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EASTER:
Celebrating the “Unshakeable”
Ever-Present Companion

Moment



Photo source from the Internet

Psalm 53

- ¹ The fool says in his heart,
 "There is no God."
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
 there is no one who does good.
- ² God looks down from heaven
 on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
 any who seek God.
- ³ Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt;
 there is no one who does good,
 not even one.
- ⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing?
 They devour my people as though eating bread;
 they never call on God.
- ⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,
 where there was nothing to dread.
God scattered the bones of those who attacked you;
 you put them to shame, for God despised them.
- ⁶ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
 When God restores his people,
 let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

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Treat Wealth with Integrity

Due to their working for the oppressive Roman Government and the unscrupulous manner in which they collected tax to obtain unlawful personal gain, the tax collectors in Jesus' time were despised as sinners by the Jewish society, in particular, the Pharisees and the scribes (Lk. 5:27-32). They too saw themselves as sinners (Lk. 3:7-13). However, Jesus saw them as the sick (Lk. 5:31-32), the lost sheep or the lost coin (Lk. 15:1-10). He was willing to walk into their homes, sit and eat with them, in the hope of reaching out to them.

Mathew and Zacchaeus were two of the tax collectors found by Jesus (Mt. 9:9; Lk. 19:1-10). They were "found" by Jesus and therefore had their hearts renewed and transformed. The desire to crave for deceitful gain was transformed into the hunger to follow the Lord. Their lives found a new direction and emitted the gospel's influence.

During Lent, the risen Lord is also inviting us to allow Him to transform our hearts, and to continue our intercessory ministry with transformed hearts.

Praying for ourselves and our family

1. Pray for God's transformation of our hearts so that our family and us shall not spend too much time and care on the matter of building wealth for the purpose of materialistic pleasure. Pray that God gives us willingness to live simple lives and to share resources.

Prayer for His Church

1. Pray that God will lead the local churches to nurture Christian communities and to bless the needy in our community by responsible budgeting, managing and distributing of the resources entrusted by God. Pray for God's guidance and for willingness to share building structures with other church groups to reduce wastage of resources.
2. Pray for the preparatory process of our Methodist School of Intercessors (13-15/06/2016; Venue: Port Dickson Methodist Centre). <http://www.methodistchurch.org.my/prayer/>

Prayer for Our Nation

1. Pray for our national leaders working in the financial sectors (finance ministry, customs offices, anti-corruption departments, finance and banking sectors insurance industries, national audit department, and etc.). Pray that God will lead them to have an honest perspective on wealth. Pray for accountability in managing the wealth that our nation or their clients have entrust to them.
2. Pray that the Christ's salvation shall fall upon them for Jesus came to be their friends.
3. Pray that godly men or women of caliber and integrity will be appointed as the next Governor of the Central Bank and the Auditor General. Pray for God's and the government's protection upon the selection process and the future operational independence of Central Bank and National Audit Department for the stability of our national finance and economy.
4. Pray for the Sarawak state election. Pray for leaders with integrity to be nominated and elected in the coming election, so that God's will and purpose for this state as well as for our nation shall be fulfilled.

M24/7 Prayer Secretariat

01/03/2016

EASTER: Celebrating the “Unshakeable” Ever-Present Companion

One of the most heart-warming truths about Easter is the theme of personal encounters that is a key-thread throughout the resurrection appearances of the risen Lord Jesus.

Among the significant personal encounters recorded in the gospel accounts of such a heart-changing meeting is found in **Luke 24:13-35 on the road to Emmaus**. Luke tells us where the focus of the thought, emotion and will of Cleopas and his companion were caught up with.

Three different words were used in the original language of this account to convey the process of their verbal communication which points to how much the crucifixion occupied their thinking and talking. They were preoccupied with the people, place and proceedings of the past few days. They were wholly consumed by their own emotional struggle with a totally unexpected catastrophic outcome – the humiliating death of the One in Whom they had been so sure was the undefeatable Messiah Who had come to vindicate Israel against the oppressive Roman Empire.

Hence they were cut to the core by the blade of disappointment, overshadowed and weighed down by a concoction of perplexity, grief and dispiritedness. Not only that – both disciples were overtaken with questions begging to be answered, full of “conversing and debating” [Luke 24:15] as they trudged along. So full were they of their pain, questions and woe that even to a complete stranger, their tale of woe and disillusionment just came tumbling out! They just honestly could not hold it in!

