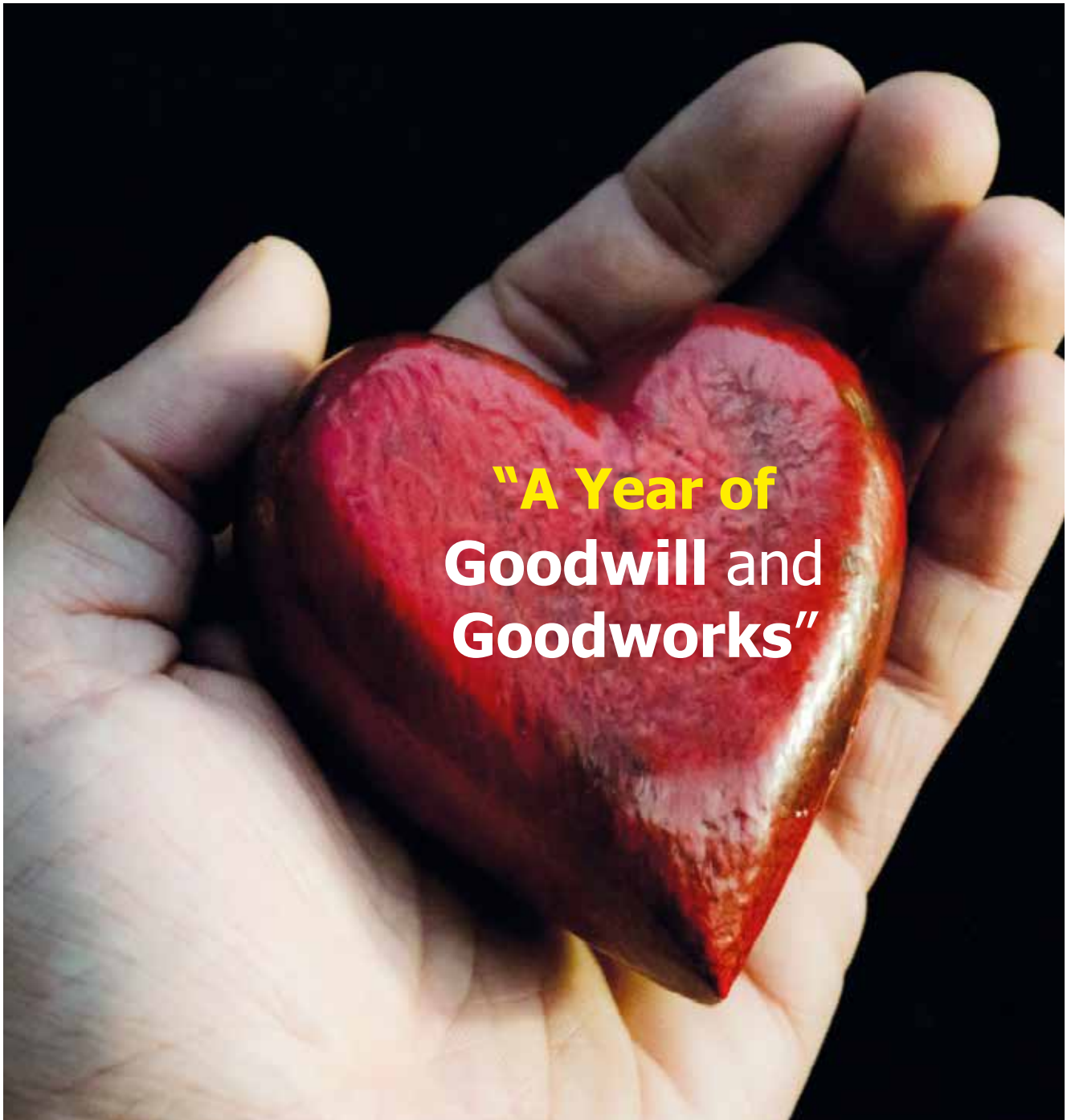


PELITA METHODIST

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**"A Year of
Goodwill and
Goodworks"**

Moment

Christmas Gifts from GC, AEC and COE to Ray of Hope Home.



Last year, the staff of the Methodist Church in Malaysia was privileged to bless the 'Ray of Hope' home for children.

Gifts are always nice to receive. We hope that God's providence and blessings continually fill this home for years to come.

**Wishing you a
Blessed New Year**

From:
Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik & Family
and all staff of Methodist HQ



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Praying through in the midst of darkness

Our eyes see darkness...and we may lose heart in continuing to pray and watch. But, we may have forgotten that darkness is part of creation and is made by God to serve His own purposes. God, who is light, was in the thick darkness when Moses drew near to Him (Ex. 20:21). In the darkness, God is revealed (1st Kg 8:12-13, 9:1-9).

The darkness is not dark for God sees the night to be as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to Him (Psalm 139:12). He is able to see through the thickest darkness and is never blinded by the darkness on earth.

In view of the above, what then should we pray as we journey forward in 2016?

