

BERITA TRAC

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TRAC Event

H Whispering Hope

*Soft as the voice of an angel, breathing a lesson unheard,
Hope with a gentle persuasion, whispers her comforting word:
Wait till the darkness is over, wait till the tempest is done,
Hope for the sunshine tomorrow, after the shower is gone.*

Refrain:

*Whispering hope, oh, how welcome Thy voice,
Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice.*



Whispering
Hope

Jesus the Saviour is near

Welcome

to our Sunday Worship Service

A time to gather together.
A time to sing, a time to pray.
A time to receive, a time to give.
A time to hear the word of God.
A time to go and serve, God and others.
Come! Bring your family and friends along.

Sunday Worship Service
Time: 10.30 am
(Starting from May 11 onwards)

Theatrette, Main Block
Help University College
Damansara Heights

HELP
University College
Preaching Point Of
Emmanuel Methodist Church

Emmanuel Methodist Church PJ grew out of the PJ North Parish Group of Wesley MC KL. Beginning as a Preaching Point in 1994 with about 40 odd worshippers at rented premises in Kolej Damansara Utama, we became a Local Conference in 1997 and are now settled at our own premises in Dataran Prima PJ with two morning services (internal growth), more than 300 members and a good number of vibrant outreach ministries.

A number of things were core to our ethos right from the beginning. And one of them was we did not want to be a 'mega' church. We believed in planting churches, and this we would do when our membership reached about 250-300 parishioners. As a commitment to this, a Church Planting Fund was set up and a significant sum of money was put aside each year as advance preparation.

At the LCEC Retreat in 2006, a decision was made to start this new preaching point. A number of people committed themselves to be sent out i.e. the Lay Leader (Samuel Ong) and members of SS2/Ezekiel Care Group. A Ministry Team comprising Simon Teoh (TL), Karen Tam, Yeow Lee Wah, Jenny Boey, Poh Kok Kian, Goh Keat Peng and Samuel Ong was then formed to further look into it. And when Rev. Ting Moy Hong came to us as Pastor in 2008, she too has been active, supportive and encouraging in this exciting new and challenging venture of EMCPJ.

As we met, retreated, discussed and prayed, the Spirit of God led us to a number of things, namely,

1. Although we would want to see a good number of adults and families in the new church, a core ministry of this church would be on outreach to tertiary college students and young adults. This is a reflection of the importance of this group of people, a 'missing generation' in many of our churches, and a major concern of the leadership and members of TRAC Malaysia.
2. We considered various locations, but were led by a series of 'open doors' to the HELP University College at Pusat Bandar Damansara KL.

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3. We could build on the gatherings for TRAC youth in the Klang Valley begun in 2007 TRAC, through the initiative of the President Rev HT Ong and Ms. Chang Choy Quin (TRAC Youth Coordinator). Through these physical and electronic links, we realized that there was a sizeable number of TRAC Methodist youth in the Klang Valley, many of whom were not active in the life of a local church, and even not attending church regularly.

4. Gaik Wong, a member of Wesley MC KL, generously loaned us the use of a bungalow near the HELP University College Hostel for use as a Ministry House. This we will use as our base for many of our activities e.g. hospitality, fellowship, small group meetings, a library, counselling etc... We pray that this house will be full of life, fun and a blessing to many!

5. The name of the preaching point will be 'Whispering Hope', and the theme song 'Whispering Hope' by Septimus Winner - an old song but one pregnant with meaning and significance even for today. We want to speak and share of a hope that begins with a whisper and ends with a glorious shout. We want to proclaim a 'sure and steadfast hope' because Jesus has conquered death, brought new, abundant and eternal life, is always very near to us (in us) all the time, and will come again to redeem us.

So, we've been planning, working, praying, and hoping. We've enlisted the active service of TRAC college students in the worship and music ministry, for a start. We've set up a group called Whispering Hope on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7862929215>) to connect all those interested and share the buzz. Anyone can sign up and check us out.

We've tried to 'whisper' the word around. And on the 25th May 2008, we had a TRAC youth gathering at

HELP, hosted by Whispering Hope. A very encouraging 80+ adults and youths turned up. Fellowship was warm and boisterous. Western dinner was served and all said it was yummy! There was even a birthday cake for Julian, all gustily joined in the 'happy birthday' song and wishes! Worship was then led by Li Ching and our own band, and Mr. Goh Keat Peng shared God's word with us. He reminded us all that freedom means opportunity. And particularly for the college students (away from home, and parental supervision), freedom in Christ would mean a choice either for following Christ and his ways, or the ways of evil. Rev HT Ong then prayed what he called 'the apostles of hope', those involved in the ministry of the preaching point, adults and students together. In the words of Choy Quin in her facebook remarks, she said 'Friday night was awesome!'

So, we're just about ready to roll! Come May 11th, and we shall have our inaugural service. I'm sure it will be a moving, momentous and historic occasion for all of us. We invite you 'come and see, come and worship, come and grow, come and serve, and go and share, with us!' Pray for us and with us as we seek to serve our Risen Saviour and Lord, selflessly and faithfully.

*Shadows of evening are falling, dark with depression and fear,
But to my heart they are calling, "Jesus the Saviour is near."
Dread not the oncoming tempest, hope ride the wings of the storm,
Grief shall give way to rejoicing, when Christ the King shall return.*

Refrain:

*Glorious hope, He is coming again,
Christ the Redeemer is coming again.*

Submitted by:

*Dr. Samuel B.L. Ong, Whispering Hope Ministry Team and
Conference Lay Leader, TRAC.*

TRAC-MSF CAMP 2008

The 17th TRAC-MSF Camp 2008 was held at the Taiping Golf Resort from 25th – 28th March 2008. The theme for the Camp was “God in Christ Reconciling”. Rev. Dr. Tony Chi of Haggai Institute Singapore was the theme speaker. There were altogether 244 participants and the biggest contingent was from the MSF of TMC PJ. The Glowing Years Ministry (GYM) of Singapore had about 30 participants.

