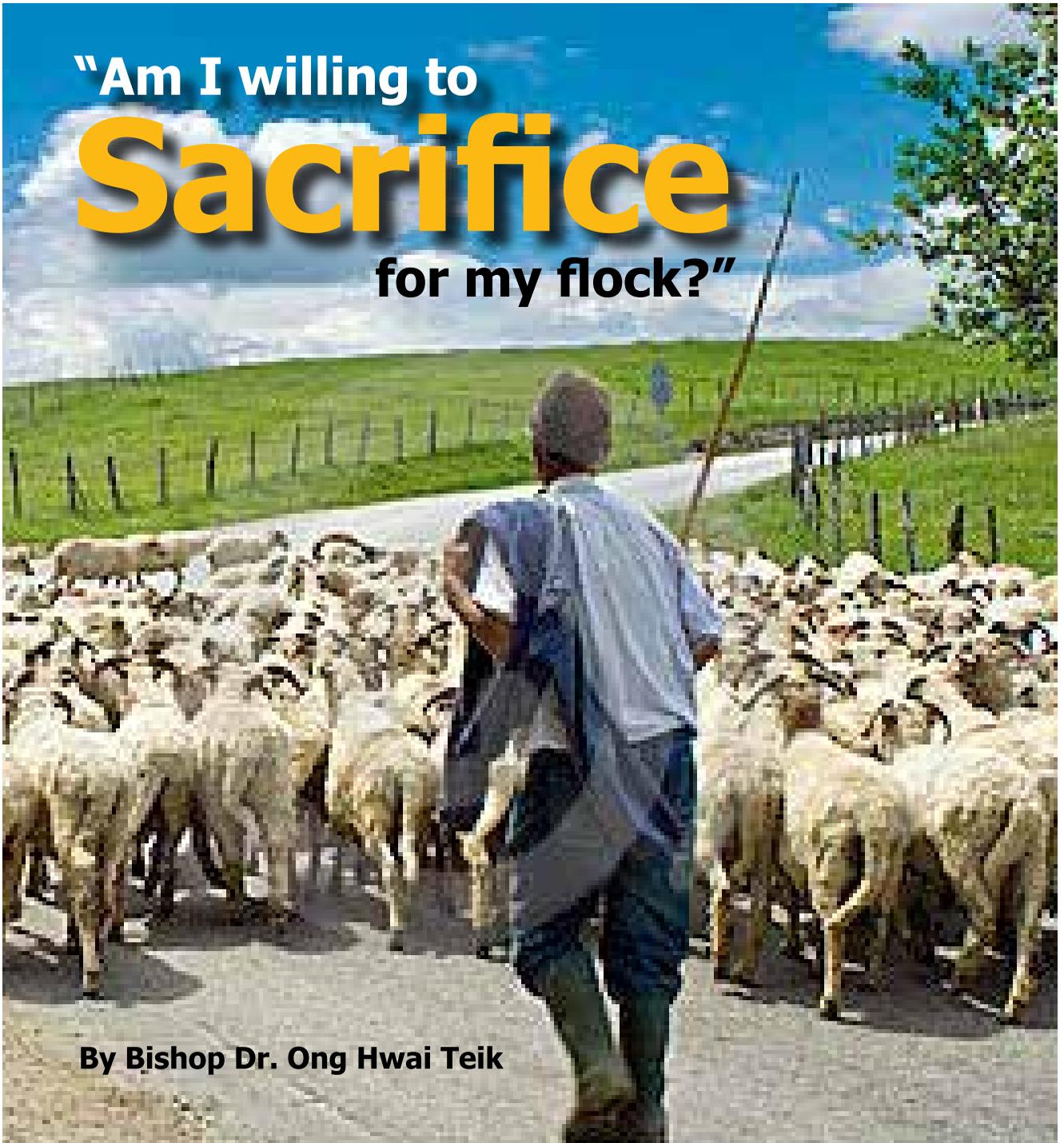


# PELITA METHODIST

VOLUME 40, NO. 2  
FEBRUARY 2014



“Am I willing to  
**Sacrifice**  
for my flock?”



By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

# Moment

## Methodist Prayer Convention 2014 卫理公会祷告大会 2014 Perhimpunan Doa Methodist 2014 Gempuru Besai Besampi Methodist 2014

### What is MPC?

The Methodist Prayer Convention (“MPC”) is the platform to gather the total Methodist Family in Malaysia together to pray, as we humble ourselves to seek God’s face, reminding God’s people called Methodists – the necessity of prayer. The MPC takes place once every 4 years.