Prayer for ourselves

1. Pray for humility that we understand the fact that we who have physical eyes have no advantage over the blind when it comes to seeing God. We may not see what God sees.
2. Pray that our souls will continue be enlightened by grace, staying focused in our listening to God, and keeping alert in our ministries of praying-watching for our nation.

Prayer for His Church

1. Pray for the Malaysian Church, especially our MCM, to have a deep awareness of God's divine transcendence and incomprehensibility. This will help us to grow as a God fearing Church with humility and holiness as marks.
2. Pray that MCM will continue after God's heart, stay focused in growing disciples that all His people called Methodists will engage actively in works of piety, works of mercy, evangelism, and social justice in our community and our nation.

Prayer for Our Land

1. Pray that God will continue to shine upon our land that even where there is darkness, such darkness will become luminous darkness that we see God's heart and God's hand.
2. Pray for the rulers, the cabinet, all parliament members, and civil servants, that they will use their positional leadership to advance righteousness, peace and stability in this land. Pray particularly for Christian MPs, leaders and others in positions of influence, that they will have the wisdom and courage to stand up for integrity. Pray that they will find grace to stand up for justice and act for the common good of all people.

M24/7 Prayer Secretariat

28/01/2016

An Episcopal

MISSIONAL CALL

A Methodist Church after God's Own Heart -

**Growing deep and strong inside,
Standing with Christ's Body nationwide,
Giving God glory from every side.**

"A Year of Goodwill and Goodworks"

It was most touching to read the article "Malaysians open wallets, give back to community at free markets" [by Melita A Jalil, Malaysian Insider, 24 January 2016]. It was reported that generous Malaysians "dug into their pockets to help others in need even in a sour economy". Not only were stalls offering used items, but also new items were given away at that Sunday free market in Putrajaya. One participant, Isa Nawawi, said: "There are 4 of us. We are just a bunch of friends who came together to do our part for others, and we bought things that people can use daily... We are blessed and we want to share the blessings."

This bunch of 4 friends reminds us of the 4 friends in Mark 2:3-4, who carried their paralyzed friend and literally delivered him to the feet of Jesus – via the roof!

For the followers of Christ, these are beautiful and powerful reminders of **Ephesians 2:8-10** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The grace of God is the origin, source and cause of our salvation; faith is the channel of response in receiving this salvation by a confident trust and reliance upon Christ Jesus as the sole means of obtaining salvation [ie deliverance from the final judgement wrath of Almighty God]. Once a believer is in Christ Jesus, that person experiences being "born again" in the re-creative power of God, "to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

When we do "good works" we reflect once again the pristine and unfallen state of the Garden of Eden, as intended by God from the very beginning of creation. Even if it is only for a moment, "good works" will reflect not alienation but harmony with God, with creation, with other human beings and with ourselves– which was the Divine intention in the Garden of Eden. When that original Divine intention is fulfilled – then the glory of our Father Creator will be seen. So **Matthew 5:16 declares**, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

John Wesley teaches that in the Bible, grace, faith, and works are necessarily connected. We possess the faith of a child of God when in Christ Jesus God justifies us and brings us to new birth through grace. This faith empowers us to know, love, and trust in God, conclusively and assertively reorienting and redirecting our hearts. We start to love as God loves,

and want what God wants [Gal 5:6 – *faith working through love*]. Our lives begin to reflect that change and transformation when our hearts begin to be governed by new motivations and desires. Holiness of heart leads to holiness of life, and that is revealed and shown in good works.

The bond between faith and good works is as indissoluble as that between heart and life. John Wesley goes on to say in his sermon - *The Scripture Way of Salvation*, "It is incumbent on all that are justified to be zealous of good works, and these are so necessary that if a man willingly neglects them, he cannot reasonably expect that he shall ever be sanctified".

Wesley's good works of mercy is summarised by Wesleyan scholar Richard Heitzenrater as being "teaching, feeding, and clothing poor children; furnishing gainful employment to the jobless; giving loans to struggling entrepreneurs; visiting the sick and the prisoners; providing food, money, clothing, shelter, books, medicine, and other essentials to the needy" [The Imatio Christi and the Great Commandment: Virtue and Obligation in Wesley's Ministry with the Poor" in *The Portion of the Poor*. ed., Douglas Meeks]. Heitzenrater further asserts that "the deeds Wesley performed were *uncharacteristic* for an individual of such distinction and background. Wesley's interest in social works was not normal for an Oxford don who was educated at one of the best Oxford colleges and was from a background of scholarly parents".

Wesley's social ministry was also focused on the sick. Wesley's depth of compassion is illustrated by one of his most important sermons, "On Visiting the Sick" (1786). Wesley established free medical clinics in London, Newcastle, and Bristol. In addition, Wesley's Foundry clinic is sometimes called the first free public medical clinic in London. Wesley is known for founding the group known as "visitors of the sick," in 1741 to minister throughout places with Methodist presence.

