

50 *years*
Merdeka

Children as Transformation Agents




40-Day Fast and Prayer

22 July - 30 August 2007



Children as Transformation Agents



Introduction

Children as Transformation Agents

More than 2000 years ago, a boy gave Jesus his 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5000 men (John 6:10). God used a child to reach out to so many people! Isn't it wonderful?

God uses us, adults and children, for His purposes and to demonstrate His love for the people. Indeed, children are His "transforming agents"!

This year, Malaysia is celebrating 50 years of Independence. God has blessed our country with peace and prosperity.

Since God has put you in this beautiful and unique country, take this journey through history, and discover your part in God's plan for Malaysia.



Week 1
Jul 22-28



LOVE

"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.... Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13

22 July

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD



Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

This is the greatest commandment given by God. The best way to show our love for God is to love the people around us.

Pray



Thank God for parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, friends and neighbours.

ACT

- ***Tell God that today you will love Him with all your heart and mind.***

23 July

LOVE YOURSELF

The Lord said to me, "I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:4

Even before you were born, God already knew you. You are **UNIQUE** and have a great future. You are not an accident. God has created you and chosen you to be born at such a time as this. You are called to be a blessing to those around you.



Pray



God to help you understand yourself and change habits that are not pleasing to Him.



Opportunity to bless others with kindness.

ACT

- **Memorise Jeremiah 1:4 and share this truth with a friend.**

24 July

LOVE YOUR PARENTS



“Honour your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Ephesians 6:2

God holds parents responsible for their children. Children are to honour their parents no matter how the parents treat them.

Pray



Ask forgiveness from God and your parents if you have disobeyed them.



Ask the Holy Spirit to set you free from rebellion.



God to bless your parents daily, fill them with His love, and give them strength to support the family.

ACT



Remember to always thank your parents.

25 July

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS

"Work for the good of the cities where I have made you go as prisoners. Pray to me on their behalf because if they are prosperous, you will be prosperous too."
Jeremiah 29:7

Malaysia is a multi-racial country with ethnic groups. Among others are the Orang Asli, Malays, Chinese, Indians, Eurasians, and the indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak. We must appreciate and respect our diverse cultures.



Pray



Peace and prosperity in our country.



Compassion and love among the people, and respect for one another.

ACT



Greet your neighbour(s).

26 July

LOVE YOUR COUNTRY



"But you are like the salt for all mankind. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it. You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:13,14

As Christians, we can make a difference in our country. God hears our prayer when we speak out against wickedness, greed, corruption, and injustice.

Pray



All Malaysians to do what is right and just.



Against the spirit of corruption and greed.

ACT

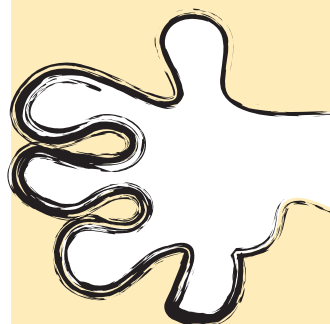
● **Before you do anything, ask this question, "What would Jesus do?"**

27 July

LOVE THE POOR, WEAK AND NEEDY

"Defend the rights of the poor and orphans; be fair to the needy and the helpless. Rescue them from the power of evil men." Psalm 82:3-4

God has a special heart for the poor, weak and helpless.



Pray



Those who abuse the weak and helpless to be convicted.



The rich to help the poor in education and job opportunities.



God's blessings upon the children's homes.



Compassion for the weak.

ACT



Make friends with someone who is disabled or confined to a wheelchair.

28 July

LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT

“So God created human beings, making them to be like Himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all wild animals.”
Genesis 1:27, 28

God created the world for us to look after. Sadly, we have abused our natural resources and polluted our lands, air, and rivers, causing damages to the environment.

Global warming has been a big issue. It is said that polar bears may be listed as endangered species because their lives are being threatened by the climate change.

Pray



We will be good stewards to our natural environment and to take care of God's creation.



Malaysians will commit to maintain cleanliness at home and in public places, and to take part in recycling projects.



Adults not to throw rubbish around.