### History of MPC

1st MPC 31/8 - 2/9/2007 @ Sunway Convention Centre, Selangor

Theme: “One in Christ through Prayer”

2nd MPC 29/4 – 1/5/2011 @ Sibu, Sarawak

Theme: “Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation”

### 3rd MPC 2014

Theme: A Church after God’s Own Heart

29 – 30/8/2014 (Fri-Sat) @ Sunway Convention Centre, Petaling Jaya, Selangor

31/8/2014 (Sun) Combine Holy Communion Celebration Service @ Stadium Putra, Bukit Jalil

### Why MPC III?

The church is facing unprecedented challenges in the life of our nation. While we are concerned with many issues and happenings, God is concerned with the condition of the church and He is calling the church to return to Him. *How can we be a Church after God’s Own Heart?* We need to humble ourselves in uniting our hearts and voices to seek God in prayer, and to corporately pursue Him with the entire Methodist Family in Malaysia. We seek the Lord to become the transformed people who know His heart, and will do His sovereign will for this generation in our land.

### Preparation for MPC III

We are calling to all members of our Methodist Family to pray for the MPC and to make plans to attend. Whether in the Sunday service, prayer meeting, cell group meeting - please pray that we will become a church after God’s own heart. On the **1st day of every month**, beginning with March 1st, we especially ask you to uphold MPC III in fervent prayer.

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## MPC PRAYER LETTER 01/Feb2014

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for hearts to be prepared, all the organisation needed, programmes, logistical needs, choir, different workers and helpers required in the various areas
2. Members from all annual conferences will be convicted to attend and that registration forms will be submitted early.
3. For all the speakers - that they will receive and share the message the Lord intends for us
4. Grace to hear God's heart, grace to obey Him, grace to conform to His will and way
5. Prayer will be further generated and passion for intercession deepened across and among the whole Methodist Family

# Psalm 23

## A Psalm of David

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
3 he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

# “Am I willing to Sacrifice for my flock?”

By Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik



Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik (R) with interpreter Rev. Thomas Lau

The 15th Graduation Ceremony of Sibü Methodist Theological School (MTS) was held at Wei Kuok Hall on 26 October 2013. There were 16 graduates this year: 4 of Master of Ministry Program; 1 of Master of Divinity; 3 of Bachelor of Theology; 1 of Diploma of Theology; 1 of Licentiate of Theology; 1 Master of Divinity majored in Missiology; 1 Bachelor of Theology majored in Missiology; 1 Licentiate of Theology majored in Missiology; 1 of Bachelor of Arts in Worship and Music; 2 of Certificate of Christian Studies. Among them, three were Iban students.

The Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, Rev. Dr. Ong Hwai Teik, was invited to address the graduates. He quoted Psalm 78:67-72 to encourage them to serve not just as an employee but be a passionate shepherd who is influential from generation to generation.

He touched on three aspects to remind the graduates:

1. The heart of a shepherd
2. The purity of heart
3. The tactfulness of the hands

Bishop Rev. Dr. Ong used King David as an example to indicate that it is God who chooses people. King David was a shepherd but rose to be king of the Israelites. He had an awesome God who chose him to be a great character. Being a shepherd, David had a shepherd's heart. He was sensitive to the story told by Prophet Nathan about the sheep. David thus came to realize his own sin after Prophet Nathan reprimanded him. Bishop Rev. Dr. Ong reminded the graduates to have a shepherd's heart while feeding the flock.

## The Flock is looking up to Integrity of the Shepherd

“In reality, our flock is not expecting us to be perfect but our integrity.” Bishop Rev. Dr. Ong stressed that as a pastor, one needs to be pure at heart, which is one's integrity. Integrity means purity, wholeness and

faultless. “During our shepherding process, integrity is of prime importance, especially in money matters, in our words and actions, in our relationship with people, be pure at heart always,” he said.

Thirdly, a pastor needs to be competent, that it is to be proficient at work and an urge to do better. The Bishop also quoted from John 10: 11-15 to show the difference between a shepherd and an employee. For an employee, money matters more than his calling. An employee will always ask, “What will I gain?” while a shepherd will ask, “What is good for my flock?” A shepherd is devoted in the welfare and growth of his flock, to an extent of sacrificing for them.

“Ask yourself then if you are willing to sacrifice for your flock”, Bishop challenged the graduates. He said Jesus asked Peter thrice if he loved Him (John 21:15-17). In the same manner, Bishop hoped that the graduates would serve all out of the love for Christ. Like the Christians in Macedonia, out of the love for Christ, though poor but they were more than willing to give.

