



Rev Steward Damat the new SIAC President 33rd Session Sarawak Iban Annual Conference



Bishop Hwa Yung and church leaders praying for Rev Damat.



The new SIAC President, Rev Steward Damat with his family.

The 33rd Session Sarawak Iban Annual Conference (SIAC) was held from 27-30 Nov 2008 at Methodist Iban Centre, Sibü. Rev Steward Damat was elected as the new President of SIAC for the new quadrennium in one ballot. The total votes he received were 71 out of 88. Rev Damat thanked God for such an opportunity to serve Him. He and his family were willing to take up the challenge from God for the advancement of His Kingdom. The outgoing President Rev James Puang also gave his blessings to the new President.

SIAC Lay Leader George Anak Lagom was re-elected for another term. The newly elected associate lay leaders were: 1st Associate Lay Leader - Kennedy Anak Saga, 2nd Associate Lay Leader - Jonathan Anak Ugik.

Two deacons were ordained by Bishop Hwa Yung. They were Rev Jenny Anak Bandar and Rev Idai Anak Lugom. Rev Jonathan Jelanding, although has reached the age of retirement but is still zealous to serve God. He continues his pastoral ministry on a yearly renewable contract.

President Steward Talks about the Coming Years for SIAC

Rev Steward Damat recalled his thoughts after his election, "I felt like Jabez in the

Old Testament. God is giving me a bigger territory and heavier responsibilities."

Rev Steward Damat graduated from STM with a Bachelor of Theology, and then Master of Ministry and Master of Theology from Trinity Theological College, Singapore. He has been teaching in Methodist Theological School (MTS), Sibü, for 15 years. During these years, he has had opportunities to interact with different lecturers and pastors and learned a lot from them. He felt that those days were really great investments in his life and would empower him in his leadership skills. Rev Damat has been serving God since the 70's in various ministries.

He continued to explain, "What I am inheriting is an annual conference with over RM 200,000 deficit. It is a great challenge. I hope to turn it over with God's help within these four years. The highlight of the event for next year will be the 60th anniversary. We hope to use this chance to show our gratitude to God who has taken care of us all these years. We might have difficulties ahead, but God's grace is still sufficient. We will strive to serve Him, now and in the future."

When talking about the road ahead, Rev Damat has tentative plans all

laid out. First is discipleship, both in quality and quantity. Second will be the tithing. One-tenth tithing has been implemented for eight years and the result has been very encouraging. Third, Rev Damat would like to send more highly qualified personnel for clerical training to Sabah, West Malaysia and Singapore. He also desires to see more highly educated young people committing themselves to full time ministry. Fourth is to upgrade the facilities and church buildings especially in the towns. Rev Damat also wants SIAC to enhance the partnership relationship with sister conferences such as SCAC and other mission agencies in Korea, Singapore and USA.

Finally, Rev Damat urges all to pray for him and support the Iban churches. He welcomes constructive suggestions and ideas so that he can serve God more effectively. As SIAC enters into a new phase of leadership, they need much prayer support.

This article is compiled from two reports written by Winnie in Connection, 15 & 31 December 2008 issues. Connection is the English publication of the The Chinese Methodist Message of the SCAC.



President Ling introducing new Pastor Su Bao Ling



Laying hands and praying for President Ling Heu Uh



Delegates to the Conference



Newly ordained Elder, Rev Chin En Phin with his family, and Bishop Hwa Yung.

5th Session Sabah Provisional Annual Conference

The 5th Session of the Sabah Provisional Annual Conference (SPAC) was held from 7-8 November 2008 in Shern En Methodist Church, Kota Kinabalu. Rev Ling Heu Uh was re-elected, on the first ballot, as President of SPAC for the next four years.

Under the leadership and blessings from Bishop Hwa Yung and President Ling, all the reports, elections and proposals were conducted smoothly.

The Annual Conference has seen an overall increase in the Sunday Worship attendance of about 8%, from 1,786 to 1,933, while Sunday school attendance decreased slightly by about 4%. The churches in the Conference are organized around the regular programmes of the Methodist Women, Adult Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Junior Youth Fellowship, Children's Fellowship, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and College Fellowship. Some have seen growth while others have declined slightly. There was also

an increase in adult baptisms from 87 to 111 in 2008.

Bahasa Malaysia Ministry

The ministry to the indigenous people started 12 years ago and there are now a number of centres in different parts of Sabah. They are now focusing on training the local leaders. SPAC emphasizes four directions: building faith, education, medical care and life skills in their BM ministry. In recent years, they are facing challenges as the indigenous people move constantly and training work becomes less easy. The life of the indigenous people is also affected by outside investors coming in. This ministry takes time and is not an easy road. On the other hand, the education work is bearing fruits. Young children are learning to read and attending schools. The phenomena of young people getting married do not happen now. Praise God for a group of committed teachers and trainers.

Focus on Evangelism and Church Planting

SPAC also ministers to many Chinese workers in Sabah. This ministry, known

as Doorstep Ministry, has been active for about four years. Every two years, a new batch of workers come to Sabah. The opportunities are so vast and SPAC needs more members to join this doorstep ministry.

President Ling, in his presidential speech, said planting at least one church a year is their goal. He encouraged all the local churches to seriously consider planting churches in line with the speedy development of Sabah. SPAC also plans to develop and train two missionaries in the coming 5 years.

There was one new graduate joining SPAC this year, Pastor Su Bao Ling. And Rev Chin En Phin was ordained as an elder. In total, SPAC has 12 elders, 6 deacons and 6 pastors.

*Winnie
From Connection
30 November 2008*

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What is Happening in our Annual Conferences?

