

PELITA METHODIST

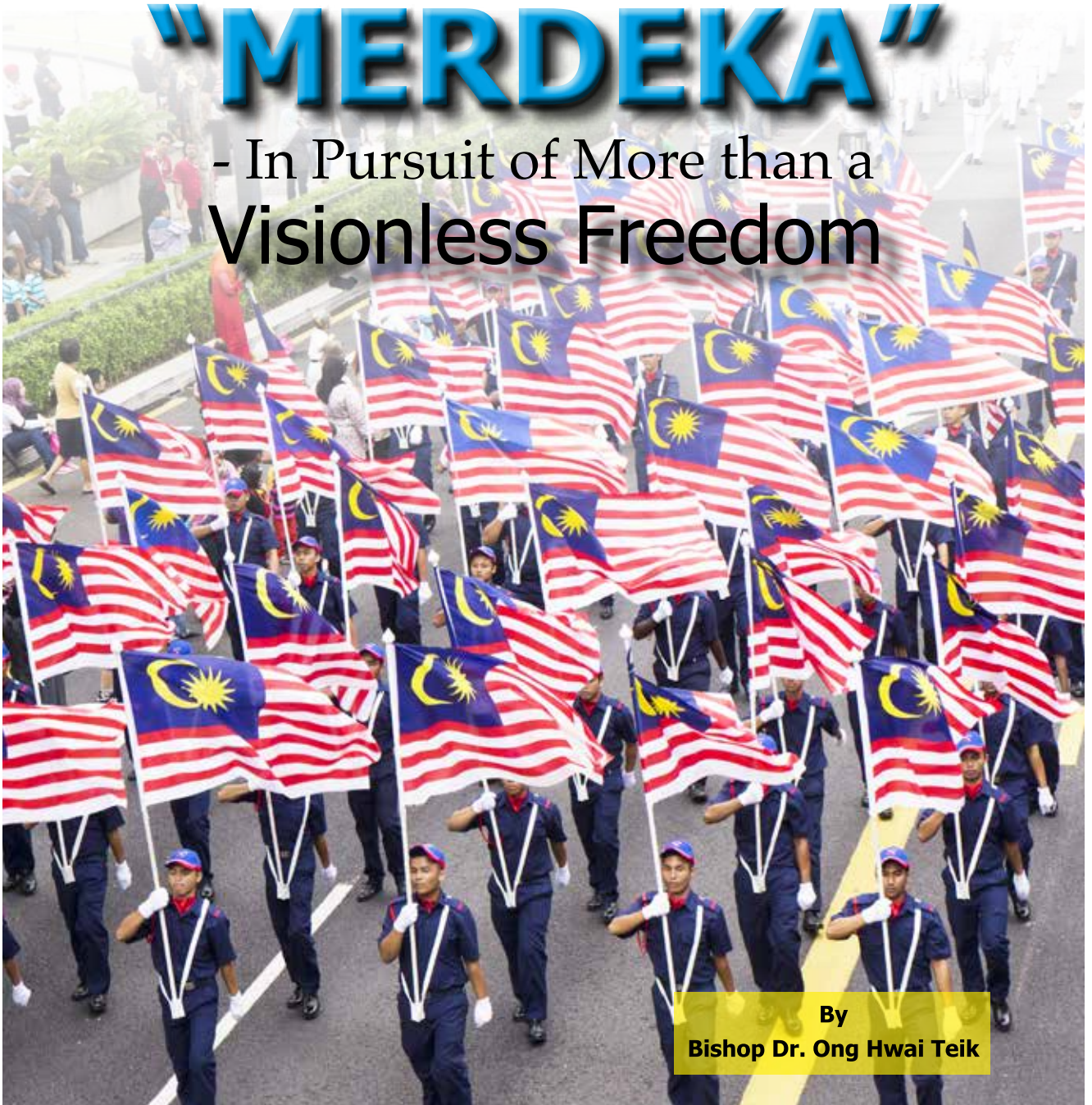
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"MERDEKA"

- In Pursuit of More than a
Visionless Freedom



By
Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

Moment

GC Laity Convention at PDMC dated 21-23 May 2015



Council of Laity Members



Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik



GCLC 2015 Plenary Session



Dato' Dr. Alex Mathews



Dr. Mark Lovatt



Fellowship with Plenary Speakers



Dr. Sii How Sing

Some of the **Plenary Speakers**



GCLC 2015 Participants

Contents

- PG. 04 **"MERDEKA" - In Pursuit of More than a Visionless Freedom**
By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik
- PG. 05 **GC Laity Convention News (GCLC)**
Reflections on Laity Convention 2015 by SIAC, SCAC and TRAC
- PG. 09 **Council of Education News (COE)**
Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur takes it up a notch
- PG. 10 **CAC News**
120th Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebration
Penang Chinese Methodist Church (Madras Lane)
- PG. 12 **Council of Education News (COE)**
19th National SPM Bible Knowledge Quiz 2015
- PG. 13 **SCAC News**
2015 Bible Knowledge Quiz
- PG. 14 **Essay**
Bible Selling in Malaya

PRAYERUNITED

1. CABINET RESHUFFLE & 1MDB

a. For peace, stability & righteousness in the nation.

- i. Prime Minister Najib Razak announced on Tuesday 28th July a list of new ministerial appointments to take effect on 29th July. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was dropped as Deputy Prime Minister, and replaced by Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi. Four other ministers have been dropped together with the Attorney General. Najib also appointed seven new ministers and nine new deputy ministers.
- ii. Let us pray for God's hand to be upon all those holding the reins of power so that justice, righteousness, peace and stability will prevail in the country. As Proverbs 21:1 states: 'The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.' Pray that God will use this situation for His glory, and the good of all in our land.
- iii. Let us pray for those in the new cabinet that they will use their authority solely to advance righteousness in our nation and its wellbeing. Pray that the political leaders, both in government and opposition, will act with wisdom and responsibility to enable the nation to sail safely through this crisis. Pray against all forms of evil and deceit, and that wickedness and corruption be exposed and uprooted in government and country.
- iv. Pray also in particular for Christians MPs, leaders and others in positions of influence, that they will have the wisdom and courage to stand up for truth and morality. Pray that they will find grace to act for the common good of all peoples and so shape the political scenario in the nation in a manner that glorifies God.

b. For truth and justice.

