



## Integrating The Next Generation

Jeremiah School (JS) Students 2012

TRAC Uni-College Students  
Gathering (TUCSG)

Reflections of A UPSR Coach In  
Long Lamai Testimony





# contents

1

## INTEGRATING THE NEXT GENERATION



### YOUTH

#### JEREMIAH SCHOOL (JS) STUDENTS 2012

4



8

## TRAC UNI-COLLEGE STUDENTS GATHERING (TUCSG)

Berita TRAC is a quartely newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference. We welcome articles, contributions, comments and feedbacks that will edify the TRAC churches. The editor reserves the right to edit and publish selected submissions. Please forward all enquiries, comments and contributions to: [admin@trac.org.my](mailto:admin@trac.org.my) or call 03-7954 2836 website: [www.trac.org.my](http://www.trac.org.my)

### Youth

7 Superglued

10 TRAC Youth Ministry Partners' Retreat 2012



12 BB/GB Juniors at Putrajaya Wetlands



### Youth Mission

14 Reflections Of A UPSR Coach In Long Lamai Testimony

### Vacancy

15 Position Of Church Administrator

### Testimonies

16 Great Is Our God  
Great Is Thy faithfulness.....  
Great Is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me !

18 God Is Faithful

### Youth Leaders Development Programme (YLDP)

19 Heart Of Leadership



# Integrating The Next Generation

*By Rev Andrew Tan*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest challenges of the pastoral ministry today is shepherding our young ones so that they grow and integrate into the life of the local church. It is common knowledge that our young ones leave the churches they grew up in. Although some churches do better at keeping them, overall they are lost to not only other churches but also to the world out there.

As a pastor, I try to understand this phenomenon and figure out possible solutions. In this article, I want to share some of my thoughts and practices to address this issue in the various churches I have been the pastor.

## OUR SITUATION

A few years ago, I was struck that a youth after being in the Sunday School and the Youth Ministry for nearly fifteen years left his local church that he was nurtured in although he lived in the same city. This case is not an isolated phenomenon. I enquired from him why that is so. His reply was that he hardly knew people in the local church. When asked why he was attending his present church, he replied that he has friends there.

There are of course reasons why our youths are attracted to other churches. Before we even examine the reasons why they are attracted to other churches, let us look at the barriers that undermine their assimilation into the life of our churches, and help to stop this hemorrhage.

## SOME BARRIERS

Our age-group ministries in our church can unwittingly segregate members of the same church. Youth ministries and Sunday Schools provide a unique environment of doing ministry among the youths. Most of them have the noble goal of making disciples – bringing their behavior, lifestyle, and commitment in line with that of Christ. Unfortunately, when they have

completed their time in the Youth Ministry, they feel like they are orphans disconnected with the larger body of Christ. A fundamental flaw in doing youth ministries is the lack of integration with the wider body. No matter how good the ministries are, if they lack integration with the larger body, they fail miserably because the youths are still lost to the local church.

Adult members and parents can also contribute in alienating our youths. We are seldom interested in their ministries. Not many adults want to be involved in the Youth Ministry. In fact, we are quite happy that their ministry times coincide with our worship time. We leave them in the Sunday School classes or the Youth Meetings while we worship in peace. Even in recent years, when the youth counselors and Sunday School teachers attempt to call in parents on occasions to keep them informed or try to involve them with their children, most parents do not participate.

There are other challenges when it comes to assimilating our youths after they leave high schools. The time gap when a youth leaves for tertiary education and the time he comes back is precarious. The “faith” he has learned is being tested out there in his new world. Only God knows what he has been exposed to, and how that has affected his faith. When he comes back to his home church, he finds that most of his contemporary friends have gone away. If he comes back to his home town to work, it is still a strange church he goes back to because he hardly knows anybody there. Meanwhile, his focus is on his career and family.

## SOME ATTEMPTS AT INTEGRATION

With all the above challenges, what are we to do? Do we accept the status quo of the situation and give up? Or do we work to find solutions even though they may not be easy? I shall share some of my attempts at trying to integrate our youths in the life of the church.

Children and youths must be brought into the life of the church where they know they belong. If a church is a

family, then children and youths need to be a part of the worship service. For me, the most fundamental place where the family of God meets together is the worship service. But unfortunately, most of our Sunday School and Youth Meetings are timed simultaneously for the parents' convenience. I hope our churches realize that their youths are alienated precisely because they have a youth ministry!

To overcome compartmentalization, the youth ministry has to add one goal: to assimilate young disciples into full participation in the life of the church. One measure of the success of our youth ministry must be how well the students are connected to the larger body.

Someone who made this observation, "The degree to which students will stay in the church, get involved, and make significant life decisions for Christ is directly dependent on their sense of belonging to the church." I asked some youths, "What will it take to make you feel at home and worship in this church?" Some of their answers include, "let the adults take an interest in us and talk to us," and "let us take part in the service." I enquired about how they feel about the liturgy and the hymns. Their answer is that those are secondary issues. In other words, adult interest in them is a far more important factor than how the worship style suits them.

Let me share some of my convictions and pastoral practices I have held in the churches I have been. First, I believe that the **worship service is the basic gathering of the church family**. This means that Sunday School classes or Youth Meetings are not a worship service, and our youths are encouraged to be in the church worship service. This means that Sunday School teachers or Youth Counselors do not replace worship service with their Sunday School and youth ministry times. By extension, this would also mean that if there is only one worship service, the Sunday School time should not clash with the worship service time. Recently, I learned that Subang Methodist Church (SMC), hold their Sunday School and Youth Meeting are held at a different time than their worship service, and in their practice all the youths and children attend church service together.

Second, I believe that **children and youths ought to attend the worship service**. My wife, Anna, and I brought up our children this way. Our son, David, has been attending church service since he was one month old. Our daughter, Caryn, began attending church since she was four years old. Children from about four years onward can be trained to sit through a worship service. Whenever we observe that young parents stopped coming to church or come infrequently because of their children, we advise them to bring their children to church anyway. They are to make their children's lives revolve around them, and not their lives around their children as far as church worship is concern.

