

PELITA METHODIST

VOLUME 41, NO. 11&12
NOV/DEC 2015



PP 3233/01/2013 (031518)



The
Missional Christ Child
Of
Christmas

Moment

Come up the stairs of the Methodist Church in Malaysia's headquarters and experience our heritage, history and presence in Malaysia.



For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Wishing you a
**Blessed Christmas and a
 Happy New Year**

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

Contents

PG. 04 _____

The Missional Christ Child of Christmas

By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

PG. 05 _____

MCKL News

Thanksgiving Service for the New Extension Block and Facilities

PG. 06 _____

SPAC News

沙卫理年议会顺利召开, 明年开拓新领域事工

PG. 07 _____

World Methodist Council News

Response to Paris Attacks

PG. 08 _____

Malaysia Day:

Prayer United in Sibü

PG. 12 _____

SCAC News

A Pearl in the Jungle

PG. 13 _____

Essay

Goodbye to the Old Ways

PRAYER UNITED

1. THE CHURCH TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- a. Pray against complacency, apathy and prayerlessness. Pray for a return to holiness and righteousness.
- b. Pray that the church will be at the forefront of mission, blessing the nation by its generosity, being the hope of the nation. With the petrol hike and toll hike, along with the slowing economy, many are struggling to make ends meet especially, the urban poor. Pray for families to be frugal in their spending yet generous in their giving. Pray for those who face financial difficulties due to job loss, that they will find comfort, help and direction in Christ and His church.

2. PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

- a. Pray for the debates on the Budget 2016:

- i. For improved accountability of tax revenue and reform of public services expenditure that takes up one-third of the federal budget. Pray that the government will proactively reduce wastage. Pray for concerted efforts to reduce the national debt and prevent the potential downgrade of the nation's global financial standing from perceived default risk by international bond rating agencies.
 - ii. For more allocation to development expenses and to correct imbalances, especially excessive cuts in allocations to many ministries, such as, Higher Education, Women, Health care, Resources and Environment, that could lead to further deterioration in vital services to the vulnerable and poor, and which could also lead to further slide in the standard of living.
 - iii. For greater efficiency in public sector delivery. Pray also that the urban poor will not be burdened with sharp reductions in subsidised food and petrol, coupled with toll, GST and petrol hikes.
- b. Pray for all Members of Parliament:
 - i. That they will debate, decide and vote with the welfare of the people in mind and heart, and not vote according to partisan lines. Pray for reduced politicking, and more responsible governance, sober judgment, wise counsel, concern for the people, and visionary decision making for the good of all the people of the nation.
 - ii. Pray that parliamentary democracy will be upheld, and that Parliament proceedings will be run with less politicking, but with fairness and the fear of God, and not men, in the management of motions.
 - c. Pray for righteousness to reign and pray against Bills that will cause further harm to the upholding of the rights and harmony of the people and the democracy of the country.

2. MONSOON SEASON

- a. As a result of last year's flood in Kelantan, 1,927 houses were washed away by unusually strong currents. However, much has yet to be done. In Gua Musang alone, out of 200 displaced, 14 families are still living in tents and 127 in the National Service Camps, which they will have to vacate in December.
- b. Pray for the families, for God's comfort and practical help to come their way. Pray for their protection and that wise measures and necessary precautions are carried out as they prepare for this rainy season.

Adapted from Prayer United
November 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.**

The Missional Christ Child Of Christmas

We once again enter into the Advent and Christmas Season and look forward to a time of celebration which is observed globally.

At this time of writing, the world is marked by the colours of blue, white and red. As citizens of the world we share in the grief of the nation of France by displaying the colour of its flag. It was reported that at least 129 have perished, and 352 injured [99 critically] as a result of the 13 November 2015 Islamic State terrorist attack on Paris. This dastardly and barbaric act that maimed and ended so many lives prematurely has truly shocked the world, reminding us of the ever-presence of evil and sin. The Christ Child's rescue mission was all about salvation from sin and evil.

The Bible plainly declares, *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons* [Galatians 4:4, 5]. Through His eternal planning, God prepared the world for the right moment in human history for the incarnation of His one and only Son to live so that He could sacrificially die for the citizens of His creation, once and for all.

The Christ-child fulfilled God's mission of being the once-and-for-all perfect redemptive offering for the sins of humankind. The author of the book of Hebrews unequivocally makes this point: *For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.*¹¹ *Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins.*¹² *But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.*¹³ *There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet.*¹⁴ **For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy** [Hebrews 10:10-14].