ACT



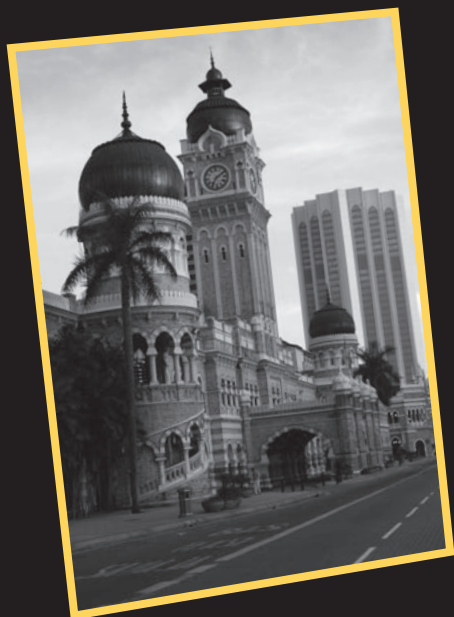
Start a recycling project with your family or friends.

Week 2
Jul 29 - Aug 4



History

"How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! He announces victory and says to Zion, 'Your God is king!'" **Isaiah 52:7**



29 July

The Melaka Sultanate was founded by Parameswara who converted to Islam in 1414. Melaka became an important trading centre in the region with traders from as far as Arabia, India and China. It eventually attracted the Portuguese, who invaded Melaka in 1511. Mahmud Shah was the last Sultan of Melaka. The Portuguese also brought with them Christianity, i.e. Roman Catholicism.

Some say that the Persian and Turkish traders were the first group of Christians who visited the region in the 7th Century.



Pray



**Thank God for those
who brought Christianity
to Malaysia.**

ACT

- *Find out about
the first church
in Melaka.*

30 July

In 1641, the Dutch came and fought for control of Melaka. In the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824, the Dutch surrendered Melaka and the Malay Peninsula to the British.

Using disputes among the Malay rulers, the British intervened in the administration of the Malay states. For economic purposes, they built roads, railways and brought in immigrants from India and China to work in the tin mines, plantations and government departments. Hospitals, schools and churches were also built to cater to the needs of the communities.

Pray



Thank God for those who laid the foundation for the modern Malaysia.

ACT

- *Find out the name of the first school in Malaysia and share it with a friend.*

31 July

During the World War II Japan invaded Malaya and the British was forced to leave. The end of the War sparked a new political awareness and led to the formation of political parties like UMNO, MCA and MIC. An alliance was formed in 1954 to work towards independence.

In an agreement called the Social Contract, MCA acknowledged that the special rights of the Malays should be protected, and UMNO in return conceded that Chinese and other non-Malays should be granted easier citizenship rights based on the principle of *jus soli* (by birth). The Chinese were also allowed to continue to play a dominant role in economy.

The Yang diPertuan Agong was given the responsibility to safeguard the “special position of the Malays” and the “legitimate interests of other communities”.

Pray




The Social Contract made by the founding fathers of UMNO, MCA and MIC at the birth of Malaysia to be honoured by all generations.

ACT

● Be a good citizen and respect the law.

1 August

n 31 August, 1957, Tunku Abdul Rahman proclaimed Malaya's Independence. Tunku became the first Prime Minister and was known as "Bapa Kemerdekaan".

The first Yang diPertuan Agong was Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Muhammad from Negeri Sembilan.

The country's 13th King, Yang diPertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, was installed in April this year. He calls for all Malaysians to preserve unity and peace.

Pray



Our King and the government to stand for truth, honesty and fairness.

ACT

- **Read up about Tunku Abdul Raman, Tun Tan Cheng Lok and Tun Sambanthan.**

2 August

In 1963 the Federation of Malaya was renamed Malaysia with the admission of the then-British crown colonies of Singapore, Sabah (British North Borneo) and Sarawak.

Because of the sharp divide between the Chinese rich and the Malay poor, the government introduced a policy to improve the situation.

The policy, however, further strained the relationships between the Malays and the Chinese. In 1964, Chinese-Malay riots broke out in the streets of Singapore.

In August 1965, Tunku announced that Singapore would have to leave the Federation. However, racial tension continued, and eventually led to the famous race riots on May 13, 1969. As a result, 196 people died and 6,000 were made homeless.