Another category of good works [that the Methodist Church in Malaysia also inherited] is Wesley's educational programs. Wesley held education to be pertinent not only to train children, but also to liberate uneducated adults. In order to fulfil this good work, Wesley founded schools in many places including the Foundry, Bristol, and Newcastle, but he is most famous for establishing the ever demanding Kingswood School of 1748. In this aspect, the Methodist Church in Malaysia continues to pursue and provide education with *mission, excellence and compassion*.

There are two fundamental reasons for the unbreakable bond between faith and good works. Firstly, James [3:14] declares

that **faith without works is dead**. Wesley commented that in this James does not “oppose faith to works,” but insists “true faith...cannot subsist without works” (*Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*). It becomes clear then that a dead faith is not faith at all, and a faith is only living if it produces the fruit of good works rooted in sincere and authentic repentance (provided there is both time and opportunity).

The second reason for this important unbreakable bond is that good works are not only manifestations of living faith and a changed heart, but **also means of grace for our own growth**. Works of piety such as searching the Scriptures, the Lord’s Supper, prayer, fasting, worship, etc not only put love into action, but are means God uses to enable our growth in the knowledge and love of God. Wesley says that works of mercy are likewise both manifestations of obedience to God and love for others as well as means used by God to increase that love and relationship with Him.

In summary, the nature of this linkage in the Scripture is: **grace** enables faith; **faith**, in turn, produces **works**. Ours then is a theology of grace and love, which has at its center the promise of transformed hearts and lives.

In this New Year, let us then be determined to personally and communally pursue **a year of goodwill and goodworks** which is most sorely needed in our troubled land. Let us as

God’s people called Methodists, rise above the darkness and hardness of bigotry, growing poverty, mistrust, resentment, anger and violence enveloping our beloved country. We can do this when we carry out specific and tangible good deeds for strangers, neighbours, colleagues, family and nation.

It will be helpful if we bear in mind the following and act upon them: *to forgive offences more readily/willingly, to bear wrongs patiently, to comfort the afflicted and sick, to visit the lonely, imprisoned and infirmed, to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to shelter the homeless and clothe the naked, to defend the oppressed as necessary and let us not forget.....*

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.”

Luke 6:36 “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has
anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

Devotion

Practical Help

IN WORD:

What does a disciple of Jesus look like? If we are truly His disciples—in other words, if we actually try to live like Him—then we’re going to do some of the things He did while He walked on this planet. We’re going to do what we can to heal people, to comfort them, to teach them, to feed them, and even to take a firm stand in the face of falsehood. We’re going to resist the forces of darkness and live in the light. We’re going to love people however we can, whether that comes in the form of a compassionate embrace of a leper or a stern rebuke of a Pharisee. Above all, we are not going to be passive observers of those around us.

That goes against our human nature. Both selfish tendencies and our culture at large urge us not to involve ourselves in things that don’t concern us—and it’s true that the Bible never tells us to be busybodies in other people’s affairs. But when we encounter people with needs, people whom God

has put into our lives for a reason, we are compelled to do what Jesus Himself would do. Offer a miracle, or a prayer for a miracle, or a loaf of bread, or a compassionate word. We cannot simply wish people well. We often have to be the means by which they get well.

IN DEED:

How much of your life is spent meeting the needs of others? Do your resources, your time, and your efforts go toward practical help? If you take care of children or an aging parent, you may feel stretched in that area already. Still, there are others who come to your doorstep—literally or figuratively—who have desperate needs, and with a little bit of effort, you can find out what the needs are and how to meet them.

Don’t follow the trend of our society to draw firm lines around family and friends, never reaching beyond them. The gospel isn’t about isolation, it’s about infiltrating the world with mercy. Demonstrate mercy in practical ways.

MCCBCHST : NSC Bill undermines the constitution and civil liberties

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) is dismayed that the National Security Council (NSC) Bill was passed in a hurry on 3rd December, 2015 being the last day of the Parliament's sitting. This is because the NSC Bill has serious consequences as it appears to over-ride certain provisions of the Federal Constitution and puts civil liberties in jeopardy and abuse.

The following are some of the obnoxious features contained in the Bill:

- (i) Being a Bill dealing with National Security it should have been formulated under Article 149 of the Federal Constitution as was done in the case of the Security Offences (Special Measure) Act 2012.

Article 149 of the Federal Constitution concerns legislation against subversion, actions prejudicial to public order, fear of organised violence, etc, and thus this provision should have been cited in this NSC Bill.

- (ii) The NSC Bill also appears to have contravened Article 150 (I) of the Federal Constitution which provides "If the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong is satisfied that a grave emergency exists whereby the security or the economic life, or public order in the Federation or any part thereof is threatened, he may issue a Proclamation of Emergency making therein a declaration to that effect."

Thus, the NSC Bill appears to be usurping the powers of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong when it comes to declaring an emergency or in the words of the NSC Bill declaring of a "security area" which has a similar effect as a Declaration of Emergency, where then civil liberty provisions are suspended.

Thus, the NSC which is headed by the Prime Minister, and where members of the NSC are appointed by the Prime Minister, will be able by declaration of a "security area" to exercise all emergency powers under the NSC which are akin to Emergency powers invoked under Article 150 (I) after the Declaration of Emergency by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

- (iii) The definition of "National Security" is so wide as to amount to a "catch-all" phrase. It encompasses "sovereignty, territorial integrity, defence, socio-political stability, economic stability, strategic resources, national unity, and other interests relating to national security [Section 4 (a) of the NSC Bill].

