

PELITA METHODIST

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Prayer

n. A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God (Oxford Dictionary)

BY MICHAEL WILLIAM



Moment



New Website Launched

This is the new interactive website for the Methodist Youth. It has been in the planning stage for well over 4 months and in God's grace, it has finally been launched. This is a youth website, well, at least we hope it to be! But before we get carried away and think this is one of many teenage websites, let me inform you that the Methodists consider young people from the ages of 15 to 40 as youth members. So actually, this website is for more than 60 percent of church members. We plan to allow for discussions, queries and challenges through the blog and forum. We hope that

all of our readers would take the opportunity to interact and share their thoughts and ideas. Don't be afraid to tell it as it is and, be bold to welcome feedback. The forum is divided into 4 categories: Deepening Inside (A Quest for Spiritual Formation) - we hope that we can inform, ask, and shape each other in the area of spiritual formation; Deepening Faith (A Quest for Answering the Tough Questions of Life) - here we hope that answers can be given for the deep questions of our faith; Deepening Presence (A Quest to be Current and Aware of Issues facing Youth) -

we are in the midst of turbulent times in our world and country. How do we make sense of these situations? How do we find comfort and solace?; Deepening Bonds (A Quest for Friendship and Fellowship) - here we just chill out together and get to know one another! We hope to build the bond of friendships across the conferences and youth groups and grow in love for each other. This is our hope - that we grow ourselves as youths of today with the hope that God will see us fit to be used for His glory and works. [Adapted from blogpost in www.methodistyouth.org.my]

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By Michael William

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CCM Youth issued a press release expressing concern over the erroneous interpretations, attributing Valentine's Day to Christian teachings and values

Malaysia National Prayer Network

Church (Walk in distinctiveness as God's new humanity)
"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building (1 Co 3:5-9, TNIV)

Pray for believers to

| Love God.
| Be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and having the same mind.
| Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility value others above ourselves.



For our brothers and sisters who are being marginalised / facing injustice

| Asia Bibi, the Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death on blasphemy charges.

1MALAYSIA

"Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be on you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery." (2 Ch 19:6-7, TNIV).

Continue to Pray

| For God's kingdom to come, that God's will may be done on earth as in heaven, in the establishment of justice, the stewardship and care of creation, and the blessing of God's peace in our communities.
| For justice for the forest dwellers in Sabah.

Inbox

A Christmas Message

With reference to the December 2010 issue on the Ten Commandments, we know it was from Moses of the Holy Bible. In the article "A Christmas Message", the Ten Commandments for celebrating Christmas was misleading. In my opinion, the "Ten Commandments" is sacred.

Victor Chong
KEPONG WMC, TRAC

Treasure in Clay Jars

Your revamped first edition of Pelita Methodist was hilarious! I

was entertained right from the cover: "...what are they waiting?" Indeed what? Fun sentences greeted me from almost every page, brightening up my dull dreary day [that short write up on Youth Quake saw me quaking with laughter!]. Yet I suspect that Pelita Methodist is not put out to entertain? Besides, those fussy old men and women who inhabit our churches may not be amused, having been brought up on right grammar and right sentence structure and whatnots. So may I humbly suggest that Pelita Methodist gets an able proof reader?

[Signature]
A READER

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The Methodist Church In Malaysia



CAC Website Redesigned

The official webpage for the Chinese Annual Conference has been redesigned. It now contains new columns, such as Historical Pathway (archives, history of Methodism in Malaysia), President's Page, Ministries, Southern Bell, and more. The home page shows programme highlights and the President's schedule and upcoming programmes. The new feature in the Southern Bell page allows online reading using any mobile device. Log on to the website: <http://www.methodist.org.my/>



SCAC Knowing Ministries Better Through Games

A retreat for the staff from SCAC was held on 22 February, 2011 in Sibu. About 100 staff from every department, district and local church attended the retreat, aimed at establishing better communication among the staff and to publicise the various ministries of the departments and districts. There were interactive games that allowed participants to understand the ministries better. President Rev. Dato' Dr. Su Chii Ann spoke about the attitude one should have in working in the church. He said that it is God's grace that allows us to work for God. He said we should serve with a loving, honest attitude and be teachable.

