



Persekutuan Kristian Malaysia • Christian Federation Of Malaysia

## General Elections Message

As our nation prepares for the coming elections, we call all Christians to be conscious of your responsibility as good citizens and to exercise your right to vote. Do familiarize yourselves with biblical principles on issues central to you and our nation, information on candidates and programmes of the various political parties. Pray for discernment and foresight.

In order to cast votes responsibly, we invite you to prayerfully consider the following:

### A. What the bible says about our primary concerns.

Based on the opinion poll commissioned by The Star newspaper, the cost of living, social issues, crime rates and illegal immigrants are central to the concerns of the survey participants. As Christians, we are also concerned about issues which God is concerned about.

In the Bible we learn that God is righteous and just, merciful and loving. Whilst he has given us freedom of choice, he wills a good life for all human beings in society that is spiritually and morally grounded.

God desires peace and goodwill among all people. In and through his love, we are called to cultivate neighborliness, and promote harmony built on mutual respect.

The threat to God's creation is apparent today. God has called humans to act as responsible stewards. The protection



of the resources of the earth is for the benefit of all of God's creation.

### B. Political Parties: Their Policies And Delivery of Promises

Assess the political parties on the basis of their policies and promises, their stand on various issues related to justice and fair play, citizen's rights, national unity, economic development, protection of the environment and welfare of those who are sick, disabled and poor. Is there integrity, honesty and efficiency? Have the parties delivered on their promises? Do their political views and policies reflect God's standard and Christian values?

### C. Candidate

Examine carefully the ability of candidates, their standard of accountability, integrity, values and leadership skills. Pay attention to their past performance and for their issues related to constitutional rights, civil liberties and the freedom of religion. Have they been consistently accessible and available?

**MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PRAY** for candidates in your constituency, the

issues herein highlighted and outcome of the General Elections. Set aside time to pray daily. Organize and participate in local church prayer programmes. We owe to God, ourselves, our future generations and our country to exercise responsibly our privilege to pray and our democratic right to vote. We aspire with all Malaysians to live in a nation, where all citizens may enjoy freedom, love, justice, peace, stability and economic prosperity.

The Christian Federation of Malaysia joins all other Malaysians in expressing the wish that the coming ELECTIONS WILL BE FAIR and there will be no attempt by politicians to publicly misrepresent or miscast any particular issue or subject any community to unfair and adverse publicity for the purpose of political gain.

MAY GOD'S SPIRIT GUIDE EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU to make wise decisions in casting your votes. May the results of the elections be fair and representative of the will of the people of Malaysia, trusting that God's purpose will always prevail above the affairs of human beings.

Grace and peace to all. Thank you.

# Prayers Fill the Town Square

*Sibu 5:00 AM*

Organised by the Laity Committees of Sibu East and Sibu West Districts, and in collaboration with Methodist Theological School (MTS), a combined prayer meeting “Watch and Pray for Sibu” was held on 26 Jan 2008 in Sibu Town Square at 5:00 am. More than 200 people filed into the town square at dawn when the sky was still dark.

Under the leadership of Rev. Kong Chong Ling, Superintendent of Sibu East District, and Rev. Wong Mee Ing, the participants were led to pray fervently for Sibu, for the nation and for the church. They ended this one-



hour session with a prayer walk around the Square three times.

“In the past, we had prayer meetings held especially for the safety of Sibu. The church leaders saw the need and desired to see this continued. We chose to hold the combined prayer meeting outdoor because we believe that this

gesture symbolizes Christians reaching deep into the heart of Sibu,” said Rev. Kong after the prayer meeting.

Five more combined outdoor prayer meetings have been planned for Sibu, gathering once in two months until November this year.

As Jeremiah 29:7 said, “...Pray to the Lord for it (the city), because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Winnie  
Connection  
15/02/2008



## Pray for Malaysia!

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 the transformation of the nation of Malaysia. (See their website: [www.prayer.net.my](http://www.prayer.net.my) for more details)

### Round-the-clock Prayer

It has called for a 24/7 prayer for our national elections from 1-7 March. Participants can sign up for one or more half-hour blocks for a concerted prayer together. This can be done at their website.

### Pray @ 12 Noon

Besides this special season of the national elections it is also calling for the mobilization of Christians to pray for the country the whole year round. It suggests that everyday at noon, we pause in whatever we are doing and either personally or gathering in groups, call upon God for the transformation of our nation.

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## What is Happening in our Annual Conferences?

