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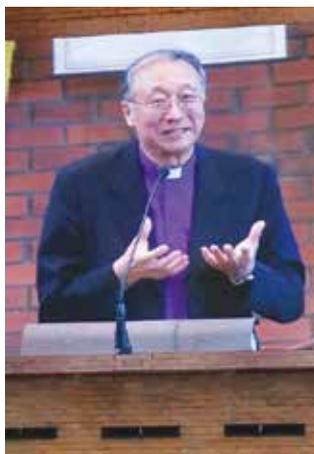
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The Fifth Asian Methodist Conference and General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council



Moment

The Fifth Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council (AMC) was held in Singapore from 20-22 September 2018.



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ஒருவரைக் குறித்தான அதிர்ச்சி செய்தி? பிசாசானவனை மேற்கொள்ள விட வேண்டாம் (பகுதி2)

Prayer

Malaysians lead in life-style diseases

Malaysia ranks No. 1 in Asia and one of the highest in the world for diabetes and obesity.

2.5 million Malaysians aged 18 and above are classified as obese.

Thanks to our amazing food, Malaysia now ranks as most obese nation with 13.3% prevalence of obesity.

Females are most obese than males, with 38.5% classified overweight.

Pray

- for Christians to lead by example and live out active and simple lifestyles.
- for focus on educating families to eat healthily
- for Women's Ministries to lead in caring for women's health issues by exemplary lifestyles and ministering to households in need so that they will eat better and raise healthier families.

How the Malaysian church looks like?

Bumiputera Christians make up 59.2% of the Malaysian church

Christians in Sabah and Sarawak account for 73% of the church

Pray

- for the indigenous church to be strong and courageous.
- for leaders to be raised up who are men and women after God's own heart.
- for more resources in BM made available so that they can grow deep in the Word and in faith.



"A Church After
God's Own Heart"

- Every Methodist personally renewed in his/her first love for Jesus
- Every Methodist congregation revived as in the Book of Acts
- The Methodist Church to be refocused and reframed after the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

The Fifth Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council



Opening Service – Paya Lebar Methodist Church

The Methodist Church in Singapore (MCS) led by Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung hosted the Fifth Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council (AMC), 20-22 September 2018, in Singapore. Opening Service, Plenary Sessions, Worship Services and Closing Service were held at Paya Lebar Methodist Church, Wesley Methodist Church & Short Street Tamil Methodist Church respectively.

The Chairman of AMC, Rev. Dr. Lam Sung Che of the Methodist Church in Hong Kong spoke at the Opening Service at Paya Lebar Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Lam's message serves as an exhortation to inspire and remind Asian Christians the duty and role in society which God had appointed. The Opening Service concluded with Holy Communion. We praise God for the common bond of love in Christ; as brothers and sisters from many parts in Asia broke bread and drank of the cup of the new covenant which Jesus Christ has sealed for our salvation and redemption.

Bishop Emeritus Dr John Chew of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore delivered an inspiring keynote address after the Opening Service. He spoke about the challenges and opportunities for the Asian Church, and the shifting of power-base and influence from the West to India-China and onto the Asia Pacific region. A gifted speaker-teacher, Bishop Dr. Chew, points his listeners to the open-ended finale of the Acts of the Apostle in Chapter 28, where the tasks for God's Kingdom work have yet to be completed! God continues to send forth His people as witnesses; bearing witness to the good news of the gospel. Bishop Dr. Chew exhorts the Asian Church to arise and seize the opportunities at hand - identifying strengths and openings amidst the challenges of

our time. Dinner was served at the end of Bishop Emeritus John Chew's message. The Paya Lebar Methodist generously hosted a sumptuous welcome dinner for AMC delegates and guests.

Speakers for the Plenary Sessions were Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon of the Methodist Church Singapore and Dr. Roland Chia, Chew Hock Hin Professor of Christian Doctrine at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. Bishop Dr. Robert Solomon's topic centred on Christian Leaders & Self, an enriching and stimulating message for clergy, a rousing exhortation and reminder about the clergy's role and duty, and our place in God's church, His will and purpose. Dr. Roland Chia, a member of the Christian think tank ETHOS, an Institute for Public Christianity, spoke on LGBT issues and the concerns and challenges for the Church and the Christian community in Asia.

The Methodist Church in Cambodia was warmly welcomed to the AMC family. Delegates at AMC General Assembly approved the recommendation by AMC Executive Committee for the newly established Provisional Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Cambodia led by President Rev. Lun Sophy to join AMC as a member church.

The following were elected as the officers of the new AMC Executive Committee:

Chairman: **Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung** (Singapore)
 Vice-Chairman (Clergy): **Bishop Chul Lee** (Korea)
 Vice-Chairman (Lay): **Mr John Ling** (Malaysia)
 Hon. Secretary: **Bishop Rodolfo Juan** (Philippines – UMC)
 Assistant Secretary: **Bishop Subodh Mondal** (India)
 Hon. Treasurer: **President Lam Sung Che** (Hong Kong)

Asst Treasurer: **Bishop Chen Chien Chung** (Taiwan)

At this, the Fifth Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council, the Asian Methodist Council issued a statement on its position on homosexuality.

The AMC's Position on Homosexuality 21 September 2018

“We consider the practice of homosexuality and same-sex marriage to be incompatible with Christian teachings. However, we do recognise that homosexual persons, like everyone, are individuals of sacred worth. We all need the ministry and guidance of the Church as well as the spiritual and emotional support of a caring fellowship.

In holding firmly to the Bible as the authoritative standard for its faith and practice, we exhort Christians to care for all persons and for one another with the love of Christ our Lord. Our commitment to care for same-sex attracted persons causes our member churches to keep seeking for appropriate and compassionate ways to relate and reach out to them with the life-changing power of our faith, namely the gospel of reconciliation and new life in Jesus Christ.”



Mr. John Ling, Datin Judy Chin, Rev. Joshua Khong, Rev. Andrew Lim (representing Methodist Church Malaysia at AMC 2018).