"The time appointed" by God or *"the perfect time"* in history was at the time of the *Pax Romana* [*"Roman peace"*, that spanned 30 BC to 180 AD] in which Rome had unity and peace under one emperor that began with Octavian, who was conferred the title of Augustus by the Roman Senate. He laid the foundation for strong rule and peace, whereby the prosperity of Rome was enhanced, and infrastructure such as roads were extensively built so that the early Christians were able to travel widely under persecution and dispersion, to

fulfill their mission of sharing the Gospel beyond Palestine.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, against the backdrop of a world which is vulnerable to the unnerving possibilities of violence, evil and threatening uncertainties, the people of God must remember that our God is still sovereignly in control of *time and timing*. God's providential missional oversight of the events of the world had directed and laid the groundwork in preparing individuals, people groups and nations for the accomplishment of the mission of His Son then. This included the necessity of Christ's earthly vulnerability of suffering, pain and death at the Cross, but thereafter the proclamation of the Good News of salvation in Him.

Christmas also reminds us that there is still to be the second and final coming of the resurrected Christ that will complete His mission of salvation of the world. God's word in Mark 13:24 – 29 declares this forthcoming and ever-drawing-closer-to-fulfilment truth: *"At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.*²⁶ **Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory.**²⁷ *And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world-- from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.*²⁸ *"Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near.*²⁹ *In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door.*

So while we celebrate Christmas against the backdrop of a world which is vulnerable to the unnerving possibilities of violence, evil and threatening uncertainties, let us never forget that our God is still the sovereign and providentially missional Father God. He is still in control of yet another *"at the time appointed"* or *"the fullness of time"* in which He will send the resurrected Christ to come a second time that will inaugurate the promised *"new heaven and new earth"*.

So we joyfully celebrate Christmas out of deep gratitude to the Christ Child Who came to redeem us. We share this joy via various expressions and practices as a redeemed community within our church culture. But we also reach out to touch a fearful and vulnerable world that is in need of the hope and stability of the sovereign missional God Who continues to be in control of *timing and times*.

In addition, as the people of God, we also celebrate Christmas in remembrance, anticipation and preparation for yet a final coming of the resurrected Christ. The Church serves as a sign and instrument of the Divine mission of saving the world that will culminate in Christ's second coming. We are to live as missional believers and as a missional church, realising that "there is a Church because there is a mission" - divinely planned from eternity. We are meant to be the celebratory missional people of God sent to proclaim the Gospel of Christ [John 20:21] and do God's work [John 5:17,19] in the world after the *Missio Dei* ["mission of God"] that awaits to be consummated when Christ comes again.

May we all celebrate Christmas experiencing the deep personal joy of being recipients of the fruit of the redemptive mission of the Christ Child. May Christmas also spur us on to be missional believers awaiting the coming of the resurrected Christ in a world vulnerable to the unnerving possibilities of violence, evil and threatening uncertainties; a world that stands in desperate need of being touched and transformed by the Gospel.

May God grant you and your loved ones a deeply meaningful and holy Christmas filled with His hope, love, peace and joy.

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

Features

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL)

Thanksgiving Service for the New Extension Block and Facilities

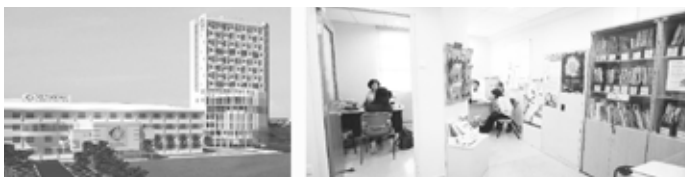
On 28 February 2015, MCKL held a thanksgiving service in celebration of the newly acquired MGS Brickfields 2 Primary School premises. The new premises which add another 2 acres to the existing 2-acre campus, is now referred to as Block A. This includes an outdoor badminton court, new classrooms and office spaces, open study areas, a large cafeteria and a new multi-purpose hall currently used for student recreation purposes.

"We want to give thanks to God for all His provisions and His answers to our prayers," said Ms Moey Yoke Lai, CEO of MCKL.

Officiating the event was Bishop of The Methodist Church In Malaysia Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik. Also present were esteemed members of the community and the education sector including Executive Director of the Methodist Council of Education Mr Khor Hong Yin, Chairman of the MCKL Board of Management Dato' Dr Tan Kee Kwong and Dr Esther Daniel of Universiti Malaya, school principals, staff and friends of MCKL.

In addition to the new block, other renovations on the main block are completed, providing students with a new music room, mini lecture theatre, and additional science labs. The University Placement Services (UPS) office and Psychology and Learning (PAL) Centre have also moved into larger spaces, allowing more students to receive university admission services, academic assistance and career or personal counselling.