“There will be disappointments if your eyes are on the church; but if you are eyeing the Lord who is the head of the church, you will persist and press on,” admonished the Bishop, “Always check our motives while serving the Lord.”

## They might ‘resist’, love them more...

In conclusion Rev. Dr. Ong stated, “If you

are working for people, the gratification received will never be enough; if you are working for the church, the pay will never be enough; but if it is purely for the Lord, you will receive grace beyond your expectation.”

Last but not the least, Bishop used the exhortation given by his previous Theological College principal to uplift the graduates “to love the flock who are entrusted to your care. They might ‘resist’, love them more; they might not be ‘lovely’, pray for God's love to love them. When you are ‘tired’, come to the Lord, ask for His love, meet with Him in solitude in your daily devotions for this is the utmost calling of all. Be optimistic! For a pessimistic shepherd can never bring the flock to green pastures. Never stop growing and improving! Be alert with your writings. Give your best! Remember the one who calls you and this calling has eternal value. God is never wrong! Remember who is by your side when you feel you can't go on. Be strong in the Lord!”

Always ask yourself, “Am I just a paid employee, or a Loving SHEPHERD?!” With this question bearing in mind and in prayer, the sixteen graduates were ‘sent out’ to serve the flock by Rev. Ting Huat Ung, the Chaplain of MTS Sibü.

This article was first published in *Connection* dated 24th November 2013.



The 15 graduates with lecturers and Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik

# 王怀德会督：我是否愿為羊犧牲？



Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik (R) with interpreter Rev. Thomas Lau

2013年10月26日上午9点，诗巫卫理神学院假诗巫卫国礼堂举行复办学位后的第十五届毕业典礼。此届毕业生共有16位，分别是4位教牧硕士、1位道学硕士、3位神学学士、1位神学文凭、1位神学证书、1位道学硕士主修宣教、1位神学学士主修宣教、1位神学证书主修宣教、1位礼拜与音乐学士及2位基督教研究证书。其中有三位是伊班部的毕业生。

马来西亚基督教卫理公会会督王怀德牧师受邀予以毕业生训勉。王会督以诗篇七十八篇67-72节勉励毕业生，要成为有牧者心肠的牧羊人，而非雇工；而且牧者的事奉是要影响一代又一代。

王会督从三方面给予毕业生们提醒：牧羊人的心肠，心中的纯正，手中的巧妙。他以大卫为例，说明上帝亲自拣选人（拣选表明了祂的主权）。大卫原是个牧羊人，后来却成为君王，他不平凡的人生在于不平神的上帝拣选了他。

王会督指出，正因为大卫有牧羊人的心肠，所以当先知拿单以与羊有关的故事，藉此指出大卫的罪之时，大卫甚为震撼。王牧师一再地提醒毕业生，要有牧羊人的心肠来牧养群羊。

## 羊群期待牧者诚信

“事实上，我们的羊群不期待我们完美，但期待我们诚信。”会督如是强调。他表示，牧者要有心中的纯正，就是要有诚信；诚信包含了纯正、完全、无可指摘。牧养过程中诚信是极为重要的，无论是财务管理、言语行为、人际关系都应当要纯正，这是属灵领袖必须铭谨于心。

最后，是牧者要有手中的巧妙，那是做事的卓越，并且对渴望之事不断追求长进。王会督以约翰福音十11-15节来说明雇工与牧羊人的区别——雇工在乎钱，牧羊人在于呼召；雇工会问“我得到什么”，牧羊人则会问“我的羊会得到什么”。牧羊人愿意保护羊群，甚至为羊牺牲。他盼望毕业生都能问自己一个问题：我是否愿意为羊牺牲？

王会督以耶稣三次问彼得“你爱我吗？”（约翰福音廿一15-17）来鼓励毕业生，事奉是被主的爱所激励；就如马其顿的教会即使贫苦却仍愿意参与捐输的事，那是出于爱主的缘故。无可否认，服事教会会令人失望，但事奉教会的主就会继续持守。换言之，我们服事教会是因为我们爱教会的主。他盼望牧者要常常检讨自己事奉的动机。

## 记得谁站在你这边

王怀德会督在总结时，以一位老牧者的话来勉励毕业生：“如果你为人工作，对你感激总是不够；为教会工作，薪金可能永远不够。然而，若服事是单纯为主的原因，就一定会超乎我们所求所想的恩典。”