In Canning Garden Methodist Church (CGMC), Ipoh, we managed to have about thirty over kids (primary school age) to be in the worship service listening to sermons and taking down notes (simplified notes with the help of one adult). As these kids grew up to be teenagers, they continued to be in the worship service. They have little problems sitting through a worship service even when the service catered to adults. This contrasted with the youths who did not attend worship service when they were children. They continued not to attend even though they were members' children. In WMC, KL, we made attempts to speak to parents to bring their children to worship service and to the youths to attend service, and some did. In Emmanuel Methodist Church (EMC), Petaling Jaya, there was already emplaced a Family Sunday on the second Sunday each month when Sunday School session is cancelled. During Holy Communion on the first Sunday, the Sunday School and Youth Meeting are dismissed early for them to be present during the Holy Communion. Although only those who are baptized and above twelve years old can partake of the elements, it is still meaningful for those who do not partake to come up to the Communion railing. I believe children absorb the significance of worship intuitively even if they don't understand cognitively. The fact that the church encourages and embraces them in the sanctuary is very important in helping them to belong.

Third, **parents have the primary responsibility to help integrate their children in the life of the church**. Many parents do not share this vision of bringing their children or youths to worship service for

a number of reasons. They feel that it is too much a stretch to bring them to Sunday School and church service. It is not fair to make them sit through a service they cannot understand; besides they may disturb others. In short, it is too inconvenient. However, for me the issue is how important do parents perceive a worship service to be for their family. If it is important, none of the above problems are insurmountable. Children can and will sit through a service if you want them to. When parents perceive that music lessons, swimming lessons, extra tuition are important, they will make the commitment even if it is not convenient. So the real issue is how important family worship is to the parents.

Ultimately, children and youths will integrate into the church if parents also integrate their lives in the church. If parents merely attend a Sunday service and do not participate in the life of the church, then children do not have the model to emulate. If parents take their children's involvement in church seriously, they will catch it, and see the importance of their faith and community life in the church. On the other hand, if parents tell their children not to attend church or Sunday School because the exams are coming, it can undermine all the years the Sunday School has put in to instruct the child!

Fourthly, **parents ought to bring their children to the Small Groups they attend.** In one of the Small Groups in WMC, KL, I was greatly impressed when I saw the teenager children worshipping, discussing and praying in the same group as their parents. For me, there is nothing so impactful on the teenagers like seeing their parents talking and praying about their faith. In CGMC, we encouraged parents with children to gather in the same Small Group. We did with our own children, too. These children and youths were most happy to be come together, and they grew up with aunties and uncles surrounding them. I hear similar stories from some of the parishes in WMC, KL, that their children grew up in the parishes knowing all the aunties and uncles because they bring their children to the parishes.

Children and youths in our churches need to grow up in a wider community of the church family. In such

a scenario, even when their contemporary friends are away overseas studying, they still know other church members. They have adult aunties and uncles who know them and vice versa.

## CONCLUSION

If we were to emplace these practices in trying to integrate our youths in the life of the local church, I am sure we will impact them in the long term. I believe that even if their career takes them elsewhere, those who leave us will carry their faith somewhere else and live out their faith better.

Despite the hemorrhage, I remain hopeful. One evening, when the EMC youths had a farewell party for five post Form 5 students going overseas, I invited myself to the party. I told them I wanted to address the group. What I did was to give them a vision of why they ought to come back to their home church should they return to the Klang Valley after their studies, namely to build community. Meanwhile, when they are back for holidays they are to be the big brothers and big sisters to the younger youths. Then in future, these younger youths will emulate them. Then, when they finally return home to work, they can be the youth counselors, etc. etc.

I believe that what I shared that evening with them imparted a vision to them. Whenever youths have a place and a vision, they will respond. I saw that in CGMC. When the music ministry team, who were mostly youths, played an important role in the church the youths closest to them became involved too. I saw it in WMC, KL. When the young adults were given their role in hosting the Praise and Prayer Service, the youths got involved too. I see it now in Whispering Hope Methodist Church where more than half the congregation are college students.

Our youths are quite responsive. The question is whether the parents, the adult members and the church are willing to involve them, to lead them, and to invite them to participate in the life of the church. If we do, I believe we need no longer moan that our youths are leaving our churches.





## JEREMIAH SCHOOL (JS) STUDENTS 2012



The most important thing I've learned in JS is to learn how to talk and connect or communicate with God because if you don't learn and practice listening to God, it's very hard for you to hear God and recognize His voice when He is speaking to you.

**Crystal Cheok**  
EMC

The change I have in my life is that I am able to connect with my family better. I used to isolate myself at home. When Uncle Herbert asked us to send a message of thanks to our earthly father, I really hesitated but I still sent it in the end. My dad thought I was going to commit suicide because that was the first time I had ever sent him that kind of message. My mum also said that I am now more obedient.

**Kenny Har**  
WMC Sitiawan

Most of my church youths who went for JS would come back and tell me that it was an awesome and once in a lifetime experience. I was intrigued by the 'once in a lifetime experience' remark and so I decided to join JS – the wonderful journey of getting to know God.

**Anne Grace Savitha**  
WMC Seremban

There were many lessons taught in Jeremiah School. Each was important in its own right. I would just like to touch on the most significant thing – God's will for my life. I had always intended to live a comfortable life away from Christian ministry when I grew up. But coming to JS, seeing the mentors and my fellow students, made me think really hard on my purpose in life. We had many sessions on "God's purpose" and "discerning God's will: and it helped me a lot in having a clearer understanding of God's plan for my life. I believe that life will truly be full and fulfilled when we submit to God's plan for us... simply because He knows best.

**Josiah Liew**  
SSMC

I am glad that I went for JS because if I didn't, I would not know the people I do now, I still would be bad at talking to strangers, I would not know the things I know now and last but most importantly my relationship with God would not have improved.

**Hannah Lim**  
WMC Taiping

A few months before the JS registration closing date, I stumbled upon a few JS Alumni's Articles in their Blogs which told of their experiences in JS. Reading through, I felt my heart strangely eager to go for JS, especially when I read the part on how God refreshed, filled, and transformed their lives. To be honest, it has been quite some years since I felt refreshed in my heart by God. It was like a blockage of some sort in my heart. I also felt that there would be no joy in serving God through the Church Ministries with an inside that felt so dry and dead!

Hence I promised myself that I would sign up for JS. That was that.

**Elizabeth Tan**  
EMC

The 'Making of a Leader' session touched me very much because it was very relevant to me. Being the MYF president was definitely not a cruise nor was it a smooth journey but Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik who spoke during that session taught us that if we could not follow, we could not lead. To be a leader, I must first be a follower. To be a leader, I must first follow Jesus Christ and His exemplary life on earth. It struck me so much when he said that who we are is God's gift to us but who and what we become is our gift to Him.

