

BERITA TRAC



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FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY



2010 EVANGELISM
EXPERIENCES IN KOREA

FRAGRANCE
OF CHRIST

LPL WEEKEND IN
WESLEY KUANTAN

A GRAND REUNION

By: Chang Choy Quin • National Youth Director

Jeremiah School had a grand reunion on the weekend of 21 January 2011. 25 JS alumnis, including the mentors came for the reunion. We had a time of great fun as we played games with the present batch of JS students. The alumnis gave an update to all present on the happenings in their lives after JS and also gave some advice to the present batch. It was a good time of getting to know one another and listening to stories of what happened in each batch. It was a good time of catching up with one another as well as being encouraged by listening to each one's journey of faith and the challenges encountered. There was a fun session of 'paint ball' war and an evening of BBQ dinner too. We thank God for His faithfulness in journeying with the alumnis and also for the latter's trust and faith in God as they move forward in their journey of life. All glory be to the Lord!



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Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik
President, TRAC

FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

It was a joy for me to be part of the recent concluded 8-11 March TRAC 20th MSF Camp in Melaka, where more than 200 were present, including about 20 from GYM, Singapore.

The theme pursued in the camp was **"A Voice to Our Nation"** – one of our TRAC Vision essentials for this quadrennium. This is a most apt theme in a critical season of our nation's political, economic, social and religious life. The election fever in Sarawak is rising with the state election scheduled for 16 April, and in the not too distant future the 13th Malaysian General Election will be upon us.

The TRAC Methodist Women Convention II and 36th Session on 4-7 June will complement this essential by their theme – **"The Fragrance of Christ"** (2 Cor 2:15). Generally, personal fragrance" is something that I think is better appreciated by ladies than men.

Just as much as fragrance and odour is intimately connected to personal hygiene, so also spiritual aroma has

everything to do with personal faith and relationship with Christ as Lord. Hence Paul says in ^{NLT} **2 Corinthians 2:15** - "Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.¹⁶ To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume."

We should be fragrance of life-giving perfume to one another as **fellow believers** in the family of God. This is just like when every part of the body is healthy and doing well – it will add to the life of the other parts of the body, as well as to the overall strength and well-being of the entire body. One crucial way that Paul goes on to develop his "perfume line" is the ministry of reconciliation (**2 Cor 5: 18-19**). We are most aromatic for Christ when we willingly, sacrificially and obediently choose to be peacemakers and reconcilers, preservers of unity in the body of Christ. We are then people who "act rightly, love mercy and walk humbly with God" (**Mic 6:8**) – fragrant bottles of His great and undeserved mercy.

But to the **unbelieving world**, our ways as people of Christ, disciples who incarnate His life and values, will be treated with contempt and disdain. Our way of life that has Christ formed in us (**Gal 4:17**) clashes with the world whose olfactory ducts

are used to the "stench of sins, sensuality and self-absorption". Our brand of "Christian Scent-inel" will remind them of what they do not want to be reminded of – that each one is made with eternity in her/his heart (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**), and will have to face the Creator's judgment one day. YET we must continue to so smell to them – although the fault lies not with the perfume wearer, but with the "smeller". Our faithfulness to our brand of "Christian Scent-inel", will be used by the Holy Spirit "prophetically" in time, to speak God's perspective into lives and systems, and convict them of their sins.

May the uncomfortable and testing "hot water" of today - corruption, immorality, injustice, divisions and incremental restriction of religious liberties – find us exuding the aromatic "fragrance of Christ" as a quality tea-bag would! We are now living in a season of various types of 'hot water'. At this time in *Malaysia's history, may the treasure of this rich and life-giving fragrance of Christ be powerfully and prophetically released from the "earthen jars" of His people in TRAC – to our home, church, work place, the market place, the public square of Malaysia and afar.

May we in this Lent Season – discover again through penitent hearts and the visitation of the Holy Spirit, what it is to be the irresistible "Fragrance of Christ" as "A Voice to Our Nation".

2010 EVANGELISM EXPERIENCES IN KOREA

*Hosted by BuPyeong Methodist Church, Korea
6th to 11th November 2010*

The TRAC Methodist Churches in Malaysia • Submitted by the team, compiled by Vicky Lee



Team members at the Korean airport.