- (iv) The legislation in many areas is open-ended and vague, thus allowing the Security Council to determine what constitutes a security issue [see Section 18 (1) of the NSC Bill].

What makes it more obnoxious is that the Bill protects the NSC members from any suits, thus rendering them completely unaccountable for their actions.

- (v) The security forces are also given excessive powers. They can take possession of any land, building, or moveable property in a security area. They also have powers to destroy any building or structure within a security area. Incredibly, there is also power to dispense with inquests of members of the security forces and persons killed within the security area as long as the Magistrate is satisfied that the person had been killed in the security area as a result of operations undertaken by security forces.
- (vi) Our NSC Bill appears to be modelled according to the US National Security Council. But the US chapter serves as an advisory and policy forum for the President of the US to discuss national security and foreign policy matters.

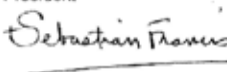
A further objection to the NSC Bill is that it has over-focused on empowering the Prime Minister and the drafters of the Bill appear to have completely forgotten to require the NSC to produce a National Security Policy. It is understood that the Malaysian Government has not produced any document on National Security Policy until today.

Since there is no National Security Policy formulated, the NSC Bill if not suspended, must be expanded to include representation from other Barisan Nasional component parties in the Cabinet including Ministers from Sabah and Sarawak so that the National Security Policy is inclusive of all interests.

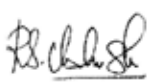
We wish to conclude by appealing to the Government to suspend the NSC Bill. If the Bill is not suspended then it must be amended to include Cabinet Ministers from other Barisan Nasional component parties so that a proper National Security Policy could be formulated and followed. Finally, the Bill must allow for a legal challenge in courts, so that any abuse could be checked. In a democracy, such vast powers without check and balance cannot be given to a body.


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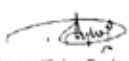

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17 December 2015

**HIGHLY OFFENSIVE FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TO ENGAGE
IN DEMONISING RELIGIOUS MINORITY**

The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) once again protests strongly the portrayal of Christians and the exercise of their freedom of religion as a "threat" in our multi-religious nation, which took place at a seminar held at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) campus in Lendu, Malacca on 12 December 2015.

This is the second time UiTM has conducted such a seminar, the first being in May 2014. The difference on this occasion was the participation of the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), which has been defended by the Inspector General of Police himself. The police have unfortunately allowed themselves to be drawn into this display of skewed biasness.

It is wholly unacceptable for a public university, utilising public funds, to undertake activities that demonises a religious minority. This is highly offensive. No government should condone such activity, and we are appalled by the seeming irresponsible inaction on the part of the Government of Malaysia in permitting this to have taken place.

Academic freedom requires objectivity and balance, not a one-sided partisan rant and rave. Should anyone wish to discuss this supposed threat of "Christianisation", let it take place in the open, with participation from the national Christian community. Let the allegations be supported with proper research and concrete evidence, not wild anecdotes and unverified assertions.

We call on the Government of Malaysia to put an end to the distasteful and disgusting derogatory activities of this nature. Instrumentalities and agencies of the government, such as the PDRM, must refrain from participating and lending legitimacy to frivolous allegations and unsubstantiated claims.

As we enter into the celebration of Christmas, we remind the Government of Malaysia of its constitutional obligation to protect, promote and uphold the freedom of religion and fundamental liberties of ALL Malaysians, and not just of the Muslim majority.

Yours Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng,
Chairman and the Executive Committee,
Christian Federation of Malaysia

华人年议会第四十届会议— 靠主圣灵 布道我行!



2015年11月10至12日，马来西亚基督教卫理公会第四十届华人年议会，于波德申卫理中心进行；主题是“靠主圣灵 布道我行”本届出席的代表与副代表人数，是330。

首日下午二时，年会议会进行圣餐崇拜仪式，由华勇荣誉会督（博士）证道，题目是“靠主圣灵 布道我行！”会督藉经文〈约翰福音〉3章5至8节，指出若要宣教，除了蒙圣灵带领与充满，信徒也要具备良好的规划、管理方式与传教技巧。

接着，完成圣餐仪式后，莫会长向会众介绍来宾，即三一年议会会友领袖 Datin Judy Chin、淡米尔年议会会友领袖 Brother Clarence James、印度宣教区的摩西牧师和马来西亚神学院院长萧帝佑牧师。

莫会长在演辞中，强调年会调整和加强海外宣教、国内布道的应对策略，即按年会人力、经济能

力拓展宣教事工；在各宣教区资助建堂、领养教会、访宣关怀；培育教牧、训练门徒、栽培神学生；鼓励宣教区学习自立自养自传；寻找宣教福音伙伴，开拓新资源；强化宣教区组织，加强管理机制；山区：一村一教会、一区一学校。展望未来，会长希望由异象导向的年会能实现六大目标：原住民和外劳宣教事工；青年事工；帮助年会的小牧区，尤其是财援；聘请邱学新弟兄为年会全职同工，专司布道、宣教、原住民、外劳等行政事工；成立律师团契；加强年会的经济基础。

