

# PELITA METHODIST

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## FAITHFUL *Shepherding* in Turbulent Times



# Moment

## Seminar dan Wokshop Pujian dan Penyembahan Bagi Gereja Orang Asli

Recently a Praise and Worship Seminar was organized for the orang asli. The theme of the seminar was “Penyembah Yang Benar (A true worshipper)” It was held at the Kampar Wesley Methodist Church and was attended by about 120 orang asli members from 26 OA churches in Perak and Pahang.

The purpose of the seminar was to teach the true meaning of worship and impart practical steps to worship the Lord with or without the aid of musical instruments and to bridge the gap between the liturgical and the more contemporary style of worship.

A team from the SSMC Kebaktian Bahasa Malaysia (KBM) was sent to conduct the seminar led by Ps Peter Ukong and coordinated by Roy Lee. There were 12 of us.

After a brief introduction by Rev. Yong Wai Yin, we went straight into action. Ps Peter Ukong taught them in a simple and easy to understand way of what it meant to be a true worshipper based on John 4:23.

He emphasised that the Lord must be the object and focus of one’s praise and worship and it was the matter of the heart. He also mentioned that though musical instruments were used in helping us to worship the Lord, it was not a “must have” as true worship is a love relationship between us and God.

Later Roy Lee suggested some practical ways on how to prepare oneself to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth; to give our best for His glory (Ps 150:3-6). This involved the worship leaders, the musicians, technical crew and the worshipers.

After lunch, we conducted a workshop to demonstrate the different ways that we can worship the Lord. Time was also allocated for participants to share their testimonies of the lessons learned.

Ultimately the objective was to bring every worshipper to encounter God personally with or without musical accompaniment that in essence is a true worshipper.

By Roy Lee



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## PRAYERUNITED

### 11th Malaysia Plan

- a. The 11th Malaysia Plan from 2016 to 2020 is the last phase of the development plan to raise Malaysia to high income status and this plan will prioritise poverty eradication, education, security, public transportation and rural infrastructure;
- b. As for education, there will be a special focus on technical and vocational education and training, which will be reinforced by the Education Blueprint.
- c. Pray that the government will be committed to the following:-
  - i. Reducing inequality and relative poverty across all races, and beyond just nice plans on paper;
  - ii. Serious in implementing structural reforms that will reduce corruption, decrease leakages and increase competitiveness;
  - iii. Open dialogue regarding the strengths and weaknesses of all the plans which are presented by the government and will provide sufficient time for quality debate;
  - iv. To take constructive criticisms and suggestions from the Opposition Members of Parliament.

Adapted from Prayer United  
May-June 2015 edition

# Ecclesiastes

3:1-8

## A Time for Everything

- 1 There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

## 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.**

# General Conference Pastors' School 2015

Once in every 4 years, the Pastors' School (PS) is organised under the auspices of the Bishop's Office and this year, from 13 – 16 April, some 500 pastors from the 6 Annual Conferences gathered at Port Dickson Methodist Centre as one big family for PS 2015. Our Methodist family was so big this time that some had to stay at Golden Sands Baptist, but thanks to the Planning Committee, headed by Rev Dr T Jeyakumar, the President of Trinity Annual Conference, who worked so tirelessly in ensuring the smooth running and success of PS 2015, not forgetting the many people who worked behind the scenes as well as the interpreters who volunteered their services in interpreting into Bahasa Malaysia and Mandarin for those who are not conversant in English.

PS 2015 commenced with Holy Communion Service where Bishop Dr Ong preached on 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 and exhorted us not to lose heart in "Faithful Shepherding in Turbulent Times," which was the theme of PS 2105. He reminded us that we are God's people called Methodists are placed in this land, we are committed to serve and minister in this land that was experiencing turbulent times then, and we are appreciated by God's people whom we serve in the Methodist Church in Malaysia. As a concrete response to this message, a "Batik Pledge" was made whereby every pastor was presented with a piece of batik cloth to be tailored into a clergy shirt/blouse that could be worn for dinner and other appropriate functions.

During the morning worship sessions, our PS speaker, Dr. Iman Santoso drew many lessons from the wealth of his experiences in faithful shepherding in the turbulent times in Indonesia. Among them were the lessons that we need authority from heaven and on earth, evil can only be overcome by good and we need fresh revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. On another day, he reminded us as good shepherds, we need to know, protect, feed and lead the sheep.

The GC Affairs sessions in the late mornings were undertaken by different speakers. Rev

Dr Sivin Kit, an Anglican lecturer at STM, shared on "How to Connect with the Majority of our Country" and challenged us to think about "Who is the face of Christianity for Malaysia today." Rev Ong Chin Hin spoke on land matters and legal issues concerning land held by the Methodist churches. Mr Michael William shared on the 3 temptations faced by young people today and challenged us to disciple them through intentionally loving them and setting aside funds for youth work. Mr John Ling spoke on the importance and rationale behind the setting up of the Indigenous Ministry Task Force (IMTF) whereas Ms Tay Choon Neo shared on the CG's vision of 1 Church 1 School and encouraged pastors to mobilise the churches under their care to partner with the schools nearest to them to reach out to and meet the needs of the poor and needy students.

After every sumptuous lunch, there was a time for free networking with one another. Some intentionally took this time to meaningfully connect with old and new friends whilst others just resorted to taking the much needed rest especially after the stressful Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

After dinners, we had interesting workshops. The first one was led by Rev Dr Francis Ngoi who spoke on the topic of "Finding Healing from Wounds and Stresses." Drawing from many vivid examples of his own ministry as well as those of other ministers, he taught us that a pastor that has not been hurt has never left home. He warned us to be aware of comparison, competition and expectation of the people. The second workshop was undoubtedly the highlight of the PS 2015 as indicated by the great anticipation and the rousing welcome given by the pastors to the panel of famous speakers consisting of Mr Eugene Yapp, Mr Lim Heng Seng and Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan (who was invited through the help of Rev Hermen Shastri, the General Secretary of Council of Churches in Malaysia). Each speaker took turns to speak on the legal and socio-political issues and the current affairs of our beloved country, culminating in an interesting session of Q&A with Rev Dr T Jeyakumar as moderator.

Every night, before we retired for the day, there was a time of Community Prayer led by different Annual Conferences where PS participants prayed together as a family, bringing the issues facing our country and churches to the throne of grace.

In the Closing Session, the Bishop once again reminded all PS participants not to lose heart in leading and co-working with God's people as a Methodist Church that is after God's own heart. He also urged all pastors to remember the 4 key issues, namely, (1) if God can do it in Indonesia, He can certainly do it in Malaysia; (2) the journey of connecting with our majority neighbours; (3) the pursuit of M24/7 growth because prayer is necessary to knowing and "seeing what the Father is doing" (John 5:19); and (4) blessing the nation with our active civil involvement in the national life, commitment to the IMTF and the 1 Church 1 School strategies. Lastly, the Bishop exhorted us to remember that our competency as ministers/pastors comes from God (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

Beside the many wonderful lessons and the fun times together, many pastors went home with grateful hearts for the books written and given free by Dr Lee Bee Teik, the wife of Bishop Emeritus Dr Hwa Yung. On a personal note, I went home with fond memories of quality time spent reconnecting with other pastors of kindred spirit, and in particular with my roommate, Rev Cheong Ee Sin from the Chinese Annual Conference where we spent many wonderful moments together, sharing the joys and challenges of our respective ministries and spurring each other on in the work of the Lord. This was definitely one of the highlights of PS 2015 for me as we are still in touch with each other long after PS 2015 has ended and I believe this rooming arrangement should be carried out whenever possible in the years to come to foster closer ties with pastors of another Annual Conference. I now look forward with great eagerness and anticipation to PS 2019!

