

# PELITA METHODIST

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PSALM 57:10 NIV

For great is your love, reaching to the  
heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

# Moment

CFM Christmas Hi-Tea  
25 Dec 2018 (Article on Page 4)



*Wishing you a Blessed Chinese New Year*

From:

**Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik and Family**  
and all staff members of Methodist HQ

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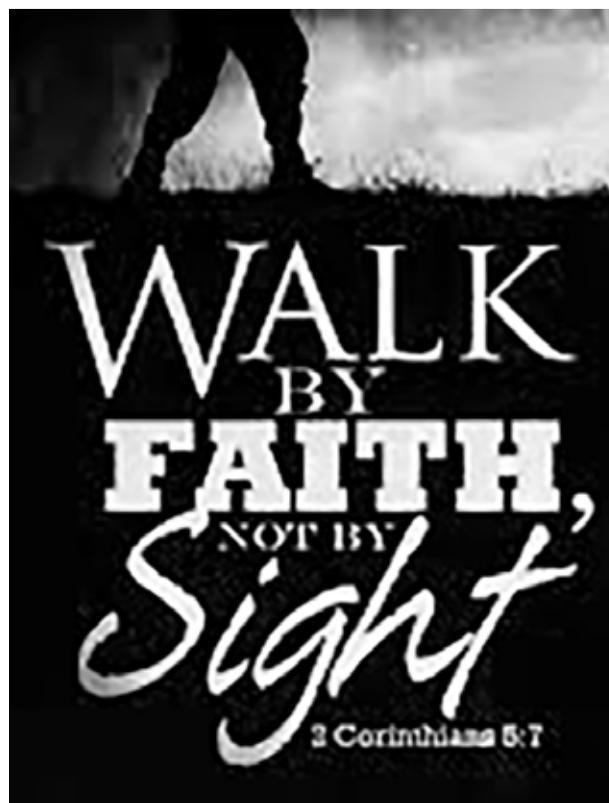
## **Essay**

A New Experiment In Malayan Education



"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



# CFM Christmas Hi-Tea 25 Dec 2018

Hosted by CCM

## OPENING SPEECH

by Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik, Acting President, Council of Churches Malaysia

### SALUTATIONS:

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister & also Minister of Women, Family and Community Development – Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Dr Wan Ismail

YB Teresa Kok – Minister of Primary Industry

YB Hannah Yeoh – Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development

His Grace, Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim – Chairman of CFM and the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur

Reverend Dr. Eu Hong Seng – Vice-chairman of CFM and Chairman of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship.

Right Reverend Aaron Yap Chuan Ching (Hon. Treasurer of CFM; Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia).

Bishops, priests, pastors and church leaders, religious and community leaders, Ambassadors and High Commissioners; distinguished Guests, a very good afternoon and a warm welcome to everyone.

The Christian Community in our beloved nation expresses sincere thanks for the openness, support and goodwill of the many esteemed government, diplomatic, religious and community leaders in accepting our humble invitation to this annual CFM Christmas Day Hi-Tea Celebration.

Thank you for contributing to today's gathering which is of special significance to us. Your presence enhances and emphasizes the preciousness of unity in diversity in Malaysia Baru. This celebration is joyously done in the richness of our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious beloved nation.

As we celebrate this joyous perennial event filled with fresh joy, timeless truth, meaningful traditions and joyous festivity, I would like to share a brief but powerful story that echoes the true and deeper meaning of Christmas that is rooted in the heart of Almighty God, as revealed by the Holy Book of the Christians.

I do hope that it will demonstrate from another angle for us the real message that Christmas is not primarily about dizzying mega malls, decorations bordering on Disneyland fantasies, though these do conjure up and add to a certain atmosphere of festivity. BUT the essence of Christmas is about the loving Sovereign God of Heaven and Earth bringing about new hope, new peace, new joy, new love and new truth.

It is said that at the Queen's Palace in the Main Square of

Amsterdam, there is captured in a sculpture which is a 15 feet art piece that tells the story of the ancient GREEK king **Zaleucas**. King Zeleucas was experiencing a **menacing problem**, not unlike the recurring snatch thefts and kleptocracy that we too experience in Malaysia, that is the prevalence of **THIEVERY**.

To overcome this problem in his kingdom, he increased the policing, **offered rewards**, etc. but to little effect.

Finally, in desperation, he issued a **severe decree** of deterrence that proclaimed that thieves who were caught and convicted **would have their eyes gouged out!**

Inevitably – before long, a thief was caught red-handed in the act of stealing, and that too in the **palace grounds itself!** The King was enraged and outraged – how dare anyone be so **brazen** as not only to break the law – but to do so, right in the king's palace! He ordered the culprit to be brought forward – but his face turned ashen and pale **upon sighting the thief** – for standing before him was his very precious son – the Crown Prince!

