

# BERITA TRAC



2014 • Issue No. 1

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

## PREACHING POINTS

- Living Hope Methodist Church
- Living Stone Methodist Church
- Living Faith Methodist Church
- Nusajaya Methodist Church

## PRAYER

- Solemn Assembly  
@ SSMC:  
April 12, 2014

## MISSION SCHOOL

- What Can The  
Church Do  
For Our  
Mission Schools



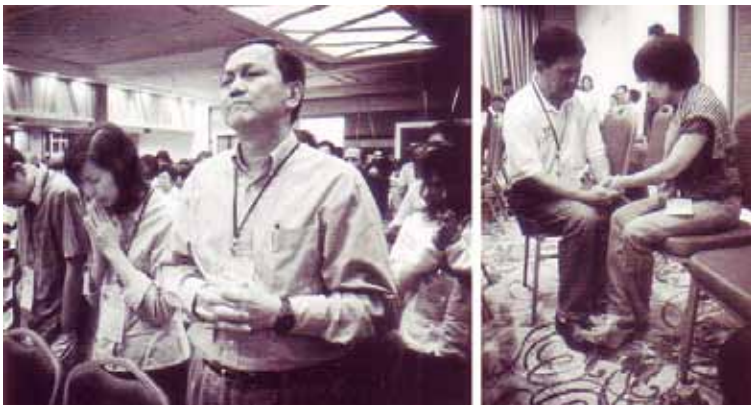


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Berita TRAC is a quartely newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference. We welcome articles, contributions, comments and feedbacks that will edify the TRAC churches. The editor reserves the right to edit and publish selected submissions. Please forward 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)



**Rev T. Jeyakumar**  
President, TRAC

## A Little Pentecost

The Rev John Wesley described the 18<sup>th</sup> Century revival, as “a Little Pentecost” that took place on the 1st of January 1739 while about sixty people were praying. Wesley says,

“About 3 in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground.” With that began the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Revival. Time and time again God has revived His people and brought new life to HIS Church in answer to prayer.

In the book of Nehemiah chapter nine we are told that for three hours the people of Israel stood for the reading of the word of God. The reading of the word then prepared their hearts to pray, and they spent another three hours praying. The two important ingredients for revival are the word of God and prayer.

What we see in this passage is that there has to be discipline in prayer. The people of Israel during Nehemiah's time intentionally set aside time and came together for prayer. We need to discipline ourselves to read the word and pray. If you wake up in the morning and say, “Sometime today I will pray” – it just won't happen. At the age of 86, John Wesley wrote in his journal, “Laziness is slowly creeping in; there is an increasing tendency to stay in bed after 5:30 in the morning....” No wonder he was a spiritual giant. We must be disciplined and intentional about private and corporate prayer.

That is what the Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC) which will be held from the 29<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> of August seeks to do. It is our hope that the three days of teaching will help us take corporate prayer seriously. It is hoped that MPC will help us understand the importance of prayer and help us bend our knees in prayer. It is hoped that Christians, especially the people called Methodists, will come together to pray on a significant day like our National Day.

If you look at Nehemiah chapter nine, you will also notice that the people of God knew so much about God. There is a constant mention of God's greatness, goodness, and faithfulness. Those who had gathered knew the greatness of God. Thus they could bring their petitions to God. Great thoughts of God can bring us to make great supplications.

Wonderful times of refreshment can be a present reality if God's people will cry out to HIM again. God changed the heart of the king when Nehemiah prayed. God may change hardened hearts if HIS people would pray today. God gave victory to the people of Israel when Nehemiah and the people of Israel prayed. God will defeat the foes today if HIS people would pray. God sent rain and ended the drought upon the land of Israel when Elijah prayed. God may still remove dark forces that hover over this nation and send us rainclouds of blessings today if HIS people would pray. God opened her womb when Hannah prayed. God may still open shut hearts of people and shut doors of nations if HIS people would pray. What would God not do in HIS church, in our lives, in our business, and in the nations, if you and I pray?

It is not just my hope, but my earnest prayer that God will pour a spirit of prayer upon His people, that we may pray at this MPC like we have never prayed before. As a result of coming together to pray at MPC, we may be inspired to be in prayer alone and be in prayer with others. May we receive a little Pentecost that will help us experience a wonderful time of refreshment!

So let us encourage one another to attend the sessions in Sunway Convention Centre from the 29-30<sup>th</sup> August (Registration – RM50 before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014) and the Celebration on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August in Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil (No registration required and is open to all. Celebration hour: 10am to 12.30pm).

### PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for a spirit of prayer to be sent upon all who would attend MPC 3.
2. Pray for unity of hearts and minds for all who are labouring hard to make MPC 3 a blessing.
3. Pray that the promotional video clip and registration forms will invoke interest to participate.
4. Pray that the little choirs that are practising throughout the country will converge to raise a thousand voices as a symphony unto the Lord on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

See you there!

Blessings,  
Rev Dr T Jeyakumar  
TRAC President





## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

**“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”**



We thank the Lord as the Methodist Family in Malaysia for your response in signing up for the 3rd Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC).