**Hannah Foo**  
WMC Ipoh



I learned that God created me perfectly and He matches our capabilities and gifts with our calling. I also learned about my personality. Basically what I learnt is knowing that I am a child of God who loves me and nothing can separate me from that love.

**Ivan Yeung**  
WMC Klang

JS provided a safe community for a young Christian like me to truly focus on God instead of other things. It was then that I felt God really speaking to me. I am still struggling in the area of my spirituality but I believe by God's grace and wisdom my life can be transformed whether in my mind, heart and spirit. I am His child and committed to serving Him faithfully.

**Vincent Lian**  
WMC Kepong

Jeremiah School proved to be far different from expectations or previous presumptions. I found myself constantly challenged mentally and emotionally as I was constantly thrown into different situations. It taught and threw light on Christian living. Also, what was very significant to me was that I have learnt to stop looking for temporary fixes and instead to go to the root of the problem and be set free through God. The one significant change in me is that nowadays I am interested to live a worshipful lifestyle through God and to live my life to the glory of His Name. Also, I look toward exploring my feelings and emotions, so that I may grow to be more compassionate and build deep connections with people in my life.

**Cheryl Francis**  
CGMC



It all started 8 years ago, when I was a Jeremiah School (JS) student; it was the second time TRAC was running JS. Eight years later, when I was in between jobs; it was then when I found my opportunity to be a JS Mentor. I have always wanted to be a JS mentor but I guess God's timing for me wasn't right until this year.

After 6 weeks with the JS Students as a mentor and friend, I found it a "life giving" experience. It was such a joy seeing young people coming to know our God Yahweh in greater depth and finding their purpose in life. A journey with God has never been a boring one! Our God is never a boring God! It is such a joy knowing that God plans to bless and never to harm, that He has plans to give us all a hope and a future (rephrased **Jeremiah 29: 11**) and best of all, God wants to have an exciting time with them at JS. Being a mentor also taught me a lot and gave me greater confidence and knowledge as I start my job as a full time Youth Worker in my church at Wesley Kepong.

I strongly recommend Jeremiah School to any school leaver or to anyone who is younger than 20yrs old! It is truly a very good and effective way of educating and inspiring youths for our Lord before they start their College / University education, before they eventually enter the market place or go into full-time ministry. I truly believe that God has great plans for Malaysia, and one way we can bring about change in our nation for the better is through our youths! It is not just any youth, but those who are God fearing and who walk in obedience to Him.

**Jeremy Chew**

Mentor of Jeremiah School 2012





# Superglued

*By Shirley Lung, WMC Johor Bahru  
Southern District Youth Gathering*



## Superglued? Huh?

Well that's what you'll get if you had been with us the **youth counselors at the Southern District youths camp meet in** Malacca which was held on the 25 & 26 February 2012 at the Wesley Methodist Church, Malacca. It's a bonding experience.

Being youth counselors you are in actual fact 'reliving' your youth days yourselves. How? Well, you get to meet up with the other youth counselors...that's making new friends, sit together in a group...get to know a little more about each other. As with first meetings...a little 'shy' then as we gather more 'courage' we shared with each other about our youths, the activities and the challenges we faced. We had very encouraging feedbacks and ideas as to how to reach out to the youths through bonding activities. So how to get connected...Seremban, Malacca, Segamat and Johor

Bahru? Facebook? That's cool...but finally it was the email club...still connected mah.

Of course with bonding there's 'fei loh ship' too. We managed a late night simple supper of pork satay and fried noodles. And as we ride in the van we had laughter and chatting just like youths do..young at heart. So hey all of you out there come partner us in the youth ministry...age is only a number...its the heart that matters...you have a heart right?

The best part of it all is to know you have the unfailing support and encouragement of our **National Youth Director, Choy Quin and the Southern District Associate Youth Director, Lucy Lee** who are always available whenever you need any advice or help.

All glory to God.

# TRAC Uni-College Students Gathering

## T.U.C.S.G. - What??

T.U.C.S.G.?? How is THAT supposed to be pronounced? No, no. I am not speaking U.F.O. language but I must admit, it was a tongue twister for many who first came across this acronym, even I. Well, T.U.C.S.G. simply stands for TRAC University, College Students' Gathering and this tongue twisting event takes place almost on a monthly basis. The gathering is aimed at bringing together outstation students from the Methodist churches throughout Malaysia to come together for fellowship and as Malaysians, food is never left out.

As youths in Malaysia, we've been exposed to various cultures, be it racial, religious, fashion, music, language, etc. In these cultures/trends, there have been no definitive truth or core principles which we can hold to and apply in our lives. Ask any youth today, who is leaving his/her home to study elsewhere, "When you get to your new place (place of study), how will you decide which church to attend?" You'd most probably get answers like "The biggest church!", or "I heard that church is good!", or "My friends are there!", or "Which ever church that makes me feel welcome". While some may think that this question regarding choice of church is not important, in reality, it will have an effect on how we raise our future leaders/generation! We're most likely more concerned about what course they're going to do, which university will they attend, their grades, etc. rather than their faith. It is no surprise that there are fewer and fewer youths/younger generation going into full time ministry and more and more youths are leaving the church, never to come back again.

Statistics would have shown that most of the Methodist youths who come to the big cities are often absorbed in their studies or are too busy exploring their new found freedom to 'slot' in church in their weekly schedule. Back home, church is a weekly activity they HAVE to schedule in because their parents insist that they should. Well, T.U.C.S.G. is NOT here to replace church worship service but rather, to encourage the youths in their walk and form a healthy peer group. When we meet on Friday nights and spend a few hours over a meal, we're not just there to yak the night away but we intentionally ask relevant questions like, "How is it with your soul, brother/sister?" the way John Wesley would with his band of brothers. It is also an opportunity for us to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ in their walk with God, keeping them

accountable and also to edify one another towards spiritual maturity.

Sure, studies are important, or else how are we to feed ourselves and our families in future? But education is not the end goal of our lives. As Christians, our first and main calling is to be God's people. Therefore, as God's people we are to gather and commit ourselves to the local congregation of God's people so that we may grow in Christian maturity and live out the reality of God's salvation here on earth before Christ comes again, as stressed by Paul throughout his letter to the Corinthians.