Pray



Thank God for law and order in our country.



Good relationship to prevail among all races.

3 August**THE GOVERNMENT**

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy with the Yang diPertuan Agong as the Head of the country. The three key branches of the government are: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

The parliament (legislature) is made up of the Yang diPertuan Agong, the Senate (Dewan Negara) and the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat). It makes laws.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the Yang diPertuan Agong to lead the Cabinet. Executive functions (i.e. decision-making) are shared between the Ministers who make up the Cabinet.

The judiciary (the courts and other legal establishment) makes sure that the rule of law is preserved.

Pray

Integrity and wisdom for the leaders.



The leaders to speak for justice, to honour one another and seek the common good.

4 August

“God is not like men, who lie; He is not a human who changes His mind. Whatever He promises, He does; He speaks, and it is done.” Numbers 23:19

At the general elections campaign in 2004, Barisan Nasional promised that no race would be neglected or left behind. It swore to uphold the diversity of religious practice, language and culture, to protect the interests of all citizens, and “will defend the Constitution and laws of the country”.

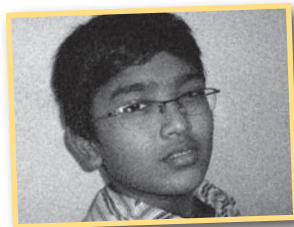
Pray



The Prime Minister and his team to keep all promises made to the people.

Thoughts By Young Malaysians

We have a good Prime Minister and it is the place I grew up with my family. We must stop polluting our rivers. **Berean Naidu, 12**

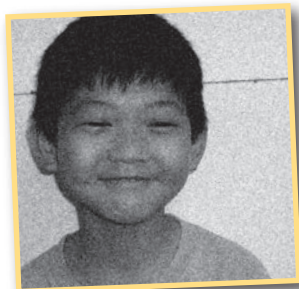


Roti chandai, roti naan, beehoon and pizza are my favourites; I like places like KLCC, KL Tower and even my hometown, Kajang. It is so sad that people throw rubbish everywhere. We must keep our country clean.

Samuel Low, 10

It is a beautiful country with highlands and beaches. I enjoy going for holidays to different parts of Malaysia. I must keep this country clean by not throwing rubbish around.

Tim Pei Voon, 14



I like Malaysia and the delicious food...especially chicken rice! I can make it a better place when I pray hard for this country.

Phang Wei Sheng, 8

Malaysia has so many different states and cultures. Shopping is fantastic with cheap prices. There are many amusement parks and fun places. There are also many churches and we have the freedom to worship. I know God hears my earnest and sincere prayers for this lovely country, Johor Bahru and my family.

Estelle Wong, 11



We have freedom to worship God and it is quite peaceful. Parents should not leave their children alone and need to discipline them when they spend their time in cyber cafes or video arcades. **Deborah Chew, 9**



Malaysia is safe so far – no earthquakes, tornadoes or violent storms. We also don't have people dying of starvation or areas affected by famine." As a Christian, I must do my part in blessing our country. **Dominic Wong, 14**

I can make Malaysia a better place by making it clean and enforcing rules. Malaysia needs better law enforcement.

Lan Chun Hui, 14



We are blessed with different customs and cultures, which make this an interesting country. I like Malaysia for her friendly peoples. I can do my part in making Malaysia a better place by obeying God's Ten Commandments. **Ivan Gan Wei Ren, 14**



Malaysia has great food, freedom to worship God and has so much natural beauty. People are warm and genuine. I can play my part by not littering, being warm and friendly to others and by studying hard.

Cristabelle Naidu, 15

We have many beautiful beaches with tall coconut trees along the beaches. I like the many varieties and colourful flowers, and the historical sites in the different states. Malaysians must take care of the public toilets and telephones. We need to use them in times of emergency! **Esther Yew, 11**

We like our school and teachers and enjoy visiting Melaka. We want to see more places of games like a roller coaster in our country. **Ethan, 7 & Davian Raj Sunther, 9**

Week 3
AUG 5-11



MalaySians

"From one man he created all races of mankind and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt about for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us; as someone has said, 'In Him we live and move and exist.' It is as some of your poets have said, 'We too are his children.' " **Acts 17:26-28**



5 August

ORANG ASLI

“Orang Asli” are the indigenous people in the Peninsular Malaysia. They are divided into three main groups: Negrito, Senoi, and Proto-Malay. They make up 0.6% of the total population of the 27.5 million in our country.

