Spiritual State of the World's Children
A Qualitative Study

English Speaking Youth Report

Malaysia

August 2010

Prepared by:

OneHope
GOD'S WORD. EVERY CHILD.

NECF
MALAYSIA

Completed Report

ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations, OneHope has shared the life of Jesus with over 660 million children and young people.

NECF MALAYSIA

The National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia is an umbrella body representing about 2, 500 evangelical churches in the country. NECF is one of the three founding members of the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) and is represented through the CFM, on the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism. It has been able to garner the evangelical voice in making its distinctive marks on the nation, especially in prayer, research, leadership development and evangelism. The current emphasis on community transformation seeks to mobilize churches to contribute their resources towards nation building.

DRAFT REPORT AUTHORS: Rev. Ty and Cina Silva (OneHope Asia Pacific Regional Directors), Joy Barachina-Lojo (OneHope Asia Pacific Regional Research Coordinator), Rodel Lacson (One Hope Asia Pacific Ministry and Media Consultant and OneHope Malaysia Coordinator), Rev. Jeremy West (OneHope Thailand Ministry Coordinator), Eugene Yapp (NECF Research Executive Secretary), Larry Lee (NECF Youth and Leadership Development Executive Secretary), Lue Jun Yi (Scripture Union Field Staff), Lum Choy Ying (Girls Brigade Training Coordinator), Rev. Michael Lim (Charis Christian Entre Youth Pastor), Danny Tan Kim Yuan (Glad Tidings AoG, PJ, Youth Minister)

DRAFT REPORT REVIEW TEAM: The Draft Report was reviewed by the following ministry leaders who give their feedback and input into the **Final Report**: Jason Fong (Scripture Union), Kathryn Tan (Girls Brigade), Rev. Dr. Ong Sek Leang (Assemblies of God of Malaysia), Matthew Foo (DUMC), and Michael William (The Methodist Church in Malaysia).

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Section I: Executive Summary

General Information for Malaysia Discovery Project (English)

From May 27 – June 2, 2010, a total of 27 focus groups were convened in Malaysia. This included groups from the Northern, Central, and Southern parts of the country. For this report (English-speaking youth) 9 student groups, 2 groups of youth pastors, 1 group of evangelical leaders, 1 group of English pastors, 1 group of parents, and 1 group of teachers met to provide data information for this project.

Key Issues

STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES: RELATIVE TO CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY

- Malaysian youth value their relationships with their friends and are predisposed to group activities
- Family relationships, while not perfect, are still seen as a key influence in the life of youth
- Youth desire to spend more time with their parents
- Youth in Malaysia are spiritually inclined and they have a desire to experience God in a real and authentic way
- Youth today are not prejudice or bias against other ethnicities
- Youth are highly involved in social networking which youth ministries can use to reach them
- Students value education and are willing to spend time and money on excelling academically
- Church leaders understand the importance of seeing the youth become a vital part of their church growth
- Some church leaders are aware of the need to be more personal, relational, and available when interacting with youth
- Technology, music, and other forms of media can be utilized by the church to generate interest in Christianity

WEAKNESSES & THREATS: RELATIVE TO CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY

- Youth today seem to make poor and hasty decisions due to lack of spiritual and parental guidance
- Malaysian youth struggle with self-identity and look to their peers for affirmation and guidance when problems arise
- Youth are so engrossed with the Internet and the virtual world, that they are having problems with interpersonal relationships
- Youth are not interested with the current methods the church is using to reach out to them and they view the church as boring and irrelevant

- Malaysian youth view the education system as weak and rigid which creates tension and frustration among students
- Malaysian youth are often misunderstood by the older generation and this contributes to the growing gap between the two
- The lack of fatherhood and mentors as role models are deterrents to finding new and emerging young leaders
- The amount of time youth spend on tuition and extracurricular activities makes it difficult for the church to be involved in meaningful discipleship-making
- Discipleship is seen as the responsibility of the church, when in fact parents should be more involved in the spiritual growth of their children
- Church leaders recognize that the church is weak in responding to the challenges that exist among Malaysian youth
- Church leaders acknowledge that the societal shift towards materialism will present potential future problems within the church