So, youths who are coming to the Klang Valley to study, do place utmost importance in seeking a local congregation to commit yourself to throughout the duration of your study in the Klang Valley. T.U.C.S.G. is not here to replace the weekly worship services of God's people in the various local churches but it is meant to be a fellowship for outstation students who need the support and encouragement of those in the family of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Joanne Lim**  
TMC, Penang  
Currently studying in Sunway University College



TUCSG allows outstation students studying in universities and colleges in the Klang Valley the opportunity to get to know the community of Methodist college students in the Klang Valley. It also helps those from the Klang Valley to meet up with those from outstation, thus expanding their social circle. Since it has university and college students as its focus, the students can come together to discuss and work on issues or topics that deal with student life in Malaysia, and this kind of group discussion usually gets very interesting due to different points of view being put forth and discussed.

Many of the outstation students can at times feel home sick and lonely. Some may also encounter different kinds of problems and struggles. TUCSG provides networking opportunities and it offers Christian friendship to brothers and sisters in the family of God.

I would like to encourage all those who are studying in the universities and colleges in the Klang Valley to make it a point to attend TUCSG whenever possible. Soli Deo Gloria!

**Dante Ting**  
LMC, Puchong

***Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. – 1 Timothy 4:12***

A vision seen, a mission shared  
A handful of helpers all prepared  
Some planning done, some work begun  
A place to gather, connect, have fun  
  
T.U.C.S.G. in short, oh, wonder not  
It's a gathering of youths – a melting pot  
Of potential, talents, gifts, & desires  
To serve the Lord with passion like fire  
  
We pray & worship amidst life's distractions  
Share Christ with friends through speech & actions

We enjoy great food; spiritually fed too!  
Learn God's Word that will see us through

If you are in Form 6, uni or college  
Around eighteen to twenty-four of age  
Come join us at T.U.C.S.G – Christian or not  
You'll leave with heavenly food for thought  
Eternal treasures no gold can buy  
No man can snatch nor can tongue deny  
Found only at the cross, where Christ Jesus died.

Ha-ha-ha, okay, I know the rhyme above makes the TRAC Uni-College Students' Gathering (T.U.C.S.G.) sound unappealing, but it does sum up the main purposes of the gathering. The major concern expressed 4 years ago was "How can TRAC gather our Methodist youths/students from out-station who are currently studying in Klang Valley & provide them with a place to connect & reconnect with their friends?"

Since then, T.U.C.S.G. has been a place for students to gather, have fun, learn and grow towards Christ-likeness alongside their peers. All who come are encouraged to bring along their friends from their places of study as the gathering is also an avenue for students to share Christ with their peers with whom they spend most of their time.



The youths who have been part of T.U.C.S.G. have shared much laughter, learning & growing in God's Word. Many have also rekindled friendships that they've formed from camps & churches back in their hometown. Even I have met many "old" friends from youth camps (and made "new" ones too) & we've seen each other grow spiritually through the years. Such gatherings play an important role in building the

youths spiritually. Youths who have just arrived in the Klang Valley for their studies & do not have any church to attend will also get to find out more on the neighbouring Methodist churches, to which they can belong.

T.U.C.S.G. takes place once a month on Friday nights. A typical T.U.C.S.G. gathering begins with a generous spread of good food, followed by worship & the activity for the evening. Transportation is provided from various pick-up points to ensure transportation wouldn't be an issue preventing the students from attending the gathering.

T.U.C.S.G. will continue to reach out to the Methodist college/university students in the Klang Valley. It would be great to have you pray with us as we seek God's direction & blessings in this ministry.

God bless.

#### **Snapshot on T.U.C.S.G.**

**Idea mooted by :** Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik (TRAC President)

**Project led by :** Chang Choy Quin (TRAC National Youth Director)

**Launched :** Midyear 2008

#### **Purpose:**

- Gather TRAC college/university students studying in the Klang Valley, especially those from other states
- Provide an avenue for the youths to reconnect & connect with their peers
- Point the youths to local TRAC churches in the Klang Valley

**Frequency of gathering :** Once a month/Once in 2 months

**Venue of gathering :** TRAC Office

**Ruth Wong**

TMC, Petaling Jaya





# TRAC Youth Ministry Partners' Retreat 2012

*By Jonathan Chan  
WMC, Kuala Lumpur*



Youth organizations informed, emails sent, bags packed, car refueled, touch 'n go card reloaded and ready to go. That was my check list of things to do to enable me to attend that retreat. I went expecting to get a break from ministry as I had just come out of a week packed with training for the youths over the recent school holidays and boy, was I tired!

Organized under the umbrella of the TRAC Board of Youth Work, it intended to equip, encourage and refresh all who were actively serving in any local church within TRAC as youth directors/workers, youth counselors, youth volunteers and Sunday school teachers. Anyone involved in youth work in any capacity was invited!



That initiative had been going on for quite some years now. I remember attending my first one back in 2010 at MBS Kuang, near Rawang. That one was both a good break and an eye opener. I'll explain more later.

This year, the retreat was held at the NUBE Training Center in Port Dickson. I was delighted to see familiar friendly faces that I met from previous events which were also organized by the Board of Youth Work. Of course, there were also new faces that had just joined the ministry and others whom I've not met before. But one thing was for sure – they all loved the Lord and were passionate about young people in our churches. We had a good time of fellowship together through the many breaks that we had and which were often accompanied by food.



I was also glad to have talked to many of them whom I realized also shared similar struggles that I had in youth ministry. Suddenly, I realized that I wasn't alone in my struggles anymore. Through the sharing and discussions I was better equipped to face some possible problems that I might encounter in the future.

We mutually encouraged one another and we were in the



position to do so as we could empathize with each other. We exchanged ideas and offered some suggestions that might apply to each other's own context back in our own local church. At one point, we even asked difficult and sensitive questions and felt comfortable enough to share openly and honestly. That, to me, was an opportunity which came rarely in the local church.

Work aside; it was also a good time for physical rest too. The schedule was not tight and as such, I could catch up on the lost hours of sleep from the previous week. It was a good rest. The clean and comfortable accommodation, air conditioning, great view by the beach made it awesomely relaxing.

During the last night of the retreat, we discussed some of the tough issues on youth ministry - Is youth service good for the Kingdom of God? Dr. Herbert Tan, one of the facilitators showed us a video titled "Divided" which sought to answer the question. I do want to share that it was very insightful and that it helped to answer a lot of personal questions I had about ministry - Why are long serving ministries failing now? Why are youths leaving the church even with a contemporary service in place? What is keeping them away from the church?