The Closing Service for the Fifth Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of the Asian Methodist Council (AMC) was held in Short Street Tamil Methodist Church followed by lunch in the Church's social hall. The Methodist Church in Taiwan will host the next Asian Methodist Conference & General Assembly of Asian Methodist Council (AMC) in 2021.

By Rev. Joshua Khong

Features

News from **TRAC**

Reflections and Impressions of D6 MALAYSIA CONFERENCE 2018



- 1 Bishop Ong Hwai Teik, Mrs. Ong Mun Kean with keynote speaker, Dr Ron Hunter**
- 2 Keynote Speaker, Dr Ron Hunter Jr.**
- 3 Plenary Speaker, Rev. Moses Tey**

D6 is enlightening for me in at least three areas:

1. Church ministry is family ministry. I used to think that family ministry is just part of church ministry and never thought that the whole church is a family ministry.
2. Methodist churches (SCAC) are not only in dire need of inter-generational worship, but also inter-generational discipleship and ministry. We have been segregating the family members for too long. It is time to join family members together in worship, discipleship and ministry.
3. Grand-parenting plays a crucial role in making disciples of the whole family and therefore the whole church. Grandparents need to be trained as well to play such a role.



Group photo with Rev Dr Tie

D6 大会带给我至少三个亮光:

1. 教会的事工就是家庭的事工。我以前以为家庭事工只是教会事工的一部分，从来没有想过整个教会就是家庭的事工。
2. 卫理公会（砂拉越华人年议会）不只极其需要跨代崇拜（全家一起参与崇拜），也需要跨代门训和跨代事奉。我们已经把家庭四分五裂的太久了，是时候把所有家庭成员放在一起崇拜，门训和事奉。
3. 祖父母在整个家庭和整个教会的门徒训练上面扮演关键的角色。我们需要训练他们来扮演这个角色。

Rev Dr Tie King Tai 池金代会长
President

Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference (SCAC)



Plenary Speaker,
Dr Herbert Tan

We thank God for Trinity Methodist Church, PJ for availing her facilities to host the first D6 Conference in Malaysia. We were challenged to strengthen partnership between church and home for Generational Discipleship. The journey to build stronger homes needs to be across denominations, cultures and language, and social background if we want to see a stronger church in Malaysia. D6 Malaysia seeks to work towards

availing resources and speakers in the main 4 languages in Malaysia. We thank God for FGA KL for availing their facilities to host D6 2019 (August 1-3) where Tim Kimmel of grace-based parenting will be our keynote speaker.

Dr. Herbert Tan
Chairman of Family Ministries Malaysia
Organizing Chairman for D6 Malaysia

On August 3rd-4th, 2018, I attended the D6 Conference Malaysia, held at Trinity Methodist Church, PJ. The D6 conference is based on Deuteronomy 6 which advocates the importance of discipleship at home. Therefore, the D6 conference focuses on how the church can effectively synergy with parents, even grandparents, for restoration of family discipleship.

It was a privilege to learn from the founder of D6, Dr. Ron Hunter and many other wise and experienced speakers. We were taught that discipleship is a way of life, whereby we live out our faith every single day, be it parents or grandparents. It is not just something we exhibit only on Sundays for a couple of hours! We also gained knowledge on parenting, mentoring, modelling, praying and fighting for our families and church ministries.

It was an amazing two days, filled with so much insight on the importance of restoring family discipleship whereby we nurture children to be rooted in the Word of God and will be the salt and the light of the world!

I strongly encourage parents, grandparents, pastors and church leaders to sign up for this conference next year which will be held at Full Gospel Assembly, Kuchai Lama, for it is vital to understand the changes we need to make “together” as the body of Christ to be able to disciple our children effectively for His glory.

As Dr Henry Cloud said, “People will never change until the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change.”

Deborah Vasanthi Selvaraj
Tamil Annual Conference

ஆகஸ்ட் 3-4, 2018 ஆகிய தேதிகளில் திரித்துவ மெதடிஸ்ட் திருச்சபை பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயாவில் நடைபெற்ற D6 மலேசியா மாநாட்டில் கலந்து கொண்டேன். இந்த D6 மாநாடு உபா-கமம் 6ம் அதிகாரத்தை அடிப்படையாக கொண்டு, வீட்டில் சீஷத்துவத்தின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை நமக்கு உணர்த்தியது. மேலும், சபையானது, பெற்றோர்கள், தாத்தா பாட்டிகளுடன், குடும்பத்தின் சீரமைப்பை மீட்டெடுத்து சபையை எப்படி சிறப்பாக கொண்டு செல்வது என்பதை இந்த D6 மாநாடு விவரித்தது.

D6 ஸ்தாபிப்பாளர் டாக்டர் ரான் ஹண்டர் மற்றும் பல அறிவார்ந்த, அனுபவம் மிக்க பேச்சாளர்கள் மூலம் கற்றுக் கொள்ள சிறந்த வாய்ப்பாக இருந்தது. சீஷத்துவம் என்பது “வாழ்க்கையின் ஒரு பாதை” என கற்றுக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. அதாவது சீஷத்துவமானது ஒரு இரண்டு மணிநேரம் மட்டுமே குாயிற்றுக் கிழமைகளில் வெளிப்படுத்துவது அல்ல ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் நம் விசுவாச ஜீவியத்தை ஒரு பெற்றோராகவோ, தாத்தா பாட்டியாகவோ, அல்லது சிறுவர் ஊழியராகவோ வாழ வேண்டும்.

இந்த மாநாட்டில் பெற்றோரியல், அறிவுரையாற்றல், மாதிரியாக்கம், ஜெபித்தல் மற்றும் குடும்பத்திற்காகவும், திருச்சபை-கக்காவும் போராடுதல், குறிப்பாக குடும்ப ஊழியம் ஆகியவ-

ற்றைக் குறித்த அறிவையும் பெற்றோம்.

