



Would Five Loaves and Two Fish Be Enough for Jesus This Christmas?



Over the month of November, I attended a total of eight Annual Conference sessions. It began with the Sengoi Mission Conference in Kampar and ended with that of the Chinese Methodist Church in Australia in Brisbane, where I participated in the consecration of the new bishop. At each of the Annual Conference sessions, with one exception, I preached on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. I thought I should share the same message with our Pelita readers this Christmas as well.

The story of the feeding of 5,000 is one of the few episodes in the life of Jesus which is found in all four gospels. But it is only in John 6:1-15 that we are told that it was a little boy's dinner that Jesus used for

His miracle! Most of us are familiar with the outline of the story. A crowd had followed Jesus into a desolate place, drawn by His power to heal. Mark 6:35 tells us that it was getting late in the day. The crowd must have been getting restless and hungry. Jesus, wanting to train His disciples, asked them what they thought should be done. Philip's answer (John 6:7) was that eight months' of a labourer's salary would still not be enough to buy dinner for all. In any case, where would they buy food in the wilderness? Incidentally, the number of 5,000 almost certainly applies to the men alone. When women and children are added, you are talking of a crowd of some 10-15,000 at least.

Then Andrew comes along

with the little boy and his dinner of five loaves and two fish. Again, 'loaves' are not what we usually get in the supermarkets today. Rather they are more like small pieces of Indian chapatti or pancake of sorts. Two things immediately become evident. First, it was the dinner of a little boy that Jesus used, not that of some adult or some 'orang besar'. In the days of Jesus, as it is now, children are not 'important' in the eyes of the world. Yet it was one such that the Lord used!

Second, what the little boy had to offer was not much. What are five loaves and two fish in a crowd of 10-15,000? Yet the amazing thing about the story is that Jesus used someone unimportant who had only a little to offer!

Were five loaves and two fish enough for Jesus? Absolutely! Yet it is easy to miss the point. After all, in light of the abundance of food produced in the miracle, what were five loaves and two fish? But imagine yourself at the scene before the miraculous multiplication of food took place. Some in the crowd probably did bring food along. But it had been a long day. Whatever food that might have been brought along had long been eaten up. Caught up in the excitement of all the preaching and healing that were taking place—like at some modern day revival meetings—

Does Biology Rule Out Christmas?

Christians around the world believe that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. To those who don't believe in a Creator, the virgin birth of God in human flesh is beyond human comprehension. However, why should science deny what it can never understand?

Life is filled with intervention by intelligent forces that we cannot understand. Television allows us to watch what is happening this instant 10,000 miles away. Few, if any of us, understand every one of the intelligently directed effort that make television possible. Who could master and control all the details that bring together satellite, television, sound and electrical control technologies to produce sights and sounds from anywhere in the world? However, our inability to understand television does not lead us to deny that it exists.

Then can we say that God cannot take the form of His creatures simply because He loved us? Can we say that it is impossible for a virgin to give birth to God in the flesh? Can science rule out His suffering and death for the payment of our sin? Can science presume to tell us His grave is not empty?

Even if God would have visibly shown skeptical scientists every step, our measures are too narrow to span the width, too small to plumb the depth of His purposes. And for that we thank Him. We thank Him for intervening in our history with the birth of His Son. Truly the depths of God's acts are only comprehended in heavenly light!

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'Our inability to understand television does not lead us to deny that it exists'



WISHING YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
JOY | HOPE | LOVE

from

Bishop Hwa Yung & Family
and all staff of Methodist HQ

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CHURCH (For the Lord your God is a merciful God)

"He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Mic 6:8, TNIV).

> Pray For the Church
to be merciful and generous to the poor

> Pray For the Believers
"to trust Jesus for fruit as well as for life"

- to demonstrate our commitment to Christ through our deeds (that our prayer will not be useless)
- to draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith
- to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds

1MALAYSIA

continue to pray:

> *For the upright to dwell in our government, and the wicked be cut off*

> *For both the federal and state governments to consider the future of the younger generation in policy-making and in spending*

> *For improvement and right direction in education*

> *For the national leaders that their eyes be open and their hearts be enlightened to see the truth, face the reality, and walk the talk*

> *For change in Sabah, for courage for the people to embrace change*

- World Bank's 2010 Malaysia Economic Monitor (MEM) Report showed that Sabahans continue to struggle to make ends meet with this being more evident in the outskirts of town.

> Pray For the Children in India
Child labours, children trafficking, sexual exploitation, & etc

- India has the largest number of child labourers under the age of 14 in the world.

God will deliver them from every evil work and preserve them
Poverty, discrimination, social exclusion, as well as the lack of quality

- education or existing parents' attitudes and perceptions about child labor and the role and value of education are the major factors that causes this issue.

everyone had forgotten about the time. Thus the five loaves and two fish were the only food available for miles around.

I wonder what you would have done if you were the little boy? After all it is your dinner which mummy had lovingly packed for you! And those big fellows had all eaten whatever they brought along. And this Jesus now wants you to share your dinner with them!? Would you have handed over your dinner to Jesus? Or, would you have said something like, 'You take three loaves and one fish lah... But please leave something for me'?

When our children were little, we sometimes would buy them ice-cream. And, like many parents, we would sometimes tease them as they ate their ice-cream by asking, 'Can I have some also?' Once when I asked one of them for some ice-cream, our three or four-year old darling looked at me hesitantly. Then stretching out her ice-cream, she said, 'Lick only huh ... cannot bite!' We laugh at such incidents. But does this not remind us that, had we been in the little boy's shoes, we might not have parted so easily with our dinner too?