Recommendations

- *Facilitate collaboration between parents and the church in the area of discipleship*
  - Conduct workshops or training seminars that equip parents to better understand and disciple their children
  - Churches could begin to emphasize the importance of the father's responsibility to be a role model to their children
- *Develop creative ways to utilize media*
  - Provide ongoing training and teaching on how youth need to manage their time on the Internet responsibly
  - Encourage churches to become more current with their media tools so that non-Christian youth are drawn to Christianity
- *Provide character development*
  - Utilize *The Book of Hope* (junior high and senior high school editions) as a tool to effectively teach character education to address the issues facing today's youth
  - Conduct workshops and seminars that address the moral issues relevant to Malaysian youth
- *Provide support for youth ministry*
  - Release more resources for ministry to the youth
  - Encourage senior pastors to understand the importance of their role in modeling engagement with youth on a personal, friendship level. This sets the tone for the entire church's dynamic with youth.
  - Church leaders could encourage their members to become adult volunteers in the youth ministry. This would provide a platform for adults to mentor youth.
  - Conduct research on an ongoing basis to stay in tune with current youth culture
  - Provide training for youth workers and adult volunteers on subjects related to youth culture, counseling, discipleship and evangelism to non-Christian youth
- *Meet community needs*
  - Focus on encouraging the church to become actively involved in the community in hopes of changing the perception of Christianity in Malaysia
  - Sponsor events and programs that encourage youth to love their city and contribute to the transformation of the city
- *Further stud**y***
  - As recommended by the analysis team, further research could be done to learn more about the effects of gaming on Malaysian youth
  - Consider conducting an in-depth study on the attitudes and behavior of youth towards sexuality and their relationships with the opposite sex

- To fully understand what evangelism techniques are being employed, and have been used in the past, conduct further research in this area so that churches can develop additional programs that focus on outreach
- With religion being a central part of Malaysia cultural life, further study on the spirituality of Malaysian youth and their understanding of divinity would be valuable.
- Explore the growing church culture dynamic of team leadership and this concept's impact of youth leadership development
- The use of online anonymous survey tools such as surveymonkey.com could provide helpful information (from youth about youth attitudes and behaviors; from church leaders about their leadership style; from youth about their opinion of relevancy of church practices, etc.)

Responses to Research Questions/Areas

1. **What are the main interests of Malaysian youth today?**

   a. **What is the most common media that appeals to youth?**

   b. **What activities attract youth?**

   Generally, participants agree that Malaysian English speaking youth from urban communities are highly interested in utilizing media. Youth are on the Internet and are fond of using social networking sites such as FaceBook, MSN and YouTube. Sending SMS messages and chatting on FaceBook are popular means of communication with teenagers. While other forms of media are appealing to youth, they agree that using the Internet is the most enjoyable and one of the fastest ways to interact with their friends. Pastors, teachers and parents express that teenagers excel in their social skills via the Internet. However, adults are also concerned that this rapid expansion of Internet access will give worldwide web access without appropriate levels of guidance and oversight. Furthermore, some pastors believe that due to this lack of disciplined use of the Internet, this access will also become an avenue of misuse (vices, anger expressions regarding national issues, etc.). Nevertheless, some teachers perceive the importance and positive impact of media and technology to Malaysian youth, as these could be tools to create curiosity and interest among their students.

   Some groups report that console and online gaming are other activities that youth engage in frequently. Cyber cafés are a common hang out place for boys. Online games such as *DOTA* and *Mafia Wars* are the best liked. Additionally, console games such as *PSP* are also very popular among youth.

   Whereas youth report they enjoy watching movies and listening to music, they did not specify what types of movies and music are most appealing. On the other hand, Korean soap operas are one of the television programs that youth preferred. While not expressed extensively, some youth are interested in reading. The most popular choices include magazines such as *Galaxy, Hot,* and *Cleo*. Comics and Manga were also mentioned as popular reading options while The *Twilight* series was cited as the book that is commonly attractive to younger students who enjoy reading.

   Some youth are also interested in fashion. Participants report that male youth tend to follow Korean trends, like wearing clothes similar to Korean boy bands, which study participants identified as being more feminine. On the other hand, female youth admired this kind of Korean male fashion because it gave them a sense of being more masculine. While youth did not look up to movie or television stars as their role models, some youth aspire to be like celebrities.

While in school, teachers find that many students are interested in sports. While not expressed by the youth themselves, teachers believe that sports activities in the school are a venue for students to vent out their emotions.

Across groups, participants report that Malaysian youth value their relationships, especially with their friends. This is evidenced by the fact that many of their free-time activities involve their peers. These activities include, hanging out together at shopping malls, mama stalls, playing sports, talking, gossiping, and social networking. Youth desire to be understood by their peers, so they would spend more time with them. Some youth indicate that their friends understand and listen to them better than their parents or teachers do.

Youth also view education as extremely important. When faced with days off from school, many students use their time studying for exams. More often than not, students would resort to get additional help from tutors by going to the tuition centers. These tuition centers are available to students who want to learn more.

2. **What influences are most important in shaping youth's values?**

Across groups, participants report that friends, parents, education, secular media, and religion are key contributing factors to the development of a student's values and personal life. The amount of time youth spend with their peers indicates that friends heavily influence Malaysian youth. Gaining acceptance with their friends is very important and could explain behaviors like making hasty decisions that often lead to wrong choices and desiring to obtain things that would make them look best and popular.