இந்த இரண்டு நாட்களும் மிகவும் அற்புதமாக இருந்தது. குடும்பத்தை மீட்டுபதின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை குறித்து ஆழமான கருத்துகள் கொண்டதாய் இருந்தன. குடும்பங்கள் சபையுடன் ஒருங்கிணைந்து செயல்படுவோமேயாகில், பிள்ளைகள் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையில் வேருன்றி வளருவதுடன் உட்பாகவும், ஒளியாகவும் திகழுவார்கள்.

பெற்றோர்கள், தாத்தா பாடடிகள், சிறுவர் ஊழியர்கள், போதகர்கள் மற்றும் சபைத் தலைவர்கள் அனைவரும் அடுத்த ஆண்டு நடைபெறவிருக்கும் இம்மாநாட்டில் பங்குபெறும்படி உற்சாகப்படுத்துகிறேன். ஏனெனில் கிறிஸ்துவின் சரீரமாகிய நாம் “ஒருங்கிணைந்து” கொண்டுவர வேண்டிய மாற்றத்தைக் குறித்து அறிந்திருக்க வேண்டியது அவசியமாகும். அப்போது தான் நாம் நமது பிள்ளைகளை தேவனுடைய மகிமைக்களை வழிநடத்த முடியும்.

டாக்டர் ஹென்றி கிளவுட் கூறியது போல், மாறுவதினால் தங்களது வேதனை இப்போது இருப்பதைக் காட்டிலும் குறையும் என்று எண்ணும் வரை மக்கள் ஒருபோதும் மாறமாட்டார்கள்.

தெபோரா வசந்தி செல்வராஜ்
தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாடு

The first ever D6 2018 Malaysia Conference with the theme ‘Generational Discipleship’ was held in the spanking new building of Living Stream, Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, on 3rd to 4th August. The Conference drew 485 local and overseas participants. Methodists made up two-thirds of the attendees, and TRAC was the biggest supporter with 221 key leaders of both clergy and laity.

There were seven presenters (three via pre-recorded video), and Dr. Ron Hunter Jr. was the keynote speaker. Ron is the Executive Director and CEO of Randall House, the publisher of D6 Curriculum, and the author of the book *The DNA of D6 – building blocks of generational discipleship*.

The presenters spoke on various aspects of family ministries: from theology to applications, from leadership to change management. The common objective is to build strong and healthy churches through connecting churches with homes.

In his four plenary sessions, Ron Hunter elaborated eloquently on *The One Eared Micky Mouse* (family ministry is the umbrella ministry for all other ministries), *Sand Castles*, *Snorkel*, & *Scuba* (effective parenting and the art of conversations), *Eight Steps to Leading Change* (process, faithfulness, relationship), and *Fighting For Your Family* (reinstate discipleship in every generation in church).

If Ron’s and other speakers’ sessions served as the appetizers to tease our appetite to know more about family ministry, then we should turn to the book *The DNA of D6 – building blocks of generational discipleship* for the main meals.

Among the many endorsements for the book, Ron Davis of Southeastern FWB College, summarized it nicely:

‘.....*The DNA of D6 provides the necessary leadership principles that will produce the habits needed for healthier believers and corporate church bodies. The practical nature of this book provides the church leader with concepts that can be adapted to any local church ministry.....It is a foundational catalyst for change, and it begins with you!*’

My church, Wesley Methodist Church Seremban, sent 20 people (among them a Pastor-in-Charge, leaders, parents, grandparents, youth leaders, ministry workers) to this D6 Conference. Each of us now is reading the book *The DNA of D6* to prepare us for some deep dive discussions in our upcoming year-end planning and strategies going forward in the next three to five years. Some of us are preparing highlights from the Conference to share with ministries and congregation members of Wesley Seremban. There will be no dull moments in the weeks and months to come, for sure.

Full Gospel Assembly was so energized by the Conference that they have undertaken to organize next year’s D6 Malaysia Conference from 1st to 3rd August 2019. Watch out for the announcements and the early bird rates to equip your church leaders in working towards fruitful discipling, healthy churches, and Christ-centred families.

Dr. Yee Chow Boi
TRAC District Lay Leader (Southern District)

“PULAI” among the Ibans

Praise the Lord Almighty! It was a memorable and enlightening experience for a group of 18 members of SIAC who attended the D6 Conference on 3rd and 4th August, 2018 at Trinity Methodist in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur. The D6 Conference had provided participants with greater insights into the role of the family ministry movement, which is intentional in empowering parents, homes, marriages, leaders, and churches to live out the story of Deuteronomy 6.

Among the many relevant issues shared and discussed with regards to family ministry, there is this peculiar family tra-



dition that relates to our indigenous brothers and sisters in Sarawak, especially among the Ibans. This practice refers to the concept of “pulai” or “balik kampung” - literally meaning “returning home”, especially during festive seasons such as Gawai Festivals or important occasions or events like weddings, funerals and even birthdays. This family bonding practice of “pulai” or returning home to their longhouses or villages in Sarawak during festive seasons is quite a phenomenon among the Ibans. It is taken very seriously to the extent of risking their employment or at the expense of having their paycut.

Such is the extent of this concept of “family belonging” among these natives and indeed this tradition of returning home should not be discarded. To this writer, it was opportune that D6 had shed greater awareness among us on the value of family through the act of returning home or “PULAI”.

“PULAI” di kalangan orang Iban

Puji Tuhan yang Maha Esa. Peluang menyertai Persidangan D6 pada 3 dan 4 Ogos, 2018 di Gereja Methodist Trinity di Petaling Jaya, Kuching adalah merupakan pengalaman yang tidak dapat dilupakan oleh seramai 18 orang peserta daripada SIAC. Persidangan D6 telah memberikan ruang kepada peserta untuk melihat lebih mendalam lagi peranan “pergerakan pelayanan keluarga” yang dengan jelas bertujuan untuk memperkasakan peranan ibubapa, rumahtangga, perkahwinan, ketua-ketua dan gereja berdasarkan kisah di dalam Deuteronomy 6.