The seniors at the Annual Camp had a memorable time of fellowship with one another and renewing of old friendships. It was spiritually very uplifting for them to hear the messages from Rev. Dr. Tony Chi and also to listen to a video presentation of an interview with the former US President, Jimmy Carter. Two “green crusaders”, Don and Mylene, spoke on the right way to recycle resources from household waste. There was also a talk on the proposed TRAC Retirement Village and several members involved in the project were there to answer queries and to clarify doubts concerning the project, which if successfully launched would be an example of community living among believers.

As usual there were the fellowship nights when seniors from the various chapters presented their items in the

form of skits, group singing or of individuals rendering the gift of their voices. The MSF of TMC PJ presented an elaborate and hilarious fashion parade of biblical characters with the theme that God loves all sinners equally.

The half-day tours to Port Weld and to Lenggong were very interesting and the participants were able to learn a great deal besides having the opportunity to taste a cheap and delicious meal outside the resort. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Organizing Committee, comprising MSF members from CGMC Ipoh, Wesley Ipoh and Wesley Taiping, for a commendable effort in organizing this successful Annual Camp.

The AGM and the election of Office bearers for the Board of Management of the TRAC-MSF for the year 2008/09 were held on Day 2. All fourteen chapters of the MSF were represented, with a total of 54 delegates present. Rev. Hwa Jen, the TRAC Seniors Ministry Director chaired the election. The following newly-elected members of the Board were installed during the Holy Communion service led by Rev. Hwa Jen and assisted by Rev. Dr. Tony Chi on the final day of the Camp.

by Dr. Khoo Soo Ghee

President	:	Mr. Daniel Chan	EMC PJ
Vice President	:	Ms Pauline Looi	WMC Penang
Hon. Secretary	:	Dr. Khoo Soo Ghee	TMC PJ
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr. Tan Fu Tee	WMC Seremban
Board Members	:	1. Mr Bobby Lee	TMC PJ
		2. Mr. Michael Goh	WMC Seremban
		3. Mr. Tan Kok Huat	TMC Penang
		4. Mr. Tham Leong	WMC Kampar
District Co-ordinators:			
1. Eastern Distr.		Mr. David Leong Peng Kuan	WMC Kuantan
2. Northern Distr.		Mr. Roland Chan	WMC Penang
3. Perak Distr.		Mr. Wan Sai Pun	CGMC Ipoh
4. Fed. Terr.		Ms. Winnie Ng Swee Wan	WMC KL
5. Selangor Distr.		Mr Bobby Lee	TMC PJ (co-opted 15.4.08)
6. Southern Distr.		Mr. Michael Goh	WMC Seremban
Auditors	:	1. Mr. Chew Teik Hock	CGMC Ipoh
		2. Mr. Toa Kim Meng	WMC Ipoh

Tribe Vibe & Youth Work



The Star in its edition on September 14, 2007 reported a study done by BBDO Asia and Proximity Malaysia (leading players in marketing and advertising) on Urban Youths that “having a best friend is now deemed as an “uncool” thing among youth... prefer to hang out with a core peer group.” “Project After Sunset” was a research done where a team was assigned to follow a group of 6 youths for 6 consecutive days and study their clique dynamics. They found out that night life was ruled by a “tribe vibe” and unanimity in decision making. This study was important enough to be referred to again in the Star on September 15 and 19, 2007.

I had thought that the study would be mainly reflective of urban youths but my last experience in working with 18 youths in a 6-week mentoring and learning experience during the past Jeremiah School seems to indicate that the Tribe Vibe phenomena may not be merely an urban thing. What I experienced was almost like encountering a new culture of youth altogether compared to the last 5 years in similar settings.

Some of the elements of the Tribe Vibe phenomena include unanimity (agreeing to do things together), sacrifice of individual needs/wants in preference for group needs/wants, cautious with assertiveness, shying away from standing out in the group, and peer group identity being more important than individual identity. There are both positive and negative implications for youth work. If the Tribe Vibe phenomena is catching

on with our youths, then it contributes positively to community building as it forces youths to learn to work as a team. It also provides a positive peer pressure assuming the core values of the youth group is something positive. Tribe Vibe also lends itself naturally in the enhancing of the “one another” (common phrase in the New Testament) ministry.

On the other hand, Tribe Vibe may negatively affect a youth by contributing to personal psychological stress especially in one who has to frequently sacrifice their preferences for other's. Leadership development of youth may also be compromised due to fear or misunderstanding associated with being assertive, and procrastinated decision making due to a general laid back culture which is a result of shying away from being assertive. Also, for fear of offending a fellow tribe mate, there may be inability to deal with difficult personalities within the group.

What actually gave rise to Tribe Vibe? Is it an expression of a desire for family ideals superimposed on a peer group context? To what extent will Tribe Vibe affect development of Youth Work, particularly the development of Youth leaders? How do youth workers effectively connect with youths belonging to the Tribe Vibe generation and how do we apply the incarnational approach to this group without sacrificing the necessity to provide direction in youth work especially in the more assertive prophetic aspects of youth work and mentoring youth? These are questions we need to reflect

and research to enable us to more effectively connect with another culture, perhaps another generation.

The Board of Youth Work seeks to connect with and transfer these and similar resources to enable our Youth Counselors, Youth Directors, parents and the church at large to be equipped in effectively raising the next generation for the future of our homes and churches. Emmanuel Methodist Church, PJ is embarking (May 11, 2008) on a church-planting project (Whispering Hope) sited in HELP University College seeking to connect youths from outstation to help them settle down and have a place and ministry close to their culture. Wesley Methodist Church, Kuantan is hosting (August 8-10, 2008) our new module in Youth Ministry Training (Succession Planning for Youth Ministry) in an effort to equip existing leaders on how to raise up new leadership for youth work. And should you have youths who are leaving home to study in major towns and cities, do contact our TRAC Youth Ministry Coordinator, Ms. Chang Choy Quin (choyquin@trac.org.my; 019-3136680), and she will help connect your youths to a supportive community to journey with them in those new urban centres. She connects and meets with a network of college aged youths in Klang Valley for occasions of fellowship and community.

Our journey with the youths matters tremendously to them and to the future of TRAC!