Easter clearly demonstrates the truth that the risen Christ is “greater and bigger” than sin and death; and that He is present with those who trusts Him even when they “cannot see Him” or recognise Him [at least at first like Cleopas and his companion]. **Psalm 34:18 says** *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* This included Mary Magdalene [John 20:1-18] who was one of the most devoted and loyal disciples of the Lord Jesus. Her heart too was crushed at Calvary, until she personally saw the empty tomb!

Easter is also about the reality of God’s “*thoughts are not your thought, nor your ways My ways*” [Isaiah 55:8] – as often our human reactions would reveal, notwithstanding

the fact that we are believers. The sovereign and almighty God is not afraid of our questions, but instead gives us the freedom of praying and addressing Him. We can be open, honest and sincere in pouring our hearts out to Him Who is ever present. For often, it is at that place where we are most vulnerable and exposed that we are most open and receptive to His presence.

Christian teacher and writer Steve Harper says, *“When we ask why in our prayers, we have somehow recognized that we are permitted to bring every question, every issue, every confusion and every struggle to God. We may not understand what is going on, but God knows that we cannot pray authentically unless we can honestly express every thought and emotion.”*

Easter is about “returning to Jerusalem” [Luke 24:33] and reunions with the faith community. It is about changing wrong courses and returning to where we know we belong with our brothers and sisters in worshipping the Risen Lord of the Church. Easter calls us not to be in isolation, but to “hurry back” to be surrounded by fellow disciples and believers so that we keep watch over each other, building each other up in our faith by sharing stories of our personal encounters with Christ the risen Lord. It is also a time to remember with hope our loved ones who have “died in Christ” and with whom we shall one day re-unite.

The late William Barclay aptly sums up the powerful message of the Resurrection of Christ by saying that it proves and demonstrates that *truth is stronger than falsehood, good is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hatred, and that life is stronger than death!*

May the Lord Jesus Christ, our risen ever-present Companion grant you an Easter that is filled with “undiminishable” hope, enchanting wonder and joy unspeakable!

“Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!”

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

An Essential Sign

No resurrection, no Christianity.

(Michael Ramsey)

IN WORD: The Resurrection validates everything we believe in. Without it, the Bible is bold enough to say, our faith is worthless. Those who think Christianity is worthwhile for life in this world alone are disagreeing with Paul; he thought we were pitiful creatures indeed if our faith is only a this-world faith (v. 19).

No, God gave us the Resurrection—Jesus' and ours—for a reason. It's a promise, a pledge, a validation that our life on this fallen planet is but a tiny fraction of the life we were meant to live. While the rest of the world goes about living for the here and now, we live for eternity. While they make investments hoping for good returns in a matter of years or decades, we make investments hoping for good returns in a matter of timeless "ages." While they interpret their trials as things that will make or break the quality of their lives, we interpret our trials as events that are shaping us to understand God and inherit His riches. The Resurrection makes all the difference in the world. And beyond.

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

This, in fact, was the point of creation from day one. Genesis is the account of God's creation, but the cross of Christ and the empty tomb are the account of the re-creation. The early church was suddenly aware that they were living in the regenesis, the fulfillment of all God had promised, the Kingdom that does not pass away. And that knowledge guided everything they did.

IN DEED: We often think of the Resurrection as an Easter time phenomenon—a past miracle that gives us faint hope for the future. It is so much more.

The Resurrection validates our faith in the redeeming work of our High Priest, who has taken away our sins. It allows us to live with a sense of risk and adventure, because it makes us part of a new order of creation that ultimately cannot fail—our lives are grounded in Someone who reigns in eternal victory.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17