Salah satu daripada isu berkaitan peranan pelayanan keluarga yang dikongsikan dan dibincangkan dan yang menarik perhatian penulis adalah yang berkaitan dengan konsep “pulai” atau tradisi “balik kampung” di kalangan kaum Iban. Istilah “pulai” merujuk kepada amalan balik ke pangkuan keluarga di rumah panjang atau kampung semasa Perayaan Gawai atau hari upacara lain seperti perkahwinan, kematian atau sambutan harijadi. Amalan “pulai” ini boleh dikatakan sesuatu fenomena di kalangan kaum Iban kerana mereka sanggup menanggung risiko kehilangan pekerjaan atau dipotong gaji demi amalan “pulai” ini.

Begitulah signifikannya konsep kekeluargaan yang dizahirkan melalui amalan “pulai” ini dan sewajarnya amalan ini tidak harus dilupakan atau diabaikan. Bagi penulis, D6 telah memberikan kesedaran kepada kita betapa pentingnya nilai kekeluargaan melalui amalan balik kampung atau “pulai”.

By Ps Lee Lam Damat / Jeffrey Ngalambai
Conference Lay Leader,
Sarawak Iban Annual Conference (SIAC)

Building a strong family is something close to my heart. I can't exactly recall when this was sowed but I guess over the years - sharing from other parents and preachers about fa-

mily ministry helped shape my understanding. Hence, when I heard about D6 Conference, it didn't take long for me to register for it.

3rd and 4th August 2018, marked the first D6 conference to be held in Malaysia with an estimated 283 participants! It was truly such a great joy that more and more are seeing the importance of building strong families, especially to disciple the young. One may wonder what ‘D6’ is. Well, ‘D6 was a curriculum developed based on the principles taught in Deuteronomy 6, where the emphasis is placed on both the home and church. This passage shows parents how to allow their love for God and His Word to overflow into the lives of their children and let their relationship with Christ be caught and taught.’

During the conference, we were given a fraction “1/168” where the numerator indicates the number of hour a child received spiritual influence and the denominator indicates the total number of hours in a week. So based on that fraction, a child only receives an average of about an hour of spiritual influence per week. If God is to be the centre of the child's life, an hour per week is surely insufficient! That's when parents can be involved to raise the numerator by providing opportunities for coaching or instruction or biblical teaching at home. Other than playing or chit chatting with them, parents can use daily interaction times with their children whether it is in the car, or home, or over meals, or even during bedtime snuggles as opportunities to intentionally share about their faith, impart biblical values or biblical teaching.

As for our church, we realise that to build strong families we must – start from the home. Somewhere in 2016 we initiated ‘Family Altar’, where parents and children gathered together as a family to worship, learn God's Word and pray. This opens an opportunity for parents to share their faith and values to their children. The challenge for most parents is to teach God's Word. As such, most parents prefer to let Sunday school teachers or youth leaders do the biblical teaching because they don't know how or feel they are not equipped enough to do so.

To overcome such lack of scriptural understanding, the church recommended devotional materials which could be used to teach during Family Altar. The church also encourage parents to attend bible study groups or care groups where the Word of God are taught. And to further help deepen our understanding on certain bible passages or lessons – do some reading, clarify with the pastor or mentor, or even attend a seminar.

These are opportunities for parents to equip themselves so that they can disciple their children. As we learn God's Word and model our lives according to His Word, we get to help our own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to adopt a pattern of learning God's Word and model their lives according to His Word; just as they see it in us.

The journey to disciple our children can be challenging at times but connecting to a support group consisting of other parents creates a platform where parents can encourage one another, pray together, exchange ideas on how to connect with children and impart biblical teaching to children and so forth.

To disciple our children is an on-going process, there is just no expiry date.

Ms Deborah Chow
Permai Chinese Methodist Church (CAC)

We first heard about D6 from Datin Judy Chin at the last Annual Conference in Sibiu. After sharing with the leaders, a group of 25 leaders and members from both Grace Methodist Church and the Agape Grace Methodist Reaching Centre registered.

The group consisted of parents and grandparents, pastors, lay leaders, seminarian and a college student.

For all of us, it was the first time we heard about discipleship at home partnering with the church. Personally, I love the logo of this conference; two jigsaw pieces being fitted together.

Dr Ron Hunter's plenaries were very well presented with catchy titles and impactful content. His session on communication and types of parenting would be useful to me in ministering to the parents in my church. But it was his workshop on Godly parents and prodigals that touched me as I empathized with parents with their prodigals.

Many of our team members were also very touched and these are some of the thoughts.

Robert Ting (LCEC, AGMPC, father of teenagers): D6 showed me the importance of Family Discipleship. I learnt that discipleship should start at home.

Keith Chin (LCEC, GMC, father of teenagers): D6 showed me that however imperfect we are, we need to have a constant walk close to God. Personal devotion and living out His words daily is crucial.

What is important, despite the less than perfect world, is to nurture the next generation, as parents or grandparents and start from the home and church.

Michelle Chee (Sunday school superintendent GMC, mother of college kids): I always thought that families are just part of the church, through D6 I finally understand that the church is a family ministry.

Vivien Lim (Sunday school teacher AGMPC, mother of adult children): Before D6, my girls and I talked about what and how the future might be like for them and how they would carry out their parenting roles. Ezra and Elizabeth are deter-



mined to "change the landscape for their next generation." D6 is part of our prayer answered.

All the while, I believed that raising children in the way of the Lord were the sole responsibilities of the parents. D6 convicted me otherwise. Grandparents have a part to play in training up the children's children too.

Wong Leh Kiong (Sunday school teacher GMC, grandmother of X): D6 showed me the importance of living out my own faith every single day of my life and learn to be Christ-like. Reaching and teaching and influencing the next next generation must be intentional.

I learnt the importance of the grandmother's role and how I can entrust the next generation into God's hand. I also discovered how I can influence, teach and pray for the next next generation and people around me.

Pastor Linberg Wong (pastor in Charge, AGMPC): D6 showed me the importance of family discipleship in each family in partnership with the church.

