

PELITA METHODIST

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Moment

GC Pastors' School at PDMC
dated 13-16 April 2015



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**Experiencing
the Reality of
GOD
in our
Daily Lives!**

Facilitators:
Rev. Chew Tow Yow (English)
Dr. Voon Choon Khing (Chinese)

Date:
June 26-29, 2015

Venue:
**Chefoo Methodist Centre,
Cameron Highlands**

Fees: **RM 280**

For more information or registration do contact **Michael William**
(GC Executive Youth Director at micwill001@gmail.com,
h/p: 0162061425) or your AC Youth Director

Isaiah 58: 6-9a

- 6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
- 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with
shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh
and blood?
- 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear
guard.
- 9a Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say:
Here am I.

An Episcopal MISSIONAL CALL

A Methodist Church after God's Own Heart -
**Growing deep and strong inside,
Standing with Christ's Body nationwide,
Giving God glory from every side.**

Reflections of the GC Pastors' School 2015

Greetings, in Jesus' name. The General Conference Pastors' School was held from the 13th -16th April at the Port Dickson Methodist Center. The theme was "Faithful Shepherding in Turbulent Times". This was an exciting time as the last time the all Methodist Church pastors met together for a time together was in Sibu in 2010. It was also exciting as we could meet up with our fellow pastors from other conferences while catching up with one another. This school was especially good for us pastors as we also met our seminary mates after many years. The theme Faithful Shepherding in Turbulent Times was indeed very appropriate in these period of our country's for the churches in Malaysia. With great wisdom the General Conference made it possible to have excellent speakers at the School, both from local and overseas to address the current situation of our country that effects the churches today. Our Bishop in his oppening address cum Holy Communion service issued the call with his encouraging word that pastors should "not lose heart" (*Jangan Patah Semangat*)

but continue to serve the Lord fervently. As pastors we were encouraged and warned by the various speakers to be vigilant, to be careful of the times we are living in and to love our neighbours. We were also warned of difficulties faced by our brothers and sisters in Sabah and Sarawak in professing their faith. Therefore members of our churches were called to be on our knees praying for one another. The main speaker from a neighbouring country kept on encouraging us to not give up and nor underestimate the power of prayer. He showed us evidences on how prayer can actually transform the political and the religious climate of a nation. The Pastors' School was indeed very fruitful and edifying for us pastors. I would like to convey a word of gratitude to our Bishop and the the Organising Committee for a job well done. Kudos!

Rev. Raymond Raj Ponnuthurai
TAC-MCM



Call for Prayers for the People of Nepal from the World Methodist Council



Photo source: Australian Broadcasting Corp.

April 27, 2015

Following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake this weekend in Nepal that claimed thousands of lives and thousands more injured, the World Methodist Council Social Justice & International Affairs Committee issued the following statement on behalf of the World Methodist Council:

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the victims of the earthquake in Nepal, their families, and the surrounding nations. We pray for The Nepal Methodist Church to continue its mission and purpose amidst these difficult circumstances, and we acknowledge the relief and mission work being done by the Methodist-Wesleyan family members in that country. We ask that all continue to join hands in prayer for the victims and those who are affected. We pray and ask that the Methodist-Wesleyan family further engage in actions that will assist the country to move forward after this incident, following the words of John Wesley to, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." We believe that Jesus Christ continuously spread peace in the world, and we pray for His peace to cover all of the families affected.

To follow relief efforts on the ground in Nepal, please visit one of our Member Church links below:

- **The Wesleyan Church**
- **Free Methodist World Missions**
- **Nazarene Church Eurasia Region**
- **Uniting Church in Australia**
- **Methodist Church in Britain Mission Partners**
- **The United Methodist Church**

Devotion

DEVOTION

A God of Comfort

In Christ the heart of the Father is revealed, and higher comfort there cannot be than to rest in the Father's heart.

(Andrew Murray)

IN WORD:

Sometimes we think of Him as the Father of hardship or as the God of the difficult path. We sometimes wonder why, when we say "not my will but Thine," He seems so eager to take us up on the offer. We strive and we struggle and we get discouraged. We forget that He is called "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."

Why do we forget that so easily? Perhaps it's because the struggles are so easy to see and the encouragement isn't. Perhaps only the eyes of faith can see the ways He works to comfort us. Or perhaps the members of the body who should be giving us encouragement have missed their assignment. Regardless, we hurt sometimes, and all we want is for our Father to notice and to let us know He cares. When we feel like that, we need to refer back to this verse. Compassion and comfort are what He's all about.

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

It's true. God lets us suffer, but He also longs to embrace us. He wants us to see the end of the story and know that the glory He's promised will always outweigh the pain we've suffered. He wants His other children to gather around us and express His love. He knows life is hard. And He wants us to know He isn't.

