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The 11th Session General Conference

Of The Methodist Church In Malaysia



Moment



The 11th Session General Conference Of The Methodist Church In Malaysia

Venue: Kingwood Hotel, Sibul, Sarawak

Date: 20-23 September 2016

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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.**

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By W.G. Shellabear

PRAYER UNITED

A Call to Pray for Malaysia

Prayer United was formed in the Year of Jubilee to mobilise Christians to pray non-stop for *the revival of the Church, and the transformation in the Nation.*

We ask that all intercessors will persevere in prayer, that God will open the heavens, reveal His glory and pour His power upon our nation. Let us claim His promise that "if my people who are called by My Name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Let us beseech God earnestly to answer our prayers for the following:

- **A Holy and Righteous Church** – Pray that the Malaysian church will stand out as a prophetic community, impacting society, and live out authentic and vibrant Christian lives that will be salt and light in the nation, for then only can the Church act and speak with credi-

bility and moral authority, and be taken seriously by the nation's leaders.

- **A United Church Reflecting a Malaysian Identity** – Pray that Christians will make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit, embracing reconciliation and restoration, shaking off encultured blockages and being an example in bringing together all races, languages and cultures, uniting them under the Lordship of Christ, modelling ethnic reconciliation powerfully in our nation.
- **Pursuing True Discipleship** – Pray that Christians will understand what true discipleship means, and be willing to take up their cross daily and suffer for Christ. Pray that many Christian professionals and countless university students studying abroad will return with a clear vision to build both the church and nation.
- **An Empowered and Growing Bumiputera Church** – Pray for the increasing emergence of strong and growing churches in Sabah, Sarawak and among the Orang Asli community in our land, and the rising up of bold and God-fearing leaders among them.
- **Economic Recovery** – Pray that God will continue to bless our nation by giving our national leaders the wisdom to steer our nation during this time of global economic turmoil and falling commodity prices. Pray for the equitable sharing of the wealth of this nation among all races and the fair treatment of foreign workers and refugees. Pray for improved policy making and careful expenditure. Pray against the blight of corruption, creeping Islamisation and abuse of power.
- **Independence of Government Institutions** – Pray for protection of the independence of institutions such as the Central Bank (BNM), the Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), the National Audit Department (JAN) and the judiciary against underhanded political manoeuvring to undermine the supremacy of the Federal Constitution, fundamental human liberties, the principles of democracy and the rule of law in our country. Pray for godly and upright civil servants who are able to work boldly without fear or favour. Pray for upright and clean leaders who will uphold democratic processes and institutions and revitalise good incorruptible practices and governance.
- **A Return to National Righteousness** – Pray for a powerful transformation that will result in a return to justice and righteousness in Malaysia. Pray for a recovery from a scandal-driven year. Pray that all evil in high places be exposed, and that justice will prevail.

October 2016

A Pastoral Letter from the Episcopal Office

The Methodist Church in Malaysia Family praises and thanks Almighty God for His sovereign guidance and rich blessings received in our just concluded 11th General Conference [20-23 Sept 2016] gathering and proceedings that went smoothly and edifyingly in Sibul.

It was a fruitful time of fellowshiping, discussion, receiving input and reports, and discerning the will of the Lord of the Church in our decision making. The theme adopted for the 2017-2020 quadrennium is *A Church after God's Own Heart* [see item #5 below]. Please continue to uphold me in prayer as the Bishop, together with our brothers Anthony Row [GC Secretary] and Tan Swee Ann [GC Treasurer] as the elected GC Officers for the next quadrennium.

Let me thank all our members and churches, as well as our friends from the wider Christian community in Malaysia for your steadfast prayers, warm concern and enriching support.

I also take this opportunity to call on us in the Methodist Family to pray fervently for our beloved nation at this *critical time of need* as we face many moral, political, social, economic, environmental, health, ethnic and religious challenges. We can do this together by using the intercessory strategy of the Issachar Watchmen Movement of the Methodist Church in Malaysia below, and adding other intercessions that you may have before God's throne of grace.