By Pastor Peter Ong

# Respon terhadap pembelajaran dalam Pastors' School

**S**aya bersyukur kepada Tuhan; di mana Pastor School untuk semua Pastor di setiap Conference dilaksanakan dengan jayanya.

Saya percaya semua Pastor di berekati dengan pengajaran, kesaksian dan benih pengetahuan daripada setiap peceramah. Bagi saya, setiap sesi ceramah itu telah mengisi kekosongan di dalam diri dan mengangkat semangat tinggi untuk melayani jiwa-jiwa di tanah air tercinta; disamping pergolakkan terjadi di sekeliling kita sebagai umat Tuhan dimana isu-isu luar biasa telah dan sedang berlaku di negara kita; sepertimana yang disampaikan penceramah kita; terdapat 10 isu utama yang membawa kesan negatif kepada kehidupan Gereja dan secara tidak langsung kepada perpaduan di Malaysia.

Di saat pegolakkan yang kita hadapi, amat memerlukan kita sebagai Pastor menjadi penaung Gereja disamping memainkan peranan sebagai saksi Kristus di Malaysia. Pada saya hikmat atau galakkan dari Rev Dr. Iman Santoso; di mana kita harus menjadi gembala yang baik *"The Good Shepherd"* adalah amat mustahak dan harus diterapkan dalam diri Pastor masing-masing dan ia harus sejajar dengan kuasa kebangkitan Tuhan, kasih karunia Tuhan dan ketertiban 2 Tim 1:7 seperti yang disyorkan oleh beliau.

Hikmat dan kesaksian melalui peceramah mahupun Bishop; amat tepat untuk saat pengolakkan ini. Setiap maklumat amat kuat untuk menjangkau Jemaah mahupun jiwa-jiwa yang belum mengenal Tuhan Yesus Kristus disamping pejalan gereja menyebarkan kebenaran Tuhan, menegakkan kebebasan dan membuka pengertian atas hak-hak sebagai rakyat Malaysia yang berbilang suku kaum adat budaya dan agama.

Saya amat menghargai usaha Bishop Rev Dr. Ong Hwai Teik atas Pastor School ini; kerana berjaya memupuk kecintaan kepada Tuhan, bangsa dan Negara Malaysia. Doa terima kasih Tuhan mem-berkati Gereja di Malaysia.

*Oleh Pastor Limbai  
(SIAC Pastor)*





## MAJLIS GEREJA-GEREJA MALAYSIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA

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**“Behold I Make All Things New”**

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### STATEMENT ON THE PROTEST AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF A CHURCH IN TAMAN MEDAN BY A SMALL GROUP OF MUSLIMS PROTESTORS ON 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015

The Council of Churches of Malaysia wishes to register its discontent and displeasure at the way a small group of demonstrators at Taman Medan had taken the law into their own hands by disrupting the worship of a church and making religiously insensitive demands that pertain to the sacred symbol of Christians.

The Council is not surprised that yet again such an incident has taken place in the state of Selangor.

It is obvious that there is a political agenda behind such acts from certain quarters, who are out to instigate and increase inter-religious tensions in the state.

The Churches will categorically oppose any action that disrupts inter-religious harmony in the country. In fact, we believe that the majority of Malaysians will lend their voices to oppose actions of anyone who seeks to disrupt and deny the right of people to worship and also their right to display their religious symbols at their places of worship.

Our Council calls upon the state authorities to come to the aid of this small and vulnerable congregation, traumatized by a small group of demonstrators.

The Council also calls on the authorities to take firm measures against anyone who seeks to disrupt the worship of others, and, seek to act above the law by imposing their religious view upon people of other faiths, by show of mob force.

Signed  
REV. DR. HERMEN SHASTRI  
General Secretary

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## 马来西亚基督教教会协会

### 针对一群穆斯林示威者于二零一五年四月十九日 反对美丹花园教会设立的行动新闻稿。

马来西亚基督教教会协会谨此对于以上之行动，表达不满及不悦。这群示威者竟然忽视法律，捣乱教会的崇拜聚会并提出对于基督教神圣标志的不敏锐要求。

本会对于再次发生在雪兰莪州的此类事件不感到惊奇。此事件显然出自一群带着政治议程的人士，欲在雪兰莪州内挑拨及激发宗教信仰间的冲突。

教会对于任何破坏宗教信仰间和谐的行动，深表坚决的反对。

其实，我们深信大部分的马来西亚人都反对任何人捣乱及否决其他信仰者崇拜的自由或对于在膜拜场所悬挂其宗教信仰的神圣标志的权利。

本会呼吁州政府当局给予这一群被示威者恐吓的弱小群众适当援助。

本会也呼吁州政府当局采取严厉行动对付那些捣乱他人崇拜场所并不尊重法律的违规者。他们欲借着傲慢的行动来迫使其他宗教信仰者屈服他们的信仰观念。

签署：  
莎赫曼  
总干事  
二零一五年四月廿日启。

19 ஏப்ரல் 2015ல், தாமான் மேடானில் அமைந்துள்ள ஒரு திருச்சபைக்கு எதிராக ஆர்ப்பாட்டம் செய்த ஒரு சிறு தரப்பு முஸ்லிம் ஆர்ப்பாட்டக்காரர்கள் பற்றிய கூற்று

தாமான் மேடானில் அமைந்துள்ள ஒரு திருச்சபைக்கு எதிராக ஆர்ப்பாட்டம் செய்த அங்குள்ள ஒரு சிறு தரப்பினர் சட்டத்தை தங்கள் கைகளில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு செய்த ஆர்ப்பாட்டத்தையும் கிறிஸ்தவர்களின் புனித சின்னத்திற்கு எதிராக அவர்கள் விடுத்த கோரிக்கையையும் குறித்து மலேசிய கிறிஸ்தவ சபைகளின் மன்றம் தனது மிகுந்த அதிருப்தியையும் ஆதங்கத்தையும் வெளிப்படுத்துகிறது.

சிலாங்கூர் மாநிலத்தில் இத்தகைய இன்னுமோர் சம்பவம் நடந்திருப்பது இம்மன்றத்திற்கு ஆச்சரியத்தை ஏற்படுத்தவில்லை.

இதற்குப்பின்னால் ஒரு சில தரப்பினர் தங்களது அரசியல் நிரலை நிறைவேற்றிக்கொள்ள இவ்வித இனங்களுக்கிடையிலான பதட்ட நிலையை இம்மாநிலத்தில் தூண்டி வருகின்றனர்.

திருச்சபைகள் பிரிவு வாரியாக இனங்களுக்கிடையிலான மத நல்லிணக்கத்தை தடங்கள் செய்யும் எந்த நடவடிக்கையையும் எதிர்க்கும். மக்களுடைய சமய சுதந்திர உரிமைகளையும் அவர்கள் தொழுது கொள்ளும் ஸ்தலத்தில், மத சின்னங்களை நிருவதற்கு மறுப்பு சொல்லும் எவருக்கும் கண்டனக்குரல் எழுப்ப பெரும்பாலான மலேசியர்கள் முன்வருவர் என நம்புகிறோம்.