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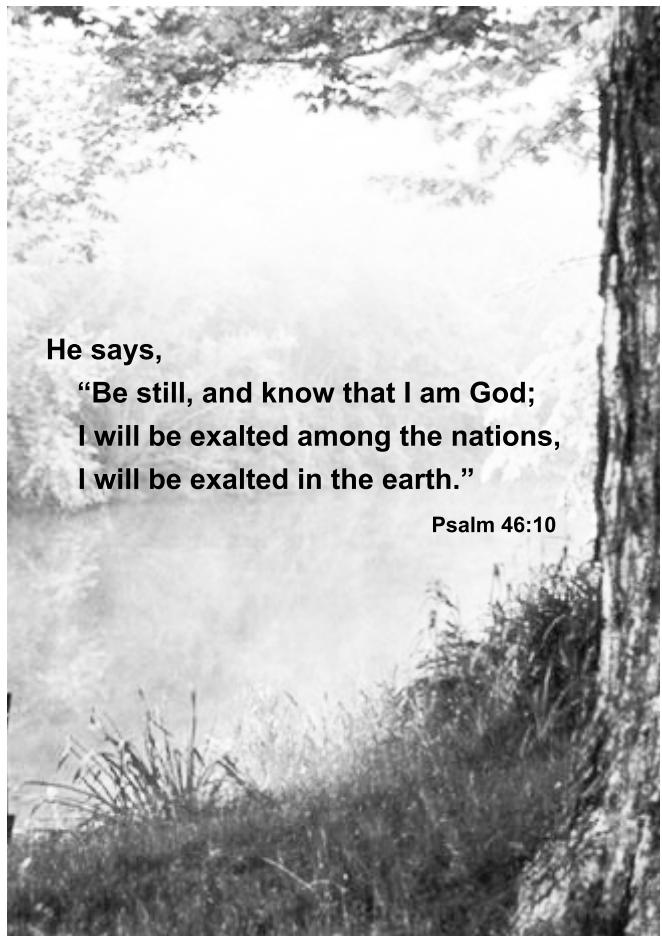
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He says,

**"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

Psalm 46:10



Impacting Lives and Nation through Methodist Education since 1891



2nd March 2016 is historic in more ways than one.

We saw the breaking of ground for a brand new school, the **Wesley Methodist School Penang (International)** in Bandar Sungai Sri Pinang site in Georgetown, Penang, which was where the first Methodist School in the country started in 1891. Most of us who came from Mission Schools know the schools as a ready-made building with students and teachers already there. **Wesley Methodist School Penang (International)** starts from ground zero. The International School will begin with Primary and Secondary education in September 2018, using the Cambridge I.G.C.S.E. syllabus.

After having acquired the land a few years ago, the timeline is now firming up. Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik gave an inspiring message entitled *Bring To Completion* with the scripture text based on II Corinthians 8:1-12, reminding us about the importance of the completion of this project embarked in this generation to provide Education with Mission, Excellence and Compassion.

Praise God for the attendance at this Ground Breaking Service of over 120 people consisting of church members of the Methodist Churches in the North, especially in Penang, and members of the Council of Education and the Wesley Methodist School Board of Management, as well as a few friends from the State Government, some from other churches and the Press. There was a pause as Bishop gamely climbed on to the huge piling machine with the main contractor to maneuver the controls to break ground, which was an interesting

change from shoveling the earth with a changkul. May the Lord watch over the construction of this **Wesley Methodist School Penang (International)** building.

At the afternoon session with some old boys and old girls of Methodist Schools in Penang, Mr Tan Wah Thong, Chairman of ACS International Singapore Board of Management, emphasised that the Alumni is an important stakeholder of the mission school and that we should tap on them.



Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik with VIPs and guests at the Ground Breaking Service site.

Mr. Khor (third from left), the E.D. of Council of Education chairing the Alumni meeting, with special guest Mr. Tan Wah Thong, Chairman of ACS (International) Singapore Board of Management



Ms. Jenny Qua (third from left), the Exec. Secretary chairing the Parents Forum with the panel,
Rev. Dr. John Barrett, Ms. Moey Yoke Lai and Julie Ratnam.

The highlight of the event was the 7.30 p.m. Parents Forum held at the Methodist Boys' School Auditorium in Jalan Air Itam. Despite the short notice, more than 200 people turned up, curious to find out about the new **Wesley Methodist School Penang (International)**. Rev. Dr. John Barrett, the former Principal of ACS (International) Singapore gave a very informative talk about what it means to be a Christian School.

Madam Julie Ratnam, the Headmistress of the Primary section of Wesley Methodist School Ipoh (International) gave a short but enthusiastic talk about the primary section accompanied by a short video clip. Then Ms. Moey Yoke Lai, the CEO of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur held the audience with her experience in Methodist Schools, and now Methodist College, providing a broad spectrum of Methodist educa-

tion that is offered. Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur (International) presented a captivating video of the activities in their school. They had also printed their Newsletter and this was given out in the goodie bag. The more interesting part was of course the Q & A session and the first enquiry was how much the fees are going to be. Ms. Jenny Qua, the Executive Secretary of the Methodist Church in Malaysia moderated the Parents Forum with the other speakers and soon it was time to end the evening.

