministry Of Beautiful Gate – that continues to minister in the healing name of Jesus Christ.

4. We continue to minister in this wonderful name that **provides** blessings. He supplies our needs to **facilitate** this ministry and gives us the **success** of our labour. In the words of King Solomon, the wise king who is attributed to writing only 2 Psalms, Ps 127 and Ps 72. <sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 127:1** a song of ascents of solomon. “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” His father King David, a very able soldier, talented musician, a man of valour and bravery, full of charisma/ magnetism/ appeal and surrounded by deeply loyal and very skilled soldiers/ warriors – said the same thing in another way in Ps 124. <sup>NLT</sup> **Psalm 124:1** “What if the LORD had not been on our side?” Let all Israel repeat: *We thank the lord – he is on our side because we have chosen to be on his side* – even as this ministry of Beautiful Gate is inspired by Jesus Christ of Nazareth and submitted to the Lordship and leading of the Holy Spirit:
5. Let me close with the words of John Wesley: **“But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing!”** — John Wesley

And so today as we dedicate this building and ministry of the Beautiful Gate Foundation, we dedicate ourselves to “Be Not Weary Of Well Doing”! AMEN.





# 印度赈灾事工

报道：吴姮霖

7月十多天的连绵大雨，致使印度南部喀拉拉邦（Kerala）8月面临严重的洪灾：超过四百八十三人死亡，近百万人被疏散和安置在疏散中心里。喀邦十四个县全处于危险的警戒状态。印度卫理使徒教会（Methodist Apostolic Church of India，简称MACI）的摩西牧师（Rev. Moses）便联系年会卫理救援赈灾事工（Methodist Crisis Relief & Development，简称MCRD）来援助灾民。

MCRD立即展开招募志愿者和义卖月饼的活动。感恩，有志愿者积极回应，我们得以组成四人团队；由日落洞堂主理——詹廷波牧师担任队长，带领郭贤成弟兄、胡俊洋弟兄和卫理赈灾委员会（跨部）干事——吴姮霖姐妹到灾区。我们9月2日出发，8日回国；主要行程是评估印度灾区和将MCRD筹得的款项帮助灾民。

2日晚上十一时三十分（印度时间），我们抵达机场，当地四位牧者来柯钦国际机场接我们。翌日，我们开会讨论后，按摩西牧师安排的行程，到灾区评估灾情和为灾户登记名字。前往灾区途中，已不见洪水漫过的痕迹，相信政府在我们抵达前已迅速清理。然而，灾后受损、受毁的现象是显而易见的。我们回酒店开会，经双方讨论后，我们将分配食品和生活基本用品给登记的家庭。

第三天，我们花了约三个小时的路程，从喀拉拉邦到泰米尔纳德邦购买物品。受洪灾影响，我们无法在当地购买大量食品和基本用品。第四和五天，我们在印度卫理使徒教会包装救济品；下午就派发给有登记的家庭，一切都非常顺利。MCRD的宗旨是不分种族、宗教与国籍，援助灾民。我们在三个地区，即Vettukadavu Chalakudy（五十二户，有九户是穆斯林家庭）、Kodassery Thalur（九十三户）和Vellanchira Centre（六十六户）派发救济品，共有两百一十一户家庭获得约七十五令吉的救济品。

从这次救援赈灾的回应中，我学到凡事要随机应变，要以感恩的心去面对和接受每个突发状况。第一晚入住印度酒店时，我住三楼，其他队员住二楼。即使害怕，但我可以为入住酒店而感谢神。我对印度这国家有了更多的认识，因亲自体验当地人的生活作息、饮食习惯和文化。我也有机会离开舒适窝，以谦卑之心服侍、援助陌生人和关怀他们渡过这艰难时刻。虽然给予的不多，仍盼望这一点点的付出，能成为他们的祝福和鼓励他们继续积极生活。希望他们使用我们所给的救济品时，能体会上帝和来自马来西亚弟兄姐妹的爱心！

救灾是实际付出和给予的行动，就像主耶稣在<马太福音>25章40节所言：“这些事你们既作在我这弟兄一个最小的身上，就是作在我身上了。”