While parents acknowledge the impact that friends have on the lives of their children, they still see themselves as the primary influence in their children's lives by their example and teaching. Parents identified the importance of guarding their children's relationships, including friends and other adults who can speak into their lives, especially spiritual leaders.

Many youth believe education is the key factor towards a good and successful life. Strongly affected by their parents' concept of education, youth spend a great amount of time on tutoring others or joining tuition centers. Oftentimes, parents themselves will spend a lot of money on their children's studies. While youth are concerned in maintaining the proper discipline to excel in their studies and homework, they also feel stressed out as they struggle with competition related to academics.

Secular media is another component that plays a key role in shaping the values of youth. Youth pastors believe that Internet has made it possible for young people to

engage in a virtual world that is essentially separate from reality making the youth struggle in real life situations. Teachers surmise that the current generation may be good at Internet social skills, yet are becoming weaker in real life relationships. Other groups report that media is a platform for them to release their tensions and frustrations. Having said that, the groups believe that adults' guidance and mentoring are seriously needed by the youth.

While church leaders are convinced that youth's interest in more traditional religion is declining, most pastors say that youth are inclined to spiritual matters. Most youth believe that religion plays a vital role in their life especially when they have to make decisions. However, some report that religion has nothing to do with their life; it only makes things worse.

a. **What differences in perception exist between parents and teens regarding the role of the family?**

Generally, groups report on the role of the parents more than the role of the family. Teachers believe that the idea of whose role it is to discipline the children is becoming an issue. In earlier generations, it was not uncommon for parents to carry out the role of discipline. While parents seem lax in this area nowadays, they do not want the teachers to discipline their children as well. Additionally, pastors recognize that the lack of a father image or positive role models to emulate often result in youth's hunger for love and affirmation. However, it is also reported that this condition is already improving compared to previous times. Furthermore, some leaders report that changes in society have brought about changes in family dynamics. Typically in the past, one parent focused on home and family development while the other held a job. At present, the common situation is for both parents to hold down jobs. While some youth acknowledge the amount of time they spend with their parents is not sufficient, they still desire to spend more time with them.

b. **Who do youth go to for answers when they have a problem?**

For lack of positive role models, youth tend to seek advice and comfort from their friends when faced with problems. In addition to that, youth perceive their peers to be more understanding and willing to listen. However, youth may go to their parents when problems (such as life and family issues) are beyond their ability to handle or when they need resources (money issues). Whereas younger youth will go to a teacher they trust, the older youth would rarely go to a teacher for advice. Youth who value religion will sometimes turn to God when there is a problem. Whether they are looking for happiness, confidence or sense of identity, some Christian youth believe God can help them. They see prayer as an important part of everyday life. When youth feel like they do not have anybody to talk to when faced with challenges, they would choose to keep their problems within and vent

it out in a diary. In some instances, others would resort to FaceBook to express their problems.

3. **How does language and ethnicity affect today's youth?**

Language and ethnicity are key components in the lives of Malaysian youth. This issue is especially the case within the classroom. Teachers notice that students tend to group together based on ethnicity. Generally, this is not a problem as long as students respect one another. The challenge arises whenever students of different ethnicities offend one another. Additionally, pastors believe that language is less an issue nowadays than it was 30 years ago in the church world. However, it is an often-discussed matter within Malaysian society.

4. **What key issues and problems are Malaysian youth dealing with today?**

Many of the problems identified by Malaysian youth are related to identity. Youth gain their identity from their peers and activities that preoccupy most of their time. The peer pressure associated with wanting to be understood, and viewed by their peers in the correct way is of high importance to the youth. For example, some students report that they fear being ignored and the focal point of false rumors. Furthermore, youth feel the pressure to excel academically because of the competition within the education system. As a result, students tend to get overwhelmed and stressed.

Youth pastors identify lack of role models as an area of concern facing the youth today. The lack of role models can be viewed as a contributor to the poor decisions made by some youth. Viewed as an issue resulting from lacking a good father image, youth pastors believe that there is a need for fathers to step up as role models. Pastors agree that more mentoring and parental guidance, specifically proactive parenting will lead to helping the youth improve their decision-making. Essentially, this will place more responsibility on the parents instead of relying on the church to raise their children.

Other problems confronting Malaysian youth today include materialism, gossiping, and distractions brought about by media and technology. Across groups, participants report that youth's engrossment with Internet is a growing challenge. While youth see this as a means to interact and socialize with their friends, adults perceive it in a negative way. For instance, youth are described as being less relational, weak in real-life relationships, and not able to separate the virtual world from reality. While not apparently expressed among the participants, the impact of materialism in the youth's life is also a concern. This could be due to youth's desire to create the right impression and be accepted by their friends. Gossiping, though not common among male youth, is typical among females. Believed by some to be the source of miscommunication, youth would spend more time with their friends to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to further problems.