The 6 KEY STRATEGIC AREAS / PRAYER FOCI of the Issachar Watchmen Movement

at the personal, local church, Annual Conference and General Conference levels are:

- #1. **We pray for the “clearance”/ breaking down of the influence of “the cosmic powers over this present darkness”, “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” [Eph 6:12] that infect our whole nation, invisibly and visibly.**
- #2. **We pray for the rise, growth and completion of God's Church in Malaysia** – as we prepare and look forward to receiving the unreached people groups in our land, especially the obviously big ones, so that the Church of God in Malaysia may be complete.
- #3. **We pray for the crucial institutions in our land at this time** – viz Conference of Rulers, Parliament, Judiciary, AG's Office, Police Force especially the IGP's Office, MACC, the Military/ Army, Bank Negara and the Education Ministry.
- #4. **We pray for progressive political re-structuring and reforms** – so that there is greater effective “check and balance” in the governance machinery of our country.
- #5. **We pray for The Methodist Church in Malaysia to be a *Church after God's Own Heart*** – experiencing:
 - * *Every Methodist Personally Renewed* in his/her 1st love for Jesus
 - * *Every Methodist Congregationally Revived* as in the Book of Acts
 - * *The General Conference to be Nationally Refocused and Reframed* after the Word and the Spirit.
- #6. **We pray that we will successfully leave a generational legacy** – where a new God fearing generation is raised up in the home/ family, the church and the nation.

May we as God's people called Methodists be *A Church after God's own Heart*, “keeping in step with the Spirit” now and into the new quadrennium [2017-2020].

Bishop Ong Hwai Teik
The Methodist Church in Malaysia
27 September 2016

Methodist Education Foundation

The Methodist Education Foundation (MEF) under the office of the Methodist Church in Malaysia was incorporated in 1984. The MEF's principle objective is to receive and administer funds for educational and charitable purposes for the public welfare.

Tertiary Scholarships

Over the last 32 years the MEF has given out about RM3.4Mil of scholarships to poor and needy students for them to study at institutions of higher learning in Malaysia. The number of applicants for tertiary financial aid is increasing every year. This year the number doubled up to 101 applicants out of which 69 were given scholarships.



One of the recipients collecting the scholarship cheque

Schooling Aid

For the first time, the MEF decided to give aid to needy school-going children, over and above its financial aid to tertiary students. In June 2016, schooling aid like school uniforms, shoes, books and stationery, sports attire, etc. were given out to selected students in four different schools:

- i) SMK (L) Methodist, Sentul, Kuala Lumpur,
- ii) SJKT Methodist, Kapar, Selangor,
- iii) SK Methodist, Malim Nawar, and
- iv) SJKT Methodist, Malim Nawar Perak.

A total of 115 boys and girls from the



At Methodist Boys' School Sentul, KL

lower income group were identified by the School Heads to benefit from this aid. We pray that this assistance will bless them and encourage them to be better students and later on, to be good citizens and contribute back to society.

We are appreciative of the help rendered by the School Heads, Counsellors and teachers who helped identify the students and purchased what was necessary for their schooling needs. Thank you also to some members of the Board of Governors / Managers and churches who showed their support by being present. A special thank you to Rev. Devarajah of Kapar Tamil Methodist Church for helping to purchase the schooling items for the children and for stretching the allocations so that more children could be assisted. We also appreciate the generosity of an old boy of MBSSKL, Keith Thong, who contributed books to the school libraries.

Support

The MEF therefore invites you to join in the exciting and wholly altruistic venture in creating and making even more possible equal opportunities through education for the benefit of youths and adults now and in the future. By supporting the MEF you are making an important contribution to the task of nation building to which the MEF is dedicated. The Board of Trustees asks for your prayers and support in this area



At SJK(T) Methodist, Malim Nawar, Perak

of work and witness.