他亦以过去受教的神学院院长的一番话来挑旺毕业生的心志：“要爱那些托付给你的羊，他们或会反抗，但你要更爱他们。他们或不可爱，但求上帝给你爱。当你累了，也求神给你爱。要保持灵修生活，因为你蒙召来与祂独处，远胜一切的呼召。做个乐观的人，因沮丧的牧羊人无法带羊到青草地上……不要停止成长。你要慎重看待你所写的所有



文章……献上最好的，永不停止成长。记得谁呼召你，知道最有永恒价值的是上帝对你的呼召。因上帝永不失误。若以上你觉得很难做到，要记得，谁是站在你这边的。靠主刚强！”

“我是个充满爱的牧者，还是个受雇的雇工？”王会督要毕业生将这问题永远记在心中，常常反省省思自己。

在神学院院长及代学生主任陈发文牧师的祷告中，16位从神学院毕业毕业生受差遣，进入羊群服事。（震凌）

The 15 graduates with lecturers and Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik



# The Methodist Prayer Convention Choir - Calling All Singers!

Greetings! .. and Blessed New Year to all!

I hope that the year 2014 is off with a great start, with bodies and minds renewed and refreshed, ready to face the year ahead in God's service!

As you are already aware, The Methodist Churches is organizing a Methodist Prayer Convention at the end of August this year. It will be a joyous time where Christians can come together as one household of God to learn together and pray together. Details on the Prayer Convention will be available soon through the respective Conferences, and we do urge you to encourage your members to register for and attend this Convention.

The Prayer Convention will culminate in a Sunday morning worship service on 31st August at Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. It will be a wonderful experience and occasion for the people of God to come to worship and celebrate together. With that in mind, we want to praise God and enhance the Sunday morning service by giving Him our best. I am excited to share with you that we are going to put together a 1,000+ strong choir, comprising members from all Methodist churches in both West and East Malaysia!

It may seem like a daunting task, but with God, all things are possible. We seek the assistance of yourself as Pastor, as well as your choir directors/conductors to encourage your church members to participate in this glorious event, for it will certainly be a one-of-a-kind experience to be amongst a sea of 1,000 people, singing praises to God in harmony. It is also an act of service for God, and in what better way than to worship in praise and song!

The only criteria required to join the Methodist Prayer Convention Choir is your love for praising God and the ability to carry a tune! Am sure all of us can carry a tune! All are welcome! Males and Females; Young and Old(er) members and friends. It need not matter whether the person is currently

singing in a choir or not. It is our hope that many people will come to know the joy of singing in a choir, and will be led and motivated to (subsequently) join a choir group and serve the Lord in this Music ministry!

A summary of details regarding the Methodist Prayer Convention Choir are as follows:-

- Recruitment to commence immediately and from February onwards. Churches are to advise the number of choir members that will be participating in the choir by March.
- Scores will be prepared and sent out to all churches by February.
- Each church will be responsible to train their own group of singers. Where assistance is required, kindly advise us. Practices can start immediately.
- There will be Regional rehearsals to follow up with the respective Choirs. Regional rehearsals are scheduled to begin in July. We will attempt to have conductors from the subcommittee travel to the relevant regions to have combined rehearsals with the choirs in those designated regions. Dates will be given to you in due course.
- The 'Final Rehearsal' will be held on the morning of the 31 August worship service.

Enclosed herewith, please find a Registration form, that you may use to register the Choir members.

We need this feedback from all churches.

*Effective communication for this upcoming event is key. We would appreciate it if you could elect a contact person (if your church has a choir conductor/director, they would be the right people) so that we have a contact list of the relevant people from all the churches in Malaysia. Please do ask this contact person to email the choir subcommittee (Ms Irene Wong) at [mpcchoir.my@gmail.com](mailto:mpcchoir.my@gmail.com)*

*gmail.com by March, so that we can continue to stay in touch.*

May all praise and glory be to God as the choirs all around Malaysia make their preparations, and may we "Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!"

Thank you.  
In Christ and Blessings,

Moses Teh  
Chairman  
Methodist Prayer Convention Choir

## An Education for the Ones Left Behind



**Emma (center), Nori (4th from right) and Dila (2nd from right) at the remedial English programme graduation, pictured here with the CEO, Ms Moey Yoke Lai (3rd from right) and lecturers from the English and Early Childhood programmes.**

Bemoaning the state of education in Malaysia today is a very common activity in social gatherings today. Whilst it is true, many of us probably do not realise how grave the situation is for the children of Malaysia. Specifically, for *all* the children of Malaysia – not just the ones we see in the city and suburbs.