The MPC happens only once every 4 years. As His people called Methodists, we have witnessed how the Lord of the Church have graciously met with us in the 1st 2 MPCs. As a result we have been able to in humility and unity, discover more of the purpose of God for our generation as seen in the birth and publication of the Methodist Church in Malaysia Road Map in 2010.

The timing of the Holy Spirit's call and conviction upon God's people called Methodists to rise up in prayer is further vindicated by the current circumstances surrounding our beloved country for the last few years. It is necessary for us, as the church, who are given "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor 5: 18-19) with the eternal call to demonstrate the "manifold wisdom of God" (Eph 3:10) to humble ourselves, pray and seek the face of God – so that He can bless Malaysia with His divine visitation.

**So let us gather others with us and come with expectant and prepared hearts as "a solemn assembly"** (Joel 2:16) gathered unto our God. Please continue to keep this 3rd MPC 2014 in your prayers, actively invite others to come, and to look out for further information of preparation through the Pelita Methodist.

However, as it is written: **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him..."**

- 1 Corinthians 2:9

**Bishop Ong Hwai Teik**

*The Methodist Church in Malaysia*

## CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS



**CAC**  
Rev. Boh  
Che Suan



**SPAC**  
Rev. Dr. Hii  
Kong Hock



**TRAC**  
Rev. Dr. T.  
Jeyakumar



**SIAC**  
Rev.  
Steward  
Damat



**SCAC**  
Rev. Dato'  
Su Chii  
Ann



**TAC**  
Rev. C.  
Jayaraj



## PLENARY SPEAKERS

### Dr. Stephen A. Seamands



Dr. Stephen A. Seamands is professor of Christian Doctrine at Asbury Theological Seminary and has served as professor since 1983. He received a B.A. from Asbury College, 1970; a M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, 1972; a Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, 1974; and a Ph.D. from Drew University, 1983. His areas of expertise are in Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, United Methodist Doctrine, Pastoral Theology & Renewal. He was the 2005 -2006 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award at Asbury Seminary. His book, *Ministry in the image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service* (InterVarsity Press, 2005), received the 2006 ChristianityToday Award of Merit for books in the area of church and pastoral leadership.

Dr. Seamands has pastored United Methodist churches in New Jersey for 11 years, including Hebron United Methodist Church in Kentucky from 1984 to 1986. He is an ordained elder in the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Seamands is actively engaged in leading seminars and retreats and conducting spiritual renewal events in local churches across the United States. He has a particular interest in theological and spiritual renewal within the United Methodist church, as well as the larger body of Christ. He also has a deep concern for the spiritual needs of pastors and Christian leaders.

His workshops, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness* and *Overcoming Barriers to Experiencing God's Love*, which he has presented at scores of churches and conferences, have ministered deeply to the brokenness in people's lives. He is regularly involved in what he describes as a ministry of healing prayer to seminary students.

Dr. Seamands and his wife, Carol have four children and eight grandchildren.

### Rev. Dr. Joshua Ting



Rev. Dr. Joshua Ting was born in Sarawak, is married to Daisy and has 3 children. He first trained at Singapore Bible College (SBC), and then in Biola University, USA, graduating with an MA in Marriage and Family and Doctor of Ministry. He was Dean of Students at SBC, and the Mandarin Pastor of Mandarin Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California. He became the Chairman of Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism (CCCOWE) Brunei Darussalam District and is much sought after as a preacher, teacher, and speaker in the areas of marriage, family life enrichment, parenting, communication, leadership and management, etc. He became the Director of Ministries, Ambassadors for Christ Inc., Paradise, Pennsylvania, USA, and has also served as Adjunct Professor at seven overseas Chinese theological seminaries. Currently he is the General Secretary of CCCOWE.

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1

**7.45 am Registration**

**9.00 am Welcome & Opening**

#### **Plenary 1 :**

The person, Presence & Power of the Holy Spirit

*by Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Seamands*

**12.00 pm Lunch**

**1.00 pm Workshop**

**3.30 pm Plenary 2 :**

Ultimate, Absolute & Holy Discipleship in Daily Life especially in the Market Place  
*by Rev. Dr. Joshua Ting*