Charity Golf Fund Raising

The MEF will be organising a Charity Golf event on 9th December 2016 to raise funds. The golf entry forms and advertising forms for the souvenir programme are available at the MEF office, church offices and at our email contact at petercheah@mcoe.edu.my

Donations

Please forward your donations payable to **Methodist Education Foundation** to:

**The Secretary,
Methodist Education Foundation,
No. 67, Jalan 5/31,
46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Tel: +603-79565310**

You may also do online banking into the MEF bank account at:

**HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd,
Account No. 302-311618-001.**

Please email a copy of your bank in slip to info@mcoe.edu.my with your name and contact details. All cash donations to the MEF will be issued Tax Exempt receipts.

By Peter Cheah

more photos of ...

The 11th Session General Conference

Of The Methodist Church In Malaysia





Reflections on and Responses to 11th Session General Conference

The prevailing sense of unity and being of one heart and mind amongst the 84 delegates from 6 Conferences was evident at the 11th Session of the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia held at Kingswood Hotel, Sibu, Sarawak from 20–23 September 2016. The warm fellowship during delicious Foochow dinners, daily smooth proceedings with expected expressions of opinions, joyful willingness to participate in whatever that was required from delegates of the Conferences and most of all, the swift election of the Bishop for the next quadrennium at the first ballot resulting in the re-election of Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik constituted the complete unity. God must have been smiling down at us, pleased that His Love binds us all together as one body.

Speakers for 11th Session General Conference, Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo and Rev. Duleep Fernando brought to our attention pressing global, national and personal concerns. Teachings were taken from 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21, Acts 4:23-34 and Mark 10:23-45 with soul stirring statements such as “We are called to live so that others can simply live”; “Justice cannot have the last word in reconciliation”; “We need courage to keep going, knowing that God is in ultimate control”; “Prayerlessness is the worst sin of the Church” and the reminder to be “A servant church in a power seeking world” were nuggets of wisdom and revelation for present turbulent times. Delegates were impacted by powerful and informative sharing of historical, current and eventual global and national threats. Regardless, let us all stand firm on the Promises of God, remain steadfast in faith to brave the storms, pray unceasingly for the So-

vereignty of God to reign, continue to be strong and courageous in sharing the Gospel and last but not least, be a servant church existing for others.

The Episcopal address delivered on the second day was greatly appreciated as a comprehensive and forthright account of events over the past quadrennium (2013-2016), present needs and challenges and the future direction and focus in the midst of global and national challenges were presented. Bishop Ong is astute in his discerning and truthful observations of the areas in the Methodist Church which need necessary attention and action. The theme for the next quadrennium (2017-2020) adopted by the delegates is “A Church after God’s Own Heart in Turbulent Times” which reminds us of King David, “a man after God’s own heart” who “shepherded with integrity of heart and skillful hands”. King David had absolute faith when facing impending danger, depended on God’s law to gain wisdom and understanding. He was truly thankful on a daily basis and truly repentant of his sins. Let us as the Methodist Church in Malaysia, strive to have these qualities so as to be Methodists after God’s own heart in these challenging times.

In the Episcopal address, Bishop Ong Hwai Teik expressed his concerns for over 10% decline in MCM Sunday School attendance. Significant and rapid urbanisation require churches to reconsider outreach and pastoral care strategies to youths and adults in cities. The perennial question is how and where can the church be the salt and light of our Lord Jesus Christ? My personal responses on the above mentioned concerns are as follows:

Because of missing young adults in churches whose generation represents the parental age of Sunday School going children, there is consequentially the missing generation of children of these young adults. The church must look beyond the members of the church for Sunday School going children. Kindergartens and Primary Schools provide vast outreach opportunities for churches to “fish” potential Sunday School children. The 1 Church 1 School GC Vision, launched by Bishop Ong Hwai Teik in January 2015, repeatedly emphasized at different platforms provides one of the solutions. Sharing this Methodist vision with 600 delegates from different denominations at Alpha Workplace Conference 2016 in Penang on 9 September 2016 was well received. Let us as the Methodist Church who initiated this vision act on it, to look at the school as a mission field where the Gospel of Christ can be shared in many creative ways. Christian parents are commanded to disciple their own children, to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might”, “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise” Deuteronomy 6: 5, 7-8. TRAC Board of Laity together with Board of Youth Work are exploring the D6 (Deuteronomy 6) movement which is the intentional empowerment of parents to engage in discipleship at every life stage and to leave a generational legacy i.e. generational discipleship. Discipling children should not only be a church concern but primarily the responsibility of Christian parents as commanded.