11日晚上，莫会长恭请会督报告总议会事项，即2015年卫理公会营会；原住民事工委员会；宣教与布道；建立国际学校，须耗资约五千万令吉，所有年会皆参与建筑事工；继续持守“M 24 / 7”祷告运动；总议会出版各书籍、手册和赈

灾事工等等。

12日早上十时，会督证道，以“Cannot But to Bless (不得不祝福)”(民23: 13-26) 为题。会督指出巴勒王要藉贪婪的先知—巴兰，诅咒以色列民。但神警告巴兰，只能说出神要他说的话，巴兰惟有大大祝福以色列，敌人诡计无法得逞；足证以色列由始至终都蒙神眷顾。神至今仍看顾、保守祂的教会。

本届新晋副牧是管伟业、颜子钧、林孝标、刘立章、许凯伟和陈联麒；新长牧是汤鹏翔、黄伟善、黄珮琳、潘武忠、梁永聪、张丽云和杨肃恩。

最后，莫会长主持第四十届年议会闭幕礼时，宣布：2016年11月15至18日，第四十一届年议会将在波德申卫理中心进行，中四教区协办，南中教区助办。为期三天两夜的本届年议会，顺利结束。

Proclaiming the Gospel by the Power of the Holy Spirit

The 40th Session Chinese Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in Malaysia was held from 10-12 November 2015 at Port Dickson Methodist Centre with the theme “Proclaiming the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit”. A total of 330 delegates and deputy delegates were present.

The Annual Conference began with the Holy Communion service at 2:00pm. Bishop Emeritus Dr. Hwa Yung delivered a sermon following the theme “Proclaiming the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit” based on John 3:5-8. Bishop Hwa Yung pointed out that to be involved in mission, apart from being led and filled by the Holy Spirit, believers must also be equipped with proper planning, good management methods and mission skills.

After the Holy Communion service, President Boh introduced the following special guests: Datin Judy Chin, Lay Leader of Trinity Annual Conference; Brother Clarence James, Lay Leader of Tamil Annual Conference; Rev. T. S. Moses from India Mission District and Rev. Dr. Philip Siew, Principal of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia.

In his address, President Boh emphasised the importance of strengthening and reviewing the local and overseas mission and evangelism strategies according to the human resources and financial ability of the Annual Conference. We would sponsor church building in the various mission districts, adopt churches, make visits as a way of care and concern; nurture pastors, train disciples, grow seminarians; encourage these mission districts to be independent and self-financing; recruit mission partners; explore new resources; strengthen the organisation of mission districts and their management structure. Our slogan is: One Village One Church; One District One School. As for future plans, President Boh hopes to achieve the following six major goals through a vision oriented Annual Conference: involving indigenous and migrant ministry; youth ministry; to assist smaller parishes especially in financial aid; to recruit Bro. Ku Hock Sing as full time staff of the Annual Conference specialising in evangelism,



Group photo taken at Nan Pang, Myanmar

mission, indigenous and migrant ministries; to form Lawyers Fellowship; and to strengthen the financial base of the Annual Conference.

On the night of 11 November, President Boh also invited Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik to present some key General Conference (GC) matters, among which were the conventions conducted in 2015; Indigenous Mission Task Force (IMTF); mission and evangelism; construction of an international school which cost approximately RM55 million whereby all Annual Conferences would be involved in the construction project; to continue M24/7 Prayer Movement; books and manuals published by the GC; disaster relief work, etc.

On 12 November at 10:00am, Bishop Ong delivered a sermon entitled “Cannot But to Bless” based on Numbers 23:13-26. Bishop Ong pointed out that King Balak intended to curse the Israelites through the corrupted Prophet Balaam. However, God warned Ba-

laam to speak only what God wanted him to speak, that Balaam was to greatly bless the nation of Israel, thus the enemies’ plots never succeeded. Therefore, it is evident that God has blessed Israel since the beginning. Today, God still guards and watches over His church.

At the Ordination Service, new deacons ordained were Gan Zi Jun, Ling How Piu, Loo Lik Chang, Koh Kai Wei and Ting Lian Kee; while new elders ordained were Teng Perng Shyang, Wong Vic Cern, Wong Pey Ling, Phan Wu Chung, Liong Weng Choong, Tiong Lee Ying and Yeoh Siok Earn.

At the closing ceremony, President Boh announced that the 41st Session Chinese Annual Conference would be held from 15-18 November 2016 at Port Dickson Methodist Centre, co-organised by Central District 4 and assisted by South Central District. The Annual Conference Session thus concluded smoothly.



Group photo taken at Cochin, India

SIAC reached 43,572 in number! Iban Language Worship in KL and Johor Bahru



Group photo

The 40th Session of Sarawak Iban Annual Conference (SIAC) was held from 29th November to 1st December 2015. The present recorded number of Sarawak Iban Methodists has reached 43,572, with those above 12 numbering 27,392 and the rest at 16,180. In 2015, 257 adults and 498 children were baptized.