(by Dr. Herbert Tan)



Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)

Truth be told, YLDP was not a great camp. It was an amazing camp! It was a camp where God's presence was so awesomely real and even the most cynical would be able to say he or she felt God's spirit moving among the camp.

I doubt it will go by in my memory as one of those leadership camps I went to and did something or the other. Though this one would stand out too because I had to fill in as camp commander. The experience was a challenging one and it was also a learning process for me too. Like Peter who doubted Jesus in Matthew 14, I'm also still learning to step out of my boat of doubts, fears and even prejudices. I have learnt to take in the daily small graces and blessings God accords to me, even when I fail Him. I believe I am being moulded and shaken up by Him, something I wouldn't want to miss for the world.

I like how Cheng Sim nicely sums up camp as just this 'overwhelming Love' that seemed to envelop all of us and words would be too plain to even express how we felt. It wasn't a hazy dazy kind of a feeling, but a clear sense of knowing for sure that He was in control and very much present.

The camaraderie at camp was a genuine bond of love and care. Because I knew whenever I looked stressed or felt tired, the helpers would come up to me to offer help and assistance in any way possible. Here I would like to give a BIG thank YOU to each and every one of the helpers who made YLDP possible, without your great big hand of help; it would have been a very different camp indeed.

It was evident at this camp that we aren't always a stodgy and boring

bunch. The Methodist youths I dare say are a bunch of crazy and fiery youths who love God and want to give their best to Him.

Lastly, I want to just give thanks and praise to God for the most remarkable weather He gave us. Though there were plenty of rainy days, the sunshine appeared too and for me personally I think that reflects how life will be. There will be the odd days and the even days, days when we wish we never needed to get out of bed cause the world just seems too terrible to wake up to. And yet there will be days that just call for that burst of joy to overwhelm us and push us through the toughest and coldest days. But all in all, God will be the constant in our lives, that is if we allow Him to do so.

Tan Shu Yi
Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya



Youth Leadership Development Programme 2007



.....I learnt that, just like the marathon, we Christians have to prepare and train to run the marathon to eternity. This marathon is also not an easy race for us to run as we are always side-tracked by temptations.

.....By the end of the camp, many youths had experienced God and the Holy Spirit. And I would say with a grateful heart that we did not go back empty-handed, as we came home filled with joy, having acquired new knowledge and friendship. Now I will continue running this race and keep my heart focused on the God and with His guidance, I wish to grow in His glory day by day.....

.....I will also keep in mind that Our Lord loves me and would never leave me; especially during my times of trial and suffering and when I see only one footprint, I am assured that He lifts me up and carries me through.

OUR GOD REIGNS!!

*Melissa Joy Benedict
Wesley Methodist Church, Seremban*



Building Community –

The Jeremiah School (JS) Experience

JS 2008 saw the coming together of 18 students (9 guys, 9 gals) living and learning together in Port Dickson Methodist Centre over 6 weeks mentored by 5 God-given mentors (4 fulltime, 1 part-time). This was also the first time that Ms. Chang Choy Quin, our TRAC Youth Ministry Coordinator took on the responsibility of being JS Director, a change from a more support-administrative role for previous batches. Personally, I think she did a wonderful job juggling between her roles as Director, mentor, and some administrative support which she does so naturally and often unintentionally.

The students came from Alor Setar Wesley, Penang Trinity, Sitiawan Wesley, CGMC, Kampar Wesley, Sentul Grace, KL Wesley, Puchong Life, Kuantan Wesley, and Seremban Wesley. From my observation, they were very different from other batches and may very well be a new cultural generation with characteristics similar to the Tribe Vibe generation, a generation that prefers to do things by consensus. Together with the mentors, they live, learn, serve, work, and play in community. Here's what a typical day would be like in JS:

Morning

6.30	Waking up (one mentor shakes our shoulders while another would play music to wake us up)
7.00	Quiet Time (we spent time in God's Word and covered Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and Zechariah through the six weeks)
8.00	Breakfast
8.30	Sharing (what we learned from Quiet Time – accountability in mentoring groups)
9.30	Classroom Session
11.00	Break
11.30	Classroom Session

Afternoon

1.00	Lunch
2.00	Siesta/Rest
2.30	Workshop/Classroom Session
4.00	Team Building/Gotong Royong (eg. cleaning the toilets)

Evening

6.00	Wash-up
7.00	Dinner
8.00	Worship (on Tuesdays and Thursdays, this will be part of a Chapel Service)
8.30	Night Trek (for Chapel Service, one of the students will preach, get feedback on how to improve, and spend some time in intercession; other nights would either be simulated learning like Passover experience or movies or forum with invited guests)
9.30	Mentoring (small group time with our mentors to reflect on the day's learning/experience)
10.30	Supper (occasionally, some kind soul will bring some special supper for us)
11.30	Lights Out (enforced by our mentors)

For the Classroom sessions, we covered topics that included Discovering the Love of God and Knowing God the Father, Nature & Work of Christ, Holy Spirit (Person, Work, Fruit & Gifts), Old Testament & New Testament Survey, Studying, Interpreting, Applying & Communicating the Bible, Spiritual Disciplines, Leadership, Worship, Spiritual Warfare, Sexuality & Holiness & Gender

Development, Understanding Missions & Evangelism, Malaysia Terkini & Portrait of Malaysia. Workshops include Conversational Ministry, Meditation, Freedom in Christ, Discerning the Will of God, Prayer Profiling, EQ Profiling, Resolving Conflict. Other sessions that help the students understand themselves more include Understanding Your Mind & Emotions, Personal Mission & Core Values.

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Thursdays are special in that it is usually a silent day where, from wake-up time to dinner, students can only reflect and talk to God and no one else. It is a day of personal retreat and as weeks passed, they learn to fast one or two meals. One of the students who wasn't sure about God experienced the reality of God on one of those Thursday. When he shared, "Today, I found my God," I was moved to tears.