On 5th November 2010 a group of 40 of us assembled at the KLIA to visit Korea on the Prayer Exposure Trip by courtesy of BuPyeong Methodist Church. Upon arrival at the Korean airport we were each warmly greeted by the Pastors, leaders and members of the church with a pink rose before we were ushered into the waiting bus.

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

It was the 3rd group organized by Life Methodist Church, Puchong to BuPyeong Methodist Church in Korea. The 1st group in 2007 comprised members of Life, Puchong. The 2nd group in 2008 comprised members from Wesley Kuantan, Wesley KL, Emmanuel PJ, Life Puchong, Wesley Taiping, Wesley Ipoh, Grace Sentul and Wesley Alor Star. The 2010 group members were from Wesley Alor Star, Wesley Melaka, Emmanuel PJ, Wesley KL, Christ Bentong-Mentakab, Life Puchong and Wesley Seremban. Bupyeong MC hosts groups from all over the world every year with the expressed intention of sharing the story of God's wonderful work in and through the Church in Korea that was the result of long seasons of fervent prayers by the believers in Korea.

God blessed the church to be a blessing to others by hosting leadership training for others from all over the world since their current mission centre was built in 2003. They host about 12 – 14 groups every year, mainly the Methodist churches from different countries. It was primarily to introduce and expose others to the 'praying church movement' in Korea. Their mission is to share with believers from all around the world their spiritual journey and story of God's goodness and blessing in answer to faith and fervent prayer.

2. BRIEFING AND CORPORATE PRAYER BEFORE DEPARTURE

We had two briefings before our departure to prepare us for the trip. Pastor Lee Peng Chiat was the pastoral leader of our group. As the programme was very tight, and prayer meetings started at 5 am, we were urged to start training to sleep earlier before our departure so as to be sufficiently ready and alert each day to enjoy all that were prepared for us to experience. We were given a list to pray from 15th October to 4th November.

3. PROGRAMMES

In keeping with the objective, a wide programme of activities and events were arranged.

- The highlight of the experience was participating in the dawn prayer at 5 am that started with singing 2 songs followed by a leader praying and then the choir singing. A short scripture passage was read followed by a short sermon of about 20 minutes. The rest of the 30 minutes was our personal vibrant relationship with the Lord – all praying at the same time. Every morning of the 365 days of the year in the church sanctuary, hundreds from far and near came without fail, rain or shine. Praise the Lord for their deep love for the Lord. How much time we spend with the Lord tells us how much we know the Lord. If we go to Jesus we will experience miracles. Come for dawn prayer. Please God first and worship him in accordance with God's command and will. Prayer determines our faith. Without prayer there will be no miracle.
- The 3 lectures by the Senior Pastor Rev. Hong Eun-Pa were 1) Korea and Korean Church, 2) Revival and Growth of the Korean Church and 3) History and Organization of Bupyeong Church. Malaysians need to pray longer. We are to treat our Pastors with love and respect in order for the church to grow. If we spend most of our time serving God we would not have time to fight or go against the Pastors. If we continuously pray, God will bless us.
- There were 3 testimonies by the church leaders on how God answered their prayers, a church tour of the physical building and the Sunday school, Choir and worship services, a Mini Concert and the 18th Hand bell Choir Annual Concert that gave us a profound experience of the Korean church life and ministry.
- On 8th November morning we went to the Prayer Mountain to pray. Each of us was given a little room to have quiet time with the Lord for 1 hour, praying and listening to the Lord and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

- We had opportunities to visit places of interest as well and to do some shopping in the course of the visit but that was not the main focus of our trip.

4. THE RIPPLE EFFECT

- Immediately after returning home, Pastor Lee Peng Chiat started the Dawn Prayer in Wesley Alor Setar on 13 November 2010 from 6-7 am. They had 16 members including the team of 8 who went to Korea. The Lord keeps the little fire and flame aglow.
- On 1st January 2011 we had a meeting over dinner in one of the members' homes to report what we had started, or why we had failed to start, after consultation with our local pastor.
- Since the return of the first group our TRAC President and also TRAC Prayer director, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik initiated the Shekinah Hour Dawn Prayer held in Wesley KL once a month attended by members from Federal Territory and Selangor churches. Now Shekinah Hour has moved to every second Saturday of every month from 7:30 – 8:30 am with 20 – 30 members attending. After the return of the second group Wesley KL started the Morning Watch on the other Saturdays of the month. We encourage all KL and PJ members to join the Shekinah Hour.
- Life Puchong started dawn prayer every Saturday at 6:30 am in 2007 and have 10-15 committee members attending. It has helped the church to grow where the Lord adds members.
- Wesley Kuantan after returning home has started dawn prayers on Holy Week.