9月4日早上，詹廷波牧师带领 MCRD 团队检查 Center of Val-lechara 村里的井水水质。



9月4日下午，MCRD 团队在泰米尔纳德邦购物后，翌日在印度卫理使徒教会包装救济品。



9月5日下午三时三十分（当地时间），MCRD团队开始在 Vettukadavu Chalakudy 分发救济品，一律备有毯子、床垫、米、食油、糖、盐和三种印度香料（Dhal、Green Pice 和 Thattapayir），与接收救济品的灾民合照。



9月6日晚上六至九时十分，在印度卫理使徒教会圣殿投入长达三个小时的检讨会，包括汇报财务。



当晚开完会后，MCRD团队和印度卫理使徒教会的伙伴合影：左起为 Pastor Justin、Pastor Armstrong、Pastor William、Rev. Moses、Mrs. Moses、吴姮霖、詹廷波牧师、郭贤成和胡俊洋。

## Features

News from TAC

# Your Responsibility As A Methodist

— Rev. Dr. A. E. Joseph

மெதடிஸ்ட் ஆகிய உங்கள் பொறுப்பு

அறிமுகம் :

எல்லா மெதடிஸ்ட் அங்கத்தினரும் தேவனுக்கு பிரியமான கிறிஸ்தவ வாழ்வை வாழ வாஞ்சிக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் என்ன செய்வது என்று அறியாதவர்களாக இருக்கின்றனர். தேவனுடைய ஆசீர்வாதத்தையும் சமுதாயத்தில் நம்முடைய உரிமையையும் சுதந்தரத்தையும் அனுபவிக்க வேண்டுமாகில் குறிப்பிட்ட பொறுப்புக்கள் செயல்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

1. தொழுகையின் பொறுப்பு : பிதாவாகிய தேவனை ஆராதிப்பதற்கு சிருஷ்டிக்கப்பட்டோம்
2. சுத்திகரிப்பின் பொறுப்பு : சுத்தகரிப்பிலலாமல் கர்த்தரிடம் வர முடியாது
3. வேத ஆராய்ச்சியின் பொறுப்பு : தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையை கற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டும்
4. ஜெபத்தின் பொறுப்பு : ஜெபமில்லாமல் சுவாசிக்க முடியாது
5. சாட்சியிட பொறுப்பு : அன்றாட வாழ்வில் ஆத்துமா ஆதாயப்படுத்த வேண்டும்
6. சேவை செய்ய பொறுப்பு : சேவை செய்வதன் மூலம் பறைசாற்ற வேண்டும்.
7. சமுதாயத்தில் பொறுப்பு : சாமுதாயத்தின் நிகழ்வுகளில் கூட நாம் பங்கெடுக்க வேண்டும்.
8. விசுவாசத்தின் பொறுப்பு : முழுமையான கீழ்ப்படிதல் இருக்க வேண்டும்.

9. புகிர்ந்துக்கொள்ளும் பொறுப்பு : நம்மை நாம் மற்றவர்களோடு புகிர்ந்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும்.
10. நிதானித்து அறிவதன் பொறுப்பு : தேவனுடைய சித்தத்தை தேடுவது.
11. ஒழுங்கின் பொறுப்பு : ஒழுங்கில்லாவிடில் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் கிரியை தடைபடும்.
12. ஒத்து போவதன் பொறுப்பு : இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவை போல் ஒத்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஒரு மெதடிஸ்ட் ஆக உருவாக்க வேண்டிய தன்மைகள் : மெதடிஸ்ட் ஆகிய உங்கள் பொறுப்பு

1. சகோதரத்துவத்தின் ஆவி — மற்றவர்களோடு இணைத்திருப்பது.
2. தேவனுக்கு சொந்தம் - புத்திர சவிகாரம்
3. நமக்கு சொந்தமானவர்கள் - நம்மையோ நமது குடும்பத்தையோ வெறுக்கக்கூடாது.
4. ஒருவருக்கொருவர் சொந்தம் - பவுலின் சரீர் போதனை
5. மற்றவர்களுக்கு உன்னை ஒப்புக்கொடு — மற்றவர்களோடு உறவு
6. உங்களுடைய வரங்களை மேம்படுத்துதல் - மற்றவர்களையும் உற்சாகப்படுத்துவது
7. உங்களுடைய அழைப்பை நிதானித்து அறிந்துக்கொள்ளுதல்

# United in Vision, Advancing Christ



Kuching – Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng launched the Sarawak State Council, The Boys' Brigade In Malaysia, inaugural theme during the 2019 AGM at Blessed Sacrament Church from March 1-2.