IN DEED:

Romans 8:32 assures us that if God gave up His Son for us, we can count on the fact that He's on our side. Even when life seems to argue against that point, faith tells us that it's true. The God who made us, redeemed us, guides us, and loves us is the God of compassion and comfort.

Do you need compassion and comfort today? Seek it in your Father. He offers it, even when His people neglect to show it. Rest in His Word and imagine His loving arms holding you up in your trial. You'll never become a minister of His grace until you know how to receive it. So today, just receive it. Let God comfort you. He is never reluctant to do so.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3

Announcement



CGPA 0.92

CONGRATULATIONS

Wesley Methodist School K.L. SPM student high achievers for being the best



12 A's

NG XIN-YIE
NG YANN HERNG
ASHLEY LUM YI - YAN

11 A's

ASHVINNIE SIVAKARAN
CHOONG E-LUAN
JEANNIE WEE FERN
JOHAAN ABRAHAM RAMAMATHAN
ODELIJA LOKE LI-ERN
ABISHEK ARUL SOTHY
AMBOROSE YEE ZI GIAN
CHENG KHAI SENG
JOEL WONG JUN XIAN
KOH HEI LING
MELANIE LIM EE LING
SWETA SOLAI A/P LAKSHUMANAN SANKER
TAN CHEAH MIN
TAN LI MAY
TEH KAR YI
YEE HONG HUI
CHIA PEI WEI
HAN MUN MUN
JESSICA YAP YI MAY
LEE YEE HUI
LEOW TJUN WEI
ONG KAR YAN
TAN SIE PING
WOON KEE ONN
CHIAM WEI XIONG
DAPHANINIE ONN YEE CHING
ERNEST WONG YUE ERN

JOSHUA CHIN SOON KEAN
KEVIN CHEONG KUAN WEI
KIM TAE HO
LEW YU YANG
POH SIE YIN
SABRINA HIEW SZE WENN
TAN JUN HAO
TAN YONG NI
VALENTIA SHEE MINHUI
CHIA WAN QIAN
CHRISTINE NGOH HUEI CHING
CHUCK VINCENT
DAVID LAU WEN CHUNG
FOON QIAO HUI
GOH CHIN LYN
JOANNA WOO MUI ERN
JONATHAN SIN JUN YUAN
LOW AISHEN
YAP UEN HSIEH
CHARMAINE YEO SHERN LI
CHONG TZE YEE
KAVIYANA A/P SITARTHA RAJA KUMARAN
KIMBERLY LIM XINYI
KOK CHEE CHENG @ HUI CHEE CHENG

10 A's

CHAN SZE QI
CHOO MEI YIN
GERALDINE LENG YEING GER
LEONG PEIK LYNN
LIM ZI KEI
ONG AN NIE
ZACHARY LUKE CHEE KENG JIN



AMEER HARITH BIN AZLAN A AZIZEE
ANTHEA OOI MEILYN
CATRENA CHOONG JING YI
CHAI LIP KIEW
FLORENCE CHAN YIN NING
KUHAEN A/L MURALITHARAN
MAREENA ANG YUN YUN
NG ZHENG ONN
TA MAE ANN
THAM EZA
AARON TAN VERN FOO
AIDAN AKASH NATHAN
CHAI YI LE
CHARISMA NAIR MURALI
CHARISSA JOO JUNE
CHIENG JIN HAN
CHING CHUN HONG
GINGER ANG CHUN-XUE
HAN CHANG EU
HWANG SHU WEI
JOEL LIM WENJIN
SNG WEOI EN
THANEESHA A/P RAVEENDRAKUMAR
WONG LIEW TAA
WONG YONG JIE
CHIN YANN LIH
JULIUS YAP JIN SHIEN
LIM EE WEN
LOH LEONG SENG
LOH PEI JIN
LOUISE YEOW JIAMEN
LUCAS MATTHEW DUTTON
NG HUI YING

NG WERN HUI
TAN YONG REN
TARA SHALEEN KAUR BHULLAR
CHAN CHIN CHUN
CHAN WEI HENG
CHAN YIK HOE
DERIC YEE JI YONG
JOSHUA LIM KANG BEN
KONG KAH KEEN
LEE REN EE
NICOLE CHONG HUEY WEN
SAN PENNY
WEE SZE SHIAN
ALLISON CHAANG E-TSENG
ASHOK KUMAR
BETHANY LIM KAR-MEN
CHIA KYE LI
JOSHUA LEE CHEIK CHANG
LEONG TIAN XIANG
LOO HAO WEN
MITHRAAN A/L S.SUNTHARA MOORTHY
PHILIP YUNG CHUN FAI
THAM JIA LYNN
TIEH LI SHEA
YAU HENG HUA
YONG CHEN LE

27 students - 9 A's. 4 students - 5 A's.
16 students - 8 A's. 4 students - 4 A's.
6 students - 7 A's. 1 student - 3 A's.
1 student - 6 A's.