இந்த சிறு சபையினரை கலங்கடிக்கத் துடிக்கும் சிறு குழுவினருடைய செயலுக்கு எதிராக நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க அதிகாரிகளைக் மன்றம் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறது.

மற்றோருடைய தொழுகையை சீர்குலைக்க, தங்கள் சமய கண்ணோட்டத்தை அடங்காத்தனத்தால் சட்டத்தை மீறி திணிக்க முனையும் எந்தத்தரப்பினரையும் அதிகாரிகள் கடும் நடவடிக்கையால் மேற்கொள்ள மன்றம் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறது.

கனம் முனைவர் ஹெர்மன் ஷாஸ்த்ரி  
திகதி: 20.4.2015  
பொதுச்செயலாளர்

## MAJLIS GEREJA-GEREJA MALAYSIA

### KENYATAAN MENGENAI PROTES TERHADAP KEWUJUDAN SEBUAH GEREJA DI TAMAN MEDAN OLEH SEKUMPULAN KECIL PEMPROTES MUSLIM PADA 19 APRIL 2015

Majlis Gereja-gereja Malaysia ingin menyuarakan rasa tidak puas hati dan tidak senang terhadap cara tindakan sekumpulan penunjuk perasaan di Taman Medan yang telah mengambil undang-undang dalam tangan mereka sendiri dengan mengganggu upacara sembahyang di sebuah gereja dan membuat permintaan yang amat sensitif dari segi agama yang menyentuh simbol suci penganut Kristian.

Pihak Majlis tidak terperanjat bahawa insiden sedemikian telah berlaku lagi di negeri Selangor.

Adalah amat jelas sekali terdapat satu agenda politik di sebalik tindakan sedemikian dari sesetengah pihak, yang sengaja menghasut dan meningkatkan ketegangan antara-agama di negeri ini.

Pihak Gereja akan menentang sebarang tindakan yang akan mengganggu keharmonian antara-agama dalam negara. Malahan, kami percaya bahawa majoriti rakyat Malaysia akan menyokong tindakan

menentang sesiapa sahaja yang cuba mengganggu dan menidakkan hak orang lain untuk bersembahyang dan juga hak untuk memaparkan simbol keagamaan di tempat ibadat mereka.

Pihak Majlis ingin meminta pihak berkuasa negeri supaya datang membantu kongregasi kecil dan tidak berupaya ini, yang telah ditakut-takutkan oleh sekumpulan penunjuk perasaan.

Pihak Majlis juga ingin merayu agar pihak berkuasa supaya mengambil tindakan tegas terhadap sesiapa sahaja yang cuba menggugat tempat ibadat orang lain, dan cuba bertindak melampaui batasan undang-undang dengan mengenakan secara paksaan pandangan agama mereka ke atas orang dari agama lain, melalui tindakan keganasan secara berkumpulan.

REV. DR.HERMEN SHASTRI  
Setiausaha Agung

Tarikh : 20 April 2015

## PRESS STATEMENT

21 April 2015

On the forcible removal of the Cross at Taman Medan

1. Following the unwarranted and disturbing incident outside a Church at Taman Medan, a meeting was convened this morning with representatives of the Community of Praise Petaling Jaya Church, advisors to the State Committee on Non-Islam Affairs (HESI), councilors of Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) Mr FK Tang and Mr Peter Chong, Member of Parliament Petaling Jaya Selatan YB Hee Loy Sian and state representatives YB Hannah Yeoh and YB R. Rajiv.
2. In the meeting, several matters were clarified. They include:-
  - 2.1 That the Church has been meeting since August 2014, serving Christians from the community;
  - 2.2 That the Cross was put up on 17th April 2015 outside the premises;
  - 2.3 That the violent protest held by Umno branch on 19th April 2015 had intimidated the Christians who were there at their regular Sunday service and had forced the Pastor to bring down the Cross out of fear for the safety of the congregation.
3. In addition, MBPJ Councillors also clarified that since 2008, the previous State Committee on Non-Islam Affairs (then known as State Committee on Non-Islam Places of Worship or RIBI) has allowed Churches to operate in commercial premises or offices without the need for application of permits, only by way of notification to the committee. This is based on the principle that Article 11 of the Federal Constitution embodies freedom of

worship.

4. Therefore, today's statement by the Public Relations Officer of MBPJ as reported in The Star newspaper that Churches in office blocks need to apply for permits is not accurate. There is no such policy put forward by the state committee HESI. A notification to HESI committee suffices. And if any local councils have any issues or questions, they are to refer back to the HESI committee.
5. There are however existing guidelines on stand-alone Non-Islamic Buildings of Worship which cover land applications, land conversions, buildings, demolitions and applications for funds.
6. As firmly expressed by the Menteri Besar YAB Azmin Ali yesterday, the State Government finds the forcible removal of the Cross to be abhorrent to Christians and to the fundamentals of freedom of worship enshrined in the Federal Constitution. In the meeting, we have advised the Church to return the Cross to its origin site to stop this precedent of mob rule by politically-aligned extremists.
7. At the same time, we call upon the Royal Malaysian Police to take this matter very seriously in order to ensure the safety of worshippers are protected at all times and there will be no repeats of such cases in Selangor.

Released by:  
YB Elizabeth Wong  
Co-Chair, State Committee on Non-Islam Affairs  
Selangor State Executive Councillor

21-04-2015

针对美丹花园强硬拆除十字架事件

1. 随着美丹花园教会外发生之事件，今早与各代表召开会议，其中有来自八打灵赞美教会代表、州非回教宗教事务委员会顾问，八打灵市议会议员F K Tang先生 及Peter Chong 先生，八打灵南区国会议员YB Hee Loy Sian 及 YB Hannah Yeoh 和 YB R. Rajiv.
2. 会议间，许多事件得以澄清如下：
  - 2.1 有关教会经于2014年八月开始聚会，以服侍该区域之基督徒。
  - 2.2 有关户外的十字架已经于2015年四月十七日挂上。
  - 2.3 2015年四月十九日，有关巫统所主催之示威导致当时参加列常崇拜聚会的基督徒 被骚扰，有关牧师为了害怕信徒的安危而被强迫将十字架拆除下来。
3. 此外，八打灵市议会议员澄清，自2008年，前届州非回教宗教事务委员会（前称为州非回教膜拜场所委员会）允许在知会该委员会之下，但不需申请准证，教会可在

商业场所或办公场所设立。此指令乃根据联邦宪法第11条文所赋予宗教膜拜自由。

4. 因此，星报所报道有关八打灵市政局公关官员今日所发表之文告事关教会在办公楼开设须提呈申请准证乃不正确。州非回教宗教事务委员会并没有如此之规定，只需知会该委员会已经足够。若任何地方议会对此事件有何疑问或疑议，其需照会州非回教宗教事务委员会。
5. 无论如何，另有其他对于单独宗教膜拜场所之土地申请，改换土地用途，建筑，拆除及申请拨款之指南。
6. YAB Azmin Ali, 州务大臣，昨天强烈声明州政府认为强迫拆除十字架之事件已经冒犯基督徒及与联邦宪法所赋予之膜拜自由原则相冲突。
7. 同时，我们呼吁皇家警察慎重看待此事件以确保崇拜者之安全并且此事件将不在雪兰莪州重演。