They face land problems. Often, their land is taken away for development. This has made their lives difficult.

Pray



The government agencies to protect their rights as citizens.



More Christian community outreaches work among these people.



The Orang Asli parents to see the importance of their children’s education.

ACT

- *Join a mission trip to an Orang Asli village. Or, even better, ask your parents to go with you!*

6 August

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF SABAH & SARAWAK

There are a total of 28 indigenous groups in Sabah and 41 in Sarawak. They are classified as “bumiputera”.

In Sabah, the largest group is the Kadazandusun who are mainly Christians. After them are the Bajau people and Murut people who are mainly Muslims.

In Sarawak, the largest group is the Iban who are mainly Christians. They form about 31% of the total population in the state. The other groups are the Bidayuh, the Melanau and other tribes.

Pray



Christian native churches to be strong.



Strong family relationship and good values.



Christian parents and adults to be good role models.

ACT



Read up about Sabah and Sarawak.

7 August

MALAYS

The Malays form more than 50.5% of the population. Together with the indigenous people in Sabah and Sarawak, they are called “bumiputera”. Majority of them are Muslims.

Pray



Diligent and honest government officers to carry out poverty eradication programmes.



Strong family values.



Rich Malays to help and empower the poor Malays.

8 August

CHINESE

They form about 23.5% of the population. Majority of them are in business and live in urban areas. However, they are pockets of Chinese living in rural areas. Some of them are poor.

Pray



Diligent and honest government officers to carry poverty eradication programmes.



Strong family values.



Chinese Christians to be good testimonies and willing to help the poor in the communities.

9 August

INDIANS

They form about 7% of the population. They are the smallest of the three main ethnic groups and make up part of the professional group. However, there are also those who live in poverty.

Pray



Diligent and honest government officers to carry poverty eradication programmes.



Strong family values.



Indian Christians to be good testimonies and willing to help the poor in the communities.

10 August

RUKUNEGARA

In 1970, the government wanted all the different races in Malaysia to be united and came out with the “Rukunegara” or the “Five Principles of Nationhood”.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong put forward the Rukunegara during the Merdeka celebration on 31 August.

The Five Principles of the Rukunegara are:

Belief in God
Loyalty to our King and Country
Upholding the Constitution
Rule of Law
Good Behaviour and Morality

Pray



Greater unity among Malaysians.



A caring and just society.

ACT

- Respect our King, our flag and our National Anthem.
- Memorise the five principles of the Rukunegara.

11 August

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 1958, Tunku Abdul Rahman, our first Prime Minister, declared in the Parliament that, "I would like to make it clear that this country is not an Islamic State as it is generally understood, we merely provided that Islam shall be the official religion of the State."

This means that even though Islam is recognised as the official religion, it is only for ritual and ceremonial purposes relating to Muslims.

Article 11 of the Constitution grants every person the freedom to profess, practice and propagate his religion. We need to hold this religious freedom as a precious blessing from God.

Pray



Judges, lawmakers and lawyers to protect our Constitution.



Malaysians to respect and honour one another.

ACT

- **Ask your parents, teachers or other adults about your rights under the Constitution. Write them down.**

Week 4
AUG 12-18



Malaysia

"A city is happy when honest people have good fortune, and there are joyful shouts when wicked men die. A city becomes great when righteous men give it their blessing; but a city is brought to ruin by the words of the wicked."

Proverbs 11:10-11

"Righteousness makes a nation great; sin is a disgrace to any nation."

Proverbs 14:34

ACTION

Start a scrap book on the news about MALAYSIA for this week. You can do this on your own, with your family or with your friends.

- 🕒 *Read the newspaper.*
- 🕒 *Look out for news about the different states.*
- 🕒 *Pray for situations, the cities and the people.*

12 August



MELAKA

Founded by Parameswara. He became a Muslim in 1414 and changed his name to Megat Iskandar Shah. Hang Tuah was the famous Melaka hero. Sultan Mahmud Shah was the last sultan. Mudzaffar Shah (1446-1459) proclaimed Islam as the state religion. Melaka was once under Portuguese rule in 1511, under Dutch rule in 1641 and under British rule until 1957.