MCKL is still raising funds for the multi-storey building, which is to house more classrooms, office space and accommodation. If you'd like to make a contribution, email us at buildingfund@mckl.edu.my



沙卫理年议会顺利召开， 明年开拓新领域事工



第十二届沙巴卫理公会的年议会，已于2015年11月6日至7日假亚庇神恩堂圆满举行，共有70位嘉宾、牧者、会友及观察员出席了此项为期两天的会议。马来西亚基督教卫理公会会督王怀德牧师受邀前来指导，并在开幕礼拜中证道。王会督语重心长地以圣经【民数记23:13-25】提醒教会要防备暗流力量的攻击，且必须依靠信实的上帝来抗衡之。另外，王会督也在按立礼拜中，透过【提摩太前书3:1-7】劝勉同工们需要寻找属灵长辈来教导帮助自己，正如提摩太需要保罗的教导及帮助一般。再者，牧者及领袖必须展现谦卑、圣洁、好怜悯、公义的品格，避免展现自己，荣耀自己，正如贵格利大主教曾说：“谨防自我展示的隐藏乐趣”。今年新加入的传道人有刚毕业自沙巴神学院的斐奥娜丽莎（Fionalisa Binti Aldrin）。被按立的长牧有吴常健；副牧则有甘云成，艾芬迪（Effindy Pengiran，以及安德森（Anderson Norbert）等三人。

斯次会议除了检讨过去一年的事工，会长许光福牧师率领与会的代

表们按着主题：《这一代、下一代》（From Generation to Generation）来展望及策划2016年事工。许会长在其演词中强调，教会必须重视【马太福音28:20】大使命的时间性“世代的终结”（to the very end of the age）及【使徒行传1:8, 11】的空间性“直到地极”（to the ends of the earth），这些字眼都存着迫切性，且是互相紧扣着的三重E命令，就是：一、向万国万族传福音（Evangelize Every Nation/Peoples Group）。二、建立本土/本色的教会（Establish Local, Indigenous Churches）。三、装备信徒成为门徒（Equip Every Believer to be Faithful Disciple）。按此大方向来计划，新的一年在门徒培育的事工上，教会将注重家庭培育与亲子关系，青少年事工，以及推动本处传道的培训。在布道与植堂方面，焦点将放在刚成立的斗亚兰卫理布道中心；另外，也将积极推展在原住民群体中的事工。教会与社会关怀方面，成立了沙巴卫理福儿院；另外，本会也积极关注原住民教育事工。至于在跨文化宣教方面，继续认领

甸景栋的佺童之家，泰北的传道及领袖培训等等事工。

11月7日午间，年议会闭幕礼过后，一众牧者、领袖及会友驱车前往斗亚兰，为斗亚兰卫理布道中心及沙巴卫理福儿院举行奉献启用礼，仪式由王怀德会督及许光福会长联合主持。教会的经济部主席刘恭豪合家为了纪念其先父母刘邦标及马英梯的恩情，奉献了位于Berungis商业中心的斗亚兰卫理布道中心的三层店屋充作会所；而室内的冷气设备由李木瑞夫妇奉献，灯饰则由李聿忠夫妇奉献。据悉，此布道中心将于2016年一月正式启用，届时开拓涵盖打里卜、斗亚兰及担波罗里区域的福音事工。至于座落在【希望之村】的沙巴卫理福儿院，其设立乃旨在照顾孤儿及贫穷家庭之孩童；在聘得院长之后，可望于明年初招生投入运作。一年一度的沙巴卫理公会年议会及两间新会所的启用礼，在上帝恩眷之下，欢愉的落幕。（毛维巧报道）

A Brief Report on the 12th Session of SPAC



The 12th Session of SPAC was successfully held at Shern En Methodist Church, Kota Kinabalu on 5-7th November, 2015. A total of 70 ministerial and lay delegates, as well as some observers attended the 2-day conference. Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik and wife (Mun Kean) graced the occasion, and our Bishop preached at the Opening and Closing (Ordination) services. Fionalisa Binti Aldrin, a fresh graduate from Sabah Theological Seminary joined the pastoral team. Joseph Ng Shiong Kim was ordained to the

Order of Elder, while Vincent Kam Yun Cheng, Effindy Pengiran and Anderson Norbert were ordained as Deacons.

The Session deliberated and planned on relevant ministries in accordance with SPAC's two-year theme: **"From Generation to Generation"** whereby the focus for 2016 would be "Raising a God-fearing Generation." In his presidential address, Rev Dr Hii Kong Hock revisited the Great Commissions, and he emphasized on both the temporal (Matthew 28:20 "to the very end of the age") and the spatial (Acts 1:8, 11 "to the ends of the earth") aspects of missions. The urgent call was to the church's emphasis on the 3-E commands: (a) Evangelize Every Nation/Peoples Group; (b) Establish Local, Indigenous Churches; and (c) Equip All Believers to be Faithful Disciples.

Following the GC Road Map, SPAC's major ministries for the coming year

include: (a) Discipleship – family life, youth development, local preacher courses; (b) Church Planting & Evangelism – Tuaran Methodist Preaching Point, indigenous ministry in Sandakan; (c) Church & Society – Sabah Methodist Children's Home, education among the orang asal; and (d) Cross-Cultural Missions – Wesley Training Centre in Chiang Rai, Thailand, and the Children's Home in KyengTung, Myanmar.