发布文告：  
YB Elizabeth Wong  
州非回教宗教事务委员会联合主席，  
雪兰莪州行政议会会员

ஊடக கூற்று

21 ஏப்ரல் 2015

தாமான் மேடானில் கட்டாயப்படுத்தி சிலுவையை அகற்றுதல்

1. தாமான் மேடானில் உள்ள ஒரு திருச்சபையின் வெளிப்புறத்தில் நடந்த விரும்பத்தகாத, விசனம் கொண்டுவரும் சம்பவம் தொடர்பாக பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயா கொழுண்டிடி ஒஃப் ப்ரேய்ஸ் சபையின் பிரதிநிதிகள், மாநில செயலவைக்கு இஸ்லாமியர் அல்லாதவர் விவகார செயற்குழு (ஹெசி) ஆலோசகர்கள், பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயா நகர மன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள், திரு எ. கே. டாங், திரு பீட்டர் ச்சோங், பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயா நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர் மாண்புமிகு ஹீ லோய் சியான் மற்றும் மாநில சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் மாண்புமிகு ஹன்னா இயோ மற்றும் மாண்பு மிகு ஆர்.ராஜீவ் ஆகியோர் இந்த காலையில் ஒன்று கூடினர்.
2. இந்த சந்திப்புக் கூட்டத்தில் சில காரியங்கள் தெளிவுபடுத்தப்பட்டன. அவற்றின் உள்ளடக்கம்:-
  - 2.1. கடந்த ஆக்ட் 2014 முதல் இத்திருச்சபை கிறிஸ்தவ சமூகத்தினருக்கு சேவை செய்ய இயங்குகிறது.
  - 2.2. இக்கட்டிடத்தின் வெளிப்புறத்தில் கடந்த 17 ஏப்ரல் 2015 சிலுவை பொருத்தப்பட்டது.
  - 2.3. அம்னோ கிளையைச்சார்ந்த சில ஆர்ப்பாட்டக்காரர்கள் கடந்த 19 ஏப்ரல் 2015ல் வன்முறையாக குாயிறு ஆராதனைக்கு வந்த விசுவாசிகளையும் போதகரையும் அச்சுறுத்தி சிலுவையைக் கீழே கொண்டுவர மிரட்டினதால் விசுவாசிகளின் பாதுகாப்பு கருதி அவ்வாறு செய்யப்பட்டது.
3. மேலும் 2008 முதல் முன்னாள் இஸ்லாமியர் அல்லாத விவகார மன்றம் (ஆர்.ஐ.பி.ஐ.), வணிக ஸ்தலத்தில் உள்ள கடை வீடுகளில் பெர்மிட்டுக்கு விண்ணப்பிக்க வேண்டிய அவசியமில்லாதபடி செயற்குழுவிற்கு அறிக்கை மாத்திரம் சமர்ப்பித்து தொழுது கொள்ளலாம் என அனுமதித்துள்ளது என எம்.பி.பி.ஜே உறுப்பினர்கள் தெளிவுபடுத்தினர். இது கூட்டரசு அரசியல் சாசனம் 11வது ஓரத்தின்படி சமய சுதந்திரத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக உள்ளது.

4. எனவே எம்.பி.பி.ஜே. பொது உறவுக்குழு அதிகாரி, ஸ்டார் நாளிதழில் வெளியிட்டுள்ள அறிக்கையின்படி, வணிக கடைவீடுகளில் இயங்கும் சபைகள் பெர்மிட்டுக்கு விண்ணப்பிக்க வேண்டும் எனும் சட்டம் சரியானதொன்றல்ல. மாநில செயற்குழுவான ஹெசியினால் இவ்வித கொள்கையொன்றும் வரையப்படவில்லை. அவர்களுக்கு ஒர் அறிக்கை போதுமானது. மன்ற உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு ஏதாகிலும் ஐயம் அல்லது கேள்வி இருந்தால் ஹெசி செயற்குழுவினரிடம் வினவலாம்.
5. எனினும் இஸ்லாமியர் அல்லாதோரின் தொழுகை கட்டிடம், அதனையொட்டிய நில மனுக்கள், நில பயன்பாடு மாற்றம், கட்டிடங்கள், இடித்தல், நிதிக்கு மனு செய்தல் இவற்றிற்கு சில வரையறை உண்டு.
6. கிறிஸ்தவர்களுக்கும் சுதந்திர விரும்பிகளுக்கும் வெறுப்பூட்டும் சிலுவையை கட்டாயப்படுத்தி அகற்றின செயல் கூட்டரசு அரசியல் சாசனத்திற்கு முரண்பாடானது என சிலாங்கூர் மந்திரி பெசார் மாண்புமிகு அஸ்மின் அலி அவர்கள் கடுமையாக தம்முடைய அதிருப்தியை வெளிப்படுத்தினார். அரசியல் தீவிரவாதிகளின் இத்தகைய செயல்பாடுகளை கண்டிக்கும் வகையில், சிலுவையை மறுபடியும் பொருத்தும்படி அவர் சபைக்கு அறிவுறுத்தினார்.
7. அதே வேளையில் நாங்கள் இந்த சம்பவத்தை தீவிர கவனிப்பில் வைக்கவும் ஆராதிப்பவர்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு வழங்கவும், இனியும் இவ்வித விரும்பத்தகாத சம்பவம் நிகழாமல் இருப்பதை உறுதிசெய்யவும் காவற்படையினரை கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்.

மாண்புமிகு எலிசபெத் வோங்

இஸ்லாமியர் அல்லாதோர் விவகாரப்பிரிவு செயற்குழு  
இணைத்தலைவர்  
சிலாங்கூர் மாநில மேலவை உறுப்பினர்

## KENYATAAN AKHBAR

21 April 2015

Mengenai penurunan Salib secara paksaan di Taman Medan

1. Berikutan kejadian tidak diundang dan kurang menyenangkan di luar sebuah Gereja di Taman Medan, satu mesyuarat telah diadakan pagi ini bersama perwakilan dari Komuniti Puji-pujian Gereja Petaling Jaya, penasihat kepada Jawatankuasa Negeri Mengenai Hal-Ehwal Bukan Islam (HESI), ahli Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) Encik FK Tang dan Encik Peter Chong, Ahli Parlimen Petaling Jaya Selatan YB Hee Loy Sian dan perwakilan negeri YB Hannah Yeoh and YB R. Rajiv.
2. Dalam mesyuarat ini, beberapa perkara telah dijelaskan. Mereka termasuk:-
  - 2.1 Bahawa Gereja ini telah beroperasi sejak Ogos 2014, memberi perkhidmatan kepada orang Kristian dari komuniti ini;
  - 2.2 Bahawa Salib ini telah dipasang pada 17 April 2015 di luar premis ini;
  - 2.3 Bahawa protes ganas yang diadakan oleh cawangan Umno pada 19 April 2015 telah mengganggu ketenteraman penganut Kristian yang berada di sana untuk servis hari Ahad biasa mereka dan telah memaksa Pastor untuk menurunkan Salib itu disebabkan bimbang terhadap keselamatan kongregasi itu.
3. Tambahan lagi, Ahli-ahli Majlis MBPJ juga telah menjelaskan bahawa sejak 2008, Jawatankuasa Negeri Mengenai Hal-Ehwal Bukan Islam (pada masa itu dikenali sebagai Jawatankuasa Negeri Mengenai Tempat Ibadat Bukan Islam atau RIBI) telah membenarkan Gereja untuk beroperasi di premis komersial atau pejabat tanpa perlu permohonan untuk permit, hanya melalui notifikasi kepada jawatankuasa tersebut. Ini adalah berdasarkan kepada prinsip bahawa Artikel 11 Perlembagaan Persekutuan merangkumi kebebasan beragama.
4. Dengan itu, kenyataan pada hari ini oleh Pegawai Perhubungan Awam MBPJ seperti yang dilaporkan dalam akhbar *The Star* bahawa Gereja dalam blok pejabat perlu memohon permit adalah tidak tepat. Tidak terdapat polisi sedemikian yang dianjurkan oleh jawatankuasa negeri HESI. Satu notifikasi kepada jawatankuasa HESI sudah memadai. Dan jika sebarang majlis tempatan mempunyai sebarang isu atau soalan, mereka dikehendaki merujuk kepada jawatankuasa HESI.
5. Walau bagaimanapun terdapat garis panduan sedia ada mengenai Bangunan Ibadat Bukan Islam secara bersendirian yang merangkumi permohonan tanah, penukaran status tanah, bangunan, perobohan dan permohonan untuk dana.