I learnt to lead as the head of the family to begin with intentional discipleship.

Ngu Hieng King (LCEC, AGMPC, father of teenager): D6 showed me the importance of running family ministry in order to retain our younger generations in our churches.

I learnt that we should not segregate our youth ministry from the main service but to include them as part it.

Rev. Lenita Tiong
Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference (SCAC)

The D6 movement which began in U.S.A about 12 years ago came to Singapore 3 years ago and then to Malaysia for the first time this year, 2018. A movement is defined as a group of people working together to advance their ideas. In the case of D6, it is to help churches realise that their role is to equip parents to disciple their children at home and to regard family ministry as a whole church ministry. The Council of Laity supports the implementation of D6 values in churches and homes so as to arrest the existing problem of lack of family discipleship at home contributing to the decline in children,



**Volunteers of Trinity Methodist Church P.J,
Organizing committee members with speakers**

thank God for the strong attendance of 327 Methodists at the first D6 Malaysia Conference 2018 at Trinity Methodist Church, P.J. May this not be the first and only strong Methodist appearance but the beginning of an awakening desire to learn and implement family discipleship methods and values with the church and home partnering one another in attending future D6 Conferences. Dates to note for 2019 Conferences for family discipleship are GC Laity Convention, 19-21 July 2019, themed “Family after God’s Own Heart” at Port Dickson Methodist Centre and second D6 Malaysia Conference 1-3 August 2019, at Full Gospel Assembly, Kuchai Lama, K.L.

Datin Judy Chin
TRAC Conference Lay Leader.
Chairman – GC Council of Laity

youth and young adult attendance in Methodist churches. We must wake up to realise discipleship begins at home. We

Features

News from COE

Wesley Methodist School Klang Closing Ceremony of Patriotic Month

by Y.B. Dr. Xavier Jayakumar A/L Arulanandam,
Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources,
Friday, 21st September 2018



A group photo with Y.B. Dr. Xavier Jayakumar



Prize-giving ceremony by Y.B. Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, accompanied by Ms Anne Mathews.



Planting of Bunga Raya by Yang Berhormat Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, accompanied by Ms Anne Mathews.

Wesley Methodist School Klang organised Patriotic Month Celebration from 6th August 2018 to 21st September 2018. An array of performances and competitions were conducted such as, Cooking Competition, The Most Well Decorated Classroom, Poster Drawing Competition, Independence Day Quiz, Knowing Malaysia Quiz, Singing Competition, Playback of Patriotic Songs, Handball Competition, Aerobics, Independence Day Exhibition, Decorating the School Compound, Mini Malaysia Garden and Mural Drawing. The competitions and activities held were based on the theme, 'Sayangi Malaysiaku'. The Closing Ceremony of the Patriotic Month Celebration was held on Friday, 21st September 2018. The guests of honour for the event were, Yang Berhormat Dr. Xavier Jayakumar A/L Arulanandam, Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources and Madam Sangeetha Jayakumar, Youth Vice Chief, Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

Besides various performances and prize giving ceremony for the activities conducted during that month, there were also significant speeches by our leaders. Ms Anne, the Principal of Wesley Methodist School Klang, highlighted the objectives of this school in her speech. She emphasised that the aim of WMS Klang is to help many students attain private education or for those who need private tutoring. Besides that, the school also aims to nurture and develop responsible students who will be the backbone of the country in future. For that, the school is practising the five principles of Rukun Negara in shaping students through its rules, regulations

and daily routine. Hence, Wesley Methodist School actively plays a role in nation building.

YB Dr Xavier Jayakumar on the other hand, mentioned that education was the important tool to run the country, regardless whether it was obtained from the private or government sector. However, he stressed that we should prepare ourselves to change and be ready to accept any change. Hence, he reminded all the teachers and students to be prepared to accept the changes and work accordingly. Finally yet importantly, he advised students to choose their career path based on their interests and the needs of the country. He also told them, not to be afraid of moving out from their comfort zone. Moreover, he stressed on creating a reading culture among students so that they could be successful in life.

At the end of the closing ceremony, all the guests present, were invited for lunch in the school's conference room. A photo session was also held with the guests present, to commemorate the memorable event.

By Manusha Nair A/P Balan
Teacher of Wesley Methodist School Klang



Prize-giving ceremony by Madam Sangeetha Jayakumar, accompanied by Madam Cheng Ley Sing.



Teachers' Presentation

访缅甸卫理公会之牧——胡丽羨牧师

采访：甘慧仪 / 整理：黄珍琳

来自缅甸首府——仰光的胡丽羨牧师，是第三代基督徒，侍主已十六年。

她二十岁那年（1984）考获仰光大学地理学系的学士文凭后，投入社会就业。工作十多年后，即1996年12月，缅甸基督教传道训练中心（“缅训”，缅甸基督教传道训练学院前身）的创办人——童铭惠牧师，来到丽羨所属的堂会，分享中心事工的异象。童牧师鼓励丽羨进修神学，惟她顾及年长的寡母，犹豫不决。直到翌年6月，丽羨大姐从新加坡返国后，与母同住；7月7日，丽羨在传道训练中心报到，接受为期五年的课程。缅甸多数华侨不谙中文，丽羨第一年上中文课，后四年接受神学装备。

在缅甸，能操流利华语者在各行业比较吃得开。完成神学课程后，已届三十五岁的丽羨想为自己筹算更好的出路，而当华语导游的薪金看来相当诱人。不料，她教会的代理牧师因车祸身亡，群羊顿失牧者……胡母以泪度日，一直询问自己的孩子：“教会没有牧师了，我们该怎么办？”眼见母亲如此爱主，丽羨便重拾初心，献身为神使用。2004年，丽羨传道在母会——仰光的甘马育卫理公会牧会，两年后按立为牧师。