### March

3-6	Mon-Thu	SCAC Pastors School
6-9	Thu-Sun	TRAC Board of Youth Work, GB, BB Retreat
7-9	Fri-Sun	SIAC Team Ministry – Kapit District
11-13	Tue-Thu	CAC Isaiah School (part time students) – Old Testament Theology
13-16	Thu-Sun	TAC National MYF Convention
15-18	Sat-Tue	TRAC National Youth Prayer Retreat
24-31	Mon-Mon	TRAC National Youth Missions Trip
25-27	Tue-Thu	CAC, SCAC, SPAC District Superintendents Discussions (tentative)
25-28	Tue-Fri	TRAC MSF Annual Camp
29	Sat	TRAC Board of Christian Education Meeting
31 Mar – 2 April		CAC Isaiah School (part time students) – Spiritual Gifts and Church Growth

### April

4-5	Fri-Sat	CAC Laity Conference
6-12	Sun-Sat	CAC Trip to China
9-14	Wed-Mon	TRAC Pastors / Diaconal Ministers School
10-12	Thu-Sat	SIAC Pastors School
12	Sat	TAC Malaysian Missionary Movement Board Meeting
13	Sun	CAC Isaiah School 10th Anniversary & Convocation
17	Thu	TAC DS / Board of Ministry / Board of Finance
18	Fri	TAC Executive Board Meeting (II)
18-20	Fri-Sun	SIAC Team Ministry – Sarikei District
21-23	Mon-Wed	SPAC Meeting of Conference Boards
24	Thu	SPAC Sabah Methodist Church 25th Anniversary Celebration
25-26	Fri-Sat	SPAC Laity Seminar
26-27	Sat-Sun	SIAC Sibu District Lay Seminar

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# Meditations for Lent

*(The meditation below is taken from the book published  
by TRAC Board of Worship and Music.)*

**Thursday, March 20, 2008**

**Matthew 28:9-15; John 20:11-18; Psalm 49:1-13**

## Send the Point Home

**T**he tomb was the context of the burial. It was the symbol of death, a journey of no return. It represented pain and tears and hopes dashed. There were political overtones and conspiracy to subvert and hide truth.

But God was sovereign in raising Christ from the dead that He should live on and not see decay!

His is a story of life and hope, truth and freedom. But He did not choose to herald it in a house of worship or where the context of life normally exists and is expected.

The message of His resurrection and life was expressed and proclaimed right in the

seat of death, darkness, and hopelessness - the tomb! What a place to send the point home that Jesus Christ is Lord of all! What a place to give hope to the confused and the desperate. What a place to defy the powers of human and demonic authority.

In the very centre of hopelessness and helplessness, God introduces light and the resurrected life of Jesus Christ. Right there is the declaration of a special relationship... no longer merely master-disciple but brothers (and sisters).

### **Over to You**

As you go through Maundy Thursday commemorating the Last Supper and Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet, remember

that Jesus was setting the stage for God's great act of love and the initiation of us into a special relationship with Him. Who is Christ to you? Is He merely Master or a Servant and a Brother to you as well?

### **Prayer**

Lord, You have injected Your life and hope into the dying of my heart. I thank You that Christ has become my brother to journey with me out of darkness into His wonderful light.

## HO SENG ONG SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND

**A**pplications are invited from those interested in pursuing teaching as a career for study loans from the Ho Seng Ong Scholarship Loan Fund. Applicants must have obtained admission into courses leading to a degree/diploma in education in local universities.

Application Forms may be obtained from:-

**The Chairman,**  
Ho Seng Ong Scholarship Loan Fund  
Methodist Council of Education,  
67, Jalan 5/31,  
46000 Petaling Jaya.

Please enclose a stamped (50 cents), self-addressed envelope with your written request for application forms. The closing date for the submission of application is: 31 May 2008.

Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interview at a date to be fixed by the Chairman of the Fund.

# SCAC News

(All news reports are from *Connection* 15 February 2008)

## Mothers' Support Group A Place Where Mothers Find Strength



Mum's group

“I come from Indonesia. I joined the Mothers' support group (MSG) a year ago and met many friends through this group. Now I have developed friendships with many others and do not suffer from home sickness. My two children and I also came to know Christ through this group,” said Winnie Wong during the MSG gathering.

The above is just one of the many testimonies among the ladies of the MSG. This group of mothers meets every Saturday 2.00pm in the Methodist Theological School (MTS) compound. They meet because they desire to raise children after God's heart. They need to be nurtured emotionally. They need support when facing struggles in their daily lives. They need strong friendships and above all, they need God to enable them in the role as mothers.

Another mother, Wei Yi, shared, “I have joined this group for 3 years. This group provided me tremendous support during my recent bereavement. I have learned much about prayer and would have felt very lost without the support from this group. I see the group as my family and hope to learn more parenting skills in the future.”

Jevie is a full-time mother of two small children. She finds it a struggle to leave the kids behind to attend MSG but feels supported every time she managed to go. She also finds comfort when listening to other mothers share similar problems.