HE was in a **terrible** dilemma! Everyone in the kingdom knew the king's severe decree – what would the king do now? Would he keep his word and uphold the law and justice and blind his very own precious son, the Crown Prince? The distraught father then ordered his son to be cast into prison – while he agonisingly pondered over the painful situation. **After a very difficult 3 days** – he summoned his son back to the throne room. King Zeleucas then told his son that **he loved him dearly, but that the king needed to uphold truth** and justice, and had to discharge what was right and lawfully proclaimed.

"I have arrived at the following decision: the demands of the LAW will be satisfied. **I shall put out one of your eyes - and I shall put out one of my own eyes as well!**" – he declared the sentence solemnly.

The king showed that he was not only a **just** but also a **deeply compassionate** person who **LOVED HIS SON DEEPLY, SACRIFICIALLY and selflessly**.

**The true value and meaning of Christmas has been hidden and diluted, if not lost – in the prevalence of Christmas jingles and commercial symbols. But Christmas is about the ALMIGHTY GOD of SELF-GIVING and SACRIFICIAL LOVE.**

Christmas is about the GOD Who is the King of kings and Lord of lords, Who cares and looks after everyone in the world He created, even at great costs to Himself: this is succinctly summed up by 2 favourite verses of Christians as quoted from the Bible:

<sup>NRS</sup> **John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”* <sup>17</sup> *“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

The LOVE we receive from Almighty God is one that is **merciful** – not giving what is **deserved** to guilty sinners and fallen people that is, punishment. The Love of Almighty God is **gracious** - freely, willingly, sacrificially giving blessings of personal salvation, wholeness, peace and hope to the **undeserving** through Christ His Son.

The kingship of King Zeluca reminds us to also pray for our Government, so that it is a just and benevolent GOVERNMENT that takes care of EVERYONE in Malaysia: a Government that is committed to an even playing field where all, big or small, many or few in number, male or female, rich or poor, young or old – will have a secure and equitable place under the Malaysian sun! That late great iconic, “stand out” selfless leader Nelson Mandela demonstrated to the world – the reality of such a commitment of leading. He led a 1994 elected post-apartheid S African Government that “justly takes care of everyone” in his nation; pursuing what it means to be fair, just, compassionate, humble, truthful, courageous and sacrificial in the interest of others. At least twice in public – he declared that he was willing to die for the cause of seeing all men and women in his oppressed and persecuted land be treated as equals, not oppressed, bullied or forced to be inferior by a white supremacist government.

In this post-GE14 2018 Christmas, the key message for us Christians is that the Church in Malaysia must never forget her legacy - of being a non-discriminatory blessing to all as “salt and light” to our beloved country. Let us continue to pray for our nation and reach out to make a difference in Christ’s Name to our community through our social outreach programmes, for example, distribution of free food, medical clinics and hospitals, free legal aid, senior citizens homes, our cherished mission schools, drug rehabilitation and prison ministries and other good deeds. The “born again” in Christ must never stop putting in efforts to make for a re-set, a re-start, reformed or “born again” great nation – being jointly responsible with all Malaysians for a great Malaysia Baru!

In this regard may I quote our beloved and esteemed first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra who wrote in a message written on 8 Oct 1963 for the Kuala Lumpur Methodist Afternoon School:

***“What I would like to impress upon you as young Malaysians, and indeed on all citizens of Malaysia, is that this***



***nation of ours is not the creation of one man alone but of the will and wish of all our people. Malaysia owes its existence to our mutual belief in our common destiny.....Each of us, young or old, has his or her part to play in making Malaysia a land of peace and happiness..... Malaysia is our nation, our people, our land to which we owe all the best we have to give in heart and mind and spirit, and if need be, even life itself.”***

MAY we all jointly, co-responsibly and passionately join our Loving, Merciful and Gracious Sovereign God of Heaven and Earth in bringing about new hope, new peace, new joy, new love and new truth to our new Malaysia and the world.

To this end our hopes and prayers rest confidently on the celebrated Christ-child Who is powerfully described by the prophet Isaiah - <sup>KJV</sup> **Isaiah 9:6** *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

May a fresh outpouring of the peace, joy, love and hope of the Prince of Peace be ours this Christmas in this our beloved nation – Malaysia Baru; a very blessed and joyous Christmas and happy new Year to one and all.

Thank you.

Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik  
The Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia  
Acting President of the Council of Malaysia  
Vice-President, The Christian Federation of Malaysia

# A Journey with the Lord

— Sharing from a modern pilgrim

A group of 16 Christians (including me and my friends) left KLIA on a flight for Herzegovina (total of 13 hours). Once landed, we travelled by coach. The coach passed through beautiful landscapes. The Dinaric Alps bisected by the Miljacka River, the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina was truly a breathtaking sight. We saw God's love in His creation and we thanked Him for our safe journey.

At the destination, the Christian town famously known as "Medjugorje", we noticed it was alive 24 hours a day, with people bustling in and out of the main landmark, i.e. ST. JAMES CHURCH and its vast Sanctuary (open air pavilion).

Our homestay was about 10 minutes walking distance from the Church. We found the homestay suitable as it catered only for our group. We were able to hold our daily morning, noon and night prayers without outside interference. We embraced simple living of making our own beds and eating simple meals. God, our Provider, sustained us all the way.