February

02-22	Mon-Sun	TRAC Jeremiah School (cont.)
12-14	Thu-Sat	General Conference Executive Board (1)
17-19	Tue-Thu	CCM Head of Churches Retreat
19-21	Thu-Fri	SCAC Board of Evangelism - Bahasa Malaysia Ministry Forum
20-22	Fri-Sun	TRAC Spiritual Formation & Leadership Weekend 1
26-28	Thu-Sat	CAC Pastors School
27-28	Fri-Sat	CAC Lay Training Retreat – Eagles Team Leadership Summit

March

03-05	Tue-Thu	TRAC President / DS Retreat
04	Wed	TRAC Spiritual Formation Public Lecture 1
06-09	Fri-Mon	TRAC Board of Youth Work Retreat
08-09	Sun-Mon	TAC Retreat (Pastors, Lay Leaders, LCEC Chairpersons)
10-13	Tue-Fri	TRAC MSF Camp
11	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 2
12-19	Thu-Thu	CAC Methodist Women Trip to Gui Lin
16-19	Mon-Thu	SPAC Pastors School SCAC Board of Ministry - Pastors' School
18	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 3
19-22	Thu-Sun	TRAC National Youth Prayer Conference
20-22	Fri-Sun	TRAC Prayer Conference
25	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 4
27-28	Fri-Sat	SPAC Laity Seminar
28	Sat	TAC Selayang Church Formation

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Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation

The General Conference in September 2008 adopted as the theme, 'Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation,' for the new Quadrennium of 2009-2012. Two questions immediately come to mind. What does the theme mean? And does it tell us of something that is achievable by the church?

Let it be clearly stated right at the beginning that this is not a Methodist version of the *Reformasi* slogan used by certain politicians in our country. Our theme actually comes from John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. Some years after the 18th century revival began, Wesley and his preachers asked at one of their Annual Conferences, 'What may we reasonably believe to be God's design in raising up the Preachers called Methodists?' And the answer as found in the *Large Minutes* (1763) was: 'To reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land.'

Wesley's statement must be understood against the background of 18th century England, a country then in a state of gross spiritual, moral and social decline. Wesley recognised that sinful humanity stands under the judgment and wrath of God. At the same time he was concerned over the need for spiritual and moral reform in the nation. But he understood very well that spiritual and moral change comes

only through deep-seated repentance. For that to happen, the church must be fully committed to the task of evangelism, and work towards a widespread revival that would bring about holiness in personal and social life.

Only when human hearts are changed and made pure, only then can they be used by God to effect moral and social transformation in the nation! This is what is meant by spreading scriptural holiness (through evangelism, calling men and women to repentance, and teaching them to live holy lives) and transforming the nation (through moral change and sociopolitical reforms).

This brings us to the second question: Is this something achievable or doable by the church today? Or, at least, is it possible for the church to contribute significantly to this goal? Can the church as a small minority community do anything in a country like ours?

I would like to answer this second question by looking at the call of Moses in Ex 3:1-12. Many of us are familiar with the story. Born into an oppressed community enslaved by one of the world powers of its day, Moses was miraculously brought up with all the privilege and training of an Egyptian prince. With his learning and obvious ability, he thought he could deliver

his own people by his own strength. He goofed, and had to flee for his life when Pharaoh went after him for killing an Egyptian slave driver!

He settles down comfortably in exile into a middle-class existence, with a nice family. It was then that Moses hears a voice out of the burning bush addressed to him: 'Moses, Moses ... Do not come near; take your sandals off ... for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' Then comes the call of God, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry ... Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people ... out of Egypt' (Ex 3: 4f, 7, 10).

As is often the case in life, God's voice comes at most inconvenient moments! And like many of us when this happens, Moses did his best to try to wriggle out of it. He did it by asking God four questions. First, Who am I God? These guys know that I am a failure (Ex 3:11)! Second, Who is this God that is sending me? I am not sure that these people know you (Ex 3:13)! Third, Why should the Israelites believe in me? What so special about me (Ex 4:1)? And finally, Where on earth am I going to find the ability to do what you ask of me (Ex 4:10)?

What can one man do against Egypt?

Growing up in the palace, Moses had seen it all. What can a shepherd's staff do against Egypt's finest chariots? What can a rabble group of slaves do against a world power? What can M16s or AK47s do against ballistic missiles with multiple re-entry nuclear warheads?

But God's response to each of the questions that Moses threw at Him was essentially the same, 'But I will be with you' (Ex 3:12)! And when he confronted the mighty Pharaoh, Moses staff swallowed up the staffs of Egypt's most powerful magicians. Then, because of Pharaoh's intransigence, the ten plagues followed one after another. 'But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth' (Ex 9:16). But still Pharaoh refused to learn his lesson and insisted on going after the fleeing Hebrew slaves—until his army was wiped out at the Red Sea!

Down the ages, God's word has remained the same: 'But I will be with you!' It was the same words that Jesus spoke in parting to the disciples, as he commissioned them to 'Make disciples of all nations ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' (Mat 28: 19f). With that assurance of God's presence and empowering, the church has moved forward, knowing that 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Mat 16:18). It was the same story with Wesley and his co-workers as they set forth 'To reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land'!

God's purposes for His church remains unchanged throughout history—to be the instrument of His work of salvation to the peoples of this world. What He did through Moses, Jesus' disciples, and Wesley, He wants to do again in our generation. But does the church today have what it takes? Sadly, it has to be said that the church in Malaysia is too weak as it is. For us to have the strength to do this, we must know revival. We need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us again! Only when the church knows what it means to live by His strength and power can it become God's instrument of salvation in the world.

It is not possible to deal in detail with the theme of revival in a short essay. But the following needs to be said. Often when we think of revival, we think of huge gatherings and mega-churches. For example, when we think of the 18th century revival, we often think of Wesley

and Whitefield preaching to 10,000-15,000 people. Immediately we say, this is too big for us. We cannot do it! But what we forget is that all revivals begin small.

Allow me to suggest three pictures of revival which most, if not all of us, can identify with and recognise as something doable! The first goes back to the Wesleyan revival. Whilst it is true that Wesley sometimes preached to crowds of 10,000-15,000 people, that was not the typical picture in the 18th century. Rather as one writer puts it, 'Perhaps the most characteristic image of the English movement is, not that of John Wesley preaching to great crowds ... in Cornwall, but Wesley ... standing in a barn with a knot of shabby people around him, explaining the love of God in the process of regeneration' (cited in Mark Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism*, 2004, p.118). And as hundreds and thousands of such groups sprang up throughout Britain, revival came and a whole nation was transformed!

Something similar can happen when all our bible study and prayer groups from every church begin to spread throughout this nation, touching individuals and transforming lives everywhere. Each of these thousands and tens of thousands of small groups everywhere will radiate brilliantly as lights in the midst of the surrounding spiritual and moral darkness. This is something that every Christian can do and be part of!

Let me share a second picture of revival. I had spoken in one of the largest charismatic churches in Kuala Lumpur sometime last year. Over lunch one of the senior ministers in that church said something like this to me: 'In the past we usually did not think much of the Methodist Church. But last year something changed my perception. Two families from our church were transferred to another city and they went round looking for a suitable church. To my surprise, they both ended up in a Methodist church! When I asked them why, both told me that it was because in that church, the Bible was faithfully preached every Sunday!'