- i. Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail was the Attorney-General and the key figure in the official investigations before the reshuffle. He is now replaced by former Federal Court judge Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali. Pray that investigations will progress without hindrance or delay.
- ii. Let us pray that truth will be reached. Pray that all involved in the investigation will do so without fear or favour, to fulfill properly the fiduciary responsibility of their office. Pray that both those involved in the inquiry and those helping with the inquiry (including witnesses and whistle blowers) will be shielded from threats, various forms of harm, and any unjust legal actions.
- iii. Pray that there will be a full recovery of the nation's wealth and tax-payers' money, if indeed these have been dishonestly siphoned off by anyone.
- iv. With the suspension of The Edge publication for 3 months starting July 27th, the barring of several individuals from leaving the country and action by the Home Minister in banning the Sarawak Report, let us pray for freedom of speech to be protected and preserved.
- v. Pray that the Malaysian public will be wise and be able to discern truth from lies in face of the mass of confusing information on the subject, and will thereby act accordingly.

2. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN MALAYSIA

- a. That as the church sees the tragedies hitting our nation, we will be awakened to pray and seek God's face in repentance and unity. Pray that the church as a whole will know that decisiveness of this hour for our nation, and take wholeheartedly the challenge to pray. Pray for a deep sense of longing for revival and hunger for God's Spirit to work in Malaysia among Christians of all generations.
- b. Pray for unity among our church leaders and between churches of different denominations. Pray for holiness and a return to First Love, as well as forgiveness and efforts of reconciliation towards those who have hurt us. Pray that the Church will work together and coordinate their resources in empowering impoverished communities in Sabah and Sarawak, and also the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia.
- c. Pray for Christian communities to be a distinctive presence as light and salt in their neighbourhoods, suburbs, towns and cities. Pray for the Church to rise up in times like this, discerning the times and having the wisdom to act. Pray for hearts of compassion, that we will be Christ-like and loving, growing in holiness and purity, realizing our identity and privilege as children of God. Pray that Christians will know the authority we have in Christ because 'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control' (2 Tim 1:7). Pray for a righteous indignation towards malice and injustice, that we as the church will '...seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.' (Micah 6:8).

Adapted from Prayer United
August 2015 edition

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.**

“MERDEKA” — In Pursuit of More than a Visionless Freedom

“Merdeka” has been defined as *not dependent or controlled by another person or thing* [Kamus Dwibahasa Oxford Fajar].

Like many nations, we remember the treasured gifts of freedom and liberty whenever the birth of a nation is celebrated. But for the people of God in the Church, our celebration of freedom from the Biblical perspective does not make freedom as an end in itself. True freedom is not visionless, for freedom is for a purpose.

In surveying the Old Testament, one could make a convincing argument that freedom from slavery is the principal theme as the people exited Egypt as narrated in the book of Exodus. But the Hebrew people were freed FROM enslavement by Pharaoh in order TO worship and serve God and His vision and purpose. In fact, this momentous and miraculous moment of freedom in which the Hebrew nation was freed from slavery in Egypt so as to become a chosen nation belonging to God is foreshadowed in Genesis, and repeatedly recounted throughout the rest of the Hebrew Scriptures.

In the words of the well-known Christian author and social critic, Os Guinness, “**Negative freedom** is freedom from - freedom from oppression, whether it’s a colonial power or addiction to alcohol oppressing you. You need to be freed from negative freedom. **Positive freedom** is freedom for, freedom to be. And that’s what’s routinely ignored today.”

In the New Testament, we read that the Lord Jesus has come “to proclaim freedom for the prisoners” [Luke 4:18]. In the writings of Paul in the New Testament [which numbered no less than 13], especially in the letter to the Romans, the theme of freedom from sin and death is the unmistakable and conspicuous principal announcement. He declares – “*We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin*” [Romans 6:6,7].

Paul then goes on to direct us into “**positive freedom**” that believers in Christ have:

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love” [Galatians 5:13]. Along with this strong caution against the abuse of this powerful life transforming gift of freedom in Christ over the destructive power of sin and death, the Christian is reminded that this freedom comes with responsibility!

From another perspective of responsibility, the English Catholic historian, politician, and writer, Lord Acton, said - “*Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right to do what we ought.*” He was also the man who gave us the famous saying - “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority; still more when you superadd the tendency of the certainty of corruption by authority.”

Today as God’s people in Malaysia

- We need to demonstrate our freedom in Christ as people who “have turned away from their wicked ways” [2 Chron 7:14] in a country that has been saturated with news of crippling corruption in high places. Such infection is also equally real in the ordinary day to day business of living.
- We need to perseveringly pray to Almighty God for His sovereign mercy for freedom from all that are ignoble, corrupt, racist and extremist among politicians, policies, paradigms, practices and people in leadership in government especially cabinet ministers, and public institutions. Let us boldly ask – that in His mercy He will give to us - “those who are noble, plan noble things, and by noble things they stand” [Isa 32:8] and work towards this end.
- We need to pray and act beyond a shallow “freedom from want, from worry and from hardship” - from the materialistic angle with only our personal needs and interests in mind; we need to humbly ask God for a changed heart in our nation, especially those who are at the heart of the nation’s life. A healthy heart is like a healthy tree that bears good fruit, not bad and diseased ones.
- We need to use our freedom in Christ for engagement of change in public, political and economic structures to bring about greater Biblical values of justice and stewardship in the face of “structural evils”.