**6.00 pm Dinner**

**7.00 pm Evening session : Praying for the Nation**

**9.30 pm End of Day 1**

### Day 2

**8.00 am Registration**

**9.00 am Plenary 3 :**

Humbling Ourselves in Seeking God's Face: a posture of prayer

*by Rev. Dr. Stephen Seamands*

**12.30 pm Lunch**

**1.30 pm Workshops**

**4.00 pm Worship, Prayer & Intercession**

**6.00 pm End of Day 2**

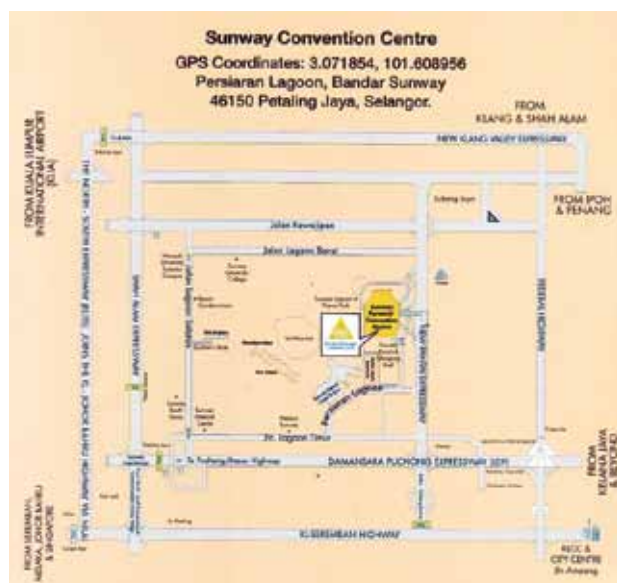
### 31 AUG 2014 CELEBRATION SERVICE

*Open to all. No registration required. Free Admission.*

**Venue : Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil**

**Time : 10.00 am - 12.30 pm**

**Speaker : Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Seamands**



**If you have any queries, please contact  
Methodist Prayer Convention at**

**Tel : 03-7954 1811 Fax : 03-7954 1788**

**or email : [mpc@methodistchurch.org.my](mailto:mpc@methodistchurch.org.my)**

**Website : [www.methodistprayerconv.com](http://www.methodistprayerconv.com)**



# Living Hope Methodist Church

## Mission Statement:

“Growing in Christ, Our Living Hope. Touching Lives, Bringing Hope”

I was called to attend a meeting on 29th August 2013 at Simon & Michelle's home to discuss the possibility of setting up a church in Kota Kemuning. There were only 14 of us and we were briefed by the TRAC President, Rev. Jeyakumar. He had been praying for six years about setting up a preaching point here.

As Kota Kemuning is a well-populated area with many Methodists living here, we decided that we should start a family-friendly church and minister to every generation. In order to do this, we should begin

with a Children and Youth Ministry. We would look for the ground floor unit of a shop-lot to cater to those who find it difficult to climb the stairs. We targeted for a congregation of 40 people. Rev. Jeyakumar told us to unite our hearts and minds, to set our hands to the plough, and pray every Thursday at 10pm.

At a second meeting on 29th September 2013, with 23 people present, Pastor Soh Tian Soo of Trinity Sungai Buloh gave us an insight into how they started a preaching point there with a covenant group. We were advised to appoint 8 to 10 Ministry Heads and draw up a roster for preachers, worship leaders and musicians.

We identified a shop-lot opposite Aeon Big, Bukit Rimau and confirmed that we wanted to rent the ground floor together with the first floor to start our church service in



February 2014.

Eleven people attended the third meeting on 27th October 2013. Nine core ministries were identified (Property – Tan Teik Beng / Simon Chan; Administration – Margaret Khoo; Treasurer – Ida Khoo; Children – Ian Lau/ Janice; Youth – Lester Lim; Worship & Music – Roy Lim; Small Group – Dr Chan Chee Yan/Archie Sittther; IT – Cheah Lu Hsun; Publications – Joel Lye through Rev Jeyakumar).

Our fourth meeting on 1st December 2013 was attended by 15 people. We discussed the need to set up the renovation team as the

tenancy agreement had been signed and a bank account opened with 3 signatories (Ida Khoo, Archie Sittther & Koh Ai Lin). We agreed to hold our church service from 10am to 11.30am with the Children and Youth Ministry on Saturdays from 3pm to 4.30pm. At this meeting, our Vision/Mission statement was born: **“GROWING IN CHRIST OUR LIVING HOPE. TOUCHING LIVES BRINGING HOPE”**

Rev Jeyakumar sent out email to appeal for financial help from the District Churches. Sponsors gave generously in cash and kind (e.g. air-conditioners, carpets, tables). With God at the helm, other churches also gave their best. The main contractor was identified and Margaret and Jenny tirelessly coordinated the renovation works beginning from December 2013. We got the keys early as we had to complete the renovation before Chinese New Year (31 January 2014) as January was the official rent-free

renovation period given by the landlord.

We had our pre-inaugural service meeting at the church on 26th January 2014 with 18 people attending. Many things were discussed, including whether we needed to erect little directional signs with arrows to the location. We were still missing our signboard for “Living Hope Methodist Church” but true to her word, Jenny Qua managed to get it done for us on time.

We formed the Executive Team for decision-making comprising the Ministry Team together with Dr. Chan Chee Yan (Chairman), Archie & Dorita Sittther, Mary Chan, and Koh Ai Lin.

We had our inaugural church service on Sunday, 9th February 2014 attended by 130 people, along with our generous donors. Our 8th worship service was held on 30th March 2014 with a congregation of 42 people.

I have written a chronological sequence of events leading to the birth of LHMC to show that God truly wants this church (after six years of prayer) to exist for His Ministry according to His plan:-

1. The premises are highly visible. We were able to get both the ground floor and the first floor together. The timing of the confirmation of rental, handing over of the keys and the rent-free renovation period was

simply remarkable.