MSG is under the Children's ministry of the Board of Family and Counselling of SCAC. The purposes of this group are to provide support and encouragement for English speaking mothers, to help them draw closer to God and to spend time

praying not only for their families but for others as well, to study and learn from books and bible study materials.

Angie said, “I joined the group 8 months ago. Though my children have all grown up, I still find practical tips and advices on child-rearing very helpful in my role as a Sunday school teacher.”

Lian Jia related, “I have 2 very young children. I feel lucky to have been introduced to MSG. I have learned much and am now able to answer my daughter's questions.”

Kee Kiong is one of the pioneer members of MSG. She has spent much of the past year focusing on prayer--not only for her son but on the needs of the mothers and many others. Kee Kiong strongly believes that God is at work in all of our lives and the time spent praying consistently bears much fruit. She finds studying biblical characters very helpful and that the group sharing provides much practical advice in raising her child.

MSG has about 23 members. Their regular attendance is 10-14. For those mothers who do not work outside the home, they meet one morning a week for breakfast and fellowship, usually at a coffee shop.

Hui Hui  
Wesley MC, Sibuluan

## Sarikei Sunday School Teachers' Training

About 112 Sunday school teachers from Sarikei, Seratok, Betong and Sri Aman attended the Sarikei Sunday School teachers' training on 10 Jan 2008. This training is aimed to help teachers have a better understanding of the Sunday school materials published by the Board of Christian Education, SCAC. Trainers were Pastor Yii Lai Yuek and Madam Yii Mee Leh, Director of Board of Christian Education. – Winnie



Sunday school teachers' training.

(This piece was written by Rev. Victor J. Vethamani for the newspapers. It is about the meaning and observance of Lent in the history of the Church to the present time. It was published in two newspapers – the Tamil Nesan and Nanban. Editor)

## (எழுத்து: அருள்திரு. விக்டர் வேதமணி)

கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்கு, ஈஸ்டர் பெருநாளை கொண்டாடுவது, கிறிஸ்தவ நாளைக் கொண்டாடுவதுபோல் ஆகும். சொல்லப்போனால் ஈஸ்டர் அதைவிட முக்கியம் வாய்ந்த நாளாக திகழ்கிறது. கிறிஸ்தவ தினத்தில் இயேசுவின் றப்பை நினைவுகூரும் நாம், அவர் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டு, மரணமுற்று, அடக்கம்பண்ணப்பட்டு மூன்றாம் நாள் உயிர்த்தெழுந்ததை ஈஸ்டர் தினத்தன்று எண்ணிப்பார்க்கிறோம். ஈஸ்டர் தின கொண்டாட்டத்தை அர்த்தமுள்ளதாகும்படி, ஆதி திருச்சபையானது லெந்துகாலத்தைக் கடைபிடிக்க ஆரம்பித்தது. லெந்து என்ற ஆங்கிலச் சொல்லுக்கு ஆக்ஸ்போர்ட் அகராதி நவரும் விளக்கத்தைத் தருகிறது: லெந்து என்பது, சாம்பல் புதன் கிழமைக்கும் ஈஸ்டருக்கும் இடைப்பட்ட நாட்களை குறிப்பதாகும். இயேசுவனாந்தரத்தில் இருந்த நாட்களை நினைவுகூரும் பொருட்டு அவற்றில் 40 வாரநாட்கள் (ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமைகளைத் தவிர) உபவாசத்துக்கும், மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கும் ஒதுக்கப்படுகின்றன (மாற்கு 1:13). சாம்பல் புதன்கிழமையிலிருந்து ஈஸ்டர் வரையில் 47 நாட்கள் இருப்பினும், அவற்றின் ஏழு ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமைகள் லெந்து காலத்தில் சேர்க்கப்படவில்லை.

லெந்துகால அனுசரிப்பின் தொடக்கம் நான்காம் நூற்றாண்டிலிருந்து உள்ளது. கி.. 325ம் ஆண்டில் நிக்கீயா என்ற இடத்தில் இந்த 40 நாட்களைக் குறித்து முதன்முதலாக சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆக, இந்த அனுசரிப்பு, திருச்சபையின் ஆரம்பக்கட்டத்தில் இருந்ததில்லை. இயேசுவோ அல்லது அவரின் சீஷர்களோ இந்த அனுசரிப்பைக் கட்டளையிடவில்லை. ஆகவே, இந்த காரணத்தைக் காட்டி லெந்துகாலத்தை பல சபைகள் கடைபிடிப்பதில்லை. ஆனால், லெந்து நாட்கள் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்ட நாளிலிருந்து, அதைக் கடைபிடித்தவர்கள் புலால் உணவைத் தவிர்த்தனர்; ஆலய அலங்கரிப்புக்கு கறுப்பு வண்ணம் உபயோகிக்கப்பட்டது; ஆலயத்தில், மணி அடிக்கப்படாமலும், ஆர்கள் இசைக்கப்படாமலும் ஆராதனைகள் நடந்தன. மொத்தமாக, அக்காலம், சபையார் தங்களின் ஆவிக்குரிய வாழ்க்கையை சற்றே சீர்தூக்கிப் பார்க்க வகைசெய்யும் புனித நாட்களாகச் திகழ்ந்தது.