These questions and some others were answered for me. And now with a better understanding, I'm better equipped to do youth work in my own local church. Knowing what to expect has made me more confident for what lies ahead in ministry.

If you are involved in youth ministry and especially if you feel tired and need a break, I highly recommend TRAC Youth Ministry Partners Retreat. Not only does it give you a physical break, you will also be glad to meet like-minded people, share thoughts and ideas; and be more adequately equipped to resume ministry. It's one of those things which if you have not personally experienced the retreat, you won't know the benefits and importance. In fact you might even find it essential for the long haul. So the next time you see an invitation for Youth Ministry Partners Retreat, don't brush it aside for it is important if you want to remain in the youth ministry. Download that form and sign up.

God bless.





# BB/GB Juniors at Putrajaya Wetlands

*By Voon Zhen Yi*

During the school holidays between 15th to 17th March 2012, 130 Junior members of The Boys' and Girls' Brigades converged on Taman Wetlands Putrajaya. For most of them it was their very first camping experience in the great outdoors. Companies from Teluk Intan, Ipoh, Sitiawan, Petaling Jaya, Klang and Kuala Lumpur joined in what was BB and GB's first combined program. It had been a long time since such a camp was held.

The idea found its roots a year ago during a combined BB, GB and MYF Consultation in Melaka, where delegates agreed that a combined camp among the Brigades of the Trinity Annual Conference was long overdue. The aims of the event were spiritual growth, fellowship and increase in understanding between the two Brigades.

It was decided that the combined camp would first be held for Juniors, and these would be those between the ages of 9-12 or those in the upper primary school level.

For many of the young members, the preparations started many days before the camp commenced. Some planned what to bring and started packing their bags a week in advance – such was their enthusiasm and excitement. The nights before camp, some even found it impossible to sleep in anticipation of the exciting days ahead.

The first bus and van started arriving an hour before the camp registration was to open. Most participants arrived on time, though some did lose their way in the infamous mega maze known as Putrajaya. The place selected for the first BB-GB TRAC Camp at Taman Wetlands was a balanced mix where there were safe confines and convenience of infrastructure and the ruggedness of terrain that necessitated the use of sleeping bags under tents, with blood-thirsty mosquitoes ready for a treat.

The camp commandant was none other than Mr Nicholas Yeap (BB Captain from Wesley







Methodist Church Kepong) who did a fantastic job setting a positive mood and tone with the children. The BB and GB Juniors were divided into ten groups, of which all were under the care of able officers, volunteers and parents. They took time to know one another within their own groups and selected group names which were based on animals (ie. Tiger, Cat, Eagle, etc) as well as coming up with their own cheers. A customary campfire was held at night with singing and games led by Mei-Yan from Trinity PJ followed by a session led by Mr Lawrence Tay who spoke on leadership. The days always ended with the singing of the BB Vesper and GB's Captain Divine. The Boys and Girls had difficulty sleeping on their first night, most of them complained about the heat, but it was really the excitement that kept them awake.



The next day, the campers participated in a treasure hunt, a tram ride as well a pre-recorded video talent time at night, where prizes were given away for the best team performance as well as the best Prince and Princess (best actor and actress). Of course the spiritual aspects of the camp were never neglected with praise and worship conducted at the beginning of the day and after dinner. Though the weather brought an abrupt end to the most anticipated tram ride which would have brought the campers for a tour around the exquisite wetlands, it was apparently still the favorite part of the program for most of the campers.

On the final day which was Saturday, Pastor Philip Devadas and his team led in numerous enjoyable games. They even taught songs



based on fast food. The focus was our Lord Jesus and to remind the boys and girls to be the light in the darkness around them.

After lunch, the campers were instructed to carry out their final instructions of the camp which were to pack up their belongings and dismantle the dome tents which they had called home for the past two nights. All gathered at the hall for an announcement of the best team. It was time to say our goodbyes. Some were reluctant to part after making so many new friends in the past few days. However, the good news is that there are already talks of organizing another camp in the coming year.

# Reflections Of A UPSR Coach In Long Lamai

*By Khoo Wen Shan*

*Wesley Methodist Church, Seremban*

*(selected journal entries from the UPSR Coaching Team)*



Alvin and Wen Shan decided to tutor Math, so they went through a UPSR past years' papers to make sure they were up to the mark

A team of 4 college/university students, Alvin, Wen Shan, Joycelyn, and Esmie from TRAC, made its 2nd trip to Long Lamai, to stay in the Penan village, from July 23 to August 23, 2011. The aim was to coach the UPSR students. The primary school had a poor track record of UPSR results (mostly 0% for years). After one month of coaching and by God's grace, the end result was 25% passes and if it had not been for poor English results, it would have been 50% passes.

God loves these people very much. The first time I went there, I saw a little, but this time, I did not just see, I experienced the grace of God. The Lord brought me to a level which was so unfamiliar, where I had little choice but to surrender to Him. Although the primary purpose was to teach, I discovered I learnt even more. I discovered that my exposure there with the indigenous people had greatly impacted my life.

**July 27:** Alvin and I went with the PIBG Chairman to speak to the Headmaster. We had not been able to do any teaching thus far as he was away and the other staff members were not able to make a decision although they had stated that any help was welcome. The bad news was that we would waste almost a full week. The good news was that the HM had requested that we not only teach the students between 2-4pm but we could also aid the teachers during school hours from 8-1pm. We were to teach the weaker students in the class (8 students) and coach them according to the syllabus. The HM gave us permission to work with the teachers and to use materials we might need like white board markers, xerox machine etc.)

**July 29:** We began our first lesson with the students, teaching them from 2pm to 4pm. We hoped they would be willing to sit in class after a week of exams, especially when it was on a Friday afternoon.

On the first day of the month, the villagers met and dedicated that month to the LORD, and at the end of the month, they gathered again to thank the LORD for His grace.

**August 9:** During the planting week, each family/ planting group sent 2-3 members to help the Pastor and the Headman in planting padi. We had the privilege of witnessing the village people at work. About 30+ villagers helped to sow the seeds. The pastor cooked lunch for them. Each field which was about half the size of a football field, took about 2 hours to plant. We had the opportunity to help them in planting. We had to bend over and throw seeds into the holes made by sticks. The holes prevented birds from eating them. I learned that about 25.kg of seeds could yield about 2.5tonnes of rice in a good year.