2. The Bank account was opened without hassle as the Branch Manager understands that we are a church.
3. Funds were obtained from sponsors for renovation and many items were contributed.
4. The target date of 9th February 2014 was met promptly owing to the co-operation & and teamwork of all (although some had to bear a greater burden than others). It was a wonder how God transformed the bare premises into a cozy, user-friendly church by guiding the human hands at work.
5. Our congregation reached 40+ after two months – I was worried but my sister told me that our job is to get the church ready and God will bring the people in!
6. We have a team from different churches working together–Wesley Klang, Trinity PJ, EMC PJ, Wesley KL, SSMC, and a student from STM Seremban but we only have one head–God Himself.

We look back to see how wonderfully God put together this simple church and now we look forward to see more of His wonders as He fills His church with Life and Hope and pours His blessings on all who come to this church.



# Living Stone Methodist Church

Cova Square, Kota Damansara.

Inaugural Service 16th February 2014.

*By James Teh Swee Huat*

## HISTORY UNFOLDS

In September 2011 Trinity Methodist Church, PJ, was offered “ready-made” premises in a three-storey shop-lot rent-free at Kayu Ara Business Park near Bandar Utama for a three-year tenancy plus two years option. That was the beginning of the birth of a new preaching point – Bandar Utama Methodist Centre (BUMC). The church grew from a humble beginning with fewer than 20 worshippers to an average weekly attendance of 45 worshippers today.

Of course there were challenges in terms of the lack of manpower in the outreach ministry and in church growth. Though BUMC is a small congregation, many worshippers find warmth, care and fellowship in the church. The bond of friendship, care and unity among worshippers has become the hallmark of BUMC.

In April 2013 the TRAC President, Rev Dr T Jeyakumar, preached at a BUMC service and he “revisited” the idea of planting a church in Kota Damansara (an idea that existed even before settling for Bandar Utama). Thus he re-ignited the fire on the original mission mooted. He shared with the BUMC Committee members that the new location could come under the auspices of TRAC and TMCPJ because BUMC had limited experienced manpower.

All things being equal, some worshippers in BUMC felt sad to move from its current location as BUMC was a small growing preaching point and the worshippers were closely knitted. Therefore, their sense of separation and the proximity of the church to their residence could be possible contributing reasons to their sadness. Consequently, some members questioned the rationale and wisdom in the move. “*Quo vadis, quo vadis?* – why are we moving?” Giving them space to air their feelings of sadness on



*TRAC President Preaching on a Model Church*



*Listening to Sermon on a Model Church*

the proposed move and their sentimental attachment to BUMC after two and a half years worshipping there was understandable. But only God has the answer to answer their question “Why?”

Perhaps some words of wisdom from my former teacher, the late Mr Khoo Kay Hock, can provide some solace for them:

“The road that leads to Christ my Lord is one that I should take,





*Congregation Praying for Birthday Boy Steven*



*Wow! Happy Birthday Boy Steven!*

The road to serve my fellow men seems tiresome and long  
The road to sacrifice is fraught with danger and with woe  
The road to joy is promised me when all my work is done  
*Quo vadis, quo vadis? Twill be wherever You be."*

### **BIRTH OF LIVING STONE METHODIST CHURCH (LSMC).**

Towards the end of October 2013 a possible building site was found at Cova Square Mall in Kota Damansara. Some LCEC members of TMCPJ together with the TRAC President went to view the locality and were in favour of the place. After all the necessary nitty-gritty and red-tape were completed, and the LCEC gave approval to sign the tenancy agreement with the owner for two years' duration, the budget for renovation of the place was passed, and things started to move in earnest to get the place renovated

to beat the CNY closure disruptions by contractors in January 2014.

If there is anyone deserving praise or congratulations who diligently organised and got all the renovations done almost single-handedly (with some assistance from brother Steven Ooi), it is none other than our brother Loo Kau Fa. I bear witness on how these brothers laboured tirelessly to bring the renovations to its finality within the given time frame. Due to their unfailing efforts, the inauguration service was made possible on 16th February 2014. Praise the Lord for His faithful servants.

### **ADIEU TO BUMC**

The last worship service at BUMC was held on 9th February 2014. Subsequently all services would be held at the new church LSMC. The preacher for the closing service in BUMC on that day was Rev Ting Moy Hong who spoke on "An Invitation to partner God in His Good Work." God is good all the time. For He calls upon His people to follow Him and at the same time He gives them a choice whether to accept or reject His calling.

A righteous man who walks in fear of the Lord will not be afraid of evil tidings for his heart remains steadfast, trusting in the Lord and all evil shall perish before him. The glory of God shall be his rear guard and the Lord will answer his call. Even though he suffers from personal insufficiency, the Spirit of the Lord will empower him to overcome his inadequacy. The Spirit of God searches all things, even the deep things of God. Therefore, be the salt of the earth and the light of the world so that others who see your goodness will glorify the Father in heaven. "Hineni--Here I am," O Lord. The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **(Phil 4:7)**

To bid adieu to BUMC brings some degree of sadness but it ended with joy as we celebrated brother Steven Ooi's birthday. So instead of having an emotional parting in the sanctuary, it turned into a joyous occasion for the

birthday boy. The congregation sang “Happy Birthday” to him with a blessing by Rev Ting Moy Hong, followed by the cake cutting ceremony. The dual contrasting occasions reminded me of what David said in **Psalms 30**: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” How true it is in our walk of faith with God.