WESLEY METHODIST SCHOOLS, WEST MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur campus | 03 - 4041 6470 Klang campus | 03 - 3371 8852 Seremban campus | 06 - 762 0068
Melaka campus | 06 - 284 9025 Ipoh campus | 05 - 2545 122

Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur No. 1 in SPM for Malaysia



Ameer Harith, Odelia, Allison and Chieng from Wesley Methodist School, KL thrilled with their SPM results.

Recently, Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur (WMSKL) made history by achieving stellar results in the 2014 SPM examinations, scoring a record CGPA of 0.92, making it the top performing school in the country. Overall, the percentage of students obtaining 5 As and above in this top performing school is 98%.

Straight A+ students, Odelia Loke Li – Ern (10 A+), Ameer Harith B. Azlan Azizee (9 A+), Chieng Jin Han (9 A+) and Allison Chaang E – Tseng (9 A+) were thrilled with their exceptional results.

Top student Odelia Loke Li – Ern credited her teachers for encouraging her and giving her the confidence to do well during her 5 years in the school. She also thanked her teacher advisors of the Girls' Brigade, Editorial Board, Chess Club, Environment and Eco – School Society and the Library Board for honing her leadership skills. She thanked her parents for developing in her the love for sports as she participated fervently in marathons and badminton. Odelia Loke is thankful because WMSKL is a mis-

sion school, she learned moral lessons and grew in faith, and she thanked God for the grace to achieve such exceptional results.

Ameer Harith thanked his parents for providing much love and support in his years of schooling, and always giving him the self – confidence needed. He appreciates the advice by his parents to strive for a balanced life, in studying and yet having time for play. He also credited his teachers and fellow friends for the much needed guidance and support.

Chieng Jin Han is grateful to his parents for their selfless support and encouragement. The group study with his friends really helped with his grades. His active participation in the Leo Club also helped him to develop necessary leadership skills.

For student, **Allison Chaang E – Tseng**, she is thankful to her parents for their support in her studies and encouraging her to be involved in extra – curricular activities, such as Interact Club, tennis, netball and then becoming a school prefect. She is grateful to

her teachers who walked the extra mile to conduct extra lessons after school.

All the four straight A+ students pay tribute to the Wesley Methodist School, Kuala Lumpur's Principal, Mdm Chia Loy Tian and the Vice Principal, Mdm Pearl Moses, their homeroom teachers, subject teachers and teacher advisors for shaping them and encouraging them to strive for success in line with the school motto "Above and Beyond". They are all proud to be a Wesley-an and part of an enduring heritage which Wesley Methodist School provides - a place where students are nurtured and developed holistically to their fullest potential and character marked by excellence in Academic performance, Character formation and Extra-curricular achievement.

Last year, Wesley Methodist School (WM-SKL), Kuala Lumpur received approval from The Ministry of Education to be an International School, offering Cambridge IGCSE. There are also plans to open the first Wesley Methodist International School in Penang starting in Year 2018, in line with the Government's aspiration to make Malaysia an educational hub.

For more information on Wesley Methodist Schools, please call the following campuses,

Kuala Lumpur (Evelyn 03 – 4041 6470),

Klang (Ms Chew 03 – 3371 8852),

Seremban (Lawrence 06 – 762 0068),

Melaka (Fiona 06 – 284 9025) and

Ipoh (Rebecca 05 – 2545 122)

or log on to www.wms.edu.my.

*From Daniel Gan
Council of Education*

March 23, 2015

Dear Mdm Chia,

Six years ago, our daughter, Odelia walked into Wesley Methodist School Kuala Lumpur (WMSKL), sat for her entrance exam and was accepted by your school, the **BEST** in the country, not just in name but in good deeds. WMSKL is noted for:-

- Instilling the value of devotion to God & Family;
- Inculcating the concern for others;
- Fostering the spirit of giving & sharing
- Honing the skills of academic excellence

My husband and I can still remember vividly how Mdm Pearl Moses, the vice principal and her teachers, have shown great care and concern over our daughter's unexplained weight-loss when she was in Form Two.

For months, they have cared and counselled our daughter, in ways that went above and beyond their call of duty. As parents, we were indeed very thankful & blessed that Odelia was a student of WMSKL. It was a blessing that we would like to share with all the parents who have children studying here in WMSKL, as well as those in other schools.

In our hearts, WMSKL is no ordinary school, yet it caters to ordinary people like us. For sure, it is not a school that is dollar-driven. It is one that is driven by the power of LOVE, DEVOTION, CARE & COMMITMENT, to nurture the young that goes above and beyond the boundaries of the rich and poor, colour and creed.