6. Seperti yang dinyatakan dengan tegas oleh Menteri Besar YAB Azmin Ali semalam, Kerajaan Negeri mendapati bahawa penurunan Salib secara paksa merupakan satu perbuatan yang amat menjijikkan kepada orang Kristian dan kepada asas kebebasan beragama seperti yang termaktub dalam Perlembagaan Persekutuan. Dalam mesyuarat ini, kita telah menasihatkan Gereja itu agar memulangkan Salib itu ke tempat asalnya untuk menghentikan perbuatan ekstremis yang bermotifkan politik ini daripada menjadi satu ikutan perbuatan paksaan secara keganasan berkumpulan.
7. Pada masa yang sama, kita meminta Polis Diraja Malaysia supaya mengambil perkara ini dengan serius demi memastikan keselamatan penganut dilindungi pada setiap masa dan kes-kes seumpamanya tidak akan berulang lagi di Selangor.

Dikeluarkan oleh:

YB Elizabeth Wong

Pengerusi Bersama, Jawatankuasa Negeri Mengenai Hal-Ehwal Bukan Islam

Ahli Majlis Eksekutif Negeri Selangor

## CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA (PERSEKUTUAN KRISTIAN MALAYSIA)

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### CFM MEDIA STATEMENT

## CFM AGAINST SHRINKING PUBLIC SPACE FOR RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION AND INCREASING RELIGIOUS REPRESSION

The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) has observed with deep concern the ever-shrinking public space for religious expression in Malaysia. The CFM also notes the worrying trend of curbing freedom of religious expressions without prior consultation with stakeholders. The overall environment of religious acceptance and understanding deteriorates as the country is dragged from one incident of intolerance to another.

The recent controversy surrounding the demand by a group of Muslims for the removal of the sign of the cross from a church in Taman Medan in Selangor is but the latest expression of that intolerance. Even the central symbol of our faith, the cross, which is the symbol of love and sacrifice of God for humankind is now seen or projected by some as a threat. It joins the list of other expressions of intolerance, including a continuing push for prohibition against religious words and expressions in Bahasa Malaysia which have been commonly used in Christian worship even before our nation was born. There is the fear that common parlance results in influence, propagation and conversion. This fear has caused tension and has led to numerous incidents in recent years where copies of the Al-Kitab, our sacred book, were detained or out-rightly seized, only to be returned after they were mutilated by endorsements of prohibitive words. Worse, it is now proposed that the importation of the Al-Kitab be subject to newly-announced administrative requirements and procedures in Sabah and Sarawak albeit in draft form for discussion. The latest edition of these administrative requirements contain outright prohibitions of importation of the Al-Kitab into Peninsular Malaysia, save for personal use, in total violation of the Federal Constitution's protection for freedom of religion. Instead of building religiously self-confident communities of mutual respect in our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious nation, there has been a progressive layering of fear, tension and suspicion.

Our nation is in dire need of encouraging respectful discourse and dialogue to promote mutual understanding and widen perspectives.

The CFM is against this shrinking public space for religious expression and increasing religious repression. The CFM calls for the following to be immediately implemented:

- A. All relevant authorities, departments and agencies of the government must exercise their duties and conduct their activities properly and promptly without prejudice or preference within the unambiguous ambit of the Federal Constitution to ensure that the freedom of religion for minority communities is equally respected and that incidents such as the removal of the cross and confiscation and/or mutilation of the Al-Kitab and other religious materials are not repeated.
- B. Members of the civil service, especially those in the front line of engagement with members of the public, must be given adequate

education on the necessary decorum and sensitivity in dealing with inter-religious matters and to accord the necessary respect to all religious without bias or favour, regardless of their own religious convictions.

- C. The Federal Cabinet must uphold the 10-point solution concerning the Al-Kitab and desist from imposing any further restrictions on the use, publication and import of the Al-Kitab throughout Malaysia. The Government should ensure the adherence and implementation of the directive issued by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Home Affairs on 8 April 2011 regarding the importation of Bibles in Bahasa Malaysia/Indonesia. The Federal Cabinet must stop pretending that the 10-point solution applies only to Sabah and Sarawak, or that they are powerless where state laws are concerned, since the Barisan Nasional hold the reigns of political power in 10 of our 13 states, and control all the Federal Territories. In particular, the latest proposed standard operating procedure (S.O.P.) announced recently to church leaders in Kuching and in Kota Kinabalu should be withdrawn as it violates the provisions of the Federal Constitution. The importation of the Al-Kitab is part and parcel of the freedom of religion and does not come under the scope of the states to regulate the religion of Islam. The specific requirement for non-Muslim religions to seek the approval of the Federal Government's Islamic agencies for the importation of religious material is in clear violation of the provisions of the Federal Constitution and the spirit of the 10-point solution. For these reasons, CFM rejects the S.O.P. regarding the publication and distribution of the Al-Kitab. The S.O.P. negates the very guarantee of freedom of religion and the right to manage one's own religious affairs.
- D. All relevant Federal and state lawmakers must take into account and give express regard to the sentiments and concerns of non-Muslims in the matter of the proposed implementation of Hudud laws. Though there have been statements that such laws would only affect persons professing the religion of Islam, the CFM and other members of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism have expressed concern that this would make our dual legal system untenable and lead to irreconcilable conflicts of laws, especially in cases where both Muslim and non-Muslim parties are involved. A dual criminal legal system, and in particular one which extends to Hudud laws, would not only result in legal confusion and constitutional quagmire but inevitably to miscarriages of justice for one or both parties.

*Yours Sincerely,*  
*Signed*  
*Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng, (CFM)*  
*22nd May 2015*

# Top 10 Things I have learnt A Teacher Can Do

by Yoshua Chua, Methodist College KL

I belong to a new generation of Gen X-Y-Millennial teachers who have been given opportunities by God to teach the youth of our time. I would like to share with you some of the lessons I have observed over the 4 years of teaching in Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), an established and growing Pre-University institution of excellence.

## #10: A Teacher Can Coach Students To Greatness

Teaching is one of those professions where you spend an extended period of time with individuals, even more than those in the medical or legal professions. A purposeful teacher can help and mentor their charges to achieve crazy feats, whether it be becoming a great Orator, or ditching a medical ambition to pursue teaching or just to reach the 'tree tops'.