This year, three pastors were ordained as Deacons and another as Elder Rev. Bayan Ak Penguwang is now Elder while new Deacons are Lembai Anak Banyang, Winnie Chendu Anak Bagong and Olyver Alyendess Anak Broken. Pastor Tallon Anak Tindit, Ansor Anak Kut. Bangau Amping will retire officially next year. The Pastor joining the ministry is Lau Lee Lam who is joining the ordained ministry. She has been the Director of SIAC Christian Education.

According to the Financial Report, the total income of 2015 has reached RM1,095, 924.99. The deficit is slightly more than 100,000. This shows that SIAC is 80% self sufficient.

The President of SIAC, Rev. Steward Damat, accepted an interview from the Chinese Methodist Message 2 days after the conference. He said that 2015 was also SIAC's 40th Session. President Damat's key note address focused on how God has been faithful to the Annual Conference over the years. It has not been an easy journey towards being self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating. Brothers and sisters – in-Christ from all the Methodist Conferences in Malaysia and Singapore and the world have given him great encouragement.

Another good piece of news is that the Iban Methodist Church in Sibujaya is 70% completed. The church building project is expected to be completed in April 2016. The President is very grateful to the Methodist Churches in West Malaysia and Singapore, Chinese Congregations of Sibu West, East and Central districts for their generous support. This RM2.7 million project is situated at Sibujaya new township.

After the Sibujaya project, Miri Iban Methodist Church in Miri is also undergoing another church construction project. Construction of this Church building which commenced in 2015 is still ongoing. Apart from that, another construction project will follow in Kanowit. It is projected to commence in 2016.

He also disclosed that SIAC will continue to conduct the Tuai Sembayang courses for 120 church members coming from Sibu, Bintulu, Kapit and Sarikei districts. The purpose is to enhance their basic knowledge on the Bible, theology, Church history and liturgy. This course is jointly sponsored by the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, Trinity Annual Conference, Sarawak Iban Annual Conference and Indigenous Ministry Task Force (IMTF). It is hoped that after this training, these participants will be able to act as lay preachers in their respective longhouses and local churches. The Church Planters' Institute will be held in March, June and September.

SIAC plans to publish 3 editions of its newsletters each year from 2016 onwards. Thus, they have restructured

the Literature and Multi-Media Board which is led by the President himself with assistance from Navy Ak Jalan.

“We had published a few newsletters in recent years and found that they had been useful in integrating the fellowship among the church members, acting as a network. They also helped others to know more about our ministry,” the President told CM.

In 2016, SIAC will continue to hold a Prayer Convention on 29th April - 1st of May 2016 in Kapit Sarawak. Other events like Children Prayer and Youth Camp, Worship and Liturgy Workshop will also be conducted. Pastors' School will be held on March 12-14, 2016 in Sibu Methodist Centennial Park. Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik and the Reverend Thomas Lau will speak at the Pastors' School. There will also be 5 in 1 program for youths, Sunday School Teachers Training and Music Training which will be held in March and in December, Youth Camp 2016 will be conducted.

In order to serve those Ibans working in the Klang Valley and Putra Jaya, the Borneo Methodist Christian Fellowship (BMCF) is formed to assist them. Sunday worship is at 11am at Muk En Methodist Church. At present there are about 60 members consisting mainly of families living in West Malaysia. Some are students from Sarawak. In Johor Bahru, the Iban Congregation at Skudai preaching point has become a local Church. We are praying that God will grant them a permanent place to worship Him.

邀请各宗教代表齐来庆祝圣诞节 苏慈安：圣诞节代表和平与和谐

在这个充满着爱的圣诞节里，卫理公会砂拉越华人年议会于12月21日假富雅各宣教楼礼堂举办圣诞节开放门户活动，邀请各宗教代表一起来唱《平安夜》及《普世欢腾》，传达宗教和平与人类和谐的重要讯息。

除了邀请卫理公会伊班年议会参与外，约有60位来自伊斯兰教的穆斯林（包括宗教司），还有佛教、天主教、婆罗洲福音教会与锡克教等宗教的代表在当天中午受邀来到富雅各楼，互相介绍握手问安，并且一起合影，随后便前往空中花园，一同共进午餐与聊天，呈现出人间天堂的真善美。

砂拉越华人年议会会长苏慈安牧师在致词时表示，是项开放门户活动主要是回应于今年8月开斋节期间，于An Nur大清真寺举行的跨宗教开斋节开放门户活动，诗巫各不同宗

教的团体当时也受邀出席。而当天的圣诞节开放门户亦是诗巫第一次有不同宗教的团体于圣诞季节里相聚。“这两次不同的聚会已打破了多元种族及宗教的诗巫社会之历史纪录。”