It was here in WMSKL that Odelia was given the opportunity to excel in both her studies and extra-curriculum activities.

During her five memorable years in this school, she has had a blend of laughter and tears, rain and sunshine that saw her through one test after another. It was this so called, test of fire that has made her the finest steel – A SHINING LIGHT.

Here, we want to THANK ALL of You - Mdm Chia Loy Tian, Mdm Pearl Moses, Mdm Cecilia Ratnam, Ms Anne Charley, Mdm Zuhairah Hodari, Mdm Irene Wong, Library Assistants, Teachers, Counsellors and all Non Academic Staff for your BIG HAND in making Odelia a piece of finest steel.

As a gesture of appreciation to all of you, my husband and I would like to make a small donation in the school. Of course, what we are giving today can never measure up to the love, care and guidance that all of you have given to Odelia over the years.

We sincerely hope that Odelia will continue to be a shining light to others, in just the same way that all of you are to her.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Loke Fu Wah



HEALING CONFERENCE

WITH

John & Merilyn Edwards
Directors of Brisbane Healing Rooms

10 July 2015 (Friday) 8:00PM – 9:30PM | **11 July 2015 (Saturday)** 10:00AM – 5:00PM | **12 July 2015 (Sunday)** 9:00AM – 12:30PM

Have you ever wondered...?

Who are you? What is your identity? Are you living like a son or daughter of the King or like a servant in His Kingdom? What does the Word of God say about healing? How to have a believing faith?

Why is it that not everyone we pray for gets healed? What are those things that can block the flow of God's healing power in our lives and prevent us from receiving this gift? What is "the promise of the Father" mentioned in the Book of Acts and why do we need it? How do we walk in fullness of the life that God has ordained for us? What is "the anointing"? What can it do for your life?

Then this Conference is for you! In fact, it's for EVERYONE desiring to learn more about the ministry of Jesus Christ and to experience His healing and freeing work.



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
KUALA LUMPUR

2, Jalan Wesley
50150 Kuala Lumpur

phone: (+603) 2072 0338/9
email: wmck@kwesley.org | www.kwesley.org

HEALING CONFERENCE

John & Merilyn Edwards
Directors of Brisbane Healing Rooms

John and Merilyn Edwards are both ordained ministers with the Full Gospel Churches in Queensland, Australia. They have been happily married for 48 years; have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. They love the Lord and have served God through the local church for many years as Youth Group, Bible Study and Home Group Leaders as well as Elders.

Over the past 12 years, they have headed up an interdenominational healing ministry which ministers to people from all walks of life, cultures, creeds and nationalities who have need for physical, mental, emotional or spiritual healing. Signs and wonders are evident every time their team gets together to minister. They have seen God do amazing healings and miracles in hundreds of people's lives and many respond to the Gospel message.

They are also Queensland State Directors and National Trainers for Healing Rooms Australia, overseeing 16 Healing Rooms across the state as well as travelling to many developed and developing nations across the world, training hundreds of local Pastors to operate in Healing Rooms in their own churches or villages.

They have a burning desire to see God's Kingdom come on this earth as it is in heaven and consider themselves extremely privileged to be able to serve God in this way.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



John & Merilyn Edwards

CONFERENCE TOPICS

Opening Session: The Father's Heart
Session 1: The Healing Word
Session 2: Hindrances to our Healing

Session 3: Holy Spirit Baptism & Anointing
Session 4: Ministry Time

REG. TYPE	DUE DATE	FEE/PAX
Early Bird	By 24 May 2015	RM 40
Normal	25 May 2015 - 25 June 2015	RM 50
Late	26 June 2015 - 9 July 2015	RM 60
Walk-in	10 - 11 July 2015	RM 70

Full-time Student Rate: 50% discount off Normal registration fee

- Registration must be accompanied by payment to be valid.
 - Fees paid are non-refundable; however, you may transfer your registration to another person.
- For enquiries, please call the Church Office, 03-2072-0338/9 or email to wmck@kwesley.org.

CALL TO ACTION

PART II

FOR THE WORLD WE SERVE

The Cape Town Call to Action

4 THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND MISSION

The New Testament shows the close partnership between the work of evangelism and church planting (eg the Apostle Paul), and the work of nurturing churches (eg Timothy and Apollos). Both tasks are integrated in the Great Commission, where Jesus describes disciple-making in terms of evangelism (before ‘baptizing them’) and ‘teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.’ Theological education is part of mission beyond evangelism.⁹⁹

The mission of the Church on earth is to serve the mission of God, and the mission of theological education is to strengthen and accompany the mission of the Church. Theological education serves *first* to train those who lead the Church as pastor-teachers, equipping them to teach the truth of God’s Word with faithfulness, relevance and clarity; and *second*, to equip all God’s people for the missional task of understanding and relevantly communicating God’s truth in every cultural context. Theological education engages in spiritual warfare, as ‘we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.’¹⁰⁰

A Those of us who lead churches and mission agencies need to acknowledge that theological education is intrinsically missional. Those of us who provide theological education need to ensure that it is intentionally missional, since its place within the academy is not an end in itself, but to serve the mission of the Church in the world.