I also had the opportunity to help in the weeding of the fields. The planting in itself did not take long, but the weeding thereafter was difficult. The work was back breaking, the sand flies attacked without mercy and the sun was scorching. It was an endless battle throughout the season right until the harvest.

The Lord, who sows us, does not just leave us. He removes the weeds, He ensures we are not eaten by the birds, He is careful not to cast us onto the pathways,

and hopefully one day, we will bear fruit to His pleasure.

The Penans live a simple life. Planting crops and hunting dictate their livelihood. That has led them to live lives closer to God. They realize that God is in control and they have to depend on Him.

**August 1:** A young man of 21 from Hong Kong was doing an internship under UniMas there. His work was to help collect data on the reception towards the e-Lamai project. We invited him over on the last week to hang out with us and to go to church, which he did. Esmie talked to him about the Gospel and gave him a tract. He was not totally unfamiliar with the Gospel as friends of his in Hong Kong had invited him to church and had tried to share Christ with him. We welcomed him not only as a brother but one who would share a life in Eternity with Christ.

**August 5:** I walked to Lg Banga in the morning to get some supplies. I bought a pair of shoes, costing RM10, the same type that the natives used for walking. I wanted to see if it was a better alternative to the expensive Crocs shoes when it came to trekking, I also bought some erasers for the children. They were sharing 1 eraser between 3 of them when we first came.

Alvin gave half the class the 2010 UPSR test papers the day before and one of the students scored 81%. They were smart kids, but they needed more practice in math.)

It was not what we did, or could have done, but how the Lord had chosen to bless the village. I believe that the labour carried out in that month was an expression of the grace of the LORD. We were merely His instruments. It had been a privilege to witness and serve.

**August 26:** In a separate classroom, Alvin coached the top students in Math. We brought in past-years' UPSR papers for them to practice. In March, they were only scoring Cs and Bs. In the August trial exam, one of the students scored an A for Math.)

**August 25:** Our official mission was to tutor UPSR students for their upcoming exam. Results improved and the parents were happy. But more importantly, we learned that what really counted was the LOVE of Christ expressed to them in word and deed.

## Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur

### Position Of Church Administrator

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the post of CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR in Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur. Applicants must satisfy the following prerequisites:-

- Malaysian Citizen who is of the Christian faith
- Preferably below the age of 50
- Preferably possesses a Graduate Degree
- Working experience in a similar capacity
- Computer Literate
- Able to work independently and as a team member
- Good interpersonal and communication skills to work well with staff, church leaders, members and the public
- Able to work beyond normal working hours and weekends when the need arises
- A sound knowledge of financial procedures relating to financial management

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

- Administer and supervise the implementation of policies and procedures to support the programmes and Christian activities of the church
- Supervise the Accounting function of the church relating to the collection, disbursement and Banking of church funds
- Plan and organise the resources for all programmes of committees and church organisations
- Perform the Human Resource management and development functions
- Manage and supervise all church office employees
- A resource person for all activities of the church

#### EMOLUMENTS

An attractive salary package is offered and it will commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants are requested to send their detailed resume, names of 2 character referees with a recent passport size photograph not later than 30.4.2012 to

**The Chairman,  
Staffing Committee,  
Wesley Methodist Church,  
No. 2 Jalan Wesley, 50150 Kuala Lumpur.**



# Great Is Our God

## Great is Thy faithfulness.....

## Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord , unto me !

*By Derek Boey Kee Toon & Lee Joo Gaik*

Having passed my Senoir Cambridge , I went to a teacher training college in Alor Star . I chose the teaching profession as it was the most pragmatic option then. Like other trainees, I wanted to complete the course and begin to earn money so as to help the family financially.

I did not come to know God until I was in my second year teaching training course in the year 1964. Heng Tong, my eldest brother suddenly died. He was 26 years old and single. Knowing about his death, I rushed back to Kulim to attend his wake service and funeral. His sudden death had given rise to many unanswered questions. I was in anguish over the death and was in bewilderment of my brother's funeral. There was a spiritual vacuum and I began to think what my religion should be. My brother's wake service and funeral had created fear and confusion for life in this world and the next.

It dawned on me that I should seek religious guidance, values and blessing to stop my life of confused "wandering" and carrying a restless heart.

I visited churches in Alor Star hoping to choose a church that I could attend. One evening, I walked into Alor Star Wesley Methodist Church and took a seat at the back. I listened to Rev H E Abram's sermon and the hymns sung. I was invited to join their tea fellowship where I met a lecturer and a score of worshippers from the teaching fraternity

God was stirring in my heart and I had peace of mind. Ever since then, I looked forward to attending the church weekly worship services. I took the baptism course and was baptized on 8th November 1964. (This is one of the days etched in my memory). My holy baptism ceremony was conducted by Rev H E Abram and witnessed by Mr. Claude O'Keeffe (we still meet up with each other. )

A week after my baptism I went home to tell my

parents that I had embraced Christianity. My parents' perception of Christianity was that it was a religion of the "angmolangs" ( Europeans/white people). However, the Hokkien people in my kampong have the perception that the "angmolangs' systems, products, education, livestock, fruits etc were superior or the best. They also think all religions teach their believers to be good and do not consider me a "traitor" to my ancestors. Their blessings made me feel good. All glory to God.

My wife, Lee Joo Gaik and I got married on 7th August 1969. We were staying in Butterworth with my mother. Being a filial daughter-in-law, my wife helped my mother with her ancestral worship ceremonies. It was because of that filial piety and their "ganqing" ( Good relationship ) that my mother wanted to stay with me and nowhere else. She passed away on 23rd September 2001.

In July 2004, my wife's right eye had blurred vision because of age related macular degeneration. She was given photo dynamic therapy for her right eye by an eye specialist. Unfortunately, the therapy was not successful. In November 2004, she had blurred vision in her other eye. As we were going on a two- week-tour of Australia and also going to attend our youngest daughter, Rosalind's convocation at the Melbourne University, the doctor gave my wife an accompanying letter and a disc explaining her eye condition in case of an emergency when we were in Australia.

Before our departure for Australia, I as usual, attended Sunday church worship service. When the service was over I got up from the pew and walked to the front to pray for my wife, my family and me. Halfway through my prayer I started crying openly for the first time in my life in church. After I regained my composure Rev Lawrence Francis spoke to me and prayed for me. After that, I left the church alone as usual.