God's favour is with us. The response was terrific, from the teamwork in organizing the Ground Breaking Service to the many enquiries for the Parents Forum; from the assistance given by the Yang Berhormats to the church members who rallied support to set up a brand new school. Special thanks to a church in Sitiawan which I had invited for the Service but who responded by asking how they could make a donation. This is a ministry of education for the young in our nation. This is work to honour the Lord.

Submitted by
Tay Choon Neo
Methodist Council of Education

The packed MBS Auditorium with 200 parents.



A Brief Report on 40th Session TRAC



The 40th Session of the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) was successfully held from 5th till 7th December, 2015 at the Port Dickson Methodist Centre, Port Dickson Negeri Sembilan. A total of 198 ministerial and lay delegates as well as some observers attended the three-day conference. Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik and wife, Mrs. Ong Mun Kean graced the occasion. Bishop Dr Ong chaired when the Presidential Address was delivered by the TRAC President, Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar on 6th December, 2015 and preached at the Ordination Service on 7th December, 2015. Four elders

were ordained, namely Rev Lim Chaw Leong, Rev Lucy Lee Siew Sieng, Rev Shearn Sya Seng Shen and Rev Ronald Yap Quan Nyian. One deacon, namely Rev S. Gauri a/p Supramaniam was ordained. 14 new local preachers were recognised out of which seven were from Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC).

TRAC saw four out of their six preaching points constituted as Local Conferences in 2015, namely Nusajaya Methodist Church in Johor Baru, Living Faith Methodist Church in Ipoh, Living Stone Methodist Church in Kota Da-

mansara, Selangor, Living Hope Methodist Church in Bukit Rimau, Selangor.

TRAC also saw the retirement of two of her pastors, Rev Bernard Yogaraj and Rev Peggy Seow. We praise and thank the Lord that both pastors will continue to serve the Lord in their various areas of ministry even during their retirement.

TRAC's Essentials continue to be :

- Lifelong Discipleship
(Following Christ, Becoming like Christ)
- Wholesome Families
(Growing Strong Families for Christ)
- A Voice to Our Nation
(Seeking Our Nation's Welfare in Christ)
- A Vision for the Word
(Embracing Local and Global Mission for Christ)

In 2016 TRAC will be focusing on the third essential – A Voice to Our Nation.

By Ms Grace Choong



A Report on 40th Session TAC



Grace and Peace to all of you. As a conference we are moving onwards into the 40th year in 2016 and I would like to highlight some of the thoughts and directions I shared in my address at the 40th Session of TAC on 20th November 2015.

Our Heritage

We have a remarkable Methodist heritage. John Wesley was instrumental in ushering a tremendous awakening in the 18th Century when the Holy Spirit moved powerfully and the church grew. I desire a similar move in our midst.

However, for revival there must be repentance and reconciliation. There must be a complete turning to the Lord and surrendering to Him. There is an urgent need for all of us to prepare the grounds so that we can experience God's presence and glory in a powerful way. Our Theme: Bringing in the sheaves with Prayer and Perseverance.

Prayer and Revival

There is a need to pray desperately for a fresh move of God in our midst. The 24/7 prayer chain is a major emphasis in this direction. Along with this our hearts must truly desire God's mighty presence in our midst in an authentic manner. Pastors and leaders must fear God and seek to please Him only. All members are urged

to observe a 40 day fast and prayer in the Lenten season and in July/August. Total surrender, holiness and unity on our part and 2016 will be a year of revival.

Strengthening the Focus

Over the past years, churches have focused on the 4 key areas of Prayer, Evangelism, Social Concerns and Discipleship. This is indeed commendable. However in 2016, we want to further strengthen these 4 key areas. One new move is to have 4 teams and every member in the church should be part of at least one team so that the entire church is involved in ministry. We also want to invest in more full-time workers especially for Social Concerns, Evangelism, and Youth Work.

