



C|B|S|M

Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia

2022 diakonia

One Lord One Mission One Heart

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

Psalms 19:1

From Abroad

From Around the Assemblies

Conferences

Youth & Young Adults

Touching Lives

Reaching Out

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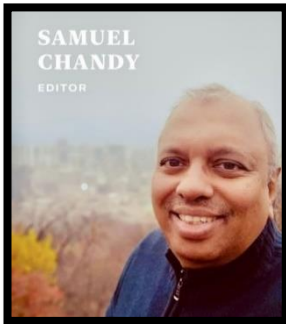
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Diakonia Editor's Notes

WELCOME!

After a 3-year hiatus where only the online version was published due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Diakonia 2022 edition is now made available in print. You may also find the PDF version at CBSM's website (<https://www.cbsm.com.my/site/diakonia/>).



For the past 3-years we have been sending the PDF versions of the Diakonia magazine via emails and WhatsApp to the Assemblies' elders & leadership team. We sincerely hope with this year's printed version, more members will be able to take the time to read. You may participate by contributing

your thoughts, queries, and suggestions by scanning the QR code located at the end of this article.

Diakonia as the name indicates is merely a ministry or service by a servant. The servant's chief duty is to serve. Servants are not meant to be enterprising or creative. The standard and readability of *Diakonia* depends on all of us. It is up to the Assemblies and individual brothers and sisters to write and to make use of *Diakonia* so that it can serve its purpose well. *Diakonia* must cater to the interest of a wide range of readers in our Assemblies, from youths to elders. That's a tall order. Consequently, it runs the danger of trying to please so many that it appeals to no one in particular. Nevertheless, this is the best option for now. *Diakonia* is the only Assembly's magazine, and it is only produced once a year.

For this year's edition, we have decided to give a little more focus on the Youth and Young Adults – their thoughts, their challenges, etc. Malaysians are already one of the most digitally connected societies in the world, and 80% or 26 million of the population have access to the Internet, mainly through mobile networks. Today, youths have successfully



Diakonia 2022 Editorial Board

Standing (L-R): Dr Khong Yoon Loong (Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre), Selina Tan (Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre), Lee Zhi En (Temerloh Gospel Chapel)
Sitting (L-R): Teo Pek Bing (Sg Nibong Gospel Hall), Samuel Chandy (Seremban Gospel Chapel)

embraced the digital age and the digital economy. Hence, our Assemblies must move forward embracing the digital world too. Since 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our Assemblies started to conduct their Sunday services and other ministries via on-line meetings. One assembly in particular that I know personally has participants dialling in from as far as Australia, New Zealand and even from Canada!

God performed many miracles through Moses and led the people of Israel out of Egypt. The terrified Israelites camped near the Red Sea, as the Pharaoh's army came closer. But Moses said to the people, *"Do not be afraid...The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:13-14). As Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, God divided the sea and led the Israelites through dry ground. God showed His might and His faithfulness. At times we too might have a Red Sea experience in our life. Just like how the Israelites stood in front of the Red Sea in fear, today the world is engulfed in fear of the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic uncertainties. But we know that nothing happens without the knowledge of God. Nothing is impossible with Him. Let's put our hope in the Lord. *"In the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by"* (Psalm 57:1).

God invites us to a new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and thereby into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Peter 1:3-4). Let's embrace the hope that is in Christ and believe that He will carry us through this storm. He will never abandon us nor forsake us because, He says in Isaiah 43:5, *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."* He wants us to bloom where we are planted. In Christ, there is still hope for the world and there is still hope for us.

Let us remind ourselves that *Diakonia* is not just a communication instrument for our Assemblies but to some extent, it's a reflection of our health and vitality. With God's help, let's persevere to ensure that *Diakonia* continues to be the servant that it is meant to be. On a final note, I'd take this time to thank all contributors and especially to the editorial team for an awesome and splendid job in preparing, editing and designing of each article!

In Him,
Samuel Chandy; sam@elim.my

Chat @ Diakonia



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CBSM Chairman's Message



*"The Heavens
declare the glory of
the Lord, and the
skies proclaim the
work of His Hands."*

Psalm 19:1

How true it is that the totality of nature and how it is held together by the Creator God declares the glory of the Lord! In all its majesty and order, it is also a constant witness to mankind of how great our God is. Cascading down to us, who are created in His image, the lives that we live should be a constant declaration of the glory of God. That is the greatest constant in our lives. In all that we say or do, may it first and foremost bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"*.

1 Corinthians 6:20 says, *"For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body"*.

When we declare the glory of God in our lives daily, empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we become a powerful witness to the unsaved around us, whom God deeply loves.

Matthew 5:16 says *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"*.

One specific area where we glorify God is in serving God. In every endeavour to serve God may we bring glory to God. In John 17:4 Jesus prays, *"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."*

Reading from Ray Stedman's commentary on this verse, we are reminded of this, *"Jesus is pointing out that his work that glorified the Father was essentially one of self-emptying"*.

Serving God is more than having done enough or having given my best. It is the selfless obedience and willingness to not only go the extra mile but to go the whole distance for His Kingdom and purposes. This then is the starting point and motivation in Christian ministry, selfless obedience, and it brings glory to the Father in Heaven. Christ demonstrated such obedience when He went to the cross.

Thank you very much to the Diakonia editorial team for another edition of the Diakonia 2022. A most appropriate verse captioned on the cover of the magazine, reminding us of the servant role of CBSM and her publication, the Diakonia.

To God Be The Glory.

Chiew Sai Kee; tcjiji@gmail.com
Chairman, CBSM

From CBSM General Secretary's Desk



CBSM continually works towards serving the assemblies better. At times, we appear sluggish and conservative or not conservative enough. Our goal is to enable and encourage brethren to work together in unity by facilitating communication and cooperation. This is often challenging since we all have our differences, but we have the same Lord, the same Mission.

Historically, CBSM serves among the English-speaking assemblies. The Chinese-speaking assemblies have since formed the CASM (Chinese Assemblies Secretariat Malaysia) and we are working with each other. We have much to learn and share. In this respect, ALC 2022 is now a combined conference between CBSM and CASM. Many of the sessions will be bilingual although some will be conducted in English or Chinese only. Aptly, the theme is Together!

Assembly Leadership Conference (ALC)

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we were not able to hold the biennial Assembly Leadership Conference in 2021. Instead, we had an elders' meeting over Zoom to discuss matters and particularly to elect the new trustees for the next 2 year term. We will be holding the ALC this year 2022 at Port Dickson Methodist Centre, 7th – 10th Sept. There is no election of trustees at this ALC as the present trustees' term will only end in 2023 (they were elected in 2021). However, there will be an elders' meeting to discuss proposals and updates.

Messages

Government Recognition of CBSM

One of the things we discovered during the Covid-19 Movement Control Order (MCO) is that CBSM, not being recognized by the government as representing the assemblies became a hindrance. This became painfully obvious when the government required churches to apply for permission to re-open their church meetings during the Recovery MCO through their representative religious bodies. CBSM is not recognized by the government as official body representing the assemblies, unlike the Council of Churches or NECF (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship) which represent their member churches. To circumvent this issue, CBSM became a member of the NECF so that our assemblies could apply through CBSM's NECF membership number. Before this path could be used, the government lifted the need to apply.

CBSM is now attempting to seek the recognition of the government so that CBSM may represent the assemblies for future affairs. This only a representative "face" to the government and is in no way meant to control or determine how each individual assembly is governed. Each assembly is still answerable to the Lord, not to CBSM. This would be similar to NECF which does not determine the practices of their members. By being recognized by the government can be helpful in several circumstances. For example, if a state government is allocating land for Christian churches, CBSM can represent the assemblies instead of the local assembly in the area which may not have the resources or number of believers to justify the need for the land. Or if the government seeks to tax an assembly for income, "members" of CBSM can rightly justify that they are a

church, especially where some of the assemblies have names that do not sound like traditional church names.

CBSM is actively pursuing this by making arrangements to meet the right authority. A package of documents has been put together to make a strong case that CBSM should be recognized. A brother in CFM (Christian Federation of Malaysia) is assisting in the application. In the process, we discovered a couple of interesting facts:

1. We are the 2nd "Protestant denomination" to arrive in Malaysia in 1855/1860, the first being the Anglicans.
2. We have copies of marriage certificates dating back to 1890, solemnized at Mission Chapel, Farquhar Street, Penang by William MacDonald. Thanks to Burmah Road Gospel Hall.

Pray with us as we embark on this that the Lord will grant us success in this endeavor.

CBMPTB Office

CBMPTB (Christian Brethren Malaysia Properties Trust Berhad) official address now is at CBSM Office. The Title Deeds are now safely kept in the fireproof safe at the office. We thank the Lord for the new CBMPTB Company Secretary, brother Ng See Yen who will be operating out of the shared CBSM office. The CBMPTB email contact is: cbmptb@gmail.com

In Him,
Teo Pek Bing; cbism0709@gmail.com
General Secretary CBSM

CBSM TRUSTEES: 2022 - 2023



Chew Sai Kee
Chairman



Lee Kha Kooi



Adrian Low



William Chang



Michael Fun



Michael Choo



Peter Tan



Stephen Chang



Teo Pek Bing
Secretary



Shanmugam



Terence Chong



Rodney Tan



Chris Tay



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CHRISTIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE TRUST

*"...beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness" (ISA.61 v 3)*

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE TRUST, India (CMCT) is a registered Christian Charitable Society in India established for the upliftment of the poorest of the poor people in India. It was started by Dr. Colleen M Redit a missionary from New Zealand who came to India in 1964 in obedience of God's calling in her life. From the humble beginnings, it has grown today into an organization with 27 various ministries and feeds more than 2000 people every day through the various ministries. CMCT is a faith ministry that provides food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and hope for the hopeless.

The VISION of CMCT is *"Lives Transformed in India through the love of Christ"*

And the MISSION of CMCT is *"To empower, re-habilitate and to uplift lives, especially the poorest of the poor, by providing quality services through education, training, skill development, medical, social and spiritual activities."*

The ministries comprise:

Soup Kitchen Ministry

This ministry to the poor, lonely and needy has been an important work of CMCT for many years. We run 7 soup kitchens in total which include those in the Leprosy colonies and Chinnakuppam. Four of these are in Chennai and are staffed by two members of CMCT each day except Sunday when a food packet is given to them. In all we serve a total of 240 meals each day which for the majority is the only meal of the day.

It is not only the practical that we supply but the daily teaching of the one who said He was *"The bread which cometh down from heaven"*. Of the 240 who come daily approximately 30%

are men and all meals are provided free of any cost to themselves. It is our sincere wish to expand this ministry but the availability of suitable premises and equipment is a need which we covet prayer for.

Each day a program comprising a time of singing, a thought for the day and a little physical exercise. Our social workers sit and listen to their problems and as necessary help them with applications for Government help such as form filling, identification etc.

Child Development Project

The Child Development project began several years ago with the aim of providing a daily holistic program caring for the physical, social and spiritual needs of children whose ages range from 6 – 9 years, and this is a 5-year program. There are presently 3 projects being conducted in needy areas of the city.

Whilst the Government insists on schooling up to the age of 14, there are many gaps in their development which our project seeks to fill spending time with individuals as and when possible.

The program starts at 5pm, finishing at 8pm each evening when they are given rice, vegetables, eggs, meat and a nutritious drink, the highlight of the day! The program is conducted in tuition centres and is organised by a teacher, social worker, cook and support staff. Overall in charge is a project co-ordinator who organises and supervises this work.

We regard this as a highly important ministry and as an investment in the lives of children who are worthy of our time and prayers.

SOUP KITCHEN



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



From Abroad

Leprosy Rehabilitation Project

CMCT works with three qualified staff in two leprosy colonies, namely Allapakkam and Calvary Nagar. They are being visited daily and are involved in different programs. Each month a food packet is given to participants which enables them to have nutritious meals for at least two weeks during the month.

Regular visits are made by our medical staff including our physiotherapist. We also donate wheelchairs where needed and on occasions we have donated goats to families. In the evenings, tutorials are provided to school going children to help with their studies.

We run a sewing centre for those able to sew and this is a great blessing to them especially the young women. We have begun a self-help group where among other things they are taught the importance of saving regularly for potential emergencies, this is proving to be most beneficial.

Daily soup kitchens are held for those whose hands are so deformed that they are unable to cook for themselves. It is a great privilege to help these people who are so marginalised by society and demonstrate our Saviour's love and compassion.

LEPROSY REHABILITATION PROJECT



Helping Hands Project

This project was first initiated in May 2021 when the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic hit India with thousands dying daily and millions being infected. The need was so great that hospitals were overflowing and the country faced a desperate situation trying to supply oxygen for the survival of patients.

The Government imposed lockdown which made the economy and living conditions considerably worse than before and because people were unable to work (many with day jobs), they

The Haven Of Hope Handicraft Centre

The Haven of Hope of Hope Handicraft Centre began in 1970 in a small rented garage in Chennai (formerly Madras) with one girl. Throughout the years it has seen thousands of teenage girls and women being trained in sewing, cutting, embroidery etc., giving them not only a living but a real sense of self-esteem as they developed their skills and saw people all over the world ready and eager to purchase their beautifully made goods.

For these people, it has been a way out of the cycle of poverty and hopelessness. Having been freely trained by CMCT for 18 months and then sitting a Government Exam, they are then placed in a section of the Centre according to their individual skill.

Presently there are 70 staff which includes an Art Section and a Screen Printing Department. The Art work produced by the staff is much sort after as folks realise that none of these men have ever had any artistic training but produce items revealing their own initiative. Since the formation of the Handicraft Centre there has never been a time when we have been without orders which are now sent worldwide.

From the sale of these handicrafts, it is possible to pay everyone a monthly salary. Also, all staff receive a 50% reduction on all medical treatment in our clinics besides sponsorship for their children where applicable. We are able also to cover all staff under an Accident and Mediclaim insurance policy.

HAVEN OF HOPE HANDICRAFT CENTRE



were pushed into deeper poverty. They borrowed money, pawned their jewellerys and belongings to pay for private medical care but it was an every day experience to see loved ones dying before their eyes.

With such an overwhelming need, CMCT felt a compulsion to act and so established a Helping Hands project.

The generous response from supporters was far in excess of what we initially anticipated but this enabled us to reach far more than we had thought possible.

From Abroad

HELPING HANDS PROJECT



BETHANY SCHOOL



EDUCATION THROUGH SPONSORSHIP for POOR CHILDREN

To date we have donated :-

- Dry rations for 10,000 families
- Multivitamin and hygiene supplies for 9,000 families
- 25 families received support for hospital treatments
- 3,000 packed lunches were given to elderly and homeless people
- 7 families received support to re-establish their businesses.

The burden of our hearts is to continue this ministry as the Lord provides and we ask you to pray that this might be so and for us to have the necessary wisdom, discretion and compassion as we reach out to those most in need.

Apart from the above ministries we have a school for the underprivileged children that educates more than 1,300 children every year, a 24x7 full-fledged health care centre to provide quality medical care for the poor and needy, a hostel for girls that provides shelter and hope for the orphans and semi-orphans from very poor backgrounds, a work among the HIV infected patients and among the disabled.



BETHANY HOME FOR THE AGED



NEW VENTURES DURING THE YEAR 2022-23

Bethany Home for the Aged

This project was initiated by the staff of CMCT in appreciation of 50 years of service in India and 75th birthday of **Colleen Redit**. It took 8 years to see that dream come true and in His perfect time, the building is now completed and God willing to open the building on September 30th 2022. This is a free care home for the destitutes and the elderly people who have no one to care for or are abandoned by their children. It has a capacity of accommodating 20 guests at a time and we Praise God for another opportunity God have opened for us to share His love to the poor and needy.

"...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to Me "
- Matt. 25 v 40

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE TRUST

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Ministry Updates from India

Shibu K Mathew (member of Ekklesia Fellowship at Bangalore, India); mathew.shibuk@gmail.com

The COVID-19 virus wrecked India. As per official records till date, over 525,126 people have died due to COVID across the country. According to a World Health Organization report, the number of COVID deaths in India is 10 times greater than the official numbers. Over 1,000 Christian leaders and missionaries lost their lives. Our assemblies too suffered from the loss of many evangelists, missionaries, and elders.

The pandemic affected the social, economic, and spiritual areas of our lives. Socially, it segregated people and families. Economically, many were made jobless. Spiritually, the assemblies remained closed for almost two years, and outreach ministries were forced to pause.

Initially, the assemblies were perplexed as to how to respond to the pandemic. Later on, the assemblies and related ministries responded in practical ways. First, believers took care of other believers affected by COVID after the initial fear and shock. Second, the believers provided food packets/groceries for believers and others who lost their jobs. Third, some ministries donated oximeters and oxygen concentrators. All these efforts assisted many during the non-availability of hospital beds. Fourth, the ministries started regular support for those who became orphans/widows due to COVID deaths.

The COVID-19 virus stalled worship meetings and outreach ministries. Yet, online communication channels like Zoom and WhatsApp were used to overcome these barriers. Some of the older assemblies and older generations struggled to use these tools. After the pandemic, many assemblies started to use various online and social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube to share the gospel. Now tools like Zoom/Google Meet are widely used for teaching and training.

Persecution

Persecution against Christians and Muslims is increasing. The Religious Liberty Commission of Evangelical Fellowship of India documented 145 incidents of religious persecution against Christians in its half yearly report 2021. This included three murders, attacks or desecration of 22 churches and places of worship, and 20 cases of ostracization or social boycott in rural areas of families who refused to renounce their Christian faith.



The Hindu majoritarian groups plan to turn India from a secular to a Hindu country. Many state governments are introducing anti-conversion bills. These laws restrict people from other religious backgrounds from following Christ, along with severe punishment for those involved in the conversion process. Some of our assembly missionaries were jailed or are currently under trial for engaging in evangelism under false charges of forced conversion. Bro. Charlie, who was distributing tracts, was charged with forced conversion and arrested. Later, when journalists interrogated him, he boldly explained the gospel and why he was doing it. This news was telecasted on many TV channels across North India. But God turned the persecution into an opportunity for the public proclamation of the gospel.

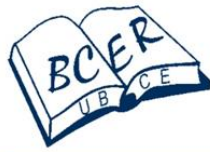
The surveillance and monitoring of churches is on the rise. Recently, a survey was ordered by the government in the southern state of Karnataka to scrutinize the activities of churches. This resulted in many evangelists and elders being questioned by the police. Responding to this, a new entity called the **Federation of Christian Brethren Churches (FCBC)** consisting of elders and evangelists in Karnataka state was formed. The goal is to support the local assemblies with legal advice and to represent the assemblies before government authorities.

The government is cancelling the permission to receive foreign funds to curtail the activities of NGO's and mission organisations. Many assembly ministries have lost their licenses to receive funds from abroad. Much of the ministry in India is supported by diaspora Indians abroad and others. As opposition increases against missionaries the need for bi-vocational or tentmakers is becoming clearer.

Pray for the assemblies in India to tackle these challenges wisely; and continue to be steadfast in faith and in witnessing with the power of Christ.

Refugees Ministry in Ukraine

Haureş Cornel, Elia Di Nunzio & Emanuel Besleaga; secretariat@bcev.ro



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With God's help, we continue the work with the refugees and the transportation of food and necessities to Ukraine. We would like to share with you some new information about this activity.

In this project, we work in three areas:

1. *Refugees that transit our country.*
2. *Long-term refugees.*
3. *Transport of food and essential products to Ukraine.*

1. Refugees that transit our country

Lately, the flow of refugees has decreased, but the centers situated in the border area and Bucharest asked for our assistance. These centers were organized in the regions with customs points, between Romania and Ukraine, and various locations in the country. In May, the busiest center was Suceava, which had a flow of 180 adults and 78 children. In Bucharest, we had a request to takeover and support refugees on average three times a week.

In this flow of refugees were also persons who decided to return to Ukraine from the countries that hosted them. Usually, the refugees that pass through our country required accommodation for one or two nights and needed help in solving health matters and other unexpected situations. In this activity, we also use the tents installed at the customs points. In addition to supporting the refugees, we also offer them New Testaments Bible and tracts in the Ukrainian language.

2. Long-term refugees

We still have plenty of centers and families hosting long-term refugees. The families usually have between 5 and 12 members. In May 2022, in addition to the expenses supported by churches and families that host refugees, the Christian Brethren Church of Romania - the Union of The Christian Brethren Churches paid the amount of 47,600 Romanian Leu (approximately USD10,000). At the time of writing, we are still trying to identify new financial resources in order to cover the expenses.

3. Transport of food and essential products to Ukraine

These aids are carried into Ukraine by humanitarian convoys, consisting of several 3.5-ton vans and minibuses. To load a van with food we need 3,000 euros. The price varies a little, depending on the products that are purchased. These products are stored in the warehouses and made available for transportation at any time.

We collaborate closely with churches, associations and foundations from the country and abroad. The aid reaches different parts of Ukraine. The goods are taken from the Ukrainian warehouses by teams of Christians from Ukraine, who will take these items to the war zones. In this report, we are referring to the transports in which we are directly involved or those made in collaboration with the churches, foundations and organizations associated with us in this project.

In May 2022, we settled the amount of 115,000 Romanian Leu (approximately USD24,000). From our statistics, the most active center in May was Suceava, which organized the transport of 63 minibuses with food approximately 120 tons of goods. We also managed a project promoted by a local Community, ***"A family from Romania helps a family from Ukraine"***. In this project, families from Romanian churches provided for Ukrainian families with boxes with food and other supplies of necessities. With the help of this project, over 3,000 packages were delivered to Ukraine.

We avoided naming churches, people, organizations or foundations in this letter so as to avoid unnecessary persecutions. We know that our Loving God knows the toil of everyone in the field of the refugees, and He rewards according to His will.

Please send all our regards and thanks. God bless you!

On behalf of the team,
Haureş Cornel

Ukraine emergency, travel notes

Elia Di Nunzio

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I went to a distribution center for Ukrainian refugees which brother Emanuel Besleaga of Varfu Campului, in Romania. It is located about 20 kilometres from the border with

Ukraine. We travelled to the border of Romania and Ukraine to bring bread and various other materials for our brothers and sisters of Ukraine who are the hardest hit by this immense tragedy. It was an intense and particularly sad scene. It made me realize, once again, how privileged

From Abroad

we are, and perhaps we forget how great the Lord's grace is upon us. Seeing these brothers work so tirelessly unloading trucks from all parts of Europe, then reloading them on trucks for Ukraine and Moldova. It is truly commendable. There is a constant coming and going of vehicles. These brothers start very early in the morning, in bitter cold, and end very late in the evening exhausted, but joyful for the job done.

At the border, I witnessed truly dramatic and heart-breaking scenes. A continuous passing at the border of very young women with young children. Eyes filled with tears for having left their husbands to fight for their land and children happy to have received a small stuffed animal, safe from the incessant noise of the bombs. I had the opportunity to visit a refugee centre, where I saw how a Christian charity brought relief and peace of mind to these women and children. The Lord is working in the midst of so many difficulties.

I saw Brother Emanuel handling the economic hardship coping with the payment of transportation, but as he

confided in me, just at the right time comes the help and the necessary gifts. He always tells me, *"I have put my trust in our God and I am sure that He will not abandon me and will provide the necessary means to carry on this service for His glory."*

We pray that it will bring blessing to the hearts of those being helped. Two of our co-workers were killed while they were bringing aid, one was married and the father of two, and another the father of 12. Another collaborator is alive by a miracle because he picked up a food package to take it to a basement and when he came back his car was machine-gunned and so many people were blown to pieces. A very high price paid and the war is still not over. Please continue supporting Ukraine.

We require aids of all kinds but especially financial assistance to carry on with this work. God bless you.

Affectionate greetings in the Lord.