苏牧师说，圣诞节的来临令人想起，通过耶稣基督的诞生而带给全人类的救恩。但对大马来说，其含意应是和平与和谐，通过耶稣基督，和平来自上帝以及和谐来自人民。

“开放门户活动不仅说明我们是真正的马来西亚人，生活在多元种族、文化及宗教社会里和谐共处，因此这个聚会带来两项重要的意义和宗旨。”

一是促进多元种族的谅解，因为在上帝眼中人人是平等的，不分社会阶级、种族、性别、年龄及宗教。因此与不同信仰的真诚交流和对话

是健康及有必要的，同时相互间也要传达爱、尊重及应有的敏感度。

他称，联邦宪法也阐明，每个人拥有宗教的自由、对成人来说，每个人有自由选择宗教和履行其信仰的选择。同时在不受任何一方的骚扰和恐吓下，宗教团体也拥有履行信仰权。而当天出席的人，见证和体现了这个谅解。

另一个意义则是促进多元种族的和平与和谐。需要强调的一点是，打造和谐社会基石的元素是爱和相互的尊重、互相接纳，不论种族、文化、政治及宗教信仰。对家庭的照顾、甚至延伸到不同年龄和弱势一群、残障人士，外劳和家庭女工。

“尽管我们不同种族，但在价值观上却有共同点，如对环保的关注、善用高科技和资讯工艺及通讯以及节源。”

An Inter-religious Christmas Open House Gathering in Sibul, Sarawak, 2015

SCAC has successfully organized an inter-religious Christmas Open House Gathering in Masland Methodist Church, Sibul, from 11am to 1pm on 21 December, 2015. Its purpose was to foster better friendship and connection with people of other faiths.

The Annual Conference Associate Lay Leader, Mr. Hii Chang Kee, who is also the newly appointed Resident of Sibul, led the ice-breaking session, asking the leaders to introduce themselves. There were 62 people at this event, including 10 Imam and Muslim friends, 14 Buddhist leaders, 6 Sikh leaders, 2 leaders from Chinese folk religions, 4 Roman Catholic friends and Archbishop, 2 Anglican friends, 8 BEM friends, 4 ACS members, 2 SIAC friends and

President, and 10 representatives from SCAC.

In his welcoming speech, President Su Chii Ann remarked that it was the first time that such a gathering had taken place during Christmas season in the history of Sarawak, especially in Sibul. He said, “This gathering not only articulates that we are truly Malaysians, living together harmoniously in a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-racial society, but also brings about two significant meanings of Christmas. As Jesus is the Prince of Peace, he wants us to bring the message of peace and harmony to all people – peace with God and harmony with people. So today, we are here to embrace multi-religious understanding and to promote multi-racial

harmony. No one can practice religion as a lone-ranger. It must be practised and expressed through our relationship with God, with one another and with the community. Today’s gathering is just a humble beginning of such a kind of relationship.”

The gathering sang three Christmas songs and ended with benediction by President Su. Then, a buffet lunch was served. Those who were present felt excited and appreciative to have this gathering. They also expressed their hope to have more of such gatherings, join hands to render social services, hold dialogues and organize festive season visitations in time to come.

Please refer to page 14 for photo.

SR. METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL KUALA LUMPUR

Official Launch of the 120th Anniversary Celebrations and Thanksgiving Service



SR. METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL KUALA LUMPUR

Official Launch Of
120th ANNIVERSARY Celebrations

SR. MGSKL · 1896 · 2016 · 120 YEARS
ONWARD ONWARD MGS

#DATE#
Saturday,
9th January 2016

#GUEST OF HONOUR#
Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

#VENUE#
Mabel Marsh Hall,
Sr. MGSKL

"ONWARD, ONWARD MGS!!"

“Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord”: In a true spirit of joy and thankfulness, around 90 teachers, students, old girls, former principals, ex-teachers, members of the Board of Governors and Alumni of the Senior Methodist Girls’ School, Kuala Lumpur gathered for the launch of the 120th Anniversary Celebrations and to give thanks to God for 120 blessed years of the school’s existence. The singing of this much-loved hymn resounded in the Mabel Marsh Hall on the morning of Saturday, 9th January 2016. The event began with the official launch of the 120th Anniversary Celebrations by Rev. Dr Ong Hwai Teik, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. Also present was Mr Khor Hong Yin, Executive Director, Methodist Council of Education.

School principal, Madam Shi Lee Lee, in her welcome speech gave glory to God for 120 years of God’s grace, goodness and guidance. The school has grown in strength and number and thousands of young girls have passed through its gates. On the other hand, the school has stood through the war years,

fire and storm and faced numerous other challenges. She recounted the sacrifices of the early founders who gave up the comforts of life and home in America to sail to this land to start the school.

What better way to celebrate an anniversary than sing! Miss Tay Choon Neo, an old girl from the Class of 1971 led the congregation in songs of praise and worship. The service continued with the responsive reading of Psalm 111 led by Miss Winnie Ng, from the class of 1955. Madam Chia Loy Tian, former principal of the school read the Scripture lesson from 1 Chronicles 16: 28 -34. This was followed by a short reflection by Madam Phoon Yoke Meng, a true MGSian who having studied in MGS from Standard One to Form 6, had also served as School Principal. In her reflection, she shared how God had raised her up from a quiet, timid girl to becoming the Principal of her Alma Mater. A poignant reflection: “The school hall looked so big then but it is so small now”.