5. **How do Malaysians view the current education system?**

   a. **Students**

   Overall, Malaysian students are very unsatisfied with the current education system. One of the areas of concern students expressed was dissatisfaction with their teachers. Many students believe that their teachers do not listen to their needs or understand them. Thus, participants do not see teachers as a role model for them and would not even consider seeking them for advice. Additionally, some students are unhappy with the rules, believing they are too strict.

   b. **Parents**

   In Malaysian culture, parents still have a key role in influencing the education of their children. Oftentimes, parents will spend a lot of money on a child's studies. This is evident in the amount of time youth spend on tutoring/tuition. Ultimately, this influences youth's perception of education. Parents express strong concern over the politicizing of education. Additionally, parents are worried that the education system focuses solely on academic excellence over practical life application. Furthermore, parents see excessive homework and compulsory extra-curricular activities as hindrances to spending time together as a family.

   c. **Teachers**

   Compared to the time when they were in school, teachers have noticed a difference in the lesson content, skills development, and discipline that is being taught to the youth. More attention was given to these areas in the past. Teachers believe that there is a need to increase the knowledge level of today's youth. Over and above that, they notice that some youth possess no creativity and cannot properly interpret problems. Furthermore, teachers acknowledge that students are unsatisfied with the education system. Sometimes students will voice their concerns to teachers about the curriculum they are forced to learn. They tend to view some classes as irrelevant and would prefer to choose the subjects they want to learn about. That being said, some teachers have recognized that school is more academic-based, and that teachers are neglecting the practical character building lessons that are needed. Moreover, teachers recognize the fast pace of technology advances and thus they concede that there is a need for them to adapt to the changes.

6. **What is the current relationship between the older and younger generation in Malaysia?**

There seems to be a growing gap between the older and younger generations in Malaysia. Across groups, most of the participants report that the younger generation and the older generation struggle relating to one another. This can be attributed to the fact that the interests between the two are very different. Pastors acknowledge that the older generation needs to be less critical and more accepting of the younger generation. Additionally, the younger generation needs to learn to respect and to submit to the older generation. For this to happen, some pastors report that the older generation needs to reach out to the youth at their level. While teachers attribute the increasing gap to media and technology, parents credit it to excessive homework, religious and compulsory extra-curricular activities and social networking.

7. **Are Malaysian youth interested in religion and spirituality?**

   a. **What do Malaysian youth consider to be the appropriate relationship between religions?**

   While older youth are more open to religion and recognize the role it plays in their lives, the younger ones did not express it clearly. Generally, youth believe that for the different religions in Malaysia to co-exist in peace and harmony there is a need to practice tolerance, equal rights, understanding and respect between the major religious groups. To have greater peace and harmony, some youth are of the view that followers should merely practice their own belief and not propagate their religion to others.

   b. **What do Malaysian youth consider to be the appropriate relationship between religions?**

   In Malaysia, pastors and youth pastors report that there seems to be a lack of interest towards Christianity. In a culture where young people are looking to be entertained, many perceive Christianity to be a religion that is boring and irrelevant. Inside the church, youth will often look for the same experience they get from the entertainment outside. Combine this with the fact that youth are busy with school and extracurricular activities, it is becoming increasingly difficult for church to compete for their time. Additionally, Malaysian youth are hungry for authenticity. Some youth may view some Christian leaders as impersonal, non-relational, or too busy to spend time with them. Furthermore, youth pastors believe that a mindset that does not allow "youth culture" among the pastors and congregants makes it difficult for the younger generation to engage in Christianity. Interestingly, the pastors see the gap between the older and younger generations in Malaysia as a potential cause. Moreover, in some instances parents are actually viewed as a hindrance to Christian youth being drawn to the church because they are not spiritually disciplined themselves. This addresses the issue of parents being a key role model in the lives of their children.

   c. **What help do youth expect to receive from religion?**

While some students report that religion is not relevant to their lives, across groups, most participants recognize that religion plays a valuable role in their personal growth. Specific areas where religion can help benefit their personal lives include happiness, confidence, sense of identity, and making better decisions. Furthermore, some Christian youth report that when they face a problem they turn to God because they believe He can help them.

8. **What is the current state of youth evangelism and discipleship in Malaysia?**

Currently, pastors recognize that ministry to the youth is of great importance. Leaders acknowledge that more is being done today than in the past. That being said, some pastors indicate that the church is still weak in responding to the challenges and opportunities that exist in youth ministry. Church leaders agree that more resources need to be allocated to youth ministry. Additionally, more needs to be done in the area of mentoring. While this is the responsibility of the parents, pastors believe that youth leaders should be entrusted with this role as well. Another current challenge for discipleship is that youth only spend a few hours a week in church. As a result, youth pastors do not have enough time to adequately disciple their youth. It is also important to note that pastors report that churches' need to continue to become more involved and visible within the community. This will allow youth workers to reach out to students.