On weekends, we visited various churches in an attempt to apply what we learned in the classroom. Students learn to exercise conversational ministry, share their testimony, speak at youth meetings, and also be exposed to the pastors, leaders, and varied ministries of different churches. Weekends are also a time when students get to relax a bit by visiting a shopping mall and talking on their cell phones (cell phones are collected by mentors and are not to be used by students during the weekdays so that they can focus on learning and building community).

The final 10 days (usually a week for past batches) were spent on a mission trip in Kampar working in partnership with Kampar Wesley Methodist Church. We did a prayer profile of the whole of Kampar and did more focused ministries to campus students via campus (UTAR) visits, hostel (house to house) visits, and a special night event where we invited them to come to Wesley Kampar for a night of fun, sharing, and drama. As the JS students learned to trust God, God enabled them to speak and share to others older than themselves. The results of the 10-day long door-to-door outreach are: 106 pre-evangelistic

contacts (sharing/conversations that are pre-evangelistic in nature), 23 evangelistic contacts (gospel shared), and 3 salvation decisions. The special night saw about 90 campus and high school students attending and being exposed to the gospel. The local church leaders came out to help provide transport for the students and help secure the refreshments.

Then came the final day, Sunday, February 24, 2008. It was graduation day for the JS students. The District Superintendent for Perak District, Rev. Ashok Amarasingham, gave the message and officiated the commissioning of the students. Tears flowed as we got ready to bring our six weeks to a close. Reluctantly, the students parted from each other waiting to meet again in some chat room or a reunion somewhere in Malaysia. But as they went, the mentors got busy preparing individual progress reports and future development ideas to be sent to the pastors and youth counsellors of the students. The mentors also finish putting together a final official Personal Development Plan for each student to be sent to their post-JS mentor whom we hope will continue to journey with them.

It is our prayer that we have contributed significantly in laying the building blocks to begin to build and raise a generation of God-fearing, faithful, persevering and selfless young leaders who will be of a different spirit.

(by Dr. Herbert Tan)





Jeremiah School - Snapshot testimonies



JS has been a life-changing experience for me. I've learned to listen to others and to be aware of their needs, to focus more on others instead of myself. I discovered my spiritual gifts and this has enabled me to recognize my strength in ministry.

Addison Ooh

(Life Methodist Church, Puchong)

I learnt to appreciate my family. I learnt to trust God totally. I was transformed little by little everyday. I used to be afraid of sharing the Gospel with people but every time after sharing, there is a joy that flows out deep from my heart.

Andrew Wong

(Grace Methodist Church, Sentul)

JS made me more aware and take note of big picture responsibilities. I learned how to direct the whole school, stand in front of the students and dealing with their issues. I really learned what it means to love the youths.

Chang Choy Quin (Mentor, JS Director)

Taman Ujong Methodist Church, Seremban)

Before I came to JS, I was confused and lonely. I was empty and felt Christianity was a deception. God proved me wrong. God spoke to me in His way during quiet retreat. He explained to me how He created this world and how He loved me.

Daniel Chiam

(Wesley Methodist Church, Alor Setar)

I've learnt to discipline myself in my "Quiet Time". I've learnt to listen to God's voice. Many times I've asked God why He doesn't want to talk to me personally and sometimes I get frustrated asking this question again and again. But, thank God that He spoke to me during the sessions in Jeremiah School. He spoke to me through signs and people around me.

Doreen Kwan

(Life Methodist Church, Puchong)

In writing my personal mission statement, I now know that I have a bigger heart to serve in the youth ministry. My relationship with God has become livelier. Previously, I could not discern His voice but now, I can hear Him speaking to me. His joy has become part of me.

Lim Wen Dee

(Grace Methodist Church, Sentul)

The JS students have humbled me many a time showing me the areas in my life which I should be letting go for God to work on. The JS sessions which had a real impact on me were ones when we talked about the current state and needs of Malaysia; politically, socially and economically.

Lim Yuen Feung (Mentor)

(Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya)

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I became more aware of other people's needs, and the call that God has given me. I learnt a lot about God and the Church. I also learnt what it means to give ourselves to a cause even if it costs us our lives. I am willing to give everything for the service of Christ for He first gave us his life.

Matthew Lim

(Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur)

Living together with others has opened my eyes on how important it is to live as a community and supporting each other all the way. When I first came, I was really terrified and afraid that I could not mix well. But as days passed, I made really good friends who supported and encouraged me.

Megan Kong

(Wesley Methodist Church, Sitiawan)

The 360 LITE session helped me to discover my hidden strengths, blind spots and areas which I needed to work on. The Freedom in Christ sessions helped me to bring my sins to light so that I can be free in Christ giving Satan no hold. I also learned it's never too early to pray for a life partner, because suitable ones are not formed overnight. In future, I want to use my giftings in my work place, so I want to trust that God will open a door for me to study the course that will blend well with my giftings.

Naik Shiang June

(Wesley Methodist Church, Sitiawan)

Before JS, I was a happy-go-lucky person, taking things as they came and not really caring but now I am more alert and attentive. I was also not a disciplined person and would not do any Quiet Time. But now I am beginning to start caring for others and learning to be a more obedient son. I have also been doing my Quiet Time daily.

Shaun Yeoh

(Trinity Methodist Church, Penang)

I have learned to approach people with love even those who have offended me. I had the opportunity to learn how to share the gospel with someone I have never met before. During mission week, I had the opportunity to share the gospel with strangers! I was filled with joy and happiness after doing so. I have also learned that it is not hard to study the bible; we just need the right tools for it.

Tiffany Kovalan

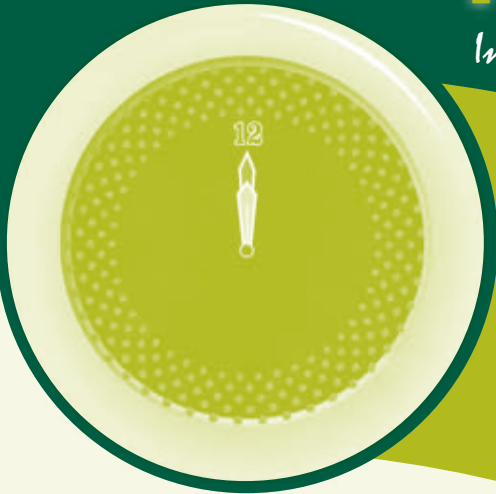
(Wesley Methodist Church, Seremban)



Pray@12noon

In one voice for

the Revival of the Church and
Transformation of the Nation.