It is interesting to note that “**stand**” is a standard mark of those who are healed and strengthened in the Scriptures. The Lord Jesus said to the man healed from a withered hand – “*Come and stand here.*” *And he rose and stood there* [Luke 6:8]. Paul commanded the healed lame man: “*Stand up on your feet!*” *At that, the man jumped up and began to walk* [Acts 14:10].

Thus, “standing up” in newly empowered physical life became a metaphor depicting standing up in the power of a new spiritual life. So Paul said in Acts 26:22 – “*To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place...*” Paul also emphatically said - “*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all [everything], to stand firm***” [Ephesians 6:13].

Ours in the Church is not a visionless freedom at this time in Malaysia, but one with Divine vision, destiny and purpose on which we stand in Christ. In this generation and especially in this uncertain, critical and precarious time in our nation, the sovereign Lord calls us to “**stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery**” [Gal 5:1] of sin and death, but “*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, **but living as servants of God***” [1 Pet 2:16].

By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

Our Mental Diet

Our life is what our thoughts make it.

(Catherine of Siena)

IN WORD:

We may not always be conscious of it as we go through the normal course of our day, but we're surrounded with poisons. The air we breathe—at least figuratively, if not literally—is polluted with toxins of inaccurate belief systems, inappropriate visual images, pervasive doses of fear and doubt and discouragement, unholy lifestyles, slanderous words against God and others, and more. We like to think we aren't affected by such constant exposure, but how could we avoid being affected? When you're swimming in water, you can't help but get wet. And when you're swimming in polluted water, it can't be healthy.

When we hear ourselves talking in destructive or careless ways; when we start to look at life through dark-colored lenses, though we don't know why; when our relationship patterns seem to be self-defeating; and when our thoughts toward God seem dull and lifeless—then we know we've been influenced by a poisonous world.

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

That's why our thought life is such a critical battlefield. The world and the enemy have conspired to undermine the spiritual vitality of numerous Christians, and the strategy works. We can go from joyful to depressed without even noticing the decline. We can shift from selfless to selfish before we're even aware of what happened. We can move from fruitfulness to futility without knowing how we got there. The effects of the world's pollution can be so gradual or imperceptible that we're defeated unless we decide not to be. All it takes is a careful assessment of our thoughts at frequent intervals. We have to know how we think. More than that, we have to know *what* to think.

IN DEED:

Be proactive. Make sure you are feeding your mind with healthy food. Refuse to let the seeds of bad thinking infiltrate your thought processes. Choose a mental diet of whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Let the battlefield of your mind be dominated by the things of God.

Whatever is true, Whatever is noble, Whatever is right, Whatever is pure, Whatever is lovely, Whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Features

GC Laity Convention News (GCLC) - SIAC

Gerumpu Besai Periman 2015 di Port Dickson Methodist Centre kena 21-23 May, 2015

Awakka ka kitai nyadi garam enggau penampak di menoa kitai! Bakanya ko munyi rambai jaku Gempuru Besai Periman sekali tu.

Puji Tuhan ketegat udah ngemujorka Gempuru Besai Periman (Laity Convention 2015) ke taun 2015 ti baru udah diatur GC di Port Dickson Methodist Resort kena 21 – 23 May, 2015. Bala periman ari seluruh Gereja Methodist Malaysia, TRAC, SCAC, SAC, TAC enggau SIAC.

Gempuru besai ke sekali tu bisi digulo lebih 200 iko pengari enggau speaker. Ari SIAC, bisi 54 iko pengari nyengkaum President, Reverend Steward Damat, Tuai-tuai Sitak enggau bala paderi udah sama enggau ngulo aum besai tu.

Bisi enam iko speaker udah bekunsi ka topik

enggau jaku Tuhan. Kelimpah ari Bishop Gereja Methodist Malaysia, ianya Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik empu, sida ti bukai nya baka Rev. Sivin Kit, Dr. Mark Lovatt, Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Dato Dr. Alex Mathews enggau Dr. Sii How Sing.

Batang sharing/penemu ti dikunsi serta dipejurai ka maya gempuru besai periman tu ianya ba senentang pekara ti bekait enggau ungkup kitai orang Kristian dalam niri ka bansa Malaysia ti lebih manah agi. Kitai orang Kristian dipinta bepelansarka ajar Jesus Kristus nengah Mathew 5: 13-16 ti mai batang ajar ngambi ka kitai orang Kristian deka nyadi garam enggau penampak di menoa Malaysia tu.

Sepengudah bala *speakers* udah bekunsi ka sharing sida, dia tiap-tiap Aum Betaun

diberi peluang sama-sama meri penemu diri (*responses*) bekait enggau utai ti udah dikerandau ka bala *speakers*.

Batang ajar ti dibai bala *speakers* enggau sida ti bekunsi ka sharing leboh aum besai tu endang ngena serta setipak enggau pekara ti benong nyadi di menoa kitai kemaia tu ti bisi mai pengirau ngagai semua kitai, kel-ebih agi kitai orang Kristian. Nya alai kitai semua dipinta besampi kelebih agi kitai ari SIAC awakka Tuhan meruan ngibun lalu nyaga semua kitai ari semua penguji tu.

Repot disediakan,
Jefri Ngalambai
SIAC Lay Leader 2014-2015

Gambar maia Aum Besai Periman 2015 di Port Dickson



Gambar semua pengari



Bala pengari ari SIAC



Reflection on Laity Conference 2015 by Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference



GCLC 2015 Participants

In our workplace, we have the mission to share the gospel and to glorify God in our work and by lifestyle. We have to befriend our colleagues of various races and religions and have open dialogue with them to promote mutual understanding of one another's religion. Wise living is getting our values, which determine our priorities, right, namely, aligned with the Kingdom of God. These are the three main ideas conveyed by the three speakers at this conference (our Bishop, Rev. Dr Sivin Kit, and Dr Mark Lovatt).