I teach A-Levels Religious Studies and now Divinity, and in 2014, one of our students obtained highest marks in her A-Levels Divinity subject, and won the Cambridge International Examinations Top in the World Award for the subject, beating centers all across the world. As MCKL is the college where one of SPM Bible Knowledge's strong advocates, Miss Moey Yoke Lai is the CEO, I think all praise should be given to God for His faithfulness!

## #9: A Teacher Can Be a Friend

This often used phrase still has powerful implications to a very Internet savvy generation. Although many of our students today spend most of their time in the online world, teachers can still reach out to them via Instagram, Facebook or even Twitter to talk, *sembang* or just to catch up with how they are doing. Social networking, for all its hype, can sometimes be a very lonely platform to be on.

I recount an example where one of my students messaged me privately on Twitter to confide about a perplexing sexual dilemma she had landed herself in. This was per-

haps because I was relatively vocal on my Twitter account. I could then share with her some basic principles to help her clear her mind.

## #8: A Teacher can Illuminate with Interesting Information

Because many of our students live in 'echo chambers'- bubbles of friends that talk about the same topics and are of the same ilk-teachers can provide alternative perspectives and challenge a supposedly knowledge-rich generation to rethink some of its assumptions, or better yet, some of its sources!

I like to read from alternative news sources- RT.com, aldaily.com and so on- and would regularly challenge their assumptions on what they know. And not a few have asked me the same question, "Mr. Yoshua, where did you get all this information? How come I don't see it a lot?"

## #7: A Teacher can Warn of Impending Harm

Many of our students do not know of the dangers online pornography or computer gaming in excess can do to their brains, for example (see Philip Zimbardo's research based publications - *The Demise of Guys (2011)* and *Man (Dis)connected (2015)*). Or even unhealthy food, or exposure to certain types of chemicals. Or even certain online habits or communities which may bring destruction. Teachers can rescue some of their beloved students from such self-destructive behavior.

A few male Christian colleagues and I conducted a 4 week 'seminar' in our school addressed to the guy students and we talked frankly (and sometimes very openly) about taboo topics like sex, masturbation and online pornography. We also gave practical tips on how to overcome some of these issues. The students came back to us and told us how they were grateful and relieved that they were not the only ones suffering from these 'sins that so easily entangle'!

## #6: A Teacher can Model Good Character

More than any other profession I would argue, a teacher must strive to model a person of impeccable character and virtue to his/her students. By becoming a 'model human being' or a 'model Malaysian', or a 'model Christian' students can see for themselves walking talking exhibits of all the good we hope to see in this country and beyond.

In Methodist College, we have gone ahead to develop comprehensive Character-orientated student activities which all have 'Honor God' as its chief value. The challenge is of course to model such high standards as facilitators, but we hope that with a bit of direction, students will be able to 'take the good and leave the bad'. Only after we forged ahead did we realize that some of the very successful schools in America have been emphasizing on Character Education (especially GRIT).

## #5: A Teacher can Sow Seeds of the Word

As a Christian, our solemn 'teacherly' duty is to 'teach' and 'preach the Word', in season or out of season. When students (whether Christian or non-Christian) ask us searching questions about God, life or relationships, we have an open opportunity to present the Christian perspective, the Christian Worldview and Christian values. How many of us seize such serendipitous opportunities to expand the knowledge of the glory of God and His Kingdom?

I remember a recent example this year when a non-Christian student from a major non-Christian faith confronted me on my apparent 'Christian-bias'. According to him, I was placing a higher standard of morality on my Christian students (which indeed I was), and I had a wonderful opportunity to share with him the Gospel and the grace of God and why I was imposing such 'unfair' standards. He understood after I had laid it out for him but did not become a Christian there and there, yet I would like to think that the seeds of the Gospel were sown in that chance encounter.

#### #4: A Teacher can be Christ to those who do not know Him

Living in a society that is still largely non-Christian, the schools form the FRONTLINES of the Church's engagement with our society's non-believers. Yet although many doors in the Ministry have been closed to promising young wannabe missionaries, where there is a will, there will always be ways to get in, whether through NGOs, or Private Christian Schools such as MCKL, International Schools, and the like. We need to get more feet on the ground and be Christ's hands and feet, His Eyes and Mouth to a generation that are ignorant of the Great Event on Calvary.

I teach on average 200 students every semester Character Formation classes, and try not to force religion down the throats of the non-Christian students that sit in my classes, but I also try to present the Christian position as faithfully and as tactfully as I can. I went home on cloud nine when one of my students commented at the end of the semester that, "I can see Christ in you."

#### #3: A Teacher can Love the Unlovable

In a country where Christians are surrounded, vilified and victimized, teachers can be the foot soldiers to really advance the Kingdom of God by loving our enemies, and laying our lives down for those who hate us,

insult the Cross and take away our rights. We can bless them by praying for their sick, casting out their demons and teaching them the true Path to God.

#### #2: A Teacher can Show How It is Done

If we seek to see a better Malaysia, a country where justice, righteousness and love must be fought for daily, we must win these battles within ourselves day after day. Once we have conquered the Goliaths of our selfishness, fear and anger, we can take our classrooms, schools and communities through focused lives that are lived for the sole glory of God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit.

#### #1: A Teacher can Change Entire Social Systems

And as said above, I believe a teacher has the power and potential to shake entire ideological foundations through careful, meticulous and profound understanding and instruction of how these systems are put in place. Add in a dash of divine revelation to catalyze the reaction and you have an explosive force for good embedded in your mind. We can become mobilizers, facilitators of a new consciousness, a new way of seeing the world – through God's perspectives and to empower our students to rise up and be part of these God-inspired visions for a better community that is built on the principles

of justice and righteousness. There will be opposition and difficulty no doubt, but that is what we call in Physics as 'resistance' and resistance can be surmounted by an indomitable Will that has been set on fire by the Holy Spirit's zeal. If God is for us, who can be against us? asks the Apostle Paul.

Therefore, my fellow soldiers, the giants in the land are waiting to be conquered. What can we do today to build the Kingdom of God in the hearts and minds of our younger generation?

I believe our calling as teachers is to do just that – to call out a generation that will have the tools, knowledge and know how to stand against the flood of evil. May we keep getting better as teachers, and if the Lord so permits, may the students that pass through our hands eventually see the face of Christ and fight the battles of the Cross and take their stand as solid and mature servants of the Kingdom of God and of His Christ. There is much work to be done. May the Lord help us.

Amen.

*(shared by Yoshua Chua at the Klang Valley Christian Teachers' Day Celebrations on 16th May 2015 at St. Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya)*

## Devotion

### All about Attitude

*For those who would learn God's ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second, humility is the third.*

*(Augustine)*

#### IN WORD:

Attitude. Everyone has one—or more. There are good attitudes and bad ones, positive attitudes and negative ones, contagious attitudes and barely noticeable ones. There are attitudes that guide our entire lives and others that come and go as often as the wind changes. They are part of who we are.

We usually get our attitudes from others. The family we were raised in, the culture we live in, and the influential people in our lives have all shaped the way we think and feel. Kids imitate the attitudes of the athletes and the entertainers they admire. So do adults, but we're more subtle about it. We can pick up an attitude from a community, a trend, or an event. We're often easily influenced.

We may not realize it, but our attitudes are a matter of choice. Yes, circumstances and people can influence them, and often those influences are over-whelming. Still, we can choose how we will react in any given situa-

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

tion or to any particular person. We can determine to be positive or negative, accepting or bitter. We are not victims of our impulses.