On the afternoon of 7th November, in the presence of President Hii, pastors and many church members, Bishop Dr Ong officiated the dedication ceremony of the newly planted Tuaran Methodist Preaching Point, a 3-storey shoplot donated by Mr Lau Kiing Ho and family in memory of his late parents. Also, Sabah Methodist Children's Home was dedicated to the glory of God.

Features

World Methodist Council News

World Methodist Council Responds to Paris Attacks

14 November 2015

In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris last night, The World Methodist Council issues the following statement:

The World Methodist Council condemns the terrorist-motivated multiple bombings, shootings, and hostage-taking attacks in Paris yesterday, the second time in less than a year that such attacks have taken place on French soil.

The savage attack on innocent, unarmed civilians attending a concert, soccer match and eating at restaurants shows cowardice and is an affront to human dignity. At the time of this statement, 129 people had been confirmed killed and more than 200 wounded.

World Methodist Council General Secretary Bishop Ivan Abrahams extends the condolences of the WMC to the next of kin of those killed and to the French nation. He also calls on all people of goodwill to remember those afflicted by this



tragedy in their thoughts and prayers, including investigators and officials in the ongoing investigation. May God help us work toward and realize a day when violence no longer exists.

Malaysia Day: Prayer United in SibU



Sibu experienced new atmosphere this Malaysia Day on 16 September. Burdened with the various needs of the Nation, the churches in the Sarawak Central Zone organized an all-day prayer gathering at the SibU Gateway. The organizing work first began in March this year. The 25 hours Pray for Malaysia Gathering began at 20:00 hours on 15th September and ended at 22:00 hours on 16th September. The aim of the event is to seek God's face and ask that He watches over and blesses our Nation.

Opening Ceremony

The opening of the function was marked by the playing of music by the Boy's Brigade Band of the Wesley Methodist Church at 7:45 pm. By then Pastors from various churches had gathered on the stage. At 8:00pm sharp the national anthem was played and the congregation stood singing the national anthem while the national flag was raised slowly. This was followed by the singing of the state anthem and the raising of the state flag.

After that, 8 members trumpet troop from the 611 Bread of Life Church and the BEM Hosanna Church blew the

trumpets symbolizing the call to worship our Lord. The lighting of candles were carried out jointly by ACS SibU Branch Deputy Chairperson Pastor Ting Leh Na, Prayer United Sarawak Central Zone Chairman Rev Jonathan Wong, Organizing Committee Chairman Rev Bishop Joseph Hii, SibU MP Oscar Ling and SMC Chairman Datuk Tiong. Representatives from the 21 churches lighted the 7 smaller candles. The 26 persons then lighted the candles of the members of the congregation. The lighted candles symbolized our Lord shining in every corner of the Sarawak



Central Zone.

Reconciliation

The Canaan Praise and Worship Team of the Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church led in the singing of hymns in Chinese, BM and English to worship God. After the opening prayer another choir team, The Grace Singers led in singing "Lord's Prayer" and "Hosanna" calling the congregation to listen to the preaching.

The Principal of Methodist Theological School Rev. Tie delivered his sermon titled "For God so Loved the World". He stressed that God loves everyone, irrespective of race or ethnicity. He sent His only son to die so that all who believe in Him can have eternal life. The Lord calls us to love everyone including the Malays and we should confess and apology for not loving them enough. Rev Tie's sermon was interpreted by Rev. Thomas Law.

God calls His people to repent and turn away from evil practices. We are to seek Him and He will pardon and restore us (2 Chr. 7:14-15). Representatives of different ethnic groups from the Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church,

Anglican Church, BEM Church and independent churches prayed using Iban, English, Foochow, BM and Chinese confessing our sins and asking the Trinity God to forgive us for our lack of love for Him (worship). We also prayed for the church (Great Commandment), for the world (Great Commission) and for His creation (care for surrounding).

While singing “Hari Ini Ku Rasa Bahagia”, the congregation shook hands, greeted each other and prepared for the full day of prayer and worship.

Then Rev. Khoo Ho Peng, Charles Tiong (both from SCAC) and Pastor Limbai Banyang from SIAC led in prayer. The prayer items included family, church, urban and rural needs as well as the needs of the Federal and State Governments. At 11:00 pm District Superintendent Rev Kong Chong Ling led in the closing prayer.

Pray Unceasingly

After the first slot which was led by Methodist Church, the subsequent slots from 2300 hours of Sept 15th till 1800 hours of Sept 16th were led by nearly 30 different churches including the Anglican Church, BEM Bethel, BEM Hosanna, BEM Glory, BEM Immanuel, BEM Glory, BEM Sibujaya, Gemburu Besai, Sibujaya and Sarikei churches City Harvest Church, 611 Bread of Life Church in Sibujaya and Mukah, Living Water Church, Baptist Church, Calvary Church/Sibujaya Emmanuel Church, Sibujaya and Bintagor, New Generation Church and representatives from various workplace groups.