B Theological education stands in partnership with all forms of missional engagement. We will encourage and support all who provide biblically-faithful theological education, formal and non-formal, at local, national, regional and international levels.

C We urge that institutions and programmes of theological education conduct a ‘missional audit’ of their curricula, structures and ethos, to ensure that they truly serve the needs and opportunities facing the Church in their cultures.

D We long that all church planters and theological educators should place the Bible at the centre of their partnership, not just in doctrinal statements but in practice. Evangelists must use the Bible as the supreme source of the content and authority of their message. Theological educators must re-centre the study of the Bible as the core discipline in Christian theology, integrating and permeating all other fields of study and application. Above all theological education must serve to equip pastor-teachers for their prime responsibility of preaching and teaching the Bible.¹⁰¹

CONCLUSION

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. God’s Spirit was in Cape Town, calling the Church of Christ to be ambassadors of God’s reconciling love for the world. God kept the promise of his Word as his people met together in Christ’s name, for the Lord Jesus Christ himself dwelt among us, and walked among us.¹⁰²

We sought to listen to the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. And in his mercy, through his Holy Spirit, Christ spoke to his listening people. Through the many voices of Bible exposition, plenary addresses, and group discussion, two repeated themes were heard:

- The need for radical obedient discipleship, leading to maturity, to growth in depth as well as growth in numbers;
- The need for radical cross-centred reconciliation, leading to unity, to growth in love as well as growth in faith and hope.

Discipleship and reconciliation are indispensable to our mission. We lament the scandal of our shallowness and lack of discipleship, and the scandal of our disunity and lack of love. For both seriously damage our witness to the gospel.

We discern the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ in these two challenges because they correspond to two of Christ’s most emphatic words to the Church as recorded in the gospels. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus gave us our primary mandate - to make disciples among all nations. In John’s Gospel, Jesus gave us our primary method - to love one another so that the world

will know we are disciples of Jesus. We should not be surprised, but rather rejoice to hear the Master’s voice, when Christ says the same things 2,000 years later to his people gathered from all around the world. *Make disciples. Love one another.*

Make disciples

Biblical mission demands that those who claim Christ’s name should be like him, by taking up their cross, denying themselves, and following him in the paths of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servanthood. To fail in discipleship and disciple-making, is to fail at the most basic level of our mission. The call of Christ to his Church comes to us afresh from the pages of the gospels: ‘Come and follow me’; ‘Go and make disciples’.

Love one another

Three times Jesus repeated, ‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’¹⁰³ Three times Jesus prayed ‘that all of them may be one, Father.’¹⁰⁴ Both the command and the prayer are missional. ‘*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*’ ‘*May they be brought to complete unity so that the world may know that you sent me.*’ Jesus could not have made his point more emphatically. The evangelization of the world and recognition of Christ’s deity are helped or hindered by whether or not we obey him in practice. The call of Christ and his apostles comes to us afresh: ‘Love one another’; ‘Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.’¹⁰⁵ It is for the sake of God’s mission that we renew our commitment to obey this ‘message we heard from the beginning.’¹⁰⁶ When Christians live in the reconciled unity of love by the power of the Holy Spirit, the world will come to know Jesus, whose disciples we are, and come to know the Father who sent him.

In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and on the sole foundation of faith in God’s infinite mercy and saving grace, we earnestly long and pray for a reformation of biblical discipleship and a revolution of Christ-like love.

We make this our prayer and we undertake this our commitment for the sake of the Lord we love and for the sake of the world we serve in his name.

FOR REFLECTION

1. Looking at each section A-F, in what areas could (i) you or (ii) those in your church or agency, make a specific contribution?
2. What goals could you set over the short-term, mid-term and long-term to archive this? If your group changes membership frequently (eg a student group), are there principles to be included in your teaching programme, to prepare members for their longer-term service in the local church?
3. 'Love in action embodies and commends the gospel grace'. This section has been referred to as one of the most searching. What questions does it raise for you - in your family, your workplace, your church, your public or social responsibilities?
4. As well as looking at the calls to action in each section, consider what lies behind them. For example,
 - (i) if better discipleship training will give us better leaders, how can we contribute to modelling Christian discipleship?
 - (ii) how can we help Christians - older as well as younger - to grow in their love of Scripture, as God's Word to us?