The veteran Methodist missionary, E Stanley Jones, who was greatly used by God as a missionary for over fifty years in India and had even preached in Malaysia in the 1950s and 60s, tells of an incident in his early life. In his search for a deeper life in Christ, one day God's word came to him, 'Will you give me your all?' After some hesitation, he replied, 'Yes, Lord, of course I will. I will give you my all ...' He goes on to tell of how the Holy Spirit then came in waves after waves, sweeping through him as a cleansing fire! God's blessing came after he yielded his all. In the same way, the story of Jesus' miraculous feeding of the multitudes tells us that the little boy handed his whole dinner, his all, to Jesus! That was an essential part of the miracle. His total yielding made the miracle possible.

The message of Christmas is also about giving: God graciously and generously gave us His Son that we may have life eternal. God gave us His all! 'He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things' (Rom 8:32)? What would you and I give to Jesus in return this Christmas? Would we give our five loaves and two fish?

Down the ages, there have been examples of those who were brilliant,

rich and powerful by the standards of this world who gave their all to Jesus. And Jesus used such examples of consecration wonderfully. But the truth is that most of those whom Jesus has used were not brilliant or rich or powerful. Rather like the little boy's five loaves and two fish, often all they could bring to Jesus was something unimportant and little in comparison with the needs of this world. Yet, just as in the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus took 'the all' that each one brought and brought forth a great abundance of blessings for the hungry, needy, sick, lost and unsaved of our broken world.

For example, think of Wang Ming Dao, the Beijing pastor who was imprisoned for years for his faith. He had nothing of the brilliance of John Sung, his contemporary and China's most famous evangelist before the 2nd World War. Yet through faithful witness and refusal to compromise, he became an inspiration to the whole house church movement in present day China. Or think of Sadhu Sundar Singh, who never even finished high school proper. Yet he just gave himself to Jesus. Walking the streets of India and the mountain paths through the Himalayas to Tibet, he told all he met the good news of salvation in Christ. His impact was such that he has been rightly described as the most important Indian Christian who ever lived. Yes, five loaves and two fish have always been enough for Jesus.

Some of you may be saying, 'You keep talking of those who are pastors and in full-time ministry. But what about us lay-people who are working in the world outside the church? What does giving our all mean for us?' Let me therefore share the story of a man I happen to know personally. (The details can be found in an article, 'When Opportunity Knocks,' Reader's Digest, Australia, Jan 1995.)

David Bussau was an orphan from New Zealand. But in his own words, 'I decided early on that no-one had the right to push me around and that I would stand on my own two feet.' At 16, he bought his first hot-dog stand, and within months he had leased three more. With natural business acumen, he expanded from one business to another. By 35 he was a happily married multi-millionaire! But he was not satisfied and instead sought God for His plan for his life.

He sold off his businesses and put all his

money into a trust. And from the 1970s onwards, together with an American partner, he developed Opportunity International, which became a pioneer in what is now known throughout the world as micro enterprise finance. This was a method of lending money to poor people, without collateral, who needed small amounts of capital to run small businesses like road-side hawker stores or simple retail outlets in the local markets or villages.

In a study by the University of Manchester in 1992, commissioned by the British government, it was found that every job created by Opportunity International benefited directly 13 other persons (not counting dependents)! Today millions of poor people are being lifted out of poverty throughout the world through micro finance. Further, it is now generally agreed that this is one of the most effective means of attacking poverty everywhere in the developing world. One man gave his five loaves and two fish, and Jesus multiplied it wonderfully to bless millions and millions today.

Would your five loaves and two fish be enough for Jesus this Christmas? Absolutely! But have they been handed over to Him?

By Bishop Hwa Yung





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Ling Heu Uh: *Play the Role of a Wise Woman*

In his speech at the 7th session of Sabah Provisional Annual Conference, President Rev. Ling Heu Uh reminded all Methodist pastors in Sabah that they are ambassadors for Christ. The Message and responsibilities of reconciliation have been entrusted unto them. Therefore, they should be prudent in discerning who are their real enemies and friends. Failing to do so not only brings about disputes and discord within the church but also breaks our God's heart and jeopardizes His name.

Secondly, to the deacons, Rev. Ling cited Proverbs 14:1 "the wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down". To play well the role of "a wise woman", he urged them to pay special attention to the specific needs of their respective parishes. The blueprint and focus of the church shall then be directed to manifest the love and salvation of Christ and growth in Christ by sharing and meeting their needs.

The identity and characteristic of Sabah Provisional Annual Conference are moving to a new horizon, namely from local state to world level, shared Rev. Ling. Both local churches and annual conference are not independent entities. They are connected bilaterally or multilaterally in expanding God's kingdom worldwide.

Gazing toward 2011

Looking to 2011, Evangelistic Year as designated in the GC Road Map (the 20-year blueprint of the Methodist Church in Malaysia), BM ministry shall target on three strong points, namely (a) Batu 15, Surundung Laut; (b) Binsulung, Paitan; (c) Keningau. Focusing on new potential developing areas, West District of the Chinese ministry shall exploit Bandar Sierra and Putatan, whilst East District stretches out to Bandar Sri Indah.

In order to elevate the English ministry, the committee would like to recruit a full time director to carry out a comprehensive plan in Sabah.

In the scope of overseas missions, SPAC has been entrusted to work hand in hand with Methodist Taiwan and Methodist Philippines to reach out to the Chinese community in Manila city.

In the wake of the future of the younger generation and the church, Rev. Ling showed much concern on the lack of examples from parents and church elders. He addressed the urgent need of life education and model for our youth and children.

"It is sad but a stark fact that the Gospel of Christ is being pushed aside in this post modern world to a much worrying extent. This could in part be attributed to the fact that we, as a church, fail to act as a servant and watcher of this Age." Rev. Ling thus urged all churches to preach holistic gospel and give holistic care to a lost world.

"How we plough today determines what we get tomorrow," Rev. Ling concluded his speech by asking our Commander, Jesus Christ, to navigate the Sabah churches to the right course in the years to come.