Elia Di Nunzio

"Jesus Christ our Lord; through him we received the grace to be apostles, to bring about the obedience of faith in all nations, to the glory of his name..."

Beloved in Christ,

This war in Ukraine has united us in a special way among many people, associations, and churches. It is our privilege to work with people like you who care about God's work in such a strong and determined way. We were able to send lots of aids to Ukraine where we personally delivered for distribution in the war zone areas. We usually ship water, bread, packaged food, clothing, and medicines. Thank you for your assistance in feeding thousands of people, especially women and children. We assisted so many children who had serious health problems and since they had to flee the war, they can no longer have the right care in specialized hospitals. So, we look for a hospital in Italy or other countries and pay for their trip and send them to these hospitals to be taken care of.

We have children with very severe trauma, children from Dombas or other bombed cities. 12 of them were taken to Romania and another 41 are still in Cernauti. They are children with irreversible trauma! We are looking for a

solution for them. The war is not over, and neither are the cries for help of these isolated children locked up in the basement with their mothers or grandparents. A new project is starting where by the end of June 2022 we want to prepare a special load of fruit, food, hygiene products, bread and even an evangelistic event to reach the people not only to help them survive but also to teach them the way to know the God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This project brings together many people, trucks, goods of all kinds and evangelistic materials. These days we evaluate the risks and the possibilities. These are all areas on the border with Russia where the war is ravaging strong now. Our entire missionary team and the Ukrainians who have been assisted by us greet you and thank you for your prayers.

God bless you! With special appreciation for, the Eastern European missionary group.

Emanuel Besleaga & Elia Di Nunzio

CADME – Mission Service Group



Making Disciples that Make Disciples

Tan Kian Huat; kian@sangkhimchurch.org

Kian and Akiko helped start the Sangkhim Canaan School (SCS) work in June 2009, with just 15 students enrolled in the first batch of the kindergarten class. Today there are more than 700 students and 50 staff in Kindergarten, Primary, Middle and High School. This year the first batch of Grade 12 students will be graduating. Sangkhim Canaan School is a large “Kelong” (fishing pond) for the mission work. Through the school, we also have direct contact with the family members of the students. Potentially, there are more than 2,000 fish in our fishing pond that need the gospel! Kian spends only 10% of his time providing leadership guidance to the School Management Team. Most of our time is with Sangkhim Church and Bethany House, focusing on evangelistic outreach and discipleship training.



Kampong Chhnang, 90 km North of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In 2017, Kian and Akiko relocated to reside in Kampong Chhnang, serving as overseas missionaries to do church planting. Annie Khoo joined the team in 2018. The new Sangkhim Church is about five years old and has 40+ baptised members. However, due to the pandemic disruption, some 40% have the habit of not coming. A lot of pastoral work is needed to seek out these lost sheep. We have three Cambodian co-workers caring for these believers and catching more fish from the school. On alternate Mondays, the foreign and local workers meet for fellowship and training. We focus on equipping the local workers and encouraging the believers of Sangkhim Church to engage in the Great Commission. This strategy applies our mission statement: *“To reach and teach Cambodians that they may obey the Great Commission of making disciples that make disciples for Christ.”*

Every year, Sangkhim Church organises three Camps. The Children’s Camp in May 2022 has 250 children from Kindergarten to Primary 5, spending two days in the chapel with craft activities and listening to the gospel messages. In June 2022, we have the BASIC camp that provides another excellent opportunity for outreach to the Primary 5 & 6 students. More than 80 students, including selected older student helpers, spent three days challenged by God’s Word. We hope these students will receive salvation before moving on to secondary school. The Youth Camp for ages 12 to 18 takes place in September. Sangkhim Church seeks to

fish more students for Christ and channel them to churches in Kampong Chhnang through these evangelistic camps. We hope that new members are added to Sangkhim Church. May the church grow in grace and knowledge of Christ and actively engage in the Great Commission of making disciples.



In 2019, the three foreign missionaries moved into Bethany Mission House with six Cambodian children and a Cambodian helper. Bethany House is a haven of rest for foreign missionaries. It makes it possible for a new arrival to settle down quickly so they can focus on ministry instead of being bogged down by the need for safe accommodation and meal preparation. We welcome visitors to serve on short-term and long-term missions.

Bethany House ministry includes practical discipleship training for the Cambodians living with missionaries. These children learn the Christian disciplines, bible study, daily devotion, prayers, service, etc. They are helping in the youth ministries of Sangkhim Church.

The next project which is to equip the Cambodians to become disciple-makers is the Sangkhim GLO Bible School. The bible school will provide ten months of residential discipleship training for Cambodians (age 18 and above), following the GLO Australia CrossConnect Discipleship Course format. We have prayed for the bible school for more than ten years and, more specifically, in the last four years, the Lord had given us a clearer picture. Since the international borders are now open for travel in post-COVID, we are moving forward with excitement.

The bible school students will initially come mainly from Kampong Chhnang and later from other provinces. Some of them will be high school graduates of SCS spending a sabbatical year before entering university or entering the workplace. The bible school will equip them with bible knowledge, NT church principles and ministries’ skills to serve as Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, and church workers. They will serve in their churches, and some, as the Spirit enables, may help to plant new assemblies in Cambodia.

From Abroad



Patterning after GLO CrossConnect, the training will be practical. Students will engage in evangelistic projects like Children Camp, Youth Camp, BASIC Camp, and weekly attachments to local churches to help their Sunday Schools and Youth Groups. The students will also work in the Bethany Farm (Hydroponics and Fish) and assist at Sangkhim Canaan School (Christian Education and CCA). The students will conduct a mission trip to one of the provinces in Cambodia with a local church.

Boret Chheng, one of our local full-time workers, will be the Bible School principal. His wife, Kunthea, will support him as a housemother to the students living on campus. Boret is a mature and faithful Christian brother. He is a loving husband and a caring father to three children. He has a heart fully committed to serving the Lord.

Boret Chheng started doing full-time in 2010 while studying in a Baptist Bible school. His ministries include managing an orphanage, teaching at Highland Bible College in Kampong Som and ministering in several small churches in Kampong Speu, Kampot and Teukphos. He helped to plant two village churches. In 2019, Boret moved back to Kampong Chhnang to be near his family and joined Sangkhim Church as a commended worker.

The bible school students will live in accommodation provided and study in classrooms & libraries located in Sangkhim Church (chapel). If necessary, we may build some classrooms on the flat roof of the Bethany House building. Breakfast and Lunch will be at Manna House, the school canteen managed by Akiko. The bible school students will prepare dinner and meals on weekends when Manna House is closed. Their accommodation will be in two blocks of prefab Cambodian Style House. The principal and his family will live next to the students in one such house. We will be building the three prefab Cambodian Houses for the bible

school in 2024. The maximum intake is eight men and eight women per batch. The students will be on scholarships covering food and lodging.

Boret is now studying an Online English Course to prepare himself. His IELTS Score is 4.0. He needs to improve his score to 4.5 to apply for the Australian student visa. From Jan 2023 to Nov 2024, Boret and his family will be in GLO Australia to study the CrossTalk (10 months English Course). He needs to obtain an IELTS score of 5.5 to continue with the CrossConnect (10 months Discipleship Course). They will attend and be involved in assemblies in Sydney. They will return to Kampong Chhnang in November 2024. GLO Australia will provide a partial scholarship covering the course fees. We will support Boret's family living expenses in Australia, medical insurance, visa applications, and flight tickets.



Boret and Family (Khunthea, Naomi, Eli and little Hannah)

Meanwhile, we will be preparing the facilities of the Bible School. God willing, we will commence building three blocks of Cambodian House and prepare the classrooms, library and study area in 2024. The Sangkhim GLO Bible School aims to admit the first batch of students in January – October 2025.

Prayer Pointers

- *God's grace for the three foreign missionaries (Kian, Akiko and Annie) to cope with the challenges of living in a less-developed country; and wisdom to overcome the cross-cultural ministry, language, food, and mindset, focusing on equipping the Cambodians.*
- *Growth of Sangkhim Church members to become true disciples actively engaging in the Great Commission of making disciples.*
- *Plan for starting the Sangkhim GLO Bible School with Boret and family, spending 2 years in GLO Australia in 2023 – 2024.*
- *Resources (finance, people, and skills) are needed to build facilities for the Sangkhim GLO Bible School.*

About Tan Kian Huat and Akiko



Kian Huat was commended by Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio, Singapore) in 2009 for full-time Christian mission work. He served as an elder of Bethesda Hall from 1992 to 2017, involved in pastoral care, visitations, marriage counselling, preaching and teaching. He led many mission teams to visit several Asian countries. In 2009, he helped to establish Sangkhim Canaan School in Cambodia. In 2017, together with his wife, Akiko, they relocated to reside in Kampong Chhnang, commended as overseas missionaries, where they started Sangkhim Church (2017) and Bethany Mission House (2019). The next project is the Sangkhim GLO Bible School. They focus on evangelism & discipleship to the local community and leadership development.

Annie's Anecdotes

Annie Khoo; khoo.annie@gmail.com



What did I learn during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

- * **Fix my Eyes on Jesus** - No matter what happens.
- * **Learn to Sleep in the Storm** as Jesus did, even during the waves of Covid-19 and whatever else that is looming.
- * **Death is only a Powerless Shadow on the way Home.**
- * **Treasure Relationships** – spend time with people.
- * **Keep Loving God, Loving Others & Making Disciples.**
- * **Enjoy God's Creation** and look forward to the New Heaven & Earth which will be more glorious than ever.

The flight tickets I booked in early 2020 were rescheduled several times and finally cancelled. I had been away from home for the longest stretch of time during the pandemic. When or will I even get to go home? After more than two and a half years away, thank God for the opportunity to go home recently.

As the Covid-19 restrictions eased, I met up with family and friends. Thank God for His blessings upon blessings for not only did I get to spend time with so many people and feasted on a wide variety of foods, but I finally met my two-year-old grandniece in person and my newly born grandnephew too. Weeks before I arrived home, someone whom I have never met in person had offered to let me use his still brand-new car to get around in Penang. This act of kindness baffled my non-Christian relatives and it became a wonderful testimony of Christian love. God also sent an angel to accompany me on my first Electric Train trip to KL, and we both went to meet Brenda Lim. Grateful for God's countless blessings, I returned to Kampong Chhnang, refreshed and fulfilled.

Back in Kampong Chhnang, the rainy season had started. Ly Lin's grandfather had gotten busy planting rice and cashew nut seedlings while I was away. Thank God that after a couple of weeks upon my return, the Bible study with Ly Lin and both her grandparents could resume again.

During the Pol Pot Regime, whole populations were displaced. Families were separated. People were forced to work in communal farms. Many died from execution, starvation, disease and overwork. Ly Lin's grandfather survived the war, returned to his hometown and got married. The village head organised the villagers to work together to build a house for each family. Ly Lin's family lives in the same house till this day. Pray that they'll be willing to be the House of the Living God.



Ly Lin our Grade 6 student and her grandparents.

Pray that as God's Word is presented, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, soon, their eyes will be opened and they will turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ.

Please pray for these people too:



Raksa



Seiha



Thea Somaly



Sotheara

* **Raksa** – Raksa is our G12 student undergoing chemotherapy in Bangkok. Her parents forbade her to believe in Jesus, but she secretly continued to believe. When she was diagnosed with leukaemia, her parents brought her to a fortune teller. The fortune teller said he can't help because Raksa doesn't have the same faith (Buddhism). Only a lot of prayers from 'them' (Christians) can help Raksa. So please continue to pray for Raksa and may the Lord use this situation to turn her family around to believe in Christ too.

From Abroad



* **Seiha & her family** – Seiha and her husband have four children in our school. Her 13-year-old son, Soeun Sambath, is in danger of being a school drop-out. After attending the BASIC camp in June, he believed in Christ. Pray that he will have hope & motivation to study again as he starts his new life in Christ. Pray for the family's salvation, too.

* **Thea Somaly & Sothera** – they are our school teachers. Please pray that they will receive Christ soon.

I am using the Big Picture Story Bible to read and discuss with two small groups of students. Pray that they will know and believe in the Saviour. Pray that the Lord will show me a few students who have the potential to be nurtured and discipled in the coming years. Students who love God and have leadership potential.

My new music students, Chakriya and Somatra, want to learn piano so that they can serve God. Pray that they will be diligent to practise. Meantime, Eli is getting better and better at playing the guitar. His elder sister, Naomi, is already playing the piano for worship and youth meetings. Thank God for such wonderful kids.



Chakriya



Somatra



Eli

During the Covid lockdown, we started our first ladies fellowship online. Now, we meet in church after work. The ladies group also come together after the Sunday sermon to discuss about what we have learnt. Please pray for me as I equip Ratha and Kunthea for service to lead the ladies group. May the Holy Spirit empower them to grow in their leadership role.

Over the past couple of years, the Lord has increasingly led me into counselling and pastoral care. As the Lord leads more people to me, may He also give me more wisdom and discernment to help them, together with support from experts back home.

Pray that our Sangkhim Church leaders and members will grow to be true disciples of Christ. Pray that we will all love God, love others and make disciples to establish and expand God's kingdom in Cambodia. Thank you for journeying and praying with us.



Together for His Kingdom,

Annie Khoo

khoo.annie@gmail.com



"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt 6: 10)

♥ LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE OTHERS ♥ MAKE DISCIPLES ☺

Myanmar ministries: Working From My Heart

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I think in the pre-Covid era, **working from home (WFH)** was not commonly available and probably only sought after by carers either of children or old people who needed to have more flexible working hours. As the Covid-19 started to spread globally, employers and companies and internet accessibility have made it possible for employees to continue to WFH.

As the COVID situation in Myanmar became more serious, we had to stop most of our ministries since most of our activities involved the gathering of a large number of people. This would have made it a perfect combination for the spread of Covid-19. However, after sitting at home for two weeks, I was wondering how do missionaries WFH? How are we to support the people when we cannot be physically present for them especially in this time of great need?

As I brought this to the Lord, "How do I WFH?", I was reminded to **Work From (my) Heart** instead. What do I see around me? How do I feel? What are the needs? What is my heart telling me to do? What transpired was the Olive Tree sewing ministry, where groups of ladies were brought together to be trained and sew products such as cushion covers, toilet roll holders, grocery bag holders while being paid for it.

The purpose of this initiative is to journey together with the ladies during the pandemic by supporting them not only financially, but also emotionally and spiritually so that they can thrive in their faith even in the midst of challenging times. The name is inspired from *Psalms 52:8 (NLT)* – "*But I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. I will always trust in God's unfailing love.*"

In Myanmar, very few have the privilege to work from home and be paid for it. Many of them are daily wage earners and their work cannot be done from home. If they were not at work, then they will not be paid for that day. Unfortunately, many do not have a choice during the pandemic as their places of work are closed. I have also been in contact with some churches where they no longer have the funds to pay their teachers as the pre-schools are closed.

The question in my heart was, "How can I provide an income for them?" An idea started forming in my head of making something to sell, and much of the inspiration for the products are from things found in my apartment. So, I did some samples, wrote a proposal and made a few calls and by May 2020, we were all set to start. By August, I had 19 ladies divided into 4 groups sewing different things and being paid for it. We had to break into 4 groups as we were only allowed to gather in groups of 5 then.

Sewing has never been my strength and I'd never ever thought of doing a sewing ministry. It really felt like the blind leading the blind. I'd be learning from YouTube one day and then teaching it to others the next, and sometimes we'd all be watching the YouTube together because I can't remember what I did. But we all had fun because when our hands work, our mouths would be working too. We would be telling stories, sharing testimonies, praying and encouraging one another with the Word.

There were 3 pre-believers amongst us and they felt very comfortable with us and is still connected with the church today. It was certainly a blessing to be able to journey together through the pandemic and for some of these



ladies, it's the day of the week they most look forward to. Unfortunately, when the coup happened on 1 Feb 2021, we had to stop meeting because of all the protests and being a foreigner, it wasn't so easy for me to move around anymore. In fact, a foreigner's presence at their church or homes may pose a danger to them.

The coup is actually a much greater blow to the country than the pandemic. Our team saw civil servants choosing to participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement, which resulted in many teachers, doctors and nurses having to go into hiding. Our team saw the future of children and youth being robbed, and their parents, who have gone through a previous coup, feeling disheartened. When protesters showed no sign of fear or retreat, the junta responded with greater violence. The soldiers were shooting indiscriminately into hospitals. No one was safe.

I had surgery in Yangon in December 2020 and as the hospital was in a protest hotspot, further consultation and follow-ups on my recovery became almost impossible and unsafe. As a result, I had no choice but to come back to Malaysia in April 2021 for my treatment. Not as one who can sit at home for long, I began to explore different things. Following the revelation from Myanmar, I wondered "How can I **Work From (my) Heart**?"

From Abroad

I learnt about the Myanmar refugees in Malaysia and their experiences during the pandemic. Many of them were infected with the Covid-19 during the first wave. During the extended Movement Control Order / Emergency Movement Control Order (MCO/EMCO) many of them could not work as things were closed and they have trouble paying for their house rent and also basic necessities. That is when I felt led to start the Olive Tree Sewing Project here in Kepong in partnership with the Malaysian Myanmar Ministry (MMM).

Initially, there were 12 ladies on the list and I panicked as we did not have any funds and I may end up with a lot of stock if the products cannot be sold. But the Lord in His grace opened doors for half of them to get longer term employment elsewhere, so I ended up with a group of 6 ladies. We started meeting once a week in January 2022. When we meet, the ladies will complete a sample each, then they take materials home to sew more and they get paid for what they had made at home the following week. It works well for them because most of them have young children at home, and by paying them for each item they produce helped me with quality control.

However, even in Malaysia, there are some challenges in this initiative. It has been said that missionaries are not good business persons, and I have to confess that I am one of them. Marketing the products have been challenging partly because of the pandemic as well. The biggest challenge is in the longevity of this initiative. While I would have loved to continue working with these ladies, my calling is to return to Yangon and to continue serving the Myanmar people there. Unfortunately, during my time with this initiative, the Lord has not opened doors to bring someone else to work alongside or to take it forward.

Our final session for this group was at the end of June. It has been a joy to have journeyed with all these ladies through the pandemic and I am very humbled to hear their testimonies of how their confidence has been boosted and

faith grown. One of them said, *"I now realized that I can make something – I made wallets and bags and so many other things. I'm happy."* Another said, *"It feels good to earn my own money. I support my husband for his transportation with the money I earned."*

Even as the situation is returning to normal now, one of the lessons I've learnt from the pandemic is that the Lord is able to use any situation to His purpose. Even in situations where we are limited, all of us can WFH... work from (our)



hearts. Allow the Lord to stir your hearts and see the needs around you. You may not have the skills or the funds, and that is alright. Work from your heart as the Lord leads you and take one step at a time.

In Matthew 14:13-21, it was the Lord who multiplied the five loaves and the two fishes to feed the five thousand. What are your "five loaves and two fishes" today? Are you ready to work from your heart?

KAPASAN NEWS: Brethren Assemblies of Philippines

Jesmar S. Espiritu, KaPaSan Secretary & KPS Newsletter Team; bingjaffy@gmail.com

Compassionate Ministry

"AYUDA" – A RELIEF FOR EVERYONE! Give according to your ability, take according to your needs.

Community Pantry became the new concept in doing relief operations in 2021. This concept was inspired by the hospitality and kindness of Filipinos we call "BAYAHIHAN". This is an open pantry where everyone with the means could give freely and those in need could take freely. By the grace of God and His provision, we had the chance to serve one another especially at this time of the pandemic.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

From Abroad



KAPASAN WORSHIP & PREACHING SERVICES: PALANGOY, KASINAY & SAN CARLOS ASSEMBLIES



CAREGROUPS GO ONLINE: CARE GROUP'S NEW SET UP WITH SAME VISION!

KAPASAN 'Care Group', 'Christ Group', and 'Cell Group'. From the start of the pandemic in March 2020, everyone must make significant changes in their gatherings. This pandemic prompted KAPASAN (Kasinay, Palangoy, SAN Carlos) Fellowships to go online via Google Meetings, Zoom, or video calls on Messenger. These Care Groups helped us to strengthen each other, bringing joy and peace in God's love.



From Abroad



First on-site MEN'S Fellowship in KASINAY.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: "Let the little children come to me..."

When the church's door was closed due to the pandemic, one of the affected ministries was the Children's Ministry. But, the children were not left out, we held virtual Saturday School where children's stories, games, singing and making crafts with the use of online platform such as YouTube and Facebook. The Children's Ministry was active again. On-site Saturday School will re-open again in different satellite locations once government protocols allow.



YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE NEW NORMS: "ONE IN HEART, EVEN WHEN A METER APART!"

By God's rich grace, the restrictions were lifted and the youths were able to have face-to-face fellowship again. In February 2022, the young adult ministry met on-site with strict health protocols.



From Abroad

On June 25, 2022, the KAPASAN YOUTHS with an approximate attendance of 200 youths held their SPORTS FEST for the first time after the pandemic. This event was organized by the KAPASAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS. All glory to God.



Prayer Items: New Mission Fields

As believers, we are called to actively spread God's Word and we love to make a positive difference in the world, whether be it to our loved ones, or strangers from another country. He said to them, ***“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”*** Mark 16:15.

CARDONA, RIZAL

Population: 50,143. We are praying for this place as there is no church here yet. A definite potential place for outreach. At the moment, we have two families who are now residing in the area.



SAN NICOLAS, CORON, PALAWAN

Population: 3,222. This piece of land was donated to KAPASAN by one of our members for our outreach ministry as they have the burden for the souls of the people in this place. We are praying for more committed workers to start our outreach here. We were supposed to have our first Medical Mission here but it was put on hold due to the pandemic. Please pray with us for the work of God to start in this place.



FATIMA, PANTOK, BINANGONAN, RIZAL

Population: 13, 714.

Please pray for this place. By God's grace we will open an outreach ministry soon.

From Around the Assemblies

Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur: Community Project

Jimmy Chok; jchokkh@gmail.com

Background

Going into a discussion on some areas of “relationship” with authorities (i.e. government bodies), I feel that some may view such a topic as “sensitive” and best for our Assemblies should keep a safe distance away from such a relationship. In an attempt to maintain an objective view, may I simply share some personal experiences. This sharing does not represent the views of Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur.

I have to admit to having a “strong” inclination to the words of our Lord: “You are the salt of the earth”, “You are the light of the world” and, there is a calling that both personal and Assembly spiritual growth and maturity are attained in our “walk” as a result of John 17:18 “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.” Indeed, we exist and live for the sake of the communities around us!

Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur (GHKL) started as a “Mission” centre in 1893. The Assembly has come a long way from the first missionary couple, Mr. & Mrs. E. Eagger who arrived in Kuala Lumpur in 1889, to a congregation of a couple of hundreds. Considering the work of the early missionaries, this Assembly has truly grown out from the community within a relatively small area of geographically approximately within 10 to 20km radius. Gradually, as years passed, “busy looking after the Assembly Community” appeared to have taken precedence over the public community.

“A Sanitary Washroom” Call on the Rainy Night of Sept 17, 2011

In my experience, the most significant contact with the community where GHKL is located must have been the “Sungai Buloh – Kajang MRT Project”. It came upon me totally unexpected, totally ignorant. I was at a church fellowship camp on a Floating Chalet at Kuala Sepetang, when I received a phone call from a church member who asked: “There is a ‘Save Jalan Sultan: Preserve Heritage’ gathering on the street in front of GHKL.... And some people from the public are asking to use our washrooms... Can or not?” Without much hesitation, I said: “Using the toilets? Should not be a problem lah!” Subsequently, I was told that, that night, prominent female soprano, sister in the Lord, Angela Cheok (著名女高音卓如燕) sang from the 1st floor window of the corner old shop in front of GHKL, and there was a crowd of about 500 standing in the rain to listen to her and another male soprano. However, I had no idea of the significance of it all.