The newly drawn up biennial theme, 'United in Vision, Advancing Christ', was approved by the State Executive Committee last year. It is guided by the Bible verse taken from Romans 15:6 (so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ).

Rev. Dr. Khoo, who is also the State Chaplain, in his exhortation, emphasized on the importance of having a theme as it helps to focus on vision. "When you are in the Boys' Brigade long enough, you may tend to forget your objective/goals. It takes years to internalize your sense of purpose. Any Christian organization will face the common danger of turning into a social club," he cautioned.

Using John 17:11, 20-23, he stressed that unity matters to God, and unity is not uniformity. "Be united in BB's vision and seek to be faithful in your respective mission field. Without unity, we will not go far. Any organization will disintegrate without unity."

He further explained by analogy: "Imagine BB as a ship. Though there are many rooms and compartments (opinions) but ultimately, it's the ship deck (God's Kingdom) that forms the permanent covering. We come from diverse backgrounds. We must preserve unity since we are called to service."

Continuing his exhortation, Rev. Dr. Khoo underscored three key essentials; Leaders must sincerely care for each other, BB's good relationship with the Sponsoring Church, Leaders who truly serve Christ.

Rev. Dr. Khoo also encouraged the BB Officers to seize the moment and open more harvest fields specifically to the indigenous youth in the rural and urban areas.

In conclusion, Rev. Dr. Khoo reminded the Officers of the power and promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17, Acts 1:8). "In our ministry, you are the spiritual leaders and you will need The Holy Spirit to advance God's Kingdom."

## Day 1, Officers' Conference

Capt. Clement Sii of 11<sup>th</sup> Kuching Coy (Sponsoring Church - Blessed Sacrament Church) was introduced by State Training Chairman Lt. Aaron Tieng Shiau Harn. He was invited to say a few words. For the first time, a Roman Catholic Church played host to the State AGM venue.

Captain Sii, a former Officer of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kuching, warmly welcomed all the Officers present. He then invited Rev. Fr. Felix Au, the Chaplain of 11<sup>th</sup> Kuching, to welcome the participants. In his short message, the charismatic and likeable priest praised Capt. Sii and his team of Officers for their commitment



BB Mindset I (Serving as BB Officer) Session by State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Hii King Ong. Photo credit - Lt. James TC Wong, 4<sup>th</sup> Miri Coy



and enthusiasm. “We are starting to see this ministry bearing fruits already,” he encouraged his Coy. “Keep up the good work.”

This year, a record-breaking 38 out of 42 Companies in Sarawak represented by 86 Officers and Helpers attended the AGM.

The sessions in the Officers’ Conference were: BB Mindset I (Serving as BB Officer) – by State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Hii King Ong, BB Mindset II (Serving Together) – Lt. David Wong Siew Ling, BB Mindset III (Why, How and What) – by Lt. Aaron Tieng Shiaw Harn, Challenges and Blessings as BB Officer – by Lt. Aaron Tieng Shiaw Harn and BB Protocols and Traditions – by Hon. Capt. Joseph Tin, Honorary State Commissioner.



**Unity, not uniformity – a reminder from State Chaplain Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng to the participants. Photo credit - Lt. James TC Wong**

## Day 2, AGM

The last day’s programme was packed from morning to night. Sessions included BB Alumni overview, Extension Works, Resource-sharing, BBM Constitution, Exhortation by State Chaplain, BBM Pre-Juniors and Junior Board Matters, State Camp, BB Love Box, State Training, Budget, and followed by State AGM were held in the evening.

Important highlights of the AGM included the election of the State Commissioner and appointment of State Executive Members for the new two-year term, 2019-2020. Hon. Capt. Hii King Ong returned uncontested as State Commissioner.

The State Executive Members also retained their respective posts: Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng (State Chaplain), Hon. Capt. Lo Hoi Fook (Hon. Commissioner), Hon. Capt. Joseph Tin Kiew Seng (Hon. Commissioner), Capt. Edmund Wong Kiing Sung (Deputy Commissioner), Hon. Capt. Guang Chin Tung (Deputy Commissioner), Hon. Capt. Lawrence Wong Ching Tuong (Deputy Commissioner), Hon. Capt. Roseline Lee Chai Ngit (State Secretary), Lt. Linda Ting Pick Sieng (State Treasurer), Lt. Aaron Tieng Shiaw Harn (State Training Chairman), Capt. Sim Tze Sian (State Chairman, Social Welfare and Community Service), Lt. Hu Wei Ung (State Executive Secretary).