Forty nine delegates from the Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference (including President Rev. Dato' Dr Su Chii Ann and his wife Pastor Yeo Hung Eng) attended this conference. It was a good conference. A big thank you to Datin Judy Chin and Jenny Qua for a splendid effort in organizing this conference. Special thanks to Jenny Qua for arranging transport for the delegates from Sarawak and Sabah between KLIA2, KLIA and the Methodist Centre at Port Dickson, where the conference was held. Thank you also to Michael William and a brother for waiting for delegates from Sarawak and Sabah at both airports.

During this conference, we learnt much from the teaching of the three speakers and the recount of personal experiences of Rev. Dr Sivin Kit, Dr Mark Lovatt, and from the testimonies of Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian and Dr Sii How Sing.

The briefing by Madam Melissa of Alpha Malaysia on the Alpha in the Workplace course on 21 May 2015 night was very inspiring. This is a readily available effective tool to introduce the Christian belief to non-Christians in the workplace.

It was good that there was a session for the delegates to meet on the night on 22 May 2015 in groups according to the respective annual/provisional conference. This gave opportunity for discussion and deliberation on follow-up actions to be taken by the General Conference and the respective annual/provisional conference.

This conference was a great opportunity for delegates who were from different ethnic groups to interact with one another. After someone on the stage mentioned that delegates were mixing only among their own races, there was greater intentional efforts in interaction between the different races. As a Church, we are supposed to be exemplary in inter-racial interaction and neighbourliness.

Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian gave an inspiring and heart-warming account of the various ways in which his company - Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad - had helped the local communities in Malaysia and in other countries. For example, in Liberia (in Central Africa), the company supplied hand-pumps to provide



SCAC Group Photo

clean drinking water in villages. In Sabah, the company established Humana kindergartens and schools in estates for children of Indonesian migrant workers. The company also built good quality low-cost houses for its employees. It regularly organized sport carnivals and football competition for children under 12 years of age to promote inter-racial harmony in the communities. Alpha in the Workplace course was also conducted in the company's premises.

Dr Sii How Sing also gave an inspiring testimony of how he was able to persuade a workers' union in two factories manufacturing recreational drugs to agree with the management to encourage workers to abide by the company's policy of no alcohol or drug at work, in order to prevent workplace accidents.

Dato Dr Alex Mathews gave an impressive summary of the conference in the closing plenary entitled "The Way Forward". He encouraged us with story of the work of Hudson Taylor in the interior of mainland China, how Hudson Taylor assimilated the lifestyle of the Chinese in order to be accepted by the Chinese. Dr Alex also shared about the Iranian Christians who are willing to die for their faith. He reminded the gathering that "as long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent (us). Night is coming when no one can work (John 9:4)."

The conference ended with Holy Communion. Indeed, thanks be to God for His guidance and inspiration to this Laity Conference 2015.

Dr Yao Sik Chi
SCAC Conference Lay-Leader
29 June 2015

Reflection on Laity Conference 2015 by Trinity Annual Conference

All praise and Glory to God for a meaningful and fruitful time of learning, discussion and fellowship amongst 231 participants comprising the respective Presidents, Conference Lay Leaders, Associate Lay Leaders and a good mix of clergy and laity from seven Annual/Provisional/Mission Conferences. We thank Convention speakers, Bishop Ong Hwai Teik, Rev. Sivin Kit, Dr. Mark Lovatt, Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Dr. Sii How Sing and Dato Dr. Alex Mathews for their motivating, insightful, practical, comprehensible and at times humorous teachings on "Nation Building in the Workplace". We thank the Presidents – Dato Rev. Su Chi Aun (SCAC), Rev. Hii Kong Hock (SPAC), Rev. Steward Damat (SIAC), Rev. Boh Che Suan (CAC), Rev. Jeyaraj (TAC) and Rev. Dr. Jeyakumar (TRAC) for their supportive presence, participation in prayers and conducting the closing Holy Communion Service. We thank Ms. Jenny Qua, translators and staff of the Methodist Church Office for their invaluable assistance. I thank members of the Council of Laity and all who have assisted in one way or another for their co-operation and unity of hearts, minds and purpose in organizing GCLC 2015. Participants were impacted and left Port Dickson Methodist Center inspired, wiser, encouraged and challenged to contribute towards Nation Building wherever our workplace may be through being missional, loving our neighbors and having Godly values.

Key quotes:

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teck on *being missional*

1 Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light"

"We as God's called people in the Methodist Family who belong to Him in the Church of Malaysia, resolve to be sanctified people in our workplace, and to serve His Purpose in seeking the welfare of Malaysia by building this Nation in our generation."

Rev. Sivin Kit on *neighbours*

Matthew 13:33 – "The Kingdom of Heaven

is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough"

"Address issues in the nation with cool heads, warm hearts and active hands."

Dr. Mark Lovatt on *values*

Micah 6:8 – "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

"Bribery is contrary to God's very nature."

"Our values are what we value. Our values are what set our priorities."

Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian on *life journey*

Esther 4:14 – "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

"To all of us, God gave us different personalities, giftings, social positions, families, friends, occupations and a host of other circumstances for a common purpose i.e. to use our personal influence and power to advance His Kingdom and to be a blessing to others. There is God's purpose in each of our lives."

Dr. Sii How Sing on *life journey*

Psalms 119:11 – "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"

"Collect stones from ourselves before throwing stones at others"

Dato Dr. Alex Mathews on *the way forward*

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 – "Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends you"

"We complain about what we don't have, but we should talk about what we can do with what we have."