The slot from 1800 hours of Sept 16th till 2000 hours was the worship session led by Catholic Church and over 2,000 persons attended the service. Bishop of Sibujaya Right Reverend Joseph Hii said that Jesus was crucified to save the world, so Christians should also make necessary sacrifices to bring blessings for the nation. “We are all sinners, we have our own weaknesses and fears, we come with our own empty cup to attend prayer meetings. After 25 hours of unceasing prayer, Jesus heals our bodies and souls and now our cups



are full.”

Closing Celebrations

In conjunction with the celebration of the Malaysia Day, the congregation dressed up in different ethnic costumes participated in the closing ceremony. In the last hour of the gathering, programs were presented in English, Iban and Chinese with singing and dancing to praise the Almighty Lord, giving thanks to Him.

Candles were also distributed to the participants, so that everyone could be reminded to be salt and light of the world and learn to sacrifice oneself for others like Jesus and to continue praying after that prayer meeting. Dances and songs at the closing ceremony were presented by members of the Catholic Church, churches of Gemburu Besai, BEM Hosanna and Glory with other BM churches.

Led by Rev Bishop Joseph Hii, all the pastors gathered on the stage. Holding candles, the state or national flags we sang “Malaysia Bagi Kemuliaanmu”, “这是天父世界” and “Celebrate Jesus Celebrate”.

Then the crowd shouted: “Malaysia, God bless you! Malaysia, Jesus cures you! And Malaysia, God be with you!” and shouting “Merdeka!” three times to mark the closing of the 25 hours Pray for Malaysia gathering.

With much enthusiasm the participants returned to daily life praying and asking God to bless the nation and the church.

The Organizing Committee said that the event was jointly organized by the ACS Sibujaya Branch and the Prayer United Sarawak Central Zone Committee. Churches from six denominations had organized prayer meetings to pray for the success of this event. The estimated number of participants for this event was over 2,000 Christians from around 140 churches of all denominations and independent churches.

When organizing this event, the Organizing Committee witnessed the presence of God; though all the denominations and churches were of different background and worship practices we were all able to unite in Christ and to pray for the nation in unity despite diversity. We also see that God supplied abundantly in financial resources as well as manpower resources. Brothers and sisters in the business field contributed generously and willingly to make this event a success and that even little children were willing to support and contribute. This has greatly encouraged all members of the Organizing Committee.

Through the 25 hours Pray for Malaysia Gathering, the churches have shown we are one in Christ. Prayer brings about transformation in the lives of Christians, reformation of churches and communities are transformed as well.

Reported by Rev. Jonathan Wong

砂中区教会大马日聚集诗巫之窗

为国守望 祝福祷告
合一见证 兴旺福音

今年诗巫市的大马日氛围，与往年大有不同。对国家需要的看见，在砂拉越中区的众教会中激起了使命感的负担，在三月间开始着手筹备诗巫之窗举行的“全日祷告集会”；就是从2015年9月15日晚上8时开始至16日晚上10时举行的这个户外全日祷告会，为国守望，祝福祷告。

开幕礼

15日7点45分，卫理公会的卫斯理堂基督男少年军开始演奏序乐，众教会牧者聚集台上。8点正国歌旋律响起，会众肃立高唱国歌，国旗徐徐升起，接着大家同唱州歌升州旗，以示对国家与砂拉越州的敬礼。

过后，由诗巫灵粮堂和婆罗洲基督教会和撒哪堂组成的8人号角队，吹出了号角呼召众圣徒聚集敬拜。先是点燃蜡烛：砂拉越联合教会诗巫分会副主席陈丽娜牧师、联合祷告砂拉越中区主席黄家源牧师和筹备会主席许德光主教，并诗巫选区国

会议员林财耀弟兄及诗巫市议会主席拿督张泰卿弟兄联合蜡烛盘上点燃中间的大蜡烛；众教会的21位代表则共同点燃周遭的7根小蜡烛；尔后这26位燃烛者接续点燃在场数以千计的圣徒手中的蜡烛，象征着基督之光要光照砂拉越中区各角落。

复和行动

新福源堂的迦南乐团由华伊二民族组成的领诗小组，带动全场颂唱华语、国语和英语的诗歌敬拜上帝。开始祷告之后，欣歌合唱团献上“主祷文”和“和撒哪”二首圣诗为祭，用歌声呼唤众人聆听圣道。

卫理神学院池金代院长证道：“上帝爱世人”，强调上帝爱的是所有的人，是各族各方的人，不只是爱我们所喜欢的人；祂差派独生子耶稣乃是为全世界的人死而复活，给予所有信靠祂的人永生。祂呼吁会众为我们爱我国各民族包括马来同胞，并为我们爱他们不足而要悔改和道歉。池牧师的传讲是由刘世尧牧师国语传译。