Finding a good school for our children is a major concern for practically every parent these days, but the truth is that we often do not realise how blessed we are in comparison to some of our neighbours. For some, the quality of the school and education system does not even enter into consideration simply because they do not have the resources to get past the most basic barriers to a decent education – cost, transport and language proficiency. This is a particularly pressing issue for the Orang Asli communities in Malaysia, as they are already facing battles on several fronts such as cultural erosion, loss of land and indifference from their fellow Malaysians. The lack of access to good education is likely to harm them a lot more in the long run than most Malaysian communities.

The Methodist Council of Education recognises this need, which is why in 2013, Zulfahadila and sisters Norizaifal and Nor Arima from the Sengoi community in Kampung Lanchang Rancangan Pembangunan Semula Pos Betau, Pahang were sent to Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), fully sponsored, to receive higher education.

However, before they could begin their Di-

ploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE) programme, they first had to contend with the language barrier that is so often faced by the Orang Asli. To assist them, MCKL's English faculty designed an English Language course specifically for their needs, to help bridge the gap between their proficiency in the language with the requirements of tertiary education.

Zulfahadila, known as Dila, admitted that the prospect of studying in the city so far from home was daunting at first, partly because they could not communicate well with their fellow Malaysians and partly because the Orang Asli village was very close to their hearts. "We were scared at first. [Orang Asli] usually don't like to leave their village," she said. But after five months or so of hard work in intensive English Classes, they had acquired the necessary proficiency in order to communicate effectively and were finally ready for the ECE course.

All three of them have enrolled in the 2014 January intake for ECE, and are working hard to prepare themselves for a career in teaching the future generations of Malaysia. Norizaifal, also known as Nori, expressed interest in gaining experience from working in the city, but nevertheless remembers that their time spent in MCKL is more importantly a part of their mission to help the Orang Asli community take a more active role in shaping Malaysia's future, a role that has been out of their reach for far too long. As Nor Arima (Emma), the youngest of the three, puts it, "We want to go back and teach the children in our village when we finish."

Aside from their academic growth, it has also been a wonder to witness these students growing as persons. All three of them expressed a joy in learning and were happy to have the opportunity to befriend fellow Malaysians of different ethnicities from different communities. "It was an interesting journey, and now that we have new friends, it is not so bad," says Dila. Indeed, it is most heartening to see that they are following in the footsteps of Ranimah Oransum, one of their seniors from the Dusun community in Sabah who recently completed the ECE programme. She too was driven by a desire to help her community, and it is our hope that many more students will choose a similar path of Christ-like service through life.

However, we should also remember that these are just the first few steps in the long journey of helping our neighbours. Miss Khor Kheing Leik, the Director of Academic Studies (Tertiary Programmes), says that "it has been a privilege to witness their lives being transformed", but also stressed that more needs to be done. In the future, MCKL and its affiliates would like to be able to send people to Orang Asli villages to train new teachers so that their communities can become self-sufficient when it comes to early childhood education, which would in turn alleviate some of the difficulties that they face when it comes to sending their children for higher education.

Miss Moey Yoke Lai, the CEO of MCKL, views this endeavour as a privilege and duty of the College and puts it thus, "We realise afresh the mandate given to the College by the Methodist Church of Malaysia – to provide quality education for the youth of our nation."

**Dila and Emma performing a traditional Sengoi dance during the graduation ceremony.**



# REVIVE US LORD!

## REVIVAL SEMINAR WITH DR. BARRY CHANT

12 APRIL 2014 (SAT) 10.00AM - 6.30PM | 13 APRIL 2014 (SUN) 9.00AM - 12.30PM

### HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL?

For the true believer there is perhaps no more haunting question. In the midst of the flood of pressures, and temptations of daily life, how do I maintain my relationship with the Lord in such a way that I am walking in "continuing revival"? How can I keep my "fire" burning when it seems that those around me are simply "smoldering" or have let their fires go out? Is it really possible to maintain a fervency for the Lord in today's modern world? Because we live in such different times, should we simply lower our expectations of spiritual intimacy with God?

Come and be encouraged by the clear biblical teaching of Dr Barry Chant, who recently authored two books, "Gifts of the Spirit" and "This is Revival".