இந்நாட்களில் லெந்துகாலமானது ரோமன் கத்தோலிக்க சபைகளாலும், சில மரபுவழி சபைகளாலும் (ஆங்கிலிக்கன், லுத்தரன், மெதடிஸ்ட் போன்றவை) கடைபிடிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இவைகளில் சில சபைகள், வெள்ளிக் கிழமைகளில் ஆராதனை நடத்துகின்றனர்; ஒரு சில சபைகளில், லெந்துகாலத்தில் ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் ஆராதனை நடக்கும். மேற்கூறப்பட்ட சபைகளில் அநேகர், லெந்துகாலத்தின் குறிப்பிட்ட நாட்களில் விசேஷ ஆராதனையை நடத்துகின்றனர்.

அந்நாட்களாவன: சாம்பல் புதன், பெரிய வியாழக்கிழமை, பெரிய வெள்ளிக்கிழமை மற்றும் ஈஸ்டர் தினமாகும். சாம்பல் புதன் என்பது (6/2/08) லெந்து காலத்தின் முதல் நாளாகும். இதில், சாம்பல் என்ற வார்த்தை நம்முடைய பாவத்தைக் குறித்து நாம் துக்கப்படுவதை தான் காட்டுகிறதே தவிர, அது இயேசுவின் பாடுகளுக்காக நாம் துக்கப்படுவதை குறிக்கவில்லை. பெரிய வியாழம். ஏன் இந்த தினம் “பெரிய” நாள் என அழைக்கப்படுகிறது? அதற்குக் காரணமென்னவென்றால், பாவியர் இயேசுவுக்கு தீமை செய்யும் எண்ணத்தில் அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்தனர்; ஆனால், அதே சம்பவத்தின் வழி உலகத்தார் அனைவருக்கும் ஒரு பெரிய நன்மை கிட்டிச்சே வேண்டுமென்பதே ஆண்டவரின் திரு சித்தமாயிருந்தது. ஆகவே, அந்த தினத்தை “பெரியது” என குறிப்படுவதில் வியப்பொன்றுமில்லையே! அடுத்து, ஈஸ்டர் தினத்தன்று (23/3/08) இயேசுவின் வெற்றியை நாம் நினைவு கூறுகிறோம், கொண்டாடுகிறோம். அவர் மரணத்தை ஜெயித்து, மூன்றாம் நாள் உயிர்த்தெழுந்தார்!

லெந்துகாலத்தை கடைபிடிப்பவர்களுக்கு வரும் நன்மைகள் என்ன? லெந்துகாலம் என்பது நாம் இயேசுவுக்காக துக்கம் கொண்டாடுவதற்கோ அல்லது அவருக்கு பரிதாபப்படுவதற்கோ உள்ள காலக்கட்டம் அல்ல என்பதை நாம் உணர்வது முக்கியம். ஏனெனில், இயேசு சிலுவையில் அறையப்படும்படி கொண்டு போகப்பட்டபோது அவருக்காக புலம் அழுத பெண்மணிகளுக்கு அவர் இவ்வாறு உரைத்தார்: “எருசலேமின் குமாரத்திகளே, நீங்கள் எனக்காக அழாமல், உங்களுக்காகவும், உங்கள் என்னைகளுக்காகவும் அழுங்கள்” (லூக்கா 23:28). நம்மை நாமே வருத்திக்கொண்டால், ஆண்டவர் மகிழ்ச்சியடைவார் என்றோ, நமக்கென்று புண்ணியம் சேர்க்கலாம் என்றோ நாம் நினைக்கலாகாது. எனெனில், இதனால் நமக்கு ஆவிக்குரிய நன்மை ஏதும் கிடைத்துவிடப் போவதில்லை. மாறாக, இந்த லெந்து காலம் முழுவதிலும் நாம் இயேசுவின் சிலுவைப்பாடுகளை நினைவுகூரும்போது, பாவம் எவ்வளவு கொடுமையானது என்பதையும், இரட்சிப்பின் விலைக்கிரயம் என்ன என்பதையும், ஆண்டவர் நம்மீது கொண்டிருக்கும் அன்ன ஆழம் என்னவென்பதையும் தியானிக்க வேண்டும். இயேசு சிலுவை மரத்தில் நம் பாவத்திற்கென மரித்தார். என்ற உண்மையை நம், அவரை விசுவாசித்து, பாவ வாழ்க்கையை விட்டு மனந்திருந்துவோமென்றால், நமக்கு இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் மூலம் ஆண்டவரோடு ஓர் ஆவிக்குரிய உறவு ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டு சொல்லவொண்ணா ஒரு பரம ஆனந்தம் உள்ளத்தை நிறைக்கிறது. ஆக, இந்த லெந்துகாலமானது, நாம் ஆண்டவரின் பார்வையில் நேர்மை, நாணயமாக நடக்கிறோமா என நம்மை நாமே பரிசீலனை செய்து பார்க்கும் ஓர் அரிய சந்தர்ப்பமாகும். மேலும், அவரின் திரு வசனமாகிய