5. ONGOING

Emmanuel PJ conducts morning Prayers every Saturday at 7 am and Wesley Melaka has theirs on Wednesdays and Fridays.

6. IMPRESSIONS FROM THE TEAM

It was a humbling experience to join hundreds of Korean worshippers both young and old in the dawn prayer from 5 to 6am (many remained to continue praying after 6). Some travelled for one and a half hours to church every morning and that made our effort waking up at 4:30 am for 5 days and walking within the church grounds so very effortless! They love the Lord whole-heartedly and they express their love by waking up very early to encounter Him every morning. They love others by giving of their time and energy to serve. Their love for God, trust and faith as they prayed and the way God answered and prospered them deeply spurred us to more diligence, faith and trust in prayer. We are deeply touched by their servant heart shown in their kind and generous hospitality. Truly they are the light and salt for others to follow. This trip has made a great impact on us to want to strive deeper in our personal prayer life.

We continue to pray for the Senior Pastor, Pastors, Leaders and congregation of Bupyeong Methodist Church that God will continue to enlarge their

vision of God's will and purposes for their personal and corporate lives at Bupyeong Church. We also pray that the Lord will grant us the strong desire to see the Church in our land becoming stronger and stronger through the intercessions and prayers we learned during our trip. We give thanks to God that our lives will never be the same again because of the people we met, the experiences we went through, and all that we encountered. We also pray that we have the desire to share with others how the Bupyeong Church had impacted us. We experienced the life and ministry and brought home with us peace and blessings to add to the spiritual wealth of our congregation. We pray that all of us have left behind in Korea a positive and lasting impression that will pave the way for other groups to be welcomed and hosted by Bupyeong for a similar experience. We would like to encourage all Pastors and leaders to go for this trip when the opportunity arises. If we wish to see lasting spiritual work built up, it must be birthed and established through prayer and prayer alone. Therefore we are to start dawn prayer in our churches and to pray and pray and pray.



Dawn Prayer congregation

REV. BALAHU HASSAN

by Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr. Denis C. Dutton

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This man was the backbone of the revival work among the Sengois. I can still remember the time when he was a student at the Sekolah Roland in Kuantan, where Mr. Ted Miles was the principal. This was during the years 1958 -1959. He was the best educated Sengoi we ever had. He could have easily advanced to higher education, but was willing to come out and become the esteemed leader, of the movement to make the Sengoi Christians what they are today.

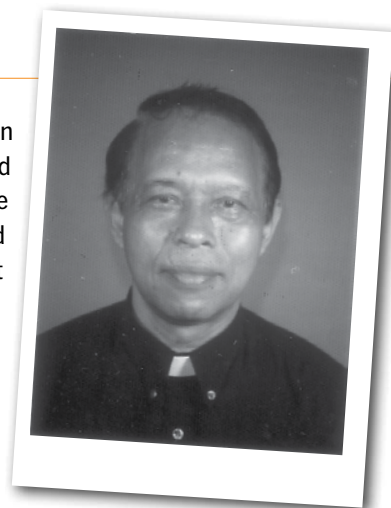
I can also remember the times when he would not let himself be intimidated by middle men who wanted to take from the Sengois, the durians which they picked, at unfairly low prices. In fact, to intimidate Balahu, they faked an accident which rendered him a near cripple.

He stood his ground when extremists from a major world religion not only taunted him, but actually tried to bribe him to convert to a major world religion. Again, he stood firm on the sure foundation of his faith in Jesus Christ. Surely, this man must be recognised as a pioneer, and a warrior in any way you would define those terms!

More can be said, but I will leave that to others. Interview one Mr. Jimmy Yin, and he will tell you more about this wonderful specimen of a modern day martyr.

Indeed, history should record his pioneering contributions to the Sengoi Church. His late father was another warrior of the faith.