In the months and years that followed, I gradually became more aware of the existence and the concerns of the community where GHKL is located. I have also been led to ponder hard about “GHKL being a ‘private space’ or a ‘public space’”!

August 11, 2011 – Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad (Prasarana) Townhall Session

https://www.mymrt.com.my/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/MR_120811_JALAN-SULTAN-MRT-LAND-ACQUISITION-ISSUE-CLARIFIED-BY-PRASARANA-DURING-TOWNHALL-SESSION.pdf

There was a Media Release entitled “JALAN SULTAN MRT LAND ACQUISITION ISSUE CLARIFIED BY PRASARANA DURING TOWNHALL SESSION”. Looking back, I was indeed totally green and naïve. At the session, Y.B. Fong Kui Lun, the then Member of Parliament for Bukit Bintang and some property owners spoke passionately on concerns of the loss of business and livelihood that had been on the site for many decades. There were concerns that many workers who have spent most of their lifetime in the area will lose their jobs and income. However, I had no idea what they were talking about.

Lying around in the briefing venue, there was a pamphlet on the law dealing with compulsory acquisition of land in Malaysia under the Land Acquisition Act, 1960 (“LAA”). Needless to say, I had no clue on the implication of this pamphlet. I did not understand why our neighbours who stood up to speak, were so “worked up”!

Is the community’s concern ours too? To me, in my simple mind as a follower of Jesus Christ and a child of God, the neighbours are “flesh and blood” as I am and their wellbeing concerns presented must not be ignored. Otherwise, I might as well not be around!

Anyway, I felt necessary to be in contact with our neighbours. Mind you, there were all literally “next door” neighbours, whom I, as part of GHKL, have not had any friendly relationship at all, let alone “love” them.

The Power and Transparency of The Authorities

In the days following, I became aware that for the mega MRT project, the authorities involved must publish the related “Environmental Impact Assessment Report” and “Social Impact Assessment Report”. These reports were provided at best in parts and there were rising concerns that the very old buildings along the MRT alignment in our neighbourhood, including the GHKL, may be adversely impacted during the construction of the underground MRT tunnel. (This concern grew as many reports on Kuala Lumpur underground limestone structure were brought to the fore.) At the same time, other community groups along the alignment of the proposed MRT line had also voiced concerns of the lack of transparency on environmental and social impact studies.

From Around the Assemblies

On Jan 11, 2012, a Special Briefing on “Preserve Jalan Sultan From Land Acquisition” (吉隆坡暨雪兰莪中华大会堂(隆雪华堂) was held. The “Committee of Preserving Jalan Sultan” (Com-PJS) is an initiative comprised of The Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) and the owners and traders from Jalan Sultan & Jalan Petaling. The main purpose of this Com-PJS is to save guard and preserve the heritage zone of the Petaling Street community. (KLSCAH.ORG.MY)



As the concern became an issue due to lack of clarity, I went along, many a time, simply to be with our neighbours! There was a voice in the Church that said something like: “Do not go... you may be ‘eaten up’ unknowingly...”! Well, to be frank, I was not afraid, I was quite sure both the neighbours and the authorities were quite civilised and no “man eaters”. So I went out to be with our neighbours and found that, although not often verbalised, everyone knew that I was an elder in GHKL and not an “aggressive one”. Nevertheless, I learned that some people do know the kind of language and talk that we church people are used to and they are quite sensitive about it. At one large gathering in KLSCAH, I was given the chance to say a few words. I can still remember the microphone was abruptly tuned down when I made some remarks on “everyone ultimately have to be responsible to the Creator...”. Ha, ha, it was a good experience... but, truly reminded me that it is not more “talk” that the people need!

At this stage, some even more passionate personalities got involved. They were the cultural “activists” who went about highlighting our history and the hardship of the previous generations through visuals and various form of art presentations. This brought about another perspective, one that involves preservation of our heritage and education of our youths. At the same time, the para-church entity of “Life SOAR Resources Bhd” came about and began supporting schools in “character building” of students. We ran facilitation programs to help students to learn to be responsible and not to be ignorant and take-things-for-granted. So, in all these, it becoming clearer that we cannot ignore and pretend the happenings in the community (from which we grew out from) had nothing to do with me.

I then also consulted learned and senior Bible Teachers on how best to deal with the situation before us. I was encouraged to truly live in the community and in the face of the authorities, “know our rights”!



This banner says: “We want Professional Reports, not Advertisements”

With the culturally aligned community social workers taking an active role in voicing out, more expressive activities were held on the street and in various historical buildings. Among our neighbours, GHKL is the only place where an open space is available and some gatherings of our community were held on GHKL basketball court.

Other than the toilets, I was certain that such open space in GHKL was, from the beginning, made available for our community too!

A Voice of Our Own & Building Friendship with Decades Old Unknown Neighbours

I must say there are younger people in our midst who are more sensitive to community engagement at this time of needs. In between the cautiousness of Assembly leadership and the passionate burden of the young, there were tension moments and a lot of struggles (within oneself and with each other). By God’s Grace, we have been shown the availability of “middle ground” that had resulted in community visible actions, although they may not have been “life changing” in the Assembly. Nevertheless, I believe some sparks will kindle if we continue to remind and encourage each other.

Christian Music Choir “Yin Qi Music” came to sing for the Assembly and for the community, at the open-air space between the Main and Annex Hall. There were many “first timers” from our a-stone-throw away neighbours stepping into the ground of GHKL! One immediate neighbour told me he had walked pass GHKL for many decades and was grateful to be able to step into its compound. There was a time when a Malay politician who was also passionate of heritage values, known to the cultural society as Cikgu Ishak Surin, stepped foot on the grounds of a Christian Church!



May 20th, 2012 Yin Qi Music Sing for the God Given Land
音契圣乐团重返福音堂护根高唱福音歌曲为苏丹街祈

From Around the Assemblies



Cikgu Surin & Mr. Tang Ah Chai (then from KLSCAH) spoke in support of the Church and the community.

Another public event was “The Old Streets of Kuala Lumpur Photography Exhibition”, held from 28th Jul to 3rd Aug 2013 at the Annex Hall. It was supported by a veteran head of prominent photography academy in Kuala Lumpur and his students.



探社區。覓故事



Postcard call for “Story Telling”

Today, occasionally, I am blessed to have tea sessions with some of our neighbours when it is also possible to find opportunities to share about GHKL and the people there.

Such a situation always reminds me of the story told a few years ago, by a senior sister who as a child who lived in Jalan Sultan (round the corner from GHKL) about

【深入老街】
The Old Street of Kuala Lumpur
摄影展
Photography Exhibition

展出日期 Exhibition Date: 28.7 - 3.8 2013
展览地点 Venue: 吉隆坡福音堂 KL Gospel Hall
展览时间 Time: 10am - 8pm

孔万良老师
英国皇家摄影学会会员
马来西亚摄影学会常务理事
雪兰莪摄影学会常务理事
《孔万良摄影艺术》刊摄影导师

系列活动 Series Activities:
28.7 (Sun) 16:30-18:00 杜志福老街讲座—老街坊话当年
29.7 (Mon) 20:00-22:00 孔万良—街头艺术摄影分享会
31.7 (Wed) 20:00-22:00 丘碧尔—留住城市的精神面貌
2.8 (Fri) 20:00-22:00 茨厂街社区艺术计划—香港老街坊经验分享
3.8 (Sat) 08:30-10:00 老街导览—孔万良 & 杨两兴
10:30-12:30 讲座: 老街的演变—孔万良 & 杨两兴
17:00-19:00 讲座: 苏丹街社区的历史—吉隆坡福音堂

联办单位 孔万良摄影学院 茨厂街社区艺术计划 吉隆坡福音堂 生命展翼资源中心 欢迎各界人士踊跃参与, 详情请洽: 012-659 9898 / 012-662 2610

gatherings where finely dressed people (children too) in GHKL. At that time, she used to consider those gathering inside being “special” and “different”, and not something for kids like her on the outside!

We trust the many talk sessions when young Christians and members of the public sat together in reminiscence of the generations past have sowed some seeds of common value for life! I also delivered a thorough session on the history and existence of GHKL, that had its beginning in 1893!

There was also a community “Story Telling” and archive activity which chose to use an old photo of GHKL (a wedding photo of, possibly, 1950s) to call for participation. The community believes our history and heritage are not just “some happenings”, but they are part of our lives today and for generations to come. I always feel this is particularly true for the Assembly!



Today, sadness tingles, as we keep so busy taking care of ourselves inside GHKL as though none others matter outside!

Meeting with The Authorities on MRT Project

There were two sessions with one of the then ministers in the PM Dept, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz. Then, we also met the then Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Razak himself in his Parliament office! Every time, the Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur was identified among few prominent businessmen and women. Obviously, the business people were more vocal in voicing grievances, but I felt “satisfied” just being there with our neighbours. To the then PM himself, as other entities, I was privileged to present a brief pictorial and narrative of GHKL.

Then, there was the formal session of signing of the “Mutual Agreement” in relation to the land acquisition for the MRT Project, with the representation of the legal professional. As to how much all these have achieved in getting the Authorities to know of the needs of the people and exercise due care in its actions, I believe whatever meagre but sincere effort that was feasible, do bear “good” fruit. In the midst of the community’s anxiety and complaints, by body language, I felt peace and calm (that we often talked about in church) prevailed.

From Around the Assemblies

A Mega Neighbour Has Arrived

This neighbour is the PNB118 Mega Tower, which everyone will see even from a distance on approaching Kuala Lumpur.

This is a 2021 photo; it's about to be completed now; GHKL is the tiny red roof on a triangular plot of land at bottom left of photo



With its arrival, being a "Big Brother" in the community, a "Merdeka 118 Community Grant" Programme was launched in late 2021. GHKL, under the "Community Ministry Department / 社区部" also applied for a grant to refurbish the basketball court. Over the past many decades, this basketball court has been frequented by students from nearby schools for casual games and practices. PNB118 had approved a grant of RM30,000 for the project, in support of our desire to continue to serve the students even better.

The structural work has since been completed and an opening ceremony cum Community Friendly Game was held on 4th June 2022. The CEO of PNB118 Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd (holding company of PNB118) attended and jointly officiated the opening of the renewed basketball court, together with Assistant Headmaster of Confucius Private Secondary School and myself. The game was on a "3x3" format and altogether ten teams participated, including teams from various nearby schools as well as GHKL Youths.



Yang Mulia Tengku Dato' Ab Aziz Tengku Mahmud, CEO of PNB Merdeka Ventures giving his speech and we launched the Game together



By God's Grace, the effort to be part of and to reach out, in love and The Gospel, to the community continues.

One of the best moments was when we sang "Negara Ku" with all the youngsters.



Conclusion

I hope this article provides a light-hearted reading that encourages joy in serving The Lord's Assembly! Particularly in the challenging years of 2011 and 2012, the Elders & Deacons Committee of GOSPEL HALL KUALA LUMPUR, found it necessary to issue a "STATEMENT OF STAND ON KVMRT PROJECT LAND ACQUISITION" (Vr. 2 dated 19th MARCH 2012), with the following contents:

1. Our Mission: Bible Text reference: Matthew 5 (NIV)
2. Our Actions:
 - 2.1 Our motivations
 - 2.2 The Nature of Our Actions
 - 2.3 Our Engagement with The Christian Community
 - 2.4 Our Engagement with The Society At-large
 - 2.5 Our Engagement With Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Corporation, JABATAN KETUA PENGARAH TANAH DAN GALIAN and other authority bodies concerned
 - 2.6 Engagement of Legal Representation
 - 2.7 Recourse via The Judiciary System

All in all, for the leadership and the congregation, particularly the young people, it was a good exercise. We all learned. As an Assembly with Mission, it is hoped that the lessons learned and the experiences we had, do bring about collective maturity in our thoughts and behaviour, for the Lord's Glory and in His Name. Amen!

From Around the Assemblies

Daya Myanmar Christian Fellowship

Lee Ah Seng; as.lee@rtexpress.com.my

The Daya Myanmar Christian Fellowship (DMCF) is part of the bigger family of Daya Gospel Centre (DGC) located in Johor Bahru. DGC, located in the vicinity of Taman Daya, has been serving the local communities here with her extension of the English, Mandarin and Myanmar ministries for more than 25 years.

DMCF has been in active ministry since 2007 serving the larger community of Myanmar people in and around Johor Bahru. The DMCF is currently led by brother Joshua who is Burmese. Together with a group of leaders comprising of fellow Burmese brothers- and sisters-in-Christ, DMCF planned their own schedule in accordance to the needs of their community and are fully supported by DGC's working committee.

Prior to Malaysia's Movement Control Order (MCO), DMCF had their own church service every Sunday on-site from 1.00PM to 3.00PM; with an average attendance of 30 - 50 believers comprising singles and also families with young children. During the MCO, the fellowship was not able to meet physically. As such the DMCF leadership resorted to having meetings e.g. care group meeting online over Zoom and Facebook messenger to stay connected with their members. At some point there were up to 8 CG groups taking place from various locations remotely. These locations were primarily either at their accommodation or hostels with an average of 10 – 20 regular attendees.

It was indeed a very challenging time as many members either lost their jobs, were retrenched or received irregular work (no income). Being foreigners, they had no security of income and many shared that they were the first to be retrenched when their companies streamlined to cut costs. DGC's working committee set-up a welfare fund and organized care packages to be given to the Myanmar brothers and sisters who were badly affected.

These care packages, comprised of basic food essentials such as rice, eggs, cooking oil, milo, instant noodles, canned food, biscuits, were contributed from monetary funds collected from members. By the grace of God as many as 20 families received these care packages to help them go through the difficult period.

Throughout the difficult and challenging times, God remained faithful. Throughout these two years DMCF welcomed 5 new members who accepted the Lord as their Saviour while 2 members were baptized.

Sadly, we also lost 5 members who passed away including one baby.

It has been a month since the Church reopened.

DMCF's meetings have since resumed on-site. However only about 15 people are attending on-site. Nonetheless we remain optimistic and will keep trusting the Lord who provides.

Please do keep DMCF in prayer that:

- *our members will continue to have work*
- *safety and well-being of their families and loved ones back in Myanmar*
- *safety and protection of DMCF members as they go about their various activities*
- *DMCF will continue to grow and many Burmese will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour*

"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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14



Baptism ministry



Care packages

From Around the Assemblies



Fellowship among DMCF members



Football among DMCF brothers

Daya Gospel Centre, Youth Ministry

Edna Tan; ednatan216@gmail.com

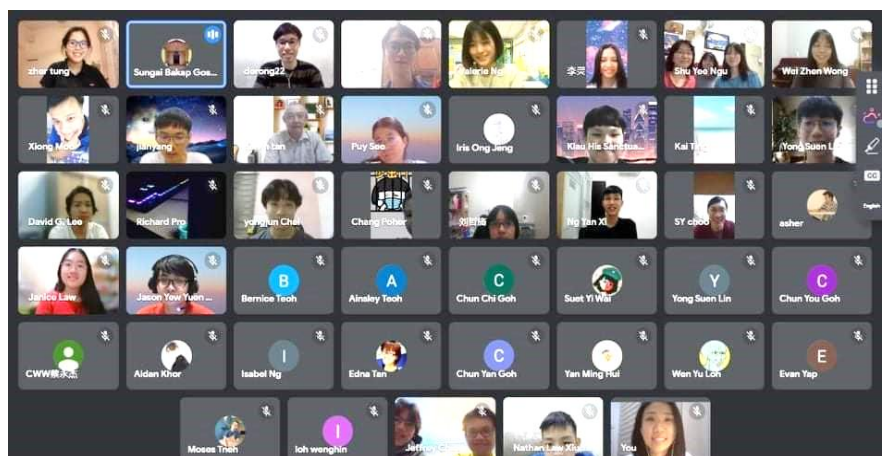
With the restrictions set due to the pandemic, the youths have been meeting via Zoom since March 2020. Along with its challenges, we continue to experience God's goodness and faithfulness. Not limited by geography, there is more consistency in attendance among the youths. School leavers / college students who usually move out of home and out of town after secondary education also continue to attend the youth meetings, providing much support and encouragement to the other youths as well as to the helpers.

During this period, we had the opportunity to fellowship with the youths from Sungai Bakap Gospel Hall, Bukit Mertajam through several combined sessions. It has been a good exposure for the young people to different topics as well as a good platform to connect and build relationship with one another in the absence of youth camps. The pandemic restriction has urged us to be more creative in staying connected with one another. For one,

we have regular 'Late-night Talk Shows' where we conduct themed interview sessions with former youth members and young working adults, joining us from as near as the next town to as far as Reading, UK. We also organized virtual dinner sessions where the youth have dinner together during zoom sessions while catching up with one another to discuss on certain pre-set topics over the meal.

With this change in the meeting setting, we are experiencing fewer new members joining our youth group. Together with the church and the leadership support, we are exploring different ways to bridge the gap.

We appreciate your prayers for us as we continue to trust in God's goodness and faithfulness.



From Around the Assemblies

Nilai Gospel: Project 100 (Elder Care Home)

Sharon Shiwani, nilaigc2016@gmail.com

Nilai Gospel Chapel (NGC) English assembly had its first inaugural worship on 20 December 1998. Four assemblies, namely Jalan Imbi Chapel (JIC), The Life Chapel (TLC), Bangsar Gospel Centre (BGC) and Seremban Gospel Chapel (SGC) agreed to come together in September 1997 to start the English work in Nilai in view of the potential growth of nearby new industries and colleges. The first Morning Ministry was taken by brother William Doraisamy.

Brother Wong Tee Fatt (BGC), brother Wong Sai Weng (TLC) and brother Wong San Tosh (JIC) formed the Working Committee that provided the leadership for Nilai Gospel Chapel in the first 10 years. The Chinese-speaking NGC assembly had already started its ministry in Nilai in 1993.



With the support of sister Leong Lai Yan as the full-time worker in Nilai, the ministry among university students commenced. The Sunday School work involving the community in Nilai was supported by members from BGC spearheaded by Mabel Dunn. Founding members of NGC include brother Frederick Tan, his wife, Doris, Andrew Peng, his wife, Patricia, and the late Lim Hang Tang with his wife, Kwai Chee.

There were about 20 members in the church when it first started. Today, there are about 40 members. NGC has 2 elders, Frederick Tan and Chandran, and 1 deacon, Andrew Peng. There are various ministries at NGC such as Prayer and Bible Study, Sunday School and Youth (Teens Club), Ladies Fellowship, Shepherd's Workshop (a form of Bible study for new believers), and NGC Newsletter. NGC is also in partnership with Temerloh Gospel Centre via brother Charles Ng, in serving the Orang Asli ministry.

Project 100: Dedicated to support the aged

In today's age of rising costs and population densities, time and money are a luxury that only the truly rich can claim to have. Thus, our focus is firmly on our careers and there is tremendous pressure socially and economically on its importance. Love and care require time and effort, so we turn to our parents, nannies, day care centers and babysitters for our children. But when our parents are now too old and require care themselves, things become really difficult. Caring for the elderly is not quite the same as

caring for children. In the majority of cases, the elderly requires medical attention as well. Project 100 is NGC's vision to try and provide some assistance to this problem.

An elderly sister-in-Christ who was single, had tried unsuccessfully to find a home for her last days before she rested with the Lord, was forced to enrol herself into a Buddhist centre, where she had to face daily chanting. After learning about her predicament, brother Chandran became burdened by it. Thus, when he attended a church leaders conference in Kampar in 2014, he brought up the plight of this lady and bemoaned the fact that there are no such centres for our Christian brothers and sisters and proposed that the churches look into this matter. The idea was well received.

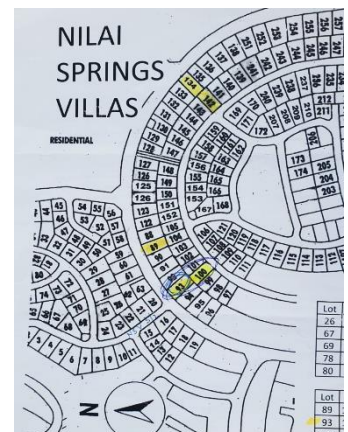
Paul taught us "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). The burden was given a boost when by God's grace, NGC was given the opportunity to acquire a piece of land at a give-away price. It was an opportunity which Frederick Tan wisely grasped.



Location: Lot 26410, Jalan NSV 1/3, Nilai Springs Villas, Bandar Nilai Utama, Negeri Sembilan

And now the vision has taken a tangible form. In 2019, with the financial obligations for the land almost over, a working committee in full partnership with our Chinese assembly was formed to consider how best to use God's gift to us. Various ideas were discussed and even a multi-purpose centre was considered, with the lot finally falling onto the elderly home. However, the committee disbanded when Covid-19 hit. After almost two and a half years, NGC plans to resuscitate this project plan once again, this time with several other assembly members who are experienced in setting up building profiles.

The plot of land purchased is situated near Nilai Springs Villas and the plot number is 100. Hence the name "Project 100".



From Around the Assemblies

The plot measures 159' long and is 83' at its broadest and 69' at its narrowest. A double storey 60 x 40' building that has a common hall, kitchen and centrally located rooms, common baths and toilets apart from those in individual rooms is envisioned. A 20' porch designed to be able to extend another floor and a garden with walking paths and handrails complete the picture.

Caring for the elderly, however, isn't just about land and buildings. It is ultimately about people. Who shall we depend upon to provide the love and care? We will require professionals: nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists, cooks, etc. Financial costs have to be considered. Will we have enough contributions or will this project create a financial burden that is too heavy for NGC to bear?

Wrestling with such questions, the elders began pondering the form and type of services that we will provide. What is clear is that the home will be open to everyone as our first duty is still to spread the good news. This evangelical activity will always be forefront. All activities will reflect Christian values and practices such as prayers and worship, and we will be guided by God's word. There are also plans to invite the brethren churches to join us in this effort with the view to duplicating the home elsewhere should it prove successful. Having firsthand participation will help experienced retirees – especially those with nursing experience, be given priority in terms of staffing and we look towards Christian medical professionals to provide services perhaps at various time slots.

Perhaps the most attractive idea that has been mooted was that we restrict our services to only day care. The primary reason for this is that we do not want to encourage children to leave their parents with us and forget about them. As far as is possible, we want the family to be living together. However, we do appreciate the fact that children have commitments and responsibilities to uphold and the need to leave their parents for a short duration can arise. Our rooms will be made available to them on request and all such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Project 100 is estimated to take 1.5 to 2 years for completion and would cost approximately RM 2.5 million for a double storey building. The project is currently at the planning stage i.e., meeting architects and discussing on the design of building, costing and project timelines. There are still lots of stages ahead which will require government approvals, legalities, and financial planning.

Though Project 100 is in the very hearts of the NGC leadership, they are continually seeking God's wisdom and will in this matter because it is ultimately for God's glory and not NGC's. Do remember this project and the committee members in your prayers. For all enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew or Patricia at nilaigc2016@gmail.com

The current committee members are:

- Frederick Tan – elder, Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Chandran – elder, Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Andrew Peng – deacon, Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Patricia Ong – deaconess, Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Andrew Jason – Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Sharon Shiwani – Nilai Gospel Chapel
- Sau Mei – Jalan Imbi Chapel, Kuala Lumpur
- Samuel Chandy – Seremban Gospel Chapel, Negeri Sembilan



NILAI GOSPEL CHAPEL (English speaking)

Lot 6896, Jalan Besar, 71800 Nilai, Negeri Sembilan

Enquiries: Fred Tan 06-632 9505, Chandran 013-927 3010, Andrew Pang 012-238 8255

E-mail: nilaigc2016@gmail.com

Website: nilaigchapel.wixsite.com/nilaigchapel

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/115174035273

Conferences

International Brethren Conference of Mission

Peter Tan of Agape Chapel, Kota Damansara

captainpetros777@gmail.com | [instagram.com/petertan660](https://www.instagram.com/petertan660)

From the initial beginnings in 1993, IBCM (International Brethren Conference of Mission) has grown through seven international conferences, to become a well-recognised event now supported confidently across the world. This was evident from the 880 participants from 122 countries/territories at the 2019 conference in Rome.