The 7th session of SPAC was held at Sy En Methodist Church, Sandakan, from 5-6 November 2010. More than 65 pastors and delegates from 19 parishes of 3 districts, namely East District, West District and BM District, attended this yearly event.

(Translated by Lee Ling)





2011 SPAC Appointment

Eastern District

Superintendent: Sia How Ling
Youth Director: Sia How Ling

Holy Grace Church

• PIC Ten Fook Seong

Sy En Church

• PIC Sia How Ling

Xuan En Church

• PIC Lim Yee Ping

Jia En Church

• PIC Sia How Ding

Western District

Superintendent: Lo Vui Min
Youth Director: Lo Vui Min

Shern En Church

• PIC Lo Vui Min
 • AP Sia Pei Lieng
 Tee Kwok Chiang
 • Attachment Hii Kong Hock
 Tiong Lee Chiong

Inanam Church

• PIC Wong Teck Suk
 • Attachment Wong Chung Yiing

Song En Church

• PIC Shia Siek Hing
 • Attachment Ling Heu Uh

Kingfisher Methodist Church

• PIC Pauline Su

Kingfisher English Preaching Point

• PIC Chua Ming Hua

Agape English Church

• PIC Peter Woo Teck Lip

Labuan Church

• PIC Ling Khai Nang
 • AP Pau Kiew Lik

Keningau Church

• PIC Chin En Phin

Sipitang Preaching Centre

• PIC Tee Kwok Chiang

BM District

Superintendent: Cecelia Ukong

KK Preaching Centre

• PIC Anderson Norbert

Kg Mononood Preaching Centre

• PIC Marcus Sigar

Serudung Laut Preaching Centre

• PIC Jaraning Sampani

Tawau Preaching Centre

• PIC Molius Salim

Xin En Preaching Centre

• PIC Molius Salim

Qi En Preaching Centre

• PIC Cecelia Ukong

Batu 15 Preaching Centre

• PIC Jaraning Sampani

Binsulung Preaching Centre

• PIC Evvioritha Solaiman
 (part-time)

Keningau Preaching Centre

• PIC TBA

Conference Worker

President: Ling Heu Uh

Lay Leader: Wong Hai Yew

Associate Lay Leader: Ngu Tai Hong

Secretary: Ten Fook Seong

Treasurer: Lei Hien Khong

Chairman Board of Finance: Lau Kiing Ho

Conference Youth Director: Shia Siek Hing

Migrants Work Director: Tiong Lee Chiong

Mission Director: Lee Ting Hwong

Music Director: Wong Chung Yiing

Literature Director: Wong Huang Kah

STS Lecturer: Hii Kong Hock



“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Thirty six years ago, in 1974, 2,700 participants from 151 countries came together in Lausanne, Switzerland for the first International Congress on World Evangelization. It was the vision of the well-known evangelist, Billy Graham, who convened it. The known pastor-theologian, John Stott, was the chief architect of the historic Lausanne Covenant which issued from that Congress. Both of them “shaped the Lausanne Movement in such a way that it has served as a thought leader and as a facilitator for partnerships in helping the Church respond to God’s call to ‘the whole Church to take the gospel to the whole world.’”

According to the Lausanne Movement historical background, it states: “The Lausanne Movement is not a membership movement. It is a global community of leaders who embrace The Lausanne Covenant and share a commitment to collaborate in the work of world evangelization. As a result of vision shared and connections made at earlier Congresses, hundreds of strategic partnerships have been established in projects related to unreached people groups (introduced by the late Ralph Winter at Lausanne 1974), Bible translation, ministries of compassion and justice, student work, theological education, broadcasting and literature, and church planting.”

The “seed planted” in the 1974 Congress led to the 2nd Lausanne Congress in Manila, Philippines in 1989 (the Manila Manifesto document was issued at this Congress), and the 3rd Lausanne Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in 2010.

The 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization was recently held on 16-25 October, with the theme: God in Christ, reconciling the world to himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The primary aim of this 3rd Congress is “to call the global church to wrestle with the challenges we face and to call the church to fresh proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that we might be better equipped as His witnesses in every aspect of society in the 21st century.”

There were 4,200 participants from 198 countries. It was highlighted that this 3rd Congress had 55% of participants under the age of 50, and also a consortium of leaders who were more ethnically diverse and more geographically varied than ever before. They were made up of missionaries, pastors, scholars, business people, government officials, journalists, medical personnel and more, representing every stream of Global Christianity united in commitment to the cause of world evangelization.

From Malaysia, 25 delegates from different denominations & organizations were nominated and selected by the Lausanne Malaysia Fellowship. The rest of the Malaysian participants were nominated and selected by their respective mission organizations or academic institutions. All participants to this Congress were endorsed by the International Participant Selection Committee.

We were informed earlier that majority of the Chinese participants from China were not able to attend the Congress as they were detained, had their passports taken away and were escorted back to their homes. On Monday evening’s session (18th October), participants stood on knees led by their chairs to signify solidarity with the Chinese participants who were unable to attend. It was truly a heart-moving moment for the whole congress. We prayed and interceded for China. A beautiful and searching song entitled The Lord’s Love for China

It is interesting to note that this gathering was truly global via technology. Individuals could watch the proceedings on the Internet. There were over 650 GlobalLink sites in 91 countries and that drew 100,000 unique visits to its web site from 185 countries during the week of the Congress.

The opening ceremony of the 3rd Lausanne Congress (17th October) began with grand pageantry, songs of praise and worship, messages by Rev. Dough Birdsall (Executive Chair), Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi (Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Uganda), Rev. Geoff Tunnicliffe (head of the World Evangelical Alliance), Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit (General Secretary of the World Council of Churches), Michael Cassidy (head of the African Enterprise International) and others. The ceremony ended with an explosion of praises to the Lord.