JEREMIAH 33:3

'Call to Me and I will
answer you and show you
great and mighty things
which you do not know

Introduction

The Malaysia National Prayer Network (MNPN) is a network of prayer networks with the united purpose to pray for the revival of the Church and for the transformation of the nation.

Key MNPN Prayer Initiatives

- 1** To mobilise all Christians to **daily prayer at noon; and,**
- 2** To hold an annual National Prayer Consultation for heads of churches and key prayer leaders.
- 3** To encourage all churches to promote greater visibility to the prayer ministry by getting every believer to be part of a prayer group, be it in church, office, school or neighbourhood;
- 4** To create Pastors' Prayer Fellowships from all churches of each town/city to come together regularly for prayer for their towns/cities and for the nation;
- 5** To encourage all churches to hold regular corporate prayer meetings and to persevere in prayer;
- 6** To mobilise prayer channels to communicate specific and urgent national issues that may arise from time to time.

MNPN Committee

Advisors:

Rev Hwa Yung &
Rev Wong Kim Kong

Convenor & Co-Convenor:

Rev Ann Low & Rev Lee Tak Vui

Pr Daniel Raut
Rev Wong Kong Hoo
Bro. M.S.Maniam
Canon Eddie Ong
Dr Chan Ah Kee
Dr Andrew Chong
Dr Chan Geok Oon



TRAC 's Participation in a Historical Event to Touch a Nation

2007, the year Malaysia celebrated 50 years of MERDEKA is also an Epoch year for Evangelism in Malaysia.

It was a year where for the first time Christians from all denominations open their homes to their friends to view a Christian movie and a short message and a challenge from Dr. Billy Graham.

The "once-a-lifetime" national event was called Celebration of Hope patterned after the disciple Matthew who had also invited his friends to his home.

On one occasion, Jesus was there to meet his friends. The hosts were called Matthew and their homes "Matthew Homes".

The Methodist Church in Malaysia participated with other main line denomination and independent churches in encouraging members to open their homes on the 14th -16th Dec. 2007. All "Matthew Hosts" were trained to host and at the end present the Gospel and give a challenge. Many churches were able to participate as the messages were translated into Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese, Tamil and English.

The target groups of people were children, youth, working adults and the aged.

Adequate materials were distributed to both hosts and guests after the decentralized training that took place around the nation.

Those who prayed and participated saw the Lord of the harvest giving an increase in number into His Kingdom at the closing of an eventful year.

STATISTICS FOR TRAC CHURCHES

29 Trained Churches

26 Confirmed Participation:

17 Churches which submitted responses:

No of MAF homes English = 123;

Chinese = 15

No of salvation = 22 (E); 10 (C)

No of rededications = 37 (E); 4 (C)

*Submitted by Rev. Henry Yong
Chairman Board of Evangelism*

Hope Alive

The 2007 nationwide Celebration of Hope Malaysia (COHM), which culminated with the *Matthew and Friends (MAF) programme at Christmastime last year, yielded an interesting peek into the state of evangelistic fervour among Malaysian evangelical churches.

Over 2,000 churches underwent the COHM training for the MAF programme, but barely half actually participated in the end (see right table).

Of the 1,526 churches that signed up to participate, only 58 per cent actually ran the programme in the end.

Equally appalling is the figure for individual Christians who signed up to host the MAF programme. Less than 40 percent actually opened their doors came Christmastime

Elisha Satvinder, COHM Director of Mobilisation, said the situation accurately reflected Malaysian Christians

“romanticised” attitude towards evangelism. He lamented the “plenty of talk and not much action” attitude of many Christians, but was nevertheless encouraged by those who did participate. Still, much needs to be done to make evangelism a lifestyle for all Malaysian Christians, he said.

*Matthew and Friends (MAF) was a programme held near Christmastime where Christians invite their friends to their homes for a meal followed by a film show of the gospel and concluded with a short discussion and altar call. The programme took the name from the gospel story of Matthew the tax collector who invited his friends to his home to listen to Jesus immediately after he became Jesus’ disciple.

MAF was a programme of COHM, which was endorsed by most churches and denominational leaders. NECF Malaysia was the official partner organisation. Fully funded by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, COHM took a year to mobilise and train Christians to host MAF.

Churches	MAF homes	Individuals
No. of churches which signed up to participate: 1,526	No. of MAF homes which signed up to participate: 15,447	No. of people invited to MAF events: 43,525
Actual no. of churches which participated: 887	Actual no. of MAF homes which participated: 6,167	No. of decisions for Christ (as reported by participating churches): 9,792
		No. of rededications (as reported by participating churches): 7,007

(This article first appeared in Berita NECF, March – April 2008 issue and is reprinted here with permission).

Pastors, Diaconal Ministers School (PDMS)

April 9-14, Sibul, Sarawak



The photo clearly shows that all attendees at the PDMS '08 held in Sibul had that much needed rest and relaxation, as evidenced by their broad smiles. (Those not smiling might be the ones who were tense because they had been given certain speaking/teaching assignments at the PDMS) As reported by the chairman of the Board of Ministry, Rev. Ricky Ho, “We had a wonderful time of fellowship and catching up with each other.”

“It Was The Worst Of Times, It Was The Best Of Times”

Disaster Response and the Malaysian Church



Disasters have happened throughout man's history but now the frequency appears to be increasing at an alarming rate.

To me the disasters we are witnessing in the world today can be just the 'beginnings of birth pains' (Mark 13:8). If it is, then we will need to heed the teachings of Jesus to 'learn this lesson from the fig tree' that 'when you see these things happening, you know that it (end-times) is near, right at the door' (Mark 13:28-29).

How then can and should the Church respond at such a time as this? If we see the signs and understand the times like the men of Issachar from of old (1 Chr 12:32), there must be

a greater sense of urgency in our ministry for the Lord for we can only 'work while it is still day, night will come when no one can work' (John 9:4). The "Great Conclusion" will only come when 'the gospel of the kingdom' has been 'preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations (ethnos)' (Matthew 24:14).