上帝呼吁祂的百姓当悔改转离所犯的恶事，寻求祂的赦免便得祂的医治和垂听祷告（代下7:14-15）：天主教、卫理公会、圣公会、婆罗洲基督教会（BEM）与独立教会代表，分别代表会众中的主要族群各以伊班语、榕语、英语、国语和华语，作出认罪悔改的祷告，恳求公义的三一真神赦免我们爱祂（敬拜）、爱众教会（大诫命）、爱世人（大使命）以及爱大地（治理大地）不足之罪。

在齐声欢唱Hari Ini Ku Rasa Bahagia“之同时，众人彼此握手问候，或是和好祝福声中，会众和融团契在一块，预备好了携手进入全日祷告敬拜当中。

接续下来的代祷时光分别由华人年议会的邱和平牧师、张扬烈弟兄和伊班年议会的林柏牧师带领，祷告事项包括家庭、教会使命、砂拉越城镇乡区、州与联邦政府的需要。在江昌龙教区长祝福之下，大马人祷告第一时段于夜晚11点结束。

不住祷告

由卫理公会带领的祷告时段过后，从当晚11点直到16/9傍晚六点，有数以十计的教会接力带领祷告，计有圣公会、BEM伯特利堂、和撒纳与荣耀堂、以马内利堂、恩典堂、诗巫再也堂、伊班语大会堂诗巫与泗里街教会、城市丰收教会、611诗巫/沐胶灵粮堂，活水堂与信义会、迦略山/诗巫以马内利教会、诗巫市与民丹莪堂、新世代教会及职场代表等近30间教会。

16/9傍晚六点至八点乃由天主教主持的隆重庄严崇拜，会众接近开幕礼的2000人。诗巫教区主教许德光神父主持祝福祷告时说，耶稣为世人被钉十字架牺牲自己，基督徒也当

效法为国带来祝福及作出必要的牺牲。

“我们都是罪人，有自己的软弱与害怕，带着自己干固的杯来参加祷告聚会，经过25个小时不间断的祷告，主耶稣医治了我们的身心，使我们的福杯满溢。”

欢庆闭幕

配合916马来西亚日，各宗派教会信徒穿着各民族的服装参与祷告聚会，在最后一小时以英语、西班牙语、华语和国语轮流呈现节目，载歌载舞颂赞全能上主，称谢祂的恩福。

现场也派送蜡烛给信徒，让众人在祷告聚会结束前，带着象征与耶稣一起，做世界的光和盐，为他人牺牲自己的蜡烛，回到日常生活中继续祷告祝福。在闭幕时段呈献歌唱舞蹈庆典节目的有天主教、西班牙语大会堂、BEM和撒哪与荣耀堂及国语会众代表。

在许主教带领之下，众教牧站在台上，还有台下的会众都一只手把持蜡烛，另一只则挥舞着砂拉越州旗或是大马国旗，欢唱三首歌：Malaysia Bagi Kemuliaanmu、这是天父世界和Celebrate Jesus Celebrate。



大家高喊：“马来西亚，上帝保佑妳！马来西亚，耶稣医治妳！马来西亚，上帝与妳同在！”在高喊三声“默迪卡”后，26小时祷告集会，在祝福声中圆满落幕！

众人带着祷告的热忱，回到自己生活的地方继续为国为教会守望祷告，祈求上帝大大的赐福！

举办当局表示，这个砂中区教会大马日全日祷告，乃是由砂拉越联合教会诗巫分会和砂拉越联合祷告中区委委员会联合举办。在这之前于六间不同宗派的教会举行了联合祷告会，以迎接这祷告日的来到。参与祷告的二千多位信徒几乎包括了中区所有的宗派和独立教会，代表着约140家的中区堂会。

在筹备的过程，筹委会经历了上帝的丰盛同在；尽管众教会的背景和崇拜文化有甚大的差异，但是大家都表现出主里一家亲的温馨精神，一心一意要为国守望，祝福祷告，大家喜乐的一起服侍。在人力财力上都经历了耶和華以勒丰盛的供应。有商场上的弟兄姐妹，看到众教会为了为国守望祷告走在一起，非常热切的主动奉献支持，也有看到小朋友为此而奉献的，这在在给予主办当局极大的鼓励。

这个祷告日，众教会表现出了合一的见证。大会也祷祈，祷告可带来圣徒个人生命的转化，教会的更新，社区的转化，更期待在这异邦社会中可带来更有利于圣道宣扬的氛围。

Devotion

What the World Needs Now

There is not a better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit.

— D. L. MOODY

IN WORD:

Galatians 5:19-21 contains a frightening list of sinfulness; it's even more frightening when we realize that it describes our natural selves, at least in spirit if not in behavior. We have all been participants in fallen humanity at its ugliest and can only bear good fruit by having a fruitful Spirit within us. The tragedy for our world, however, is that the list of sinfulness still describes us today. Fallenness is the natural state of unredeemed humanity, which drives the world we live in.