Further Expansion – Evangelism

All Pastors and leaders must take up the challenge to toil in outreach ministries and be in the front lines. All churches are also urged to form evangelism teams that reach out weekly or fortnightly. The Board on Evangelism plans to start another 3 new outreaches in 2016. The areas identified are Manchis near Bentong, Putra Jaya and Kuala Kangsar.

The 'GO' (Each member 'get one') challenge should be recharged and there must be continuous motivation from the pulpit for members to pray and witness to at least one person in a year.

FRI – Nehemiah Project

This project was initiated 4 years ago with the objective of raising funds for many causes and needs in our conference. Some of these are to assist in establishing a new HQ, retreat centre, skill training centre and also to support the social ministries of our conference. As such, we want to raise RM 1 million this year.

On our 40th year the plan is to raise RM1 million using the following strategy:-

100 members to give RM4,000.00

500 members to give RM400.00

5,000 members to give RM40.00

1,000 children to give RM4.00



Well-wishers to give a total of RM200,000.00

A brochure has been prepared and distributed at our last annual conference.

Easing the ‘Burden’

It was generally felt that there are too many programmes at district and conference levels and hence this year we will limit to the following programmes only:-
Church School Teachers Training – April
40th Anniversary Celebration – 30th April

Training in Family Counselling – July
Evangelism Institute – modular course (2016/2017)

Missions conference – August

In 2016 we will have only one local conference in September 2016.

Grounding in the Word

There is an urgent need to recover our younger generation- our youths and our children. The sway towards the world is so strong and unless they are well grounded in God’s Word they can become easy victims to the many attractions of the world.

For far too long they have waded comfortably in shallow waters. The Board of Christian Education plans to introduce a systematic curriculum for all our Church schools. I want to urge all pastors and leaders to cooperate and ensure that this is followed.

WISMA TAC – New Headquarters

By God’s grace and provision, we have bought a piece of landed property which is ideal for our Headquarters and is strate-

gically located in Petaling Jaya. We plan to renovate and design the building to meet our various needs.

40 Years of TAC History Book

The 40 year of history of TAC has been published in the form of a book. This book was diligently and faithfully written by Rev. Victor Vethamani.

God’s will for us is to be a movement. So as people of God, let us move with new vigor into the 40th year and appropriate God’s abundant blessings.

“Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God”. – W. Carey.

Rev. C. Jayaraj
President, TAC

THEME : BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES WITH PRAYER AND PERSEVERANCE

The 40th session of the TAC was held on nov 20th to 22nd, 2015 at the Port Dickson Methodist Center. The Organising Committee was the Southern District under the able Leadership of Rev. James Ravinderan and Rev. Silvester Martin. There was a launching Ceremony of the 40th Session on Nov 21st 2015 which included a launch of our TAC History Book entitled

“40 years of TAC – Remember the Wonders He has Done” authored by Rev. Victor J. Vethamani.

The following are some of the decisions/focus points of TAC for 2016

1. **The 4 key areas of Prayer**, Evangelism, Social Concerns and Discipleship will continue to be the thrust in all our churches.
2. Prayer and Revival - The 24/7 prayer chain will be the major focus.
3. Board on Evangelism will start 3 new outreaches next year while sustaining the present Evangelism frontiers of Karak, Tebong/Selandar, Pantai Remis/Bruas and Kuching.
4. BoE to assist the Tebong evangelism work financially for 3 to 5 years. All churches and individuals to come forward and support this initiative.
5. All churches urged to form Evangelism teams that go out weekly or fortnightly.
6. The ‘GO’ challenge should be recharged with continuous motivation from pastors.
7. Rev. Raymond Raj appointed as part time Social Concerns Coordinator to consolidate all Social Concerns activities of TAC.
8. Through the Nehemiah Project a number of social ministries have commenced and are progressing well. In 2016 the plan is to raise a further RM1 million.
9. The Board of Christian Education will introduce a systematic curriculum to be followed by all Church schools in order that our children and youths are well grounded in the Word of God.
10. There will be no district programmes in 2016 but all churches

to be involved in these programmes organized through the Conference-Church School Teachers Training (March), 40th Anniversary Celebration (30th April), Month of Evangelism (July - fasting for 40 days), Training in Family Counselling (August), Evangelism Institute (modular course), Missions conference (August).

11. Next year there will be only one local conference which will be in September 2016. All churches are urged to have their planning meetings in November or December of 2015 or the latest by January 2016. More information on this change will be sent to churches soon.