#### REGISTRATION DETAILS

CATEGORY	DUE DATE	SEMINAR FEE
Early Bird	By 09 March 2014	RM 40.00 per person
Normal	10 - 31 March 2014	RM 50.00 per person
Late	After 31 March 2014	RM 60.00 per person

*Full-time Student Discount : 50% off registration fee.*



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Applicants 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.

Applications Forms may be obtained from:-

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Tel No: 03-79565310, 03-79577746**

Please enclose a stamped (60 cents), self-addressed envelope (4" x 9") with your written request for application forms.

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



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# General Conference of Methodist Women (GCMW)



**Christian Women & Environment Organised by General Conference Methodist Women (13 July 2013)**

## 1. Christian Women & Environment Seminar, 13 July 2013 at Wisma Methodist, Kuala Lumpur.

On the 13 July 2013, General Conference of Methodist Women (GCMW) organized a 1-Day seminar titled 'Christian Women & Environment' at the Wisma Methodist, Kuala Lumpur. The event was attended by 86 members from the six (6) conferences, and the objectives of the seminar were to create an awareness of our role (Christian Women) towards the environment, and to develop a GCMW Action Plan on environment. Christian women need to start making a difference in our life to protect what God had given us, and to help to safeguard and protect our environment.

The seminar is in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on Environ-

ment Sustainability promoted under the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

There were three papers presented at the seminar:-

- a. Christian Women & the Environment by Sister Lila Chelliah,
- b. The Art of Recycling by Mr. Don The-seira & Mdm. Mylene Ooi, and
- c. Save Energy & Save the Environment by Ir. Lalchand

The organizing chairlady for the seminar was Sister Margaret Chan, GCMW Coordinator for Social Concerns.

**President GCMW, Ir. Alice Jawan (4th from right), together with the GCMW Exco handing over toys to the representative of the Methodist Children Home Jinjang, Mdm. Diong Siew Ling.**



## 2. GCMW Toy Collection Project 2013

The community project for the year 2013 was aimed at children by providing them with educational toys for their mental/physical development. The General Conference of Methodist Women (GCMW) implemented a Toy Collection Project whereby members in each area are encouraged to donate recyclable or used toys for orphanages/homes in their respective area.

The Toy Collection Project was launched on the 13 July 2013 in conjunction with the Christian Women and Environment Seminar. Toys were donated/handed over to two (2) homes, namely the Methodist Children Home Jinjang and the House of Joy. The GCMW and the Annual Conferences of Methodist Women will continue to donate recyclable or used toys.

The project was carried throughout the year and in Sibul, both the SCAC MW & SIAC MW handed over their Toy Collections to the Methodist Childrens Child Care Center in Sibul at the respective MW Annual Conference in November 2013.

**President GCMW, Ir. Alice Jawan, handing over the toys collected by SCAC MW during their Annual Conference to the Superintendent of the Child Care Centre, Mr. Yong.**



# Paedo Communion and Chinese New Year Celebration

MIRI - Feb 2 Sunday Worship in Grace Methodist Church (GMC) will be fondly remembered as a historic day in years to come as baptised infants and children partook in their first Holy Communion along with their parents.



In accordance to the 2012 directive given by the General Conference of Methodist Church in Malaysia, GMC like all the SCAC churches in Sarawak, began the necessary preparatory works to allow baptised children even below age of 12 to partake in the Holy Communion.

Sacraments are important in the Methodist Church. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible spiritual grace of God.

There are two sacraments in Methodist Church; Baptism and Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper). Both ordinances given by Christ Jesus are regarded as outward signs through which God gives His grace. When the church participates in them with genuine faith and repentance, blessings and



grace of God are experienced and received.

Following the Worship Service, the congregation at the invitation of Rev. Lisa, visited her parsonage to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Scrumptious finger food and tidbits were served as the members enjoyed the auspicious occasion in warm fellowship.

Marie Ling, who was back for the holidays, was visibly elated with Rev. Lisa's Open House.

"It was encouraging to see everyone mingling with one another today. What a moment to share among brothers and sisters-in-Christ, regardless of race or background. I got the opportunity to really get to know many people, including our Nigerian sisters and not forgetting the delicious steamed dumplings!" said the Year 3 Accounting



Undergraduate of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

Expatriate Ayo Ayodele and family also attended the Open House. "An exciting experience it was to see the congregation young and old coming together to share the Chinese delicacies; I wish our Chinese members good health, peace and abundance in the Year of the Horse," he added.

Rev. Lisa also visited some members to serve them the Holy Communion as they were unable to attend church.

The Pastor-in-charge also visited various houses of her flock to rejoice with them the happy occasion.