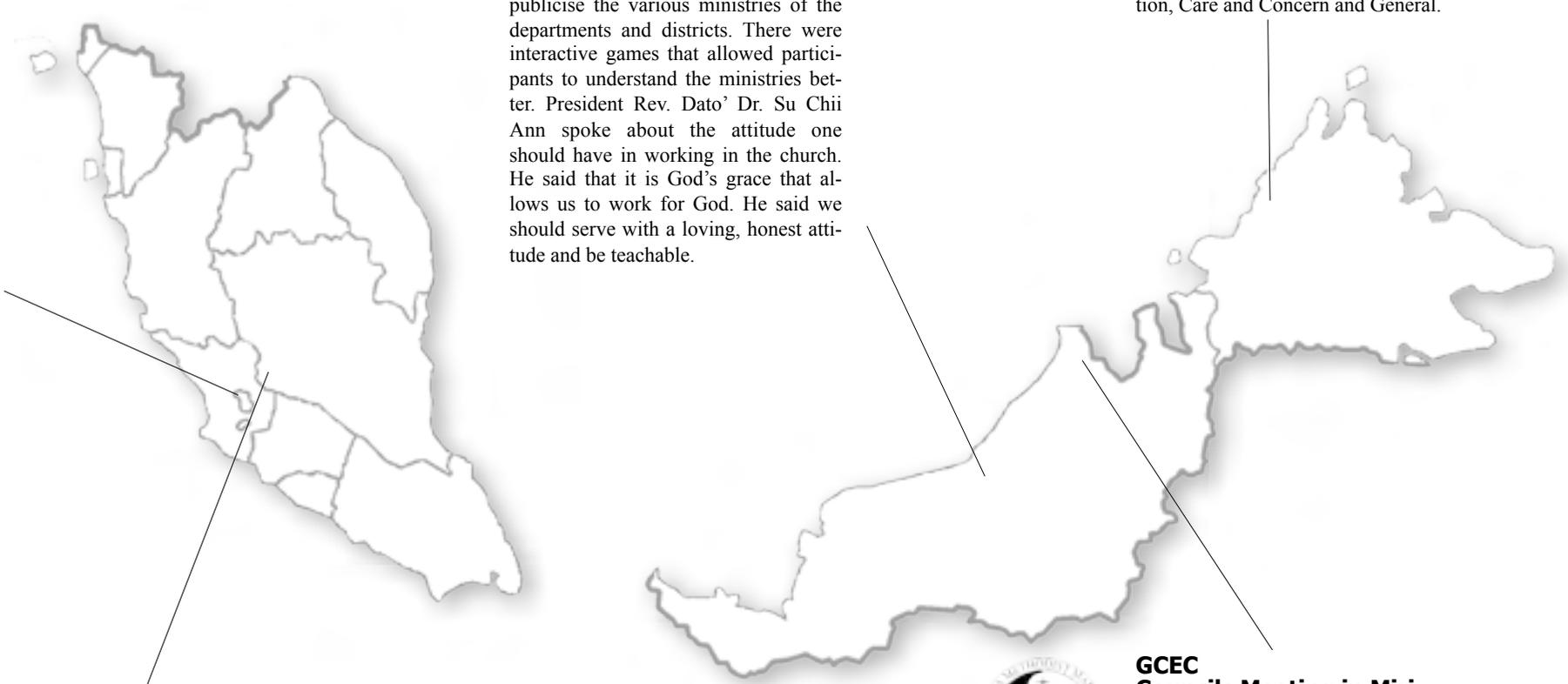


SPAC Sabah Shern En Methodist Church Seniors Fellowship

The fellowship was established on 7 October, 2010. Newly elected members attended the inauguration and orientation evening on 6 January, 2011. The eight positions included: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Programmer, Devotion, Care and Concern and General.

Annual Conferences of the Methodist Church in Malaysia

- CAC - Chinese Annual Conference
- SCAC - Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference
- SIAC - Sarawak Iban Annual Conference
- SPAC - Sabah Provisional Annual Conference
- TAC - Tamil Annual Conference
- TRAC - Trinity Annual Conference
- SMC - Sengoi Mission Conference



TRAC Knowing God Knowing Self

TRAC is organising a series of retreats throughout 2011. In February, an introduction to Contemplative Prayer Retreat was held in Chefoo Methodist Centre, Cameron Highlands. This was designed especially for beginners and those new to the spiritual rhythm of retreat and prayer. During the weekend, participants were gently guided (with teaching and reflection) in the experience of listening to God.



GCEC Councils Meeting in Miri

The Council of Presidents and The General Conference Executive Council (GCEC) met in Miri from 17-19 February 2011. The GCEC meets twice a year to discuss all matters regarding the Methodist Church in Malaysia. The Methodist Youth website was launched at this meeting.



Fallen Star

Armando Chin Yong, a well known Christian tenor soloist from Bahau, Negeri Sembilan died unexpectedly from a heart attack on 2 February 2011, aged 52. His talented vocals had won him numerous grand prizes in Europe. After his return from the West, he had remained active in performing at concerts, oratorio and opera performances, in the Asian region. His memorial service was held in Nilai Memorial Centre, Kuala Lumpur on 10 February 2011. Major press and media reported the great loss of our nation's pride.



SPREADING SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS,
TRANSFORMING THE NATION

Council of Education Good to Great: the Heart of the Teacher

An upcoming event for all private Methodist school teachers is the Wesley Methodist Schools Teachers' Conference 2011 which was held on 11-13 March, 2011. The conference will be held at Bukit Gambang City Resort, Kuantan, Pahang. Ms. Hee Piang Chin, Greenleaf Centre for Servant Leadership (Asia), Singapore is the main speaker at the conference. The themes: Good to Great: the Heart of the Teacher. Workshops include Olympism, Character Building, and Environmental Education. There will also be a chapel session based on the Wesley Methodist Schools' motto: Above and Beyond. As private Methodist Schools have been renamed Wesley Methodist Schools, this conference hopes to inspire teachers to be the best they can be.

Methodist Youth Fellowship Malaysia (Persaudaraan Belia Methodist Malaysia)