## Awards

Junior Gold Award – presented by Rev. Fr. Felix Au  
L/Cpl. Ivan Jong Zhen Yin (2<sup>nd</sup> Kuching), Pte. John Reuben Sim

Kiang Yong (2<sup>nd</sup> Kuching), Jordon Foo Toon Chiat (2<sup>nd</sup> Kuching)  
Officers Service Medal – presented by State Chaplain Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng

Bronze Service Medal - Lt. Donny Lau Song Fu (7<sup>th</sup> Kuching),  
Lt. Chia Jia Jen (7<sup>th</sup> Kuching), Lt. Mike Wong Kee Ing (4<sup>th</sup> Sibu)

Silver Service Medal - Capt. Wong Pak Ing (4<sup>th</sup> Sibu)

Officer Training Program Purple Award - Lt. Mike Wong Kee Ing (4<sup>th</sup> Sibu)



**Junior Gold Award – presented by Rev. Fr. Felix Au of Blessed Sacrament Church to L/Cpl. Ivan Jong Zhen Yin (2<sup>nd</sup> Kuching).  
Photo credit - Lt. James TC Wong, 4<sup>th</sup> Miri Coy**

## Appreciation

State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Hii King Ong presented a love gift to Mr. Thomas Ting, Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, Blessed Sacrament Church.

## 2020 AGM

Next year’s AGM will be in Mukah from March 6-7.



**State Commissioner Hon. Capt. Hii King Ong presented a love gift to Mr. Thomas Ting, Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, Blessed Sacrament Church. Photo credit - Lt. James TC Wong, 4<sup>th</sup> Miri Coy**

By Lt. James TC Wong,  
4<sup>th</sup> Miri Coy

# Gereja Methodist Iban Miri



## History

- Formed in 1984 to cater for Non English speaking members.
- Originally started with 10 – 15 Families and now there are around 100 families.
- Prior to using the newly completed Church at Lutong, Miri, worship services were carried out in homes, Police Field Camp and Shop Lot allocated by SCAC Life Methodist church.

## Background of church members

- About 80% of the members are those employed in offshore oil and gas companies, construction industries and those doing odd jobs.
- They reside around Tudan, Kampung Pasir, Sea-line, Kampung Api-Api, Pujut, Kerbau, Pujut Corner within the vicinity of the newly completed Church.
- Members are mainly from Sibul, Kapit, Sarikei, and Bintangor Divisions looking for job opportunities in Miri.

## Current Activities of the Church

- Sunday Worship Services every Sunday.
- Sunday School along with Sunday Worship Service.
- Monthly Bible Study.
- Evangelism around Miri include visits to the hospital and to old age members homes, especially those who are not able to attend Sunday Services.
- Methodist Women Fellowship activities on a weekly basis.
- Youth weekly development program include praise and worship, music, etc.
- Organise Divisional Youth Camp periodically.
- Organise seminars and workshops.

## The New Church

- The one acre piece of land was allocated by the State Go-

vernment on 27.10.2010. It is located near Lutong.

- The Plan is to build;
  - (1) a Church building with a main hall for worship services. It will also include pastors' offices, prayer room, meeting room and 4 rooms for Sunday school and;
  - (2) A pastor's residence, an annex to the main building.
- Construction works commenced on 08th August, 2015 after obtaining necessary approvals for the building plans.
- Church building was completed in September 2018 with bit of work remaining to be completed.
- Dedication service was carried out by our Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik on 16 Feb 2019.
- The pastor's residence will be built upon securing sufficient funds.
- Remaining works include fixtures and furniture for Sunday School classrooms, Prayer room and Meeting room and tiling work on the first floor.
- Total construction cost @ 31.1.19 - RM 1,804,952
- Total Funds collected @ 31.1.19 - RM 1,585,420
- Total Debt = RM 219,532.00
- Estimated cost of remaining works.
  - (i) Pastor's residence - RM 300,000.
  - (ii) Fixtures and furniture for class rooms for Sunday school, meeting rooms, prayer room and tiling of first floor - RM 50,000.