# TAC Youth Leader Attends Conference

Mr Daniel Alexander is a youth leader in the Tamil Annual Conference. He was selected to attend a training conference for trainers in voluntary youth organizations in Tallinn, Estonia in December 2007.

Daniel was involved in his Annual Conference Campus Ministry which organized the Higher Education Project 2005-2007. This was an effort to bring information to

the grassroots local communities on the academic and skills training opportunities provided by the Malaysian government. The Higher Education team conducted 29 such awareness projects in the two year period.

On the basis of their report, Daniel was nominated to attend this conference which was organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Alliance of European Voluntary

Service Organizations, and its Estonian member Association. Along with 30 others from Asia and Europe they delved deeper into the importance and dynamics needed to run successful voluntary organizations.

*(This is a brief summary of Daniel's report he sent to Pelita Methodist. For further information he can be contacted at jesuniel@gmail.com)*



Daniel Alexander is standing fourth from left.

வேதாகமத்தை சுருத்தோடு வாசித்து, உபவாசித்து ஜெத்து கஷ்டத்தில் வாடும் மக்களுக்கு நம்மால் இயன்ற உதவியை செய்ய வேண்டும்.

மனிதன் பழக்கத்துக்கு அடிமைப்பட்டவன் என்றும், தான் காலங்காலமாகக் கடைபிடித்துவரும் சமரதாயங்களை எளிதில் விட்டுக் கொடுக்கமாட்டான் என்றும் நாம் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால், பழக்கங்களையும், சம-ரதாயங்களையும் நம்முடைய ஆவிக்குரிய வாழ்க்கையை செவ்வைப்படுத்த பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ளலாமே. லெந்துகாலத்தை நாம் சரியான கண்ணோட்டத்தோடு அணுகுவோமென்றால், அந்நாட்கள் நமக்கு பேர்

ஆசீர்வாதங்களைக் கொண்டுவரும் என்பது திண்ணம். இயேசு இவ்வலகத்திற்கு வந்த நோக்கத்தை நாம் சதா நினைவில் கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதென்னவென்றால், பாவிக்களாகிய உலகமக்கள் அனைவருக்கும், தம்முடைய பாடுகளின்வழி இராட்சிப்பை அருளவே அவர் வந்தார். இக்காலங்களில் இதுவே நம் எண்ணமாயிருக்குமென்றால், ஆண்டவரின் அன்பையும், அதை நாமும் பெற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்ற உண்மையையும் மறக்க மாட்டோம். தொடர்ந்து நம்முடைய ஆவிக்குரிய வாழ்க்கை கீர்படுத்தப்பட்டு வளருவதற்கு நாம் ஆண்டவரை இன்னும் அதிகமதிகமாய் கிட்டிக் சேர்வோம். இவ்வாண்டின் லெந்து காலத்திலும் ஆண்டவரின் உதவியினால் இதுவே நம்முடைய அனுபவமாயிருப்பதாக!

# 八达灵新市堂设教25周年纪念 暨新圣堂落成奉献典礼

报导：黄华祥

2007年12月11日对八达灵新市堂来说是崭新的一日——八达灵新市堂设教25周年拟建暨新圣堂落成奉献典礼。各堂会牧者和弟兄姐妹一同见证这历史性的时刻。

下午虽然下起滂沱大雨，然而大雨阻挡不了前来参加庆典的人潮。三时许，出席的牧者与弟兄姐妹聚集于旧圣堂享用茶点，彼此交谈分享，映入眼帘的是一张张洋溢着喜乐的笑脸。

四时正，大雨转为细雨轻弹大地，献堂礼正式开始，会众一同聚集于新圣堂前。首先，华勇会督宣告开幕，并一同与莫泽川会长剪彩，开启圣殿大门。接着，诗班带领唱进殿诗歌，牧师团和会众先后踏入新圣殿。