## PILGRIMS' ACTIVITIES

For the first six days here, the focus was fully on prayers, meditation, Holy Hour Adorations, observing sacred services including people from other nations and other activities organised by the Church Centre; at the same time we did not miss out on our group prayers at our homestay. It was a rhythm of "back and forth" church and homestay walking routines, a few times a day.

*Fasting was encouraged but it was very difficult to follow, in view of the cold weather.*

Every pilgrim's desire there would be, to visit two sites of the Apparition Hill and the Centre for Bosnia's Homeless Children.

The Centre for the homeless children was huge, about 5 acres, consisting 20 big bungalows for the children, well-run offices housing security guards, solar houses, a church, and a big book shop which also sold souvenirs and religious articles. Except for the books, most other items were made by the children there under the supervision of the nuns and priests.

Everywhere was fresh and clean. Children were happy and mixed well with each other. They were educated and trained in different skills. Products from that place were of quality. God had blessed that place and provided well for them.

## SIGHT-SEEING

We had the last 3 days to go sight-seeing with specific time allocations.

Outing 1. We went to Tihaljina, to the Church of Elijah, a new, small and beautiful church. We attended worship service in that church. Other groups of pilgrims were waiting to do the same.

There was a shop selling religious articles and books, situated behind that beautiful church.

We then visited a beautiful, clean sea-port town called SPLIT. A UNESCO World Heritage Diocletian Palace was found here.

Outing 2. We visited Dubrovnik (Croatia), another beautiful city by the Adriatic Sea, another UNESCO World Heritage site. That city had more Monasteries and Churches built in different styles. Oh yes, the gelato ice-cream from that place was fantastic!

Outing 3. Our visit was originally to Surmanci (a little village) and the Kravice Niagara Waterfall. Unfortunately, due to the rain, we had to cancel the waterfall visit. We attended a worship service in the Holy Divine Mercy Church in Surmanci. That Church had a history of miraculous healings. For example, a man with multiple sclerosis, was healed after praying for three days there.

## CONCLUSION

Before I conclude, I must thank our Sovereign Lord for the opportunity to visit Medjugorje and for taking care of us and our belongings. We had 3 cases of "lost and found" miraculous episodes.

1 Peter 5:7 [*Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you*]

- a) A lady left her winter jacket on the spot where she sat at a venue of prayer and contemplation, in the midst of thousands of pilgrims using and passing that spot. Yet, on the following day, she found her jacket intact, at the very same spot.
- b) Another lady left her hand phone on the church pew after service. Two hours later into the journey home, she realised the loss. By God's grace the phone was found and returned to her in good time, in spite of the many groups of pilgrims waiting to worship in that church.
- c) Our Tour Leader left his hand phone in the coach which ferried us to the airport, for our return to Malaysia. He only realized that he had left his hand phone in the coach after lapse of half an hour. We had only a short time before boarding.

God was at work again! The hand phone was returned in time. Imagine how badly he would have felt, losing all his data and photos. PRAISE THE LORD!

All praise be to God Almighty a successful and Spirit-filled journey. It was a tiring but a worthwhile walk with my Lord and my God. Amen.

Psalm 19:14 [*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer*].

Indeed He has taught me to stay focused and I have learnt time and again, to keep my eyes fixed on Him. He has lifted my spirit to greater heights. I had gained joy and peace and a better understanding of my relationship with Him.

By A Pilgrim Blessed by the Lord.

## Wesley Methodist School Bandar Seri Coalfields is Dedicated to the Lord ..... To God Be The Glory

Praise the Lord God Almighty for His abundant blessings, grace and favour.

Wesley Methodist School Bandar Seri Coalfields opened its doors officially to its pioneer group of students on the 2nd of January 2019, for its kindergarten, and on the 7th January for its Primary and Secondary schools. We start with 40 students for kindergarten, 50 students for Primary School and 23 students for Secondary School.

Starting a new school requires marketing campaigns to introduce the school to the community, attending to parents of potential students and a myriad other extensive efforts. We are thankful to the Lord for His grace and mercy, for we saw His hand at work, carrying us through the challenging moments.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Wesley Methodist School Bandar Seri Coalfields held a Dedication Service, its very first, to dedicate the school to the Lord. We are so blessed and honoured by all the guests who took the time to come and celebrate with us on that day. We are grateful to Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik for leading us in this Dedication Service to the Lord. We also would like to thank Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Datuk Dr Tan Kee Kwong, Datuk Eddy Leong and Datin Lynda, Pastor Buell Abraham, Dr Esther Daniel, Ms Lee Wen Ling, Mr Sherman Ngau, and all our other respected guests for their kind attendance.

The reading of Scripture was taken from 1 Samuel 17 : 38 – 51, and we were reminded of David's victory over the Philistines. Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik gave his sermon on "Choosing Correctly and Courageously". David, only a boy, fought the giant Goliath. David trusted not armour, sword nor javelin but by faith, placed absolute trust in the Lord Almighty and triumphed over his challenge, the Philistine Goliath. David's strength was his reliance on the Lord. Working on every aspect of starting a new school, and facing the challenges a new school would encounter, indeed, we need to remind ourselves to persevere and keep our eyes on the Lord.