The next day I received a phone call from the late Pastor

Tan Har Yong. He assured me that they would pray for us and told me to enjoy my holiday in Australia. Putting down the phone I sang softly: "I need thee every hour, Most gracious Lord....."

On 12th December 2004, on Philip Island, my wife realized that her left eye vision had deteriorated because she could not see the penguins while other tourists could. Leng Tang ( my sister ), Rosalind and I brought her to the Melbourne Royal Eye Specialist Hospital the next day. After having done all that should be done, the doctor advised my wife to go back to the medical centre in Penang as soon as possible. So, we decided to shorten our stay in Melbourne.

Rosalind's convocation was on 16th December 2004 in the afternoon. We went back to Penang by a rescheduled flight on 18th December, 2004. The following day, the doctor at the medical centre recommended that my wife be treated either in Kuala Lumpur or in Singapore. The caring doctor spoke to the doctor in Kuala Lumpur as my wife had decided to get her treatment in Kuala Lumpur. Nevertheless, she could only be able to collect her doctor's letter and the disc on 22nd December, 2004 in the afternoon. Six hours later she flew to Kuala Lumpur.

On the next day, my wife was checked by the specialist doctor in Kuala Lumpur and was told by the doctor to return to the medical centre the next morning. We could only pray for God's Intervention!

Fragrance of sandalwood was surrounding my wife when she was in the eye specialist centre early next morning. She had peace in her heart. My wife and I knew the presence of God. Nothing was imaginary. God was with my wife at her critical moment! Alleluia!

The suspense and anxiety were terrible. The doctor began to do the laser treatment for my wife's left eye at 2.30pm on Christmas Eve. The doctor came out from his room at 5.15 pm to tell us the treatment was successful and prayerfully it would not affect her vision and focus. Mysteriously the fragrance of the sandalwood dissipated at about 5.30pm. With the doctor's permission, my son-in-law ( Bernard Yeong ) accompanied by his wife and two children drove us back to Butterworth. We all reached home safely in the wee hours on Christmas Day.

Our whole family attended Christmas Day Service at Penang Wesley Methodist Church. All of us stayed back in the sanctuary after the service to thank and to praise God for His abounding love. God had enabled my wife to use her eye! To God be all glory.

After having attended a well-planned and comprehensive Baptism Course, my wife was baptized on the 31st May 2009 by Rev Hwa Jen. To me God is real. He answers prayers in His own way and in His time. Great is our God. Alleluia! Amen !



## Meet Christina

This is a short & simple introduction of myself. I'm now in my 3rd year doing my M.Div, writing a thesis this year, as well as being elected to the president post of STM student body for 2012. I'll only be completing my studies in May 2013. I'm from Ipoh, a member of Grace Methodist Church, Pasir Puteh. Upon graduation, I'll be going back to serve in Canning Garden Methodist Church for two years. Before coming to STM for my studies, I was a piano teacher. My parents are back home in Ipoh. I also have a sister, who is married with 3 kids, & is now residing in Sydney. My hobbies include sports (I play table-tennis & badminton) & experimenting with food, when time permits.



"My wife Suzanne, a devout Taoist, also accepted Christ after the Alpha course."

## God is Faithful

By Tony Cheok

the Lord's prayer when she was four and read her Bible stories before bed time.

There was once when my old friend came to visit me in my office, and he invited me to Emmanuel Methodist Church (EMC). So I went to check it out and I told my daughter about the Sunday School there. She was excited to go; so I brought her along. We started attending that church for a while, but later on we dropped off because of disharmony in the family, as my wife was a devout Taoist.

My daughter kept pestering me to go back to church. I must say she was instrumental in me going back to church, but I still refused to go until one day my friend came back again asking me to go back. Finally, in 2004, I went back to EMC. That time around, I felt the difference. The church members were most friendly and welcoming, and my wife followed us to church quite regularly. Later on, the church conducted an Alpha course and I was prompted to go. I went to check it out. After going for one or two sessions, I was interested in going through the course, and to my surprise, I finished the whole course!

Having returned to our Lord Jesus Christ, I see the overflow of blessings. I am more at peace after my encounter with God. I continue to study His Word and stay faithful. My wife (Suzanne), a devout Taoist, also accepted Christ after the Alpha course. On Christmas day 2005, my wife together with my daughter were baptized and confirmed, and I too was confirmed. I am very delighted for my wife who made this decision to accept Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. It would seem like a very difficult decision for someone to switch from one religious belief to another but I know with God nothing is impossible. Later on, I also brought two other non-believers to Christ.

The other issue that I was struggling with was my smoking addiction of 45 years. All those years, I had been praying and trying to cut down and give up, but nothing seemed to work. However, two years ago in 2010, I suddenly fell ill and I didn't feel like smoking anymore. Since then, my addiction to nicotine has ended.

Praise the Almighty God and all glory to Him!

When I was five to six years old, my mom sent me to Sunday School in the Chinese Methodist Church in Raub, Pahang. At that time, the Christ I knew then was a baby in a manger, and what joyful years I had growing up learning about God.

I was baptized when I was nine years old, and Jesus Christ seemed to have grown much faster than me! Sunday was a day when I looked forward to attending Sunday School, singing songs and learning about Jesus Christ. In the later years, I joined the Methodist Youth Fellowship – which was fun-filled and where there were so many activities. There were Bible studies, but I didn't pay much attention because I was more interested in the fellowship.

After leaving school, it was time to get out into the real world. I had to look for a job and make a living because my parents could not afford to send me for further studies. I had been faithful in saying my prayers consistently and tried to find a church in the city to worship on Sundays. But it was disappointing, having gone to a few churches and found the lack of warmth in the big churches. After several attempts, I just gave up going to church on Sundays.

The overwhelming attractions of the world were just too tempting, so I drifted and backslided. That went on for more than 40 years. During those years, my life was like a roller-coaster, and in many instances, ending my life was an option. The Lord Jesus Christ was always faithful, He lifted me up every time I felt that way. It was instant wealth and success that I was seeking and that led me to consult mediums, fortune-tellers, temples and even black magic outlets but they were all fruitless.