9. **What are practical ways to make Christianity and discipleship relevant to this generation?**

Church leaders recognize that there are many relevant ways to disciple today's generation. Some practical areas include the use of media, establishing authentic relationships, and raising mentors as role models. While youth pastors bear some of the responsibility in mentoring youth, it is vitally important for the parents to play a role in the discipleship of their children. Essentially, parents and youth leaders need to work together in partnership. Many pastors believe that reaching the next generation at a younger age, ideally much earlier than teenage years, is important. Emphasis on the basics of faith such as prayer, reading the Bible and discipleship should be given. Additionally, youth will feel more comfortable if the entire church, including the older generation, is more accepting of them.

Youth pastors believe that there is a need for the church to provide an environment where young people can have fun and at the same time experience a genuine encounter with God. Pastors acknowledge that the church must find ways to change and adapt to today's youth and offer a viable alternative for the youth to be drawn.

Other tools that can be utilized to make Christianity more relevant and interesting include music, language and fashion. Employing these methods will generate greater

interest among the youth. Pastors agree that tools and methods can be effective, but God is needed to bring about lasting results.

Section II: Project Overview

Rationale for Project

To design the most effective programs to reach the children and youth of a nation, it is important to capture pertinent information about a population prior to launching new programs or designing products. In the Malaysia Discovery project, focus groups[1] were conducted throughout Peninsular Malaysia to gather information on the behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs of Malaysian youth, as well as the challenges that exist in conducting ministering to them in Malaysia.

Unlike surveys, where respondents are oftentimes limited in their answer choices, focus groups allow for any idea to be introduced through the discussion of topics relevant to study participants. When seeking to understand the nature and needs of a population, this type of research is best employed by including those deemed most informed.

Broadly speaking, this project sought to gather information around the following areas:
1) The biggest challenges young people face
2) The barriers to evangelism/Christian outreach and opportunities for programs and organizations
3) The current ministry realities of young people in Malaysia

The information gathered from this project can assist organizations, such as OneHope and other project partners, in planning their outreach strategies and life improvement programs for Malaysia's children and youth. In addition, the findings from this project may be valuable in developing products that are relevant and appealing for young people while also addressing their heartfelt needs.

Convened Groups

Focus groups are convened to provide information on the social, economic, and program dynamics of the targeted region. Following a multiple-category design, focus groups were convened for the following demographic profiles:
- Evangelical Leaders & Pastors of English language worldview youth
- 13-15 Year Old Students
- 16-19 Year Old Students
- Youth Pastors
- Teachers

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[1] 5-8 people who have something in common and are called together to speak on how they feel or think about an issue or idea

- Parents

Regions for Focus Groups

A double-layer approach was used in conducting this research as multiple demographic groups met in the following areas of Malaysia:
- Northern
- Central
- Southern

Leadership and Facilitators

OneHope in partnership with the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) conducted this research project. Rev. Ty & Cina Silva (Regional Directors, OneHope Asia Pacific), Rodel Lacson (Ministry Consultant, OneHope Malaysia), Rev. Jeremy West (Ministry Coordinator, OneHope Thailand) and Joy Barachina-Lojo (Regional Research Coordinator, OneHope Asia Pacific) facilitated the project in conjugation with Eugene Yapp (Executive Secretary for Research, NECF).

Rev. Ty Silva, Rev. Jeremy West and Joy B. Lojo conducted the focus group training on May 27-29, 2010 at the Nilai Springs Resort & Hotel in Nilai, Malaysia. A total of 20 people were trained to serve as focus group facilitators (herein referred to as facilitators) for this project.

The following people served as focus group facilitators: Eugene Yapp and Jeff Chok (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship), Lue Jun Yi and Deborah Yong (Scripture Union), Andy Chan, Chan Kah Loon, and Rebecca Boon Hui Shi (Girls'/Boys'Brigade), Pastor Reuben Kamagalingam (Open Doors Malaysia), Patrick Jairaj, Kahmani Chantharan, and Sathis Nair (NECF Tamil Commission), Ng Phui Han and Khew Joong Harnn (Church of Praise -AoG) and Sherlin Long (His Sanctuary of Glory -AoG).

The following people served as note takers: Larry Lee, Jeff Chok, and Pastor Daniel Loh (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship), Jason Lai (Scripture Union), Tan Ser Joo (Girls' Brigade), Sharon (Rawang FULL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY), Kahmani Chantharan, Benjamin Manic (NECF Tamil Commission), Khew Joong Harnn (Ipoh Church of Praise -AoG) and Tabitha Long (His Sanctuary of Glory - AoG).

Focus Group Composition and Format

No more than 10 persons were included in the majority of groups convened for this project. Additionally, efforts were made to minimize social and economic disparities among participants. As some participant groups were deemed to be especially information rich, multiple groups were conducted for some demographic profiles (e.g. students).