What an encouragement it was to hear the word of the Lord.



From Left to Right: Datuk Dr Tan Kee Kwong, Dato' Eddy Leong, Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik, Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian and Ms Jenny Qua.

The service was followed by a time of light refreshment and fellowship among our guests. Bishop Dr. Ong visited the staff office, speaking to and encouraging the teachers. Guests who wanted to see the school were given a short tour of the school.

We thank the Lord for all His blessings, grace and favour. May the Lord continue to lead and guide us in our endeavour in education, to teach the children and to serve the community.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.*

Matthew 22: 37

By Lim Saw Bee  
Primary School Principal,  
WMSBSC



Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik gave his sermon on "Choosing Correctly and Courageously".



Students of Wesley Methodist School Bandar Seri Coalfields witnessed the inaugural Dedication Service for WMSBSC.



From Right to Left: Pastor Buell Abraham, Mr Khor Hong Yin, Ms Anne Mathews, Datin Lynda and Mr Guoh Siang Lim.

# 合神心意的教会

报道：黄珍琳 整理：甘慧仪

2018年11月19至21日，马来西亚基督教卫理公会第四十三届华人年议会，在波德申卫理中心进行。年会本届主题配合总议会，是“合神心意的教会”，有四百一十七人报名。

首日下午二时，王怀德会督（博士）主持年议会圣餐礼拜，由砂拉越华人年议会会长——池金代牧师（博士）证道，其主题是“民以天为食”。他说，禁食的真谛是尊主为大、渴慕上帝、过正常的生活和渴望主耶稣再来。稍后，王会督敬奉圣父、圣子、圣灵的名，宣布华人年议会第四十三届议会正式开始。

吾会会长——郭汉成牧师（博士）向会众介绍来宾和发表“会长演辞”后，李祖国弟兄代表会长制理事部发言，认同郭会长在这一年中驾轻就熟，领导有方，使年会各部、教区和牧区事工顺利进行。

在翌日的早祷会上，池金代会长以“舍命的祷告”（但6：10）为题，表示先知但以理为贯彻祷告的责任，愿意准备牺牲自己的生命而被丢进狮子坑。但以理为例，池会长鼓励会众以祷告过真正的生活、素常的生活和牺牲的生活。

议会会循序进行。根据年会经济部主席——万福全弟兄的书面报告，2017年的年会经常费总收入为RM 2,497,481，总支出为RM 2,546,637，不敷 RM 49,156。截至2017年12月31日，年会总资产为RM 10,700,375，加上年会存放银行的教牧医药金储蓄、定期存款和利息，共是RM 13,259,055。2018年，经济部预算的堂会承担费为RM 1,600,420，截至2018年9月30日，年会财政处收到的款项是RM 1,540,765，为总承担费数目的96.3%。年会经济部为确保每位有资格的教牧在六十五岁退休时获得

堂会会友人数 (组别)	每个会友应承担的定额 (2019年1月1日生效)			
	2003年 (RM)	2008年 (RM)	2016年 (RM)	2019年 (RM)
1-65	35	35	40	40
66-200	40	45	50	50
201-400	45	50	55	55
401至以上	45	55	60	60

恩俸金，从2017年起，每年拨款十万令吉来成事。2018年，领取退休教牧恩俸金的牧师，是陈观凤牧师（侍奉逾三十二年，可得五万四千令吉）、何汉寅牧师（博士，侍奉逾三十五年，可得六万令吉）和杨锺禄牧师（侍奉逾三十三年，可得五万六千令吉）。截至2017年12月31日，退休恩俸金的准备金存款户口，已从1986年12月31日之RM 172,573增至RM 859,781（扣除赠送恩俸金于退休牧师后）。

2019年的宣教金收入预算为一百五十万令吉。截至2017年9月30日，年会宣教金银行存款为RM 369,033.96。年会2019年的财政预算案相当平衡，有多项新事工；预算案总收入是RM 4,328,000，支出是RM 4,324,600（包括预备金拨款），约剩三千四百令吉。

经选举后，李祖国弟兄继续当选为新届年会会友领袖，林伟杰（南部）和傅添吉（北部）续任为副会友领袖。

下午二时，年会资讯与出版部部员——简永裕牧师在《南钟》创刊九十周年纪念特刊《感恩典礼》上，简述《南钟》双月刊杂志历年来的发展史。

之后，牧职部注册员——黄迪华牧师（博士）当众介绍十一位新同工——彭慧玲、叶桂萍、潘华、施绍观、周经恩、叶林姜、杜万炜、余丽蓉、施文骏、方孝廉和陈德成，以及两位实习生——林健杰和邱家伟。