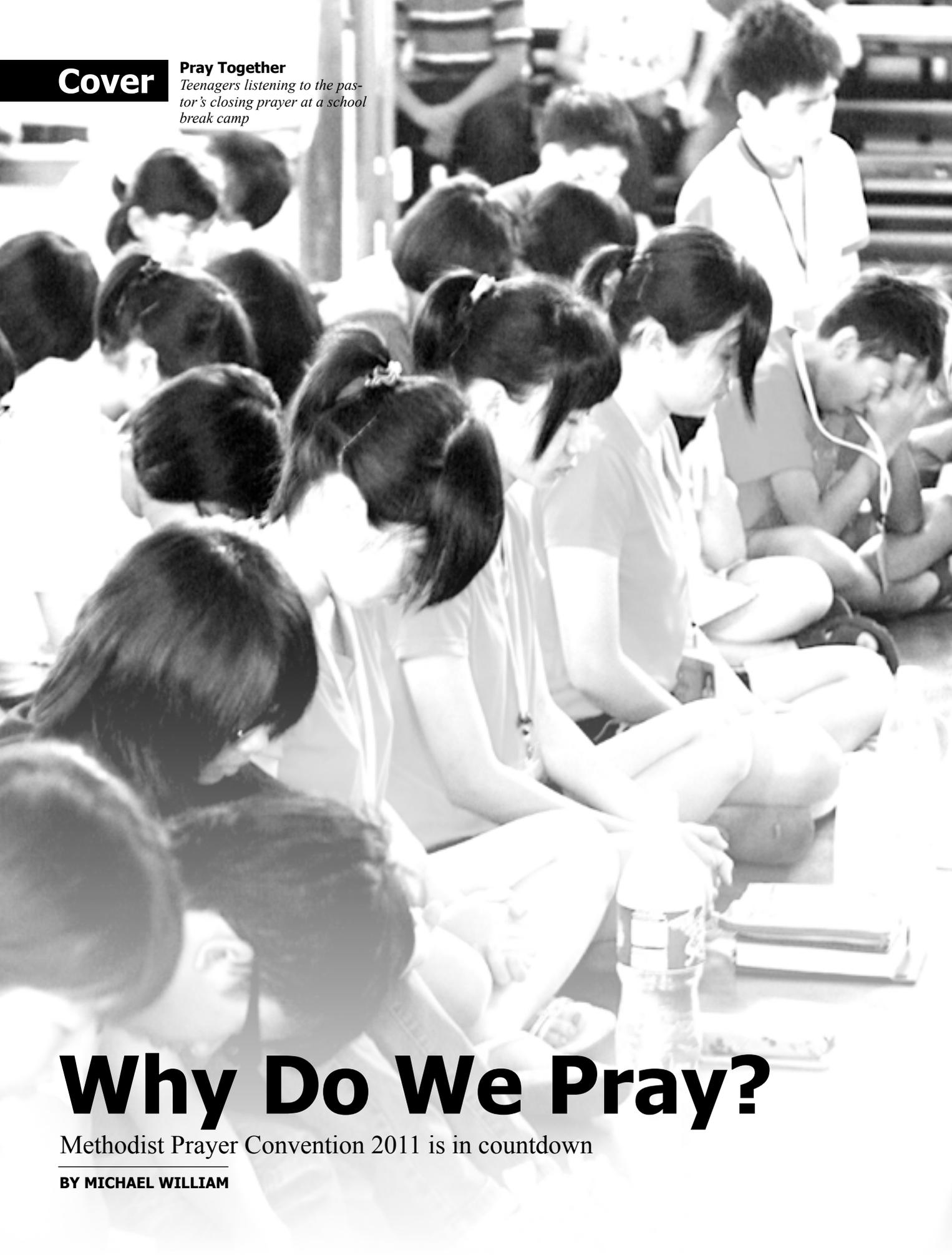


Singing New Songs

Twelve songs were chosen in the first round of auditions for the Song Composition Competition 2011. Results were announced on 26 February 2011 through Facebook and the CAC MYF's website. The chosen songs will be voted on for the People's Choice Award. Finals will be held in Kajang Chinese Methodist Church on 26 March 2011. There are 20 Chinese Methodist churches that participated in this competition and 32 songs were submitted. Two of the songs originated from Sarawak churches.

Pray Together

Teenagers listening to the pastor's closing prayer at a school break camp



Why Do We Pray?

Methodist Prayer Convention 2011 is in countdown

BY MICHAEL WILLIAM

The Methodist Church in Malaysia is gearing up for the Methodist Prayer Convention (MPC). Everyone is excited about it as it will be a time when Methodists from all over Malaysia will congregate in Sibul to pray. In conjunction with the MPC, in this issue of Pelita Methodist, we will be highlighting interviews with people who have made an impact in the church and society through prayer. Hopefully, this will stir our hearts to pray.



Rev. Ann Low
National Prayer Facilitator,
Malaysia National Prayer Network

The Malaysia National Prayer Network (MNP) has set up a network of prayer. We are mobilising believers to pray especially for our churches and the nation; and to pray daily at noon (12 o'clock). The prayer vision is we pray that The Church of Malaysia will be united and prayerful, that there will be disciple-making and then our nation will be transformed to be a land of liberty, justice, love and godly rest.

MNP has a website (www.prayer.net.my) where we post current prayer requests for the Church, nation and also global issues. We send them out twice a month to all the different networks, churches and individuals. MNP organises prayer convocations in partnership with the local churches - the recent one being in Sibul, and later this year in Melaka. We also travel to different towns to conduct prayer seminars. Children are also included. The feedback and outcome has been very encouraging. We are also affiliated to the Southeast Asia Prayer Council (SEAPC) which was established in 2003 and where the 11 nations pray regularly for each

other. We have seen the Lord raise and strengthen prayer networks and we give Him the glory. There is an annual prayer consultation and this year it will be at Subic Bay, Philippines. More information can be obtained at www.seapc.info.

Prayer is all about God. Prayer means talking to God, spending time with Him, learning to hear and recognise His voice, learning His ways and getting to know Him better. When I say I love Him, then I will find time to talk to Him. He is always the One who initiates a relationship with us. There are many Bible verses that encourage us to pray and one of my favourites is Jeremiah 33:3.

When we pray, we are totally dependant on God who alone is All Knowing and All Powerful. He knows best what is needful for us, our families, churches and our nation. When we don't pray, we are saying, "hey, we don't need God and we can do it on our own". In prayer, the Lord changes our hearts and attitudes towards the people and situations that we are praying for.