Summary of TRAC's responses from discussions will be submitted to COL for final recommendations towards nation building in the workplace.

Feedback from TRAC Participants

John Cheah of *JB Wesley MC*

"Wow! What a convention! I have learnt from this convention to seek the kingdom of God and be a blessing to others."

Yam Hong Leong of *Butterworth Wesley MC*

"Timely and good. Very glad GC is having this programme and we should have it more regularly even down to local church levels. Forum provide us the ideas and ways where we can build bridges across all races and create an environment where we can share His Love and Salvation to all"

Jonathan Moo of *Ipoh Wesley MC*

"Great experience for me especially when I have been away from church for quite a while. Real pleasure to meet people from other churches and cultures and hear great talks from professionals and senior speakers."

We pray and hope that this Convention will be the beginning of awareness to Nation Building in the workplace which will develop to methods as all good Methodists will appreciate to have as tools to facilitate follow up action. Let all participants who attended be the initial catalysts to influence the local church, then the District and eventually the Conference in realizing the urgent need to be the salt and light to the nation. The Council of Laity endeavor to compile guidelines on Christian witnessing in the workplace to be used by all annual Conferences.

Remembering what Jesus said

"You are the salt of the earth ...

You are the light of the world ...

...let your light shine before men

that they may see your good deeds

and praise your Father in Heaven"

Matthew 5:13-14

and John Wesley

"The world is my parish"

Let Nation Building in the Workplace Begin!

Judy Chin

Conference Lay Leader (TRAC)

Council of Laity (Chairman)

Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur takes it up a notch



Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur celebrating the new status with song and dance.

Photos: LOW BOON TAT

Far from resting on the laurels of its 2014 achievement as top-performing private school, Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur has become an international school.

The reputable private school in Sentul marked its change towards becoming a full-fledged international school with a Thanksgiving service gathering for all 1,000 students.

Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur will be the first of the five Wesley Methodist private schools using the national Standard Secondary School Curriculum (KBSM) to make the shift.

In celebrating the milestone, Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik blessed the gathering with hymns, a sermon and a prayer for the future.

The students were not to be left out and played their part with a celebratory dance by the Girls' Brigade and a performances by the choir group.

Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur principal Chia Loy Tian said next year's Form One intake will use 100% international school syllabus while Forms Two to Five will use 80% of the international syllabus and 20% KBSM.

"We resisted the change for so long but the need became so great, the change had to come

if we wished to stay the benchmark for education.

"Therefore, with very careful planning and consideration, taking into account the fees as well, we want to make sure we give quality education at the same time parents can afford.

"What made the school what it is today are the people who gave it its life and soul, the students and teachers of past and present who

serve the school with love and unflagging dedication," she said.

The change will require immense dedication by their teachers who have been receiving daily in-house training to gain the necessary skills.

Methodist Council of Education executive director Khor Hong Yin spoke on the importance of on-going learning for the teachers' professional development, stressing on creating a learning community.

"This is the first time Methodist Church Malaysia has made an investment of this magnitude in education.

"It's because we believe in building character foundation through a holistic education that encompasses universal values in our community, bringing a transformation of life to our students and teachers.

"Our Methodist Education has come a long way from its humble beginnings, we want to stay relevant according to the time and season; we are here to stay," he said.

He added that with another wholly international school expected to begin by 2018 in Georgetown, Penang, the school is set to continue blazing its trail forward.

By Yvonne T. Nathan



From left: Methodist Council of Education executive director Khor Hong Yin and Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur principal Chia Loy Tian at the Thanksgiving service.

設教120周年紀念感恩慶典

感謝上帝恩手的帶領，本堂於1895年成立迄今，昂然走過了120個年頭。

今年，本堂熱烈慶祝設教120周年感恩慶典，主題為“傳承信仰，塑造生命，分享福音”。為隆重其事，特通過一系列培訓講座為信徒造就靈命，即於1月31日邀請洪南明牧師主講《個人布道培訓》；3月14日由黎保華博士主講《屬靈操練》；4月17-18日《長者的健康身心靈》由梁維正博士主講；5月23日邱學新幹事主講《活出信仰，見證基督》；7月25日則邀請來自美國的教育專家黃雯雯博士主講《青春風暴轉化為青春風采》親子講座。

2015年5月3日乃設教120周年聖餐感恩禮拜。一大清早，檳城基督教衛理公會油較路堂的所有主內弟兄姐妹都身穿特為120周年紀念設計的T恤，帶著喜悅的心來參加感恩崇拜。早堂華英語崇拜特邀請馬來西亞基督教衛理公會會督拿督王懷德博士傳講信息《堅定不移的上帝》；上午11時閩南語堂崇拜則由馬來西亞基督教衛理公會華人年議會會長莫澤川會長分享《更新異象，勇往直前》。當天本堂的儿童詩班也獻唱詩歌，氣氛愉快。



晚間7時30分，120周年感恩晚宴假石灣閣餐館舉行，共擺設105桌席位。當天出席的嘉賓包括馬來西亞基督教衛理公會華人年議會會長莫澤川會長，馬來西亞基督教衛理公會會督拿督王懷德博士，華人年議會領袖李祖國先生，北部教區副會友領袖盧春水弟兄，馬來西亞浸信會神學院院長王美鈞博士。感恩宴甫開始，全體會眾一同敞開歌喉敬拜讚美神，讚美和感恩的歌聲充滿整個會所，將一切頌讚和榮耀歸給全能的神。



會長莫澤川牧師在其致詞中指出，油較路堂成立於1895年，是檳城最早的衛理宗教會。至2014年為止，華人年議會共成立了186間教會及佈道所，預料在今年會增長到196間。此外，本堂會友領袖吳端耀執事也受邀分享，並隨興高歌一曲他年輕時常在青年團契唱的一首詩歌《我們歡迎你》。