#### IN DEED:

Paul directs the Philippians to choose the attitude of Jesus. The next few days we'll look closely at His attitude, but we know the essentials already: gentleness, joy, zeal for the Kingdom of God, love for people, and as this passage in Philippians emphasizes, humility. Jesus exemplified all the fruits of the Spirit perfectly, and through elements of those fruits go beyond mental attitude, that's where many of them begin. If we want to be like Jesus, we have to think like Him.

We may think our discipleship is mainly a matter of imitating Jesus' powerful faith or His good works. Those are important, even essential, but following Jesus begins with His attitudes. If His mind-set isn't formed in us by His Spirit—if it isn't our foundation—the faith and the works will always be an impossible uphill climb. As you follow Him today, think about His attitudes, and ask God to cultivate them within you. Having an attitude is inevitable. Scripture says to choose His.

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*  
*Philippians 2:5*

DEVOTION

# Kem Sayang Diri Remaja Sengoi 2015

by Pastor Ng Kok Moi (Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church)



The birds and the bees have always proven to be a rather tricky subject to approach when it comes to the younger generation, but just like those palpitating visits to the dentist, you can say that this ranks pretty much high up in the necessity scale. The last weekend of April saw 64 Sengoi youth, shepherded by two pastors - Rev. Bah Ngah and Rev. Shurriawaly, joined the team from SSMC (Pastor Ng Kok Moi, Mr. Chor Ming Chong, Ms. Tan Su Tiam, Ms. Renee Choong, and Mr. Edwin Kee) at Chefoo Methodist Centre in Cameron Highlands.

The demographic of the participants from 7 different villages was varied, ranging from secondary school students to those who are pursuing their tertiary education, in addition to drop-outs (due to various factors) and those who have already joined the work sector.

Majority of the teaching sessions were conducted in a large group due to the nature of the material and topics involved. Ps. Ng Kok Moi opened proceedings by giving a Biblical perspective on sex, and how the act of sex was a gift from God, and should only happen within a marriage. A video that depicted the start of life upon conception, all the way to the mother giving birth, showed the sanctity of life, and how we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” in the image of God. Issues such as pre-marital sex and teenage pregnancy were also explored in further detail, as Ps. Ng explained the con-

sequences of decisions made in the throes of passion, and how one should make the decision right now in order to stand firm when temptation knocks on one’s door.



Ms. Renee Choong shared on the topic of “Making Choices (Loving Myself and Others)”. She drove home a very valid and crucial point on the propensity of human nature to sin, and how negative peer pressure tends to be stronger than positive influence. Using a couple of illustrations in the form of having volunteers participate in the respective activities, it proved to be particularly effective in sending this point across the audience.

Ms. Renee Choong then continued with how one should guard one’s chastity before marriage, saving oneself for the husband/wife whom God has prepared in advance. Throughout all this, the youth were reminded time and again to seek God in prayer for their future mates. A “Teh Tarik” session was then held in order to demonstrate how

sexually transmitted diseases can be spread so easily without one being aware, right after a video of a real life example was shown depicting the negative effects that drugs and promiscuity have on a person, affecting even innocent lives in the future.

Mr. Edwin Kee followed up with a session on how to choose the right life partner, as he shared his experience before deciding to tie the knot in God’s presence.



The following morning of this 2D1N camp, Ms. Tan Su Tiam led the youth in a session that touched on making the right decisions in life through an exercise that involves choosing a bag that one thinks has the most valuable item within. Volunteers were called upon, and they were given the chance to change their choice before opening up the bags. The object lesson driven home was this - life is not all that it seems to be, and we do need wisdom from God to be able to make the right decision, especially the important ones.

Ms. Tan Su Tiam then shared on the topic of Islam, as well as the rampant Islamisation drive that is going on in Malaysia. She cautioned them on remaining strong in the faith, touched on the basic tenets of Islam, how one can be tricked or falsely coerced into accepting the Islamic faith, and the consequences of conversion.

Games and other interactive sessions were run in order to drive home the different points on selected issues, including how rules are instituted by God for our own benefit, the ease of how sexually transmit-

ted diseases are spread, how to make the right decision, the utmost importance of the Word of God to guide one's life, etc.

Throughout the entire camp, the various *cikgu's* reinforced the following points: sex was created by God and was meant to be enjoyed within the boundaries of a marriage (defined as between a man and a woman), the dangers of promiscuity and living a reckless life without being rooted to the Word of God.

An example on how the Word of God is able to shield us from harmful influences throughout life was then illustrated using two umbrellas - one that has been badly torn to depict the ease of how one can be targeted by the wrong ideas and action, while the other offers protection from whatever negative elements that are being directed in one's way.



The "Egg & Straw" game was organised to drive home the point on how precious each and every one of our lives are to God, and we have only one life to live, so we should make the most of it and avoiding the many potential pitfalls that lie in wait for the unsuspecting victim. Ps. Ng Kok Moi closed the camp by sharing her testimony on how diligence, hard work and a disciplined life, guided by the Scripture, is a recipe that will

allow us to live life in accordance to God's will.

Special thanks to Mr. Chor Ming Chong for helping capture memories of the camp through his Pentax lenses.

The Kem Sayang Diri Remaja Sengoi 2015 closed with prayer by two of the youth for their own people group and community, before Rev. Bah Ngah gave the benediction.



## Features

World Methodist Council (WMC)

# World Methodist Council Statement on Church Shooting in Charleston, SC

18 June 2015

The world awoke this morning to tragic news of the deadly shootings at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. As authorities investigate, it is clear that members at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were meeting for Bible Study and prayer when a Caucasian man in his mid-20s opened fire. The man had been attending the meeting with his victims, and managed to escape by car. He has not yet been captured.

Among those who perished was pastor and state senator, Clementa Pinckney, who had two young children. Information on the other victims has not yet been released, but nine have been confirmed dead.

The World Methodist Council urges prayer and support for the victims' families and those members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church who have been so

gravely affected by this crime motivated by hate. Mrs. Gillian Kingston, Vice-President of the World Methodist Council, issued the following statement earlier today:

**Along with all other good-thinking people, we are horrified and deeply saddened to hear of the dreadful act of violence at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in which nine persons have died. Our hearts and prayers go to those who have been so tragically bereaved and to the injured and their families. May God's strength and grace be on those who are seeking to bring help and healing in this situation. Happening on the eve of the presentation of the World Methodist Peace Award for 2014, we are reminded that the work towards peace must always be a priority.**

Social and International Affairs Committee chairperson, Mr. Mbongeni Magagula, also stated that **"We strongly condemn such**

**hate crimes against humanity. We ask for continued peace remembering that an eye for an eye will make us all blind."**

Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest AME church in the South and has one of the oldest and largest black congregations south of Baltimore. It is affectionately referred to as "Mother Emanuel," and one of its founders was renowned abolitionist, Denmark Vesey. A quote by Sister Jean German Ortiz on the home page of the church's website the day following the shootings so appropriately states "Jesus died a passionate death for us, so our love for Him should be as passionate." In the midst of this tragedy, may the Emanuel AME Church family and the Charleston community feel peace and comfort from the God who conquered death itself.

*This story is also available on [our website](#).*

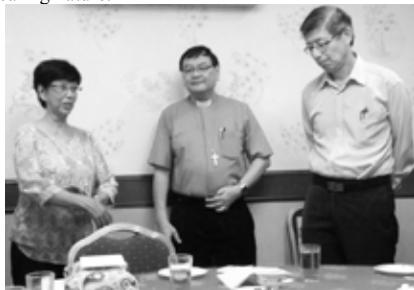
# COE Thanksgiving

The Council of Education staff have much to give thanks to God for. We pray for our Methodist Schools: Government-assisted Schools, Private Wesley Methodist Schools and Methodist College and ask for God's blessings on the School Heads, Teachers and Students, that lives may be impacted with the Gospel of Christ through holistic education. We thank God for being a part of this journey with Him.