克难牧羊

2014年，下缅甸卫理公会差遣单身的胡牧师到万宏牧会。还没到万宏，胡母就过身了。胡牧师伤心欲绝，失去母亲的支撑后，她介怀牧职每个月仅五万缅币（约四十美金）的薪俸……想转行当导游的念头又起。幸亏，胡母留下仰光老家的一间大屋子；胡牧师的手足们取得共识，每个月以一百万缅币（约七百五十美金）将其中一间大房出租给房客，并给予胡牧师四分之一的租金，纾其窘境。胡牧师不再三心两意了。

位于中部南佤邦的万宏（自治区），与泰国接壤，是缅甸四个特区之一。万宏相当偏僻，电流和通讯等公共设施乏善可陈。胡牧师初来，无法与当地多数操佤语的居民沟通；幸有万宏华人卫理公会的两位年轻传道担任其翻译员，她也努力掌握佤语。每早起床后，胡牧师先来到主前，倾听主话。完成探访事工后，她继续祷告，从神支取所需的能源。在城市长大的胡牧师花了六个月，来融入当地生活。

万宏华人卫理公会现有逾八百名会友，约两百人固定出席主日崇拜，以青少年为主。胡牧师上任前，堂会缺牧已有一段时日，所以，信徒特别尊重她。胡牧师感恩的是，信徒们不只履行十一奉献的责任，更将难得的柴、米、油、盐，以十一比例奉献给教会。胡牧师也简述自己的牧养策略，即引领会众继续在主里学习神的话语和实践十一奉献的教导；鼓励所有会友重视教育，让孩子到外地求学。

卫理精神，二国同志

据胡牧师所述，下缅甸卫理公会（Methodist Church, Lower Myanmar）有两间教会（万宏华人卫理公会为其中之一）和三间布道所；两位牧师（包括胡牧师）和六位传道。下缅甸卫理公会长期进行的福音事工与吾会颇有渊源。

2000年，在万宏教会同工见证下，时任吾会会长的高传隆牧师、宣教与布道部（现已分部）主席——黄敬映（现为传道），开始在当地统筹建立华小的事工，建筑费由吾会资

助，鲁金兰传道负责招聘基督徒教师。教师们可同时教书和传福音；学校采用的中文、英文、缅文、数学和其他科目等教材本，全来自中国。信主的毕业生已高达99%。吾会与下缅甸卫理公会继续合作，在万宏建立四间华小。不久，万宏政府接收这五间华小，充当政府学校；执教的师资中，现有两位是传道。

万宏的中学生不分性别，皆受军事训练；他们上午服完兵役，下午上课。胡牧师坦言，牧者无法进校展开校园福音事工，但在校（前身是华小）执教的传道可邀请学生出席教会的儿童主日学和才艺班。凭藉传道与学生保持联络的优势，不致断了教会向学生传福音的渠道。这些毕业生大多品行优良，给予万宏政府良好的印象。

尽管如此，教会始终面对严峻的问题。因地区条件特殊，万宏政府勒令当地所有少年每个周末到政府办公室和高官私邸内打杂，致使他们无法在主日崇拜，连带影响教会栽培下一代中流砥柱的愿景。迫于时势，胡牧师日夜兼程，不辞劳苦，配合少年人每日的空档时间，到他们家提供个别牧养、指导的建立事工。

简言之，万宏政府没有敌视教会，故，吾会能顺利在万宏建堂和传扬好消息，塑造出儿童和青少年向上的生命。从二十多年前开始，吾会落力建设当地的布道与宣教事工，承担一切费用；如今是每个月奉献一万二千令吉，作为下缅甸卫理公会牧者的薪金和教会的开销，胡牧师也从中受惠。可说，**建校和建堂是吾会与下缅甸卫理公会合作最显著的成果。**

展望未来，循序渐进

今年2月6日，吾会会长——郭汉成牧师（博士）、年会宣教部主席——莫泽川牧师和南板宣教区协调员——郭进明牧师代表吾会；庞忠昌等三位传道代表南板宣教区，与下缅甸卫理公会签署宣教伙伴谅解备忘录。这是吾会宣教史上另一个新的里程碑。经多年协商，下缅甸卫理公会终于成为吾会的宣教伙伴（有关报道可见《南钟》2018年第一期，页22）。

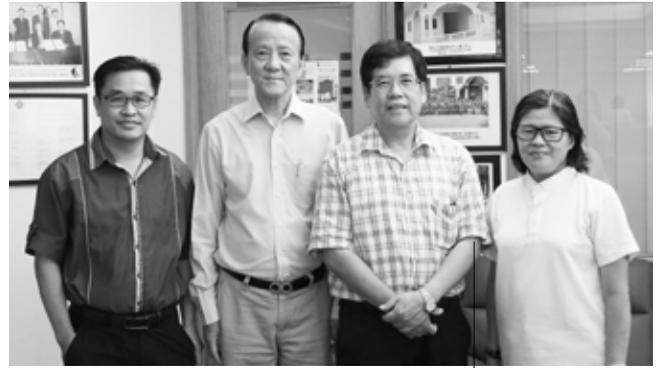
胡牧师曾任下缅甸卫理公会财政、仰光教区长/教区财政；现为万宏教区长和万宏华人卫理公会主理。她说，万宏华人卫理公会的宣教事工，包括五个地区的查经班（一周五日）；与其他宗派教会办联合祷告大会（每月一次）；主日的教会查经班（每月一次）；圣诞布道晚会；与教会的信徒到外地办一日营（一年两次）。

在每月第一个主日证道和主持圣餐礼，第二周进行执事会会议，第三和四周探访有需要者，第五周休息，是胡牧师循而复始的圣工；另有三位传道轮流证道、带领堂会的儿童主日学、青少年事工和成人事工。

胡牧师受访时表示，这趟来我国的主要行程有四：与“爱善施圣诞礼物鞋盒行动”（Operation Christmas Children）组织的同工开会；在本地附有缅甸难民事工的教会里分享信息；出席Melaka Wesley Methodist Church（三一年议会）缅甸事工九周年的感恩崇拜典礼；接受本刊采访。末了，胡牧师期许自身能进一步明了上帝为她安排的前路、敏于万宏人民的需求，以及万宏教会早日实现自给自足的宗旨。