接着，郭会长恭请王怀德会督概述总议会事项：

- 一、为“马来西亚希望基金会”筹得七十五万令吉；
- 二、2018年8月31日至9月2日，第四届全国卫理祷告大会在诗巫进行；
- 三、2018年11月9日，沙巴年议会正式成立；
- 四、为印尼龙目岛水灾灾民和苏拉威/帕卢地震灾民筹款；
- 五、2018年7月6日，槟城卫理国际学校进行开幕典礼；
- 六、2019年4月2至4日，总议会教牧学校将在波德申卫理中心进行等等。

过后，年会布道部颁发奖励盾给所有在本年增加十巴仙新会友的十九间堂会/布道所和成立新布道所的代表们，以示鼓励。

当晚，年会为已安息的冯金兰传道办追思礼拜仪式，其生平事迹由林志威牧师述史。最后，雷德瑞教区长为已逝者的家属祷告。

## 按立牧职典礼

第三天，年会进行按立牧职典礼，池金代会长以“合神心意的牧者”为题（可12：29-31），指出合神心意的牧者除了爱神、爱人，也应当多祷告、多读经、多关心、讲好道、多探访和多布道。

按立牧职典礼由王怀德会督主持，郭会长主礼。牧职部注册员——黄迪华牧师引领本处副牧——叶燕霞；年会副牧——林崇恩、伍伟民、张伟、郭书瑶、祝佩玉、李恩慧和彭河祥；长牧——王妙玲和黄家荣到会督面前，恭请会督按《法规》条文按立他们为本处副牧、年会副牧和长牧，并授权他们在上帝的教会中，传讲圣道和施行圣礼。

2019年的十位教区长，是王有福牧师（北部）、雷德瑞牧师（曼绒）、王昆和牧师（近打）、莫泽川牧师（中一）、凌向明牧师（中二）、郭进吟牧师（中三）、陈华彬牧师（中四）、张世杰牧师（南中）、万富奇牧师（南部）和郑仁宾牧师（东部）。郭会长敬奉圣父、圣子、圣灵三位一体上帝的名，接纳各教区长宣读的委任表，并授权他们召开教区与牧区议会。

最后，郭会长在第四十三届年议会闭幕礼上宣布：2019年11月12至14日，第四十四届年议会将在波德申卫理中心进行。



左起为年会文书——黄约辉牧师、郭会长、王怀德会督和年会会友领袖——李祖国弟兄。



吾会讲员是来自砂拉越华人年议会的会长——池金代牧师（博士）。



《南钟》九十周年纪念丛书的第四本新书《南钟创刊九十周年纪念特刊》感恩典礼：左起为廖克民牧师、《南钟》主编——简永裕牧师、郭会长、王会督、黄约辉牧师、李祖国弟兄和万富奇牧师。



左三起为邗裕章传道、林银维牧师、杨锺禄教区长和何汉寅教区长（博士），皆获荣休纪念盾。



前左二起为新副牧——叶燕霞、李恩惠、祝佩玉；新长牧——王妙玲和黄家荣；新副牧——郭书瑶、张伟、伍伟民和林崇恩。

# Prayer United

## VISION:

REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE NATION

## THE UNITY OF THE PRAYER MOVEMENT & THE CHURCH

The basis of our UNITY is our ONENESS in Christ. It is not primarily organisational but relational and family. Theologically this is rooted in Jesus' teachings on the Love Commandment (John 13:34f and 15:12f), in our ONENESS with the Father and the Son (John 17:11, 21-23), and in the "unity of the Spirit" we are called to maintain (Eph. 4:1-3).

The above leads to the further question: What goals should we strive in prayer for PU, the church & the nation so as to help sustain the prayer movement?

## PRAYER UNITED

1. Preserve the unity of Prayer United
2. Enlarge & enhance the spiritual unity of the wider prayer movement
3. Sustain & build on the prayer momentum that has grown over the past few years
4. Strengthen the ministry of PPC for church and nation

## CHURCH

1. Prepare the way for revival and strive for:
  - A. Holiness & repentance
  - B. Love & forgiveness
  - C. Unity & oneness
  - D. Prayer & humility
  - E. Openness to the Holy Spirit's leading & empowering
2. Strengthen discipleship in the family & the church
3. Reach & nurture the next generation
4. The church to live as salt & light
5. Become a sending church

## NATION

1. For God to raise up more able national leaders of integrity in all spheres of life
2. Seek righteousness, justice and religious freedom for all
3. Unity, stability and integrity in the government, and a healthy & effective opposition
4. Leverage on the special role of East Malaysia, especially Sarawak
5. Strengthen further the "Light Up Malaysia" strategy
6. For God to bless Malaysia as the church in Christ resists all demonic powers and breaks strongholds



Committee Members



Methodist Participants



Group Photo

# Prayer United Leaders' (Annual) Retreat 2019

## The Opening

On January 15-17, 2019, 315 enthusiastic prayer leaders and intercessors from 17 Prayer networks and denominations from all over Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak met in peaceful Miri, Sarawak. Their aim was to share what God was doing in their various prayer ministries and pray together for the Church and The Nation. Above all, there was a zeal to know what was in God's heart for the Prayer movement here and how God was moving us forward.