We do not just stir the people to pray but we teach them as well. Like the parable of the sower, a life of prayer needs to be cultivated in good soil to bear fruit. For example, after a prayer conference, we will be 'on fire' to pray but after a while, we get distracted with the cares of this world. We then use the time for other seemingly good activities in place of prayer. As a result, the 'fire' dies down and we don't pray as much as we want.

Prayer needs to be taught and 'caught'. Get into prayer groups, pray with people who love to pray, who have a heart for God and for the lost.

We also teach from the Bible which has so many examples of men and women who prayed so that we can be inspired by the results. We can learn a lot from Paul's exemplary life of prayer for the different churches. Our Lord Jesus also spent much time in communing with His Father. I believe this is the key in prayer: "enjoying communion with our Father, like Jesus".

Be consistent, be disciplined, enjoy your prayer times and, if you are prayer leader, you need to feed information to your members. Information sustains intercession. People are motivated by answered prayers. At MNP we are also learning to be faithful in reporting answered prayers and also God's amazing work among the different prayer groups in our nation. The latest issue of our newsletter has these details.

Personally, I want to give the glory to the Lord. I have been a believer since 1983 and have served in full-time ministry since

1991. I treasure what the Lord is making out of my life as I serve Him. He has always given me His grace through difficult and discouraging times, and His joy when there are victories to celebrate!

He teaches me to spend time with Him, to love and obey Him and to step out in faith and courage for His work. He has given me a family who supports me, lots of friends who are my faithful and trusted prayer partners, and ministry leaders who are there to counsel and pray for me.

As I grow daily, I have begun to realise that He is my treasure! Prayer is all about Him! Is He your treasure? Get into your prayer closet and find your Treasure!



Rev. Teoh Huan Seong
Pastor, Pandan Indah Methodist Church,
Chinese Annual Conference

Prayer is the pipeline for us to get close to God. It is to fellowship, communicate, cry out to the Lord.

When the church is facing difficulties, prayer leads us into resolutions. Through prayer, we strive forward with strength and faith.

During a mission trip to Northern Thailand, we experienced God through prayer. Prayer was the source of our strength, the capability to overcome Satan's power. Prayer was our spiritual weapon, as we were fighting against the works of the evil one in the village that we visited. When I was baptising a few black magic priests, they were trembling and their hands were shaking when they were confessing Jesus as their personal Saviour. I could feel the strength of the evil spirit that possessed their bodies. I placed my hand on one of

the priest's head. He struggled and made weird noises. His body was resisting accepting Christ. I prayed earnestly in the name of Jesus. He started to calm down, and I baptised him! I had done nothing but prayed and the Almighty overcame the darkness. God heard our prayer and He responded.

Prayer is spiritual breathing. There's no spiritual life without prayer. It is so important and I believe that nothing can be done without it. We need more preaching about the importance of prayer. Church members should be encouraged to pray more and to attend prayer meetings frequently.

So, let us pray unceasingly. It's the principle from Paul in the Bible. Though God may not respond immediately, we should wait patiently, be committed to Him, and experience Him in wonderful ways.



Dr Chan Geok Onn,

Founder of Lighthouse Watchmen Prayer Network (LWPN)

You can talk to God through worship and adoration - tell Him how much you love Him. You can meditate on His goodness, greatness, attributes and character and just express all what you feel to Him.

When you realise that it is in the heart of God that all men should be saved, or should come to repentance, then you would want to pray for the lost and for those who are not saved. Ask God to be merciful, that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction and repentance and acceptance of the Lord into their lives. In addition, you can pray that they will walk according to His teachings so that their lives will be transformed, and will be blessed by God.

Salvation is more than just saving the soul, for it also involves the mind, body and spirit - making it whole. It is the process of continuing to be saved and being transformed by God after the person has made the decision to accept Christ and to be more Christ-like. The Bible says: "...be holy, because I AM holy" - we have to reflect God as we are the children of God. And by His grace, we will be renewed in the inner man by His Holy Spirit and power.

Prayer is also petition or intercession - standing in the gap on behalf of others and pleading for them. We plead on behalf of that person, for God to heal or for God to come into the person's life. Praying for others is like being the priests in the Old Testament; they offered sacrifices and animals as a substitute for the people's sins. In the New Testament, there is no more need for the offering of sacrifices, but instead, the Bible teaches us the sacrifices of praise and worship. In the New Testament, we are all priests - the royal priesthood. So, everyone is like a priest, standing on behalf of others, before God.

If prayer doesn't work, I won't be praying! There will be no point in doing it [praying], if it's just an exercise. Prayer is trust in God that he works in powerful ways. We are praying to God who is faithful, compassionate, loving and forgiving. He wants to intervene in the lives of His people, to see improvement and blessings. And because He is faithful, He will keep His promises that he has given us - we just have to ask according to His will. Therefore, the faith involved in praying is believing that what we ask God, He will give. God wants to see the cities and the nations turn to Him, trust Him, and depend on Him for blessing and protection. We need to look to Him for mercy, for his shield of protection, for His blessings to transform our nation especially in these times when there are so many calamities all over the world. God has a plan for every nation to fulfil His kingdom's purposes. The demonic forces try to overrun God's kingdom, trying to battle for the souls and minds of men. Thus, it is up to the church, His body, to do what God wants the body to do. The devil will have his way if the body (Christians) is slumbering or not even aware what the kingdom of darkness is doing, and does not pray. If the people stand in between God and the nations, God will intervene in ways beyond our imagination or understanding - He is so powerful!