感恩崇拜中，四名主日学学生朗诵诗篇，歌颂诗人渴慕住在上帝殿中的情

怀，“当称谢进入他的门，当赞美进入他的院”。新市堂向日葵儿童诗班、康乃馨少年诗班、堂会诗班及卫理妇女诗班当天也联合献唱两首诗歌——《荣耀尊贵并颂赞》、《别无他名》，将一切颂赞郁荣耀归于天上的父。

莫泽川会长在分享信息是以以赛亚书54章勉励众人。他说，神要他的子民扩张帐幕之地、张大居所的幔子，以色列民的人数也要日益增多，因这表明神的祝福满满；然而，以色列民亟需重建属灵生命。今天，神的应许和祝福依然存在。莫会长劝勉弟兄姐妹要继续以信心领受神的祝福，向外扩张。莫会长也赞许新市堂在培育事工上不遗余力，惠及许多牧者，造就众多主的门徒。

崇拜中也播映新市堂的史略，以多媒体的呈现方式，以《回顾·现在·展望》为主题，将历史一幕幕重现在众人的眼

前。无他，唯要叫人在历史的轨迹中看见那始终如一，轻牵重托的慈爱双手。

当天的新圣殿奉献礼也由华勇会督主持，八达灵数位执事代表众信徒将新圣殿全然奉献于主。祈愿主亲自使用此圣殿，彰显他的荣光，照亮八达灵区域，直到万邦。惟愿我们一生全力传扬他的名，与神同庆同行，迈向千人教会！





刘本纺姐妹（前排中间）与班登英达堂青年团弟兄姐妹演绎《我感谢你》。

# MY FELLOWSHIP诗歌创作比赛总决赛

报导：杨证强

青年人联合聚会（MY Fellowship）4—看见诗歌创作比赛总决赛于2007年12月1日假吉隆坡福建堂掀开战幕。由刘本纺姐妹作词作曲的《我感谢你》在十一首决赛作品中脱颖而出，夺得最佳歌曲奖第一名。刘本纺姐妹来自中部教区班登英达堂青年团，当晚与她一同演出的还有一群该堂弟兄姐妹。歌曲开始先由本纺姐妹独唱，后再配上和声，最后以合唱团提高歌曲的震撼力。

本纺姐妹在评审们给予评语时回应说，《我感谢你》是她写给上帝的一首歌。当她看到生活的周围发生很多不幸的事，人们不爱惜自己的生命，她内心有许多的无奈。但她感谢神赐给她平安与喜乐，还有永生的生命。

这次的比赛获得非常热烈的反应，初赛分别在西马半岛南区（南部、南中）、中区（雪兰莪、中部、东部）、北区（近打、曼绒、北部）进行，总决赛在吉隆坡举办。约有



《只有你》以不插电的方式演出，编曲下足功夫。

30首参赛作品，其中11首入围决赛。总决赛当天，大会特邀收获（Soul Work）音乐总监方嘉雄弟兄、《南钟报》主编简永裕牧师、基督徒歌手饶燕婷及《十弦》专辑制作人之一的刘依凤担任评审团，个个都不是简单的人物。当晚，每首歌演绎后评审团即席进行评论，创作人可同时和会众及评审团进行交流。此外，听众可透过网上和现场透选心目中的最佳歌曲。

比赛中，四位评审都被年轻人对创作的热忱感动，简永裕牧师更曾经一度站立表示赞赏。饶燕婷姐妹当晚被马口堂许艾文姐妹深厚高亢的歌声深深吸引，《爱在人间》让她听得她如痴如醉，给予评语时还问她是否愿意在她的新专辑中合唱。刘依凤姐妹认为决赛的作品整体来看是蛮有水准的，只是在填词方面需要下更多功夫。也许是生命经历不多，影响了填词的深度与感染力。

由雪邦堂的施孝斌作曲琴娟填词的《我只想》也是当晚的佳作，分别赢得最佳作词奖和最佳歌曲第三名。另外，来自甲洞堂洪俐芬姐妹所演绎的《感谢赞美主》为她拿下了最佳作曲奖及最佳现场演绎奖。福建堂黄奕斌的《In Your Arms》则获得最佳歌曲第二名。

这次的诗歌创作比赛让喜欢创作的年轻弟兄姐妹有个交流的平台，有机会接触不同元素的音乐创作。此外，这也能激发年轻人创作更多歌曲，创作出马来西亚本土味的诗歌。年会青年团会长许惠程弟兄表示盼望能将这次总决赛的作品录制成专辑，推动卫理青年诗歌创作，更可以成为教会敬拜赞美的诗歌。

# New Bible reveals God's heart towards poverty and injustice

*A new Bible which connects Scriptures with some of the biggest issues of our day has been launched by Bible Society.*

by Anne Thomas

The Poverty and Justice Bible, the latest release from Bible Society, has broken new ground as the first ever to literally highlight the more than 2,000 passages that reveal God's sorrow over poverty and injustice, and His command to believers to act to eradicate them.