## The New Church – (Sources of Funds)

- Sarawak State Government – allocation of land
- SCAC Churches
- Christian friends from Singapore
- SIAC Churches
- Monthly contribution and pledges from members
- Personal donation and contribution (in cash and materials)

## Church Activities



## Photographs of New Church Building





# Disciple – Under the Tree of Life

After some years of waiting, my wife Roseline and I finally got to join the Yellow Book Disciple Course after having completed the Red, Purple, and Green Books.

This year, DISCIPLE - Under The Tree of Life (Yellow Book) is facilitated by Pastor Linberg Wong of Agape Grace Methodist Church. In total, 13 participants enrolled.

To study this Book, one needs to have at least completed DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study (Red Book).

One is expected in terms of time and discipline, to invest 30 to 45 minutes of daily reading and note-taking, to reflect and pray 6 days a week, and participate in a two-and-a-half-hour weekly group study for 32 weeks.

Bishop Richard B. Wilke, who created The DISCIPLE Bible Study Series, has always said that the Disciple Study is not for information but for Transformation.

“A loving family is worth more than the whole wealth in the world. And we ought to learn from the Book of Ruth how we should take our family seriously and apply loyalty and loving-kindness,” commented participant Robert Ting, a Small Group Leader and Chairman of Agape Grace Methodist Church.

“Often family cohesiveness is not easy to maintain; what more about connections with our extended family? Effort and sacrifices need to be made,” my wife expressed.

“I pray you all will be disciplined and stay faithful to complete the course,” encouraged Pastor Linberg. “Remember to do your daily reading and do not try to rush everything,” added the good



shepherd.

A simple celebratory dinner was held in my home last evening before we commenced our first lesson.

*Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.*

Ruth 1:16

By James TC Wong

## Devotion

# DEVOTION

## Intentional Rest

Faith is reason at rest in God.

(Charles Spurgeon)

**IN WORD:** On the surface, the grace life should be easy. All that's required is belief in God's mercy, His power to save, and His ability to sustain. But in fact the grace life is difficult, not because of the effort required, but because of our tendency to default back to what we can do for ourselves. We must intentionally set our minds to live by faith.

The Galatians, for example, had problems balancing grace and works, and they had lapsed back into their traditional form of legalism. They knew they had been accepted by God in His mercy, but forgot that mercy was to sustain them daily. They tried to live their life in the Spirit by the strength of their flesh. That's not God's plan.

We do that too. We well understand that the blood of Jesus was spilled as payment for our sin, a holy sacrifice for an unholy race. We also understand that obedience is required of us. But when it comes to relating to God daily, we neglect our

**One Year at the Cross Devotional** by Chris Tiegreen

dependence on grace and revert to the self-reliance of our best performance. All of our obedience may be good and pleasing to Him, but only as an outcome of our dependence on His mercy, never as a means to earn it. His grace put us in good standing with Him; our good deeds are to be done out of love.

**IN DEED:** Regardless of how long you've been a Christian, your human nature will tempt you to revert to works. Saved by grace, you'll be tempted to live by your ability to be righteous by your own efforts. You'll do all sorts of gymnastics to get God's approval and keep it—unless, that is, you remind yourself frequently that Jesus won His approval and invited you into it by faith.

If you're burdened by the Christian life, remember that just as God has given you grace for salvation, He will give you grace for obedience through faith. Live in dependence on God—for everything—and rest. The grace walk is relaxing when we learn it. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), and be at peace.

*He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God*

Romans 4:20

# A New Social Order — A Meditation

H. B. A.

*"Then I saw the new heaven and the new earth...."*  
— Rev. 21:1

"Love is just and kind. Love is not greedy and covetous. Love exploits no one; it takes no unearned gain; it gives more than it gets. Love does not break down the lives of others to make wealth for itself; it makes wealth to build the life of all. Love enriches all men, educates all men; gladdens all men."  
— Walter Rauschenbusch

"We hear too little of the Christian virtue of hope, the expectation of the triumph of the right and true.....We need to be encouraged by news of the progress of the kingdom of God in.....the rising spirit of brotherhood, the strength of social sympathy amongst men of earnest spirit."  
— Malcolm Spencer

"This very earth, now outraged by wars and clouded by armaments, might be an earth of peace and good will. These cities.....that now sprawl like rubbish heaps might really by human homes, light and bright and sound and lovable.....Commerce might be a network of intelligent co-operation instead of a savage strife of competitive interests. Trade might be open and honest and human-hearted. Wealth might be tempered, thoughtful, widespread, and sacrificial. The nation might be of one heart and one mind. And all men and women might find themselves free in a free land which was their own."  
— H. Scott Holland