That's why the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 is so remarkable. It's countercultural. The early Christians who discovered this amazing presence of God within them were separated further and further from the corruption around them. They became a pariah to some, a witness to others. Either way, they were a statement that fallen flesh doesn't have to reign. There is an incredibly worthwhile alternative.

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

That's the role we play. That's what Jesus meant when He told His disciples they were lights in the world and the salt of the earth. Though the fruits of the Spirit do in fact make us a pariah to some and a witness to others, in both cases we are a statement that fallen flesh doesn't have to rule. Our culture can do with that knowledge whatever it wants: love us, hate us, try to explain us. Regardless, it needs to know: life in the Spirit of God is an alternative.

IN DEED:

Displaying the Spirit is one of our primary functions in this world. Our job is to get self out of the way and let Him shine. Why? Because a dying world needs to know that its corruptions are not the norm. Our friends and relatives need to see that the ways of the world are not the ways of God. The status quo of the human rebellion simply must be challenged.

If you needed a mission in life, this is it: to be countercultural to the world, to be the evidence of your holy Companion, and to display a love the world needs to see.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious . . . those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19, 21



The Dedication of the Transparent Church Building

A Pearl in the Jungle

Reported by Lee Sing • Translated by Christina



Signing on the inscribed board

It was a lively and vibrant season at Adang Christian Village during early September 2015. Around 380 guests from all around were invited to the Dedication and Anniversary ceremonies. That included 70-80 Penans from Adang Christian Village, 147 Penans from the five neighbouring villages, some 10 Lun Bawang, about 60 members from BEM Lawas Chinese Church together with their President Rev Justin Wan, about 85 short term mission team members from SCAC Methodist churches led by Rev Ling Bui together with President Su Chii Ann and the Superintendent of Miri District Rev Ting Chu Yih.

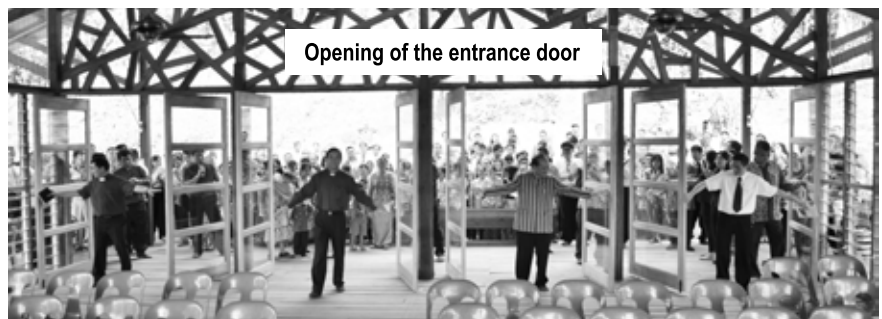
The crowd thronged the hill slope before four o'clock on 4th September, awaiting the Dedication ceremony to commence. The ceremony was declared open by Rev Ling Bui of Miri Tudan Methodist Church. It was followed by the signing on the inscribed dedication commemorative board by SCAC and BEM, represented by SCAC President Su Chii Ann, BEM President

Justin Wan, Pastor Lau Meng Chai of BEM Lawas Chinese Church and Rev Ting Chu Yih the superintendent of SCAC Miri District, signifying that both parties jointly presented the new church building for the glory of God.

The ceremony of opening the entrance door was very Penan style. The representatives of both churches were given a sumpit (blow pipe) to hit the balloons hung above the doors. Then there was the cutting of the ribbon to enter the four paneled doors. Before entering the church building everyone needed to take off their shoes as the sanctuary was a sacred place. It was followed by the ushers who brought in the Bibles, the cross and the sacrament holder to be placed at the Altar. After this, SCAC President Su and the Building Committee members led the congregation to dedicate the sanctuary to the Lord to be a house of prayer and praise, a place for spiritual nurture and the centre to spread the Gospel. Everyone, the Chinese, the Penan, the Ibans and the Lun Bawang, shared from the same cup of wine and bread in Christ.



Blowing of sumpit



Opening of the entrance door

Goodbye to the Old Ways

(Translated from Iban by Dennis Lee Fraude and arranged by Trevor Hancock)



Kudi Anak Sapang

Not long ago an Iban Methodist Minister was elected a Penghulu (Chief) amongst the Iban people of Sarawak. This can truly be considered an honour for the Methodist Church, but behind this recent history is another man's story.

In 1939 two missionaries were appointed to work with the Iban people. The two men went 'upriver' to work in the Kapit district. At that time Kapit was almost a jungle. Both missionaries underwent some harrowing experiences. One of them, the Rev Lucius Mamora, a Batak from Indonesia almost lost his head in a conspiracy, but he was saved by a timely warning from Tuai Rumah (headman) Kudi who helped him escape.

Kudi later became a real friend to the Christians and later his son Nuing be-

came the first Iban preacher. It was Nuing who was elected Penghulu. Yet had it not been for his father's bravery and kindness the story might have been very different.