Urbanisation is inevitable in the development of a nation. More importantly, how can the church be relevant? Besides planting churches in urban areas, how do we reach the people to come to the churches which are planted? On 1-3 September, at the Intentional Discipleship Making Conference 2016 in Singapore, Rev. Edmund Chan's words rang the truth loudly - "Where do the majority of Christians spend the majority of their time with the majority of non Christians? Not in the Church! In the Marketplace! Urban evangelism is urgent evangelism!". With regards the marketplace as a mission field, reaching out to working young adults and adults is crucial. Using Alpha Workplace as an evangelistic tool paves the way for discipleship to follow. I applaud Sa-

rak Chinese Annual Conference for embarking on marketplace ministries since 2014. May we all realise the need for a paradigm shift in doing ministries, not church based programmes but "Go" where the harvest fields are whether in schools or marketplace, considering them as mission fields. Missions at home contribute to nation building. We do not have to cross oceans to do missions. Akin to charity begins at home, let missions at home develop further in new and ongoing indigenous ministries in Semenanjung, Sabah and Sarawak which should be a priority for churches especially with rampant Islamisation amongst indigenous people.

We are called to be the salt and light for Christ in this nation, to "Go" out of our

comfort zone and complacency within the four walls of the church to be witnesses for Christ wherever we are in the home, school, church, community, marketplace or amongst indigenous people. Quoting John Stott as Bishop did in the conclusion of the episcopal address, "We should not ask, What is wrong with the world? Rather we should ask, What has happened to the salt and light?" We thank God the MCM is united as one body who endeavoured to do "God's good, pleasing and perfect will" over the past quadrennium and may we strive to be a "Church after God's Own Heart in turbulent times" in the new quadrennium with perseverance, boldness and courage.

by Datin Judy Chin

Devotion

Faith versus Sight

God has made for us two kinds of eyes:
those of flesh and those of faith.
(John Chrysostom)

DEVOTION

IN WORD: The world lives by sight; the body of Christ lives by faith. That, more than anything, explains why there will always be enmity between the two.

Think about the world's dependence on sight—human reasoning as the key to solving humanity's problems. The world thinks the scientific method will correctly analyze social problems and find solutions for them, and that it will correctly diagnose biological and environmental pathology and find appropriate cures. The right human leadership, endowed with enlightened political philosophies and compassionate intentions, will presumably take us where we need to go. And social capital—the common efforts of a tolerant and hardworking society—will pull us together to conquer any evil and establish peace. But for all its focus on sight, the world doesn't understand sin. It overestimates our ability to succeed. The world doesn't get in; life in this world, without God, is futile. And it always will be.

One Year at the Cross Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

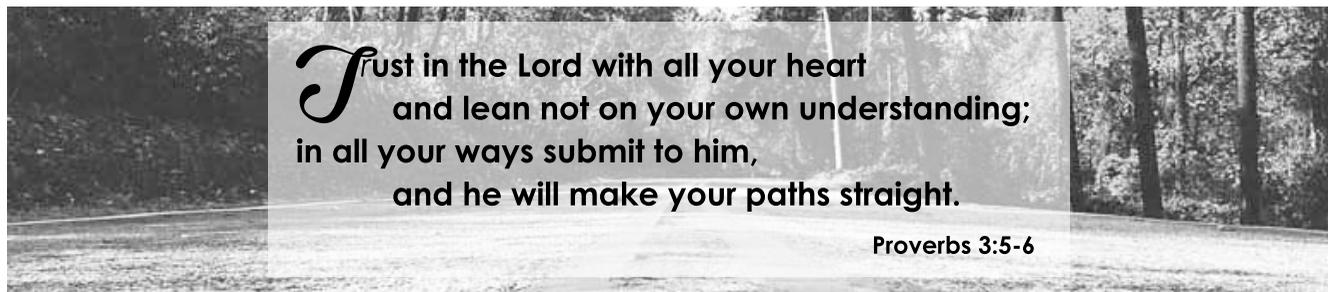
Christians, on the other hand, have nothing against the scientific method, human leadership, and social capital. We just don't see them as the answers. Under the guidance of a God with a plan and infinite wisdom, they are useful tools. But the solution? Never. Living by sight, on those terms, is blind.