Why IBCM Conferences?

Every four years, the International Brethren Conferences of Mission (IBCM) brings together the national leaders of local churches in the Brethren worldwide movement for spiritual reflection, fellowship and prayer for renewed experience in the Lord. The overall goal is the mutual encouragement of leaders in the movement in the 155+ countries where there are Christian Brethren churches. If you are active in the Brethren movement in whichever country, you are warmly welcomed at these conferences.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the IBCM conferences are:

1. *To seek the presence and direction of the Lord together*
2. *To enable leaders from across the world to discover and encourage one another*
3. *To strengthen networking and fellowship*
4. *To raise awareness of the spiritual challenges of current trends and cultural developments*
5. *To share practical experience, ideas and methods*
6. *To encourage younger leaders*
7. *To encourage the development of regional conferences with similar objectives*

CONFERENCE	YEAR	LOCATION	COUNTRIES
IBCM1	1993	Singapore	22
IBCM2	1996	Ostia, Italy	53
IBCM3	2003	Sibiu, Romania	57
IBCM4	2007	Wiedenest, Germany	77
IBCM5	2011	Strasbourg, France	90
IBCM6	2015	Pomezia, Italy	104
IBCM7	2019	Pomezia, Italy	122

IBCM8 Global Conference is coming to Malaysia

Three years ago 121 countries gathered and celebrated in Rome, Italy. In one year's time we will convene again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in the name of the Lord, under the theme "For Christ's Love Compels Us" (II Cor 5:14).

The conference will have two keynote speakers, Ramez Atallah (Egypt) and Nate Bramsen (USA), and seven Network Tracks: Mission, Leadership, Youth, Church Ministry, Children, Training and Theology, and Evangelism and Church Planting. Each participant will have the opportunity to choose from one of these tracks. After the conference we will organise short term mission trips in different ministry fields to selected countries in Asia.



PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Location: Royale Chulan Hotel, 5, Jalan Conlay, Kuala Lumpur, 50450 Malaysia
Duration: Afternoon June 19 to morning June 24, 2023
Registration: Opens July 1, 2022, and closes May 15, 2023
Cost: See Cost and Payment details*
Translation: The main sessions will be available in French, Spanish, Portuguese
Visa details: www.visasmalaysia.com/requirements/ (check if you need a visa)
Travel Agent: Siama (www.siama.nl) offers travel assistance to IBCM Network events

Please help to share this information by passing it on to people in your areas of ministry and with the local churches in your region. We are looking forward to seeing you in Kuala Lumpur!

Conferences

IBCM8 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

RAMEZ ATALLAH



Ramez was born in Cairo, Egypt and emigrated with his family to Canada when he was sixteen. He came to know the Lord through a local church in Montreal and was discipled as a student through the Inter-Varsity group at McGill University.

From 1972 to 1980 he developed and directed the ministry of the Groupes Bibliques Universitaires du Quebec. In 1980 along with his wife and two children he returned to Egypt, where he became the IFES Regional Secretary for the Middle East. He attended the first Lausanne Congress and was appointed as a youth representative to the Lausanne Committee in 1975. He served on the Committee from 1974 to 1994. In 2006 he rejoined Lausanne as Program Chairman for Lausanne III Cape Town Congress. After the Congress, he was appointed as one of the Deputy Chairs of the Lausanne Movement until 2015. Since 1990 he has been the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, the position he still holds today.

NATE BRAMSEN



Nate was born and raised in Senegal, West Africa. The defining fact of his life is that though a great sinner, he met the Savior, Jesus Christ. At the age of 16, God burdened and led him to invest his life into the abused, neglected, and abandoned children of this world for both time and eternity.

In 2006, he had the privilege to begin pioneer work among this demographic of children and in December of 2006, he founded ROCK International (<https://rockintl.org/>). Receiving his undergraduate degree in Business and Communications from North Greenville University, (South Carolina) and a Masters from Kansas State University in Community Development, he today carries out a global itinerant speaking schedule, podcasts (UNFILTERED — available on iTunes or via <http://www.natebramsen.com/>), and works with teams taking the gospel to unreached areas. His heart is to see this generation become disciples and unconditional followers of Jesus Christ.

SEIZE THE DAY

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.

In Ephesians 5, Paul pleads for us to make the most of our time immediately after he pleads for us to walk wisely rather than foolishly. Outside of purposeful disobedience of God's Word, the most spiritually foolish thing a Christian can do is to waste opportunity, and in half-hearted service of the Lord. Now it is crucial to understand the two key aspects of redeeming the time.

There is effective effort-doing what is really important. There is efficient effort-carefully not wasting any moment of time. We are expecting 1500 delegates to participate in IBCM8 at Kuala Lumpur. Let us seize the day and mobilize our assemblies to effort-doing and effort-carefully efficiently our time for the gospel in Malaysia and beyond.

"For Christ's love compels us..." 2 Cor 5:14

See all of you at IBCM8! Register now for IBCM8: <https://usd.booking.ibcm.net/ibcm8-registration-form/>
Contents extracted from IBCM Network website <https://www.ibcm.net>

*Cost and payment details

Cost	Early Bird Rate – until December 31, 2022	Standard Rate – after December 31, 2022
Shared room conference fee	US\$500 (twin share)	US\$575 (twin share)
Single room conference fee	US\$650 (subject to availability)	US\$725 (subject to availability)
Conference Only fee	US\$320	US\$370

As in previous conferences some supported places will be provided for the conference participants who need assistance to travel and attend.

Payments:

- A **Non-Refundable Deposit** is payable upon registration. [Supported Place – US\$50; Other Participants – US\$100]
- Full conference fee is payable by 31 March 2023.
- Any registrations after 31 March 2023 will require payment in full.

Assembly Leadership Conference 2022



CBSM AND CASM TOGETHER INVITE YOU

ALC ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

领袖研讨会

7-10TH SEP 2022
PORT DICKSON METHODIST CENTRE

同心同行 Together

EPHESIANS 2:21 以弗所书 2:21
In whom the whole structure, 各房靠他联络得
being joined together, grows 合式, 渐渐成为
into a holy temple in the Lord 主的圣殿

Over the last decade, it has become clear that the assemblies in Malaysia are at a cross road. The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges and opportunities
The autonomy of assemblies often lead to isolation and we are faced with smaller assemblies who are struggling with dwindling numbers especially of younger people
CBSM and CASM have come together this year as interdependent assemblies in order to developing authentic, long term partnerships working together towards a collective vision and response
At this ALC, we are committed to establishing specific strategies and an action plan that can be implemented by 2023. There will be workshops and hands on sessions where such decisions are facilitated. We need each other and we need to stand TOGETHER for the sake of the gospel!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR ALC 2022 TODAY!



You can visit the CBSM website at:
<https://www.cbsm.com.my/site>

Youth and Young Adults

Melaka Gospel Chapel: Teens Club through Pandemic

Esmond Khoo Yu Shen; esmondkhoo@gmail.com

The youth ministry of Melaka Gospel Chapel, known as MGC Teens Club, has completely changed since the pandemic. Like many youth ministries, MGC Teens Club was drastically affected by the pandemic. The biggest change was losing most of our regular non-Christian teens (which made up more than half of our group, about 15 of them) over the course of the last two years. Thankfully a handful of Christian teens remained with us online throughout the various MCOs.

Through this big change, the leaders of MGC Teens Club discerned that God was leading us to shift our entire focus to the smaller group of Christians that remained. Before the pandemic, most of our efforts were focused on building relationships and evangelism. Now our focus is on building a strong core group of Christian teens.

Our current goals can be captured in three words – stable, able and capable. We want to grow a spiritually stable group of teenagers who love God and His Word. We also want to grow teenagers who will be able to stand against challenges to their faith by the time they reach college/university.

Finally, we want to train and equip a few teenage leaders so that they are capable of leading and discipling others in the future.

To achieve these goals, our activities were streamlined into three categories that alternate from week to week. Firstly, we have an ongoing Bible book study. We are currently doing Philippians. Secondly, we also have something called *Teens Club Tough Questions (TeecToq)* that seeks to give answers to some of the tough questions teenagers face today regarding the Christian faith. Lastly, we have a series called *Level Up* where we try to teach and train the teens in practical ministry skills.

Throughout the last two years, we sadly had to say goodbye to the previous generation of teens. We pray that whatever seeds that have been sown in them will bear fruit in the future. We leave that to the Lord. At the same time, we are also full of thanksgiving for the privilege of serving the current generation of teens who have been very open to learn and grow. And so, our ministry continues. While they are still with us, may we as youth leaders work hard to one day present them mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).

A typical MGC Teens Club meeting



The first Face-2-Face MGC Teens Club meetup in 2-years after the pandemic



A scene from MGC Teens Club during virtual zoom call meeting during the pandemic



We finally started playing games in June 2022

Youth and Young Adults

Yi Sheng's Combined Chinese Youth Work in Northern Malaysia

Calvin Tan Kim Ngnang & David Mah Yong Xin; calvintan1960@gmail.com

Under the auspices of the Chinese Assembly Secretariat of Malaysia (CASM), I joined Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre as a “*chuan dao*” (传道) or roughly translated to English as “Pastor” in January 2021. I served in both the English and Chinese assemblies in Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre. My primary mission was to promote youth initiatives in the northern region primarily among the Chinese speaking. It is evident that in Bukit Mertajam and the surrounding areas, the pre-dominant language of communication among the youths is Mandarin.



After some preliminary discussions with youths and leaders of the Chinese assemblies of Burmah Road Gospel Hall, Nibong Tebal Gospel Hall, Sungai Bakap Gospel Hall, Butterworth Gospel Hall and Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre, the first combined youth meetup was on 23rd April 2022 at Burmah Road Gospel Hall Chinese Assembly. About 50 youths attended the meeting, including 3 co-workers from Yi Sheng (以圣). Yi Sheng is the entity under CASM to develop and promote youth initiatives for the youths in the Chinese Assemblies.

In this inaugural meeting, the participation of the youths has been encouraging. Pastor Calvin shared a message to encourage the youths to commit themselves and serve the Lord in the prime of their lives and to equip themselves in the Word of the Lord. Brother Mah Yong Xin also shared the mission of Yi Sheng as well as to encourage the youths to participate in the Practical Theology sessions running online every fortnight. Among the many topics covered include “Experience of pastoring a church”, “Where is the Gospel Halls heading to?”, “How to improve and increase the quality of worship”, “Worship in Post-modern Thinking”, “How should the Church respond to the “Metaverse”, “Demon Possession and Mental Disorder”, “The Mark of a Healthy Church”, and “The Reflections for Today from the Seven Churches from Revelations”.

On June 4th to 7th 2022, a camp was held for Form 1 and 4 students at the Highland Convention Centre, Cameron Highlands for youths from the Chinese assemblies in Malaysia. In this camp, we had 15 co-workers from Temerloh Gospel Hall, Setapak Gospel Hall, Jalan Tiga Gospel Hall, Sg. Bakap Gospel Hall and Kuala Kangsar Gospel Hall. We praise the Lord for the cooperation from brothers and sisters, fellow laborers in the Lord to make this camp a success.



Since many who attended the camp were not Christians, mainly those from Jalan Tiga Gospel Hall and Setapak Gospel Hall, we decided to add some Gospel messages in the camp program. The key message of the camp was to live their lives not just in the virtual world of the Internet and not to give up their dreams but to have Jesus in their lives. At the end of the camp, 12 youths accepted Christ. The rest of the campers who are believers had the opportunity to think about how their faith can be renewed. Those who accepted Christ were immediately followed up by the leaders. It was very encouraging to have a youth from Butterworth Gospel Hall indicated his interest to join us as a co-worker.



At the end of the camp, the campers were asked if they would like to have another camp and the youths indicated enthusiastically, they would love to come together again. Hence, we decided to organize Camp 2.0 to be held in Kuala Lumpur during the September 2022 school holidays.

For further inquiries about this work, please contact **Calvin Tan Kim Ngnang** at calvintan1960@gmail.com or his mobile: +60187685640

Fifty Years of Residential Bible School (RBS)

Colin Kirton; colinkirton@gmail.com

This year, 2022, marks the golden anniversary of the **Residential Bible School (RBS)**.

The very first RBS was held in 1972 in Penang at the Christian Convention Centre (CCC) at Batu Ferringhi, organised by the Penang assemblies. The pioneers of this visionary ministry were Ung Kim Cheng and the late William Wilson and Tan Wah Kim of Burmah Road Gospel Hall, the late SS Adams of Butterworth Gospel Hall, among others.

The school ran for five years in Penang, attended by Brethren youth from all over the country, most of whom were awaiting their Form 5 (MCE) and Form 6 (HSC) exam results. The various visiting teachers included some of the last bastion of Brethren missionaries from overseas, like Reg Vines, SS Adams, Peter Ferry, Eric Kirton, William Wilson and others, with Messrs Wilson and Ferry in turn serving as principal. The school was eight weeks long, with a curriculum focused on developing Christian leaders, providing them with a strong foundation in Biblical studies as well as ministry skills. Students would serve in the various local Penang assemblies on weekends. Unfortunately, due to resource constraints, a decision was made to halt the school after 1976 and RBS remained in hiatus for 15 years thereafter.

In 1991, under the leadership of Island Glades Gospel Centre (IGGC), Penang, RBS was revived. While the focus of the school remained essentially the same, the school, also held in CCC Penang, was shortened to merely four weeks.

In 1993, Daniel Jevraj, representing the IGGC leadership, sought the help of the Klang Valley assemblies to run the school in 1994. A new Klang-Valley-based committee was established, under the leadership of Christopher Leong, himself an RBS alumnus from 1976. The 1994 school was relocated to Highlands Christian Centre (HCC), Cameron Highlands. While the length of the school remained at just under four weeks, the curriculum was revised to include a week-long mission trip to small-town churches in various parts of peninsular Malaysia at the end of the school.

In 1997, a decision was made to hand over the running of RBS to IBA Youth Development (IBAYD) (then known merely as IBA), which has continued to the present day.

Currently RBS is still held annually in HCC Cameron Highlands. It now runs for six weeks, including a mid-school day-trip mission to the *Orang Asli* villages on Jalan Tapah, Perak and an end-of-school five-day mission to small-town churches across Malaysia. The students finally converge back in Petaling Jaya for a few days of debriefing, final classes, and their graduation ceremony.

My own involvement with RBS began in 1999 when I was invited to teach two classes as well as return at the end of the school as a mission supervisor. After serving in this capacity for two years, I was invited to join the RBS planning committee and also serve at the school as a full-time staff member.

This year marks my twenty-second year on staff and my twelfth year as school principal and chairman of the RBS Planning Committee. As I reflect on these years, here are some of my overarching thoughts:

1. Adaptation is necessary to remain effective

Over the years, RBS has continued to evolve – and we continue to do so to adapt to a changing world and a new generation of youth – while still remaining solidly true to the mission and ethos of the school, which is equipping youth to be followers of Jesus who are grounded in the *unchanging* Word of God as the basis for faith and life.

In the early years of RBS, the vast majority of the students were first generation Christians. They truly owned their faith, had counted the cost and committed their lives fully to Christ. Some even paid dearly with family opposition. They cared for unsaved loved ones and friends and wanted to reach them with the gospel.

Today, almost all the students are second – or even third – generation Christians. Many have never truly owned their faith for themselves. Sadly, despite having spent years in church, some cannot even articulate the basics of the gospel or tell you *why* they believe what they believe. Even more tragically, if they were to be honest, some aren't even too sure if they believe it themselves. How then do we expect them to share their faith with others? Their "faith" is a piecemeal bumper-sticker Christianity – a few popular Bible verses like John 3:16, Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 23, some Christian cliches like "God loves you" and "Jesus died for our sins", and that's about it. Ask them about the what, how and the why and they're lost for words. And these are youth who are embarking on college and university life, some overseas, where their peers and professors will shred their faith with the questions they can't answer, and where the distractions and opportunities that come with independence and leaving the safety of family and church can quickly wilt any "faith" they profess to have.

The world they live in is a world of globalisation and the internet, with media and entertainment from a gazillion sources worldwide. They're no longer sheltered. In fact, what they're exposed to at such a young age can be incredibly frightening.

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It's a world of instant access to information and viewpoints. Google can show them a hundred alternative views to what you say is true – in a fraction of a second, at the press of a button!

It's a world of excessive options. Loyalty is a fast-fading virtue. If they're tired of one thing, they can just switch to another. It's a world of self-pampering and comfort. The daily dying to self that marks Christian discipleship sounds so foreign.

It's a world of political correctness. The Bible and its teachings can seem so outdated and bigoted.

It's a world of postmodern relativism. The absolutes of the Christian faith have no place in such a world.

It's a world of overemphasised feelings. Truth or validity is often primarily determined by how one feels about it. If they can't "feel" God, how can they believe in him?

It's a world that values authenticity. How do they reconcile the hypocrisy they might see in Christians who don't walk the talk, especially if it is their own Christian parents?

It's a world of noisy distraction and short attention spans. How does one inculcate spiritual disciplines that require being still, meditation, study, and reflection?

For these reasons, and many more, RBS has had to evolve and over the years, the speed of evolution has had to pick up, because we live in such a fast-changing world. The youth of today are so different from ten or even five years ago, let alone 20 or 50! Many deals with serious issues of identity and self-esteem further confused by the social-media-crazy world they immerse themselves in. A growing number come from broken homes and troubled backgrounds, even those from Christian families. And we are seeing an alarming rise in recent years in mental health struggles.

One of the key changes we have introduced into the school in the past 20 years has been to take a much more *personal* approach to the students. Each student is assigned a staff mentor who journeys with them throughout the course of the school. Students are also encouraged to journey together as peers in accountability and prayer for each other. There is a greater emphasis on inculcating "body life", a microcosm of what church is supposed to be as the body of Christ in its "one-another-ing" of each other. We endeavour to provide a safe space where students can be honest about their struggles without fear of being judged.

In terms of curriculum, we have increased our focus on the devotional aspects of the Christian life, adding modules on our identity in Christ, knowing the Father's heart, and dealing with anger in a godly way; as well as media, sexuality, and gender, being salt and light in our country and the world, etc. Classes also employ more visual elements, interactive activities, and experiential learning. While knowledge rooted in Scripture is the foundation for all the teaching, there is now a greater focus on its relevance and application to life. We seek to maintain a holistic "head-heart-hands" approach – *knowledge* of the

Word (*head*) must give birth to a strong *devotional* life with God (*heart*) and willing *service* for his kingdom (*hands*).

We also continually encourage students to go beyond their comfort zones, for such is the journey of faith. We only begin to see God working in and through us when we are willing to step out of the boat and walk on water, so to speak. As such, the goal of RBS has perhaps shifted over time from developing *leaders* to first developing *disciples* – youth who know their identity in Christ, know and own their faith and in turn want to pass it on to others, and who have committed to make the Word of God the foundation for their lives at all costs and to love and serve him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

2. God calls us to faithfulness before fruit

Some detractors have questioned RBS's effectiveness over the years by pointing to alumni who are no longer walking with the Lord. While we grieve for those who have fallen away from their faith, we take heart in Jesus' parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-15). While the sower may have had only a 25% success rate with the seeds he sowed, the seeds which *did* grow well were fruitful indeed.

However, Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) reminds us that, in the end, the Master is primarily concerned with our *faithfulness*. The servants' efforts may have produced varying degrees of fruit, but the Master's commendation was the same to all, "Well done, good and *faithful* servant." We only seek to be faithful sowers – or waterers – of God's Word in the lives of RBS students, leaving the results to God, who makes all things grow (1 Corinthians 3:6).

That having been said, we see how God has raised up church leaders, missionaries, and other committed servants of God from amidst our alumni. Some of these are from unexpected people. I think of RBS students that were the runt of the litter, or even problematic individuals, or people I doubted would go far in their faith – and see how God has raised them up to be people of influence and leadership in their churches and beyond. But such are often the ways of God, that all glory may be his (1 Corinthians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 4:7).

Sadly, on the other hand, I see people of calibre and immense potential for whom I had high hopes for the kingdom of God who are no longer walking with the Lord. My only consolation is that God is not finished with them yet. The stories of their lives continue to be written and it is my hope that they will someday return to Christ and that God will redeem "the years that the locusts have eaten" (Joel 2:25).

Another joy is seeing RBS alumni giving back to the school in various ways. Some who are now working have sponsored needy students' RBS fees or helped support the costs of the school. Some have returned to serve as staff, teachers, mission supervisors, planning committee members and in other support services. Our current line-of teachers include alumni across the generations from the RBS schools of 1973, 1999 and 2013.

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RBS has also been held in high repute beyond Brethren circles and we have been privileged over the years to provide aid and consultation to similar programmes initiated by the Methodist churches (Jeremiah School) and PJEFC (Step Up). In the end, whatever fruit RBS has been blessed to contribute to over the years, it is entirely to the glory of God, apart from whom we can do nothing (John 15:5).

3. It's worth it!

Granted six intensive weeks each year is a very tiring process for those of us who run the school but it's what one staff member once called "a happy tiredness". The joy of seeing God at work in the lives of many of our youth is deeply fulfilling and well worth the blood, sweat and tears spent. And as much as we have ministered to the students, they in turn have blessed the staff and teachers in ways they often underestimate or never realise.

Personally, I have developed some very deep friendships with students over the years that have continued beyond RBS and into their adulthood, where they have been a blessing into my own life as much as I have been in theirs as an RBS student in years past. It's been a joy to even officiate the weddings of some of these who ended up marrying a fellow student from their RBS year! Indeed, there have been quite a number of such marriages over the years among students – and even among staff – who first met at RBS. The value of RBS has also been echoed by entire families who have attended across the years, with parents desiring their children to be blessed through the school, just as they were a generation before.



At this year's RBS 2022 graduation ceremony, Michael Fun, an elder of Bandar Sunway Gospel Centre, told me that when he attended RBS in 1992, my father Eric Kirton was his principal, and now his daughter Jamie was having me as her principal 30 years later! What a lovely testimony of God's faithfulness, goodness, and blessing from one generation to another! (Psalm 145:4-7).

On this golden anniversary, we salute our founding fathers, most of whom are now with the Lord in glory and strive to continue their legacy. Of those who still remain, we pay tribute to Ung Kim Cheng, Daniel Jevaraj, Christopher Leong and those who worked alongside them in the earlier years.

Likewise, we gratefully acknowledge our school principals over the years: William Wilson, Peter Ferry, Eric Kirton, Lee Hong Kwang, Yap Kok Keong, Hilmy Nor, Dexter Ng, Colin Kirton; as well as long-serving full-time staff: Maylee Hilmy (who has also been our school administrator), Chong Mei Lin, Rudi Cheow, Rachel Chun, Tan Tze Yang, Chai Tze Kwang; and so many, too numerous to name, who have served on the RBS planning committee, and as staff and teachers over the past 50 years.

Above all, we honour and magnify God, the source and goal of all we do through RBS and the one who makes all things possible. "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 11:36)

Colin is an elder of Subang Jaya Gospel Centre and the current RBS planning committee chairman and school principal. Grateful thanks to Christopher Leong, Michael Fun and Yong Chong Keat for providing archived information and photos. For more information on RBS, visit www.rbs.org.my.