Recently we visited Kudi and he told us that he had a message which he wanted to pass on to his fellow Ibans and other people. Kudi wants to express his gratitude to God for making such a difference to his life.

"I have been a Christian for about 15 years and I want to compare Christianity with the old Iban beliefs.

The old Iban believed that there were many outside factors which controlled the lives of humans. It was thought that we were controlled by birds and dreams and almost everything of this earth.

Suppose, whilst we were on the way to our farm by river, that our boat should bump into one of the river banks at the same time as a bird chirped, or if we were chopping firewood and our axe hit the chopping block at the same time as another bird chirped, then we would have to stop what we were doing and go back home. Only if a bird called at the right time and in the right order for example a 'Ketupong' first, then a 'Membuas' and after that the other birds could go about our daily business. That is the old belief.

When I compare this with Christianity, I feel much safer because there is nothing evil now to prevent us from going to our daily work. We rest on Sundays only and work for the rest of the week. Now I am an old man and Sunday is a day I look forward to.

Many people have said to me "You are a Christian. We will test your faith by seeing whether you get rich or not." But you just cannot make tests like this. Faith has nothing to do with wealth. I became a Christian because it means that God is with me. Now there is nothing to upset my life. I can come and go from my farm or do any other useful thing without being influenced by birds and omens. If we believe that God is with us all the time, then there is nothing that can ruin us.

Take this question of wealth. When we were pagans we had to work for our living and so it is with Christianity. Let me put it this way. When we are eating our rice, one of our hands must pick up the grains and put them into our mouths because it is certain that the rice will not go in by itself.

In the Christian faith we cannot just sit back and wait for God to make us rich—we must put our own rice into our own mouths—though God provides the rice. But in the old pagan days we expected the gods to put the rice into our mouths as well.

That's why we cannot compare the two beliefs in terms of wealth. Now we are free, but before we were controlled in our daily activities.

Children, if you want to follow the Christian faith, I certainly will not stop you. Indeed, I want to lead you, but if you don't want to join, then I can't force you. On the other hand whenever anyone enters the Christian faith I am very glad. In Christianity we can go happily about our daily business without any fear of birds and omens.

In the old days we had no-one to show us the way, but now we have many willing helpers. Let us take a look back to our grandfather's days when they expected to become wealthy through the aid of dreams, ghosts and many other creatures.

But we have learned from the Christian missionaries that wealth and prosperity depend not upon these phenomena but upon hard work and trust in God. Comforts and good education do not come from ghosts!

It makes me very glad to see our young people going to school. From education we learn to improve our standard of living. So I'm all in favour of education.

Look at the way farming is still carried out today using the old methods. A good crop is never certain and there are all sorts of hazards such as falling trees, cuts and snake bites. But our children in school are learning modern methods and life for them will not be a series of hair raising escapes. They can apply what they have learned to farming and so grow up into useful citizens—with good manners and education. Therefore we should follow what other civilised people are doing and not be left behind.

I don't know whether people will be angry with me for disregarding the old ways, but I have to tell you this. I am a very old man now. That is why I want to tell you about the peace of mind that Christianity brings. It doesn't disturb your daily life with birds and omen. Moreover, Christianity is honest. There is no finer belief than Christianity.

That is why I keep telling the Ibans to leave their old ways and beliefs behind them and follow Jesus Christ.

Some of them are too set in their ways and don't want to leave their old beliefs. But there is no holding back. Take our forefathers for instance—they could only count with their fingers and so were ignorant.

But today we not only know how to count easily but we can read and write as well. We are becoming educated and

that helps us to understand the economy as well as other people's beliefs.

What I want to say is this. Progress has come about through Christianity, for in the old days we were held back by dreams and birds and ghosts. Christ has defeated all these and now we are free.

Today, everything is changing and I can't make up my mind about some things. For example, in the olden days my father taught me how to kill and to take many heads. I taught my children this in turn—to take as many heads as they could. Then we gave it all up to become civilised.

But then I have seen educated soldiers who came here (during Confrontation). They didn't have to work nearly so hard as we did and their pay was much higher. What's more when they killed people they didn't just take one head but could kill lots at a time. We always had to work hard to take just one head. I don't know what to make of all this.

Now we are living in a civilised world. Once we were frightened of the dark—our only lamps were crude and feeble. Now we have pressure lamps and electricity and all this is changing. We are saying goodbye to the old ways.

I don't blame our forefathers for our lack of progress. In the past we were held back by our beliefs, but now we have to follow along with the other people instead of lagging behind.

I have only one more thing to say, and it is this. I am an old man now and I know life and what it is all about. I want to tell you young people that you still have a long way to go. One thing you must do and that is to work hard. The other is that you must believe in Jesus Christ and take God with you always. In this way nothing can have power over you.

Methodist Message
May/June 1968



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