In this report, findings from multiple groups of a single demographic profile were consolidated to provide a consensus account for that group. Additionally, the names of focus group participants and other identifiers are not included in this report.

Each focus group session took approximately 60-90 minutes. After a brief welcome and overview of the topic areas[2], focus group participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and knowledge of the subject matter. Each focus group had approximately 5-7 topic areas for discussion. Discussion was structured to identify commonalities and areas of diverging opinions between participants.

The findings from all focus groups are included in this report.

Schedule for Data Collection

On April 13-16, 2010 meetings were convened in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya to identity research questions. At the training, these research questions were reviewed and modified; additional questions were added. Based on these questions, facilitators created the topic guides for each demographic group.

Focus groups were organized under the supervision of Rodel Lacson (OneHope Malaysia) and Eugene Yapp (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship-NECF). The following persons assisted in coordinating groups: Jason Fong (Scripture Union), Choy Ying (Girls' Brigade), Pastor Gabriel (Rawang Full Gospel Assembly), Pastor Daniel Loh (NECF Tamil Commission), Pastor Elijah Kong (Ipoh Church of Praise -AoG), and Pastor Chris Long (His Sanctuary of Glory - AoG).

The organizations that facilitated this project include: National Evangelical Christian Fellowship Research Commission, National Evangelical Christian Fellowship Tamil Commission, National Evangelical Christian Fellowship YouthNet, Scripture Union, Girls' Brigade, Ipoh Church of Praise, His Sanctuary of Glory and the Rawang Full Gospel Assembly.

Data Analysis and Reporting

A note taker recorded information shared in each focus group. Upon completion of a focus group, the facilitation team completed a focus group report form, which was then sent to the analysis team for review. The majority of focus groups were conducted in English.

This report addresses the questions and topic areas identified by OneHope, NECF and other project partners as essential for decision-making, distribution planning and outcome design for youth programs in the region. Common and/or recurring themes from focus groups are identified and compared across demographic profiles. Additionally, when possible, information from secondary sources is included to provide greater clarity for future planning.

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[2] See pages 4-5 for topic areas for each demographic group

Focus Group Research Questions

1. What are the main interests of Malaysian youth today?

2. What influences are most important in shaping youth's values?

   a. What differences in perception exist between parents and teens regarding the role of the family?

   b. Who do youth go to for answers when they have a problem?

3. How does language and ethnicity affect today's youth?

4. What key issues and problems are Malaysian youth dealing with today?

5. How do Malaysians view the current education system?

   a. Students

   b. Parents

   c. Teachers

6. What is the current relationship between the older and younger generation in Malaysia?

7. Are Malaysian youth interested in religion and spirituality?

   a. What do Malaysian youth consider to be the appropriated relationship between religions?

   b. What are the barriers and challenges in the minds of Malaysian youth towards Christianity?

   c. What help do youth expect to receive from religion?

8. What is the current state of youth evangelism and discipleship in Malaysia?

9. What are practical ways to make Christianity and discipleship relevant to this generation?

FOCUS GROUP TYPES

Youth Pastors and Youth Workers

- What did you do in last week's youth meeting?
- What do you like best about being a youth pastor?
- What are two words you would us to describe this generation of youth?
- What is the main issue or problem that Malaysian youth deal with today?
- How do Malaysian youth see church and its influence on them?

- How is the church culture keeping pace with the world around it, especially youth culture?
- How does peer pressure and media influence youth today?
- How would you compare the interest of youth in church and church activities compared to sports or fashion?
- Given the things we have talked about here, what tools or methods do you think might help ministry to this generation be more effective?

Evangelical Leaders & Pastors Focus Groups

- What do you consider the top current event in the news this week?
- How long have you been in the ministry?
- What two words would you use to describe Malaysian youth today?
- How would you describe the interest level of Malaysian youth in religion and spirituality?
- What do you see as hindrances to youth being drawn to the church and faith in Christ?
- What are some practical ways to make Christianity relevant to this generation and encourage and discipleship?
- What challenges and opportunities do you see for youth ministry compared to 10 years ago?
- What role does media play in the lives of youth today?
- What is your opinion regarding the relationship between the younger and older generations in Malaysia?
- Among all the things that were discussed, what do you think is the most important or what stands out to you?

Teachers

- How did you decide on teaching as a profession?
- How is teaching different today than when you were in school?
- What are some of the contributing factors that have created this change?
- What is the main issue or problem that you and your friends deal with?
- What is your opinion regarding the relationship between the younger and older generation in Malaysia?
- What do you see as the biggest influencers on youth culture?
- What comments do you receive from students about the current education system?
- How does ethnicity and language affect your classroom dynamics?
- What role should media and technology have in the classroom with today's youth?
- What extra curricular activities seem to interest students most?
- From what we have talked about, what stands out to you as the most important?