IN DEED: That's why faith is held in contempt by secular society. Christians approach life from a different vantage point: the world strives for independence; we strive for dependence. We know deep down inside that we are subject to a greater will.

It is the responsibility of the body of Christ to live by faith in this vision-impaired world. We are the only ones who see—not by our own eyes, but through the eyes of Scripture—the direction of history. We are the only ones who see—again, through the Word—the will of the Father. We are the only ones who know the design of this universe and the divine heart that designed it. Faith calls us to live boldly—hope against hope—as citizens of the Kingdom of God.

God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Romans 4:24



**Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

“I can do all these through Him who gives me strength.”



Youth Jeremy Lee giving his testimony during a prayer night at GMC.

SIBU – Five youths, Jeremy Lee, Chai Chung Ho, Ronald Ling, Martin Ng and Stephanie Lai from Grace Methodist Church (GMC) Miri who enrolled in the Short Term Missions School (STMS) at Methodist Theological School (MTS) in early January this year have completed their course with a graduation service held at Wesley Methodist Church on March 4.

The annual two-month course in English aims to equip Christians (mainly youths) to become Christ’s disciples and to provide in-depth study for the purpose of more effective ministries. Concurrently, three-month courses are also available in Iban and Chinese languages, as well as in the Music Ministry.

The total intake for this year was 135 students.

GMC member Michelle Chee, the mother of Jeremy Lee, was elated that her 17-year-old son attended the course. “I really thank God that I can see the positive transformation in my son. Since his return from SibU, Jeremy has become proactive in doing house-

hold chores unlike before. Last Thursday he even attended the Prayer Night Meeting on his own initiative, praise God!”

Here’s Jeremy’s testimony:

For the past two months I had the opportunity to attend the STMS at Methodist Theological School in SibU. I would like to share my experience and what I’ve learned throughout the course.

To be very honest, at first I wasn’t that prompted to join but in the last minute, I decided just to go for it. I’m glad that I made that decision because until this day I have no regrets.

I’ve learned a lot from doing daily devotion to build up my self-discipline. Almost every day, we had to wake up at 4:45 a.m. to prepare for early morning devotion in the chapel. That for me was the most difficult part!

The lecturers and the pastors treated us quite well by giving us the right amount of time to complete the right amount of work and at the same time, learn as much as possible. We were each assigned to different churches to do our

fieldwork every weekend.

At the end of the two months, each of us with our family group were assigned to a new locality during the Mission Awareness Week. My family group was assigned to Julau, a small town situated 45-minutes drive from SibU. We stayed for four days to share the gospel with the people there. I am grateful for the chance to experience a mission trip.

I also had the chance to experience going to longhouses together with Rev. Diong Pick Chiong of Wesley Methodist Church (WMC). Our group started our journey at 4:00 p.m. and returned around midnight. During the visit, Chung Ho and I were asked to share our personal testimony in Bahasa Malaysia. It was the first time I had to share in a different language other than English.

Other than going on missions, every Thursday after the prayer meeting we had to fast and pray until Friday lunch time. That meant that there was no supper on Thursday night! But before we broke our fast on Friday afternoon, we went to evangelize to the people of SibU. At first I was really scared to talk but after a few tries and help from my friends, I managed to spread the gospel to a few people. Although I was rejected a number of times that will not stop me from doing the same in future. I believe that God will speak to them someday.

Every week we had to lead a prayer meeting specifically for the STMS English students. By doing that, we were able to come together as a Small Group to worship and pray for each other’s needs. Other than attending morning devotion in chapel, doing assignments and attending prayer meet-



ings, we also had physical activities every evening like playing basketball and Frisbee. Every Tuesday or Thursday, we did gardening to clear weeds around the MTS compound. I was fortunate enough to participate in the basketball competition organized by MTS. Although I only played a few games because of my graduation, I still thank God for the opportunity.