NEGERI SEMBILAN

Famous for Minangkabau culture (adat perpatih). Raja Melewar was made the first ruler known as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar in 1773.

Pray



A just and hardworking state government.



Reduction of criminal activities.



Wisdom and courage for the young people.



Good family relationships.

13 August

SELANGOR

Melaka Sultanate ruled Selangor in the 15th Century. The Dutch brought the Bugis from Sulawesi to Selangor. The present Sultanate came from the line of Bugis since 1740. Business rose in 19th Century because of the large tin reserves and growing demand for rubber. The state capital was moved from Klang to Kuala Lumpur in 1880. In 1978, Shah Alam (the first planned city in Malaysia) replaced Kuala Lumpur as state capital.

KUALA LUMPUR






Raja Mahdi of Klang sent the Chinese upriver to open tin mines in 1850s. Kapitan Yap Ah Loy was responsible for the development of tin mines and growth of the town in 1870s. Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the capital of the Federal Malay States in 1896. It remained as the capital and achieved city status in 1972. It became the Federal Territory (Wilayah Persekutuan) in 1974.

PUTRAJAYA

Founded in 1995, it became the Federal Territory in 2001. It is the government administrative centre.



Pray

-  **A just and hardworking state government.**
-  **People to be civic conscious and courteous.**
-  **Reduction of criminal activities.**
-  **Wisdom and courage for the youths.**
-  **Good family relationships.**

14 August






**JOHOR**

Sultan Alauddin founded Johor. Because of its position as an East-West trading centre, Johor became rich and developed into the Johor-Riau Empire. The empire ended in 1824. Temenggung Ibrahim was the rightful ruler in 1855, while his son, Abu Bakar, succeeded him in 1862. He was named the father of "Modern Johor". His son, Sultan Ibrahim, ruled until 1959.

**PAHANG**

In 1459, it became an Islamic sultanate. In mid 17th Century, it came under Johor rule. Bendahara Wan Ahmad was proclaimed the new Sultan in 1881. In 1892, Bahaman (Orang Kaya Pahlawan of Semantan) rebelled against the British. This became a symbol of the Malay struggle for independence.

Pray

-  A just and hardworking state government.
-  Improvement in state economy and greater job opportunities.
-  Reduction of criminal activities.
-  Success in fighting drug abuse among the youth.
-  Good family relationships.

15 August

PERAK

The sultanate was established in 1528 by the eldest son of the last sultan of Melaka. In 1848, the discovery of tin in Larut led to a power struggle among the Chinese secret societies. A succession of dispute between Raja Abdullah and Raja Ismail gave the British an opportunity to intervene which ended with the Pangkor Treaty in 1874. Raja Abdullah was made the sultan of Perak. He agreed to a British Resident.

**PENANG**

Captain Francis Light founded Penang in 1786. Seberang Prai (Province Wellesley) was added to Penang in 1800. Penang was under British rule from 1867. The island was a free port until 1969.



Pray



A just and hardworking state government.



Reduction of criminal activities.



Strong family relationships and good values.



Discipline problem in schools to be properly addressed.

16 August



KEDAH

Kedah was conquered by Siam (Thailand today) in 1821. In 1923, the British gave the sultan power and made Malay the official language. During World War 2, the Japanese first invaded Kedah (together with Kelantan).



PERLIS

Perlis was originally part of Kedah. After the end of a 20-year war between Kedah and Siam, Perlis became an independent territory in 1842. Syed Hussain Jamalulail of Arab descent became the first Raja of Perlis. He was the grandson of the sultan of Kedah. Perlis was returned to Siam by the Japanese during World War 2. When Japan surrendered, Perlis came under British rule again.

Pray



A just and hardworking state government.



More job opportunities and improvement in people's living standard and quality of life.



Police and armed forces to be strengthened to guard against extremism.



Strong family relationships and good values.

17 August

KELANTAN

The present Kelantan was unified around 1760. In the 19th Century, Kota Bharu was the nerve centre for political and economic activities. Kelantan was the one of first states to be invaded by Japan in World War 2.