*By James TC Wong,  
Grace Methodist Church*



# What can the Church do for our Mission Schools

Haven't we all heard the general lament of our Mission Schools; some even say that they are more like a *sekolah agama* than a Christian Mission School. What happened to the Christian Ethos of our Methodist Schools?!

It is with joy that I bring you greetings from a new avenue of the Council of Education called **Spiritual Life Development** of schools. As the recently appointed Director, I covet your prayers and partnership to bring back the Christian Witness and Christian Ethos in our schools which has been eroded over the last few decades.

Our Methodist Mission Schools have been providing education since 1891 with the Anglo-Chinese School (now MBS) in Penang. After that, many schools have been set up and blessed thousands of boys and girls with a good holistic education based on Christian values and principles. There were church schools, government-aided schools, afternoon schools, continuation schools, private schools and they attracted multiracial and multi-religious students of all social-economic backgrounds. Over the years, because of changes in policies and circumstances, demographics have also changed. The ethos or pervading spirit of the school has been reformed until it is often unrecognizable as a mission school.

## *A Picture*

A few years ago, at a church leaders' retreat, my pastor asked us to draw a picture of our vision for the church. In my picture there was a huge black mountain. Behind the mountain there was a river ... a River of Life and Jesus was walking in the river ... and there were people in the river walking with Him: teachers and students. On the banks of the river there were schools – mission schools. The schools, dotted along the river banks, were so near to the River of Life that the boys and girls could just step into the water and receive the Living Water.

What did all that mean??!

To me, it meant that our Mission Schools are great opportunities to reach the young with the love of God: the proximity of the school to the river of Life. I, myself, am a product of the Methodist Girls' School Kuala Lumpur and came to know Jesus as my Saviour and Lord whilst in Form 3. Coming from a non-Christian family, the seed was sown and nurtured in school.

However, there was no church in my picture, only schools.

## *The harvest field is plentiful*

There are about 40,000 students and 3,000 teachers in our Methodist schools, both government-aided and private.

*The land is there but who will sow the seed? Who will reap the harvest?*

Opportunities abound for the church as a whole, as well as individuals, to be involved. The recent National Educational Blueprint invites the Community to come and play a supportive role for the growth and development of the school and education.

This is a big challenge for us, the church, to claim back the original mission in education. But God is concerned about young people and so should we be.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matt.19:14

Our schools are public spaces where the greatest influence can change lives. We need people who care for these young boys and girls enough to invest their time, effort and perhaps money, for the betterment of individual lives and for the society and nation as a whole.

## **How the Church can do Ministry in the Mission School**

1. Be a member of the School Board of Governors/Managers
2. Be an active member of the School Parent-Teacher Association (PIBG)
3. Be an supportive member of the School Alumni Association
4. Possible ministries in schools
  - a. Poor and Needy – financial needs, meal supplement (recess, lunch, biscuits), bus fare, etc.
  - b. Coaching / Tuition for certain subjects
  - c. Counselling of Teachers & Students, offer a listening ear
  - d. Social welfare services
  - e. Offer help in school camps, school outings/trips
  - f. Girls' Brigade (GB) and Boys' Brigade (BB) – Officer, Helper, Instructor, Chaplain
  - g. Help organize Founder's Day
  - h. Be present at Special Days, e.g. Awards Day, Sports Day, School Performances, Retirement of Teachers, etc.
  - i. Support School Fund-Raising Activities
  - j. Visit the Heads and pray for them
  - k. And so much more...
5. Christian activities in schools
  - a. Christian Fellowship – Speakers, Advisor
  - b. Chapel – Speakers, Advisor, Music
  - c. Teach Bible Knowledge (for SPM), Religious Knowledge (non-exam Bible teaching)
  - d. Prayer meetings, prayer walks
  - e. School CF camps, Teachers' Camps/Conferences

f. Religious Emphasis Week

6. Offer expertise/skill as human resource to any school project/function
7. Help create a Mission School atmosphere
8. The Church should strongly support the GB and BB ministry in the school by providing personnel and training; where there is no company in the school, to look into starting one. The programme is holistic and it is recognized by the Ministry of Education, as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
9. Encourage students to take up Bible Knowledge as a subject in school.
10. Promote Teaching as a Vocation and Mission. Get young people to become Teachers.
11. Offer merit (on academic performance) or social (on financial needs) Scholarships
12. In every school, private or government-aided, we must work

towards the appointment of a SCSC (School Christian Support Committee) chairperson from a nearby church to spearhead the work.