Photos caption:

RBS school photos from 1972 and every tenth year thereafter (except for 1982 when the school was still on hiatus)

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Penang Annual Bible Camp

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Continue to keep the fire burning for the Lord

*Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

*Blessed the Lord, O my soul, and forget not his benefits:
Psalms 103:1,2*

Shortly after the Japanese Occupation in Malaya, a group of believers comprising the Chan and Cheah families gathered up at a bungalow in Penang Hill to have fellowship and to study the Bible together. Surely, this retreat must have been a most enjoyable and spiritually enriching experience, for after the camp, the group prayed and decided that it would be a good idea to have a Bible Camp for the church as a whole so that many would benefit from studying God's Word together and in the refreshing environment of a retreat.

Thus, the very first Holiday Bible School (Bible Camp) comprising 47 campers was launched at a Chinese Towkay's mansion at Relau during the school holidays in August 11 - 16, 1947. Later, camp venues change in location from the hill to the beach as it was difficult to rent the same place every time. Some of the regular bungalows used were Shamrock near Miami Beach, Setfair, Aloha, Sunnyside and Silversand in Batu Ferringhi (beside the present Park Royal Hotel) and the bungalows of Mrs Cheah Inn Kiong and Mr Lau Geok Swee, as well as "Karang Cot" up at Penang Hill.

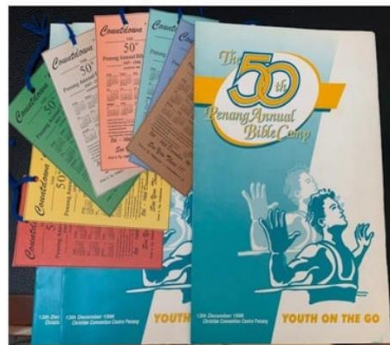
The 50th Penang Annual Bible Camp was held in the year 1996 with the theme "Youth on the Go" during the December holidays. The anniversary celebration was held on 13th December 1996 at Christian Convention Centre. Whilst we count the anniversary based on a yearly basis, there were many unrecorded ones (some up the hill and some by the beach) and some held twice-a-year in the earlier days during the August and December holidays. It was not surprising that in total there were approximately 80-90 camps.

The number of campers has grown over the years from about 80 - 90 to 140 - 150 people during the 1900s but as we head into the 2000s the numbers are hovering between 90 - 120 people. It's a camp where young people look forward to for warm fellowship amongst each other, Christians and non-Christians alike. One week packed with studying God's word and the daily memory verses continuous to this very day. With indoor / outdoor games, friendly team competition, workshops and even outings. "Captain's Ball" a traditional Bible Camp outdoor field game continues to this very day at every camp. In fact, the love of God felt by the non-believer friends in the fellowship of the Christian campers drew them nearer to Christ.

With the recent Global Pandemic of Covid-19 which started in March 2020, for the first time in history the Penang Annual Bible Camp was not held for 2 years (2020 and 2021).

God willing the 74th Penang Annual Bible Camp will be held in December 2022 and the 75th Penang Annual Bible Camp Anniversary Celebration will be held in December 2023.

"Continue to keep the fire burning for the Lord"



The 50th Penang Annual Bible Camp "Youth on the Go" held in the year 1996.

Acknowledgement:

Mr Ung Kim Cheng;
Historical facts of the
beginning of the Holiday
Bible School

Mr Kenneth Oh; Editor of
the 50th Penang Annual
Bible Camp Anniversary
Booklet



The 50th Anniversary of Penang Annual Bible Camp held on 8th - 14th December 1996 at Christian Convention Centre

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The 59th Penang Annual Bible Camp held on the 11th to 17th December 2005 in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of Assembly Testimony in Penang in Year 1855

Education as a main strategy to revive the youth ministry in the Chinese Assemblies

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During our visits to the various assemblies across Peninsular Malaysia in the last two years, it was observed that in many of these churches especially in the smaller towns, the attendance is small, and the leadership is aging. Most assemblies have a small Sunday school, but the majority have no teen and youth ministry. The reasons often given are the reducing birth rate, the migration of the youth after schools to the cities for further education and work. Few of these churches have full time pastoral workers.

On the other hand, a number of these small-town churches continue to have robust youth work, even though the number of adults in the Sunday worship may be small. There is a common feature among these churches, where the churches have active education ministries, in the form of kindergarten, childcare, and tuition classes run by full time staffs. These tuition classes are often led by the full-time pastoral workers with the church leadership fully committed to these ministries. The examples are: Jasin, Nilai, Lukut, Seremban, Subang 2, Jenjarom, and Setapak. In fact, some of these tuition centres in these small towns may even contribute financially to the churches and help to supplement the living expenses of the full-time workers.

Education as a precursor to youth ministry

The association between education and youth ministries is clear. Can one conclude that there is a cause-and-effect relationship, that youth ministry is the result of the education ministry? This is supported by tracing the temporal relationship of these ministries, that indeed it is the education ministry being a precursor to the growth of the youth and children ministry. This is seen in all the churches mentioned above. As an example, Lukut in Negri Sembilan close to Port Dickson was a small old mining town. Lukut Gospel Chapel was an outreach planted by the Nilai Gospel Chapel in 2010. The pioneering pastor TY Khoo

initiated the robust tuition centre and the childcare ministries. Before the MCO, they had 120 students. This was followed by a Sunday School of 80, and Teen & Youth fellowship of 120; the adults in the Sunday worship has also grown to approximately 30 to 40 members.



While the education outreach work provides a bridge for the churches to reach out to the neighbouring communities and demonstrate the Christian faith, many churches have



attempted other means to reach the same goal. These include other community education activities such as

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teaching of English and Mathematics, ukulele and painting classes, motivational talks, science camps, Boys' Brigade, holiday youth and children camps, captain ball and other sports and social activities.

These efforts brought about the participation of young adults, and were sustained for variable periods. There are individual churches that managed to revive their youth ministry with these efforts, such as Petra Gospel Centre and Shah Alam Gospel Centre. However, the efficacy of the non-education related work appear to be less than that of the education related outreach work.

The transition from education to discipleship

While these activities are themselves worthwhile, the key is also how to transition these activities to Christian discipleship, that will have a lasting impact



to the lives of the youth and grow them into the future leadership of the church. Pastor Pang and his wife of the Seremban Chapel, runs a large tuition ministry. He mentions that looking after students in the tuition classes can be very exhausting; one is left with little energy to make disciples. The discipleship role has traditionally been the focus of the Yi-Sheng's special courses organized during the holidays for the Form III and Form V students, like the 'Residential Bible Schools' by the English Assemblies.

However, the transition is not just from general education to Christian discipleship, it is also important that the youths are not growing into individualistic Christians, but are able to identify with and rooted in the local churches. They will also be strongly committed to serve in their respective assemblies. During transitions when youths migrate to large cities for college education or for work, there may be potential drop-outs with the change in environment, relationships, financial resources, and other external factors. A continuing pastoral care is thus crucial during these transition stages. If the youths are nurtured to be strongly integrated to the local church and is actively serving as part of the body of Christ, the problem of dropping out when migrating to the city or entering college or the marketplace would be less. Thus, it is also important that there should be no gaps in the pastoral care when the youths transition to college and urban centres. Yi-Sheng can extend its education courses to also help the young adults to nurture a Christian world view for them to be the 'salt and light' in the marketplace.

The existence of all these weak links in the chain means that the agency that undertakes to serve the Assembly educational needs, i.e., Yi-Sheng, should be answerable to

the ALC and CASM; to ensure its accountability to achieve the purpose that the agency was created for.

The Underlying Issues

To effectively address the healthy growth of the youth ministry, there are three underlying issues that need to be addressed.

Firstly, to enlarge our world view by adopting the traditional teaching of the 'cultural mandate', i.e., that is to avoid the dualism that dichotomise the 'secular' from the 'sacred', and Christian discipleship as encompassing all aspects of our life, including the marketplace. The church should see its participation in education as part of the Christian 'calling', and not just as a bridge, media, or channel to reach out to the community at large. Our involvement in education should not be that of an 'amateur'; but 'professional' in seeking excellence to glorify God. Education is a work done to achieve its own purpose, and not primarily as a mean to another end, whether it is money, honour or even mission. We should also have a clear Christian value in education, among others, to emphasize on holistic human growth, to impart good values, the emphasis on seeking truth, and intellectual integrity. Schools should not just aim to impart technical skills to ensure a life of greater comfort and higher social status.



Secondly, to do a task well, one must have the necessary training and adequate time. This is also true for pastoral care, Biblical teaching, and youth ministry. In terms of time, for a typical volunteer who have an active employment, they can only devote their 'free' time to the ministry, which typically amounts to 3-4 hours per week. This is compared to the full-time worker, who can devote 40-50 hours per week to the ministry. We may also need people especially skilled and fully dedicated in various specialised areas, e.g. care of the elderly, literature, music or social work. We need to develop a system and structure that facilitate our youth to be able to contribute to the Assembly's ministries full-time.

Thirdly, when discussing the problem of caring for the youth adapting to a new life when migrating to city for further



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education or for work, it is important that the Assemblies to be able to communicate well with each other and to work more closely together. For it is not (or may not be) enough for a youth who is migrating to the city merely by taking a letter of recommendation to another elder, who each comes from a different background and who are yet to know or to be acquainted well with each other. In this age of urbanization, globalization, work specialization and with high mobility, and the dramatic changes in communication which include ease of transport and explosive development of electronic communication, we need to adapt to the

concept of 'we', and to nurture a community sense of belonging and 'identity'. It is necessary for us to go beyond the physical church, which is limited by geographical boundary, to be as a wider body within the country and beyond. This will help in easing the youth in adjusting to a new environment when they eventually migrate to the cities. It is also the responsibility of the city churches to help finance youth workers in the rural town churches, where there may only have few working adults, while their young people with higher earning capacities are likely to have all migrated to the cities.

Examples of Chinese Assemblies in Peninsular Malaysia with Education and Youth ministries, and number of attendees (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic)

Assemblies	Adults worship service	Children Sunday school	Teens fellowship	Youth fellowship	Kindergarten	Childcare	Primary school tuition	Secondary school tuition
Setapak Gospel Centre	30-40	20 (Boy's Brigade)	20 (Boy's Brigade)	0	0	30	0	20
Subang 2 Gospel Centre	35-40	15	15	10	0	0	10	21
Jenjarom Gospel Centre	40-50	20	15	12	0	0	64 (Accelerated Christian Education)	0
Seremban Gospel Hall	50-70	30-40	20-30	15-20	20-30	110-130 (inclusive of tuition)		
Nilai Gospel Hall	80	60	70	40	0	50	50	70
Lukut Gospel Centre	30-40	80	120	15	0	80	80	120
Jasin Gospel Hall	50-70	12	30	10	0	0	0	30
Average per Assembly	50	33	56	18	26	53	53	52

Assembly Revitalization Task Force

Peter Tan, CBSM; cbsm0709@gmail.com

The Assembly Elders of Malaysia had commissioned a task force of leaders specially tasked to study, facilitate, equip, and provide resources to the smaller assemblies, in partnership with Christian Brethren Secretariat Malaysia (CBSM) trustees at the ALC 2021.

As of August 2022, the task force which includes the General Secretary and Chairman of CBSM, has inducted other leaders of the assemblies willing to provide time and effort to revitalise the small assemblies who need assistance. The members of the task force are as follows:

Chiew Sai Kee, Teo Pek Bing, Peter Tan, Ronny Low, Dr. Khong YL and Dexter Ng.

Through the task force, CBSM is exploring the funding for the revitalizing the small assemblies which includes equipping, training and provision of full-time workers assigned to these assemblies. To revitalize the small assemblies, the task force will coordinate partnership with the English, Chinese and Tamil speaking assemblies in sending workers into the field. We will train, equip and fund full time workers (short term and long term) for church planting and revitalizing small assemblies in

Youth and Young Adults

Malaysia in partnership with CASM and Tamil assemblies. This is the time to work together in unity of Spirit and purpose for the gospel.

Our vision is to maintain and grow the assembly gospel witness in Malaysia through the existing assemblies and explore church planting initiatives in Malaysia.

Moving Forward

The task force continues in the ongoing effort of co-opting members into the task force.

We have visited assemblies to gather information on the state of the assemblies and how assemblies can assist in revitalizing them. We are focused on sourcing of short-term mission workers, to start or assist in specific ministries, which includes tuition or community centres.

We are gathering and compiling data on leaders, leadership structure, leadership succession, ministries and philosophy of assembly ministries as well as how to meet the needs of their community. We enquire about how the assemblies are evangelizing the community and what are the needs within the assemblies, demographic information and the needs of the community in these localities. Various initiatives have been offered to small assemblies, which include Training and Teaching Programmes, such as Building Healthy Churches by MPI, SOTS, Intentional discipleship facilitated by Ron Low.

These efforts will require resources in manpower and funds to effectively assist and revitalise small assemblies. We believe that the assemblies in Malaysia will join us in this endeavour to retain and establish the assembly witness throughout Malaysia.

The Strategic Plan

We intend to conduct further discussions with assembly elders to convince them to see the vision of revitalization for their assembly. To explore community needs in specific localities, considering the cultural and demographic needs. Assemblies have to assess their strengths and available resources. The task force will offer collaboration with elders to teach evangelism for the church to effectively reach the community with the gospel.

The Four Point Action Plan

The task force will introduce the four-point action plan to assemblies interested to participate in the church revitalization effort. Assemblies will have to agree to the plan below and be committed to participate actively for a 2-year period.

1. Assemblies must sign up to the Revitalization Program (Focused on a Clusters of 3 Assemblies at any one time)
2. Mission teams drawn from Malaysian assemblies will be formed to participate with each participating assembly.
3. Formulation of church based strategic plan with participating assemblies, with quarterly action plan and review.
4. Full-time staff search for workers who will commit to a minimum of 2 year with CBSM, to be assigned to assemblies who have signed up.

The Task Force will seek the support of the Assembly Leaders Conference 2022 in launching the **Church Revitalization Program**. We continue to pray for the assemblies in Malaysia to work together to establish our witness in the country. To God be the Glory.

A Christian Perspective - Transitioning from a Youth to a Young Adult

Dr Yoong Lee Yeen; ylyeen_1031@hotmail.com

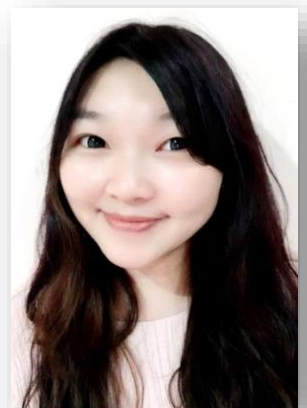
Instagram: ylyeen

Flashing back to the transition phase from youth to young adulthood, there were many things which were not taught in textbooks. Life is not only about study or work. Young adulthood is a new journey about living our lives to the fullest, fulfilling God's purpose for our life. I went through some trials and errors to adjust myself, attempting to find the right balance in life. Eventually, I realized that living a balanced Christian life is not about multi-tasking or proportions, but more on how we put God in the center of all areas of life and align our priorities over the circumstances according to God's will. If I am given a chance to talk to myself in my early 20s, I would have asked myself, "What do you see yourself doing in the next 10 years?" Being able to foresee the challenges that we

will face, will help us to be more prepared to live a more fruitful and holistic life.

Career / Study

During youth, we strive for excellence in our studies. Our main focus was academic. After we graduate, we step out of our comfort zone and start working or pursuing further in our study. Whether we choose to work or to study,



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both paths would become the core part of our daily lives. Since we all have different gifts, God may direct us to different paths according to His will. No matter what job or course we pursue, always remember initial purpose and passion, and to persevere and glorify God through what we do. We might feel burnt out under the heavy job strain. It is important to keep in mind that God is with us at all times.

Sometimes, we might dive too deeply into work, that we neglect other areas of life. There might also be situations where we have to make the difficult decision between God and work. Having the right priorities remains the key factor in dealing with these situations. Do put God first above all things as Matthew 6:33 says, *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Health

As a youth, we have healthy bodies that many of us take for granted. We tend to think that our youthful bodies can take on everything and anything. We can stay up till late night for work, games, or dramas. What we might not see is that many young adults actually develop non-communicable or even death in their young age. Without health, what is our quality of life?

Some might think that young adulthood is the best time to strive to earn more money. The desire for wealth drives us to put our career first over our health. In the long run if we neglect our health, we might end up paying a bigger price in terms of medical fees or a full-time care-giver. These possible health risks or unpredicted circumstances can also put a family into a catastrophic state financially. Therefore, we should also consider health insurance or getting a medical card when we are still in good health.

Besides physical health, mental health would also be greatly affected by increased commitment and responsibilities in young adulthood. If one is not prepared to handle the stress well, one might be overwhelmed, burnt out and might get into depression. Having a good mechanism to manage stress, and coping skills are important. Do seek professional help from counsellors, psychologists or psychiatrists.

Nevertheless, prevention is still better than cure. Choose to live a healthier lifestyle and take care of both our physical and mental wellbeing is certainly a more cost-effective way. Health could bring you further and beyond. *“So refuse to worry, and keep your body healthy. But remember that youth, with a whole life before you, is meaningless.”* (Ecclesiastes 11:10).

Love Life

When we step into young adult world from youth, our social circles expand and love might spark and come along. Is romantic relationship a bed of roses? Many of us would look forward to a wonderful and exciting

relationship when we fall in love. The desire to love and be loved is truly amazing and heart-warming. Yet, do watch out! This burning excitement might also blind our rationality to seek for forbidden relationships in the name of love.

Many single mothers had to pay the price for that temporary excitement. Being blinded by youthful romance had cost them their life-time happiness, health, education, finance, relationships, career path, spirituality and the list goes on. For men who couldn't resist the temptations, they would bear the risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases, the complicated relationship bonds and some end up prematurely picking up the responsibility as a husband and father. Think twice, seek God and flee away from all these temptations.

All relationships have their own set of struggles along in it as everyone is a unique being. Those God-centered couples who work together through the storm enjoy a fruitful relationship with God's blessings. Yet, for those who end up with break-ups, don't lose hope. Trust in the Lord. He will not give us what we cannot endure. Each broken relationship might be painful, but as time heals, we will find that we have learned and grown much through it.

For those who are single and seeing many of their peers getting into relationships, they might doubt themselves that they might not deserve to be loved. That's not true. Some might be chosen for different / greater plans ahead, while some are being prepared to meet their better half later in God's timing.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Trust God and have faith.”*

Wealth

There isn't a straight forward textbook answer on how to manage our wealth, as everyone has different expenditure needs and spending behaviours. It would be for us to set our own goals and bucket lists to achieve based on different milestones.

Financial planning especially budgeting is very crucial in managing wealth. During this transition phase, many would spend most of their earnings in buying what they want than what they need. The spending behaviour of getting things that are beyond our earnings might cause us to feel the pinch of money constraint or getting credit card debts at the end of the month. Hence, it is crucial to divide our earnings into the suitable proportions based on our basic needs and commitments, wants, savings, emergency funds and investment.

Giving back makes our earnings prosper to glorify His name. Giving tithe is a very meaningful practice in giving back to the society to share God's love. The tithe could be

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used for God's purpose and expand his kingdom by touching the hearts for those who are in need. Blessed are those who bless others. Wealth can bring us many luxurious things and experiences. However, if we are not careful, we would drown into the preoccupied thoughts of chasing after wealth in this world and neglect God's purpose of life and great mission in this world. Do keep in mind that, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24.

Family & Friends

I have learnt the unpredictability in life through the loss of my grandmother. I wished I could have reversed the time and repay her back with love while she was still alive. As we do not know when is our last day living in this world will be, cherish our loved ones while we still can. Even though we are busy with study and work, do spend time to go home to accompany, love and care for them when they are still around.

As we step into the society, we might face a lot more challenges in life. When we go through tough time outside, God is our hiding place. Family is also the stronghold for us, who will go through tough times with us. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Friends play very important role in our lives, too. True friends laugh with us, cry with us, be there for us. Happiness becomes double and sadness is halved when they are shared with friends. Good friends will help us grow to be better and draw us closer to God, yet harmful friends might lead us towards the darkness away from God. So, choose our friends wisely. "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13:20)

Physical Environment

Many of us might start to move out from our own house upon transition to young adulthood, especially for those who are working or studying far from home. For instance, if we are living in a toxic environment for a prolonged period, we might develop a lot of negative emotions. Do Romans 14:19 says, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

We might also be tempted to follow the deceitful ways of living by others. So, stand firm in faith and live the righteous way in God's willing. Seek the Lord for strength to resist temptations and be courageous to be assertive and flee from temptations.

Choose an environment which is healthy and good for growth, like staying close with church. Fellowship with the church helps in keeping an eye on one another when one is being led astray, and walk closer to God by the strengthening faith.

Fun and Leisure

All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. Fun and leisure are much needed to buffer stress. Entertainment is needed to keep ourselves happy and being sound. Hobbies helps us to find some joy in our hectic life, balancing the stress hormone with the happy chemicals.

Moving towards life transition as a young adult, free time becomes a luxury. Despite that, having some me-time is important to rejuvenate and recharge by getting away from the stressful tasks. So, despite of busy schedules, take some time to do something we enjoy doing to love ourselves. Ecclesiastes 11:9 says, "Young people, it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do."

Playing games is a common hobby among the youth to bond with their peers. It is okay to spend some time to play games and have fun together. However, do watch out for addiction, when one is starting to neglect our responsibilities and tasks. If hobby is starting to take over and affects your daily living, seek the Lord to get strength to resist the temptations. If more help needed, feel free to seek professional help.

Personal and Spiritual development

"You only live once!" (YOLO!) is a philosophical phrase we commonly come across. Some interpreted this as we shall try on everything and experience as much beyond the rules and boundaries.

What if it is interpreted on trying something harmful like drug abuse? Does the temporary ecstasy worth a longer period of suffering? "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything—but not everything is constructive." (1 Corinthians 10:23). Heart could be deceitful, make a wise decision according to God's will.

Walk closely with God by spending time with God through quiet time, devotion and prayer. Adjusting ourselves to another phase of life could be challenging. Do remember that God journeys with us throughout the ups and downs in life.

In closing, centralizing God in all areas of life during transition from youth to young adult is certainly not an easy task. Seek wisdom and strength from God in living a life according to His will. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22). What do you see yourself doing in the next 10 years? Align our purpose of life with God's will and build our life goals towards a fruitful young adulthood. God bless.

Youth and Young Adults

A Christian Perspective - Transitioning from a Youth to a Young Adult

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Transitioning from youth to young adult is confusing, to say the least. All of a sudden, we have jobs. We have bills to pay and taxes to file. We're moving away from home. We must navigate our time between family, friends, work, colleagues, church, and romantic relationships. We're suddenly expected to be independent, to know exactly what to do and when to do it. Or at least it feels that way. As if it weren't complicated enough, many of us had to transition into adulthood during a pandemic.

For me, it was no different. One moment I'm leading a CG (Care Group) in the youth ministry; the next moment, I'm a mom. Transitioning from youth to young adult felt a little faster for me. I got married at 21, right after graduating from university, and then had a baby at 23.

"It must be so nice to have your life all figured out at such a young age," some would say to me. Comments like this made me feel like I HAD to have it all figured out. Often times I'd feel alone because I didn't take the conventional route of getting a job > getting married > starting a family. None of my peers was married when I was, and none of my peers were parents. It was difficult transitioning into adulthood while feeling as though no one my age could relate to me.

Only, I wasn't alone. I had God. As I transitioned into adulthood, these are some truths that sustained and continue to sustain me.

You Don't Always Need to Know What You're Going to Do Next

I learnt this when I had just graduated from university. While all my peers were actively looking for jobs, I was planning a wedding. I wasn't sure what I would do after getting married and was so worried. However, one thing I knew for sure was that I wanted to glorify God in my career. I wanted to do what He wanted me to do. So, I prayed.

Through a series of events, God spoke to me and revealed to me to start a small business online selling Christian merchandise. It was unconventional, which scared me. But as I was doing my devotion on Genesis, God told me to take that first step of obedience. He told me that He would direct me one step at a time.