TERENGGANU

Terengganu emerged as an independent sultanate in 1724. Tun Zainal Abidin was the first sultan. Islam is the state and official religion under its 1911 Constitution.



Pray



A just and hardworking state government.



More business and job opportunities.



Social departments and welfare organisations to successfully address social problems (e.g. substance abuse, incest, and youth issues).



Strong family relationships and good values.

18 August



SABAH

Known as the North Borneo before 1963, Sabah was once part of the Brunei Sultanate. The capital was moved from Kudat to Sandakan in 1883, to expand the timber business. Japan landed in Labuan on 1 January, 1942. It became a British crown colony on 15 July, 1946. Sabah gained independence from the British on 31 August, 1963.








SARAWAK

Brunei gave Sarawak to James Brooke in 1841. Under Charles Brooke, the Chinese community grew significantly and was encouraged in business. The Malays were employed in the administration or remained in farming. In 1941, Japan invaded Sarawak. It became a British colony in 1946 and joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963.

LABUAN

Once under the Brunei Sultanate, it became part of the North Borneo in 1890. Then it was made a Federal Territory in 1984.

Pray

-  A just and hardworking state government.
-  Government to resolve the problems of squatters and homelessness in urban areas.
-  Reduction of criminal activities.
-  Effective plans to upgrade living standard of the rural poor.
-  Strong family relationships and good values.

Week 5

AUG 19-25

The History of Christianity in Malaysia

1511 Roman Catholicism came into the region. **1641** Protestant Christianity came into the region. **1815** The London Missionary Society set up a base in Melaka. **1847** The Borneo Church Mission in Sarawak was founded. **1860** Open Brethren started in Malaysia. **1881** Roman Catholic Missionary work began in Sarawak on 10 July. **1882** The Basel Mission Society sent missionaries to Sabah. **1885** The start of the Methodist mission with the coming of W. Oldham. The First Presbyterian churches were established in Johor. **1890** The Methodist Mission Press was founded (later known as MPH). **1901** Wong Nai Siong and the first group of Foochow Methodist settled in Sibul. **1907** The Evangelical Lutheran Church held their first worship on 30 January in Kuala Lumpur. **1927** The First Mar Thoma Christians worshiped in Klang. **1932** The Orthodox Syrian Church came to Malaysia. Also, the mission to Sengoi indigenous people began. **1934** The First AOG missionaries arrived. **1938** The First Congregation of Baptists established. **1948** The



Church

"For we are like a sweet-smelling incense offered by Christ to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being lost." **2 Corinthians 2:15**

Council of Churches in Malaya and Singapore was formed. It became CCM in 1973. **1954** The Baptist Theological Seminary was set up in Penang. **1960** The Bible Institute of Malaya (now Bible College of Malaysia) was set up by the AOG. **1963** Formation of Sidang Injil Borneo (Evangelical Church of Borneo). The First Evangelical Free Church Missionaries arrived. **1978** Formation of Malaysian CARE and Malaysia Bible Seminary (MBS). **1979** Seminari Theoloji Malaysia was set up. Full Gospel Assembly began meeting in Kuala Lumpur. **1983** Formation of National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia. **1986** Formation of Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM).

19 August

FAMILY

"We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the Lord's power and His great deeds and the wonderful things He has done. He gave laws to the people of Israel and commandments to the descendants of Jacob. He instructed our ancestors to teach His laws to their children, so that the next generation might learn them and in turn should tell their children."

Psalm 78:4-6

Family is the foundational place where godly values are transferred from one generation to another, that the commandments of God may be kept. Therefore, the ways we live should testify the strength and wondrous works of our Father in heaven.

Pray



Thank God for your family members.



God to help us to be passionate about Jesus and His Words.

ACT

Read Psalm 78 and discuss it with your family.

20 August

ELDERS/ PASTORS/ LEADERS

"Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give God an account of their services. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; if not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you."

Hebrews 13:17

Elders, pastors and leaders are like spiritual fathers and mothers in the bigger family of the Church. They have to teach and lead the Church families to follow God's ways. They have to answer to God for the way they lead others. They teach and equip us to use our gifts to serve God.