On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, a thanksgiving lunch was held for the staff with Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik gracing the occasion. There were three special reasons.

Mrs Susie Chin retires after many years of service in COE. She will be greatly missed for her meticulous work and enormous knowledge of COE people and land and other matters and her gentle, caring nature.



"When God pushes you to the edge of difficulty, trust Him fully, because two things can happen. Either He will catch you when you fall or He will teach you how to fly." For Susie "throughout my 18 years in COE, God has been good to me and He has taught me 'how to fly' in my work."

Miss Sharon Chan leaves COE after 2+ years of service as Finance Manager. She will leave a void with her infectious laughter and hard work. (third from left in staff pic)

Mr Khor Hong Yin was awarded TOKOH GURU 2015 in Penang. His 32 years of service in government schools ending as Principal of Methodist Boys' School in Penang and his current service as Executive Director in COE has borne fruit and is acknowledged by the State Education Department.



These last couple of years have been exciting years, especially with our Private schools. Our WMS in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur is going International beginning 2016. For Penang, from ground 0, we can envisage WMS Penang (International) becoming a reality in 2018. We look forward to collaboration with our partner, ACS (International) Singapore. Where our government-assisted schools are concerned, the dwindling number of Christian Heads and teachers is a major challenge. Indeed, clinging on to God's hand for guidance and direction, our hope is that the Lord God Almighty is in control of everything and He makes all things beautiful in His time. To God be the Glory!

Respectfully submitted by  
Tay Choon Neo

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

**Position:** This is a vacancy for an assistant and understudy 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 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 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  
46000 Petaling Jaya

Or email to:  
[sec@methodistchurch.org.my](mailto:sec@methodistchurch.org.my)

# News of our Evangelistic Work

The evangelistic work of the Methodist Mission in Malaya has grown with considerable rapidity in recent years. In the first years of this work, attention was given principally to the establishment of strong congregations in the large centres. This has been carried out to a very large extent, until now in all of the larger cities and towns we can point to beautiful and well-built edifices in which well-attended services are conducted for the various racial groups of the country. In most of these Churches each Sunday three services, or more, are held: one for the Indian congregation (Tamil), one for the Chinese (vernacular), and a cosmopolitan service in English for those from any racial community who can understand English. These congregations have acquired considerable influence in their respective communities.

In more recent years the evangelistic effort has gone farther afield. Malacca is still the banner district for this type of work although in other districts the work is expanding considerably from the centres. Penang has a number of small churches in Province Wellesley and into Kedah. Ipoh has the beginnings of such outstation work and greater possibilities ahead. Sitiawan has been pressing this work with considerable success. But in Malacca the idea seems to be in the air. People breathe it in, soon the possibility of opening new work is reported, a temporary house is rented until the congregation is strong enough to go ahead with a building, and then a building is erected with very little other than local help.

As a result of this infectious idea of building out from the centre, ten village churches have already been built, and several others congregations wait only for better times to start their buildings. Of the latter places, Tampin is a good example. It is at a railway junction as well as at the junction of important highways. For ten years Mr. Wong Eng Leong has laboured here, teaching and preaching in rented buildings because no suitable site for the church-building could be found. Now an excellent site has been obtained, but building in these days is out of the question. Once the

slump has lifted and money can be collected. Tampin will have its church.

The most outstanding example of what has been done and may be done, is seen at Jasin. This is a small town situated 18 miles from Malacca in the centre of a large district where the Court, District Office, and Hospital are located. Our Church is strategically located on a hill overlooking the village. An up-to-date parsonage is situated behind the church which is the only Christian place of worship in the village. The Superintendent of the Sunday School is also a teacher in the local Chinese school, so that the influence of the church goes out into other institutions. The Church is a vital force in the life of the community. The pastor has trained several Exhorters who not only assist him with the work in Jasin, but also conduct services in surrounding villages. Once an outstation of Malacca, it is taking on outstations of its own. The pastor, Mr. Lim Khiong Eng, preaches three times in different village churches each Sunday and has a service every day during the week in other places. From Jasin the following have places of worship in which regular services are conducted: Bemban five miles away, Selandar, Bekoh, Asahan, somewhat farther away. Tangkah ten miles distant where the leading men of the village are on the official board of the church, and Serom with its school-building close to the church, the school being under the direction of the church. "The pastor, Mr. Lim, ministering to these seven churches", says the Rev. M. Dodsworth, District Superintendent, "is a Local Preacher full of the spirit and energy of John Wesley. He has had to take on added responsibility due to lack of support in the smaller places, but has done so gladly and willingly. His larger parish with Jasin as a centre is one of the finest pieces of rural work I know of anywhere. Mr. Lim brings life to any church he touches and is a power for Christ in the whole Jasin District."

Sungei Rambei and Merlimau on the road to Singapore, and Sungei Baharu to the north, complete the picture of the outstation work at Malacca. Each is provided with a church-building and a pastor. These village

churches around Malacca are here to stay, and are filling a long-felt need. Methodism has always been at its best in the villages and small towns, and this work around Malacca is no exception. We may add that the work of the pastors is ably supplemented by the lady missionaries. Miss Pugh and Mrs. Dodsworth, with their Bible Women, and this work gives added solidarity to the church.

In Seremban, the Rev. J.A. Supramaniam writes of similar expansion of Tamil work: "A good number of members are living in outstations throughout Negri Sembilan and North Johore. Our work has a radius of fifty miles. We have at present six regular preaching places with three assistant pastors. We also have an Evangelical Band which holds Open Air Services and distributes tracts and Scripture Portions among the people."

### Our Clinic Work

This work has not been long established, nor does it exist in many places, but the results show how fruitful the work may be, and the success already attained makes possible the suggestion that it be tried in other places. One worker writes, "The clinics have given a wonderful opportunity to make friends and spread Christian truth. In Kampong Koh the pastor, his wife, and the Bible Woman have had devotional meetings preceding the daily clinics. Women have joined the Pioneer Church through these efforts. The pastor at Third Road has held a devotional meeting preceding the Wednesday morning clinic."

4,959 patients were treated in a year at Third Road, Kampong Koh, Hok Chiang Yong, Pasir Panjang, and Ayer Tawar. 841 patients were treated in the Malacca clinic. Many patients have been taken to the hospital and many visits have been made in the homes of the sick.

*The Malaysia Message*  
July 1933  
Vol. 43 No. 7

# TEACHING CHILDREN *to go* ABOVE *and* BEYOND *Their Capabilities*



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# METHODIST COLLEGE KUALA LUMPUR

## First 5 years the most formative, says experts, educationists

Studies have shown that the foundations of all areas of development are laid down in the first five years of a child's life. As such, kindergarten teachers and nursery childcare providers play a very important role in the development of young children.



The Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme offered by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur trains you to become a professional early childhood educator. As one of the longest established early childhood programmes in the country, the curriculum developed by MCKL provides a good balance of theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on training, covering areas such as:

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Students will acquire new skills while having fun learning them. The programme is open to all who have a genuine interest in caring for young children and have the minimum entry requirements.



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



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