We cannot slumber in this time of awakening and shaking all over the world -

there are economic downturns, famine, food shortage, and people in many countries are dying from starvation. Therefore, we need to pray continuously and with perseverance. Pray for these bad situations to be turned into good - evil can be turned to good by the power of God. A wicked city can be saved if there are people praying - Abraham prayed for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God is willing to hear and change His mind in destroying a city, if there are intercessors standing in the gap.

And, we pray in faith. All things are possible with God. We can change, transform individuals, communities, cities and nations through God. Take the example of the Barrio revival among the Kelabit in Sarawak. In the revival, the powerful hand

'If prayer doesn't work, I won't be praying! There will be no point in doing it'
by Dr. Chan Geok Onn

of God transformed the society so that they are now advanced and educated indigenous people in Sarawak. Jeremiah 29:7 says: "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." God expected the Israelites to pray for the cities they were exiled in. We have the responsibility to pray for the places we stay in. God has placed us in different places and we should pray against corruption, against murder and wickedness in that place. If we do not pray for our *taman* (community/neighbourhood), who else will do it? We are the ones who know best the problems of the place we stay in. God places us there so that we can pray, and that place can be transformed. With prayer, we can claim back what the devil has taken.

Finally, if you don't pray, it means you are in control of your own life and not God. You are living independently of God; living with an individual spirit. But the truth of the matter is that our lives are in God's hands!

Features

Council of Education

Opening Ceremony

Beating the gong indicates beginning of the conference.



About 250 people from 25 countries descended on Kuching, Sarawak on 24 July 2010 for a week-long conference. They were the Girls' Brigade delegates and Touring Party from the five Regional Fellowships of Europe, Africa, Caribbean & Americas, Pacific and Asia. For the first time, Girls' Brigade Malaysia was given this privilege to host a gathering of this size which is held once in four years, bringing the International GB family together. Since 1967, when the three girls' organisations, Girls' Brigade of Ireland, Girls' Life Brigade of England and Girls' Guildry of Scotland, were amalgamated to form THE GIRLS' BRIGADE, this International Conference of the Girls' Brigade (ICGB) has been held in the Cayman Islands, New Zealand, Singapore, Cook Islands, Dublin, Brisbane, Bangkok, Belfast and, in 2010, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. International President, Mrs Ruth Chikasa of Zambia, and her President's Committee were the first to arrive for a very full programme. She wrote in the programme booklet, "For the next ten days, our duty and focus will be to seek the voice of God and listen to one another on how we can be vessels that will facilitate the aspirations of young people and indeed the girls who love GB so dearly. This time is special for all of us because we sharpen, encourage and share ideas on how to best serve the girls and women in our care. Our belief as leaders is that every girl has great potential and our desire is to tap, harness and direct that potential in a positive way. So as we engage with each other in our worship, business meetings, workshops and social interactions, I urge you to be

PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY TAY CHOON NEO

open minded so as to allow the Spirit of God to help us Cross over and Move on to greater commitment, blessings in Christ.

Mrs Sally Chew, Chairman of Asia Fellowship wrote: "As I pondered over the Theme for ICGB "Cross Over...Move on", I can't help but think of how long ago the first group of Anglican missionaries, by faith, did the first cross over from England to Kuching, Borneo on the invitation of Rajah James Brooke, and started their missionary work at a house near the waterfront where we will be spending a week together."

"...It reminded me of how much we need to daily hear the voice of God and choose to respond in obedient faith and do many cross overs from the familiar to the unfamiliar, from the convenient to the inconvenient, from the safe place and stable patterns of GB ministry to the new, untrodden paths and platforms of ministry and to unfamiliar and unknown places to minister if we want to move on in our journey with God."

"I believe it is no coincidence that this season, this time in the history of GB International, we are called out from many nations as a family as if to "sit on the bench again", to come away and to reflect and to gather together in Kuching, Borneo, the land of the "Headhunters", to be reminded of our first call to be headhunters of a different kind - to help girls find true enrichment in life."

Packed Programme

TRAC President, Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik, who is the GB Malaysia National Chaplain, inspired the delegates daily by bring-

A Time to Cross Over & Move On

The International Conference of The Girls' Brigade or ICGB 2010

BY TAY CHOON NEO

ing God's Word based on the conference theme "Cross Over Move On".

There were workshops: 1. Seek Serve and Follow Christ; 2. Lead like Jesus; 3. Leading and Managing Change; 4. Engaging Youth through GB programmes; 5. HABITUDES; and 6. Sarawak Handicraft and Cultural Dance. There were also worship sessions, fellowship reports, fun, cultural programmes and games, outings and, of course, the GB Business Sessions. What a tremendous experience for GB Malaysia to host an event like this. It took more than two years and plenty of sweat, tears and prayers to accomplish this feat. Indeed, the organising committee was humbled by God's grace and providence for this fantastic experience in which He reigned supreme. Malaysia was given another honour when the National President, Ms Tnay Yong Hua was elected Chairperson of the Asia Fellowship and, National Secretary, Ms Kathryn Tan, the Asia Fellowship Secretary. This makes Ms Tnay the International Vice President (Asia) in the International President's Committee. Interesting times lay ahead for GB Malaysia with the new Brigade Vision Statement: "Girls' Lives Transformed; God's World Enriched".

New challenges face us as we make decisions and act on the future of our mission. We must MOVE ON to be in the place He wants us to be and so receive the blessings that He has in store for us. There is much work to do in the GB ministry: with the churches and in the schools. But we are not alone, we have the International GB family with us and more importantly, God is with us, Emmanuel!