Pray



God's blessings and wisdom upon our Elders/Pastors/Leaders.



They may be sensitive to God's voice and His guidance.

As a child, she was inflicted with polio. She longed to know that somebody would care for her, but there was no such thing as children's ministry then.

When she was 11 years old, a Christian visited and prayed for her. She was miraculously healed. At 14, God spoke to her. This determined her course of life.

Her childhood church in Taiping was small but children were encouraged to play active roles. At a young age, she was entrusted with the responsibility of translating and preaching sermons.

She is a living fruit of that ministry today.

Testimony of Pastor Khim Ang

21 August

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

"Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life." **Proverbs 22:6**

Children are important in God's eternal plan. They have been agents of transformation. David, Samuel, Josiah were all part of God's great plan.

Pray



Children's innocence and purity be preserved.



Church leaders to recognise the importance of children's ministry and give their full support in all areas.

ACT

● Invite your friend to church.

I have always wanted to be a teacher. When I was about 12 years old, I used to wear my mother's high heels pretending to be one, take a "rotan" and go out to teach my 'students' – the plants outside my house!

I thank God that my dream to be a teacher is fulfilled. God's grace and help has been extended to me over the last 22 years. I enjoy teaching, counselling and also reaching out to my poor and needy students through the welfare programs in my school.

Testimony by Rose Samuel

22 August

EDUCATION

In January 2007, the 5-year National Education Blueprint was launched. The objectives are: Building “Bangsa Malaysia”, developing human capital, strengthening national schools, narrowing the education gap between rural and urban schools, uplifting the teaching profession and pushing for educational institution excellence.



Pray



The Minister of Education and His team to be firm in carrying out the new National Education Blueprint.



Teachers and principals to be dedicated.



Christian parents to encourage their children to become teachers.

ACT

- ***Make a thank-you card for your teacher.***

23 August

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

God cares for the poor, and also the foreigners and strangers in the land. The poor are often forgotten and rejected. In our Malaysian context, refugee children are denied access to public school.

In order to bring a true lasting transformation in the lives of people we need to do something that can be seen.

Today we are more than convinced that within the children lies the seed of transformation and within them is the God-given power. We believe when children are given a chance they can bring about positive changes in the community.

Matthew 25:40 says, "Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it to Me."

This is one of the ways that we are learning to walk in obedience to God's truth.

Petrina Salvinder

Pray



More local churches to start loving and working among the poor.

ACT

- **Remember the refugee children (about 20,000) who are in our country in your prayers today.**

24 August

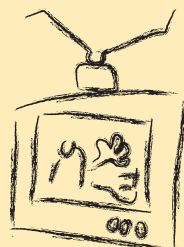
MEDIA

Today, the media is very much part of our lives. They come into our homes, schools, churches and public places. It exposes the children to many kinds of information. Some information can be harmful if not supervised or monitored.

The media can be a stealer of time, a breaker of relationships and a robber of finances (e.g. SMS competitions).

However, the media can be a useful tool for sharing God's blessings:

1. **A need for prayer can be shared at any point of time easily and quickly.**
2. **People can be reached easily.**
3. **Good stories, gospel songs and family theme movies can be broadcasted.**
4. **Gospel or related events can be publicised in a quick, cheap way – via emails/Internet/SMS.**



Pray



Protection against the negative influence of the media.



Wisdom and discernment on choices of messages, songs and movies.



Decision makers in the media industry to place the social well-being and good values above profit.



Parents to guide their children in the use of Internet.

ACT



Reduce the time spent on computer, television and telephone.

25 August

MISSIONS

*"I did come from the Father, and I came into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." **John 16:28***

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." **John 20:21***

Jesus came to earth on a mission to tell and show everyone about God and His love.

World Congress in the video "How not to mess up with the Great Commission" reports that 15% of missions giving goes to children, but 60-80% of the responses to the gospel are from children. One in every 3 person on the face of earth is a child below 15 years old. The mission field for children is great.

Pray



Children to speak to their friends everywhere about God's love.



Passionate, skilful and knowledgeable missionaries to work among the children worldwide.

Week 6
AUG 26-30



Children

Psalm 127:3 says children are a gift from the Lord, they are a real blessing.