Your further personal reflections:

NOTES (Part II)

99. Colossians 1:28-29; Acts 19:8-10; 20:20, 27; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
100. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
101. 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:2b; 4:11-14; Titus 1:9; 2:1
102. Leviticus 26:11-12; Matthew 18:20; 28:20
103. John 13:34; 15:12, 17
104. John 17:21-23
105. Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11-14; 4:7-21
106. 1 John 3:11

CLOSING ADDRESS

WE HAVE A GOSPEL
TO PROCLAIM

LINDSAY BROWN'S CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS*

The gospel of Jesus Christ is unique, wonderful, powerful and true. That is why we've met together. What will be the legacy of this Congress? Only God knows - we don't, at this stage. But I can tell you our four-fold vision and hope.

Firstly, for a ringing re-affirmation of the uniqueness of Christ and the truth of the biblical gospel, and a crystal clear statement on the mission of the Church - all rooted in Scripture. We cannot engage in mission unless we know what we believe. The historic missionary conference of Edinburgh 1910 set in motion great missionary endeavour. But it had a flaw - the organisers sidelined doctrine. So they aimed to launch a missionary movement without biblical consensus. That's folly. We need to have clarity, especially on four things: (i) the exclusive claims of Christ; (ii) the meaning of Christ's death; (iii) the necessity of conversion; (iv) the lostness of humankind. *The Cape Town Commitment* seeks to give this clarity.

Secondly, to identify key issues which the Church needs to address in the coming decade. The mission statement for the Congress was that 'we should seek to bring a fresh challenge to the global Church to bear witness to Jesus Christ and all his teaching, in every part of the world - not only geographically, but in every sphere of society, and in the realm of ideas'.

Thirdly, to facilitate many fruitful friendships and partnerships. In a needy and broken world we cannot be driven by a spirit of competition. We need a new generation of evangelical leaders, men and women, and people of different ethnicities, who are driven by their commitment to the cause of Christ, and genuinely rejoice when the gospel goes out, no matter who is leading the charge.

Fourthly, for many new initiatives. We maintain too much, and pioneer too little. In 1974, there was a great surge of interest in unreached people groups. From this Congress we may see new initiatives in reaching oral learners, young people, diaspora or the cities. Or perhaps see fresh energy in communicating biblical truth in the public domain through the media, the arts, business, the university and government. These arenas all shape the value systems in nations and require bold, clear and coherent Christian testimony.

Whatever God is pleased to do, our reading in 2 Corinthians 4 gives us three principles to

take away. These principles have been repeated throughout the Congress. Let's look at them here:

1. Mission is Christocentric

A journalist this week asked me, 'Bishop Stephen Neill says that when mission is everything, mission is nothing. What is not the mission of the Church?' My answer: 'Mission is driven by a desire to proclaim the deity, incarnation, death, resurrection and lordship of Christ. Anything without this at its core is not mission.' Our message is unashamedly Christocentric. Look at Paul's emphasis on Christ in 2 Corinthians 4:

- v4 - the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God
- v5 - preaching Christ Jesus as Lord
- v6 - the glory of God in the face of Christ

There is no substitute for testifying verbally to his lordship. It is amazing how creative the early evangelists were in this. They spoke in local synagogues, but also on neutral territory - think of Paul on Mars Hill. Some of us will be called to engage in dialogue with the thinkers and influencers, and to bring clear and coherent testimony to the Truth in Christ in the public sphere.

Our communion meal focuses around John the Baptist's ecstatic claim when he saw Jesus and called him 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.' When I was a student at Oxford University, I studied in the same college where John Wesley had been a professor 250 years previously. I took the opportunity to read through his journals, which he recorded every day during his itinerant ministry. One phrase struck me, which he repeated day after day - 'I offered Christ to the people... Today I offered Christ to the people'. That is our primary calling, to offer Christ to the peoples of the world.

2. The need for integrity

We are to watch our walk! Our words must come from godly lives. We are called to bear witness to Christ as fallen, fragile 'earthen vessels' (v7). We should be careful about relying on technique, or clever approaches; the gospel should be shared not by craftiness or by adulterating the Word of God (v2), but out of our weakness (v7), focusing on the power of God.

We dare not think we will succeed because we have money and technology. We depend only on the greatness of the gospel, the power of God, the help and power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God. As we go out, let us focus on the truth of the gospel (v2), the gospel of the glory of Christ (v4), the lordship of Christ (v5), the glory of God in the face of Christ (v6). And may this word of truth

be backed up by authentic, transformed, joyful lives.