Bearing this in mind, the Church needs to get herself ready for the coming disasters, not only for the sake of self-preservation but for the deluge of hunger and responsiveness that often accompanies times of crisis and disaster. In times of disaster, when people's usual support structure and beliefs are shaken to the core, there is an openness to the Good

News. As someone rightly pointed out, "There are no atheists during an earthquake."

God's people can and should be there to extend tangible, practical help and love, be it just in giving a cup of drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, medical help to the injured, or even just a listening ear to the grieving. God's Word says: 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me' (Matt 25:40).

A demonstration of the love of God, with no strings attached, in many situations will invite the grateful recipients to ask "Why...?" This gives us the golden opportunity to

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share the Good News – all because we have “walked the talk.” This was the experience during the recent disaster situations in both Indonesia and Pakistan as well as in our very own backyard – Johore and Malacca. Alas, because Christians and congregations were not ready or prepared, the resulting response was patchy and not so well coordinated.

Disaster is happening all around us and Malaysia is extremely blessed to be spared from much of the devastation that has affected neighboring countries. Even the flooding that has occurred in our nation can in no way be compared to what happened in countries like Bangladesh year after year. Is it not timely for the Church in Malaysia to rise up and play a more pro-active and significant role in this whole area of disaster response, bearing in mind its importance in God's end-time plans?

Ad-hoc, uncoordinated disaster response by well-intentioned churches, individuals or small groups of Christians is good and commendable but inadequate, possibly ineffective in the bigger scheme of things and definitely unsustainable. In contrast, a unified, well-prepared and structured response drawing on the combined resources of the entire Body of Christ, both in terms of availability of man-power and professional skills as well as finances, will be much more

effective and sustainable in any given disaster situation. The Malaysian church at present is far from this ideal situation. We can and must do much better if similar disasters recurs but “good disaster response” is not something that will just happen by itself – much time, effort and finance must be invested in identifying, mobilizing, training and equipping Christians within the confines of a local church or better still inter-church/ denominational context.

I am proposing that the Malaysian church and her leaders seriously consider putting in place people and resources for quick and concerted disaster response. We all need to catch the vision and this must be followed by setting aside the necessary personnel with proper training and equipment. Disaster Response as such, should be viewed as part of the missions outreach in any church requiring the support and encouragement of church leadership.

Disaster Response Preparedness can be at two levels :

BASIC Module - Basic First Aid & Intro to Disaster Response

In line with a stated objective of the Malaysian Government to get at least 10% of the population trained for Basic First Aid and Disaster Response, I am proposing that 10%

of church members avail themselves to receive such training. Consider it as part of your “National Service” as loyal Malaysians. This Basic Training module takes about 2 days (Saturday 8am-12noon, 2pm – 6pm and Sunday 2pm-6pm) and can be done “in-house” with groups of 30 to 40 at a time.

Topics covered under this module include general first aid, CPR (Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), what to do if a person faints, have a seizure, involved in an accident with a possible fracture or is choking etc.... All very practical and useful knowledge which will serve you well even in your everyday family and church life.

Introduction to common disasters will also be done under this module eg what to do in a flood situation, a landslide or even a fire.

Costing** for the above module is being done as some of the training material used is disposable in nature but will be kept to a low minimum to encourage greater participation. We hope to use suitable church premises to conduct the above module. Initially sessions will be conducted in English but I am also working together with another brother in conducting similar modules in Mandarin.

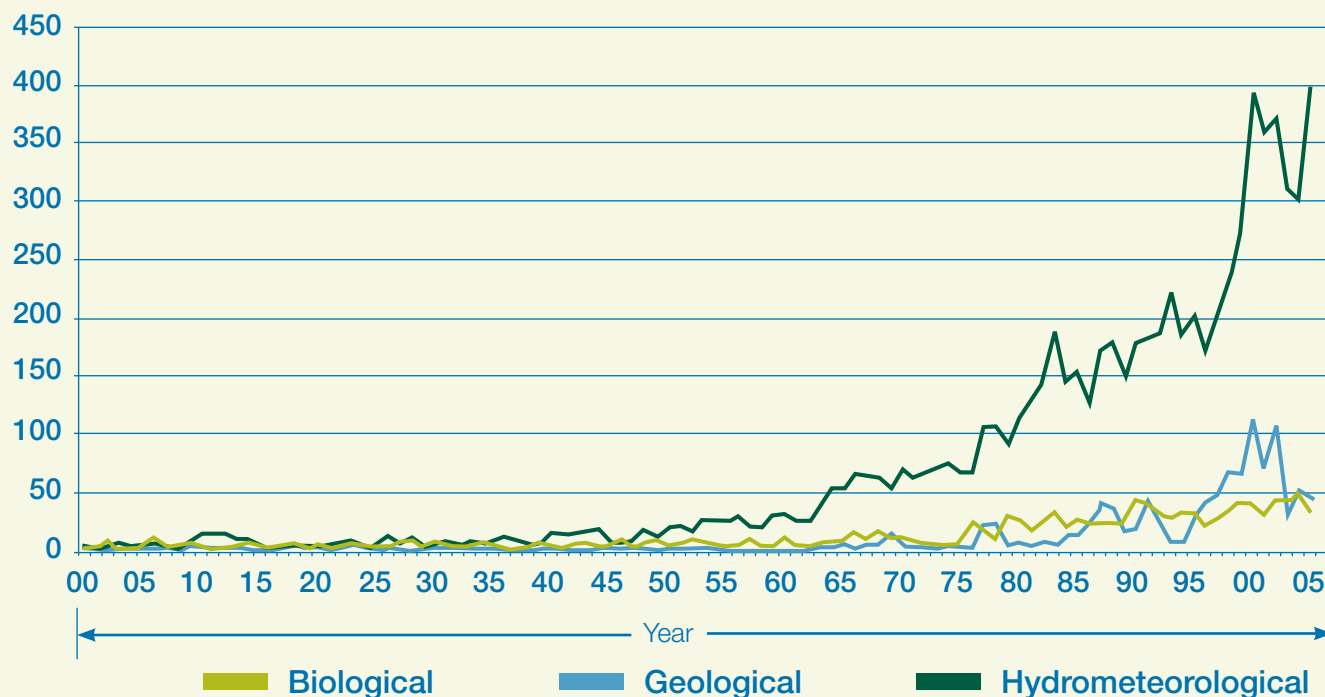
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Number of natural disasters registered in EMDAT