Parents

- What is your favorite part about being a parent?
- What is your family's favorite past time to do together?
- What obstacles do you encounter in finding time to spend together as a family?
- What do you see as the interest of your children in spiritual things?
- Do you as parents give your kids the freedom of religion?
- Who or what do you think is the main influence in your children's life?
- What are ways we as parents influence our children's attitudes and behaviors?
- What can we as parents do to help our children have a meaningful and successful lie?
- How do you as parents view the Malaysian education system?
- Should we as parents give our children freedom in choosing what they want to study or achieve in the future?
- From what we have talked about, what stands out to you as the most important?

16-19 Year Old Students

- What did you do last Friday? (Public Holiday)
- What are your plans for the school holidays?
- How long would you be able to live without your hand phone?
- Which type of media appeals to you the most? (Internet, TV, Gaming, Movies, etc.)
- What are the favorite free time activities for you and your friends?
- What kind of activities do you do with your family?
- How satisfied/happy are you with the way "things" are in your school?
- What is the main issue or problem that you and your friends deal with?
- When you have a problem, whom do you look to for advice?
- In what way do you look to religion to guide you?
- How do you think it is possible for different religions to co-exist in harmony?

- From what we have talked about, what stands out to you as the most important?

13-15 Year Old Students

- How are your exams going?
- What do you enjoy most about school?
- What is your favorite activity to do just for fun?
- Which type of media do you enjoy the most and why? (Internet, TV, Gaming, Movies, etc.)
- What type of reading material do you find most interesting and fun?
- How do you and your friends spend your time on the Internet?

- What kind of activities do you do with your family?
- What is the main problem that you and your friends deal with today?
- When you have a problem, who do you look for advice?
- What role does religion play in your everyday life?
- From what we have talked about, what stands out to you as the most important?

Section III: Synopsis of Data and Findings

Evangelical Leaders and Pastors (English)

Pastors and church leaders acknowledge that national political dynamics are an important area of concern for the Malaysian religious community. Economic, telecommunications and language issues top their list, with the thought that many policies tend to benefit some more than others.

The government believes that its (Malaysia Communications and Multimedia Commission - MCMC) plan to more deeply penetrate Malaysia with broadband access (1000 new telecommunications towers) and the giving away of 1 million laptops to poor students is an essential element for national development. However, religious leaders that were involved in this research project believe that this rapid expansion of Internet access will give worldwide web access without appropriate levels of guidance and oversight. It is also believed that, because of this lack of disciplined use of the Internet, this access will also become an avenue of misuse (vices, anger expressions regarding national issues, etc.).

The majority of pastors saw this generation as very creative, youth who dare to venture. Each generation is creative in different ways. The Church needs to create a platform for youth to use their creativity. Some church leaders were a bit more pessimistic. WIIFM (What's In It For Me) -- what makes me look best and popular -- was used to describe the common attitude that many Malaysian youth express. Some leaders believe that this generation is sheltered compared to their generation and spoiled by their parents. This situation encourages a lack of discipline and the making bad choices.

While parents will often spend much on a child's studies, this pre-occupation with education is conveying to Malaysia's next generation that nothing is more important for a good life ... not even God's will. This is leading to a decline in youth interest in more traditional religion. At the same time, most pastors say that youth are spiritually inclined, but just not to traditional religion. They want to experience God, not just talk about God. The keyword is experiential.

Is the church meeting this experiential need? The awareness is there, more so in urban churches, but still they are discovering how to, or what methods to employ. Non-urban churches seem to be less aware of youth issues, e.g. many youth in non-urban churches may not even have an e-mail address. The older generation needs to be more accepting of the young, more trusting and not "limiting" them.

Church leaders, in general, recognize a societal shift towards materialism. The message of "if you're a Christian, then God will bless you" (prosperity gospel) is encouraging a quest for material goods.   It is believed that weak discipleship within the church world (no follow-up activities to build a strong Christian foundation) combined with parental attitudes for financial achievement (stated above) is partly to blame for this problem.

Parents themselves can be the biggest hindrance to youth being drawn into the church and faith in Christ because they are not spiritually disciplined themselves. Pastors spoke of a lack of interest in "digging" into the Word of God as producing members who think they know a lot, who are wide in knowledge, but have no depth of understanding.

This scenario is causing current church leaders to find it hard to find someone to "pass the baton" to, to find the Joshua's – emerging young leaders.

Pastors did acknowledge that there is also the problem that many youth find the church and its activities boring, with not enough programs catering to youth needs. The church must find ways to change and adapt to today's youth. This generation is drawn to the world because the church is not offering them a viable alternative.