John Stott said in his last published sermon that the greatest hindrance to the advance of the gospel worldwide is the failure of God's people to live like God's people. We are to demonstrate godly lives before a watching world - caring for the underprivileged, the poor, those affected by pandemics, the broken-hearted. Jesus's approach was very simple. He spoke to the 5,000 and he fed them. For he cared about people. So should we.

3. A call to perseverance

Finally, the apostle exhorts us not to lose heart (v1). Many of us will return to difficult circumstances. Our calling is to persevere to the end and not lose heart. I remember talking with the only person from Somalia at the last Lausanne Congress in 1989. He was the only Somali elder in the only evangelical church in Mogadishu, made up by seventy believers, and was employed by the United Nations. He had received an invitation to go and work with the UN in New York, but turned it down to stay among his own people. As a consequence, he lost his life in 1990. Gospel service is costly, but we are to continue because of the glory of the gospel and the commission of our Lord.

Christian ministry is rarely quick. We thank

God for rapid growth, but often the Word of God takes root slowly. We are to adopt a long view. Let me illustrate this. Prof Jerry Gana, a senior politician in Nigeria, has served five consecutive presidents, Muslim and Christian. Jerry is known for remaining free of corruption. I asked him how he had managed to retain his reputation for integrity and fairness. This was his answer. He learned as a student what it meant to abide in Christ and keep short accounts. We need to teach that too. He chose his colleagues and partners slowly because he said even some Christian politicians make foolish mistakes. For if it all goes wrong, you have to face the consequences, and it can damage your testimony.

He realized the importance of legacy. He said 'God has given me the privilege of serving in public life for 30 years. I hope I can continue for another 25. I'd like to mentor and develop a generation of young evangelical politicians in Nigeria who will multiply that influence. My prayer is that God will impact the political life of this nation through evangelical Christian politicians over a 60 year period.' That is a tremendous long-term vision and aspiration!

Or think of Adoniram Judson, one of the earliest American missionaries, who arrived in Burma or Myanmar in 1812, and died there in 1850. He lost his first wife, Ann, to whom he was devoted, and several children. He was im-

prisoned, tortured and kept in shackles. There were very few professing Christians in the country when he died. But he had completed the translation of the Bible.

Paul Borthwick spoke at the 150th anniversary of that Bible translation. In small print he read 'Translated by Rev A. Judson'. He asked his translator, Matthew Hla Win, 'What do you know of this man?' Matthew began to weep. 'He suffered for the gospel out of his love for us, and died a pauper. But today over 600,000 of us trace our spiritual heritage to Adoniram Judson.' Some of us will be called to invest our lives in ministries for which we do not see fruit.

'Therefore, beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.' (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Let me leave you with the words of John Wesley. As you seek to bear witness to Christ - and with God's help: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'

Until Christ returns or calls us home, let us all press on to the end in serving Christ, our King, God bless you.

Notice

HO SENG ONG SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND

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:-

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

Contact Number: 03-7956 5310

Please enclose a stamped (60 cents), self-addressed envelope (4" x 9") with your written request for application forms. Or you may come personally to collect the forms.

The closing date for the submission of application is: **30th June 2015.**

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

Christian Colonizers

By Rev. J.M. Hoover



One of the new style churches appearing in the colony. The school is connected by a covered way.

After the Boxer rebellion in China in 1900, the conditions under which the Christians lived were very hard. A man, by name Uong Nai Siong, a scholar and teacher of the missionaries who came to Foochow, was a reader of American history. It occurred to him that poor Christian Chinese might emigrate as poor English-men had done under much the same conditions when the Mayflower sailed.

So he set out for the South Seas not knowing whither he went, just to have a look around. If you go south from China there is only one place to go, that is Singapore. There he heard of Rajah Brooke and his big fertile domain. So he went to see the Rajah. Now it happens that in Sarawak there is much land suitable for rice culture, and the Rajah had tried to get Chinese to come in to raise rice. Many did come, but soon moved up the river to dig gold. So when Mr. Uong appeared proposing to bring in settlers who were chiefly farmers and whose desire it was to raise rice and then more rice an agreement was soon reached. The Rajah gave a grant of land on the Rejang river, and \$20,000 to get the immigrants down. The proprietor, Mr. Uong, was to bring down 1000 farmers. He had no trouble getting this number. In fact so many wanted to come he could choose his men. He selected practically a solid bunch of Methodists.