Out of the 315 participants, 43 had registered under the Methodist banner and represented all the Annual Conferences. It was a special joy to us also that God was using two Methodist Bishops (Bishop Ong Hwai Teik and Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung) in significant ways during the Retreat. There was a strong presence and contribution of AOG Pastors and intercessors led by Pastor Teoh as well as those from the BEM/SIB prayer network. The hosts, BEM Pelita Church Miri, worked diligently to ensure that the venue and all technical and housekeeping arrangements and the flow of the programmes went smoothly. All delegates indeed owe a great debt of gratitude to them and the P.U. Committee.

On 14 & 15 January, P. U.'s Committee in their Prayer Meeting, had already corporately agreed on some goals. In skeletal and still in draft form, these are:

- A. Prayer United : Strengthening Unity ; Building the Prayer Momentum
- B. The Church: Preparing the Way for Revival; Nurturing The Next Generation
- C. The Nation: God to Bless Malaysia; To pray for the Government and The Opposition

At the opening, Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung stressed that the whole Committee felt that God was emphasizing "Unity" as the focus for the Prayer Movement in Malaysia. This unity is not organizational but is to be fostered in deeper relationships among all, rooted on the unity in The Triune God. "Don't let anything break the unity!" was his clarion call at this Retreat.

## Network Reports

On the second day, the Prayer Network leaders gave their reports. It was amazing to hear of what God is doing in various networks—ranging from Anglican, AOG, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, SIB Semenanjung and 24/7 Prayer to the various P. U. Prayer Networks (in Sarawak, Penang and P. U. Youth) as well as Pastors' Prayer Fellowships (Kuching Ministers' Fellowship and Sabah Pastors' Fellowship). MNPN announced that they were terminating their ministry because their goals were similar to P. U. but they were releasing some of them to other Prayer networks.

The Presbyterians said their Prayer movement was still in "seed form"; Anglican Kuching was moving wisely in their own structure, respecting their hierarchy and managing to draw 33 Anglicans to the Retreat! The AOG under their dynamic Prayer Commission enlisting more than 1000 intercessors, and organised National Prayer Rallies. P. U. Sarawak listed 15 Prayer Hills, 45 Prayer Mountains and 4 Prayer Houses. Rev C Jayaraj from Methodist W. Malaysia shared on The Methodist Prayer Convention In Sibiu 2018, which

garnered 3,800 participants and 10,000 at the final open air dawn gathering during the Sunday Worship Celebration at Sibiu City Centre. Pastor Steven Choon shared that Sabah Pastors' Fellowship was moving from prayer as an event to a prayer culture where prayer is a lifestyle. Every network had something precious to offer. God is at work in Malaysia!

## The Main Messages

P. U. 2019 did not have any invited guest speaker. Nevertheless, the speakers from P. U. fed us with precious manna. Pastor Robinson from BEM spoke on ministry. (1) Quoting Exodus 4:1-5 he pointed out that God was still asking, "What is that in your hand?" We should tap into all that we already have, to touch lives and advance His Kingdom. (2) The Lord wants us to do the works He did but the emphasis is not on big ministries alone. God "is more interested in building us than the ministry. The man comes first; then the ministry".

Pastor Daniel Raut's message on "Intimacy with God" with his memorable quotes on prayer stirred hearts deeply as he challenged "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?"

He then elaborated on these points (1) Desire intimacy with God (Psalm 27:4 ; Phil 3:8). (2) Know God's love language, quoting Gary Chapman. (3) Love God affectionately. Often we make the mistake of making ministry our priority but God is a jealous God. He must always be our First Love! (4) Don't give up too easily. There are hindrances (busyness, sins and idolatry and indifference.) However, the benefits are (1) Access to Divine Secrets (Gen. 18:17-19, Ps 25:14, Col 1:26. (2) Doing Exploits for The Lord (Daniel 11:32b).

Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik in his Closing/Wrap Up Session on the last day, spoke from Psalm 139 about the SOVEREIGN GOD Who knows us. He sovereignly knows Malaysia! He "hems" Malaysia in! God is a searching God. He has searched for us all our lives; He searches us deeply to know our hearts. He knows our secret thoughts. In fact He knows us better than we know ourselves!. In John chapter 1:47, Jesus said He knew Nathaniel as a "True Israelite, guileless"; not deceitful. He was a person of integrity with no deception. God is looking for Nathaniels...true Christians... 'What you see is what you get' believers." Can our neighbours say this about us?

Bishop Ong's clinching point was taken from The Gospel of John where John "encrypts himself" 5 times as the disciple whom Jesus loved. "The hiddenness of being sovereignly loved by Jesus is that we can see more of the Lover, not the loved". John realized the sovereign love of Jesus for "even me"! We are made of dust...our seeking after holiness is important but ultimately, "I am a disciple loved by Jesus". "We are a church loved by Jesus, not so much a Church that loved Jesus! "Can we say this about ourselves?"

The altar call that followed saw everyone on their knees, many in tears as we offered ourselves to The Lord and His service in prayer. All thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God!