As I read about Abraham in Genesis, it brought to my attention that Abraham had no idea where he was going. All God told him was, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:1 ESV). God didn't give him a detailed plan on where to go or how to get there. All He said was, "Go...to the land that I will show you."

Being one who usually likes to have a plan and to know what is going to happen next, this was very difficult for me. But I knew that God was in control, and that was enough. He had a plan; all I needed to do was "go", and He will "show me" what to do next.



Trust God, Always

So many questions ran through my head, but God always said, "Trust Me."

"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 NIV) Sometimes things happen that don't seem to make sense. Sometimes God asks us to do things that, in 'our own understanding', seem ridiculous. Truly submitting and surrendering to God 'in all our ways' is not easy, but Psalm 33:9 (ESV) says, "For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm." If God created this entire universe just by speaking, who are we to question what He calls us to do?

So, I trusted Him. And sure enough, He guided me one step at a time. He inspired me to create things for His glory time and time again.

Then the pandemic hit. Our financial situation changed for the worse, and I wasn't sure what to do next. Again, God said, "Trust Me." My husband started a sanitizing business while I freelanced. About a year into the pandemic, I got pregnant, and we wondered how we would be able to provide for our then-unborn child. But sure enough, God provided for us in ways we could not fathom. He sustained us not just financially but spiritually, emotionally and in every other aspect as well. We truly lacked nothing.

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

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You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

- Psalm 23 (NIV) –

My husband and I held on tight (and still do) to this passage. It gave us peace and comfort through some of the most challenging times. Obedience comes hand in hand with Trust. If you trust someone enough, you will do what they say, no questions asked. So, the question is, do you truly trust God enough to do what He says?

Don't Compare Yourself to Other People

We often compare ourselves to others and ask ourselves, “Why is that person already at a certain position in their career at such a young age?”, “Why are they already so successful?”, “They look so happily married. I don’t even have a boyfriend/girlfriend yet.” The moment we start comparing ourselves to other people, our lives suddenly look “less than”. But I’m here to tell you that it’s not. God has a plan and a purpose for each and every one of us. We just need to trust His perfect timing.

I remember reading a story about how a little girl forgot to bring her lunch to school, so she called her dad to bring it to her. The dad asked her what time her lunch was, and she said 12 o’clock. At 12 o’clock, the father sat at the canteen with her lunch, waiting for her to come. The little girl ran toward the father, flustered, and asked, “Where were you? What took you so long? I was so worried that you wouldn’t come with my food.” The father calmly asked her, “What time did you say your lunch was?” “12 o’clock,” she replied. “What time is it now?” he asked. “12 o’clock,” she said. Then the father said, “I’m here, aren’t I?”

Ecclesiastes 3:9 (ESV) says, “*He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*” God is neither early nor late; He’s always right on time. If the dad in the story had given the little girl her lunch early, she wouldn’t have been able to eat it yet. And if he gave it to her late, she wouldn’t have had any lunch to eat. In the same way, sometimes God doesn’t reveal certain things to us yet because we couldn’t do anything about it even if we knew. He always answers our prayers exactly when we need them, not when we think we need them.

So, let’s focus on what’s important: Glorifying God in everything we do and building up His Kingdom. It doesn’t matter what other people are doing or what they say about what we are doing. What matters is that you “*...do it all for the glory of God.*” (1 Corinthians 10:31b)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23 NIV)

It is the Lord Christ we are serving. Let’s shift our focus back to who we are serving, not who is getting promoted next or who is getting married next.

Give Thanks in All Circumstances

During the pandemic, it felt like it was bad news after bad news every single day. It wasn’t just Covid-19. There were wars, police brutality, protests, natural disasters, and so much more. In many individuals’ lives (especially fresh graduates), there were also pay cuts, unemployment, and getting laid off. As a result, many young adults felt lost and suffered from various mental health issues. So how can we possibly give thanks when so many bad things are happening in the world?

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV). Whatever situation we may be in, there’s always a reason to praise God. And if you can’t think of any, here’s one: God sent His son to die on the cross for you. That’s more than enough reason to praise God, isn’t it?

When we choose to see the world in light of what Christ has done for us on the cross, our temporal sufferings don’t seem so bad anymore. We begin to live life with an eternal mindset because we know Christ has already won. Death is defeated!

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 ESV)

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-56 NIV)

No matter how bad the situation we may find ourselves in, I challenge you to still choose to praise God. Transitioning from youth to adulthood can feel overwhelming but let us not forget who our God is and who lives in us.

Romans 8:11(ESV) says, “If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Isn’t that amazing? The same spirit that raised Christ is the same spirit that lives in us! The lyrics of this song were on my lips throughout this season, and I hope it encourages you in the same way it did for me.

Youth and Young Adults

*"So, I will praise You on the mountain
And I will praise You when the mountain's in my way
You're the summit where my feet are
So I will praise You in the valleys all the same
No less God within the shadows
No less faithful when the night leads me astray
You're the heaven where my heart is
In the highlands and the heartache all the same"*

Our God is worthy of praise no matter what. Our God is never changing in an ever-changing world. Our God is greater than our circumstances. Our God is in control of every situation. Our God has overcome. Therefore, we can put our trust in Him. We have hope and peace in Him. *We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* (Romans 8:37 NIV)

A Christian Perspective - Transitioning from A Youth to A Young Adult

(from the eyes of a Sekolah Kebangsaan teacher)

Rachel Kuek; bachpianist@gmail.com



Being a teacher has always been my childhood ambition probably because my mother was a teacher and I had seen her dedication towards the teaching profession, yet she was able to balance between work and family time. Besides, I like working in a lively

environment surrounded by children and to see their genuine smiles every day.

Teaching is always a challenging profession especially having students from different family backgrounds with its own diversity. Hence, a huge amount of patience is much needed and we really need to rely on prayers in having great patience every day.

Juggling between work and family time is a challenge too as work can be very demanding at times, especially during the lockdown period, and all you want is to do the best for both work and family.

My mother is my biggest role model and she had also inspired me to take up the teaching profession. She is also my mentor, my teacher, my counsellor and advisor.

I am also blessed to have very close Christian family friends whom I can share my ups and downs with, and also blessed indeed to receive much encouragement from them too.

I believe, to have a strong circle of Christian friends and to mix with the correct group of people is very important. Do not be attracted to the material things of this world as they are just for temporary satisfaction. Look towards God and serve Him in whichever way that you are called to do.

To know His will is through prayer and diligent reading of His Words and devotion.

Psalm 23 gives me comfort whenever I face ups and downs in this journey.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He refreshes my soul.

**He guides me along the right paths
for His name's sake.**

**Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,**

I will fear no evil,

for You are with me;

**Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.**

**You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**Surely Your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.**

Growth of Assemblies Post 1950

The Diakonia 2021 Editorial Team

The arrival of the Brethren movement to Singapore and Malaysia is well documented (see references at the end of this article for examples). Briefly, the work in Singapore and Malaysia, or Malaya as we called in those days, was seeded by Bethesda Chapel in Bristol UK, with the arrival of Mr Philip Robinson and Mr & Mrs John Chapman in 1857 and 1859 respectively in Singapore.

Unbeknown to many, Robinson, the upmarket departmental store in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore had a Brethren connection. Philip Robinson was the founder of Robinson. However, it sadly went into liquidation in 2020 in both Singapore and Malaysia due to COVID-19.

Mr. Robinson's work birthed Bethesda Chapel at Bras Basah Road, Singapore in 1866. Mr. Chapman commenced the work at Farquhar Street in Penang in 1860. After he left for Australia in 1868 due to poor health of his wife, William MacDonald continued the work together with Philip J Hocquard. At Farquhar Street, they established a chapel and a mission house in 1876. MacDonald served for about 40 years. He died in 1911 and his grave can be found in Western Road Cemetery in Penang.



William MacDonald



Philip J. Hocquard

From Penang, the work spread to Taiping where Taiping Gospel Hall was established in 1880 via Mr Hocquard and then to Kuala Lumpur through E. Eagger. Eagger established the work in Davidson Road and Bluff Road in 1893 and 1897 respectively. The Davidson Road work survived today as KL Gospel Hall while the Bluff Road work seeded Jalan Imbi Chapel (1962) and PJ Gospel Hall (1959).



Mr. and Mrs. E. Eagger

More than 80 foreign missionaries of the Assembly have contributed to the beginnings of the assemblies in this country. After Malaysia gained independence in 1957 and eventually achieved nationhood in 1963, the work of the assembly began to fall on the shoulders of local believers as

government policies regarding foreign missionaries changed. The Brethren Assemblies have been prepared by the Lord's faithful servants to launch into a new phase of growth of the church of Jesus Christ.

The assemblies planted post 1950's are shown in the chart on the next page. We tried our best to pin down the assemblies that planted the respective churches and compile the information as accurately as possible. However, due to the segregated and sporadic manner of the information sources, we put together the information we have at hand as best as we can for this publication but we expect revisions will be needed as more accurate information are obtained.

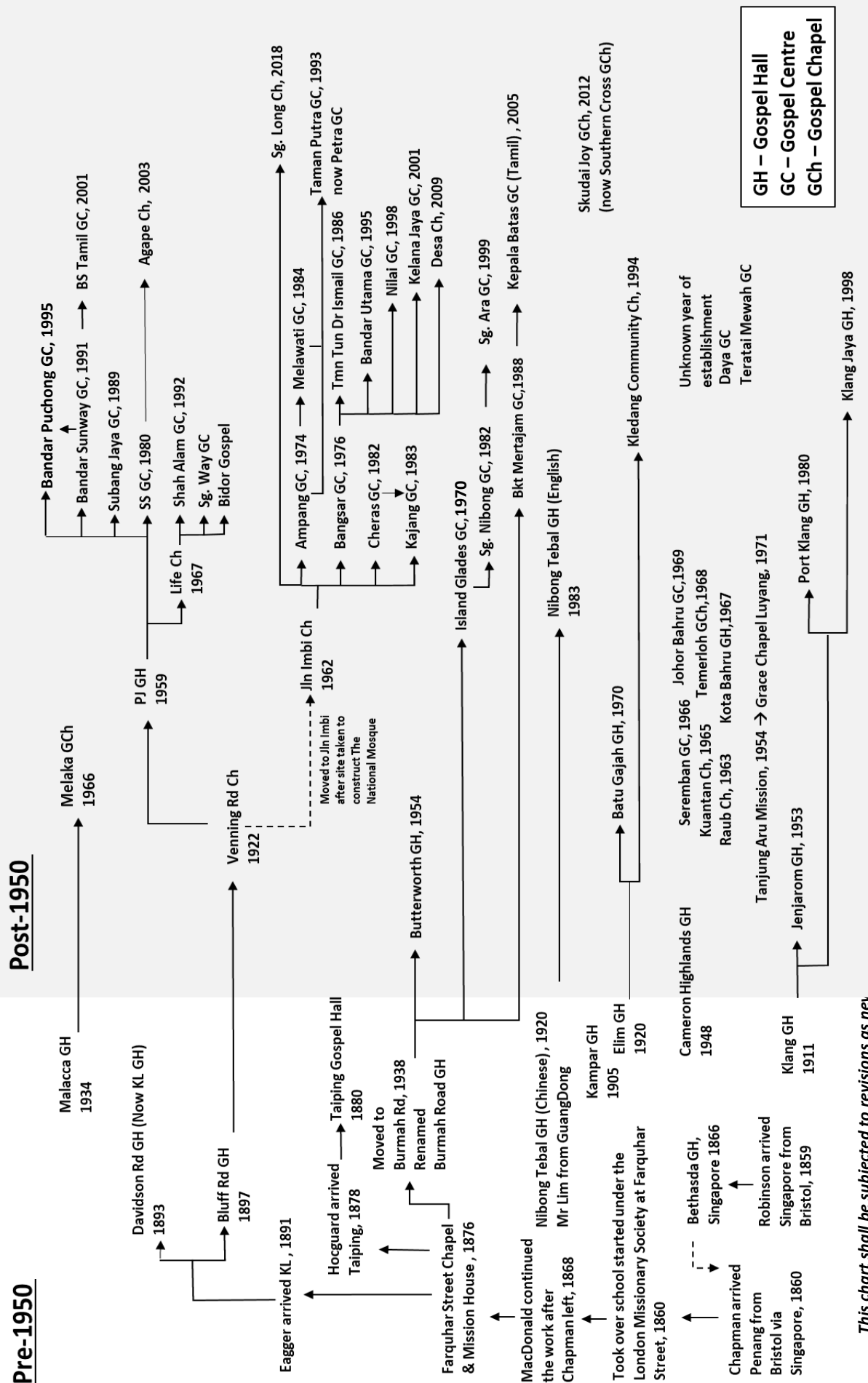
It is clear the growth of the Assemblies was the most rapid during the 60s till the mid-90s but slowed down from then onwards. What could be the factors that contributed to this decline in church planting? Was it the rising affluence that made us lose the mission mindedness of the early founders? Could it be that the increasingly stressful work-life among more educated congregants leave little time for anything else other than the regular weekly meetings? Or is it that other churches have more attractive programs that presented assemblies with a challenge to retain members? Did the falling out among some church leaders and members over doctrinal or other disputes that divided the assembly members stymied our growth? Or have we simply have not kept up with the times and have become irrelevant in a fast-changing world?

A lot to ponder and act on as we consider the work of the assembly moving forward.

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Editor's Note: The 20 assemblies in Singapore owe their start to Robinson's department store founder Philip Robinson. Sadly, we were unable to locate a picture of Philip Robinson. Likewise, we owe the beginning of the Assembly work in Malaysia to John Chapman but we were also unable to locate his photo.



Touching Lives

A Special Tribute to late Brother Loh Ah Asiau

GOWW - The Joy of Spinning out with the Lord

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*A testimony of God's greatness and goodness for His design upon His vessel despite all its inadequacies.
May all the glory be accorded to Him and Him only!*

A New Life In Christ

It was in 1958 at the Technical Institute in Penang when Ah Asiau began his personal relationship with the Lord, and this was also the beginning of his witness for the Lord ever since. Before he left the Institute, the Headmaster penned on his autograph: "Best wishes, including the outer space" (someone had just landed on the moon). In Ah Asiau's heart, he said he had decided to be a missionary! (He had just read the book, 'Shadows of the Almighty', which narrated the story of the massacre of the five young missionaries in Ecuador). He admired their dedication to their Lord.

Important Foundation

The next four years were the foundation of his mission experience – being active in outreach at the Technical College and mission work in the villages with missionaries. After College, Ah Asiau worked hard at his career but serving in the Church was normal. The desire to serve the Lord never abated, but it was crowded out by the busyness of life. But, his three years of jungle life in the hydroelectric projects gave him a good, all-round training for a tough life, in leadership and initiative. Ah Asiau and Fee Chin married at the end of 1968, and they have been together ever since, serving the Lord wherever they went.

University In Scotland

The two years in Glasgow for Civil Engineering was one of their best two years. They were involved in the starting of a Chinese Church. The Lord blessed them with many experiences and answers to prayer. Many came to know the Lord at the Chinese Church during that period, and a few have gone full-time. They were invited to stay to pastor the Church. However, burdened with the salvation of Ah Asiau's father and Fee Chin's mother, they returned to Malaysia after confirmation from the Lord. They then saw seven of their family members coming to know the Lord in the first two years.

An Engineering Career

Working with the National Oil Company on their return, they volunteered to go to the fishing village of Bintulu, Sarawak, to start the national liquefied natural gas plant. It was another three beautiful years or so in their lives. Together with others, mainly the Kelabit (a minority group), they started a Church service in their house. There, they began to seek the Lord's will for their lives as they wanted to be useful for Him. Though life was good and comfortable, they found it was too slow, including the Church life.



Started a meeting in their house in Bintulu,



Meeting in progress



Moved the meeting to this rented wooden house to become a church.

The Lord brought them back to Singapore to experience the business world in construction. There was no time for the Lord in the competitive secular world. It was working, working, and non-stop working. Realizing that it was not what they wanted when they left Sarawak, Ah Asiau resigned as a Deputy GM, but the International Company retained him and sent him back to Malaysia to start a new Company. God had His way of working. He led them step by step.

Touching Lives

M.D. And The Call

Ah Asiau became the Managing Director of a new Company. There, he experienced God's Hand deeply in his life and career. He was very successful and brought projects for the Company to the envy of many. His life was in danger. The Lord showed Himself real and powerful to Ah Asiau everyday till the last climax when God answered his prayers continuously and miraculously. He saw His glory! At that point, he began to cry out to God, "It's enough. Why should I serve the world when I could serve you, my great God. It will be my great honor, Lord!" Consulting with Fee Chin, he was told by Fee Chin that she had also experienced God's calling to serve Him full time. They literally dropped everything! The Lord opened the way, and they have seen His Hand ever since, from going to a Seminary in Taiwan (the need to brush up their Chinese) to returning to their home Church, Jasin, to serve. In Ah Asiau's second year in Taipei, they were invited to start a Church in the Chiang Kai Shek high-rise condominium area. This Church achieved autonomy after a year.



Graduation from the China Evangelical Seminary, Taipei.

Home Church And Church Plantings

Coming back to Malaysia, they headed to Jasin to serve in their home Church. They treated the ministry as a new Church planting project applying whatever they had learned in the Seminary - Personal Evangelism, Disciple Making, Church Planting, and Mission. They experienced the meaning of spinning out (Acts 1: 8), bringing the Gospel to the villages and estates. It was the model they took. They see its result till this day after more than thirty years. After two years at the home Church, they prayed for a Church planting venture to spin out to other areas in Malaysia. Half a year later, on 1st July 1990, they landed at Kajang, Selangor.



Kajang Life Chapel first Sunday worship, 1 July 1990

Kajang As The Base

The next thirty years were a very exciting journey with the Lord in Church planting and mission. Starting from zero, the Lord brought many students from near and far to Kajang Life Chapel (KLC), from local schools through English tuition efforts, and from the two universities not too far away, the UKM and the UPM. It was round the clock in CONTACT> FRIENDSHIP> EVANGELISM> DISCIPLE-MAKING> LEADERSHIP TRAINING> SPINNING-OUT, including CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION to the foreign lands. It was done, believing in the God of mission and the Great Commission. The Lord just led both Ah Asiau and Fee Chin in His steps.



In Kajang. Serving the Lord together is indeed a joyful thing!



KLC believers, 2015

Spinning Out Locally

Commencing KLC on 1st July 1990, Ah Asiau and Fee Chin began to bring people to Christ and then taught and trained the core group. By the end of 1991, they were in Seremban to revive the Chinese Assembly, treating it as a new Church planting. In this, they saw God's divine Hand, giving them a real boost. It has been Church planting in Malaysia ever since, and eight Assemblies have been planted to date. They sent many teams to South Thailand for frontier mission exposure and training in mid-1992. They sent the first missionary to South Thailand in 1993 for a year of spot program for exposure with a mission agency. The sister, however, met with a severe accident and was sent home to Kajang for recovery. Whether it was a spiritual attack or not, they did not know, but they thank God for this first real-life experience. They saw God's Hand in the matter. They were greatly encouraged, and they continued to press on.

Touching Lives

Gospel Outreach Worldwide (GOWW)

GOWW was established at a KLC Mission Conference in 1994 to facilitate mainly other Assemblies for mission exposure, training, and involvement in the mission. Conferences were held frequently to educate believers, and many Short Term Mission Trips were organized for the purpose. Praise the Lord, GOWW has borne fruits - several Churches caught the vision and were actively involved.



Mission Conference in 1994

Spinning Out Cross Culturally

Began in China in 1992, leading to their initiative to the North West China among the Muslims in 1994. A major mission agency partnered with them and sent missionaries to work with them. Due to security reasons, they established a point in Kazakhstan in 1995, with ten workers in the fields in China and Kazakhstan. It has become the Central Asia Vision (or Back to Jerusalem Vision), and they have also done several mission surveys along the silk route.

Unable to work effectively with the mission agency due to its inherent policies in such partnership to grow the Church (KLC) in mission after around nine years, they left the group. KLC's couples who were ready to go to Kazakhstan at this point (2000) had to work with another agency with a platform in Central Asia. There was not much progress after the first term of three years with the agency, so KLC ventured out on our own. KLC has been on our own ever since. We established an NGO in 2004. We started a Church not long after and spun out to another city in 2010. We thank God that the North West China ministry is now handled by several local workers trained by our group in a residential Bible School.

Cambodia opened its door to us, and we were there as an NGO in June 1996. We spun out from the first place in the capital to two more points in 2001 and 2008 respectively. It has eventually become a Mekong River People Vision. The works are well-established, and we started three centers and three local Churches.

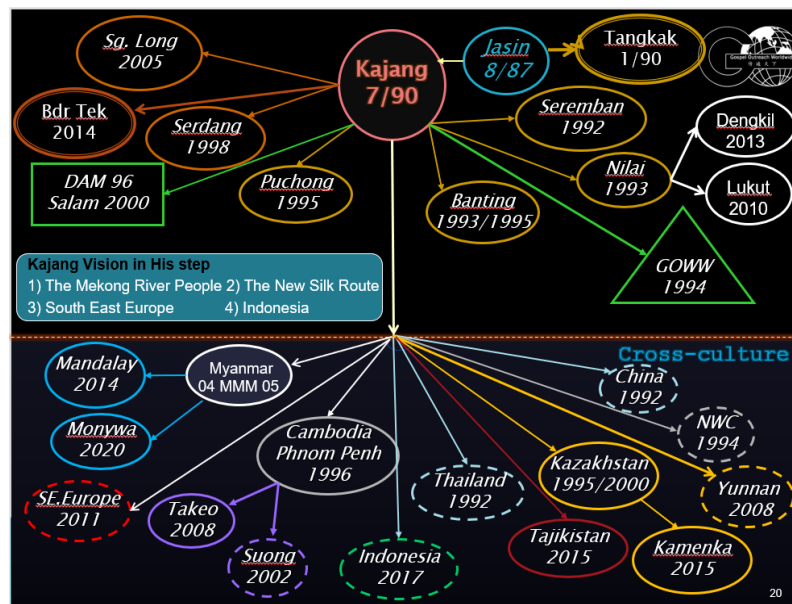
Ah Asiau and Fee Chin made several trips to **Laos** and earned an opportunity to start an English center in the capital with the help of the Malaysian Embassy. Nothing was done since there were no workers available. However, the survey trip to **Myanmar** in 2004 was fruitful. Besides Bible teaching in one of the Assembly Bible Schools, we went into partnership with a local Assembly to start a Myanmar ministry in Malaysia. This is now known as the **Malaysia_Myanmar Ministry** and it is now a separate entity from GOWW. In August 2007, we began the HUI project in Kun Ming but had to call it off in June 2011.



Appointing Elders and Deacons at PP SLC, May 2017 after 20 years of hard work since 1996.



Pyapon, Myanmar



Vision in His Step throughout these years under the leadership of Mr and Mrs Loh.

Touching Lives

Eastern Europe

In 2006, they came to be aware of the tremendous needs in Europe with the decline of Churches and the big influx and impact of Muslims. They began to find out more and study the needs. In Ah Asiau and Fee Chin's first visit to Romania and Albania in April 2010, they saw the Lord opening the way to spend a year or so in Albania to look into further details. There was also an opportunity to help to start an Assembly in the capital of Albania.



Albania Language Learning at all time, 2011



Explo Church in Tirana, Albania, 2011

On 19th June 2011, Ah Asiau experienced a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA), and true to the Lord's promises in His Great Commission, he saw His great Hand in the matter, to the very details. He was spared from the worst and he believed the task he had been called to do was unfinished, and the Lord had chosen to let him be around to complete it. Fee Chin was also hospitalized after Ah Asiau's ordeal. The Lord is great, and they were spiritually uplifted due to the two incidences. "Keep on believing" has been their motto all these years. It was wonderful to experience the care and love of believers during their needs.