本堂也藉着歡慶周年紀念，共撥出30萬令吉作為慈善機構捐款和宣教撥款。受惠的慈善機構包括伊甸殘障中心、救世軍兒童院、病老院、聖恩安寧護理和恩典樂齡苑、馬來西亞神學院、馬來西亞浸信會神學院、文橋出版社、北馬聖樂促進會。



過後，本堂主理牧師黃約輝牧師及眾執事在眾嘉賓的陪同下一同切感恩蛋糕，為神過去的賜福獻上感恩，並祈求天父保守教會前面的道路。值得一提的是，當晚的喜糕還特製成本堂宏偉壯觀的世紀樓模擬蛋糕，讓許多弟兄姐妹忍不住上前拍攝留念。之後，本堂主日學小學組的小朋友也以可愛既充滿活力的舞姿演唱一首活潑的詩歌《將天敞開》。此外，由本堂一群熱心侍奉的青少年所組成的“音為你小組”也以他們動聽的歌聲獻唱兩首歌曲《恩典之路》《你的愛》。

宴會接近尾聲，本堂也派送周年紀念禮品--一個特制的精美保溫瓶給每一位出席者。馬來西亞基督教衛理公會會督拿督王懷德博士也受邀作祝福禱告。王牧師鼓勵弟兄姐妹要愛神、敬畏神，並願意讓神使用，成為合神心意的器皿。祝福禱告後，晚宴也在一片溫馨、融洽的氣氛中圓滿結束。

愿神在未来的日子大大祝福油較路衛理公會，讓眾弟兄姐妹依循先人的腳踪，努力傳揚福音，使萬人蒙福。



120th Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanks be to our gracious God for His guidance on the Penang Chinese Methodist Church for 120 years, since 1895 to this day.

This year, our church is celebrating her 120th anniversary, with the theme “Inheriting our faith, building lives, and sharing the gospel.” In conjunction with the celebration, we specially arranged a series of discipleship courses that focused on Christians’ spiritual growth. On 31st of January, we invited Pastor Hong Nan Ming to give us a talk on ‘Personal Evangelical Training’; on 14th of March, we have Dr. Lai Po Wah as our speaker on ‘Spiritual Training’; on 17th and 18th of April, a talk on ‘Elderly, Healthy Living Spiritually and physically’ by Dr. Liang Wei Zheng; on 23rd of May, we have Bro. Ku Hock Sing to give us a talk on ‘Living our faith, and testifying Christ’; on 25th of July, we invited Dr. Wendy Huang from the United States to give us a talk on ‘Turn teenage crisis into fantastic teenage years’.

We celebrated our 120th Anniversary Thanksgiving Holy Communion on 3rd May 2015. Early in the Morning, some of the brothers and sisters of the Penang Chinese Methodist Church wearing our 120th anniversary T-shirt, attended the thanksgiving service with joyful heart. We are indeed honoured to have the Bishop of The Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik to give us a sermon titled ‘The God Unwavering’ during our 8.45am English and Mandarin Service; and for the 11am Hokkien Service, we are honoured to have the President of the Chinese Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Boh Che Suan to give us a sermon titled ‘Renew our vision, and bravely strive forward’. Our church Children Choir presented a song during the service, the atmosphere was merry.

In the Evening at 7.30pm, we had our 120th Anniversary Thanksgiving banquet at Stonebay Restaurant. A total of 105 tables were taken up. The VIPs who attended the banquet were Bishop of The Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik, President of the Chinese Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Boh Che Suan, Chinese Annual Conference Lay leader, Bro. Lee Choo Kok, Chinese Annual Conference Northern District Vice Lay leader, Bro. Hu Chun Sui and the President of Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. John Ong. Before the thanksgiving banquet proceeded, we sang hymns of praise and worship to our God. The venue was being filled with joyful songs to the Lord, bringing all glory and praises to our Almighty God.

In Rev. Boh Che Suan’s speech, he pointed out that the Penang Chinese Methodist Church is one of the earliest Methodist churches which was established in 1895. From then until 2014, the Chinese Annual Conference has established 186 churches and chapels and preaching points. He also estimated that the number will reach 196 by year end. Our church’s Lay leader, Bro. Goh Tuan Yeow was invited to share with us his testimony. He even sang a song that he used to sing during his youthful years ‘We welcome you’.

Our church also donated RM300,000 to various charity organisations and missionary works. Charity organisations include Eden Handicap Service Centre, The Salvation Army, Penang Home for the Infirm and Aged, Charis Hospice and Home, Seminari Teoloji Malaysia, Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, the Bridge Publication, and North Malaysia Church Music.

Later, Rev. Ng Geok Hooi led all the Local Church Executive Committees for a cake cutting ceremony, giving thanks to God for all the blessings that He has given to the Penang Chinese Methodist Church, and prayed to God for His continuous protection. The anniversary cake that night was specially shaped like our church exterior. Brothers and sisters were given time for some photo session with the cake. The adorable and energetic children of our Church Sunday School Primary department presented a song named ‘Open Heaven’. And some zealous youngsters on the spur sang two songs, ‘The path of grace’ and ‘Your love’ with a group named ‘Just because of You’.

As the banquet came to the end, the anniversary’s souvenir, a thermos bottle was given out to every guest. The Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik ended the banquet with the benediction. He encouraged brothers and sisters to continue to love God, to obey God, to be willingly, used by God, and to become an instrument pleasing to God. After the benediction, the banquet ended warmly.

May God continue to bless the Penang Chinese Methodist Church in the years to come. May our brothers and sisters follow the footsteps of our pioneers, zealously sharing the gospel, to allow more people to come back to the Lord.