By Sis Ruth Ratnam (GC Prayer Team)

# Rewind 2018



Today is the last day of 2018. Reflection time.

As I write, my thoughts inevitably turn to the past twelve months of happenings.

Topping the list is of course, the addition to our family - baby Ariel!

Ariel, a gift from God, is our little treasure and bundle of joy. I relished in taking photos and videos of her. I would smile as I think of her every morning when I awake. Truth be told, much to our joy, the apple of our eye has disrupted our daily rhythms though we do not stay under the same roof!

Perhaps in a more subtle aspect, being grandparents for my wife and I, also meant that the parenting role for us is diminishing. My wife and I now take a front-seat row to observe our son and daughter-in-law navigate their parenting tasks that will surely bring new delights and unknown challenges.

My wife and I have done our best to coordinate organizing the Brigade Council Meeting hosted in Miri. This Boys' Brigade event is held annually in different nominated cities in the country. Miri Mayor Adam Yii was our Guest-of-Honor. More than 170 delegates from the various State Councils throughout the country were in attendance from April 20-21.

We are also grateful to be given the opportunity to serve in the BB Love Box from November 3 to December 8. Collectively, all seven Miri Boys' Brigade Companies managed to raise 5,700 gifts benefiting needy students and families in 17 schools and longhouses. I'm thankful to Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai, President of Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference (SCAC) of the Methodist Church, for taking time and effort to do a personal video with his mobile phone to promote the BB Love Box.

To maintain a healthy lifestyle, my son managed to convince me to play badminton again after a lapse of five years. Play-

ing twice a week on average, I now feel rejuvenated and fit. It was also a blessing that I was fine enough to donate blood in April, July and October. I also passed my annual blood tests.

My wife and I were reconnected with an old friend in Ipoh in June when we took a short break during the Raya holidays. We have not seen Alice since 1995 when she relocated back to West Malaysia from Brunei. Friends like her are gems! In Ipoh, we also met up with my 84-year-old 3rd Aunt (maternal side). Our previous encounter was way back in 1973! However, little did we realize that it would be the last time meeting her as she was called to The Lord recently. I also grieved when a dear friend and school mate in Sibul passed away due to illness.

In late August, my wife and I joined her family for a Taiwan trip. There were 13 of us. The fellowship we had was priceless and we enjoyed each other's company every bit.

Thank You, God, for your blessings in 2018.

Thank you to all our friends who have been part of our lives in 2018.

Tomorrow is the New Year.

It fills me with new hope and great anticipation.

For me and my family, we will continue to serve The Lord faithfully.

*By God's grace, the writer has been married for 35 years now and has two grown sons, a daughter-in-law and a cheery grand daughter. He enjoys blogging about real-life experiences and church ministry. A food enthusiast, he loves cooking for his family and close friends.*

By James TC Wong

# A New Experiment In Malayan Education

By C. J. A. Sabapathy

The Anglo-Chinese School, Telok Anson, has an enrolment of 408, a few of whom are girls. As there is a girls' school (the Convent) in the town no new girls are now permitted in the Primary classes. Those on the roll will leave when they are twelve years old. We do not pretend to be able to create a suitable environment for the proper mental and spiritual growth of girls in a school which is essentially a boys' school.

We have the House System operating in our School, there being five Houses in the charge of House Prefects and House Masters whose activities are integrated by the House Secretary, Mr. Lee Hah Ing. The House System was thoroughly reorganised last year. "Over-emphasis on individual competitions for getting school work done leads to such personality maladjustments as ego-centricity, jealousy, resort to cheating, copying etc. So all competitive functions of the School were organised not around individual student but around groups—the Houses. Competitive groups are as undesirable as competitive individuals. So a School Council was organised to be a common meeting place for House Officers, to develop student leadership and to stimulate the personal interest of the student body in the welfare of the School as a whole." It is composed of the five House Senior Prefects, the five House Masters, the Advisor of the House Organisation and the Principal who is an Ex-officio member. The Council meets every fortnight to discuss matters pertaining to the discipline and organisation of the student body. This council introduced by Mr. L. B. Jenkins has been a very great success so far as the general discipline and the conduct of the pupils are concerned. The boys have been progressively taught to shoulder responsibilities, they have been made to realise that they are units in a social group and that they are not only to restrain themselves from anti-social acts but also to subordinate their own likes and dislikes to whatever may be desirable for the well-being and progress of the social group to which they belong—in the particular case, their School. The students are encouraged to organise and to lead in almost every activity of the School

and to regard the teacher as a friend and a guide to advise the leaders when his advice is requested and from his richer experience to indicate to student leaders new avenues of progressive endeavour. The President of the School Council is the Senior Prefect—at present Master Ahmad Kahiri of the Senior Cambridge class.

At the last Agri-Horticulturer Show of Lower Perak our Handwork Exhibits won the First Prize Mr. P. Vengadasalam is teacher of Handwork Our Scout Troop (Scout Master Mr. W. E. Perera) entered the finals of the State Competition for the Sultan Shield for all-round proficiency.