At the back of my mind, I knew that the Lord Jesus was watching over me, and that made me want to teach my daughter (Crystal) about God. So I taught her to say



# Heart Of Leadership

By Datin Judy Chin



When requested to attend a session for Youth Leaders Development Programme (YLDP) in December 2011, I agreed without hesitation much to my own surprise. The theme was “Heart of leadership”. I thank God for the deeper understanding of this topic as the subject was recently revisited by Dr. Herbert Tan when he conducted the ICM Organizational Leadership module “The Church - The Rhyme & Rhythm of the Heart in Spiritual Leadership” on 18 February 2012. It was also touched on by TRAC President, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik in his sermon “Chosen for this generation” during the commissioning service of the Jeremiah School (JS) students on 19 February 2012. The key verse repeatedly used was **Psalms 78:72**

*“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands he led them”*

The heart is the pump of life, the source of our emotions and passions driving our motives and thoughts (whether right or wrong). **Proverbs 4:23** says “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life”. The heart is central to everything we do or think, for it begins as a spring that feeds the river that runs into oceans i.e. our thoughts resulting in appropriate actions which can build lives and ministries.

Sharing with a group of about 20 youths of ages 16 to 18 years old at level 2 YLDP was a joy as their young, eager faces expressed readiness to learn and to be taught. My first experience at YLDP was rewarding as I observed a future generation of potential leaders being nurtured at a young age about the truths of leadership through the various sessions. The participants of YLDP were not there just for fun and fellowship but

were serious about receiving training in leadership for the present and the future. That was evident in their attentiveness during sessions, their hearts of worship and more notably the impressive, almost full turn out every morning for devotion at 7 a.m. They were there with the right heart.

What is leadership? According to John Maxwell, there are currently 350 definitions of the word. The word, leadership conjures thoughts of influence, power, vision, skill and character. Youth leaders usually surface because of their skills and the development of their character which is an on-going process as they serve. Nobody would disagree that adult leaders too have similar beginnings. Christian leaders should always be teachable and in humility recognize that Jesus is the greatest leader of all times. He influenced and transformed millions of people, continues to empower and transform us in leadership through His Spirit. It is servant leadership, the ultimate leadership style, one of humility and self sacrifice which every Christian leader is called to. Jesus asks us to be servants who lead not leaders who serve.

“The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reassured persuasions. Leaders have power but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve” - John Stott.

Heart of Leadership is to empower and transform lives so as to impact others for the Kingdom of God. Christian leaders are called to positions to take charge of ministries. Ministry is all about God and people

matter to God (both the lost and found). Shepherding people is helping them to grow, not just getting the job done but growing people and getting the job done. How many of us are too busy and focused on getting the job done and forgetting to grow the people we work with and supposedly leading?

Integrity of heart encompasses honesty, consistency, sincerity and basically, having character. Some quotations given to the youths were

“Character is who you are when no one is watching.”  
 “Skills will get you to the top but it is only character which will help you stay there.”  
 “I am who I am, no matter where I am and who I am with.”

How important it is for our young people to realise the need to develop character in a world which bombards with every means available through media, education, career, even family. Their emphasis is that skills should be the first and foremost priority. Having character makes a difference and goes a long way in life. Mother Theresa was quiet, soft spoken and small in stature but the strength of her character and rock-like faith made her an incredible leader remembered as one of the most respected and influential women of the 20th century. Yet she said “I am but a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world”. Character is an integral ingredient in leadership.

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love. As the heart is related to love, the heart of leadership can only be effective with love. Love is most important to God. **Matthew 22:37-39** “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your mind”. This is the first and greatest commandment and the second is “Love your neighbour as yourself”. Most leaders show fulfillment of the first commandment through acts of service but in order to impact those they lead, fulfillment of the second greatest commandment has to be alongside the first. We are reminded what Christian love is from **1 Corinthians 13**. Putting the other person first and seeking the other person’s well-being is playing second fiddle. Leonard Bernstein, the celebrated orchestra conductor was once asked, “What is the hardest instrument to play?” Without a moment’s hesitation, he replied “Second fiddle. I can always get plenty of first violinists. But to find one who plays second violin

with as much enthusiasm or second French horn or second flute, now that’s a problem! And yet, if no one plays second, we have no harmony.”

YLDP alumni turned out in full force, some even taking leave from their various workplaces and coming all the way from Singapore to mentor the younger leaders. Their commitment and passion for developing leaders for the future speak volumes for the YLDP programmes of the past which these young adult leaders are products of. Their love for God, for one another and the generation after them was evident in their leading worship, teaching sessions, mentoring and helping in all areas of needs to ensure the smooth running of YLDP 2011. Truly, they portrayed the love for God and neighbour as they served together in unity, humility and sacrificially. They willingly played second fiddle to ensure effective harmony in the smooth running of YLDP 2011.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God” not the kingdom of leadership. God rules, not leaders. People matter most, not techniques. The heart of leadership is not in mastering the “how-tos” but in being mastered by the amazing grace of God, in submission and obedience to His will, His timing and His leading.

The following are the conclusions for the session on “Heart of Leadership”:

- 1) Heart of leadership is to seek character and life transformations with the goal to be like Jesus and to be servant leaders who grow and empower others to impact lives for the Kingdom of God.
- 2) **1 Timothy 4:12** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

I thank the committee of YLDP 2011 for this valuable opportunity to serve and in turn be impacted. Truly, the participants and helpers can be examples to other believers (regardless of age or positions). There is great hope in our youth leaders who have gone through YLDP and J.S programmes. We thank God for these programmes, the TRAC Conference for supporting them and those running them annually to develop the future generation of leaders to have the heart of leadership with love.

Jesus called his followers, apostles, disciples, servants, never leaders. Who are we???





Last year, YLDP was held at Dusun Eco Resort. When I went for it, I didn't know what to expect. After registration, it was announced that I was one of the dorm leaders. I was surprised and kind of reluctant, but it turned out to be an opportunity for me to get to know even more people, especially those whom I would not usually talk to. At the camp, we found out that many of the activities were totally different from those that I had expected. During our first team-building, we had to complete an obstacle course with our team members, whereas the second one had us reflecting on scripture passages. It was kind of different because we really had to work together to complete the obstacle course and we really got to know each other. Aside from the fun and games, we also had more serious programs, like the plenary sessions conducted by our speaker, Mr Michael William, the morning devotions and our sessions which were divided into 4 levels. I was in level 1 which was more serious compared to pre-level. We had sessions about the heart of worship and our personality types. On the last day, we had our closing session and I rededicated my life to God. Overall, it was great to be able to get to know others and spend time with God without distractions. It was a timely reminder for me to go back to a vital relationship with God again. I'm really thankful that I had the opportunity to attend the camp.

**Kristen Lim**  
WMC Seremban







# YOUTH LEADERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