### THE INAUGURAL SERVICE OF LSMC

Sunday 16th February 2014 was an auspicious day in the dedication of the new church to honour the Lord. The TRAC President chose the name “Living Stone” in its metaphorical sense--“spiritual and eternal life in fullness in Jesus Christ.” In **1 Peter 2: 4-12**, Jesus Christ is the precious Cornerstone which the builders rejected that has become our Chief Cornerstone. Jesus Christ is the Leader of His church.

The inaugural service was well attended by about 140 worshippers from TMCPJ together with ex-BUMC members and well-wishers from other churches. It is hoped that such good attendance would continue throughout the year and to qualify LSMC as a Local Conference with at least 35 members by the year end.

The preacher for the service was TRAC President, Rev Dr T Jeyakumar. His sermon was on “A Model Church” based on **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10** on what constituted a perfect church which many Christians are searching for. Theologically speaking, there is no “perfect church” but definitely an “exemplary church” like the one referred to in Thessalonica by Apostle Paul. The believers in Thessalonica were remembered for their examples in faith, love and hope in God through Christ Jesus.

- Their faith in Christ led them to ceaseless good work knowing that their effort was not in vain in the Lord;
- Their love for God prompted them to labour for God without counting the cost, and
- Their hope with patient endurance through the Holy Spirit until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

A model church lives out the gospel and spreads the good news. How can LSMC become a model church?

### Conclusion

An idealistic mission to plant God’s vineyard in Kota Damansara has now become a reality. The spiritual journey begins with the first step of encouraging more members of TRAC churches who reside around Kota Damansara to come forward to serve God in Living Stone Methodist Church.

Finally, I would like to share the “Prayer Hymn” composed by the late Mr Khoo Kay Hock on the faithfulness in God’s people:

What the future has for our church  
Lies with every stalwart one,  
Let us all be faithful and true  
Till the final victory’s won.  
God’s grace be with every Christian  
May God richly bless his life,  
Keep him safe and ever guide him  
Free his days from fruitless strife. Amen.

### Correction to Berita TRAC Vol No 3. 2013, page 11

The contributor of article  
“Rooted and Released” is  
**Shaun Yeoh** and not Shaun Choon.  
The error is regretted.



# Nusajaya Methodist Church (NMC) Taman Bukit Indah II, Johor Bharu

## Inaugural Service: March 1, 2014

### A New Birth

Rejoice! Rejoice!

A dream comes true, a vision is realized!

God's people packed the premises, united as one, in praise of the Lord for the birth of a new preaching point at Nusajaya, a rapidly growing area at the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia.

God gave us, Wesley Methodist Church Johor Bahru, the vision and the courage to embrace this mission. We gathered to pray and waited upon Him; we equipped ourselves; we sought His divine conviction and empowerment. And He

has faithfully led us through each stage in the advancement of His Kingdom.

We are convinced that God will continue to nurture and strengthen NMC that she may grow and rise up to fulfil these purposes of "Reaching out, touching lives with Jesus' love." It is our prayer that NMC may be a gateway of hope to the community around her, a shining beacon to light the way, and the salt that helps others to 'taste' the love of God.

Nusajaya Methodist Church welcomes all to join our worship service at 9.30 am every Saturday.



Praise and worship



Holy Communion



Praise and worship

## Solemn Assembly @ SSMC: April 12, 2014

Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming's challenge to the family of SSMC....  
 “State of a Nation is a Reflection of the State of the Church”

We are all well aware of the distressing situation in our country—the unrighteousness, the rampant corrupt practices, the worsening religious intolerance, the impotence of our legal system and the continued suffering of the common people who have to bear and pay for the financial cost of a state totally gone wrong.

The Malaysian Church needs to bear a fair portion of the responsibility for the present condition in our nation because we had been very lethargic and complacent in the past, inward-looking and focusing only on addressing the needs of our own local churches and people, largely abandoning the whole area of nation-building to our politicians and the “people of the world”. As the Church in Malaysia, we have not prayed sufficiently and consistently for our own nation—for the different governing authorities, the various policies formulated and other aspects of nation-building.

But no more!

There is a newfound awakening and unity in the Malaysian Church. **Prayer United**—a joint movement by the Council of Churches Malaysia (CCM) and the National

Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) to coordinate and unite all the different prayer networks—met in mid-February 2014 in Sabah and issued, for the first time in our nation's history, a **National Call for Solemn Assemblies** in all Malaysian churches on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church will respond to this national call by gathering on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 8am to 1pm to pray and intercede for our beloved nation of Malaysia.

As part of the preparation leading up to the Solemn Prayer

Assembly, we are also calling for a 3 Day- Fast & Prayer from Wednesday to Friday, where Discipleship Groups, families and individuals can sign up to participate in this 24 hour-Prayer Chain. It is a time of preparing and consecrating ourselves, as we unite together with our brethren in the length and breadth of Malaysia to pray and invite God to intervene and move in our country.