Rev. C. Jayaraj's final word of advice in his Presidential Address:-

“May we, the generation that is moving into the 40th year of our conference see and experience once again the golden era of Methodism. God can do it and is willing. We need to be ready. We must be united.

There must be a radical change in our mindset. We must release forgiveness. The self must decrease and God must increase. The fruit of the spirit must be evident in all of us. Leaders must be deeply zealous in pleasing God. There must be the fear of God amongst all our members and pastors.

Let us then, lay hold of the promise of God in Zech. 4:6 “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit.” Yes, by God’s Spirit alone can 2016 be a year of revival.

By BRO. MICHAEL RAJA,
CONFERENCE SECRETARY

METHODIST PILLEY INSTITUTE

Thanksgiving Service and 25th Anniversary Celebration



On 15 January 2016, Methodist Pilley Institute held a Thanksgiving Service to mark the beginning of a year-long celebration of its 25th Anniversary. Bishop Ong Hwai Teik used Isaiah 60:1-3 to encourage the Institute to "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you," particularly during the current state where darkness is seemingly overbearing. In his sharing, Bishop Ong emphasized that Sarawak, with over 40% of its population being Christians, is in a great position to exert a positive influence and to shine for the Lord in the midst of turmoil and all that's happening near and far. Methodist Pilley Institute, being strategically located in the central region of the State, and as one of the two Methodist-owned higher learning institutions in Malaysia, should seize every opportunity to be the vessel through which God's light can be reflected and shined-through.

The Chairman of Board of Directors, Mr. Chang Jih Ren announced during

the service that the Institute will make provision for 10% of tuition fees collected from all new students who enrolled at the Institute in 2016 to sponsor 140 stateless or underprivileged children in three agencies in Kuching, Sibu and Miri. By offering formal education to these children, these agencies help break the vicious cycles that poverty and illiteracy bring. The three agencies are Tudan Community Learning Centre operated by Tudan Methodist Church in Miri, Pusat Jagaan Kanak-Kanak D'Wira in Kuching, and Destiny for Children Association in Sibu. In addition to financial assistance, Mr. Chang encouraged students from the Institute to actively and purposefully include the three agencies in their activities so that they can be more involved in the lives of these children.

In 1991, Methodist Pilley Institute superseded Pilley Memorial Secondary School that was established in 1967 in remembrance of American missionaries Mr. & Mrs. John A. Pilley who

served and toiled selflessly in the central region of Sarawak in 1950's. The Institute has grown steadily over the years in terms of programmes offered as well as number of students. Currently, with nearly a thousand students, the Institute offers 4 diploma programmes, 2 professional programmes, 3 bachelor degrees, and a number of English programmes such as IETLS, TOEFL & MUET.

Friends, alumni, students and some of the sponsored children from Destiny presented various performances during the compact yet meaningful service. Though the service had ended, the celebration of God's provision and grace over the past 25 years will continue with various meaningful events throughout the year, culminating in a grand celebration on 9 September 2016.

By Madam Judy Wong
CEO/Principal of MPI

Recounting God's provisions and grace throughout the 25 years by Mdm Judy Wong, CEO/Principal of MPI.



MY CALLING TO MISSIONS

Pastor Lee Peng Chiat

When I was a teenager, one day I heard the Lord say to me, "Follow me!" and again He spoke to me through His Word in Acts 1:8 saying, "You will be my witness." A few years later, at a missions conference during my varsity days, He challenged me with the verse from John 20:21: "*As the Father has sent Me so send I you.*" I knew then that God was calling me to go out into His mission fields to proclaim His Word.

Over the years, the Lord began to unfold His plans for me by preparing me to fulfil His call for my life. My first step in missions' involvement was the Scripture Union School Tours in 1969. Under the leadership of Mr. David Tow, a staff worker, a group of us who were varsity students on vacation, visited the missions schools in Penang. Even though the trip was just from Kuala Lumpur to Penang, I was excited. During the trip, we took over the chapel services and school Christian fellowship meetings. Besides preaching the Word of God we also did skits and song presentation and in addition, we also ministered in the youth fellowships of some churches. These enriching experiences not only exposed me to Christian ministry but also opened my eyes to various roles that each team member could play.