胡丽羨牧师历经波折，几番犹豫后，坚守主道（摄：甘慧仪）。



左起为以赛亚事工培训学校主任——郭进明牧师、黄敬映传道、吾会前会长——莫泽川牧师和胡牧师（摄：甘慧仪）。



2018年2月6日，吾会和南板宣教区的代表们，见证下缅甸卫理公会的Bishop Lu Aye（中坐者）签署文件（供图：莫牧师）。



万宏华人卫理公会外观（供图：胡牧师）

Devotion

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

Bearing the Name

He that rides to be crowned will not think much of a rainy day.
(John Trapp)

IN WORD: Bearing the name of Jesus is a powerful concept. It means not that we simply believe in Jesus, that He is a part of our lives, or that He is an obligation we must live up to. It means that He is our life and that we find our identity in Him. It means that our identity and His merge into one, and that when He suffers, we suffer.

Paul had this concept down. He considered his heritage, his accomplishments, and his entire pedigree a pile of rubbish compared to his simple identity in Jesus. He even desired—not tolerated, but desired—to share in Jesus' sufferings and to be like Him in death (Philippians 3:10). Why? Because he couldn't mentally separate Jesus' resurrection and power from His suffering. To embrace Jesus meant to embrace all of Him—even His pain.

When we are consumed with a desire to be like Jesus, we cease to be picky believers who want a little patience, a little love, and a lot of forgiveness. We want

all the fruits of His Spirit, even the ones that costs a lot, because in becoming like Jesus, the costs never exceed the benefits. No one has ever become Christ-like and then said, "You know, I think that was too hard. I wish I had never started down this path." It just doesn't happen. No matter how much hardship we face, it is always worthwhile.

IN DEED: We know what Jesus' pain led to: resurrection, ascension, an eternal seat next to the Father, and glory fulfilled. Do we not realize that our pain leads to the same thing? It comes in different forms and it seems so pointless sometimes, but there is a final product that we should be jumping up and down to embrace.

Jump up and down today. Maybe not literally (though you can if you want), but at least in spirit. The Bible repeatedly tells us not to tolerate our trials but to rejoice in them, with real joy. Be a person who understands what this difficult life leads to. Bear the name of Jesus gladly—and all it entails.

If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 Peter 4:16

DEVOTION

ஒருவரைக் குறித்தான அதிர்ச்சி செய்தி? பிசாசான- வனை மேற்கொள்ள விட வேண்டாம் (பகுதி2)

1. மற்றவர் தோழ்வியில் மகிழ்ந்திருக்க வேண்டாம் ஏற்கனவே கீழே விழுந்த நபர், எதிர்த்து போராட பலன் குன்றி காணப்படுவார். அந்த நபர் நமக்கு பிடிக்காத நபராக இருப்பின் அந்த சூழ்நிலையை நமக்கு சாதகமாக பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ள கூடாது. மற்றவர்களுடைய வீழ்ச்சியில் சந்தோஷப்பட வேண்டாம். கிறிஸ்தவர்களாகிய நம்மிடம் தேவன் எதிர்பார்க்கும் பண்பு இதுவல்ல. ஒரு நபரைக் குறித்து அதிர்ச்சியான செய்தி கேட்ட பின்பு, நாம் கலங்காமல் உள்ளார்ந்த மகிழ்ச்சி கொண்டிருப்போமானால், நம் இருதயத்தை சோதித்தறிதல் அவசியமானதாகும். அந்த நபரோடு கூட நாமும் மனம் வருந்தாமலும், அவரது சூழ்நிலையை புரிந்துகொள்ள முடியவில்லை என நமக்கு நாமே கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுதல் வேண்டும்.
2. அவர்களைச் சுற்றியுள்ளவர்களைக் குறித்தும் உணர்வுள்ளவர்களாய் இருங்கள் அதிர்ச்சியான செய்திகளை கேள்விப்படும் சமயங்களில், கேள்விகளைக் கேட்பது எளிதாய் இருக்கும் ஆனால் ஏன் என நாம் சிந்தித்திருக்க மாட்டோம். அந்த கேள்வி நியாயமானதாக இருப்பினும், எப்படி இவர் நம்மிடமிருந்து இந்த காரியத்தை மறைத்தார் என்று நாம் நினைக்கலாம். அவருடன் பணிபுரிபவர்களும் கூட இதைக்குறித்து அறியாதிருக்கலாம். இந்தக் காரியத்தின் மூலம் சக ஊழியர்கள், குடும்பம் மற்றும் நண்பர்களுக்கும் அதிர்ச்சியோடு, காயப்படுத்தப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பதை நாம் நினைவில் வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். குற்றப்படுத்துவதைக் காட்டிலும், திரும்பவும் இந்த தவறு எந்த சூழ்நிலையிலும் நடக்காமல் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்பதில் நாம் உறுதியாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்பதைக் கற்றுக் கொள்ளுதல் வேண்டும்.
3. எல்லோருக்கும் தேவனுடைய கிருபை உண்டு ஒரு நபர் பெரிதான பாவத்தை செய்திருந்தாலும், தம்மிடம் வருபவர்கள் யாவருக்கும் தேவன் மன்னிப்பு அளிக்கிறார் என்பதை நாம் எப்போதும் நினைவில் கொள்ள வேண்டும். தேவனுடைய அன்பு இடைவிடாது தொடரும் அன்பு. நாம் அவர்மீது அன்புகூறும் முன்பே நம்மேல் அன்புகூர்ந்தவர். பவுல் தேவனோடு தமது சொந்த பயணத்தில் தேவனுடைய கிருபை எவ்வளவு ஆழமானது என எழுதியுள்ளார். தமது பாவத்தைக் காட்டிலும் தேவனுடைய கிருபை எவ்வளவு பெரிது என்பதை தமது சொந்த ஜீவியத்திலிருந்து கண்டுகொண்டார். இரட்சிப்புக்கு அப்பாற்பட்டது எதுவும் அல்ல. மத்தேயு 9:13 நீதிமான்களையல்ல, பாவிகளையே மனந்திரும்புகிறதற்கு அழைக்க வந்தேன் என்ற வேத வாக்கியம் நமக்கு நினைவுறுத்துகிறது.
4. நம்மை பிறர் எப்படி நடத்த வேண்டுமென விரும்புகிறோமோ அப்படியே மற்றவர்களையும் நடத்துவோம். வேதம் இப்படியாக நமக்கு போதிக்கிறது, “மனுஷர் உங்களுக்கு எப்படிச் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறீர்களோ, அப்படியே நீங்களும் அவர்களுக்குச் செய்யுங்கள் லூக்கா 6:31”. அதாவது நாம் மற்றவரின் காலணிகளில் நம்மை வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். பிரச்சனை என்னவென்று நாம் முழுமையாக அறியாதிருந்தாலும், இந்த கடினமான நேரத்தில் அந்த நபரின் சூழ்நிலையை நாம் புரிந்துகொள்ள முயற்சி செய்ய வேண்டும். நமக்கு விருப்பமில்லாதவற்றை மற்றவர்கள் மேல் போடக்கூடாது. நாம் கடினமான நேரத்தில் எதிர்பார்ப்பது என்னவோ அதையே நாம் பிறருக்கு கொடுப்பதற்கும் தயாராக இருக்க வேண்டும்.
5. அதிகமாக ஜெபிக்க வேண்டும் இந்த விஷயத்தைக் குறித்து மற்றவர்களிடம் பேசும் போது, அவர்கள் அந்த சூழ்நிலையை புரிந்து கொண்டு தமக்கு உதவ வேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கத்தில் தான் அணுகுவோம். எனினும் நாம் தேவனிடத்திலே கூறும் போது அவரே நம்முடைய வேதனையிலிருந்து நம்மை விடுவிக்க வல்லராய் இருக்கிறார். அவரது பிரச்சனையில் மாத்திரமே இந்த பிரச்சனைக்கான ஆலோசனையையும், வழிநடத்துதலையும் பெற்றுக் கொள்ள முடியும். கவலைக்குரிய காரியம் என்னவெனில் இறுதியில்தான் நாம் அவரைத் தேடுகிறோம்.