I praise the Lord for the inspiration he bought to my life and ministry. To God be all glory and praise.



Condolences

Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC), Methodist Church in Malaysia conveys its deepest condolences to the family of the late Rev. Balahu Hassan who was called home for eternal rest with our Lord on January 10th, 2011.

Rev. Balahu Hassan became a minister in full connection in 1987 until his retirement in 2004.

Rev. Balahu Hassan loved the Lord and was faithful and resolute in serving Him. He encountered various obstacles and was able to overcome many in his efforts to bring the Word of God to his people and to help raise the standard of living of the Sengois. All of us in TRAC will miss him.

***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
and I have remained faithful."***

- 2 Timothy 4:7 -

Tolerance, patience and respecting each other's boundaries and personalities have been several of the valuable lessons I obtained because 20 people living together, eating together and doing basically everything together is not simple or as easy as it looks. Yet, living in such a God-focused community has been an amazing experience. It gave me a taste of what heaven on earth feels like. From sessions such as conversational ministry to FIC, I have learned so much about the life that is pleasing unto God and one of the most amazing experiences I went through at JS was learning to deal with past hurts and to forgive those who had wronged me in the past. I also learned more about my inner self and this has helped me to mature spiritually, emotionally and mentally, preparing me for the world outside. Those moments I felt God touch my heart are indescribable and I realize now that the Bible is so much more than just a book containing God's laws and commandments for us. In fact, His Words bring comfort and assurance even when all hope is lost and circumstances seem bleak.

Fong Su Ee

WMC, Seremban

JS has really changed my life and I had many first times in JS. It was the first time I was really touched and I cried during worship. It was the first time I experienced 'Quiet Retreats' and fasting plus not talking for 12 hours. It was the first time people who were not my family felt so much like my family and cared for me just like my family. When I broke down and cried they were there to hold my hand and really be there for me. It was also the first time God really touched me during prayer. In JS I learnt how to love one another as God has loved us and we love because God first loved us. Also I learnt how to live in a community and listen to one another in love and speak words that would build each other up and not tear the other person down. One important thing I learnt was how to deal with conflicts that I faced. It's sometimes true that conflicts bring you closer to one another.

Rebecca Sonali Alfred

CMC, Ampang



For all of us, the peak of JS was our mission week and the mass event. During mission week, we approached strangers who were of a different age, race and religion, extending the invitation to them to our mass event. Whenever there was an opportunity, we shared the gospel with them. When we were rejected, we prayed that the doors of their hearts would be open one day. Even though in the preparations of the event we faced a lot of ups and down, we were able to learn and grow in our difficulties and trials.

Beatrice Eugenie Ho

WMC, Kepong

Never in my life have I read the Bible continuously every day. During JS I made a vow that I would read the whole of New Testament and I am almost completing it. Memorizing the Scripture verses was a fun thing to do in some ways.

Khong Zhi-Wei

TMC, Petaling Jaya

JS really has taught me to love and accept each other the way they are and to edify each other. Above all, we are to love God most for He first loved us. JS is seriously a wonderful place to experience God significantly. It's like a glimpse of heaven everyday.

Joanna Thinn Mar

WMC, Klang

During JS, not only have I found out and learnt the power of prayer but I also came to know more about evangelism. People always talked about sharing the gospel to others or spreading the Good News but I never really knew how to do that. I learned that in JS and praise God when I was given the opportunity to share the gospel with a trainee at Daybreak Centre, a centre for the disabled. She came to Christ that day. Praise God! For all of heaven rejoices when one sinner turns to Christ.

Joel So

TMC, Petaling Jaya



Coming to Jeremiah school has been a life-changing experience for me and I thank God everyday I am in JS. In JS, we not only learnt new things everyday but we were also led to experience God in a deeper way. One of the most important lessons I've learnt here is of course to do my quiet time and journaling everyday. To many, journaling may not seem important but it is, because it helps us reflect on our day –whatever we have learned and experienced.

Cindel Yong

FMC, Cheras



In short, JS has helped me in many ways whether being more submissive to authority, being closer to God or reading the Bible on a daily basis. It has helped me know just how much I need to rely on God in my life.