从甘盘面到云吞面

东马团契要做道成肉身的教会

履星 报导

始于一个单纯的动机，把来自东马的游子聚在一块，并筑一座“坛”一起来敬拜上帝；25年后，这座原来卑微的“团契”逐渐壮大，成为一个服侍人、建立人、祝福人的“教会”。（东马团契于1991年正月正式升为“沐恩堂”）

起初，这卑微的坛居无定所，历经9次搬迁后，终于进入今天所站的迦南地（Setapak, Kuala Lumpur）。

起初，这个团契人力财力均拮据，接待的服侍简单经济地做。25年来，他们经历耶和華以勒丰富富的供应和同在，这教会今天拥有了自己的产业，一栋五层楼的建筑物，接待的服侍做得更宽裕了。起初，纯粹接待服侍自东马前往西马去念书/工作/就医的同乡人的团契，后来，他们不止于想念家乡的kampung（干拌面），学会融入当地云吞面的文化，发现了神把他们带到这迦南地的责任，新的使命于是衍生。他们穿着一致的红衫，尝试透过社区服务服侍和祝福当地人。于是上帝拓宽了他们的心胸，扩张了他们的境界。（现任会友领袖俞凤仙姐妹侃侃道来，双眼随着油然泛红，感恩感动的泪水在眼眶中流窜，她仍因耶和華神的大恩和生命与事工的拓展而深深被触动……）

起初，带头的黄敬全弟兄满腔热血、不辞劳苦地骑着借来的电单车，四处寻访跟他们一样的“沦落人”。就这样，从几个讲福州话的东马人，渐而增长成为大家庭。虽然有些学成的学子选择衣锦还乡，也有的或为工作或为使命选择留下来，继续经营这个东马人的家，并加以发扬光大。今天，这个东马人的家，也欢迎西马人的加入，大小约有400人，其中他们的下一代就约有60人之强。而且参与祷告会的人数平均有100人左右，占崇拜人数

1/3。这相信是该教会充满生命力的动力之一。25年前，几个乳臭未干的东马人，没想过为神来梦想或做大事。他们跟着神的脚步，随着团契的步伐，也一起成长成熟。今天，他们当中，如：俞凤仙、黄世成、魏茂发等人，都成了这教会的属灵领袖，秉持着最初的使命、兼容着新的使命继续与神同工，同时传承着这二大使命给新生代，那些新进的学弟妹和他们的下一代。

第一任主理的感恩

东马团契于1991年升为堂会，并取名为“沐恩堂”，一直到1997年才得派司第一位主理牧师。虽然该堂于1996年归入西马华人年议会，第一任主理却由东马砂拉越华人年议会委任徐孝彰牧师前往做全时间的牧养工作。徐牧师在接受本报采访时表示，由于只有一年的时间与他们在一起，所以他也在摸索和认识他们的阶段。最主要的工作使命便是陪伴这群青年人做好接待的服侍，同时关心另三个分团（焦赖、梳邦和PJ）。就好比亚伯兰离开吾珥来到迦南美地，又从亚伯兰改名为亚伯拉罕，成为多国之父，徐牧师由衷的感恩看到东马团契25年的恩典之路，由两周一次的团契升为堂会，同时易名为沐恩堂，而且也找到了他们更大的使命、未来的路——社区关怀服务，成为道成肉身的教会，这些都意味着这群东马人要在一片迦南地（西马）成为当地以及多国的祝福。另外，徐牧师也称赞当年这班青年人的干劲和成熟，虽然他们可说是最年轻的执事。他说，不要小看他们年轻，他们同样可以当家。



西马人牧师Vs东马年轻人

刘长武牧师是继徐孝彰牧师于1998年接下牧养的棒子，不一样的是这下是由西马华人年议会委派。越洋电话访问了刘牧师，问他牧养这一批又一批的东马年轻人可有文化上的难处，他说大致上差异不大，不过其中一个挑战便是当福州人一聚首便福州话漫天飞时，有时挺难融入他们。然而，又是这一份奇特的乡情吸引了许多游子。于是，刘牧师只好鼓励大家说大家的语言。对他来说，更大的挑战是流动性。15年前东马团契仍纯粹是由学生组成，而且一批批毕业生几乎全部挥挥衣袖还乡去。直到10年前才有20%左右的毕业生或因工作或结婚生子而留下来。5年前便约有5成的毕业生选择在西马发展甚至落地生根，有些父母也跟着“移民”过来，这才使这个“团契”的人口产生结构性的变化（三代同堂），这也促使刘牧师不得不转变牧养方式，

共沐神恩

刘长武牧师与沐恩堂的弟兄姐妹在庆典中合照。

认为该教会充满潜能，因为这班精英分子谦卑服侍，且准备好走入社区。他确信全体动员起来时，他们可以为神做好大的事。其次，在吉隆坡这大城市有很多的机会，毕竟这里的基督徒比例很小。因此他希望透过与社区内其他教会联手来拓展神的国度。刘牧师最大的期待还是这一批批的年轻人，或回乡或留在当地，都能将所领受的分享出去，成为他人的祝福。

东马团契走灵恩了吗？

针对这样的说法和一些父母的担忧，曾在东马团契初期阶段经历爱与成长、今已身为母秀玲姐妹表示，只有这家教会的教导仍然建基于圣经，她仍会希望她的孩子能在东马团契中接受栽培和持续在爱和真理上成长。同时期的德赐弟兄也表示他仍放心把他的孩子交给东马团契，毕竟这团契拥有着独特的东马背景和特色，了解东马人的需要，是孩子在外归属和安全。现任会友领袖俞凤仙指出，如果说方言、医治祷告是灵恩的话，她坦言这也是沐恩堂的其中一环，而且带给许多有需要的弟兄姐妹关键性的助益。同时该堂也同样看重佈道、栽培和服侍。而且，“我们追求的是耶和華神自己，不是宗派，”凤仙强调。执事黄世成补充说，该堂主要在祷告会时会提供医治祷告的服侍，至于说方言只有少部分的弟兄姐妹领受这个恩赐。