They went by several boats from Foochow to Hongkong from which place their Mayflower was to sail direct to Borneo. Bishop Warne happened to be in Hongkong on his

way to Manila and heard of this band of Pilgrim Fathers, so he joined them. His presence made it much easier to cast off from China. On his way he held services, and the few who were not Christians threw the idols they had with them into the China Sea. After they landed the Bishop stayed with them a few days and saw them more or less settled in their new home. This was in 1901. According to the plan the colony would be self-supporting after the first crop of rice—in about nine months—but the crop was eaten by rats and birds, not half was harvested. The next crop was entirely destroyed by floods. The third crop was also a failure principally on account of birds. It is easy to imagine conditions after such an experience. Everybody was discouraged. Their one thought was to get back to China. Some made a little money sawing boards—these returned to China. Some died, some drowned, others ran away. At the end of three years less than five hundred were left. During this time they had to be fed. The Rajah gave another \$20,000, the proprietor spent all he had or could borrow.

In the meantime, these people being Methodists and in the bounds of the Malaysia Conference, some care had to be given them. Dr. West, Superintendent of the Singapore District, visited them soon after they came down, organized a Quarterly Conference, put a preacher in charge and got things under way. The next year he returned with Dr. Denyes who was a missionary in Singapore at that time. They found things very unsatisfac-

tory—the crop failures had upset everything and church affairs had not prospered. It was thought best to put a missionary in charge. John F. Wilson, then in Penang (now pastor in Sacramento, Cal.) and I volunteered for the job. Wilson took sick and had to go home before Conference, so I was sent in 1903. Dr. West came with me. Things were in a dreadful state. Everybody had to be fed by the proprietor, and he was fast reaching the end of his resources. Nobody worked—what was the use? There were a few women and they put in the time crying to return to China. All the children, 33, were in the Roman Catholic school in Sibul, fed and clothed free, church services were held in private houses, and the time of the service taken in discussing their troubles. That first year we got all the children but three out of the Catholic school. We got three meeting-houses built, did a lot of visiting, distributing quinine and zinc ointment—many of them had malaria, and many more were covered with sores.

When Dr. West returned the next year, things had reached a place where something had to be done. It happened that the Rajah came to Sibul on a visit while Dr. West was with us. To try to save the situation the Rajah did the following. He sent the proprietor out, appointed me in charge, and told the remaining colonists they could expect no more help but would be given every opportunity to make good.

That was 23 years ago. It was a long hard pull, but today there are more than 10,000 people in the colony, about 30,000 acres are planted 44 in rubber, we have 23 churches and over 1000 children are in school. Churches and schools are self-supporting. We do not get a cent of missionary money for work except for the girls' school. So many immigrants have been coming the last few years that the Government has stopped immigration till they can catch up with the land survey. When the gates are opened again WATCH-US GROW!

The Malaysia Message
August 1926
Vol. 38 No. 11

**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN MALAYSIA
69 JALAN 5/31,
46000 PETALING JAYA**

Position: This is a vacancy for an assistant to Executive Secretary of The AEC(P) of The Methodist Church in Malaysia.

- The preferred person should be a Christian, above 40 years of age, and has suitable qualifications and managerial work experience in the area of administration and implementation of decisions especially within the structure of The Methodist Church in Malaysia.
- People skills, ability to work in a team, and possessing initiative to relate to many people will be most helpful.

Accountability:

1. Reports to the Bishop of The Methodist Church in Malaysia and the Officers of the GCEC
2. Reports to The Chairman, & Officers of the Area Executive Council of Peninsula Malaysia

Scope of Works:

- a. To be the Principal Overseer of the AEC(P) office, to ensure the smooth flow of work by the different administrative divisions.
- b. To look into implementation of procedures for staff recruitment, staff evaluation, staff leave records, insurances, and also study of wage role in each quadrennium.
- c. To be rendering complete administrative support to the GCEC and AEC Meetings.
- d. To render administrative assistance for the various Councils & Ad-hoc Task Force of the GCEC and any Task Force of AEC.
- e. To handle the total administrative support work to bring about the General Conference or any other Additional meetings necessary.

- f. To implement decisions and co-ordinate all ground activities for any celebrative events of The Methodist Church in Malaysia
- g. To co-ordinate printing and fulfilment of local church orders for diaries and any other publications of The Church Methodist Church in Malaysia.
- h. To create The Methodist Church Directory each quadrennium
- i. To be responsible for the good state of physical amenities of the offices of GCEC/ AEC(P) and any other Properties held by the AEC(P).
- j. To oversee the Methodist Resorts teams beginning from reservations, invoicing and to the smooth processes of operations (ie end-to-end).
- k. To provide the necessary oversight work in the administration on behalf of AEC(P) in any tender processes, construction project implementation, and sales of assets.
- l. To be attending designated Council meetings on an invited capacity in order that administrative in-puts be contributed where necessary.

The AEC(P) has its own salary scale for interested participants, looking to exercise their gift of administration for The Methodist Church in Malaysia.

Interested applicants should forward their resume to:

THE BISHOP
The Methodist Church in Malaysia
69, Jalan 5/31
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Or email to:
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