Indonesia

Survey and exposure to Indonesia's needs took place in Java in 2015, 2016 and early 2017. They had the opportunity to work with Assemblies in Central Java to old English Camps, Bible Camps, and Leadership training, besides meeting Church leaders. They finally zeroed down to Semarang, and real action began on the ground on 22nd August, 2017. They started a Youth and Children Centre (YCC) and a local church, Pusat Komunita Banaran (PKB) in 2018 for outreach and worship. Ah Asiau had a severe fall

during his time at the university. But thank God for His protection; he received treatment from the local hospital and recovered well. Ah Asiau and Fee Chin had to leave the field and stop the partnership with the local church from January 2020 onwards due to visa issues.



First breaking of bread in PKB (2018)

Covid Pandemic And MCO

In early 2020, Covid-19 went pandemic, and all trips to the oversea mission fields had to be put on hold though Ah Asiau and Fee Chin had planned to visit Nepal in March 2020. During the two years, Ah Asiau continued providing training to the young believers in KLC and developed a new ministry, Digital Good News, to share the gospel via flipbooks online.

Sickness

In the year 2022, Ah Asiau was diagnosed with Bronchopneumonia on 29th January, and his oxygen level was not normal. Hence, he was admitted to the hospital for a check-up and treatment. Through the various check-ups and tests, Ah Asiau was diagnosed with Colorectal cancer Stage 3. He went for surgery almost immediately. He was discharged on 31st March, recovering well at home, and he



Preparing leadership training the next day after discharged on 31 March 2022

even started preparing for the leadership training for the young leaders in KLC the next day. On the 14th April afternoon, Ah Asiau went home to be with our Lord all of a sudden after experiencing difficulty in breathing. We were deeply grieved for the loss. It was a great loss for such a leader with a vision for His Kingdom, a servant with love and care for the sheep, and an elder who stressed the importance of God's Word

Touching Lives

Quotes from what Ah Asiau had written in one of his articles:

Faithful God

Threatening letters, wars, accidents, sicknesses, death, spiritual encounters, oppositions from inside and outside. All these revealed that our Lord's faithfulness reaches to the sky (Psalms 57: 10- 11).

Fee Chin And Our Team

I thank God for a faithful and loving partner through these years to serve our Lord. Our Lord provided the best for His purpose. If we were given another chance, we would like to repeat the process, but, alas, the world has changed a lot.

The Lord has blessed us with marvelous teams at the base and in the fields. "It seems that the Lord took several inexperienced young men (*and women*) and used them in ways they (*and we*) never dreamed." quoting Billy Graham. Needless to say, we are blessed with the local Churches partnering with us. We have spun out from Jasin, but we wish there have been more 'ripples'! Please do pray with us and for us.



Photo of Ah Asiau and Fee Chin taken in Indonesia in 2019

Shout Of Joy And Gratitude

The Lord has been true to His promises. He provided all when He called, and He was present always out in the battle fields and also at the base (Matt. 28: 18-20; Phil. 4: 19). The KLC members are now fully involved with the local and the frontier missions.

It is a great privilege to walk with and serve such a great and marvellous Lord! Thank God for this honour. Praise Him! All glory is due to Him for His wonderful plan for my (and our) lives together.

CONCLUSION

We praise the Lord for everything He has done through Ah Asiau and Fee Chin throughout their lives.

Blessing the Orang Asli

Chris Tay; pmoam1@gmail.com



As we look back at the Lord's hand touching the lives of the Orang Asli (OA) communities, we want to give thanks to God for His faithfulness & goodness. As we look forward to the years ahead, we want to keep a focus on what God has called us to do, no matter daunting it is. We will continue to work together with the OA leaders & believers to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ and to make Him known in the fringes and deep forests of Perak and Pahang.

Who are the Orang Asli?

The Orang Asli are the Indigenous Peoples of Peninsula Malaysia and they numbered 210,611 in 2019. The 18 Orang Asli subgroups within the Negrito (Semang), Senoi and Aboriginal-Malay groups account for 0.7% of the population of Peninsular Malaysia ^[1]. Virtually all OA households are in the income bracket of the poorest 40% of Malaysians, says the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns. The centre estimates that 54,600 or 99.29% of all Orang Asli households earn below Rm4,000 a month, putting them in the B40 category ^[2].

They are dispossessed of their native customary land, face malnutrition and are vulnerable to diseases. The majority is not integrated into mainstream society, either by choice or lack of choice due to discrimination and lack of education ^[2].

The task of uplifting the OA community seems daunting, yet they open doors of opportunities. We are always reminded of PMOAM's mission, which is to share Christ and love the OA people whom our Lord loves.



Touching Lives

Challenging Years 2020-2022

Many of our fellow OA believers were badly impacted during the pandemic. During this challenging time, we continue to reach out to the OA communities in order that they would experience the love, healing and new life that comes from knowing our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, at Pan Malaysia OA Mission (PMOAM), have been blessed to make a difference in the lives of the OA. With the partnership of the indigenous church, Sidang Injil Orang Asli (SIOA), many OA families (including single mums, vulnerable and non-believers) have been touched by our love and compassion. Despite a great risk to their health and safety, the OA brethren distributed foodstuffs such as rice, dry food, cooking oil and preventive materials such as face masks, sanitizer and soap to the communities. Our OA brethren had distributed aid to 25 OA villages in Pahang and 24 OA villages in Perak, reaching out to hundreds of families.



We are thankful to the Lord that the SIOA continues to strive during the pandemic years, reaching out to the OA communities in need, serving with humility, love, and compassion. When we are committed to providing relief and to making lives more bearable for the OA communities, amazing doors open for our OA workers to enter homes and share the gospel to many. We are thankful that many have come to know the Lord and been baptised during this dark moment.

The work would not be possible without the prayers and generous love gifts by many individuals and assemblies from Malaysia and Singapore. Thank you for your generosity.



As if the pandemic was not bad enough, the OA communities in Pahang were also affected by flood during this monsoon season (Dec 2021-Jan 2022). At the height of the flood in Pahang, our OA brethren utilised whatever logistics available such as 4WD vehicles, lorry and boats to bring aid to those affected and those who were not accessible by road.



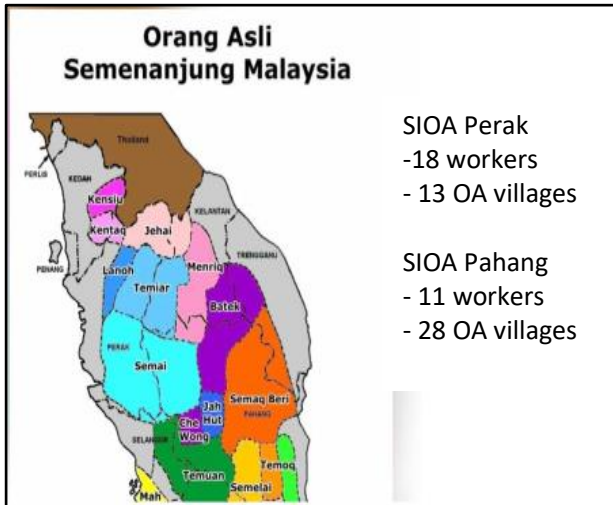
As our partnership with SIOA has evolved, we are glad that after more than 30 years of working together, our OA brethren have taken upon themselves additional roles and responsibilities to exercise greater control over the ministry.



Touching Lives

OA Mission

As of 31st July 2022, the number of workers and villages under SIOA Perak and SIOA Pahang are as follows:



SIOA Perak is headed by Bah Ngah with Rolisa as his deputy. While SIOA Pahang is headed by Nor Yuasra (Ngai) with Hermanila (Man) as his deputy. As the ministry progresses, we need more workers to cover vast areas.

A New Vision

In 2020, we adopted the slogan “Empowering OA For OA Work” and with that, we implemented a framework to govern our partnership and relationship. The framework aims to give OA a greater say in decisions that affect them. We would progressively give OA their decision-making power and authority and recognise OA leadership. Empowering OA involves PMOAM and SIOA working together to set the overall mission, priorities and strategies.

Empowering OA involves 2 main aspects. It means the SIOA would take upon themselves responsibilities for establishing leadership, initiating church growth and setting goals and directions and finding solutions. It also means PMOAM sharing certain powers and responsibilities, supporting SIOA with resources to equip them for their new roles and responsibilities. PMOAM will continue to support SIOA with financial resources.

Future of OA

Though the challenges are immense, we believe the future looks bright for SIOA churches. We are convinced that the OA believers could be the forefront of a great revival and harvest in our country.

Below are the 3 reasons why we are convinced:

1. Age

Many of the OA leaders are in their prime, 30s and 40s. They are energetic, enthusiastic, and might offer fresh perspective on OA work. They are eager to learn, resourceful and are more comfortable with technology. Being young, they have an advantage in reaching the youth and young people as they can communicate with them at their level.

2. Passion

They will do whatever it takes to reach OA people with the Gospel. What we see is that God is using each one of them to make a big impact across all OA villages and communities. Their passion is driven by their love for our Lord Jesus Christ and the souls of their fellow OA.

3. Courage

Church planting in remote and unknown places is a risky endeavour. Most churches that have achieved great things for God take risks. The OA leaders display such courage and trait. They are willing to go into deep jungle, difficult to access locations because there are many in OA villages who are yet to hear the Gospel.

How Can We Help?

1. We (the city and town churches) work together

For the ministry to progress, we must pool our resources and explore areas of cooperation such as training of OA pastors & leaders, assisting to develop resources such as teaching, children’s materials and song books and contributing towards the financial need of the ministry.

2. We work in partnership with the OA leaders

It is not about us just doing or planning something for the OA; it is not about an employer-employee relationship; it is about us working alongside and partnering with OA leaders, enabling them to achieve great things for God. John Stott wrote, “God invites us to share in his work. Indeed, our work becomes a privilege when we see it as a collaboration with God.” (Through The Bible). God could use us and in partnership with OA leaders to achieve something beyond our imagination.

3. We provide support and guidance

When working with these OA leaders who are courageous and passionate, let us be patient and provide space for them to grow and take upon the added roles and responsibilities. Guide them and support them through thick and thin. Let them feel that we are part of them and they are part of us. Together, we are one in the Lord.

Touching Lives

Leaving a legacy for the OA

"When we share God's heart and vision for the world, we will be blessed. So, we see a glorious cycle. We are blessed; we use that blessing to reach a hurting world, and as that aligns us with the heart of God, we are blessed even more, so we use that blessing for all the earth, and it just goes on and on". - David Guzik

God blesses us so that we can be used by God to bless others. Since we have been so wonderfully blessed, let us share and make life a little better for our OA. Let us empower our OA brethren to share the gospel and uplift the OA communities and make a difference in the lives of the present OA communities and future generations.

Ps. 102:18 - *This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.*
Should you require further information, you are welcome to contact us at pmoam1@gmail.com

You may bank in or transfer to the following account:

Pan Malaysia OA Mission
Public Bank Bhd A/c no 3192916101,
Bandar Puchong Jaya Branch, Selangor, Malaysia.

Thank you for considering giving OA the resources and support they need and opening doors for the next generation.

One last point

It will be amazing that the people closest to nature who have seen the glory of creation can see the glory of the Creator and experience His grace and mercy. The Lord can use us to work in partnership with the OA believers, to reach out to the OA so that they can see the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and to treasure, cherish and savour Him. Let us empower the OA to bring the gospel to every OA tribe and every OA village.

Let us together with the OA sing a new song to our Lord -
"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." ...Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV

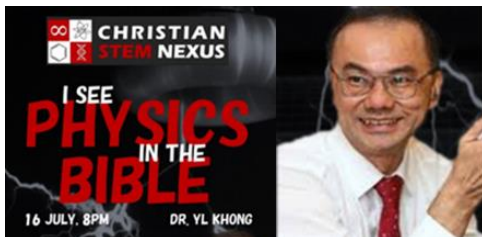
Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

[1] IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

[2] Almost all of Malaysia's Orang Asli are locked into poverty and struggling – The Star 18/8/20

Connecting through Science and Technology for the Gospel

Dr. YL Khong; ylkhong1@gmail.com



In Psalms 19, David under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote:

¹*The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament^[a] shows His handiwork.*
²*Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.*

How so? How does the heavens declare the glory of God? What sort of knowledge are they revealing, about itself? About God? Today, we know so much more about Universe and the amazing phenomena that occurs within it than any other period in history. But how do we make use of those knowledge to have conversations about God?

In another passage in Romans 1:20, Paul wrote *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power ..."*. The Scripture leaves no doubt that God's power and attributes are revealed from things that are made i.e., nature. But what do we know from the "Book of Nature" that allows us to understand Him?

The sheer sizes of the galaxies and our universe itself, the strange behavior of space and time and the strangeness of behavior at the quantum (atomic and sub-atomic level) is mind boggling. In a world hunger for God and meaning of life, modern scientific discoveries in the last century have opened new narratives to better "declare the glory of God" and provide insights into God's hands in Nature.

For several years, I was appointed to help start and develop a science centre. The main objective of a science centre was to popularize and educate on matters related to science and technology. It was while running the science centre that I found how science related activities can capture the attention of students and the general public. From that observation, an inspiration was received to utilize science as a ministry for the Gospel and to edify the saints. After socializing the idea with saints, together with several brothers and sisters, the **Christian STEM Nexus (CSN)** was birthed. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Nexus of course means a connection or a link.



Touching Lives



Since its inception in October 2021, the CSN has held monthly meetings. Saints come together to fellowship and listen to talks on interesting

topics related to STEM and faith. In addition, materials related to STEM was developed and deployed to reach out to schools and students. This is in line with the key objectives of the CSN i.e., to edify the saints and to reach out with the Gospel using STEM as a connection point.

In 2019, prior to the formation of the CSN, I developed some bench-top STEM teaching apparatus and brought them to Sangkhim School in Cambodia and developed material for a camp called Nature Adventure that was carried out in Tapah, Perak for form one to form four students. From these initial forays, it became clear the usefulness of STEM related materials to reach out to students with the Gospel and reinforce their faith.

In 2021, on the invitation by Yi Sheng (a Chinese Assembly organization for assembly Youth work) to give talks on STEM and the Christian Faith, four talks were prepared covering Creationism, Big Bang, Science and Technology and Christian Living, and Science and the End Times.

In 2021, a set of activities centred around the science of magnetism called “The Invisible Force” was developed and deployed twice in collaboration with Scripture Union. In this program, the question was asked, as the magnetic force is invisible, what else in nature is invisible? Through this, we brought up the idea of an invisible God and subsequently brought into the conversations what this invisible God is like.

During Christmas 2021, a set of science activities titled “The Christmas Star” was developed and deployed at Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre for the children’s special Christmas program. In this program, the Christmas story is told focussing on the star, hence the title. An astronomy theme was developed asking the question, what was the Christmas star? Each child is given a boxed kit with materials for activities related to the STEM theme. This gives us the opportunity to talk about astronomical objects

and at the same time tell the Christmas story about the Messiah.

Another set was developed called “The Amazing Cross” was developed for Easter 2022 and deployed at Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre, SS Gospel Centre (SSGC) and the OA work of the SSGC. Here, the centre gravity, an optical illusion and magnetism was used to talk about the laws of nature and the question was asked on who puts the laws there. Invariably, every primary school child would say God. From there, the conversation can be carried forward by discussing about what a God who puts the laws of nature in place is like and if there are physical laws that God put in place, what about other laws like moral and spiritual laws? The discussion was carried forward by asking what they think would be the consequences of breaking those laws? Some of the activities of The Amazing Cross was used for a youth program at Jalan Imbi Chapel, Kuala Lumpur.

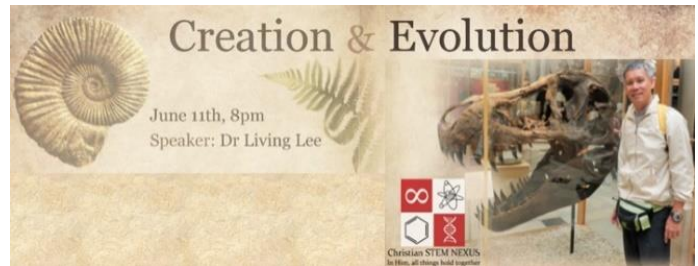


Various other STEM and faith related programs were run for a home school group, an activity at Wesley International School, Penang and a 3-day camp at Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre. For the latter, science demos and games were designed, and a series of talks called “The Amazing Laws of Nature”, “The Amazing Immune System” and “The Amazing Life on Earth” were developed. The talks come with exciting demonstrations like a hand that catches fire but not get burn, preparation, and visualization of white and red blood cells and detection the Earth’s magnetic field. In the process, the largely non-Christian audience were told about

1. the perfect and consistent laws of nature pointing to an omniscience God,
2. the body that is wonderfully made with a powerful immune system and yet we die because of sin and
3. The many mechanisms and processes on a cosmic scale that sustains and protects life on Earth to show how God cares for and loves the world and closing with God loving the world enough to have His Son die for us.

Touching Lives

Coming to almost a year of CSN's inception, the opportunity to use STEM for faith purposes is becoming clear. In September, an online conference over two weekends were organized with topics including Science and Faith; Intelligent Design/Signpost to God; STEM Evangelism; Scripture and Science; STEM Apologetics; Creation Care. There were several requests to conduct programs and activities for students at various places up to the end of the year. However, resources are currently limited to carry out programs for all the requests. However, a 4-day camp will be carried out in Tapah, Perak in December on a STEM and Faith theme.



Those interested in this work can contact Dr. YL Khong (ylkhong1@gmail.com)

Perspectives on Children's Ministry

YL Khong and Selina Tan; ylkhong1@gmail.com, selinatan88@gmail.com

This narrative concerning Jesus and children can be found in Mark 10:13-16

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." 16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Those who brought the children to Jesus presumably had the interests of the children at heart. After all, Jesus at that point in His ministry had gained the status of a prophet and a man of God, through his teachings and miracles. Many people wanted to touch Him and be touched by Him in order to receive special blessings (see also Mark 5:25-34). Which of us, as parents do not want a special blessing from the hands of God for our children?

It is interesting to contrast the attitude of Jesus' disciples and Jesus towards those little children. Why did the disciples rebuke those who brought the children? The original Greek word for "rebuked" i.e. *epitimaō* gave the impression the disciples gave a severe or harsh scolding to those who brought the children. I can imagine the disciples thinking that the priorities of the master should be – amazing teaching to the masses, defending Himself from the detractors, showing the power of God through His miracles, establishing His following base and such like. The stuff grown-ups are concerned about. Hence, bringing children to Jesus is really wasting His time or so they thought.

Table 3 # Assemblies with percentage of members in given age

		Age Range (Years)				
		≤ 13	13-20	21-40	41-60	≥ 61
Percentage Range	0%	10	9	2	1	0
	0-10%	36	24	8	2	2
	11-20%	9	18	19	15	10
	21-30%	0	3	15	20	9
	31-40%	0	1	5	11	13
	41-50%	0	0	3	2	8
	51-60%	0	0	2	1	2
	61-70%	0	0	1	0	8
	71-80%	0	0	0	3	3
ALL ASSEMBLIES						
		≤ 13	13-20	21-40	41-60	≥ 61
Percentage Range	0%	3	2	0	0	0
	0-10%	17	9	2	2	2
	11-20%	7	12	6	4	8
	21-30%	0	3	11	9	3
	31-40%	0	1	2	9	6
	41-50%	0	0	3	1	4
	51-60%	0	0	2	0	1
	61-70%	0	0	1	0	2
	71-80%	0	0	0	2	1
KLANG VALLEY ASSEMBLIES (SELANGOR & KL)						
		≤ 13	13-20	21-40	41-60	≥ 61
Percentage Range	0%	7	7	2	1	0
	0-10%	19	15	6	0	0
	11-20%	2	6	13	11	2
	21-30%	0	0	4	11	6
	31-40%	0	0	3	2	7
	41-50%	0	0	0	1	4
	51-60%	0	0	0	1	1
	61-70%	0	0	0	0	6
	71-80%	0	0	0	1	2
NON KLANG VALLEY ASSEMBLIES						

I find it also interesting, at Jesus' response to the attitude of His disciples. The Greek phrasing of the text suggests displeasure and indignance, perhaps anger even. Linguistically, indignance arise from a feeling of unfairness and injustice. From Jesus' perspective, there is this sense he is not just annoyed but angry at the attitude of the disciples who see children as of lesser priority.

Touching Lives

The discussion above on Jesus' attitude towards children provides a good segue into how we view and prioritize children's ministry in our assemblies.

Firstly, let us recap by looking at the age profile in our assemblies (see Table 3), from the survey done last year (Diakonia 2021, pg. 64). We can see 10 assemblies do not have any children less than 13 years old; 36 assemblies have less than 10% and 9 assemblies have between 11 – 20%, in this age range. Based on the population pyramid data 2019*, we should have roughly 20% of our population in all our assemblies in this age range to be on par with the general population. But we are not; from the data from the 2021 survey, the assembly is actually aging faster than the general population. In the 21-40 years age range i.e., the marriageable and child-bearing age, the figures indicate that for the assemblies, this is also lower than general population.

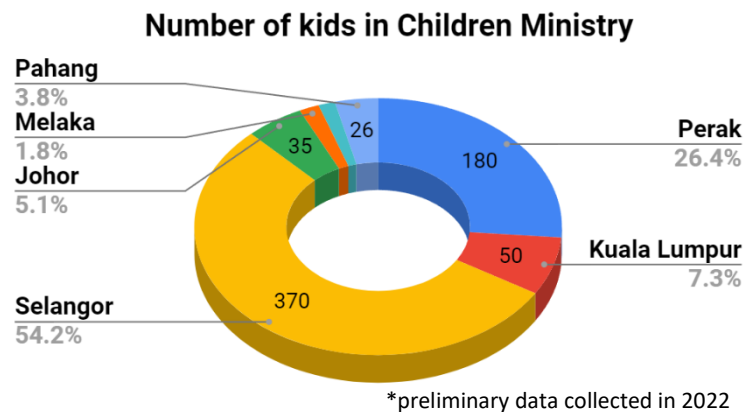
Overall, this indicates we cannot expect organic growth of the children's work from within our assemblies but the growth needs to come from an active outreach to those outside the assemblies. Based on the data, there should be a more concerted effort to be useful. There will likely be a knock-on effect where the lack of children will lead to a lack of youth and young adults if we do not act. Potentially, this will lead to a degradation of the children's work due to a lack of youth and young adults to labour in the children's work. In fact, we understand quite a few assemblies are already facing this issue.

From the survey in 2021, out of the 55 assemblies who responded, 47 assemblies conduct Sunday School and 42 assemblies indicated they have outreach activities related to children. The sense here is that children's work is still in the heart of many assemblies. However, it must be noted that close to 25% or one quarter of our assemblies do not have children's work for outreach. Further on-the-ground work is required to see approaches to build children's outreach work in assemblies that do not have them and subsequently, how to support these works together.

We attempted to do a survey this year, to get better resolution on how active in children's work are the assemblies and perhaps also the effectiveness of our activities. However, the decision to move the publication of Diakonia 2022 forward by three months means we were not able to complete the work on time. We did however receive 23 responses i.e., from roughly half the assemblies in Malaysia.

From the 23 assemblies who responded, only 1 assembly does not have any children's work. The other 22 assemblies engage 800 children in total. This is very encouraging and shows the level of reach possible

through the children's work. The main source of engagement is Sunday School. The others include VBS, Outings, Tadika, Toddler play group, Weekly chapel classes, after school care, OA, Children's Corner, English Classes and Playgroups. It is of note that 5 assemblies who responded runs Tadika. In the opinion of the authors, Tadika is the easiest entry into the education sphere for the assemblies. It is also heartening that of the 23 assemblies who responded, 21 have programs to articulate the children to once they graduate from the children's program.