As Oswald Chambers said, “*Prayer does not equip us for greater works—Prayer Is The Greater Work.*”



The congregation

A panoramic view of the Solemn Prayer Assembly



# *“Prayer does not equip us for greater works – Prayer Is The Greater Work.”*

*Oswald Chambers*

## **The Solemn Assembly @ SSMC on April 12, 2014: Report by Mrs Heather Liew, SSMC Prayer Coordinator**

The Solemn Assembly in SSMC on April 12 was preceded by three days of Fast & Prayer, from April 9 to 11. The Call was based on Joel 2 to “rend your heart and not your garments.” In the light of all that is happening in our nation, we, as a church, felt the great need and urgency to come before the Lord in humility, repenting of our sins, and seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

We acknowledge that God is not unwilling to act but we, His church, is the barrier preventing Him from working out His purposes and plans in this nation. We acknowledge that God wants to use us, His church in Malaysia, to bring healing, reconciliation and restoration to the nation but instead, we have been looking to the might of man and to political horses to fix our problems. Thus, at the heart of this Call is the repentance before God that we have missed it, that our hearts are far away from Him though we profess Him as God in our songs and sermons.

As a local church, we were much encouraged to see close to 150 persons attending at least part of the 5 hour prayer session, including 10 from other churches. Many



Praying God's blessings on all the different states in Malaysia.



Declaring the names of God over our nation

stayed throughout the five hours of worship and prayer. It truly warmed our hearts to have the youth and children participating actively as well. We felt led to move from mere petitioning and focusing on our problems to declaring that our God is greater than all our problems and that He is able to do far more than we can ask of Him when our hearts are aligned to Him.

There is definitely more work needed to keep the incense of prayers burning but we thank God for the small beginning. Let's continue to ask, knock and seek until His Kingdom come and His Will be done in our nation.

## PRAYING IN SMALL GROUPS







# METHODIST PRAYER CONVENTION 2014

PERHIMPUNAN DOA METHODIST  
卫理公会祷告大会

மெதடிஸ்ட் ஜெப மாநாடு

## A CHURCH AFTER

体贴上帝心意的教会

## GOD'S OWN HEART

GEREJA YANG IMPIKAN HATI NURANI TUHAN

தேவனுடைய இருதயத்திற்கேற்ற சபை



29 & 30 AUGUST 2014

Sunway Convention Centre

SPEAKERS

REV DR STEPHEN SEAMANDS  
2ND PLENARY  
SPEAKER  
REV DR JOSHUA TING

31 AUGUST 2014

Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil

Bt Jalil - gathering of all Methodist churches for  
a time of prayer and celebration

# What Can The Church Do For Our Mission Schools

**By Tay Choon Neo**

*Director*

*Spiritual Life Development Methodist Council of Education*

Haven't we all heard the general lament of our Mission Schools; some even say that they are more like a sekolah agama than a Christian Mission School. What happened to the Christian Ethos of our Methodist Schools ?!

It is with joy that I bring you greetings from a new avenue of the Council of Education called Spiritual Life Development of schools. As the recently appointed Director, I covet your prayers and partnership to bring back the Christian Witness and Christian Ethos in our schools which has been eroded over the last few decades.

Our Methodist Mission Schools have been providing education since 1891 with the Anglo-Chinese School (now MBS) in Penang. After that, many schools have been set up and blessed thousands of boys and girls with a good holistic education based on Christian values and principles. There were church schools, government-aided schools, afternoon schools, continuation schools, private schools and they attracted multiracial and multi-religious students of all social-economic backgrounds. Over the years, because of changes in policies and circumstances, demographics have also changed. The ethos or pervading spirit of the school has been reformed until it is often unrecognizable as a mission school.

A few years ago, at a church leaders' retreat, my pastor asked us to draw a picture of our vision for the church. In my picture there was a huge black mountain. Behind the mountain there was a river ... a River of Life and Jesus was walking in the river ... and there were people in the river walking with Him: teachers and students. On the banks of the river there were schools – mission schools. The schools, dotted along the river banks, were so near to the River of Life that the boys and girls could just step into the water and receive the Living Water.

## **What did all that mean??!**

To me, it meant that our Mission Schools are great opportunities to reach the young with the love of God: the proximity of the school to the river of Life. I, myself, am a product of the Methodist Girls' School Kuala Lumpur and came to know Jesus as my Saviour and Lord whilst in Form 3. Coming from a non-Christian family, the seed was sown and nurtured in school.

However, there was no church in my picture, only schools.

There are about 40,000 students and 3,000 teachers in our Methodist schools, both government-aided and private.

## **The land is there but who will sow the seed? Who will reap the harvest?**

Opportunities abound for the church as a whole, as well as individuals, to be involved. The recent National Educational Blueprint invites the Community to come and play a supportive role for the growth and development of the school and education.

This is a big challenge for us, the church, to claim back the original mission in education. But God is concerned about young people and so should we be.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* **Matt.19:14**

Our schools are public spaces where the greatest influence can change lives. We need people who care for these young boys and girls enough to invest their





time, effort and perhaps money, for the betterment of individual lives and for the society and nation as a whole.