东马团契盛大银禧庆典在诗巫

其实，东马团契于2010年就25岁了，并于2010年八月掀开感恩庆

典。先是8月28日假吉隆坡中华小学礼堂举行感恩晚宴，29-31日假Port Dickson Tiara Beach Resort举办“跨越Y25”退修会。2011年2月5日（农历年初三）傍晚东渡回到诗巫的晶木酒店举行盛大的银禧感恩庆典。当晚席开约120桌，特别邀请东马之子或沐恩之子的家人共同来欢庆和见证他们的孩子的成长。座上宾还包括有诗巫南兰区国会议员张泰卿、诗巫区国会议员黄和联及诗巫市议会署理主席严建安等。庆典以充满欢庆的崇拜于六时登场，随之是感恩晚宴。

参与呈献的包括老契友、中生代，和他们的下一代，可说三代同堂。呈献的项目有充满活力动感的迷彩装迎宾舞、预备人心的敬拜赞美、牧养他们逾12年的刘长武牧师述说25年来的恩典之路、能写能唱的老契友的见证、十弦的诗歌重温、儿童的唱游等。当然，他们更向那些从一开始便一直支持、扶持他们的前辈表达满满的谢意，尤其是陆清华牧师。

在这银禧崇拜中，砂拉越华人年议会会长苏慈安牧师受邀分享信息。苏牧师宣称教会的圣工乃100%上帝的工作，同时也是100%人的工作，那是上帝藉着人去工作。因此，他肯定这25年来一批又一批的弟兄姐妹们100%的付出。同时他也勉励大家：敬拜真神必恭必敬，依靠救主以信以诚；服务教会群策群力，广传福音全心全意；关怀社会尽力尽责，作主精兵越战越勇。

“献上感恩·收割丰盛”是该堂迈入另一个10年命定旅程的主题，也是此次感恩庆典的主题。当晚的庆典让出席者在一波又一波的感恩情节中也沐浴在耶和華神的奇妙作为和恩典中而不知不觉地来到尾声，时已近10时了。

Living

And Jesus answered him saying, “It is written that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Luke 4:4)

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A Parent's Heart. Our rich young men are leaving parents and churches

BY CHRISTINA TIONG

The message is clear that we are the work of the One who is shaping and moulding us in the way that pleases Him. The parable of the rich young man in Jesus' story (treasure in clay jars) may also include all those whose hearts are young, those who have achieved much and seemingly lack nothing, both material and spiritually. Many of us have been Christians for a long while since our youth but have not been very precious clay jars for the Lord. We have indifferent attitudes towards the community and society at large, we are narrow minded and may lack vision. Even while

having a vision, we lack the faith and trust to believe in changes and in the transformation desired by God. We either don't fight or fight losing battles. Sometimes, we just surrender and give in to the wiles and temptations of the devil.

The Chinese have a saying that goes: “If you can endure the hardest of hardships, then you can be considered a man above all men”. Our young people today may seem rich in many aspects - good education, good connections through the Internet and mobile phones - but many hearts are empty and meaningless. They face challenges and competition among siblings, peers, classmates and acquaintances. Bullies and as-

saults seem to be on the rise among young people and every corporation, both private and the Government, is seeking to find ways and means to reduce and eliminate this trend.

Can the church provide a way out and assist them to overcome these pressures and assaults from all corners of their surrounding environment? Why do the pressures of work draw some away from going back to church where they were previously leaders and well versed with Scripture? They were also the ones who attended Sunday Schools and participated in youth programmes, leadership training and so on.

First, we have failed to live as role mod-



els for our young ones in our own spiritual growth, lifestyles and imitation of Christ in our Christian walk. Are we faithful in our faith in God, and a real doer of God's words? Do our lives manifest the power of Him who lives in us in things that we do and say?

Secondly, maybe the treasure our young people seek is not from God's kingdom but from the world. Knowledge is easily acquired and attained in this modern age.

Having Timothy as an example... I strongly believe many of our young people are able to do the same as long as our focus is correct in leading and guiding them

However, a transformed heart, mind and soul is the real treasure, not only for the young rich man, but for everyone as well. If our faith is not genuine, able to be tested by fire, we stand no chance of fighting as good Christian soldiers. We cannot endure the hardest of hardships as the Chinese saying goes. We should be like Paul who gave us these encouraging words - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in

store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). So it is clear that as a follower and believer, there are wars to fight, races to run and faith to be kept. The believer needs to act to reach the end goal. Similarly for our young people, they must press on, continue in acquiring knowledge, looking to the elders of the church as role models. And the elders must teach, lead and guide. We should be obedient to Deuteronomy 6: 5-8 which instructs parents to share God's love and decrees with our children at all times. It is not that we do not care - we provide them with the best education - even sending them to expensive private schools and tuition, good food, sports and recreational activities, holidays and so on - but do we take great care of their spiritual lives and salvation as one of our top priorities? Paul encouraged young Timothy “...to train himself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come” (1 Timothy 4: 7-8). Paul further urged Timothy to command and teach, to set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Having Timothy as an

example of being young yet able to command, teach and be a role model for believers, I strongly believe many of our young people are able to do the same as long as our focus is correct in leading and guiding them.