We are looking forward this year with high hopes of improving on our achievements of the past. The Perak Inter-A.C.S. Games Competition is to be held this year at Telok Anson. Mr. Arjan Singh, the Sports Secretary is in charge of arrangements and preparations are well under way to ensure a grand Sports Meet.

Early this year the Principal announced his intention of having a School Magazine published this year. The students of the Secondary Department as well as the Staff have taken to the idea enthusiastically and we are confident of publishing a very fine magazine this year.

However, the most important contribution we in the A.C.S. Telok Anson are seeking to make to education in Malaya does not consist in our attempts to adopt and to perfect routine methods and organisation which are the irreducible minima of any elementary school with a secondary department but in the experiment the Staff is engaged in at present under the leadership of our Principal, Mr. L. B. Jenkins, to substitute "Education for Creative Living" in place of that "Instruction for Petty Accuracies" which passes for Education today. In the words of Mr. Jenkins, "Education is not skill in addition of fractions, nor a "pre-arranged" course of studies in English, or Geography or Mathematics. It is life that is creatively active. It is insight, disposition and ideals. It is wholesome behaviour, the result of qualitative

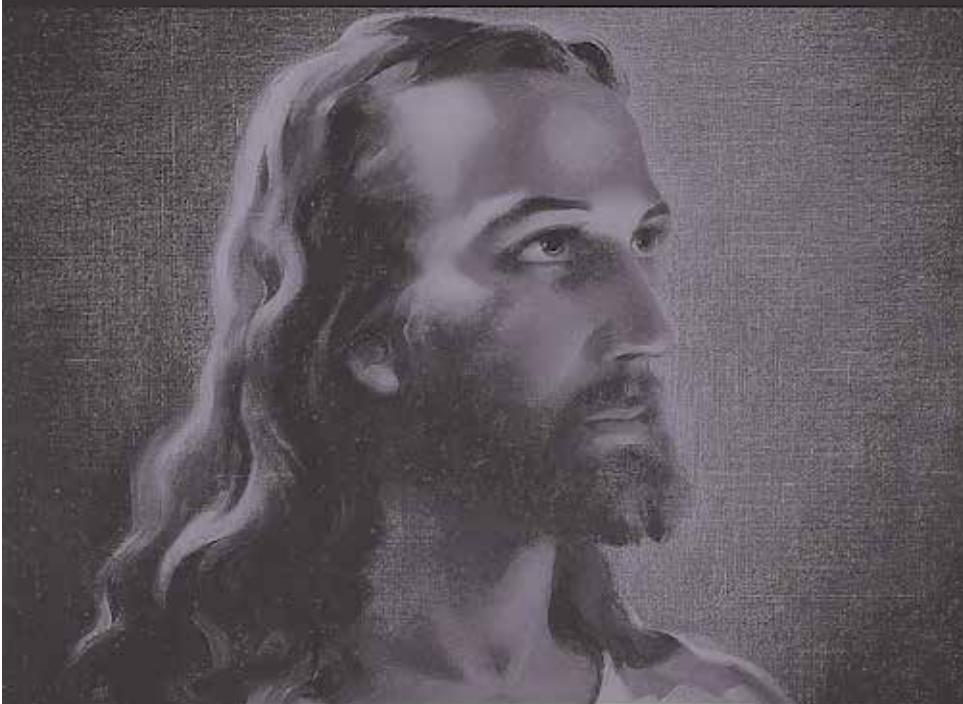
enrichment of life. Therefore the primary task of the School is not the transmission of knowledge, but the building of wholesome personalities." To the general reader this aim of ours may appear to be too general and the purpose too diffused to be capable of practical achievement, just as the untutored layman will not be able to perceive any order or arrangement in the systematically orientated wheels of the simplest watch. But with knowledge comes ability. In order that the Staff may be able to translate these aims in terms of everyday teaching technique Mr. Jenkins is delivering a series of lectures accompanied by practical demonstration classes. This course of study will extend over a period of five years. The study of Psychology is necessary if teachers are to understand and to hold the key to the problems that maladjustments in the workings of the mind of a growing child give rise to. So the First Years' work is the study of the Psychology of Personality with attention to the Dynamics of Behaviour, and the application of the knowledge so derived to estimate the effect of environmental factors of home and school life which tend to develop and foster maladjustments. This part of the five year programme has been completed and the Staff has now started on the Second Years' work which is the study of "Building Wholesome Personality through Curricular Activities". Our aims, far from being the mere expression of a vague ideal to be strived for and never quite achieved, have been proved capable of concrete expression, for this Course drawn up by Mr. Jenkins reduces them to a practical teaching technique. At the present time the Principal has introduced "Student Development" as a subject of instruction in all classes above Standard Five, and gives the instruction himself. The new type of student with a wholesome integrated personality and a right philosophy regarding his own self, his immediate environment and life as a whole is an encouraging sign of the practical usefulness and of the future possibilities of this new experiment in a Malayan School.

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March 1938

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