The new edition challenges the notion that the Bible is a dusty, outdated rulebook, and shows that God – through the Bible – was already speaking out on poverty long before anyone else.

The Rt Rev Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham and Bible Society's President, said, "Poverty and injustice are two of the biggest issues of our day, challenging the minds of politicians and social activists around the world.

"The imbalance of global wealth, famine, water shortages, exploitation and corruption are all issues that invoke outrage – and demand attention. But The Poverty and Justice Bible shows that, in speaking out on these issues, God got there first."

Far from being irrelevant, the Poverty

and Injustice Bible demonstrates that God's Word has "something to say about issues that resonate today", the bishop added.

"This Bible connects with the very fabric of today's world, with all its problems and messiness – and has something powerful to say," he said.

Bible Society was inspired to develop the new Bible after Pastor Rick Warren, of Purpose Driven fame, admitted that he had missed more than 2,000 verses that speak of God's heart for the poor despite studying theology and being a pastor for decades. He claimed that Christians risked losing their credibility if they failed to speak out against poverty and injustice.

Christian leader and commentator Tony Campolo added, "Here's proof that faith without commitment to justice for the poor is a sham, because it ignores the most explicit of all the social concerns of Scripture."

Bible Society staff and experts spent months debating and sifting through the Contemporary English Version (CEV) Bible to pull out the verses that say

something about God's attitude to poverty and justice. The result was more than 2,000 sections, with almost every page from Genesis to Revelation emphasising just and fair behaviour.

The organisation hopes that the Poverty and Justice Bible will also act as a springboard for Christians to take action on these issues by helping them link social action with Scripture.

The new Bible, produced with support from aid agency World Vision, includes a 32-page study guide written by bestselling authors Nick and Claire Page, and covering a wide range of timely issues from equality to education, farming to Fairtrade.

The studies highlight that concern for the oppressed is foundational to faith, and encourage action – from giving, to praying, to living responsibly.

Bible Society's Chief Executive James Catford said, "For us in this country, issues of poverty and justice have increasingly become front and centre. What this Bible shows is that on the topics that challenge us every day, God got there first. The Bible has something to say about life and, in fact, there's nothing on earth that we can experience that the Bible doesn't tackle.

"The Poverty and Justice Bible helps the Church engage with the Bible more effectively by linking Scripture with issues that are rooted in today's world. For Bible Society, this is just as important as our work to make the Bible available. It's all part of the fight against Bible poverty."

By Christian Today  
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# General Conference 2008

The Methodist Church in Malaysia  
15-20 September, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Preparations are underway for the 9th Session General Conference in September. According to Mr Tung Kam Seng, the GC Secretary, this gathering will have two events of note besides the usual business matters of the General Conference.

The first is the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the autonomy of the Methodist Church. In 1968 it became a separate General Conference from the United Methodist Church, USA, known then as the Methodist Church in Malaysia and Singapore.

The second is a series of four workshops that covers various aspects of the life of the Methodist Church. These are (i) Evangelism & Church Planting, (ii) Discipleship (Prayer, Bible Study, Holy Living, Small Groups, etc.), (iii) Church & Society, and (iv) Missions.

More information will be forthcoming. Let us uphold this gathering as Methodists discuss and decide on matters of importance and strategic to the growth of the Church and its fulfillment of the purposes of God.



GC Secretary Mr Tung Kam Seng

## Petitions To The 9th Session General Conference The Methodist Church In Malaysia

Petitions to the General Conference for the revision of any provision in The Book of Discipline of The Methodist Church in Malaysia 2004 (hereinafter referred to as the "Methodist Discipline") may be made by any organization, minister or lay member of the Methodist Church in accordance with Para. 507 of the Methodist Discipline.

The Petition Forms are available at all Annual Conference head offices or from the Methodist Headquarters at No. 69, Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya. (Email: [gc@methodistchurch.org.my](mailto:gc@methodistchurch.org.my)).

Each petition should make reference to the specific provision in the Methodist Discipline 2004. All petitions should be submitted in triplicate not later than July 16, 2008, to:

**The General Conference Secretary**  
Methodist Headquarters  
69, Jalan 5/31  
46000 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

### **EXTRACT OF PARA. 507 OF METHODIST DISCIPLINE**

#### **Petitions to General Conference:**

*Any organization, minister, or lay member of The Methodist Church may petition The General Conference by sending to the secretary a signed petition addressed to the members of the General Conference stating the local church of which each petitioner is a member. Each petition shall meet the following requirements:*

*Three copies of it should be supplied to the General Conference secretary in time*

*to be received by him not later than sixty days before the opening day of the General Conference session, except that the sixty day rule shall not apply to the case of Annual Conferences which meet less than sixty days prior to the opening day of the General Conference.*