Across the years 1900-2005



ADVANCE MODULE - Rapid Response Team

Churches and Pastors can also help by identifying one or more suitable members who have an interest in Disaster Response, able to respond quickly to a call for help (within 48-72 hours) and stay in a disaster area for a longer period (weeks to months). Such members will be formed into Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRTs) and receive more intensive training – about 4 day-modules followed by a 3 monthly 1 day refresher courses.

Such Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRT) can be formed according to location, equipped and trained. Part of the preparatory training will include responding to localized “disasters” – eg floods, landslides or even participating in short-term mission trips to disaster-prone communities just to sharpen our skills as well as our cohesiveness in working together.

In conclusion, times of disasters may be the “worst of times” but the response shown by God’s people can turn it into the “best of times”. What

the devil intended for destruction and evil, God through His people can turn it into something good - (a paraphrased adaptation of Gen 50:20)

If you or your church are interested in exploring this idea further, feel free to contact me. I am in the process of putting together the necessary syllabus for the various training modules (utilizing for the Basic Module, input from the Malaysian Civil Defense Department where possible) and will be conducting the training in partnership with CREST and other Christians who have the necessary experience and expertise. If you feel you are able and willing to contribute and would like to be a Trainer for any of the above modules, please also contact me for further details.

I am currently serving with **Strategic Missions Program Bhd or STAMP** (www.stamp-upg.org), a missions agency focused on holistic missions esp among UPGs all across Asia. My focus ministry is in the whole area of Disaster Response & Medical Missions. **Crisis Relief Services & Training - CREST** (www.crestmalaysia.org/) is our Malaysian partner for Disaster response. At the

international level, we are linked up with **Frontier Crisis & Response Network** (FCRN) (www.ethne.net/FCRN), a track under ETHNE (www.ethne.net), a global missions movement focused on Unreached Peoples.

Serving HIM

Dr Ng Swee Ming MBBS (Mal), IDHA





Prayer Exposure Trip To Korea / **Evangelistic Experience In Bu-pyeong** Methodist Church, 15-22 November 2007

There we were in our red sweaters, a motley bunch of tired but excited travellers at the Incheon airport, Korea, given a grand welcome which was only a fraction of the goodies that were to come!

Bupyeong Methodist Church embraced us with "7-star" (according to Albert) treatment, from Senior Pastor Rev Hong and Rev Peter Lee and the elders and lay leaders to the others. Senior Pastor said that he hoped this would be our BEST trip (and it may turn out to be just about the best trip in my life!) Not only because we ate the best of Korean food and were told to add 2 kg to our weight, but the presence of the Lord was with us and He inspired

and revived us in the most remarkable way.

The 40-group member from Malaysia consisted of various people from 8 TRAC churches and 1 Lutheran church. Our ages ranged from 5 to 78 years with 14 men and 26 women. We were a very mixed bunch of people who the Lord somehow saw it fit for us to visit Korea and see what He is doing in the midst of His people there. We came away with awesome feelings knowing that God had touched our lives and that He wants us to be involved in His work back in Malaysia. The testimonies we heard from our Korean brethren, the lectures we heard from Senior Pastor Hong about the growth of

Korea and the Korean church, the dawn Prayer Service which we sleepily joined in and continued to participate every single day we were there, the hospitality and generosity of the church shown to us out of their love for the Lord, and a myriad more other reasons have stuck not only to our minds but also our hearts.

Now our prayer is that we too will remain faithful, that we will continue to pray and spark off prayer movements back in our own churches; that we will partner the Korean church in its mission to reach Asia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bupyeong Church continues to invite Malaysian Methodist Christians to their country for this "Evangelistic Experience". I hope that many will take up this God-given opportunity and pass on the Spirit of Revival in our churches to the honour and glory of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Tay Choon Neo
Life Methodist Church Puchong*



My Spiritual & Prayer Experiences in Korea Bupyeong

Methodist Church, 15-22 November, 2007.

The Christians from Bupyeong Methodist Church that I had the pleasure of meeting are great examples of servant-leaders of God. The pastors, most of the leaders and some members of the Church are always on their hands and feet doing their best for the Lord. They are not only "hearers of the Word" but also "doers" and are imitators of Jesus Christ on servant-hood. They did everything to ensure our stay was a pleasant and meaningful one in Korea. Hospitality is one of the spiritual gifts in the Bible and obviously this they possess and practice heartily. Their love for God is shown in their service to us as in 1 Peter 2:18, "Respect everyone and show special love for God's people."

(CEV). From the time we arrived until we departed, we were given 5 star service with Christian love and care all because of God's love in their hearts!

We noted their earnest and fervent prayer lives. We, at least I, have experienced what praying at dawn (every morning at 5 a.m.) was all about. It is about disciplined Christian living - hearing God's Word, worshipping Him and praying. I believe God sent me to Korea so that I might learn the way the Korean Christians make sacrifices of time, money, talents to God ungrudgingly. I believe that their prayers are often answered by God because they love Him, fear Him and Obey Him. The

following Bible verses sum up their Faith in God.

1 John 3:21 - 24: "Dear friends, if we feel at ease in the presence of God, we will have the courage to come near Him. He will give us whatever we ask, because we obey Him and do what pleases Him. God wants us to have faith in His Son Jesus Christ and to love each other. This is also what Jesus taught us to do. If we obey God's Commandments, we will stay one in our hearts with Him, and He will stay one with us. The Spirit that He has given us is proof that we are one with Him."