If you are aware that many of our Methodist members over the past thirty years or so had left for other churches, you will understand why this statement encouraged me so much! The fact is that others were drawn to that particular church simply because the pastor there faithfully preached God's Word! This reminds us of

the spiritual hunger prevalent today. At the same time, it also tells us that revival is something doable. If every pastor will take the task of preaching seriously, people will come to God!

My third picture comes from a tribute paid to a pastor friend of ours who died some months ago. After graduation from both UM and NUS, Pastor Tan Har Yong had worked as a teacher and, later, Deputy Principal of a major private school. Eventually he left his job to become a TRAC pastor. His sudden death of a heart attack at 56 years devastated many of us. But in the midst of our grief, we read a moving tribute to Pastor Tan written by a Muslim lawyer.

The latter had been a student under Pastor Tan in school and he wrote of Pastor Tan's impact on him. 'To him, it did not matter that we were Chinese, Indian, Malay or of any other ethnicity. He made us see that though each of us was unique and different, we were all the same for each of us being deserving of the respect of the others.... I would like to think that this had a profound impact on those of us who came to consider him a friend and mentor... It is no coincidence that there are a string of lawyers, activists and professionals, all contributing to the shaping of a better Malaysia in which race, religion or creed do not matter, whom Mr Tan nurtured as a teacher' (*Malay Mail*, Aug 12, 2008).

For those who might be interested, the writer is Malik Imtiaz Sarwar, one of the leading human rights lawyer in our country. One Christian, in twenty years or so as a teacher, was able to leave behind a legacy of change for good in other lives. The Methodist Church has 100,000 members. If even 10% would do what was described of Pastor Tan, what would the impact be? And that is something that every one of our laypeople can do!

'Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation'— Is this something doable? Rather than answer the question, allow me to point you to God's word in Ex 3:4f: 'Moses, Moses ... Do not come near; take your sandals off ... for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'

(From Sermon preached at all Annual Conferences, Nov 2008)

33rd Session Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference



Newly ordained Elders (from left to right), Rev Tai Sing Leh, Rev Ting Yeng Ping, Rev Wong King Ming, and Rev Khoo Leh Yong



President Su Chii Ann addressing the Conference



New co-workers joining the Conference.

The SCAC held its Annual Conference from 18 – 21 November 2008 in Sibü. Rev Dr Su Chii Ann was re-elected President of SCAC for the next quadrennium on the first ballot. He thanked those who have been patient with him and urged all to continue to uphold him and his family in prayer.

In his Presidential Address, Rev Su noted the achievements and present state of the Conference in the last four years. At the end of 2008 SCAC had 153 pastors for 96 churches, 25 preaching centres and three preaching points.

A number of buildings and ministries have developed in the past quadrennium: The MY Centre to reach out to the youths through fun, food, feeling, friends and faith; children's homes for orphans and special needs, a half-way house for newly released prisoners.

SCAC has also sent out 26 long term and 14 short term missionaries

overseas and two local missionary teachers among the Penans. The missionaries are involved in a range of activities working among Chinese labourers and students, social service to the poor and orphans, Bible translation, pastoring churches, in theological education and offering technical assistance and training.

In their indigenous ministry 55 Iban longhouses were adopted and 11 Bahasa Malaysia services/fellowships were established. In the growth of buildings, ministries and numbers the nurturing has not been neglected. Many programmes have been developed, from short-term seminars and camps to longer periods of learning over months and years, all of which provide different levels of training and teaching for pastors, lay preachers, group leaders and teachers. At the Conference the Zion Correspondence online courses was officially launched on their website.

However, Rev Su also raised some matters to take note. One was the ratio of pastors to church members. If based on the number of Sunday attendance one pastor had to take care of 200 members. But if the total membership was taken into account, then one pastor had to shepherd about 580 members.

Another was the equipping and training of the younger generation of leaders, both pastoral and lay leadership. There is a need to give effort to nurture the next group of church leaders because it takes about 5-10 years for the process of maturing leaders.

Besides the ordination of four elders and three deacons, the Conference also saw the addition of 16 new co-workers to various ministries in the Annual Conference.

33rd SESSION TAMIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Ordination of Rev Vincent C. Jayaraj by Bishop Hwa Yung with the District Superintendents of TAC



Newly ordained Deacons (left) Rev. Padmanathan & his wife and (right) Rev Silvester Martin & his wife



Newly ordained Elders (left) Rev. Tangkaraj & his wife and (right) Rev. Edward Devadason and his wife

The 33rd Session of the Tamil Annual Conference was held from 14 -17 November 2008 in Ipoh. A new President was elected for this quadrennium, Rev Jayaraj Chelliah.

Rev Jayaraj has served in TAC for more than 25 years. He studied for the pastoral ministry at Union Biblical Seminary, Yeotmal, India. He was ordained an Elder in 1985, serving churches in Cha'ah, Taiping, Klang and Penang. Besides these pastoral charges, Rev Jayaraj served as Youth Director of TAC, as Chairman of the Board of Missions and the Malaysian Missionary Movement, and twice as District Superintendent. Among his interests and concerns Rev Jayaraj puts discipling members, church growth and revival.

This Annual Conference also saw the ordination of two new Elders – Rev Tangkaraj and Rev Edward Devadason – and two Deacons – Rev Padmanathan and Rev Silvester Martin.

Earlier in the Conference, in his Presidential Address, Rev P. Tevaraji highlighted some of the achievements and goals for TAC. In the past quadrennium a

ten year plan was put in motion, called “Vision 2015 – Absolutely Double.”

This Vision seeks to realise:

- 1.5 Every member to read the Bible once in every 1 ½ years
- 15 To pray for 15 missionaries
- 150 100 Churches and 50 outreaches
- 100 pastors and workers and 50 supportive staff
- 1500 Prayer partners
- 15000 Full Members

This vision for growth is complemented by the emphasis on four initiatives – Missions, Church Growth, Discipleship and Church in Society.

There has been some growth in the churches although marginal. While some have minus growth yet others are doing well. Worship services are well attended. The strong ministries are the small groups, prayer cells and outreach services.