Some years ago, one of us (YLK) had the opportunity to interact with a sister in Christ. Datuk Prof. Chiam Heng Keng, Professor of Social Psychology and leading authority in early childhood education. She shared that the first few years (called the formative years) are the most critical in terms of brain development. It is at this stage that a child's experiences will determine the sort of neuron (brain cell) connections the child will make. This in turn will have an impact the sort of adult he or she may turn out to be. In short, the childhood years are the most impressionable stage of an individual's development.

This is consistent with scriptures. In Proverbs 22:6, it is written:

*Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

In our national education policies, it seems a lot of attention is paid at the tertiary level and also secondary level, a little less on primary level and hardly any attention on the pre-school level. Are our assembly priorities following a similar pattern? Are we overly pre-occupied with the "adult matters" of the assemblies like the disciples in the Mark narrative but forgetting to put significant energy to build the foundations of the children entrusted to us. Perhaps it is good for us to re-visit what Jesus taught us in Mark 10 – "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God".

* <https://www.populationpyramid.net/malaysia/2019/>

Touching Lives

Tadika Sungai Nibong

Rosalind Low (Honorary Founder Board Member); tadikasn@gmail.com

Tadika Sungai Nibong (TSN) is registered with the Ministry of Education and has opened its doors to the public since January 11th 1982. It is managed by an Honorary Tadika Board and is an outreach ministry of Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall.

We strive to offer a safe and conducive environment for early childhood education. Blessed with large open space, we can have our own Sports Day, Graduation cum Concert, Open Day activities, fire-drill, and other outdoor activities.

Teaching and learning have continued despite constraints brought by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. Our teachers conducted lessons online from March 2020 till October 2021.

We raise our Ebenezer to the Lord for seeing us through these 40 years! In His strength, we press on. We are also thankful for the Lord's provision of our Executive principal, administrator, and staff.

I am thankful for the privilege of walking alongside the different principals and getting to know our teaching team. I have also had the joy of meeting many young parents and watching generations of young students grow up before my eyes.

My earnest prayer remains. May TADIKA SUNGAI NIBONG continue to be a blessing. May the little seed of 'GOD IS LOVE', blossom into blooms of faith someday.



Tadika Sungai Nibong
51-A, Jalan Pantai Jerjak 1
11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang
Email: tadikasn@gmail.com

Touching Lives

Taska & Tadika KKEY

Elaine Thong; kkeys10years@gmail.com



King's Kids Early Years (KKEY) is a preschool education centre and a children's ministry of SS Gospel Centre (SSGC) since 2002. We are located in SS2, Petaling Jaya sharing the same building with SSGC. We have provided education in 2 main aspects - knowledge and skills toward an academic foundation as well as Character-Building. We changed our name to Taska & Tadika Kanak-Kanak Emas Yakin (KKEY) in 2020 when we obtained our Tadika licence from the Ministry of Education.

It started as an outreach program to the local community and nearby neighbourhoods where the majority of the children were non-believers. In partnership with Children's Corner (playgroup) and King's Kids (Sunday School), we have been steadily channelling each ministry's children and their families to one another.

Children of SSGC and from other churches enrol with us as we provide Christian teaching as part of the preschool education, instilling good habits and values in their early years and to provide a balanced, holistic preschool education in adequate preparation for entry to all streams of primary school. Our graduates have successfully entered and integrated into the National, Chinese, Private or International schools since its inception.

The approach we adopt in our preschool includes the following methodologies and learning models - Montessori, Thematic based training, Left-Right brain development, Senses Stimulation & Action Learning. The learning at our preschool takes place both at the individual (one to one sessions) and group teaching level. Our children can enjoy a trilingual immersion of English, Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese with English as the main medium of instruction.

We also run an After School Program (ASP) catering for the preschool children who need day care from 12.30pm to 6.00pm. The program includes lunch, bathing, napping and also educational activities in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM).

The kindergarten hours are from 8.30am to 12.30pm whilst the ASP hours are from 12.30pm to 6.00pm. Registration is open all year round.



**TASKA & TADIKA KKEY
(Kindergarten)**

Ages: 2.5 - 6 years old

18-22, Jalan SS2/103, Petaling Jaya

Contact:

Ms Elaine Thong / Ms Ai Ning Mah

Tel: 014 368 4560

Email: kkeys10years@gmail.com

Touching Lives

En Fu Home Care

Liew Meow Choo; enfucare@gmail.com

Name of Center:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>En-Fu Care (M) Bhd:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Company No. 200301023193▪ Established Date: 21 August 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Pusat Jagaan Orang Tua Berkat:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Company NO. 200603053781▪ Established Date: 3 April 2006 |
|--|---|

En Fu Home is a non-profit welfare charity founded by a group of Christians from Malaysia and Singapore who are passionate about giving back to the society. The purpose is to give care to those in need in the society, enable them to rediscover the potential of life, find the direction of life and spend the last remaining years of their lives meaningfully.

This organization was planned in 2000. We started by renting a wooden house and received 2 residents in 2003. We registered the home as En-Fu Care (M) Bhd on 21 August 2003. The current building was constructed in 2003. After its completion in 2005, we began using this building that could accommodate 15 seniors.



According to requirement of the laws of Malaysia, we were re-registered as Pusat Jagaan Orang Tua Berkat on April 3, 2006. As of today, we have taken care of 52 elderly people arriving from all over West Malaysia.

The founding of Enfu House began with a fund, a piece of land, and a person with a burden. The first fund was donated by the late Loh Ah Asiau who was left a sum of money by the late sister Chan Li Chin. This land was donated by Chee Yu Chin and his wife. Sister Liew Meow Choo was called to the ministry of the elderly.



Sister Chan Li Chin



Brother Chee Yu Chin & His Wife



Sister Liew Meow Choo

Touching Lives

After that we formed a board of seven brothers and sisters to administer this ministry. They were: the late brother Chee Yu Chin (Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel, Singapore), the late brother Loh Ah Asiau (Kajang Life Church), brother Lim Hong Sang (Cheras Gospel Centre), brother Chok Kwong Hon (Kuala Lumpur Gospel Hall), brother Lim Joo Teck (Ang Mo Kio Gospel Hall, Singapore), Goh Eng Wee (Jasin Gospel Hall) and Sister Liew Meow Choo (Jasin Gospel Hall).



Board of Committee

Loh Ah Asiau, Lim Hong Sang, Goh Eng Wei, Liew Meow Choo, Chee Yu Chin, Lim Joo Teck, Chok Kwong Hor

Currently we have a total of 14 seniors, comprising 8 males and 6 females. In order to provide a spacious environment and space for the residents, we currently only provide 15 units. We accommodate 4 seniors in one room with its own bathroom. This is done so that they learn to take care of and support one another.



The residents have a fixed schedule for their daily routines so life is more orderly. Every morning after 7:00AM, they wash and do morning exercises, and at 8:30AM, all of them will have breakfast together. After breakfast, they will have free time, and some residents will do their own laundry or clean the room by themselves.

At 10:00AM, we will have a meeting, and the meeting will be different every day.

Below are some key weekly itineraries:

- On Mondays, we will gather to watch current affairs together and bring the residents up to date with the latest news.
- On Tuesdays, the residents are led to read the New Testament and understand the teachings of the Bible, so that their lives will be changed through their faith in Jesus Christ.
- On Wednesdays, all the residents have health checks by taking their blood pressure and body temperatures. Occasionally, some topics about health care or exercises are shared to encourage them to live a healthy old age.
- Thursdays is playing games. We will design different games to make them participate as much as possible to help them feel good.
- Fridays gathering is to share general knowledge that they might not know including: history, geography, anecdotes, trivia, the 'best' in the world, animals, plants, nature, science, and more.
- On Saturdays, the residents will read the Old Testament and know the commandments of God, so that they can live a godly and God-honouring life by relying on God.

Touching Lives



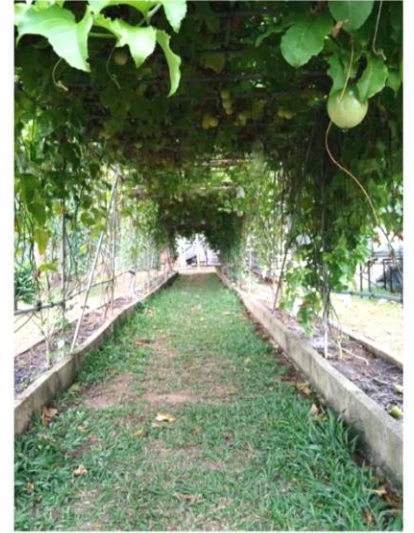
On Sunday morning, if the residents are willing, we will take them to Jasin Gospel Hall to worship God with the brothers and sisters. Sometimes they will have lunch there, and some elders will even participate in the Senior Fellowship. But since the MCO, for safety reasons, we can't take them out of the home or go to church. We can only arrange for preachers, elders, and invited brothers to come and lead them to worship God. We specially arrange different gatherings in the morning, with the purpose of giving these residents a colourful life in their later years, just like what the motto says: ***"Scholars do not go out, they can know the World."***

After the Sunday meeting it's their free time. At this time, most of the residents will read the newspaper, chat, and sometimes even discuss the topics they heard during the meeting earlier. At 12 noon is their lunch time. After lunch, we encourage some seniors to clean up the utensils, dishes, wipe the table, etc., so that they can move more. Then it's their rest time. They will take naps, chat, or listen to the radio until 3PM when tea is served. After tea is their free time. They will watch TV, tidy up the room, take a shower and so on. At 6:30PM in the evening, we will have dinner together. Afterwards there will be time for a walk, watching TV until 11PM when they are ready to go back to their rooms to rest.



Touching Lives

The expenses of the En Fu Home are mainly on food, utilities, gas for the car to take the elderly to the hospital, and to purchase some cleaning supplies from Jasin town. Our monthly expenditure is approximately RM11,000, which also includes staff salaries. Because we have a large land area, we also strongly encourage some elders to cultivate some vegetables on it and by hydroponics, such as: choy sum, cabbage, mustard greens, green beans, lettuce, pepper, mint, etc. We also grow some fruits in this place, such as: bananas, papaya, pineapple, jackfruit, mango, sage, star fruit, etc., so that the home can supplement itself and save some expenses.



Occasionally, caring people in this area will come to donate some food, supplies and money to meet the needs here. Usually, some churches will give donations on a



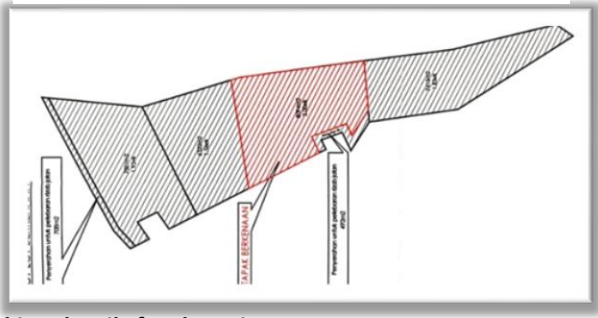
regular or intermittent basis to support our ministry; and some churches will organize visiting teams to come to communicate with and care for the elders. Sometimes some societies come to donate items during Chinese New Year. Thus far, God's support and assistance through people from all walks of life and churches have provided us with everything we need.

Year 2022 Family Photo

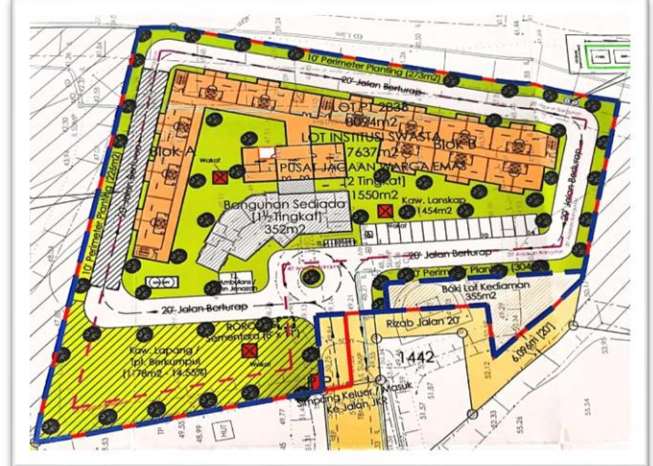


Touching Lives

Our Future Plan – To Build A Retirement Home Sub-division to 4 LOT



Extension for retirement home



Banking details for donations:

- En-Fu Care (M) BHD: (For Building and Ministry Use)
 - Maybank Account No.: 504030224530
- Pusat Jagaan Orang Tua Berkat: (For Old Folk Operation Use)
 - Ambank Account No.: 1502012001727

A brief story about Sister Liew & Brother Joshua.



Name: Ms Liew Meow Choo
Date accepted Christ: 20/12/1985
Baptism date: 6/4/1986
Date of full-time ministry: 14/5/1990

1990	As a teacher in Tadika RIA Jasin, which was one of the ministries at Jasin Gospel Hall
1991	Short-term Bible School (At that time, I went to interview the person in-charge at Shelter Home in Kajang and began to have the vision to serve in social care)
1992	Short-term mission training by Kajang Life Chapel
1993-1994	Emmaus Bible School (Year 1 & 2)
1995-1997	Serving in Jasin Gospel Hall and Tangkak Gospel Hall
1998	Emmaus Bible School (Year 3)
1999-2000	Serving in Banting Gospel Hall
2001-Present	Serving in En Fu Care Home

Brother Joshua Wong Hong Yaw



My name is Joshua Wong Hong Yaw. I have been working here since I finished my Form 6 in 2008, and it has been 14 years now. I did not have the vision to work in an old folks' home from the very beginning, but I knew very well that I wanted to serve God; so, I was very happy to learn and serve God here as I continue to seek the will of God for my life.

Along my journey, I learned many lessons that God wanted me to learn, such as how to care for the elderly. Many seniors needed others to listen to their heart's stories, so I learned to listen. Furthermore, each elderly person has different personalities and temperaments. A lot of patience and love are required to live happily with them. Leading different gatherings, designing different types of activities, and sharing different topics are also my duty. If something unexpected

happens to the elderly at night, I also need to sacrifice my rest time to deal with their situation, which may require an urgent trip to the hospital.

Committing to this ministry will indeed eat into your time, including the lack of fixed public holidays, the need to continue to work when manpower is insufficient, and so on. 14 years have gone by and I am still doing these services as God has gradually increased my vision for this ministry. I have a family, and my wife is willing to serve here. So even though we have children, we still serve here as a family. Because God's love has come to me through that free grace, I want this grace to come to the residents who live there through my service.

Reaching Out ...

Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia



Mission Kampong Chhnang in Cambodia is a faith ministry through K-12 education and church planting with opportunities for evangelism and discipleship among Cambodian youth people. We are looking for self-supporting co-workers to serve in the following:

- English / Chinese / Music / Art / Sports Teacher
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- Children / Youth Ministry
- Bible School Administrator / Teacher
- Facility / Project Manager

Contact Brother Kian at kian@sangkhimchurch.org or WhatsApp: +65-9642-1239 to explore areas you can use your experience for the Kingdom of God.

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Children Ministries at Agape and The Living Room

A-KIDS Playgroup

As one of the touch ministries in Agape Chapel, A-Kids Playgroup provides a conducive environment for parents and toddlers to come together to foster learning through play as well as bonding and socialization.

<https://forms.gle/cpH2V5KePR9e7dCf6>

The Living Room

Sunday School | Time: 5pm-6:30pm

Children: Ages 4-12

Activities: Bible lessons & applications, worship, games, arts & crafts, singing, snacks, and more.

Address: 143-2, Jln PJU 1A/41B, Pusat Dagangan NZX, Ara Jaya 47301 Petaling Jaya

Contact person: Louisa 012-4820607

Let's have fun getting to know God and His plans through the Sunday School Bible Quiz 2022 for 9-12 years old

- 22 Oct
- 12 Nov

Register by 25 Sep 2022

For Registration:



Reaching Out ...

Children Ministries at Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre (BPGC)

BPGC Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre
www.bpgc-puchong.org

SUNRISE KIDZ
 (4 yrs – 12 yrs old)

Come join the fun and make new friends!

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- Learn English and life skills
- Action Songs
- Crafts
- Storytelling
- Games & Quiz
- Building Blocks

CONTACTS:
 Mun Ching (012-688 5947)
 Peggy Yong (012-253 9091)

Email: bpgc.sunrise@gmail.com

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 Pusat Bandar Puchong
 Puchong

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 • Believes in imparting good Values at early age?

That's us!
 Our Program is specially designed for little ones aged 2-3 years old, accompanied by a parent/grandparent

Come and visit us to find out more.
 We meet every Tuesday and Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am (except for public & school holidays)

Call us, we'd love to hear from you:
 • Wai Ching @ 012-3180185
 • Peggy @012-2539091

ACTIVITIES
 Lessons on Theme
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 Music & Movement
 Storytime
 Art & Craft

Scan to enrol



Children Ministries at SS2 Gospel Centre (SSGC)

**CHILDREN'S CORNER
 PLAYSCHOOL**
 Ages 2-4
 Friday | 10.00am - 11.30am

Early childhood development

Meet other full time parents/grandparents

Contact: Janice Tay @ 012 303 9503
 To register or queries <http://cc.ssgc.church>

KING'S KIDS

Sunday (11:30am - 12:45pm)
 Ages: 3 - 12 years old

Inspiring Godly values and spiritual development

- Music & movement
- Bible lessons
- Art & craft, games
- Vacation Bible School / camp

Jeane Yong @ 012 211 7828
 18-22, Jalan SS2 / 103, Petaling Jaya

**Open for
 Registration**

To all parents whose children are born from January 2019 onwards
 Register them today!

TKKEY Contact Details:
 Mobile: 014-3684560
 Email: kkey10years@gmail.com
 9.00am to 3.00pm (Mon-Fri)

Age : 3 - 6 years old
 Time: 8.30am - 12.30pm (Kindergarten)
 12.30pm - 6.00 pm (After School Program)
 Venue: 18-22, Jalan SS2 / 103, Petaling Jaya
 Contact : Ms Elaine Thong / Ms Ai Ning Mah

Reaching Out ...

Bukit Bintang STAR KIDS



Outdoor Learning

Caring for Animals

Play Time

Classroom Learning

STAR KIDS

EVERY CHILD A PRECIOUS STAR

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Learning extends beyond the well-ventilated classrooms. There is ample space for facilitating outdoor activities in the school garden. **Star Kids** learn, play and grow in an orderly, safe and fun environment where love and training go hand in hand.

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- ★ Create opportunities for sensory experiences, socialization, team spirit & character development.
- ★ Stimulate curiosity and creativity.
- ★ Build confidence and foster physical growth.

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MONDAY TO FRIDAY

For more information, registration or appointment to visit:

Ms. Melody (Pre-school Administrator) 010 441 5625 Ms. Lucinda (Principal) 016 367 3493

Contact Tel: 03-7931 1117

Email: bbkids2014@gmail.com Website: www.bbkidspj.wordpress.com
FB: www.facebook.com/tadikabukitbintangPJ Instagram: [bukitbintangpreschool](https://www.instagram.com/bukitbintangpreschool)

Waze
BUKIT BINTANG PRESCHOOL (STAR KIDS)

Tadika Sungai Nibong



Tadika Sungai Nibong

stn

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greeting cards, Sunday School materials, calendars,
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Operating hours: Monday to Saturday, 11am – 6pm.

Penang Store: 4th Floor Midlands Park Centre, Jalan Burma, 10350 George Town, Pulau Pinang,
Malaysia. Tel: +604-227 6431. Operating hours: Monday to Friday, 12pm – 6pm.

CBSM

DIAKONIA Bible Quiz 2023



**12 YEARS OLD
& BELOW**



**13 – 18
YEARS OLD**



**19 – 30
YEARS OLD**



4 March 2023



Online Quiz

**30 objective questions
+ 1 subjective**

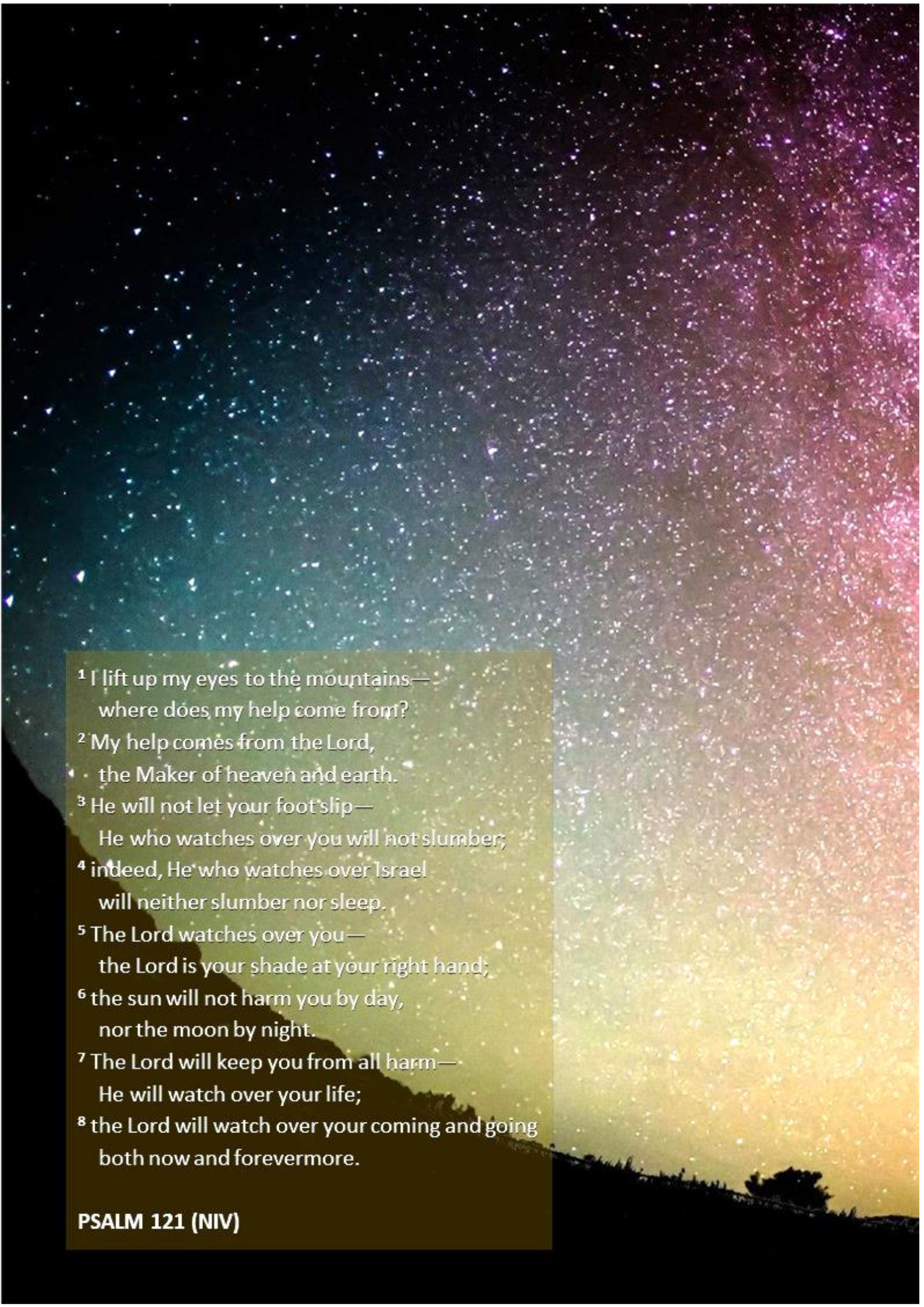


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of book prizes**

**3 winners for
each category**

REGISTER NOW





¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
He who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, He who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
He will watch over your life;
⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

PSALM 121 (NIV)