The following is a brief overview of the 3rd Lausanne Congress:

1. Preparation for the Congress:

All participants were challenged to do the following:

- To Study: (1) Meditate on the whole of Ephesians (<http://lausanne.org/cape-town-2010/ephesians-study-plan.html>) every month, from November 2009 until the commencement of the Congress. This will provide the biblical foundation and theological framework for the Congress. (2) Read the Lausanne Covenant (<http://www.lausanne.org/covenant>), a document produced at the International Congress on World Evangelization (Lausanne 1974) and considered by many to be one of the most influential evangelical documents in church history. (3) Read and respond to one Advance Paper for each of the six Plenary 2 sessions, as well as one Advance Paper from one Multiplex session for each day – a total of twelve Advance Papers.
- To Pray: Establish a prayer network or prayer partners to pray for the individual or the group in preparation for the Cape Town 2010 Congress. As Billy Graham was unable to be there at the Congress, he urged, “Make sure that you pray, pray, pray!”
- To Converse: read and respond to one another, with ideas, observations and comments on the Advance Papers (http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/advance_papers)

2. The Congress Programme:

Each morning began with Plenary 1 – Celebration of the Bible, a powerful biblical exposition from Ephesians, shared by well-known Bible teachers or preachers like Ajith Fernando, John Piper, Vaughan Roberts, and others. This was immediately followed by table group discussions (a community of six people from different nations) to share our own observations and apply scripture to our own contexts.

The second session in the morning, Plenary 2, covered six core issues to identify the greatest challenges for the Church in the future. These six core issues were introduced one per day as a theme:

- Truth (Making the case for the truth of Christ in a pluralistic, globalized world),
- Reconciliation (Building the peace of Christ in our divided and broken world),
- World Faiths (Bearing witness to the love of Christ with people of other faiths),
- Priorities (Discovering the will of God for evangelization in our century),
- Integrity (Calling the Church of Christ back to humility, integrity and simplicity), and
- Partnership (Partnering in the Body of Christ toward a new global equilibrium).

In each session, there was a video presentation highlighting the core issue, followed by several known speakers sharing their personal and ministry experiences and cultural perspectives. During this time, we also had our table group discussions to share our views on what was presented, to reflect on the issue and to pray together.

In the afternoon, after lunch, all participants adjourned to the

in the Dialogue sessions, the participants could interact on the issues, raised pertinent and important questions to the speakers / presenters, and share their own perspectives. I will say that the Multiplexes and Dialogue Sessions have been carefully planned to enrich the daily themes and compliment the morning plenaries.

The evening session is Plenary 3: God at work in the world through His church. This dealt with social justice and current updates of the Church in different regions of the world. Global issues discussed are such as these: The suffering Church and religious freedom; HIV/AIDS and human trafficking; Diaspora and Megacities; and matters on children and youth. The whole Congress was deeply moved by the powerful and life-transforming testimonies on how God is working in a particular country or region. On one of the evening sessions, our Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung (who is the Chairperson of the Participant Selection Committee) led the whole Congress in a time of prayer & intercession: for personal confession & repentance, to pray for individual needs, to pray for individual country or region and for reconciliation.

At the end of each day, the International Christian Film Festival would showcase films in the following categories: feature films, documentaries, shorts and short-shorts. These are powerful, faith-affirming, evangelistic, transforming stories. The stories of these films share the message of reconciliation and reflect the six themes of the Congress. Through this festival, people will be inspired to make use of the media in sharing the gospel of the Kingdom. For Narnia fans, there was a 60-minute preview (selected footage) of the latest The Chronicles of Narnia, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

Besides the Bible expositions, the Plenary sessions, the Multiplexes and Dialogue sessions, one can also attend the lunch or dinner receptions hosted by various organizations, denomination and academic institution. For the Methodists, we had the World Methodist Communion lunch reception on 19th October, hosted by Dr. H. Eddie Fox (who is the World Methodist, Director of Evangelism). Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik (TRAC President) and other Methodist Bishops, pastors & leaders from different countries or regions attended this reception. It was a meaningful and memorable connectional gathering of the Methodist family. In addition to this, there was also a Regional South East Asia meeting on 18th October to discuss the outcomes of the Congress and how we could adapt/contextualize these in our respective countries.

Each day, there were prayer rooms to pray for different nations during lunch or dinner hours. The Pray for Malaysia session was scheduled on 19th October to uphold our nation and people in prayer. We were told there were also 15 “prayer watches” throughout the city of Cape Town to pray every hour and every day for the Congress. Indeed, I will say that prayer was an integral part of the 3rd Lausanne Congress.

Sandwiched between the packed Congress (which went on daily from 8.45am to 9.30pm) is a well-needed free day for all participants to take a break or rest, or to reflect & meditate, or to fellowship with other participants, or to take the opportunity to explore Cape Town and its peninsula.

3. Post-3rd Lausanne Congress:

After Cape Town 2010: Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, what happens next? Well, let me share some thoughts:

- Firstly, the Lausanne Global Conversation continues our discussions through the website: <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/>
- Secondly, to pray on how the Church or ministry can use The Cape Town Commitment – a declaration of belief and call to action. The draft advance copy - Part One on “What we believe” can be viewed at <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/11544>. The Part Two will be completed by December, which is a call to action arising from the listening process at the Congress and its GlobalLink participants. There will be a short study guide published sometime early 2011. It was noted that Dr. Christopher J. Wright (the International Director of Langham Partnership International, John Stott Ministries /

Fellowship will be a reference point for The Lausanne Movement to disseminate information or news on the Lausanne Movement to all. This was discussed during the Malaysian participants meeting at the Congress.

At the closing service of the 3rd Lausanne Congress, Mr. Lindsay Brown (International Director of the Lausanne Movement) in his inspiring message, he shared a four-fold vision & hope that is embodied in The Cape Town Commitment:

1. To sound a ringing affirmation to the uniqueness of Christ and the truth of the biblical gospel; and a clear statement on evangelism and the mission of the Church.
2. To bring fresh challenges to “bear witness to Jesus Christ and all his teachings, in every part of the world – not only geographically, but in every sphere of society, and in the realm of ideas”, identifying and responding to key issues.”
3. That fruitful partnerships and friendships will come out of the Congress.
4. That the Congress will issue in new creative initiatives. It can only be accomplished because of the greatness of the gospel, and the power of God.