In 1968 during the long University break I eagerly signed up for the Missionary Observation Scheme and was privileged to stay with the family of a missionary attached to Overseas Missionary Fellowship for two weeks. Here I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the life of a missionary family and the challenges of being in missions. Their day started with a time of devotion and prayers and I joined them in some of the programmes in the local church they pastored.

Later in life, I was constantly challenged by the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20: "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" I felt this calling so strongly in my heart.

As a result, whenever God gave me the opportunity, I would go on mission trips that took me to places like the Philippines, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Nepal. At the local level, I have participated in missions activities in Sabah and Sarawak and the Orang Asli villages here in West Malaysia. Every mission involvement brings me great joy as I see the Gospel preached, people's lives transformed and my own life enriched. Time and again, I have experienced God's presence with me as He promised He would. Let me share with you a testimony of the reality of God's presence that I encountered recently.

In June last year, I was part of a team that went for a mission trip to Lubuk Antu in the interior of Sarawak. The journey required us to travel 5½ hours upstream in long boats. Since it was the dry season, the water level of the river was very low, making the boat ride very bumpy. Many times, we had to alight from the boat to push it over the rapids and it was very challenging for the older members of the team. After the long, strenuous journey sitting on the wooden board in the boat, my behind was very sore and I was in tremendous pain. I could barely sit and had to improvise using a 'cushion' to sit on. I continued to suffer from pain throughout my time there, finding it unbearable to put my weight on my behind. I was dreading the boat ride home and wondered how I was going to manage it.

On the return boat trip, I rolled up my T-shirts and towel into a cushion to sit on. After travelling for about an hour, I was in pain



The arduous journey by the long boats



A wonderful time of praise and worship

again and I could not sit anymore; I had to lie down on one side and when this position got unbearable, I turned to the other side. I was so tired and longed to just drift off to sleep but sleeping on my side with one ear pressed against the floorboard, the sounds of the bottom of the boat knocking against the boulders was magnified. In my desperation I began to cry out to God for mercy and healing. At the same time, I told myself that in future, I would not participate in any mission ventures that required long boat rides. As I thought this, I felt an impression in my spirit that Lord Jesus was rebuking me saying, "Do not complain nor set any conditions. Wherever I send you, go! I shall be with you!" Soon I fell asleep under the blazing sun and the next thing I knew the boat had arrived at the jetty, our final destination. I had slept right through the whole time. How amazing!

Having quite forgotten what had happened earlier, I quickly got out of the boat with my belongings. In a daze I walked to a pickup truck that was waiting to take us to a coffee shop. When we arrived at the shop, I suddenly realised that, praise God, the pain had totally gone! I could sit on the chair without feeling any pain or discomfort whatsoever. Praise the Lord Jesus! I was miraculously healed! God proves Himself faithful to His promise that "I shall be with you till the very end of the age," Matthew 28:20. Glory to God!

Isaiah 6:8

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, Here am I. Send me!"

I know that when He sends me He will be with me.



The team with the villagers of Lubuk Antu

Prayer Points

1. Pray for more workers to answer the call of God to go out to the mission fields.
2. Pray that the Lord will continue to open up opportunities to share about Him in every village even those resistant to the gospel message.
3. Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for Pastor Lee to serve Him in the unreached areas of Sarawak and share God's message of salvation.

Opening New Work in Selangor

By R.W. Munson

On the afternoon of the 4th of March, Rev. W.G. Shellabear and I took passage on the s.s. *Malacca* for the port of Klang, which we reached on the second morning after leaving Singapore. We entered the Klang river very early in the morning, and by half past six we had dropped anchor, but we failed to catch the 7 a.m. train to Kwala Lumpur, the capital of the State of Selangor, by the narrow margin of about ten seconds, and had the pleasure of watching the train as it disappeared in the distance. As we had to wait two hours for the next train, we found our way to the Rest House and ordered breakfast, which was dispatched in time to permit us to see the town, which we did on our bicycles. Entering a respectable looking shop, we were accosted by a Chinaman who spoke English very well, and who informed us that he had studied in the Free School at Penang. His employer was the opium farmer, who takes such an interest in the education of his countrymen that, with the assistance of other wealthy Chinamen, he has established an Anglo-Chinese Free School at Klang, which will soon be housed in a new building now in course of erection. This building will accommodate fifty or sixty pupils, and there are now about thirty in attendance, none of whom pay any fees. We were informed that the contemplated extension of the railway to Kwala Klang would not prove detrimental to the town of Klang, inasmuch as its prosperity depends far more upon the plantations in the district than upon the shipping or the railway.