*It should deal with only one subject and should propose revisions within only one chapter of the Discipline.*

*If it is one of a series each petition should be written on a separate sheet.*

*All petitions received in time shall be processed by the secretary in order that they may be received by the appropriate legislative committees at their first meeting.*

# Majlis Gereja-Gereja Malaysia Council Of Churches Of Malaysia

## Press Statement

# Confiscation Of English Bibles In Malaysia

It has been brought to our attention that a Malaysian Christian has suffered much spiritual anguish and indignation as she had her English Bibles confiscated by the Custom Officers at the airport (LCCT) recently, when she returned from a visit to Manila, Philippines.

The Custom Officer had insisted that the English Bibles had to be sent to the Internal Security Ministry's Control Division of Publications and Al-Quran Texts (Bahagian Kawalan Penerbitan dan Teks Al-Quran), for clearance.

The Council of Churches is flabbergasted that such acts are happening in our country with such frequency and impunity.

We want to state categorically that the Bible is Holy Scripture for Christians. No authority on earth should deny Christians the right to possess, read and travel with their Bibles.

The Council of Churches calls for the immediate release of the Bibles with an official apology by the Custom Department of Malaysia.

We call upon the Prime Minister, who is also the Internal Security Minister to make a clear and unequivocal statement to assure Christians in the country that they will not be subject to such harassment and that their holy books will not be subject to the scrutiny of the Control Division of Publications and Al-Quran Texts of the Internal Security Ministry.

For a country that has celebrated, cultivated and sustained fifty years of religious freedom and harmonious living between all faith communities, this latest episode is another example of how the unilateral actions of certain government agencies are undermining the government's stated claims of protecting religious freedom in the country.

Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri,  
General Secretary, CCM  
4 February 2008.

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10 - 12 Apr	KB Mall, Kota Bahru
01 - 04 May	Sarawak Tourism Complex, Kuching

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Organized by World Vision Malaysia, this experiential exhibit will be held at several venues, as listed below.

- 05-08 Mar** Main Foyer, Monash University, Petaling Jaya (9am – 7pm).  
**15-16 Mar** NAPEI 23rd Malaysian Education Fair, Mid Valley Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur.  
**10-12 Apr** KB Mall, Kota Bahru.  
**01-04 May** Sarawak Tourism Complex, Kuching.

**Admission is free.** For further see their website: [www.worldvision.com.my](http://www.worldvision.com.my)

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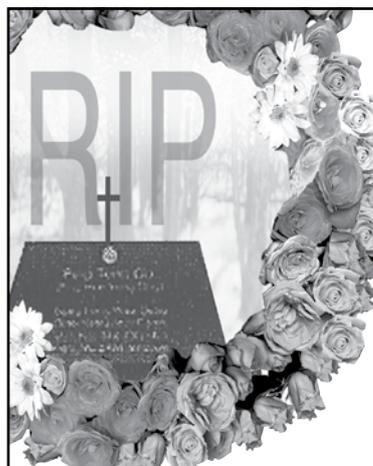
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 Tel: 06-6322815 Fax: 06-6329766 Email: denise@stm.edu.my (F&P Coordinator) Website: www.stm.edu.my

# Prayer Retreat for Methodist Pastors' Wives

Date: 18-21 August 2008

The theme of this retreat is "Friendship with God," and will be facilitated by Dr. Lee Bee Teik. The purpose is to "come at the invitation of our Lord Jesus recorded in Mark 6:31, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and take some rest.'"

- **Venue:** Clear Water Sanctuary, Batu Gajah, Perak.
- **Registration Fee** : RM50.00.  
Food and Accomodation are fully sponsored.
- **For more information contact** : Mrs Dorcas Ong – 012-4193727.
- **For registration contact** : Mrs Lai Lay Ean – 012-5567048.
- **All correspondence directed to** : Mrs Dorcas Ong  
Organizing Secretariat  
c/o Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh  
121 Jalan Lahat, 30200 Ipoh, Perak.  
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## Celebrating God's Word at Work in Malaysia

This Malaysian Scriptures Exhibition will be held at Bible House at No 2 Jalan SS 20/10 Damansara Kim 47400 Petaling Jaya until the end of the year.

Visitors will be able to see various Bibles and Scripture portions in Malaysian languages including 19th century Malay, as well as indigenous languages such as Sengoi, Dusun, Murut, Iban, Penan, Kenya and more.

Visitors will also learn about the origin of the Alkitab Berita Baik, the Bible in Bahasa Malaysia.

The Exhibition is open to visitors during our usual operating hours

**Monday – Thursday** : 9.00am - 5.30pm  
**Friday** : 9.00am - 4.30pm  
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