"To make the world what Christ would have it be;  
To set the people free, as he is free;  
To make the kingdoms of the world his own,  
Choose him for King, and set him on the throne,  
Whose rule is love, who laid his power away  
That he might learn by suffering to obey,  
Democracy informed by God our aim;  
No lesser destiny the peoples claim.  
No headless blundering body e'er sufficed;  
Our Head, by whom we live and move, is Christ."  
— The Commonwealth

"We must discover as never before what is involved in securing abundant life for the unpaid worker, for the slum dweller, for the man of colour—for every living person. When we have made this discovery, we shall be faced with the necessity of formulating and delivering a gospel more prophetic and daring than in any previous day. But we must undertake the ministry of this gospel without hesitation, since only in utter loyalty to such truth as our age affords can we find our salvation."  
—Toward The New World

*".....he was waiting for the City with its fixed foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*  
— Hebrews 11:10

"Go, preach, the Kingdom is at hand,  
The King is at the gate,  
Go, sound the news in every land,  
He comes for whom I wait.  
He comes with lightning and in wrath,  
He follows down the sea,  
He sweeps the briars from his path,  
To set the captives free.  
He comes with laughter in his eyes  
Soft as the yellow dews,  
And hungry children hush their cries  
To shout the glad, good news.  
He comes, he comes with healing balm  
For all the hurts of men  
He comes, he comes with peace and calm  
Where all the wars have been.  
Sound bugles, sound in golden flood,  
His reign that shall not cease.  
He comes to make of all one blood,  
Triumphant Prince of Peace."

*"When ye see these things come to pass know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."*  
— Luke 21:31

Prayer:

"Almighty God, ceaseless Creator of the ever-changing world, help us in the spirit of our Lord's Prayer to build the kind of world which will tend to make men good. Lead us into that co-operative commonwealth of God in which all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Increase our faith in Thee,

O God, and in a moral universe that we may have grace to seek these ends by moral means. Through the spiritual compulsions of sacrificial love, by the power of the cross, may Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

— James Myers

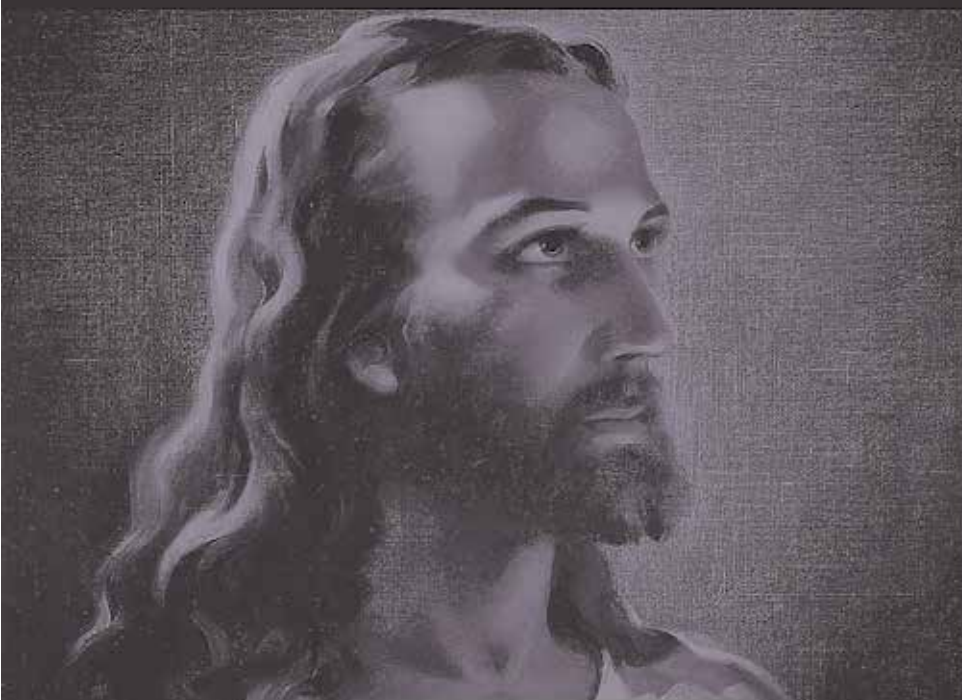
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