“We are to focus on the truth of the gospel, the lordship of Christ, and the glory of God in the face of Christ, with authentic, transformed, joyful lives” says Lindsay Brown.

The Congress closed with a grand celebration of the Holy Communion, led by Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi. According to Dough Birdsall, 100 communion sets had been borrowed, each from a local church. He said, “These represent the remembering of Christ’s death across many nations, we are a global movement, committed to the local church.”

I thank God for the opportunity to participate in this empowering and edifying 3rd Lausanne Congress. There are many useful lessons, deep insights, and ministries to apply to our local context. New friendships and partnerships have been formed at this Congress. There have been moments of personal deep soul-searching reflection, heart-warming experience, and renewed commitment and passion to serve the Lord wherever we are or sent.

I will end with a paragraph taken from Billy Graham’s letter to the 3rd Lausanne Congress, dated 6th October:

“I pray you may never forget that some things have not changed in the last 36 years – nor will they ever change until our Lord returns. For one thing, the deepest needs of the human heart have not changed – the need to be reconciled to God, and to experience His love and forgiveness and transforming power. Nor has the Gospel changed – the Good News that God loves us and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to forgive us and save us by His death and resurrection. Nor has Christ’s command to His disciples changed – the mandate to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel, urging men and women everywhere to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.”

Please visit www.lausanne.org for the Advanced Papers, testimonies, the Bible expositions, the closing address, audio, videos, and photos of the Congress. Access this rich online library of mission and evangelization resources.

By Rev. Paul Santosh Christie
(TRAC Board of Evangelism Chairperson)

The article “Cape Town 2010: 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization” in Pelita Volume 35 No. 10 October/November 2010 issue was written by Bishop Hwa Yung who was part of the Congress Management Team and Rev Paul Santosh Christie as a participant.

2010年按牧礼拜17位副牧2长牧

魏丰年：牧者要成为信仰的典范

共有17名传道人在2010年度卫理公会砂华人年议会按牧礼拜上被按立为副牧，另有2位副牧被按立长牧。

该17名新按立的副牧分别是卢雅萍、黄首文、陈冰荣、林彪、王美琴、刘向平、刘本纬、郑信慧、张爱诗、徐当胜、黄秀锦、李旭忆、黄立开、黄麟光、周顺煌、叶荣珠与蔡秀真，新按立的长牧则是陈联萍牧师与邱瑞花牧师。

新加坡三一神学院院长魏丰年牧师以“信仰的典范”为题证道，提醒牧者要时刻省思自身可有让人学习的样式。

回想起他在1977年被按立时，意味着当时的他已经结束了试用期，已正式带上了轭，责任也就加重了许多，并要随时准备好游行，但身旁的同工却因各种原因无法继续，这让他深感委身服事和进行圣工是一条很长的道路，必须要有焦点，否则将成为一种灾难。

2009年一项针对美国青少年所选择的学习对象而做的调查显示，54%的美国青少年选择父母为他们的学习对象，13%选择他们的朋友，6%选择了老师和教练，5%选择了亲属或兄弟姐妹，当中只有3%的青少年选择了牧者为他们的学习对象，这种情况可悲的情况出现，实在值得牧者深思。

“但无可否认的是，其中一个原因是牧者被认为是与青少年距离很远的权威人士。牧者多数都与成年人在一起，所讲的道也是关乎成年人的道，因此，西方教会目前正面临着无法吸引青少年的教会，幸好，亚洲教会仍然因青少年事工的进行而与青少年的关系密切，但西方教会的情况已经敲响了‘青少年不可被忽略’的警钟。”

按牧礼拜的经文是提多书1:6-9，讲述的就是保罗在吩咐提多选择牧者时所设的基本条件，而当时的教牧便是领导者。

他指出，牧者是一份很独特的工作，因为一般人不会把一个刚从法学院毕业的学习当做领导者，但却会把一位刚从神学院毕

业的牧者认定为领导者，而传道人也不能逃避会友的期待，必须做领导者，然而传道人也不必感到孤独，因为实际上传道人并不是孤军作战，教会的会友领袖与领导层都是传道人的工作伙伴，组织团队一同建构理想，这一点传道人必须铭记在心。

“现今有许多的属灵课程训练让传道人误以为自己是领袖，每个思想、每项决定都应该是来自于他，但这是一个强调团队领导、一群同工合作的现实世界，一个最有能力的领袖，就应该是激励、光照、引导的领袖，他可以发掘同工的恩赐与才干，给人安全感，并且愿意聆听同工的意见。”

保罗也提出了牧者要鼓励与避免的6个方面，牧者必须是无可指责、不自负、不暴躁、不酗酒、不好斗与不贪财的，却要乐意接待外人、好善、庄重、正直、虔诚与节制。

魏牧师认为，牧者不应该过于给会友压力，要给予适当的激励，小心谨慎且不自负，虽然没有在生理上造成伤害，却可能在情绪上虐待了他们，传道人应该是医治他人而不是伤害人。同时，对于薪金方面，传道人要知足，相信上帝的供应，更要与上帝和好，每天都有一段安静的时间与上帝相处，毕竟牧者们不可常叫人与上帝和好，自己却做不到，要知道，一旦上帝的平安进入心中，可以为服事带来更大的力量。