Let us be involved in a visible, genuinely concerned and unbiased way.

We offer our assistance to educate and nurture, and if the Lord gives opportunity, to evangelise and make disciple. We do not convert people - that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord establish the work of our hands to the glory of His Name.

Please contact me for further clarification.

Shalom,

*Tay Choon Neo*

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## Devotion

# DEVOTION

## *A Reconciling Appeal*

*The way from God to a human heart is through a human heart.*  
(S.D. Gordon)

### **IN WORD:**

An ambassador is a bridge between two nations. He or she represents one country in the territory of another. It's a difficult job, demanding sensitivity and tact. It requires a balance between respect for the host culture and allegiance to the home culture. By definition, an ambassador represents the agenda of his or her homeland. Though he or she lives in a foreign land, the interests of home are paramount.

We live in a foreign land. We belong to another Kingdom, as the Bible makes clear; it calls us citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20) and members of a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9). But we are assigned a role in the land of our (earthly) birth. Sometimes that land is hostile territory, and sometimes its familiarity lingers within us. Either way, our agenda is clear: we are to represent the interest of our King and to do so winsomely.

Most of us are simply trying to get by from one day to the next in this life. We see ourselves more as survivors than

### **One Year at the Cross Devotional** by Chris Tiegreen

as ambassadors. Nevertheless, we have a higher calling than survival. We are not simply saved out of the world, we are called to go back into it, proclaiming the fullness of the coming Kingdom. We are to take the reconciliation of God into a dazed and confused generation. We are to live a holy lifestyle in the midst of an unholy culture. We are representatives of God.

### **IN DEED:**

*If that does not give purpose to your day, nothing will. Ambassadors are often people who are particularly special to the president or prime minister who appoints them. In our case, we are appointed by the Most High God. It is a sacred assignment with lives at stake.*

*Immerse yourself in the values of the Kingdom of God, then make your appeal to your culture. Go to individuals, to governments, to social organisations, to economic entities - go everywhere. The task of an ambassador is broad, and the purpose is clear: affect one kingdom for the sake of another.*

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.*

*2 Corinthians 5:20*

# The Brides Came Bare-Footed



The former Miss Jipah anak Bilih, the recent bride of Mr. Jerry Rabu Mekong. They are under appointment to work in Malaya



At Bawang Assan, South of SibU on the river, young missionaries Jerry Rabu Mekong and William Entering Mapan walk with their brides in the double wedding procession



Mrs. William Entering Mapan, bride of one of the two most recent Iban graduates of the Methodist Theological School in SibU

The Bridal March pealed out from the organ at Bawang Assan Methodist Church, on March 21. Two brides made their entry (both were slightly late as all good brides are); both were beautifully dressed in white and carried lovely bouquets of flowers.

It could have been a wedding at a fashionable Church in any part of the world, except for one thing. Two pairs of bare feet peeped out from under the downy white of the wedding dresses. This marked the occasion as a peculiarly Iban one, for Sarawak is not the best of places to wear white high-heeled shoes.

One of the newly-wed coupled at this double wedding was Jerry Rabu Mekong and his young wife Jipah. **(Rabu's story appeared in the March issue).** Jipah

comes from Bawang Assan, and has had experience in medical work. She worked for a time at Christ Hospital in Kapit, and later transferred to the Methodist Clinic at Bukit Lan where she worked as Nurses' Aide until her marriage.

After their honeymoon, these two young Methodists were all set to fly to Malaya to begin missionary work among the aboriginal tribes there. But things have not gone so smoothly as was hoped. It has not been possible to obtain permission from the authorities in Malaya for Rabu and Jipah to enter the country. One thing seemed to have been settled and with farewells from family and friends the two were seen off from SibU Airport.

But this was not the end of the story, for they travelled no farther than Kuching.

Here they were turned back. So still they wait, this young dedicated couple, to fulfill the vocation to which God has called them and to which the Church has appointed them.

One serious aspect arises out of this experience of Rabu and Jipah, and it is that there are still many loose ends to be tied up in the relationships between the States which make up Malaysia. One is tempted to ask why it is not possible as yet for a Malaysian citizen to travel freely from one State to another when his work is assured and waiting for him.

*Pictures by Charles Root  
Story by Trevor Hancock  
Methodist Message  
July 1964*

*For* sin shall no longer be your master,  
because you are not under the law,  
but under grace.

Romans 6:14

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*Remember: LOVE is the key to success!*



*Teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning' - Anon.*



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