There was praise to God for the birth of two new churches, Lahat Baru and Bercham in Ipoh, bringing the total number of local churches to 47 in the TAC. Rev Tevaraji also commended both the pastors for their faithful

ministry and the laity for their active leadership in committees and agencies. The pastors face many demands in their ministry but they rise to the challenge. However, he noted that there was a shortage of pastors, missionaries and full-time workers. There may be various reasons for this which need to be looked into.

The lay people are encouraged to be better equipped. Many people have enrolled in the LPTI. And teams of lay people also go to other churches to minister.

Some events in 2008 were cause for thanksgiving to God. More than 500 youths attended the MYF camp in Raub, The year's highlight was the **TAC Prayer Convention** held in May. More than 1000 participants including children came together for three days. The people were greatly blessed and have been highly motivated in the prayer ministry. Many churches have a strong prayer ministry. And the Malaysian Missionary Movement (MMM) celebrated its 15th Anniversary of missions work. God has taught the TAC many things concerning missions and they continue to learn as they serve.

The Ten Commandments: Precepts for God's People (6)

You Shall Not Kill

Ho Gaik Kim

We live in a world where killing is very much an everyday occurrence. Life is so cheap, or so it seems. Fallen human beings seem to have the propensity to butcher and dispose their kind. Because we are constantly bombarded with news and images of killings, and with movies that glorify killing it is easy to become desensitized to it all. How we need to not only hear but also feel God's abhorrence of the taking of human life, and be in awe of how precious and sacred a person is in His eyes. Some Bible translations have rendered the sixth commandment as "You shall not murder." The emphasis is on unlawful and wrongful taking of human life. It implies that under certain circumstances the taking of life may be permissible or lawful. This raises a lot of questions and debate which will not be addressed here.

Not just the act

A superficial look at the commandment may well allow us to be pleased with ourselves for surely we have not committed such an atrocity. But God is concerned with the inner being. In the Sermon on the Mount, when dealing with this commandment, Jesus goes against the limiting and reducing of the commandment to merely external acts. He sharpened the prohibition by going behind the letter of the law to the intentions, motives and underlying principles. Jesus certainly made the commandment more radical than many would have liked because it exposes us for who we really are, and it places us together with those we categorize as "terrible sinners". About killing, He says, *"You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'Do not commit murder, and anyone who murders is subject to judgment. But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca', is*

answerable to the Sandhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." (Matthew 5:21-22)

Jesus calls His disciples to look at the source or root of the act. Festering anger that is nursed and nurtured can so consume people and lead them to kill, if not in actual deed, with looks, words and the pen. Genesis 4 tells of how Cain allowed anger to overtake him, and how tragic the outcome. "Raca" is an Aramaic word of insult and contempt and so is "You fool!" (*More*). While Bible commentators debate about whether Jesus is making a distinction between the two words, the point that Jesus is driving home is that those demeaning and destructive words are also within the ambit of the commandment. Hence, those who utter them are equally deserving of God's judgment too. If all human beings are God's creatures and made in His image, then no one should be seen or treated as less or inferior. Those words are a manifestation of a flawed inner attitude. History has repeatedly shown how contempt and hatred for another can lead to devastating consequences. It was the sense of superiority and pride in the Aryan race that led to the Jewish holocaust, where about six million Jews were exterminated by the Nazis under Hitler. However, racism continues to rear its ugly head, and hatred for other races has time and time again caused blood to be spilt. Contempt for another is not just confined to another race, it can be towards those from another religious group, social class or gender. For example, many baby girls are aborted or killed after birth in China for no other reason than sons being valued more than daughters. The recent attacks against Christians in Orissa, India, is said to be the result of ethnic as

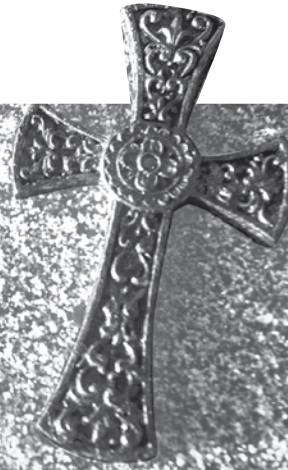
well as religious conflicts. Therefore, it is very important to examine our inner attitude towards others and the words that we express about and to another. As Jesus says, "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:35b)

When we allow our hearts to be searched by God we will realize that, while we may not have killed, we may have wished the object of our anger and contempt dead. Carson rightly points out that it is not about anger per se but vilifying anger that is the root of murder. So, it is no wonder that John says, *"Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."* (1 John 3:15) What Jesus desires is that these destructive emotions and attitude be dealt with urgently (Matthew 5:23-24). Bringing an offering to God may seem an honourable thing, but without reconciling with a brother or sister who has something against you renders the act meaningless, if not hypocritical. How can God be pleased when the heart harbours evil! It is not just with our brother or sister but also with our enemies that we are to seize the opportunity to work at bridging the divide and healing the rupture. In the beatitudes Jesus says, *"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be children of God."* (Matthew 5:9) In a conflict riddled world permeated by distrust, hatred, enmity and racism how we need more peacemakers rather than peacekeepers. When we look within we recognize that God's standards are not difficult; they are impossible! Unless our hearts are transformed and we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to fulfill God's demand.

Not just certain people

Christians can boldly affirm this commandment but a deeper reflection often reveals how inconsistent and selective we can

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be in applying it. I wonder how Christians view the recent execution of the Bali bombers. It will be unrealistic to expect a uniform view or response. Perhaps some may be rejoicing while others may be ambivalent about it. The issue of capital punishment is a divisive one, but despite that, surely the taking of lives in such a situation must be seen as a tragedy; some lives had to be taken in order to protect the lives of others. To gloat somehow seems inappropriate. True, they have committed a despicable crime, but they are still God's creation. Jesus' response towards those who condemned Him to death on the cross is so "unworldly", "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:31a) No vengeance! It is amazing to read that God spared the first cold-blooded murderer. Even though Cain did not get away scot-free, God put a mark on him so that people will keep their hands off him.

Don't we sometimes wish that the police will just shoot dead the bag snatchers, robbers, rapists, terrorists, pedophiles, kidnappers, drug traffickers and murderers? It will save the court a lot of time and taxpayers a lot of money. Perhaps we will add to the list corrupt politicians, pimps and prostitutes, drug addicts and homosexuals. And what about the mat rempits, the racists and religious bigots? These are the scum of society and they have forfeited their right to live. The world will be a better place without them. The commandment only applies to "good and innocent" people (like us?). Somehow taking such an attitude smacks not only of a "holier than thou" attitude but also makes us the judge in determining whose lives are disposable and whose are not. Let us leave that to God, the Creator and perfect Judge of all humankind. Would we desire the same if our family members or loved ones are the

people involved? Let us also never forget that, but for the grace of God, our lives too can degenerate to that end. Besides, we do not know the personal life stories of these people and it is wise to refrain from making such a judgment on them. In giving the commandment God "spreads a protective moral shield around every person's life. To God, human beings are dear, be they friend or enemy, productive or dependent, elect or reprobate."