The railway to Kwala Lumpur is a very good one, but the speed is rather moderate, though not so slow as to

make the journey uninteresting. The high expectations aroused by what we had heard of the very fine railway station at Kwala Lumpur were not in the least degree disappointed. One is immediately reminded of the home lands by the superior architecture and the general equipment of the station. We were not prepared, however, to see such fine Government buildings as are now in process of construction, stretching along the Esplanade in the centre of the town. A hundred yards or more in length, with a lofty tower in the middle, decidedly modern and up to date in its architecture, which is Moorish in style, and costing \$330,000, this building promises to be by far the finest structure east of Calcutta, if not indeed of Bombay. Such an edifice is a striking proof of the wealth and importance not only of the State of Selangor but also of the whole of the Federated Malay States, the central government of which is to be located here. Singapore and Penang must look to their laurels, for the time is not remote when Kwala Lumpur will rival if not surpass them both.

Kwala Lumpur is situated at the junction of the Klang river with one of its tributaries. The valley is occupied by the Chinese town, the railway station, the new Government offices, and the Esplanade, around which are grouped a few other Government buildings, while the European residents live chiefly on the hills to the west of the river. These hills are very numerous, and rise to a height of from one to two hundred feet. The European houses are almost invariably bungalows, with a pretty style of architecture peculiar to the Native States. The view from these hill tops is really sublime. The mountains stretch-

ing along the northern and eastern horizon and towering four or five thousand feet heavenward are a lovely sight, as they lie green and mottled under the midday sun, their appearance ever varying with the shifting cloud shadows or driving rain storms. Each hour in the day furnishes some fresh delight for the eye in these great reminders of the Maker of all things. The climate is much drier and more salubrious than that of Singapore, and the mornings and evenings are cooler if the day is hotter.

A journey of three hours to Kwala Kubu, the terminus of the railway, confirmed what we had heard, that a beautiful and fertile country extends far inland. The level of the country rises gradually, and at the same time presents a more and more attractive and interesting prospect. As we rolled along, tract after tract of newly cut jungle filled with charred stumps and prostrate trunks alternated with plantations of dark green, healthy coffee trees. In every new plantation large nursery beds protected by a light flat roof of palm branches were crowded with tiny coffee trees in various stages of growth. Enterprise, push, and prosperity in embryo are written large on all these wide acres.

There are two important mining towns between Kwala Lumpur and the terminus, Serendah and Rawang, the former inhabited mainly by Hakka Chinamen and the latter by Hokkiens.

Kwala Kubu is so near the mountains that it lies in their cool morning shadow, and a clear mountain stream runs through the village. Here is the beginning of the important cart road which

is now being pushed across the mountains into the very heart of Pahang. It is expected that the railway will follow in time, and that the rich State of Pahang, so inaccessible from the eastward on account of the heavy surf caused by the N.E. Monsoon, will thus be provided with an easy and unfailing line of communication with the outer world. Moreover it is proposed to construct a line of railway from Kwala Kubu to Ipoh, in order to connect the railway system of Selangor with that of Perak, so there is every prospect that Kwala Kubu will

be a place of great importance in the future.

It will be understood from what has been said above that planting promises to be an important industry in Selangor, but at present the majority of the population get their living out of the tin mines, and, as is the case in mining districts all over the world, the moral condition of the people is terribly low. The Government officials seem to be quite persuaded that the Chinese immigrants should be provided with facilities for

indulging in those vices to which they are most addicted, and consequently licensed gambling and opium shops are found everywhere, and until recently the houses of ill-fame bore the Government *imprimatur*. Murders, gang robberies, and other crimes of violence are prevalent throughout the State of Selangor. Those who sow the wind must reap the whirlwind.

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Children from Destiny for Children who came to perform during the thanksgiving service, with Mr. Chang Jih Ren (far right) looking on.



Rev. Dr. Wong Kee Sing handing over the pictures of 40 children from Tudan Community Learning Centre to Mr. Chang Jih Ren, witnessed by Mr. Hii Ching Chiong, Honorary Chairman of MPI, and Mdm. Judy Wong, the CEO/Principal.

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