另外6个方面，就关乎于个人的价值观和品德，魏牧师希望牧者们都活得无可指责，当没有东西要隐瞒时，晚上就可以睡得很好。

他强调，会众来到教会不应该只是听道，而是要生命得到改变，因此，牧者应该要装备弟兄姐妹成为社会的祝福，而非重视参加崇拜的人数。



全砂崇拜人数增长1,279人

诗巫面对人口流失仍增847人

砂拉越卫理公会华人年议会属下各个堂会整体的主日崇拜人数与去年2009年相比，增加了1,279人；不过，由于主日学的人数下滑了254人，因此若把今年主日崇拜与主日学人数总计38,070人，与去年的37,045人，则仅增加了约1,025人。

虽然如此，整个年议会的受洗人数共有1,964人(小洗916，成洗1,048)，与2009年相比受洗人数仅增加了878人。整个年会的受洗人数自一路来小洗人数佔多数，至2004年之后，则出现成洗人数佔多数的现象。所谓成洗是指12岁以上的。

另外一方面，会友人数仅新收580人，与主日崇拜人数的增长1,279人也不成比例。目前全砂卫理公会华人年会的会友总数为92,581人，比去年的90,054人增加了2,527人。这其中是洗礼友23,554人，正式会友29,088人；这是否也意味，参加崇拜者及已经受洗者不一定要入会成为会友呢，箇中原因也是值的去了解。

若以崇拜人数来看，诗巫东教区仍是增长最多的教区，自去年的9,924人增至今年的10,684人，增幅达778人居冠。古晋教区增长居二，自去年的5,344人增至今年的5,677人，增幅为333人。民都鲁教区则自去年的2,375人，增至今年的2,604人，增幅为229人。诗巫西教区及加帛教区仅增加了69人及9人。出现负成长的有美里教区自去年的3,739人减少了3人至今年的3,736人；民丹莪教区也减少了28人，泗里奎教区则减少了85人。这意味着拉让江流域的小镇如民丹莪及泗里街人口外流仍在进行中，诗巫则在人口严重流失下，力争上游，诗巫东西教区今年增长合计847人，为全砂增长的66%，自创教110年来保持稳定的增长。

主日学人数继续滑落

与十年前比少二千人

全砂卫理公会华人年议会属下各个堂会的主日学人数连续第三年往下跌，人数为9,526，与去年2009年相比减少了254人，似乎跌回了1997年前的出席人数。

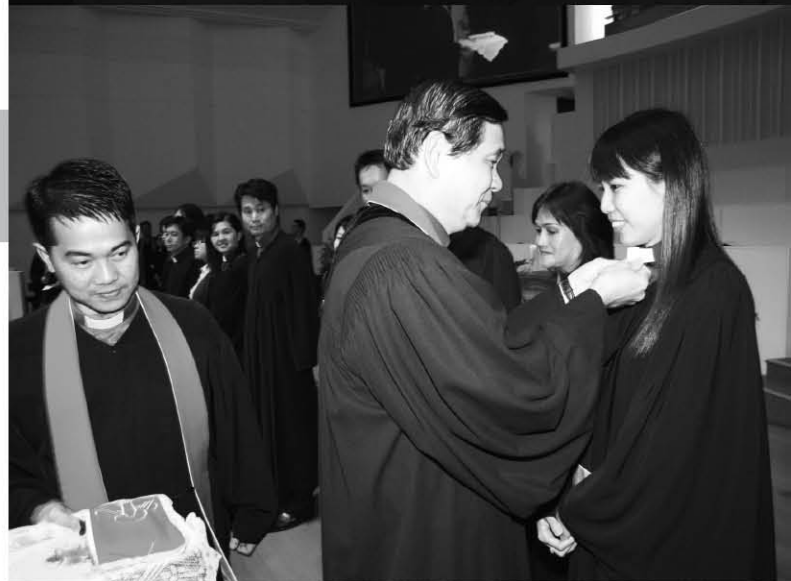
若从过去十多年的统计表来看，1997年主日学人数为9,417人，1998年突破万人达10,143人，1999年再突破达11,100人。2001年更攀升至历年来的顶峰，达至11,535人。2006年跌至10,587人，2009年跌至9,780人，今年跌至9,526人。

若今年的主日学人数与2001年最高峰时期相比，已经减少了2,009人。

受洗方面，小洗人数自2004年开始下降，2006年跌破千人，仅968人。2008年再跌至858人，2009年回升至941人，今年2010年则又跌至916人。这是否显示近十多年来，因为年轻父母少生的原因呢？又或者是因为这些年来教会推动三福等佈道法所致，导致成年人信主多呢？这都是值得进一步探讨的课题。

报道：黄孟礼、卢韵琴、倪可菁

摄影：叶荣珠、卢韵琴、许长国



第35届华人年议会

整理：甘心 摄影：杨证强

马来西亚基督教卫理公会华人年议会第35届会议于2010年11月24-26日，假关丹 M. S. Garden酒店举行。年议会本年主题是“扎根主道 迈向成熟”。来自华人年议会8个教区逾300位牧者传道、会友领袖及代表，共聚一堂。下午2时15分，年议会圣餐礼拜由华勇会督主礼，新加坡华人年议会会长张振忠牧师证道。

张会长的信息是“到水深之处去”，以此勉励会众紧记自己的身份，将福音传开，为主争取未得之民。随后，主席莫会长邀请华勇会督主持，会督奉父、子、圣灵的名宣布，第35届华人年议会正式开始。

翌晨，张会长另外与会众分享的信息：“全是为了将来的盼望”。他说，保罗看重自己的身份、职分，是因主的呼召。保罗因信确实相信未来的盼望而感恩。张会长提醒会众，要时时为前线传福音的人祷告，因为祷告很重要。

根据经济部主席颜保罗弟兄的书面报告，2009年年会经常费总收入为RM1,663,155，经常费总支出为RM1,133,630，余款为RM529,525。截至2009年12月31日，年会总资产为RM8,407,644，比2008年总资产RM6,940,222增加了RM1,467,422。截至2010年10月11日收到的教牧医药金款项为RM584,523.30，扣除印刷费（RM1,350）和教牧医药福