*Jenny Ho
Wesley Kuala Lumpur*

Bupyeong Methodist Church, an Evangelistic experience: yes, an experience all Methodists must experience to know the love and touch of God and to be a blessing to others. No words can express our gratitude for the love, hospitality and generosity of our Korean brothers and sisters in Christ except to thank God that these men servants and maid servants of His manifested God's love to the family of God.

Bupyeong Methodist Church started with small beginnings but today is one of the mega churches in Korea because of the Koreans' faithfulness and obedience to the God they love and worship. They called out to this gracious and merciful God ever since the Korean war ended, crying out to

God in the wee hours of the morning knowing their cries will not be in vain and today they are a much blessed church whom God has restored and they see it their mission to bless others with their rich experiences.

The Malaysian Methodist Church just held a prayer convention in August and it is our hearts' desires the flame ignited in us will draw us closer to one another as a family of God and to God himself. A trip to Bupyeong Methodist Church will surely inspire us, to obey God and know God is very much alive and that He longs for a relationship with us, to reveal His plans, His love, His wonders to us. It is through persistent, consistent prayers of humble and contrite hearts that the Lord can bless us.

We woke up at about 4.35 each morning to join our Korean counterparts to worship God and call on His Name and make our prayers, requests & supplications known. The first morning we were unsure, so we prayed only for half an hour but subsequent mornings some of us stayed on for 1-1 1/2 hour, knowing our prayers will be honoured by the Almighty God as we call on Him. In his lectures, the senior pastor encouraged us to call on the Holy Spirit to fill us & empower us so we can be a blessing to the nations.

Our stay coincided with their Thanksgiving Sunday, We witnessed such devotion and commitment in service and tithings and they were such an eye-opener to many of us and

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God honours them as they faithfully obey God and do His will. We were blessed with a mini concert specially organized for us. A range of world-potential talents from a flautist, to a trumpeter, a violinist and handbells entertained us to an evening of music. God has blessed these youths as

they use their giftings to bless Him even as we are blessed.

Their sharing on revival and their testimonies will indeed spur us to greater heights in our prayer life and service to God, knowing in His perfect time, His purposes will be effected.

To God be all glory and honour. Thank you Bupyeong Methodist Church and may you continue to lift His banner high, may God bless you as you have blessed us.

*Wong Mui Fong
Wesley Ipoh*

Personal reflections on Visit to BuPyeong Methodist Church, Korea

Love For God

I believe it is their genuine love for God and the belief that God answers prayer that helps to mold the living testimony of BuPyeong Methodist Church members. Out of that love and belief flows naturally the fruit of the Spirit from their hearts to touch community lives.

Prayer Life

Perhaps the most heart warming experience is to see the way Korean Christians pray. There is so much excitement in the Lord when they pray aloud spontaneously. There is so much power, even though we do not understand the language. We just flow and soak in prayer, weeping unashamedly at times.

Leadership

I believe the Senior Pastor plays an important role in leading the church to be an effective and vibrant church. He truly leads by example as seen in his interest and presence in almost every church event. He conducts himself with confidence and dignity. His exemplary leadership qualities commands the love of his people.

Commitment

There is a high level of commitment seen right across the stratum of leadership. All duties allocated were carried out conscientiously by each individual with initiatives and joy.

Humility

People are warm and friendly; always displaying a humble spirit in our interaction with them. It conveys a message of belonging, a feeling of love and joy to be in one happy family of God.

Hospitality

There was never an occasion of selfishness evident during our stay. They did all they could to ensure that our unspoken needs were satisfied. We have been blessed abundantly by their kind hospitality.

*Steven Lee
Wesley Klang*



New addition

to the staff team at the **TRAC** office

Ms Ng Wai Ling joined TRAC on 10th March 2008 as the new **Director of the Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM)**. She recently graduated with a MA in Spiritual Formation & Soulcare from the Institute of Spiritual Formation of Talbot School of Theology, California. Prior to that, her trainings include a BA in Social Work from USM and an MA in Counseling from UM as well as licensed administrator for the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) inventory for personality profiling.

Prior to joining ICM, she was a Training Officer with Malaysian CARE, a Christian social organization working with the underprivileged and those with special needs in the community and later as the Counsellor with Sunway University College. By the time she completed a decade of service, she was the Deputy Head of the Student Services where she was overseeing the Counselling, Career Development & Training and Student Development services. More recently, she was the Staff Spiritual Director of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal at Talbot School of Theology, giving spiritual direction to the Talbot and Biola community.

Over the years, she has experienced the Lord expanding and shaping her spirituality and ministry direction. Her heart is in the areas of spiritual friendship and companionship and helping others to discern the work

of God in their life journey. She continues to be amazed by the way the Lord would over the years bring to convergence all her vocational interests and exposures.

Hence she is grateful to the opportunity to serve in the ICM and TRAC. ICM is a new initiative which acts as the training agency for TRAC so that the church's training needs in ministry skills, spiritual formation and leadership development can be consolidated. She looks forward to the establishing and forming of such a critical platform of equipping and preparing disciples of Christ. She sees ICM as an avenue where courses and syllabus are but mere tools that will be used for the purposes of training in godliness and righteousness so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. Thus, she hopes that ICM may be one avenue the Lord will use '...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.' (Eph 14:12-14).

She looks forward to connecting and discerning with the pastors, leaders and local churches of TRAC on the ways, the works and the movements of the Holy Spirit so that we can join Him in His work for the accomplishments of His purposes for His church. She welcomes prayerful

input, feedback and comments in this discernment process of understanding and prioritizing the needs of the church. So, feel free to write to her at wailing.ng@trac.org.my or call 03-79542836 (office).

Wai Ling continues to worship with her community at Taman Ujong Methodist Church (TUMC) in Seremban and serves in the Pastoral Care Team of TUMC as well as the Board of Christian Education in TRAC. In her leisure, she loves to connect with people, go for road trips, appreciates the silence and the sounds of nature, loves reading, tries very hard to exercise and when she is not doing any of that she enjoys just dreaming about setting up a holistic evangelical retreat centre some day somewhere - complete with spiritual direction, therapy, hospitality and massage services!

[TRAC welcomes her abroad. May the Lord empower her to serve His people.]