While we know that the sanctity of human life should be the guiding principle oftentimes pragmatism rules the day. We may believe that, generally, abortion is wrong, but convenience and personal interests can take precedence. Is the life of an unborn child any less valuable because the child is a "mistake", conceived out of wedlock, the product of a rape, or belongs to a poor family who already has too many children? The elderly and those with great disability can be considered a liability in economic terms. Do we apply the commandment differently when it comes to them? It is not that the persons involved and the circumstances are of no importance but we cannot be consistent if we pick and choose when and where and upon whom we may apply the commandment.

Not just negative prohibition

The commandment calls for respect for human life. One way of showing it is by not robbing others of their life. However, this can allow us to take a live and let live attitude. Keeping our hands off another person's life is the minimum. It sets the boundary but the Christian life is much more than not crossing the boundary because respect for human life can and must be shown in positive ways. We need to incarnate our words of affirmation that all persons have a right to exist. It is in

this that we often come short, very short. Making a strong stand against abortion is good but it is hollow if not accompanied by concrete acts to help those facing this dilemma to choose to keep their babies. We have to confess our failure to provide a serious alternative in long term care and support for those who find themselves in such a situation. In a society where people are increasingly materialistic and alienated from one another, some may be driven to suicide in despair. The church must offer an alternative community where hope, healing, joy and love can be experienced. We must do all we can to help people live meaningful lives and choose life rather than death. When people are constantly oppressed and suffer grave injustices, they may resort to violent means to protest or be heard. God is just and His people surely must reflect Him in seeking justice for all, not only when their interests are at stake. One of the things that must be given serious thought in a world that values youth and strength and productivity is the care of the elderly that gives them respect and dignity. Love for God and neighbour will transform the negative prohibition to a myriad of positive acts of care and concern for human life.

Conclusion

A deeper reading of the commandment will clearly reveal that none of us can easily plead innocence. This calls for confession and repentance. The commandment seems simple and straightforward, but living in a fallen world has created all kinds of dilemmas and ambiguities for Christians. We need not only discernment and wisdom from God to guide our steps but also His forgiveness and grace to rise up when we fail. We do not journey alone but with the support and the collective wisdom of the community of faith.

第三十三届华人年议会按立牧职典礼

报导：徐晓慧

于年议会第四天（11月13日）举行会长就职礼和按立牧职典礼，约有五六百人参加。马六甲堂诗班代会众向神献唱《向神歌唱》及《生命的泉水》。

华勇会督从出埃及记3章1至12节的经文中勉励会众“传扬圣经的圣洁，转化改变国家”。会督提出复兴的策略有：复兴的写照，乃从小群、小组及平凡的人开始；忠心传讲上帝真理的道；活出真理的生活，成为信仰的见证。他说，每一个复兴是从小规模开始的。

会长就职礼和按牧典礼皆由华勇会督主持。莫泽川会长就职礼后，会督授权莫泽川会长代表考问将接受按立的牧职候选人。

考问后，会督按立吴启麒传道为本处副牧，华维忠传道、陈华彬传道、林梅凤传道、郑仁宾传道、陈志豪传道为年会副牧，并授权传讲上帝的圣道；宣布白赏赐牧师为年会副牧，并授权传讲上帝的圣道；按立张振祥牧师、林礼建牧师、蔡礼桦牧师及张儒新牧师为年会长牧，并授权传讲上帝的圣道及施行圣礼。

按立礼后举行年议会闭幕礼。会长宣布第卅四届年议会将于2009年11月11至13日在吉隆坡举行。今年成立牧区的是南部

教区的古来牧区。退休教牧有刘孝端牧师和李后军传道。

华勇会督宣布第卅三届年议会圆满结束并为会众祝福后，马六甲堂招待全体代表午餐，庆祝马六甲堂设教110周年。



Conference in session



Newly ordained Deacons and Elders (front row) with President Boh Che Suan (second row, third from left) and Bishop Hwa Yung (second row, fourth from left) and other officers and pastors of the Conference.

33rd Session Chinese Annual Conference

The 33rd Session Chinese Annual Conference was held from 10-14 November 2008 in Malacca. Rev Boh Che Suan was re-elected President of the Conference for another quadrennium.

Pastoral Ordination Service

On the fourth day of the Conference (14 Nov.), the President's re-dedication service and pastoral ordination service were conducted and were attended by about 600 people. The Malacca Chinese Methodist Church Choir made a song offering to God with two songs – "Sing unto the Lord" and "The Spring of Life", on behalf of the congregation.

Sharing from Exodus 3:1-12, Bishop Dr Hwa Yung exhorted the congregation based on the theme for the new quadrennium, "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming The Nation". Bishop gave a scenario of the strategy for revival: numbers of small groups of ordinary people gathered to hear God's message, the faithful weekly preaching of the truth of God, and living out a life of truth and witness to the faith. He said that every revival started small.

The President's re-dedication and pastoral ordination services were both conducted by Bishop Dr Hwa Yung. After the service for President Rev Boh Che Suan, Bishop authorized Rev Boh Che Suan to stand in proxy to ask the candidates for pastoral ordination the questions required of them.

After the question session, Bishop ordained Pastor Ng Kee Ling, Pastor Wah Wai Choong, Pastor Tan Hwa Pin, Pastor Ling Mooi Hoon, Pastor Tee Jin Peng, and Pastor Tan Chee Hoe as Deacons of the Annual Conference, and authorized them to preach the Holy Word of God. He declared Rev Peh Cheong Soo as Deacon of the Annual Conference, and authorized him to preach the Holy Word of God. Bishop Dr Hwa Yung also ordained Rev Chong

Chon Siong, Rev Ling Li Jian, Rev Chua Lee Hwa and Rev Cheong Ee Sin as Elders of the Annual Conference, and authorized them to preach the Holy Word of God and to conduct the Holy Sacrament.