Isaiah

12:4

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is **EXALTED.**”

19th National SPM Bible Knowledge Quiz 2015



It was wonderful to see so many school students with the Word of God in their hands studying hard for a Bible Quiz. This was the scenario early Saturday morning, 1st August 2015 at SMK Assunta, Petaling Jaya. They had come from near and far and were cramming in last minute for the 19th National Oral Bible Quiz organized by the Malayan Christian Schools' Council (MCSC).

The Bible Knowledge Quiz based on the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles started in the Bukit Bintang Boys School under Mrs Kua Kun Han, a teacher of Bible Knowledge for SPM, some 19 years ago. She wanted to prepare her students to take the subject for the school examination. This Quiz soon gained

interest from other schools who also wanted to compete. It became so large that it was decided to add Regional levels (in different states) before the National levels (in Petaling Jaya, Selangor), all approved by the Ministry of Education.

This year saw the addition of a new region as Sabah schools joined in with participation of 140. MGS Melaka saw a record number of over 240 participants coming from the southern region. At the Nationals, 424 students, teachers, helpers, parents and organizers turned up. The National Champion team consisted of Lee Zhen Jian and Lee Zhen Fung from Wesley Methodist School Ipoh this year, who narrowly beat a very strong Sri Sem-



National Champions from WMS Ipoh

purna team. Methodist Boys' School Kuala Lumpur took 3rd and 4th place whilst SMK Methodist Sibul, Sarawak took 5th placing.



The top 5 winning teams at the National Level

In his Foreword for the Quiz booklet, Mr Yap Kok Keong, MCSC Chairman, writes

... *The question, "What do we need most to face tomorrow" requires our mind to roam past school days to working life, family life, middle age, old age and beyond. A more thoughtful and profound answer would be – We need a clear sense of direction in life; a cause worthy enough to live and die for; strength of character with strong moral fibre to withstand the temptations and pitfalls along the journey of life. The teachings of Jesus Christ exemplified by his own life would surely equip us with what we need most to face the unknown future. Jesus Christ, his words and his life would guide and empower us to lead a life of wisdom and significance, enabling us to leave behind a legacy that extends even beyond this life on earth.*

At the same time that we see the growth in the participation of the bible quiz at the regional levels, we notice that the numbers have dropped within the Klang Valley schools. The Quiz Coordinator, Ms Satkunamary tells me that the numbers taking BK as an SPM subject has also dropped. As the Christian community, we must be mindful of this: so we must continue to encourage our young people not to leave Bible Knowledge in their pursuit of other paper qualifications. After all, we need the Word of God for LIFE.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Submitted by
Ms Tay Choon Neo



Regionals for first time in Kota Kinabalu

2015 Bible Knowledge Quiz



2015 BK Champions SMK Methodist Sibu

MIRI – The 4th Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) Bible Knowledge (BK) quiz Sarawak Zone was held at SMK Columba on July 11 with the participation of 120 secondary students throughout Sarawak.

The aim of the quiz was to test SPM BK students on their knowledge of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

Many Christian parents and students are still not aware that BK is offered as a subject in SPM. Students can opt to take up BK in their respective schools and it is not limited to missionary schools only. Hence the quiz also hopes to raise awareness among students in BK.

“The BK quizzes are student-friendly, fun events. They are not exams. Last year’s individual quiz (BK14) saw excellent scores from Forms 1-6. Oral quiz gets SPM BK candidates to notice details, major events and God-moments. Get into the Word now. God speaks to the reader, the seeker and the Bible scholar,” said Kua Kun Han, the founder of BK quiz. Kua founded the BK quiz 19 years ago with the cooperation from the Malayan Christian School’s Council (MCSC), Scripture Union and some BK teachers from KL and Selangor.

In addition, BK 15 contestants (Form 1-3) who are not sitting for their SPM this year were able to benefit by participating in the

written quiz hence preparing them as future SPM BK candidates.

SMK Methodist Sibu took the 1st and 3rd place in the SPM BK Oral Category, with SMK St Columba clinching 2nd place.

In the BK 15 Upper Form (4-5) Category written quiz, Fourth Former Jemima Hii Beng Eng (SMK Methodist Sibu) was placed first followed by Victor Lee Zheng Siang from SMK Dato Permaisuri and third place both from Form Four SMK St Columba, namely Florence Wong Jia Yi and Roshanth Aaron James.

Marina Wong Mei Ing, a Form three student of SMK St Columba Miri topped the Lower Form category (Form 1-3). The second place went to Gerald Lisson Ralphie of SMK Lutong Miri followed by Esther Lau Yi Ci, a Form Three student from SMK St Columba.

The judges were Rev. Lenita Tiong (Grace Methodist Church, Miri), Catherine Chia (St. Joseph Cathedral, Miri), and Sii Ling (Grace Methodist Church, Miri).

Meechang Tuie, the Chairman Teachers’ Christian Fellowship Miri and Principal of SMK St Columba was present to congratulate and give away prizes to the winners.

In his closing speech, Meechang welcomed and thanked all the participants and judges for their support to the event. He encour-

aged participants to study harder to deepen their faith in Christ. “For God’s Word is the foundation of Christian faith,” he said.

“I would also like to thank the organizing committee, the helpers and students for a job well-done. I believe it is right and good for us as a Mission School to host such a significant and meaningful event and let us be reminded to work closely to glorify God. I hope this event will continue to bless more students,” he added.

“BK Oral Quiz East Malaysia Zone has started in year 2012 in SMK St Columba. This year marks another breakthrough for BK quiz, because a new regional center started in Kota Kinabalu. I am hoping to see more participants from other divisions in Sarawak to join the quiz in near future. Indeed I’m so thankful to the Christian teachers in SMK St Columba. They have shown unity in Christ working together as a team to make this event a successful one.” said Wong Kung Kui, the Coordinator for the quiz.