Population of Malaysia:

27,173,600

Population of children 0-14 years:

8,748,600

Department of Statistics Malaysia as of mid-2007

26 August

BASIC RIGHTS OF A CHILD

Every child and young person under the age of 18 has rights, no matter who they are, where they live, or what they believe in. These rights are recognised at a special meeting among many countries in the world. This is called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are the rights to:

1. Shelter; a safe place to live.
2. Nutritious food and clothing.
3. Medical care.
4. Education.
5. Leisure, play and recreation.
6. Freedom of expression.
7. Protection from abuse, discrimination, unlawful activities, harmful drugs and war.
8. Special care, attention and consideration for the poor, disabled and 'gifted' children.
9. Practice one's own culture, language and religion.
10. An atmosphere of happiness, love, understanding and appreciation.

Pray



The children who do not have the above rights may enjoy them soon.



God to come into their lives and meet their needs through people who care.

ACT

- ***Bring some nutritious food to school and share it with someone whom you have never shared before.***

27 August

CHILDREN & VIOLENCE

Malaysia has a law that protects children. Abuse, neglect or exposing a child to physical or emotional harm is punishable under this law.

In 2000, 934 child abuse cases were reported. It doubled to 1,800 in 2005. The main forms of violence are neglect and child abuse.

Physical abuse includes slapping, shaking, and beating with fists or object, burning, kicking and using a knife to threaten. Sexual abuse happens when a child is forced to have sex with others.

Pray



The frontline government officers to enforce laws that protect children from abuse.



To increase awareness on violence against children through public education.



Churches, NGOs and public to stand up for the rights of the children.

28 August

CHILDREN @ RISK

Children are made in the image of God but some are being trafficked, sexually abused, and forced into the streets. Many children in certain countries are subject to poverty, lack of education, war, abusive labour, starvation, broken homes and diseases. These are the children at risk.

Pray



Christians to reach out to children who have been hurt and traumatised.



Strengthen the organisations that work with Children @ Risk.

ACT



Log on to
www.viva.org/pray
for further information.

29 August

CHILDREN & HIV/AIDS

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). It attacks the immune system of the body. This virus can be passed through contaminated needles used by drug addicts, sex, blood transfusion, from mother-to-child during birth and breast feeding, and infection through body fluids (except tears, sweat, faeces, urine and saliva). There is no cure to the disease. In 2006, more than half a million children died of HIV/AIDS around the world.

Malaysia is the fifth fastest growing AIDS country in the East Asia and Pacific region. A report by the Ministry of Health in December 2005 shows that 37% of infections are people aged between 13-29 years.

Pray



More effective educational programmes in schools to explain the disease.



Families and those infected by HIV/AIDS to receive help and support and find JESUS.



Malaysians to obey God's laws and pursue purity.



Christians to overcome prejudice and not to discriminate those who are infected.



For a cure.

ACT

- **Get a copy and read "Aids: Answers to Your Worry" published by The Ministry of Health, Malaysia.**

30 August

CHILDREN AS TRANSFORMING AGENTS

"Both my grandmother and mother were illiterate. They had no job skills. My uncle was in and out of prison. My older sister dropped out of school.

When I was 12 years old, someone came and cared for me. This person made sure that I went to school. I was helped with my schoolwork and given tuition. All my other needs were also looked into.

Today, I am studying an electrical course at a college. I am the first person in my family and generation to break out of the cycle of poverty.

I am thankful to God and Jesus for saving me, giving me and my siblings hope."

Testimony by Matthew, 19

Pray



Compassion for the poor children.



Those who are able to sponsor and support children who have financially difficulty in continuing their studies.

Reflections

What did you discover in your journey
for the last 40 days?

Write down your thoughts.

Share them with your parents, guardians or your pastor.

A POEM

A country that fears God
would be what I want
to see.



A country that is
fair, just and caring.

A country where little
hearts want to reach,
to Jesus Christ,
the King of Kings.



We will not be robots
and be ruled by Satan.
We will be good people
serving the Lord.

A country with faith,
love and peace would
be great,

A country that loves each other
is what I want to see.

A country that worships and
praises God,

A country whose people get
equal opportunity.

A country which has peace.

A country which has love.



Ebony Eve Pharamond, 9



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