利金拨款（RM36,804.45）后，结存RM546,368.85。

各部门代表报告中，宣教部的黄敬映牧师透露，海外宣教事工在会长的带领下，积极扩展神国，略有收获。该部祈盼未来各堂会能逐步增加奉献宣教款，把祝福带给海外更多需要救恩的未得之民。会长建议，2011年为泰北、缅甸传道及学校老师的薪金调整约10%，获代表们认同。妇女会亦积极参与圣工，不落人后，今年已在泰北美赛购买一所房屋，发展华人教会事工。布道部的钱本华弟兄表示，随着本国经济转型，吧生谷预料会增至千万人口，故吧生谷欲建立更多的布道所，目标是100间。

当晚，年会为已安息主怀的黄将吟传道举办追思会，饶家发主席请郭进吟教区长述说黄传道的生平事迹。大会还邀得黄传道的兄弟及其眷属来场。现场肃静，会众站立默哀一分钟，与黄传道家属一起缅怀先人。

会友事工部经选举后，2011-2012年会友领袖名单为：（正）林志强，（副）万福全、吴永基。林志强弟兄上台致词后，即邀请吴永基弟兄上台推介该部“罗以行动”计划，其目的是向本会会友传递家庭信仰传承的必要性，藉针对性的策略和方法，协助会友建立以家庭为单位的属灵生命操练平台和宣教点（向内和向外），以

达到生命成熟和全家归主的目标。

会督、会长也在台上大力推介“马来西亚卫理公会20年路向图”，向会众解释路向图的意义。路向图于2010年8月12日总议会执行委员会会议中通过。本会在这个为期四年遵循的主题：“宣扬圣经圣洁更新转化国家”，是从会祖约翰卫斯理为18世纪复兴运动的声明改编而来，以此作为本图主题。

本图目的是协助本会会友理解教会未来的方向，迈步向前。就教会生活四个主要范围而言，本图可作为指南：一、传福音与教会增长；二、门徒栽培；三、教会与社会；四、宣教。其作用是呼吁所有会友为卫理公会未来10-20年发展的共同目标齐心努力。

最后，会长请牧职部注册员周隆捷牧师引领新同工钟恩雄、曾健晓、曹新华、王妙玲、许慧怡、卢韦秦和林孝标，以及年会试用会员苏晶祥、郭进兴、叶秀苹、张丽云和黄佩琳，介绍给会众认识。会议于10时结束。



按立牧职典礼

年议会于第三天（11月26日），在关丹堂举行按立牧职典礼。华勇会督以<约翰福音>6章1-15节经文，“主喂饱5000人的神迹”分享信息：一、上帝是实行神迹的神；二、上帝通常使用卑微的器皿成就大事；三、上帝要求我们将所有的献给他。

按牧典礼由华勇会督主持。会督授权莫会长考问将受按立的牧职候选人，按法规条文，与会长按立韩玉冬、陈昌平、朱传文、林福仁、罗艾玲、林志伟、徐恩杰和林季财为年会副牧，授权他们在上帝的教会中宣读和传讲圣道。

接着，会督按法规条文，与莫会长及8位教区长按立陈华彬、林梅凤、华维忠、郑仁宾、陈志豪和白赏赐为年会长牧，授权他们在上帝的教会中传讲圣道和施行圣礼。

今年，郑文壁传道正式荣休，吴启麟牧师也提早退休。会长代表年会赠送他们荣休纪念盾牌留念。

会长主持第35届年议会闭幕礼的同时，宣布2011年11月15-17日举行第36届年议会（地点未定），并为会众祝福。关丹卫理公会款待会众享受丰盛的午餐，于关丹酒楼进行爱筵，共43桌。

为期三天两夜的年议会各部报告、选举顺利进行，至此结束。



ஒரு கிறிஸ்மஸ் செய்தி

மறுபடியுமாக இன்னொரு கிறிஸ்மசை கொண்டாட காலம் நெருங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது: சந்தோஷித்து களிகூர இது ஒரு தருணம். இதுவே நம்மில் அநேகர் எதிர்பார்க்கிறோம். கிறிஸ்மஸ் எதைத்தான் குறிக்கிறது? அநேகருக்கு இது ஒரு பண்டிகை காலமாக உள்ளது. இதில் தவறேதும் இல்லை. ஆனால் சில சமயங்களில், இயேசுவும் அவர் வருகையின் நோக்கமும் நம் பண்டிகையில் மையமாக இல்லை. இதர்க்கு பதிலாக சந்தா கிலோசும் கிறிஸ்மஸ் மரமுமே அதிக முக்கியத்துவம் பெறுகிறது. உண்டும் குடித்தும் சிநேகிதரை உபசரிப்பதிலுமே நம் கவனம் செலுத்துவதால், கிறிஸ்மஸ் தின ஆராதனை சற்று நீண்டு காணப்பட்டால் நாம் பொருமையை இழந்துவிடுகிறோம்.

நம் பிதாவின் முகத்தைப் பார்த்து, நீர் எனக்கு கொடுத்த வெகுமதியை நான் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டேன் என்று அவரிடம் சொல்லுவ்வரை, கிறிஸ்மஸ் தினத்தின் சந்தோஷத்தை நாம் பெற முடியாது.

1. கிறிஸ்மஸானது ஒரு ஆராதிக்கும் ஜீவியம் நம் மத்தியில், தாழ்மையின் கோலம் கொண்டு, தம் மகா அன்பின் நிமித்தமாக மனித ரூபம் ஏற்ற கிறிஸ்துவின் முக்கியத்துவம் நம்மை முழங்கால் படியிட்டு, அவரை நன்றியின் இருதயத்தோடு ஸ்தோத்தரிக்கவேண்டும். ரோமர் 5:8, யோவான் 20:28. இந்த ஆராதிக்கும் ஜீவியம் கிறிஸ்துவுக்கு உகந்ததாக இருக்கவேண்டும்.