On Saturdays we had to clean the whole dining area where we had our breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sometimes even after dinner we would still be hungry. We were thankful there was a food court about a 7-minute walk from MTS where we could have supper almost every night. Sometimes when we felt adventurous, we would walk to the Pasar Malam (local night market), a 15-minutes walk away. The food in Sibu was too good to resist especially the Kampua (noodles)! There was once when we walked for about 50 minutes with our fellow STMS students from the Chinese and Music class just to have the famous “Shui Guo Bing” at Taman Muhibbah. It was really a great time of fun and fellowship with my peers from all around Sarawak!

I am truly grateful that God has put me in this community of Christ to show me that although we come from different cultures and backgrounds, we can be united as one Body of Christ. I can say that throughout these two months

Group photo of the youths attending the 11th STMS in English. Photo credit: www.mtssibu.edu.my

my spiritual life has grown and improved a lot.

I now know that God has a plan for everyone of us and he wants us to surrender all to Him. We maybe facing some problems in life but with God nothing is impossible. God will never forsake us and His love is never ending. I’ll end my sharing with a verse from Philippians 4:13 (NIV) – I can do all these through him who gives me strength.

by James TC Wong,
Grace Methodist Church,
Miri

(This article was taken with permission from the Grace Methodist Church, Miri’s website).

Psalm 39 (NIV)

- 1 I said, “I will watch my ways
and keep my tongue from sin;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth
while in the presence of the
wicked.”
- 2 So I remained utterly silent,
not even saying anything good.
But my anguish increased;
- 3 my heart grew hot within me.
While I meditated, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:
- 4 “Show me, Lord, my life’s end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life
is.
- 5 You have made my days a mere
handbreadth;
the span of my years is as
nothing before you.
Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure.
- 6 “Surely everyone goes around like a
mere phantom;
in vain they rush about, heaping
up wealth
without knowing whose it will
finally be.
- 7 “But now, Lord, what do I look for?
My hope is in you.
- 8 Save me from all my transgressions;
do not make me the scorn of
fools.
- 9 I was silent; I would not open my
mouth,
for you are the one who has
done this.
- 10 Remove your scourge from me;
I am overcome by the blow of
your hand.
- 11 When you rebuke and discipline
anyone for their sin,
you consume their wealth like a
moth—
surely everyone is but a breath.
- 12 “Hear my prayer, Lord,
listen to my cry for help;
do not be deaf to my weeping.
I dwell with you as a foreigner,
a stranger, as all my ancestors
were.
- 13 Look away from me, that I may
enjoy life again
before I depart and am no more.”

Methodist Mission School Colloquium “Raising The Mission School Ethos”

Organized by the Council of Education, this colloquium was targeted at the School Boards, Principals and Senior Teachers, and Alumni of the Methodist Government-assisted Mission Schools at two different locations: in Ipoh and the northern region, and in Kuala Lumpur and the central and southern region.

Venue: SMK Methodist (ACS), Jalan Lahat, Ipoh, Perak

Date: Saturday, 30th July 2016

Time: 8.30 am – 2.00 pm

Venue: Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

Date: Saturday, 13th August 2016

Time: 8.30 am – 2.00 pm

The purpose of having this Colloquium is to create a platform for our Mission School Boards, Head Teachers and the Methodist Education Council to discuss current issues regarding our Mission Schools and to enable the various stakeholders to help raise an ethos of excellence in the school. Forum Panelists were invited to speak from the perspective of the School Board of Governors, the School Principal and the Council of Education. Issues like Government Fund Allocations, Building Projects, Appointment of Heads and Succession Planning, effectiveness of the School Boards, Dual Language Program, etc. were deliberated.

Not to forget Methodist School Pengetua and Guru Besar who have retired from our schools from 2011-2016, an appreciation of their service was acknowledged.

Participation at both Gatherings

No. of Participating Schools: 37

No. of Participants (School Heads/BOG/teachers/alumni): 67

No. of Invited Guests/Speakers : 5

No. of Retiree Heads attended: 11

No. from COE : 6

Praise the Lord for the continued interest in our Government-Assisted Mission Schools. Indeed let us pray for this ministry in Schools As A Mission Field for the truth of Christ to be seen.



At ACS Ipoh, Mr Khor presenting a gift to Forum Panellist, Mr Ding Kong Leong, Principal of ACS Sitiawan



Mr Khor with Forum Panellist, Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen, Board Chairman of MGS Penang, with MGSS Principal, Madam Loh Poh Ai and MGPS, Ms Chuah Poh Cheoh



At ACS Ipoh



At Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

The New Work at Kwala Lumpur

By W.G. Shellabear

I have just paid my third visit to the capital of the Federated Malay States. In March of last year I went with Rev. R.W. Munson to open our Mission there and to make the necessary arrangements for obtaining a site on which to build a house for the missionary to reside in and for the church and schools which we hope to see in Kwala Lumpur in the future. The establishment of our work there was, however, postponed for a year, owing to Mr. Munson's return to America, and in March of this year Dr. Kensett's appointment to this new station took me there once more to do the same work over again.

Kwala Lumpur is growing rapidly, and is destined, in the opinion of most competent judges, to become the most important town on the Malay Peninsula. The wharves which are now being constructed at the mouth of the Klang River, on which Kwala Lumpur stands, will accommodate ocean-going steamers, and a great increase in the trade of the place is hoped for when the wharves are completed, which will probably be within two or three years. The great trunk line of railway communication down the Malay Peninsula, from Prai on the mainland, opposite the island of Penang, to Port Dickson, in the Native State of Sungei Ujong, will probably be completed within five years; and the trunk road to Pahang which will give that great State (which has hitherto been closed to the outer world during the N.E. monsoon) an overland communication with the sea at the mouth of the Klang River, is rapidly being pushed forward. When these works are completed Kwala Lumpur will have direct and rapid communication with all the

other Native States on the Peninsula, the result of which is sure to be favourable to the commercial prosperity of the town.

Within the past year the splendid buildings which have been erected as offices for the Government of the Federated States have been opened, and the inhabitants of Kwala Lumpur justly boast that their town possesses the finest building in all the East, with the exception of British India. But this is not the only change which is noticeable in the place. A year ago there was no hotel, and the fact that the one which has but recently been opened already requires enlargement of its premises, may be taken as an indication that trade is increasing. Building is continually going on, both in the Chinese quarter and on the lovely wooded hills on which the European residences may be found after some search among a labyrinth of roads which wind in and out through the valleys and up the steep hill sides. Among other new buildings, a small church has been erected in the vicinity of the railway station by Messrs. Eagger and Baird, missionaries of the Brethren's Mission.

But the change in Kwala Lumpur which interested me most was the fact that since my last visit a Methodist Episcopal Mission had been established in the town. Instead of having to lodge in the Rest-house. I found a hearty welcome in the cheerful home of our own missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. Kensett, and had the privilege of making the acquaintance of their little baby boy. Dr. Kensett has hired a roomy house in a lovely situation, on the spur of a hill over-looking the town, close to the railway station and within easy reach

of the native quarter. It is hoped, however, that before long we shall be able to build a house for the missionary on land which we are asking the Government to place at our disposal. The piece of ground for which we have applied is about five acres in extent, and is in the immediate vicinity of the Chinese quarter, but it stands well above the level of the town, being on a hill top about 80 feet high. This would be a splendid situation for a church and school as well as for the residence of the missionary.

It is generally held that it is a good thing to get a congregation before one thinks of building a church, but it does not look at it Dr. Kensett would have to wait long for a church on that account. At his Chinese services he already has an attendance of from fifteen to twenty adults, several of whom are Christians who learnt about Christ before they came to Kwala Lumpur. This is a pretty good congregation to have got together as the result of three months' work. But the prospects of the work among the Tamils are even brighter. There are quite a large number of the educated class of Tamils in Kwala Lumpur and the vicinity, working as clerks and overseers on the railways and telegraphs and in other branches of the public service, and a considerable proportion of them are the sons of Christian parents or have been converted to Christianity in India in connection with the Wesleyan Mission and the Church Missionary Society. Some of these men have been in the habit of attending the English services of the Church of England, but many of them have attended no place of worship, and as there has been no preaching at all in the Tamil language, those who are not very well acquaint-

ed with English have had no service to which they could go. Dr. Kensett at once saw the opening for work among these people, but it was some time before he could get a Tamil preacher, and as he is not acquainted with the Tamil language the only thing he could do in the meanwhile was to begin a class for English-speaking Tamils. When I visited Kwala Lumpur I found a dozen intelligent young men in this class, most of them well instructed in the Scriptures. Moreover Dr. Kensett was able to report that his Tamil preacher had arrived a fortnight before, and that he had opened an Anglo-Tamil School and had already seventeen children of both sexes on the roll. On the Sabbath I heard the Tamil brother preach to an

attentive audience of sixteen or eighteen persons, and after the sermon I briefly addressed the congregation, the preacher interpreting for me. A Tamil Sunday-school is held in the afternoon. Chinese services are held morning and evening, and Chinese Sunday-school just before the morning service; all of these services, in addition to the Tamil preaching service in the morning, are held in a hired native house open to the street. Dr. Kensett already has his hands more than full in supervising all these work. Moreover in the same building he has fitted up a dispensary, so that he can attend to the bodily ailments of those who come to the meetings, and in the front room where the preaching services are held he has Christian literature

on sale.

Altogether a most encouraging commencement has been made. The nucleus of a Chinese church and also of Tamil church has been formed, and ere long we may hope to see a steady growth of the work among the Chinese of Kwala Lumpur and the surrounding towns and villages, which are easily reached by rail, as well as among the thousands of Tamils who are working on the railways and in the coffee plantations of Selangor.

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Features

World Methodist Council News

Jo Anne Lyon named 2015 World Methodist Peace Award Recipient

On the final day of the 21st World Methodist Conference, Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon was presented with the 2015 World Methodist Peace Award.

Although Dr. Lyon is the former general superintendent of The Wesleyan Church denomination, the award recognized her as founder and longtime leader of World Hope International, a ministry that she started in her home. Within twelve years of its inception, the organization grew to a \$17 million global Christian relief and development agency serving in 30 countries and dedicated to alleviate suffering and injustice. In her time with World Hope International, she traveled extensively, often to dangerous and remote areas. Her creative approach and problem-solving with local leadership led to programs which brought both clean water and spiritual nourishment to these communities. She has helped to initiate numerous projects including digging wells, holistic healing programs for post-war amputees, and brought national awareness to human-trafficking. She followed her time at World Hope International by serving for eight years as General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church.

Dr. Lyon states: “In this time, we care about needy and suffering people, about immigrants, about racial reconciliation, about refugees, about human trafficking, and about the equality of God’s image in women. The prophet Amos said: ‘But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!’ (5:24). Seeking justice alone can become all political. But righteousness without seeking justice for others leads to isolation from the world. We find that balance including both justice and righteousness, rooted in the Bible and in our historical identity.”

Dr. Lyon has served as the representative of The Wesleyan Church to the President of The United States Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, on the board of directors of many organizations including the National Association of Evangelicals Executive Committee, Christian Community Development Association, National Religious Partnership for the Environment, Asbury Theological Seminary, Council on Faith of the World Economic Forum.

“Seeking justice alone can become all political,” Lyon said. “But righteousness without



seeking justice for others leads to isolation from the world. We find that balance including both justice and righteousness, rooted in the Bible and in our historical identity.”

Lyon gave a plenary address at the conference on Sept. 3, and noted the power inherent in the 80.5 million people represented in the 80 Methodist, Wesleyan and related United and Uniting groups that are part of the World Methodist Council.

“Eighty million of us. That’s a lot of folks, people!” she said. “And God can do a lot with us. And if we can get focused on the mission and vision God has for us, literally at this time in history the world can be turned upside down.”



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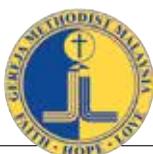
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