Rachael Lim

CMC, Ampang

In the session about God the father, we learnt many things we did not know previously about God. Often, we perceive God as a wrathful God. If we look carefully into the Bible, we can see that God is actually a loving and merciful God. The only reason God disciplines us is to remind us not to repeat our same mistakes.

Samuel Yeoh

WMC, Butterworth

The 3 weeks in February were even tougher than the last 3 weeks in January because in February we were going out for our mission week. We had to prepare our hearts and be ready to march out to spread the gospel to the unreached people. We were divided into 4 teams: A, B, C, D and we went to different sections of the town to evangelize to the people. It was a great experience for me.

I was personally transformed through my experiences in JS. I gained new values, habits, tastes and ambitions - positive changes that are pleasing to God.

Tan Jing Chun

WMC, Alor Setar



WE WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Berita TRAC is the quarterly newsletter of the conference and one of the important reasons we produce and distribute this newsletter is that through this medium we are given the opportunity to connect and share information on the wonderful work God is doing through our TRAC churches. We are not to confine the vision, joys and struggles of our local churches within its walls but to network and share so that other churches within the larger family of TRAC can rejoice or pray with you.

Please appoint someone in your local church who will regularly send us your local church newsletters and articles for publication in Berita TRAC. This is our plea to all the TRAC churches.

Publications Committee,
Berita TRAC

ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUNG ADULTS CONFERENCE (YA)

DATE **September 16 - 18, 2011**

VENUE **Tanjong Bungah Hotel**

THEME **I QUIT (my ordinary lifestyle)!**

SPEAKER **Mr Alvin Ung**

*For those interested to join in "A Call to Prayer for the Church & Our Nation Malaysia" please visit twitter and facebook under **www.pray4malaysia.org**. This is a movement which has just started, based on a united prayer agenda that all Christians in our nation can join in, regardless of denominations.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH JOHOR BAHRU

Invites applications for positions of

A) STAFF WORKERS

1. Duties:

To work alongside the Pastor in the area of missions, social concerns, Christian education, youth and children's work and general administration.

2. Requirements:

- (i) Must be Malaysians.
- (ii) Minimum qualification is SPM or its equivalent. (Theological training and proficiency in Chinese language will be an advantage).
- (iii) Computer literate

B) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Duties:

General office administrative work.

2. Requirements:

- (i) Must be Malaysians
- (ii) Minimum qualification is SPM or its equivalent. (Being bi-lingual is an advantage.)
- (iii) Computer literate

Interested applicants are to apply in writing to:

The Pastor, Rev Joshua Hong, Wesley Methodist Church Johor Bahru, 20 Jalan UnguTujuh, Taman Pelangi, 80400 Johor Bahru, Johor, giving details of personal particulars, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant certificates, and references from church pastors. Please state position applied for. You could also email the Pastor at **jbwesley@streamyx.com**

LPL WEEKEND IN WESLEY KUANTAN

New Testament with Rev. Yong Wai Yin • 25 – 27 March 2011

Reported by: Mr. Jimmy Phua • Wesley Methodist Church Kuantan.

We praise God for the recent LPL weekend held in Wesley Kuantan. It is the 6th LPL weekend, and for credit students this is a significant milestone for us. We have 2 more modules left in order to complete the entire LPL course requirement. We thank our pastor for his far-sighted and long term planning in equipping and training us. This has been a fulfilling journey for many of us when pastor began inviting LPL facilitators to Wesley Kuantan to conduct the various modules in the church (since November 2008). We also want to thank all the facilitators who came to Kuantan to make it possible for members and leaders of Wesley Kuantan to attend the course.

40 members (4 Credit Students) signed up for the course on the New Testament (NT). Rev. Yong brought us through the comprehensive historical, political and cultural background of the NT in order to appreciate and understand the ancient NT world and the context in which it was written.

We also learned the use of some “root” words as employed by the writers, the various genres, structure, style of writing etc. This gives us a deeper understanding of the intent and purpose of the writer. We certainly had gained much at the end of the LPL weekend.

The past 6 marathon LPL weekends have brought us closer especially for those of us who are pursuing the LPL as credit students. We have journeyed together for 75% of the way and the encouragement and support we lend to one another are invaluable in this endeavour. In pursuing the LPL it had also instilled and deepened the desire to learn more, to be equipped for service and love for the Lord.