Arrival of Guest of Honour, Rev Dr. Ong Hwai Teik, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia



Welcome and Word of Greeting by the Principal, Madam Shi Lee Lee



Official Launch of the 120th Anniversary Celebrations by Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik



Call to service by Miss Satkunamary Gnanakkan



Opening Prayer by the Chaplain, Miss Tan Kwee Heong



Scripture Reading by Madam Chia Loy Tian



Songs of Praise led by Ms Tay Choon Neo



Responsive Reading by Ms Winnie Ng



Reflection by Madam Phoon Yoke Meng

Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik, in his message entitled “Unforgettable Long Journeys” spoke about the work of William Horley, who founded 27 schools in then Malaya and who had devoted 37 years on the spiritual and social welfare of the people in this country. Moving on to MGSKL, Bishop Dr Ong said that the school has stood on the shoulders of very able women such as Miss Stratton, Miss Mabel Marsh and others who, driven by the celestial, gave their intellect and their youth to serve others. Miss Mabel Marsh was an extraordinary lady who had served about 40 years in this country. These are among the unforgettable long journeys. Drawing from John Chapter 15, Bishop Dr Ong pointed to the one unforgettable journey of Jesus Christ who came into the world to give light to the world and save mankind. God’s light cannot be extinguished and His work carries on.

After the sermon, former school captain, Marcella Mary Richard presented a song “Give Thanks”. Then, everyone joined in a jubilant singing of the School Song “MGS Arise and Sing”. It was a rare privilege to have the composer of the music for the School Song, Mrs Sothie Paul Duraisamy from the Class of 1952 play the piano as everyone stood to attention and sang with nostalgia and passion.



Message by Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

The closing hymn “How Great Thou Art” was a testimony of God’s blessings upon the school. Bishop Dr Ong then gave the Benediction after which Madam Shi Lee Lee presented a token of appreciation from the school to Bishop Dr Ong.

After the service, the guests adjourned to the school canteen for refreshments followed by a visit to the Sr. MGSKL Heritage Gallery. It was indeed exciting to see many old girls exclaiming with joy when they found themselves in the photographs and pages of the old school magazines.

The Mighty Hand of God has guided the Sr. MGSKL through the 120 years and He will continue to lead us on.

*Onward Onward MGS
From strength to strength
march on always...*

To God Be The Glory!



Singing of School Song Mrs Sothie Paul Duraisamy, Class of 1952, composer of the music for the School Song, playing the piano



Singing of the Closing Hymn: How Great Thou Art



Visit to the Sr. MGSKL Heritage Gallery

By Ms Satkunamary Gnanakkan, a former teacher of Sr MGS KL

Missionary Possibilities

By Bishop J.M. Thoburn, D.D.

The millions are coming as surely as harvest follows spring-time, and we must prepare for their coming. Let no one be startled at the thought, or tempted to fear that I am yielding to a flight of fancy, or led away by an extravagant enthusiasm. This world is to become a Christian world; the powers of hell are to be overthrown, and our Saviour, Christ, is to reign in righteousness over all nations. But if such a day ever comes, if kingdoms and nations are to be wrested from the grasp of Satan and given to Christ as His inheritance, there must come a day when Christians shall learn to speak of millions as freely as they now speak of thousands. At the present rate of missionary progress a millennium would not suffice to prepare the way for the great millennial reign to which we all look forward with such ardent hope. It is a striking comment on the feeble faith and limited vision of present day Christians to note how most of them start as if in alarm at the mere mention

of an early in-gathering of millions of redeemed men and women. Christianity must mean this or else stand before the world as a gigantic and confessed failure, and as Christians we owe it to the faith which we profess to maintain a serene confidence in God in the great work which He is carrying on among the nations.

The hundreds upon hundreds of young people who stand idle in the world's market place might find employment for heart and hand if they could only learn the secret of becoming helpers to universal humanity. The universal Church of Jesus Christ needs to ponder well at the present day the whole question of missionary possibilities. In many cases a very wide gulf separates the possible from the actual, and in few cases are the startling possibilities of the hour appreciated. In these waning years of the nineteenth century all Christians should unite in a supreme effort to give an impetus to the missionary enter-

prise which will be felt for long years to come, and which will give a distinctive character to the next century. There is little or no fear of attempting too much, while there is constant danger of our contracting the spiritual paralysis which so often results from attempting too little. Nowhere in the missionary world do we see any interest suffering because too much has been attempted, but at a hundred points we see painful embarrassment because plans are too contracted or support too spasmodic or insufficient. An enterprise which aims at the conversion of the world calls for broad statesmanship, far-seeing views, comprehensive plans, and invincible faith, and all these the God of all grace will bestow if His people will obey the great missionary commission which He has given them — From *The Christless Nations*.

The Malaysia Message
Vol. V No. 5
February 1896

Please refer to article on page 11



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