After the ordination service the closing ceremony for the Annual Conference was held. The President announced that the 34th Session Chinese Annual Conference would be held in Kuala Lumpur from 11 - 13 November, 2009.

Kulai Parish of the Southern District was established this year. Rev Low How Juan and Pastor Lee How Koon retired as pastors of CAC this year.

Bishop Dr Hwa Yung declared the close of the 33rd Annual Conference. After pronouncing the benediction for the congregation, the Malacca Chinese Methodist Church served lunch to all the delegates in celebration of the 110th Anniversary of the founding of the church.

Shu Siaw Hui

(This is an edited version of the translation of the Chinese article. Editor)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, METHODIST CHURCH IN MALAYSIA

FINANCE OFFICER

FUNCTION OF WORK:

To plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the financial and property activities of the Methodist Council of Education and related educational institutions.

LEVEL OF WORK:

Administrator.

CRITERIA

- Person should be above 35 years
- Should possess a Degree or Diploma in Finance / Management / Business Administration or equivalent
- Should be computer literate
- Be a committed Christian
- Salary will commensurate with experience

Interested, please:

Email to edumeth.lbh@gmail.com. Post or fax your resume to :

The Executive Director

Methodist Education Centre

67, Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Fax: 03-79583346

Tel: 03-79565310

Closing Date: **31st March 2009**

33rd Session Trinity Annual Conference



Re-dedication service of President Ong Hwai Teik



Ordination of new Deacon, Rev Yong Wai Yin. Bishop Hwa Yung, President Ong and Rev Ricky Ho pray for her.



Recognition of new Local Preachers.

The 33rd Trinity Annual Conference was held from 22 – 25 November 2008 in Subang Jaya. Rev Ong Hwai Teik was re-elected President on the first ballot.

Rev Ong, in his Presidential Address, reviewed some of the developments of the past quadrennium and noted some areas for further attention and action. It was with thanksgiving to the Lord God Almighty that he looked back at the past four years.

In the area of missions TRAC churches are involved with migrant workers from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka and others. This has precipitated more churches getting involved in the adopted countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam and Nepal. TRAC is also in consultation with some foreign Methodist connections to second workers to meet the needs and reach out to migrant workers in the country – the “nations in our nation.” With this in view the Conference is seriously considering establishing a Missions Society that will consolidate and advance the outreach work, as well as coordinate churches involvement in the adopted four countries.

A greater emphasis was given to the youth ministry through the Jeremiah School, Youth Leadership Development Programme, Youth Prayer Conferences and outreach mission trips, as well as the on-going programmes of the MYF, BB and GB. Participants of these are involved in youth programmes, training events and forming District Councils. The new Whispering Hope preaching point was started in part a church for Methodist youths going to colleges in Kuala Lumpur. A monthly University-College students gathering brings those studying in the Klang Valley together. Outreach work has also started in KTAR and UTAR campuses in Kampar.

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) was launched in 2007 with a full-time Director. It has begun to formulate crucial training programmes to address the strategic needs of spirituality and leadership in the Conference. The programmes complement the LPL courses in equipping lay persons for ministry and leadership.

Related to these issues Rev Ong highlighted a number of concerns for the Conference.

One was the longstanding need for more pastors, continuing to nurture, prepare and challenge the younger generation to answer the call when it comes. At the same time more members need to avail themselves with their experience and giftings to build a strong and bigger ministry leadership team.

The other area of concern was the “missing generation” – young adults ministry. This important group of young adults is sorely missed in our churches. They are the generation that provides change, greater energy level, creativity and continuity into the future well-being of the church community and her mission. An open, fresh, and new approach is needed to reach and incorporate this highly mobile and time-strapped group. As such churches need to be aware of this overlooked group and to facilitate establishment of local YA communities and a network at TRAC level. A Young Adults Convention is planned for 2009.

The TRAC Executive Board is helping the Persidangan Missi Sengoi to review and reform their financial situation to prepare for the day they become a Provisional Annual Conference. The PMS Endowment Fund is set up under the General Conference to provide the financial support. The PMS is also breaking some new grounds in reaching families in Cameron Highlands and Simpang Pulai areas, besides their base in Kampar.

There is a growing need for buildings for chapels-community halls that are used for kindergartens as well, local tuition classes in their residential centres, education and scholarship fund for increasing numbers that go on to diploma and college level studies, and on-going Bible translation project into the Sengoi language. TRAC continues to support and spearhead the upliftment of this marginalized community towards the goal of a full Annual Conference status.

The Conference closed with the re-dedication service for the President, Rev Ong Hwai Teik, the ordination of Deacon, Rev Yong Wai Yin, the dedication of the Conference Officers, TRAC Executive Board Members, Chairmen of Annual Conference Boards, and the recognition of new Local Preachers.

Recruitment Notice

Wesley Methodist Johor Bahru is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions:

1. **Coordinator of Christian Education**
2. **Coordinator of Social Services and Welfare**
3. **Coordinator of Missions Work and Evangelism**
4. **Church Caretaker**

For positions No. 1, 2 and 3, the right candidate must meet the following requirements:

- Committed Christian who is able to work well with church members
- Resourceful, enthusiastic and dedicated towards the Ministry
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, especially ability to communicate effectively with people at many different levels
- Ability to work as a team and independently
- Ability to train, counsel and advise church members
- Good working knowledge of computer skills

For position No. 4, the right candidate must meet the following requirement:

- Able to work from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. daily
- Committed Christian who is able to work well with church members

- Flexible in doing various tasks for the church, and taking care of the church building and compound

Please send your application, complete with resume and recent photograph to:

The Pastor

Wesley Methodist Church
20 Jalan Ungu 7, Taman Pelangi,
80400 Johor Bahru.
Email: jbwesley@streamyx.com

Closing date is **31 March 2009**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

The Methodist Church in Malaysia

Property Officer

General Job Descriptions:

1. To vet through all legal documents eg. Contract agreement, Sale & Purchase agreement, Tenancy agreement etc to safeguard the benefits of the Methodist Church.
2. Visit land office as and when necessary on land and property matters.
3. To ensure all the land titles held under the Church are kept and recorded properly.
4. To ensure quit rent & assessment for all the properties are paid and maintained.
5. To ensure the smooth run on the administrative procedures in the Property office.

6. To take charge on the upkeep & maintenance of a Methodist Resort Centre, AEC & GCEC properties.
7. To take meetings minutes.
8. To prepare reports for Council of Trustees (P) and Annual Conferences.