In short, grounding them with God's words and living a godly life for individuals is vitally important. We spent two years in the UK lately, due to our work. We have seen the trends of the West where the church is left with mainly elderly people. Their children and grandchildren no longer attend churches and Sunday schools. There are a lot of other activities to occupy them. Going to church has become alien to them. Young people are ridiculed if they do go to church as it goes against the norm. The treasure in the church has lost its flavour and attraction. We, as parents, need to faithfully and patiently imbue these Christian values personally in our children since they are indeed treasures in the clay jars. A young shoot needs tender care, nourishment and protection from the harsh weather in order to grow up with strong roots which are deeply rooted. We need dedicated Christian families to live in faithful dependence on God's provision in the urban areas. Hopefully, this would keep young people in the church, and be a drawing power for others.

Arts

“The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” (Deut 7:6)

Books **Movies** Music | Architecture



The King's Speech (2010)

Director: Tom Hooper

Writer: David Seidler

Stars: Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter

BY MICHAEL WILLIAM

“My job is to give you faith in your own voice.” That was one line in the movie “The King’s Speech” that was most inspiring for a young youth worker like me. This British production is based on the abrupt ascension of Bertie (played by Colin Firth) to the throne of Great Britain as King George VI. King George was the second son of King George V. He took the place of King Edward, his brother, who abdicated the throne simply because of his love for a divorced woman.

Before we think that this movie is about the royal drama of ascension and abdication, this is hardly the main plot. It is basically based on a prince who had an embarrassing disability for a royal – he stammered and could not properly speak in public. The show begins with him being totally embarrassed as he tries to give a speech to be broadcast by radio (a new invention then) and failed miserably.

He then gets help from a speech therapist, Lionel Logue played by Geoffrey Rush. Using many unconventional methods, Lionel does help him improve his speech a little but he soon realises that Bertie’s speech impediment is not just physical but also psychological. Getting Bertie to conquer his fear is a hard task for Lionel. Here, we see the growing friendship of Bertie and Lionel. We also see the courage of Bertie as he works, struggles and overcomes his fears and speech difficulties just when Britain needed him most – at the time when Britain first declared war with Germany in World War 2. They needed to hear from their King and he did it with passion and courage.

There are many good lessons we can learn from this movie. Firstly, it teaches us the struggles of people who stammer. Sometimes we think it is just a small matter. Yet, this movie shows the real struggle of pain, embarrassment and fear of someone who stammers as he tries to speak in

public. It also shows that sometimes the reason for prolonged stammering is the constant teasing of others who think this a matter to trivialise or make fun of.

We also learn of the speech therapist who worked hard and never gave up on his friend even though the job did not bring him fame or prestige. In one part of the movie, Lionel’s credentials were questioned as he was neither a qualified doctor nor a linguistic teacher. He just went about his task to give confidence and trust to people who did not have the natural ability to speak without stammering.

Lastly, we see the lesson of friendship. It is rare to see a friendship between a Royal and a commoner that is so close and loving. Yet, what mattered most in their friendship is that in the midst of all the differences, they learned to respect, love and trust each other. It also showed that friends stick with each other, admit mistakes and do whatever is necessary to see the other succeed in life.

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Essay

“We are the clay, You are the potter;
We are the work of Your hand.” (Isaiah 64:48)



Vice - a Christian Tradition? CCM Youth issued a press release expressing concern over the erroneous interpretations attributing Valentine's Day to Christian teachings and values

BY ELAINE TEH

Council of Churches Malaysia (CCM) Youth expressed deep disappointment with motivational speaker Ustazah Siti Nor Bahyah Mahamood in her derogatory and irresponsible remarks that were aired on national television and subsequently circulated on YouTube®, as having said in *Bahasa Malaysia* that, “*Maksiat, disco, couple-couple bersunyi sunyian, inilah tradisi masyarakat yang beragama Kristian*” in her build-up call to discourage all Muslim youth from celebrating Valentine's Day.

CCM Youth rebuked Ustazah Siti, saying that in her over-enthusiasm, she had based her arguments with unsupported legends and fables and had chosen to use the public sphere to abuse another community's beliefs with erroneous opinions, which were weakly disguised as facts. Her careless remarks have humiliated the beliefs of others and resulted in creating disharmony by inciting hatred of one community to another.

CCM Youth clarified to the Malaysian public that the commercial practices of Valentine's Day and Santa Claus have no biblical grounding and basis in Christian teachings. However, just as people of all races and religions around the world celebrated Father's Day and Mother's Day, Valentine's Day had been equally celebrated, as part of the global culture to remind everyone to love one another. Therefore, it is not just an exclusive celebration between

girlfriend and boyfriend but also a celebration of family love.

CCM Youth urged everyone to go beyond Valentine's Day by celebrating everyday as a day of loving one another because love is central to the Christian faith. CCM Youth viewed that Ustazah Siti could have advised the young people to be wise and not be exploited by such blatantly commercialised celebrations rather than openly attacking another community's beliefs without well researched facts.

CCM Youth also urged all quarters to respect every Malaysian's private space and rights, and to refrain from making untoward statements by attributing all social illnesses in Malaysia to be connected with the Valentine's Day celebration, especially the recent allegations that PAS intended to “police” Valentine's Day in Selangor.

Despite the very hurtful statements, CCM Youth reiterated that they did not hold anything against Ustazah Siti and sought everyone to do likewise, as the Bible has said in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 that “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

CCM Youth hoped that Ustazah Siti would apologise to the Christian community in the spirit of unity through diversity.