The event was organized by the Malayan Christian Schools’ Council (MCSC), Scripture Union and SMK St Columba, and sponsored by Grace Methodist Church.

Chief Judge Rev Lenita Tiong from Grace Methodist Church took the opportunity to encourage and motivate the participants. “You all have done a great job in today’s quiz,” she praised them.

The top finalists for SPM BK oral quiz have qualified to join the national finals at SMK Assunta, Petaling Jaya on Aug 1. The grand finale is the climax for the event and the organizer is expecting 600-700 participants from throughout Malaysia.

*Story and pics by Wong Kung Kui
(This story was first published at gmc.org.my on July 14).*

Bible Selling in Malaya

By Rev. W. H. Williams

At the District Conference in Kuala Lumpur, and the Annual Conference in Singapore, Bishop Titus Lowe emphasised the importance of the distribution of religious literature, more especially the Scriptures, and he urged, not only European and Asiatic missionaries, but also the rank and file of the Church to engage in this very important work.

Unfortunately, the majority of the missionaries have so much work in connection with their churches and schools, they have little or no time for colportage, and yet, those who have at odd times given an hour or two to the selling of God's Word, testify to the opportunities they have had not only of selling Gospel Portions, but to the heart to heart talks they have had with individuals, met on the streets of our towns, or in the villages.

Colportage gives numberless chances for "Sowing the Seed" on ground, which otherwise would never be touched. It is sad to contemplate, that here, in British and Dutch Malaya, with a population of about 50 millions, probably not 5% are touched by direct missionary effort. This is no fault of the missionaries, for their number is all too few even to man the chief cities of Malaya. To give one instance; Java, with a population of over 30 millions, it is estimated has only 4 millions living in the towns, and the only hope for the bulk of the people is the Colporteur, who not only works the cities, but goes out into the villages, and from these small centres, visits rubber, tea, and coffee estates. He not only sells the Scriptures, but preaches and teaches wherever an opportunity presents itself. Unfortunately, his stay in one place is usually a very short one, for he has many other places to visit, but he leaves behind the oral and the written page. The "Seed" thus sown frequently falls on good ground and springs up and bears fruit, of which we have many positive proofs.

If the Pastors of our Chinese and Tamil

Churches when visiting, would carry a handful of Gospel Portions, they would find them wonderfully useful, often opening doors which otherwise would be closed. These little books should not be given away, but in ordinary cases should be sold at their proper price, which usually is one or two cents per copy, for we find, if they are not charged for, they are not valued. Of course there are exceptions, such as inmates of hospitals, prisons, etc., and very occasionally the man on the street. If, at the same time as the book is sold, the pastor gives a leaflet which sets forth the location of his Church, and the hours of Service, with an invitation to attend, much useful work can be accomplished. Scores of times when I have been selling Scriptures, people have asked, "Where is your Church, and what time are your meetings?"

In every Epworth League there should be a band of young men, whose special work should be the distribution of God's Word. Once or twice a month they should hold open air services, and at these meetings sell the Gospel Portions. They should visit hospitals and attend religious festivals, such as the Thaipusam, and if this work is carried on in the proper spirit, the results will exceed their expectations. In our Churches of Malaya there are many Christian people who have been won for Christ by a testament or Gospel Portion, sold by colporteurs.

The Bible is the best missionary. In this polyglot city of Kuala Lumpur, I have often thought, if we took 50 persons, at random, from the streets, how many of them could we, in an intelligent manner, speak to, of the love of Jesus, and His great Salvation? Out of the fifty, probably the first man would be a Sikh, and I don't know a Christian Missionary in Malaya, who could talk to him in his own language, and he probably does not know English, and only a few words of Malay. The next man may be a visitor from the Land of the Rising Sun, and who among us can deliver the Gospel Message

in Japanese? Then it would be quite within the realm of possibility for the third man to be a Chinese, speaking a dialect of Chinese unknown to any of our Missionary brethren, and outside our Tamil Pastors, how few there are who could talk to the Indians in their mother tongue. Possibly out of the fifty, there are scarcely twenty to whom any of the missionaries or Asiatic pastors could talk with any degree of clarity. But we have silent messengers who can speak to every-one of these men, if he can read, in his own mother tongue, giving a message of love and hope.

You may not be gifted with preaching or teaching abilities, but everyone, with ordinary grace and gumption, can sell a Scripture Portion, and who knows but what that little book may be used by God to the salvation of a man's soul. Then again, you sell a book on the streets of Kuala Lumpur, or Singapore, and probably the buyer is on a visit from some distant part, carries that book back to places in Pahang, Borneo, Sumatra, or other districts, and often to homes where no missionary has ever been, and where no ray of Gospel light has penetrated the darkness. In such manner we know of instances where whole families have been won for Christ.

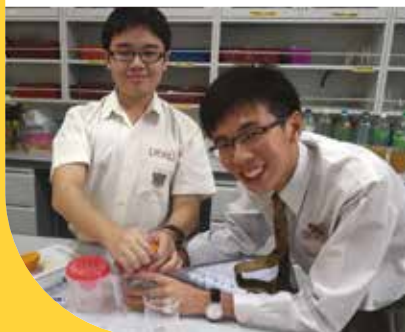
During 1926, 194,474 copies of Scripture were circulated throughout Malaya, and probably the figures for last year will be about the same, of which number about 150,000 were sold by colportage. One hundred and fifty thousand silent messengers, proclaiming through the printed page "God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The Malaysia Message
May 1928
Vol. 38 No. 5

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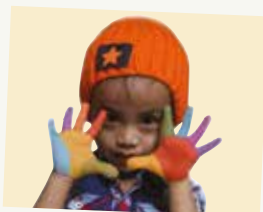
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