Criteria:

- Person should be above age 35 years
- Must have language proficiency in English and Bahasa Malaysia. Knowledge in other languages is an added advantage.
- A Degree or Diploma in Law/ Business Management or Estate Management will definitely be advantageous
- Must possess own transport
- Work experience either in the Land Office or in conveyance matters in the legal firm will be advantageous
- Should have computer literacy in word, excel (or access)
- Salary will commensurate with experience

Interested please:

1. email to es@methodistchurch.org.my,
2. post your resume to Executive Secretary, No. 69 Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, or
3. fax your resume to 03-79541787, or
4. contact Lily Ng at 03-79541811
5. Closing date: **28th February 2009**

10th National Bible Knowledge Postal Quiz - a written quiz

Sponsor:

Malayan Christian Schools' Council (MCSC)

Production:

Scripture Union (SU), Semenanjung

Official dates:

April 17-19 (One week after Good Friday)

Alternatives dates:

April 24-26 & May 1-3 (only when there are valid reasons)

Aim:

To encourage the reading of selected portions of the Bible

Awards:

The MCSC Certificate for participants and prizes for top scorers and quiz centers

Who took part?

Over 10,000 students. 2008- about 4000 students

Who can take part?

Secondary school students - Forms 1-6
They should read and understand the texts as preparation for the quiz.

Choice of languages:

English, Bahasa Melayu, Chinese and new for 2009 -Iban and Tamil

Where?

Quiz venue is your school, church or suitable room

How long is this written quiz?

50 mins with invigilation

Who marks the papers?

Each center appoints its own volunteer examiner. A marking scheme is provided with the QUIZ PACK.

The quiz format:

20 quotations as fill-in-the blank questions (40%) 30 objective questions (60%)

Texts for 2009:

Genesis chapters 1-9 and Luke chapters 1-9, 21-24 (22 chapters in total)

Steps for Participants:

1. January - Please register your school CF, or church YF with S. Union via e-mail / post with full contact details. NO entry fee.
2. Expect the 2009 INFO pack with sample questions from S. Union.
3. Receive the QUIZ PACK 2009 via Pos Laju to all registered centers about 10 days before Quiz dates.

CONTACT: Runa Wan Eng (coordinator)

Mobile: 016 247 8318

E-mail: runawan@su.org.my

SU office: 03 7782 9592

Fax: 03 7783 1663

The Methodist Church in Malaysia Calendar 2009

January

05-22	Mon-Thu	TRAC Jeremiah School
07/1 - 12/4		CAC Isaiah School
08-11	Thu-Sun	SIAC Boards Meeting
09-10	Fri-Sat	TAC MMM Planning Retreat
12-14	Mon-Wed	SPAC Executive Board Meeting
12-15	Mon-Thu	SCAC Board Meetings
09-11	Fri-Sun	TRAC Executive Board Retreat
16-17	Fri-Sat	TAC Board of Evangelism Retreat
17	Sat	TAC MW Day of Fasting & Prayer
22-23	Thu-Fri	TAC DS/Board of Ministry, Finance & Executive Board
31	Sat	TAC Board of Laity

February

02-22	Mon-Sun	TRAC Jeremiah School (cont.)
12-14	Thu-Sat	General Conference Executive Board (1)
17-19	Tue-Thu	CCM Head of Churches Retreat
19-21	Thu-Fri	SCAC Board of Evangelism - Bahasa Malaysia Ministry Forum
20-22	Fri-Sun	TRAC Spiritual Formation & Leadership Weekend 1
26-28	Thu-Sat	CAC Pastors School
27-28	Fri-Sat	CAC Lay Training Retreat - Eagles Team Leadership Summit

March

03-05	Tue-Thu	TRAC President / DS Retreat
04	Wed	TRAC Spiritual Formation Public Lecture 1
06-09	Fri-Mon	TRAC Board of Youth Work Retreat
08-09	Sun-Mon	TAC Retreat (Pastors, Lay Leaders, LCEC Chairpersons)
10-13	Tue-Fri	TRAC MSF Camp
11	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 2
12-19	Thu-Thu	CAC Methodist Women Trip to Gui Lin
16-19	Mon-Thu	SPAC Pastors School SCAC Board of Ministry - Pastors' School
18	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 3
19-22	Thu-Sun	TRAC National Youth Prayer Conference
20-22	Fri-Sun	TRAC Prayer Conference
25	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 4
27-28	Fri-Sat	SPAC Laity Seminar
28	Sat	TAC Selayang Church Formation

April

01	Wed	TRAC SF Public Lecture 5
12-19	Sun-Sun	CAC Conference on Worship & Liturgy
13-15	Mon-Wed	SPAC Executive Board Meeting
13-16	Mon-Thu	SCAC Board Meetings
13	Mon	SCAC Joint Board Chairmen & District Lay Leaders' Meeting
14-17	Tue-Fri	SIAC Pastors' School
14-18	Tue-Sat	GC Methodist Women - Joint Asian Seminar
20-25	Mon-Sat	TRAC Pastors / Diaconal Ministers School
27-30	Mon-Thu	Christian Federation of Malaysia National Conference

May

01-03	Fri-Sun	SIAC District Lay & Pastors Convention, Bintulu SCAC Board of Mission - Mission Camp SCAC Information Communication Board - Church Media Workshop
21-22	Thu-Fri	TAC DS/Board of Ministry, Finance & Executive Board
22-23	Fri-Sat	SCAC Board of Worship & Music - Hymn Camp
26-30	Tue-Sat	SCAC Board of Evangelism - Evangelism Explosion Leaders Camp
24/5 - 9/6		SCAC Board of Worship & Music - Music Seminar
30/5 - 1/6		CAC Adults Fellowship Family Retreat

June

01-02	Mon-Tue	SCAC Board of Christian Education - Sunday School Teacher Training Camp SCAC Board of Family Wellness & Counselling - Pre-Marriage Camp
01-03	Mon-Wed	CAC Kindergarten Teachers Training TAC Pastors' School
03-05	Wed-Fri	SCAC Board of Laity - 9th Methodist Convention
05-07	Fri-Sun	TAC MYAF Camp