2. கிறிஸ்மஸானது ஒரு மகிழ்ந்திருக்கும் ஜீவியம் இந்த மகிழ்சியானது கிறிஸ்துவிலே காணப்படும் சுவாதீனத்தால் வரும் உள்ளான சந்தோஷம், பயத்திலிருந்தும் பழிஉணர்ச்சியிலிருந்தும் நாம் பெறும் சுவாதீனம், தேவனுடைய வழிநடத்துதலின் நிச்சயமும் இரட்சிப்பின் சந்தோஷமுமாகும்.

3. கிறிஸ்மஸானது ஒரு பகர்ந்துக்கொள்ளும் ஜீவியம் நாம் வாழும் விதமும் மற்றவர்களுக்கு தேவ வார்த்தையைப் பகர்வதிலும், கிறிஸ்துவின் பிறப்பைப் மற்றவர்களுக்கு சொல்லச்சொன்ன கட்டலைக்கு கீழ்படிதலை காண்பிக்கிறது. மத் 28:19. எல்லா கிறிஸ்தவர்களும் செய்யவேண்டிய ஒன்று.

4. கிறிஸ்மஸ் கொண்டாடுவதர்க்காண 10 கட்டலைகள்

1. உன் ஆத்மாவை கிறிஸ்மஸ் கொண்டாட ஆயத்தப்படுத்து. பரிககள் வாங்குவதிலே அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தி ஆத்மாவை மறந்துவிடாதே.

2. உன் முறுமுறுத்தலை வியாபாரியிடமோ, விற்பனை செய்பவரிடமோ அல்லது தபால்காரரிடமோ காண்பிக்காதே.

3. பரிசு கொடுக்கும்போது உன்னையும் சேர்த்துக் கொடு. ஆதை பெறுபவர் அதை எப்போதும் கனம்பண்ணுவார்.

4. பெறும் பரிசை அதன் விலையோடு ஒப்பிடக்கூடாது. விலை குறைவாக காணப்பட்டாலும், அது காண்பிக்கும் அன்பு பொன்னிலும் வெள்ளியிலும் அதிகமானது.

5. கிறிஸ்மஸிலிருந்து “கிறிஸ்துவை” எடுத்துவிடாதே.

6. கிறிஸ்துவுக்கு பதிலாக சந்தா கிலோசை மையமாக வைக்காதே. அந்த நாளின் ஆவிக்குரிய காரியங்களை அழித்துவிடும்.

7. தேவையுள்ளவர்களை ரூபங்கொள். நீ உன் ஆசீர்வாதங்களை பகர்ந்துக்கொள்ளாவிட்டால், ஒருசிலர் பசியோடு காணப்படுவர்.

8. கிறிஸ்மஸ் ஆராதனையை அலட்சியப்படுத்தாதே. அதுவே கிறிஸ்மஸின் உண்மையான அர்த்தத்தை காண்பிக்கும்.

9. நீ சிருப்பிள்ளையைபோல் ஆகவேண்டும். அப்படி இல்லாவிட்டால், தேவ இராஜ்ஜியத்தின் கொண்டாட்டத்தில் பங்குபெறஉனக்கு தகுந்த ஆயத்தம் இல்லை.

10. உன் இருதயத்தை இயேசுவிடம் கொடுப்பாயாக. உன் கிறிஸ்மஸ் வேண்டுகளில் அவரை முதன்மையாக இருக்கட்டும்.

தேசன்தாமே உங்களையும் உங்கள் குடும்பத்தாரையும் இன்னும் உயர்ந்த ஆவிக்குரிய ஸ்தானத்திற்கு இந்த கிறிஸ்மஸ் காலங்களில் கொண்டுச்செல்வாராக!

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Once again we are at the threshold of Christmas - time to enjoy and make merry: at least that is what most of us look forward. But what is Christmas all about? To many it is a festive mood – no problem with that. It is only that sometimes Jesus is no more prominent nor the purpose of His coming central. Instead, Santa Claus and Christmas trees have become the center of attraction. Eating, drinking and entertaining friends have become so central to the celebration that we get upset if the Christmas Service takes a little longer than usual.

We can never enjoy Christmas until we look up into the Father's face and tell Him we have received His gift.



A. CHRISTMAS IS A LIFE OF WORSHIP:

The significance of Christ who came to us humbly and in great love in the flesh, should draw us to our knees with grateful praise and thanksgiving, Romans 5:8; John 20:28. This life of worship should be lived worthy of Christ.

B. CHRISTMAS IS A LIFE OF REJOICING:

This rejoicing is freedom in Christ filled with inner joy, freedom from guilt and fear, the assurance of God's guiding presence, and the joy of salvation.

C. CHRISTMAS IS A LIFE OF SHARING:

Our lifestyle and the proclamation of the Word to others signify our obedience to Christ to share the joy of Christmas with others, Matthew 28:19, a must for all Christians.

D. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS:

1. You shall prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.

2. You shall not burden the sales girl, the post man or the shop keeper with complaints and demands.
3. You shall give yourself with your gift. He who receives it will treasure it always.
4. You shall not value gifts by their cost. The least expensive may express love, and that is more precious than silver or gold.
5. You shall not leave "Christ" out of "Christmas."
6. You shall not replace Christ with Santa Claus. He can rob the day of its spirituality.
7. You shall remember the needy; some people may go hungry and cold unless you are generous and share your blessing.
8. You shall not neglect the Christmas Service as it highlights the true meaning of the season.
9. You shall be as a little child. Until you have become in spirit as a little one, you are not ready to enter the Kingdom of His celebration.
10. You shall give your heart to Jesus. Let Him be at the top of your Christmas list!

May God usher you and your family into greater spiritual heights and victories this Christmas season!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph