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### **How the Church can do Ministry in the Mission School**

1. Be a member of the School Board of Governors/Managers
2. Be an active member of the School Parent-Teacher Association (PIBG)
3. Be an supportive member of the School Alumni Association
4. Possible ministries in schools
  - a. Poor and Needy – financial needs, meal supplement (recess, lunch, biscuits), bus fare, etc.
  - b. Coaching / Tuition for certain subjects
  - c. Counselling of Teachers & Students, offer a listening ear
  - d. Social welfare services
  - e. Offer help in school camps, school outings/trips
  - f. Girls' Brigade (GB) and Boys' Brigade (BB) – Officer, Helper, Instructor, Chaplain
  - g. Help organize Founder's Day
  - h. Be present at Special Days, e.g. Awards Day, Sports Day, School Performances, Retirement of Teachers, etc.
  - i. Support School Fund-Raising Activities
  - j. Visit the Heads and pray for them
  - k. And so much more...
5. Christian activities in schools
  - a. Christian Fellowship – Speakers, Advisor
  - b. Chapel – Speakers, Advisor, Music
  - c. Teach Bible Knowledge (for SPM), Religious Knowledge (non-exam Bible teaching)
  - d. Prayer meetings, prayer walks
  - e. School CF camps, Teachers' Camps/Conferences
  - f. Religious Emphasis Week
6. Offer expertise/skill as human resource to any school project/function
7. Help create a Mission School atmosphere
8. The Church should strongly support the GB and BB ministry in the school by providing personnel and training; where there is no company in the school, to look into starting one. The programme is holistic and it is recognized by the Ministry of Education, as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
9. Encourage students to take up Bible Knowledge as a subject in school.

10. Promote Teaching as a Vocation and Mission. Get young people to become Teachers.

11. Offer merit (on academic performance) or social (on financial needs) Scholarships

12. In every school, private or government-aided, we must work towards the appointment of a SCSC (School Christian Support Committee) chairperson from a nearby church to spearhead the work.

Let us be involved in a visible, genuinely concerned and unbiased way.

We offer our assistance to educate and nurture, and if the Lord gives opportunity, to evangelise and make disciple. We do not convert people - that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord establish the work of our hands to the glory of His Name.

Please contact me for further clarification.

Shalom,

**Tay Choon Neo**

Email: choonneo.tay@methodisteducation.edu.my

Tel: 6016-6941456, Office: 603-79565310

## **METHODIST EDUCATION FOUNDATION (127942 D)**

### **SCHOLARSHIP LOAN/GRANT (2014/2015)**

Applications for the above scholarship loan/grant are now open to interested students.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Malaysia citizens who have gained admission to or are already studying in institutions of higher learning in Malaysia.

#### **TENURE**

The loan/grant is for the approved duration of the selected course of study, subject to annual review based on performance and need.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please write for an application form and enclose a stamped (80 cents) self-addressed envelope (25 cm x 17 cm) to:-

**The Secretary  
Methodist Education Foundation  
67, Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya.**

- Or come personally to the above address to get the application form.
- Completed forms are to be returned by **20 May, 2014**. Only short-listed candidates will be notified for an interview.

## Inviting You To An Afternoon Seminar

# OUR SCHOOLS, OUR MISSION FIELDS

### WHO SHOULD COME?

- School Board Of Governors / Managers
- School Leaders, Teachers and Counsellors
- Christian Fellowship Teacher Advisors
- Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade Officers and Young Leaders
- Parent-Teacher Associations
- School Alumni
- Church Leaders and Members
- And anyone else connected for our Mission Schools

### SEMINAR PROGRAMME

- 1.30 pm Registration
- 2.00 pm Opening Address: "Reclaiming Our Mission" by Mr Khor Hong Yin, COE
- 2.30 pm Session "Leadership in Challenging Times" by Dr. Manfred Kohl
- 3.45 pm Tea Break
- 4.15 pm Parallel Session
  - I. "Leadership and Conflict Management" by Dr. Manfred Kohl
  - II. "Teen Sexuality" by Dr. Barbara Kohl
- 5.30 pm End

### SPEAKERS



**Dr. Manfred W. Kohl** is born in Germany during the Second World War, and was educated in Germany, England, and the US. He earned Master's degrees in Divinity and Theology, and doctorates in Historical Theology and Ministry. After serving as a pastor in Massachusetts, he had various leadership positions at World Vision, serving as field director in West Africa, establishing support offices throughout central Europe, and completing service as a VP of World Vision International. From 1993 Manfred served as a VP of Overseas Council, an organisation that partners with more than 100 theological seminaries and Bible colleges in the non-Western world, equipping indigenous Christian leaders. He now serves as Ambassador for the organisation. He still does extensive travelling, speaking, and writing. See more at: <http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.aqKFLTOBlpH/b.931457/#sthash.IHu9XDFb.dpuf>



**Mrs (Dr) Barbara Kohl** is a native of Nova Scotia, Canada, and a former high school teacher, counsellor, and youth leader. After living and serving in the United States, the Ivory Coast (Africa), and Germany, she returned with her husband to her home village of Blandford, Nova Scotia. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Ontario College of Education (both in Toronto, Canada) and received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, USA. Her doctoral thesis was entitled "*Teenage Sexual Morality*." Her passion is to challenge and equip parents and Christian leaders, and give them the confidence, to help their teens to recognise sex as our Heavenly Father's good gift and to make wise decisions as to what to do with their hearts and their bodies in their teen years. See more at: <http://barbarakohl.com/>

#### PERAK REGION

Date : Saturday, 24 May 2014  
 Time : 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm  
 Venue : SMK (P) Methodist (MGS) Ipoh  
 No.2, Jalan Raja Permaisuri  
 Bainun, Ipoh, Perak.

#### PENANG & NORTH

Date : Sunday, 25 May 2014  
 Time : 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm  
 Venue : SMK (P) Methodist (MGS)  
 Penang  
 No.42, Jalan Anson, Penang

#### KLANG VALLEY & SOUTH

Date : Wednesday, 28 May 2014  
 Time : 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm  
 Venue : Methodist College  
 Kuala Lumpur (MCKL)  
 Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur

Please register with **Ms Tay**, [chooneo.tay@MethodistEducation.edu.my](mailto:chooneo.tay@MethodistEducation.edu.my), h/p **016-6941 456**  
 with Registration Fee of RM20.00

Organised by : **The Methodist Council of Education**  
 67, Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya  
 Tel : 603-7956 5310 Fax : 603-7958 3346  
 Website : [www.MethodistEducation.edu.my](http://www.MethodistEducation.edu.my)



## Pastors School 2014 (Joint Singapore - Malaysia TRAC)



**A gift from TRAC Malaysia given to Dr. Gordon Wong.**



**Good To Great Preaching Group Photo 2014.  
Seminar led by Dr. William Lawrence from Texas, USA**

# GEREJA METHODIST LIVING FAITH

## LIVING FAITH METHODIST CHURCH



### Living Faith Methodist Church

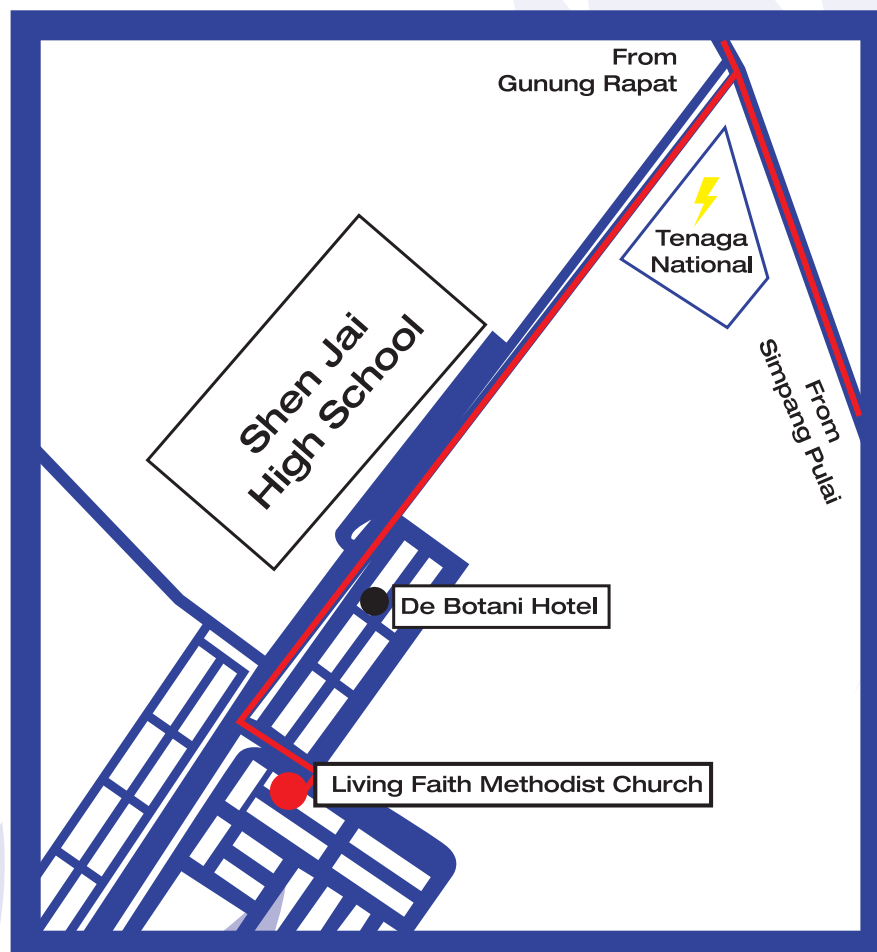
*Living by Faith, Living Out Faith*

5, 7, 9, Jalan Lapangan Siber 5, Bandar Cyber, 31650 Ipoh

## Inaugural Worship Service

**Date : 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Time : 5:00 p.m.**



*For More Information Please Contact*

**Ms Vivien Ho**  
**012-4559 911**