08-11	Mon-Thu	TAC "Edinburgh" 2015 Conference SCAC Methodist Junior Youth Convention
11-13	Thu-Sat	TAC Local Preachers Training Institute
12-13	Fri-Sat	TRAC Board of Ministry & Executive Board Meeting
14	Sun	Methodist Education Foundation Sunday
15-21	Mon-Sat	TAC Christian Home and Family Week
19-21	Fri-Sun	SIAC District Lay & Pastors Convention, Sarikei
19-23	Fri-Tue	CAC National Youth Camp

July

07-09	Tue-Thu	CAC Mission Camp
10-12	Fri-Sun	SIAC District Lay & Pastors Convention, Kapit
13-16	Mon-Thu	SCAC Board meetings
14-17	Tue-Fri	PADERI Conference
15-17	Wed-Fri	SCAC Board of Evangelism - Long House Ministry Forum
21-25	Tue-Sat	SCAC Board of Laity - ILI National Conference

August

07-09	Fri-Sun	TRAC Spiritual Formation & Leadership Weekend 2 - Penang
13-15	Thu-Sat	General Conference Executive Committee
22-24	Sat-Mon	TAC Methodist Women Conference CAC Methodist Women Conference
22-26	Sat-Wed	TRAC Methodist Women Conference
24-26	Mon-Wed	CAC Senior Citizens Retreat
25-27	Tue-Thu	SCAC Board of Family Wellness & Counselling - Marriage Enrichment Retreat
27-29	Thu-Sat	SCAC Board of Evangelism - Bahasa Malaysia Ministry Camp
29-31	Sat-Mon	TRAC Young Adults Consultation SIAC District Lay & Pastors Convention, Sibul
25-31	Tue-Mon	TAC Week of Prayer and Self-Denial

September

04-06	Fri-Sun	TRAC National Youth Counselors Retreat
07-09	Mon-Wed	SPAC Executive Board Meeting
10-13	Thu-Sun	TRAC Board of Ministry, President/DS, Joint Boards/ Executive Board Meetings
22-23	Tue-Wed	SCAC Board of Christian Education - Discipleship Teacher Training
22-27	Tue-Sun	World Methodist Council, Chile
25-27	Fri-Sun	TRAC BB/GB Consultation

October

02-04	Fri-Sun	TRAC Spiritual Formation & Leadership Weekend 2 - Melaka
08-09	Thu-Fri	TAC DS/Board of Ministry, Finance & Executive Board
10	Sat	SPAC West District Conference
16	Fri	SPAC BM District Conference
16-17	Fri-Sat	SCAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Convention
17	Sat	SPAC East District Conference
19-22	Mon-Thu	SCAC Board meetings
23-25	Fri-Sun	TAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Camp
24	Sat	SCAC Methodist Women - En Ling Centre 20th Anniversary Celebration

November

03-05	Tue-Thu	TRAC Pastors & Diaconal Ministers Conference
04	Wed	SPAC Ministerial Members Meeting
05-06	Thu-Fri	6th Session Sabah Provisional Annual Conference
11-13	Wed-Fri	34th Session Chinese Annual Conference SIAC District Lay & Pastors Prayer Convention
14	Sat	SIAC 60th Anniversary Celebration Service
14-16	Sat-Mon	34th Session Sarawak Iban Annual Conference
17-20	Tue-Fri	34th Session Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference
19-20	Thu-Fri	TRAC Board of Ministry & Pre-Ministerial Session
21-24	Sat-Tue	34th Session Trinity Annual Conference
23-25	Mon-Wed	SCAC Methodist Women Delegates Conference
26-29	Thu-Sun	34th Session Tamil Annual Conference

December

08-13	Tue-Sun	TRAC Youth Leadership Development Programme
11-13	Fri-Sun	TRAC Board of Evangelism - Matthew & Friends Weekend
17-19	Thu-Sat	SPAC SCC Christmas Celebration



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There is peace of mind in being able to fulfill your final act of filial piety and assurance knowing that every detail will be taken care of conscientiously. There is dignity in a meaningful ritual well planned and well performed. A Xiao En Bereavement Care Package ensures that the warm memories of your departed loved one will endure for generations to come.



Xiao En Centre, Jalan Kuari, Cheras
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Xiao En Centre

Xiao En Centre, as a complex for social education and life ceremony, is complemented with function halls for memorial services and funeral rites. We are also equipped with facilities to hold cultural & community events including art exhibitions & seminars. The centre's design, which combines the modern sensibilities & traditional concepts which appraise human values represents our unflinching commitment towards celebration of life excellences.

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Giving Special Learners an Advantage

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Volunteers help out with classes and events like the Annual Party



A lesson in self-help skills: table setting



Bed making is part of the ECC curriculum



Thinking skills are taught through puzzles and games

Working in deep concentration, Wai Ling and Xin Yi tuck in the corners of the bedsheet and fold the blanket neatly.

Their teacher looks on, beaming proudly. It took weeks of practice and plenty of determination and patience, but the results are well worth it.

The two 14-year-olds are senior students of Emmanuel Care Centre (ECC), a centre in Petaling Jaya that runs classes for children with intellectual disabilities. Making the bed is part of the curriculum, as are other self-help skills.

ECC takes in students aged 7 to 15. Most of these children attend Special Class in government schools, but come to the centre twice a week for supplementary classes and educational support.

At ECC, the children are taught basic living and social skills and functional academics. There are also gross and fine motor sessions, and the older children have lessons in pre-vocational skills.

An Individualised Education Plan is drawn up for every child. Each student works at his own goals, and at his own pace. ECC has a team of teachers who are trained in Special Education. The teachers are assisted by parents and volunteers, so that individual attention is often possible and this goes a long way in enhancing the quality of learning.

The teachers employ a mix of teaching methods including thematic teaching, group activities, individual teaching,

role playing and modeling. Behaviour management is used to redirect inappropriate behaviour and reinforce good behaviour.

ECC was set up on 18th Sept 2000 as a community project of Emmanuel Methodist Church in Petaling Jaya. Besides providing educational support, the centre also offers parents information, counselling and resource facilities, and supports them in the advocacy of their children's needs.

Students who graduate from ECC would have acquired essential independent living skills, and have better access to employment opportunities and a good quality of life.

Angeline Lim
Emmanuel Methodist Church

Join us in the ECC Ministry

Emmanuel Care Centre in Kelana Jaya is looking for teachers who are keen to serve in our ministry for children with intellectual disabilities. Training will be provided. Those with experience and qualification in Early Childhood Education are encouraged to apply. Call 03-7806 5660 for an interview.

Emmanuel Care Centre
Reaching Out, Touching Lives