முடிவுரை: நெருக்கடியான சமயங்களை கடந்து செல்லுதல் எந்தவொரு சபைக்கும் கடினமானதாகும். விசேஷமாக நம்பிக்கை இழந்து, உறவுகள் உடைந்து போயிருக்கும் நேரங்களில் தேவன் மாத்திரமே நம்மை குணப்படுத்தி ஆறுதல் அளிக்க முடியும். அத்தகைய சூழ்நிலையில் எதிராளியானவன் நம்மை ஆட்கொள்ளாதபடி, ஜெபத்தினால் மூட வேண்டும். என்ன மறுமொழி அளிக்கிறோமோ அதுவே நாம் யார் பக்கம் இருக்கிறோம் என்று காட்டும்.

அருட்திரு. டென்னிஸ் ராஜ்
தலைவர், தமிழ் வருடாந்திர மாநாடு

Shocking News About Someone?

Don't Let The Devil Win

(Part 2)

1. Delight not on others' failure.

When someone has already been knocked down, their defences become low. We must never use the opportunity to get even, especially when we do not like the person. We should never be delighted or relish in someone else's fall. It is not the kind of Christian response that God would want from us. We seriously need to examine our hearts very deeply if we have taken secret delight when shocking news about a person comes to us. We must ask ourselves, why am I not weeping about it and why am I not able to empathize with the person concerned?

2. Be conscious of those around them.

In situations of shocking news, it is easy to ask the question; why no one noticed it earlier. Although it is a fair question, it is possible to think that the person concerned has actually been successful in hiding it from others. It is also possible that those who have been working with the person involved have not been alerted to it. We must remember that colleagues, family and friends are equally shocked and hurt when such things surface. More than condemning, it will be useful to learn from the matter to ensure that it is not allowed to be repeated again under any circumstances.

3. Everyone deserves God's grace.

Even though a person has committed a grave sin, we must always remember that God offers His hand of forgiveness to all who come to Him. God's love is a pursuing love. He loves us even when we have not learnt to love him. Paul's writings that emerge from his own journey with God show us how the depth of God's grace. Through his own life, Paul discovered that God's grace was greater than his sin. No one is beyond redemption, scriptures remind us of the words of Jesus, 'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'. Matthew 9: 13.

4. Treat others as how we would want to be treated.

The Bible teaches us, 'Do to others as you would have them do to you' Luke 6:31. It means that we should always put ourselves in the other person's shoes. Though we may not be able to understand fully, we must try to understand what the person may be going through at this difficult hour. What we ourselves do not want, must never be forced upon others. What we would expect from others during our difficult times, we must be willing to render.

5. We need to pray much.

When we talk to others about the matter, it means that we are approaching humans to help us understand and respond to the situation. However, it is only when we talk to God that we can really unburden ourselves of our pain that has come from the shock. Moreover, it only in His presence that we would be able to listen to His guidance and advice on the matter. Too often, to our detriment, we only go to Him last.

Conclusion

It is very difficult for any church to go through times of crisis. Only God will be able to help us find healing and restoration, especially when trust is undermined and relationships are broken. Much prayer covering will be needed so that the enemy doesn't capitalize the situation. How we choose to respond will reveal which side we are actually on.

Rev Dennis Raj
Tamil Annual Conference

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,[a]

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.



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- b) The recommended applicant must complete application form* and submit it together with a detail c.v., personal photograph, and medical examination report* in an envelope marked 'Application for the Position of Principal'.

* The forms and reference letters are to be obtained by emailing sokefong@stm2.edu.my.

- c) Three (3) reference letters*: Character and Ministry Reference (from the Head of Church); Academic Reference (from Thesis Supervisor); and Character Reference (from a Referee with good standing).
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The Methodist Church in Malaysia, 69, Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya.

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