Many pastors mentioned mentoring youth as a need in the church today.   More fatherhood role modeling is needed. Acceptance rather than criticism of the younger generation by the older generation is critical. Senior pastors and elders can play an important role in relating to and releasing youth into Christian service.   They become role models to other adults, educating the older generation due to the clash of values. At the same time youth need to understand the importance of their rising up to the challenges/opportunities presented to them.

All pastors and church leaders agreed that to be effective we must reach the younger generation. Reaching the next generation must begin even before they are teenagers. Tweenagers (10-13 year olds) must be taught the basics of faith: prayer, the Word, and discipleship. The church must be ready to give answers to youth questions.

Because youth only spend a few hours a week in church (about 2), youth discipleship cannot be left to the church. The most successful work is done in partnership with parents. Proactive parenting (spiritually) is when parents are role modeling in the home, not expecting the church/ministry to instill spirituality if it doesn't happen at home. This is important because bad habits are picked up more quickly/easily than good ones.

Changes in society have brought about changes in family dynamics. Today, the common situation is for both parents to hold down jobs. This is quite different from the previous generation's experience of typically having one parent focused on home and family development.   For reasons such as this, it is important today for parents to plan intentional family times – such as meals together - to help foster connection times with children.

There is a tendency for the church to be too inward focused. Youth ministry needs to be about reaching the non-believers and not just catering to the "church" youth and so they can come together to "sing some songs". All the generations must come together for missions and touching the world.

While social networking is recognized as a great way for youth pastors/workers to touch base with youth, it is also seen as having the disadvantage of being less relational. Youth leaders that use FaceBook, etc., must be disciplined in their focus because church leaders don't necessarily equate doing FaceBook as doing their ministry work. Pastors see direct, personal connection with youth as critical to effective discipleship.

Church leaders believe that the church is quite weak in responding to the challenges and opportunities that exist for youth ministry.   Much time is spent in activities and conference attending which leaves not enough time to reflect on the more important things in ministry, such as mentoring the younger generation. A more personal touch is needed, giving them someone to look up to.

Coming from today's very media-oriented generation is a hunger for reality and authenticity. This generation can spot a fake. At the same time a point of concern for some pastors is that youth do not seem to know how to interact and respect the older generation. The belief is that this may be due to the internet culture which lacks physical etiquette, ie, mannerism and greeting people.

Malaysian church leaders believe that there is a less intimate relationship today between the younger and older generations. Absentee parents who endeavor to substitute material things for themselves often foster this. However, while the typical Chinese family has not had a close relationship between father and children, there do seem to be signs of improvement in this area compared to previous times. Among pastors the thought is that inter-generational relationships can be strengthened by both generations working at it : the older generation learning to embrace/accept and the younger generation learning to submit and receive teaching. It should be noted that can effective teaching can only happen when the older generation comes down to their level and accepts the youth.

Language within Malaysia society is an often-discussed matter. Within the church world, language has not been an issue. In fact, church leaders state that they believe language

is less an issue today than it was 30 years ago, because the Church has not allowed language to divide it.

Two significant areas of challenge for both the Church and today's youth are the influence of the Internet and the call of materialism. Pastors also believe that strengthening the Christian family is an essential priority for the Church.

Senior pastors are challenged to realize that while it is easy to hire youth workers to reach young people, that is not enough. The entire church and its resources (the heart of the church) need to have the youth in mind and not simple relegate youth concerns to the youth ministry.

Youth Pastors and Youth Workers

There are high levels of positive feelings in youth pastors/workers toward the youth they serve, not only as individuals but also as a group. Creative, Passionate, Expressive, Daring, Talented are words they use to describe today's youth. At the same time they have an awareness that this generation tends to be materialistic, overly protected, self-centered and … lost. This evaluation seems to imply that youth leaders are living in the real world and are truly connecting with the millennial generation.

Malaysian youth pastors/workers have stated that youth having a clear self-identity is a main issue that they must address in their ministry to today's youth. Because they don't know their own identity, youth don't know how to relate to others. They tend to be superficial in their relationships with others. Outward things, like fashion and music, become very important to them. In their quest to discover who they really are, they tend to make hasty decisions that often lead to wrong choices.

Malaysian youth also have relationship challenges. This begins at home with many youth lacking a good father image, a mentor in life, a respected role model to follow and emulate. It was shared that the typical Chinese father is not close to his children. Although this does seem to be improving compared to previous times, many youth still lack this level of love and affirmation. Often this detachment from the older generation manifests itself in generational misunderstandings of respect, etiquette, and interpersonal mannerisms that are interpreted as disrespect to elders.

Youth pastors recognize the influence media has on today's youth. The Internet has made it possible for young people to engage in a virtual world that is essentially separate from reality. Youth pastors are concerned because it seems youth struggle in real life situations because they are so engrossed in the virtual world of the Internet. Participants agree that the media heavily influences young people and it shapes their mindset. This seems to be a challenge youth pastors deal with on a regular basis.

Today's youth see the church as boring and often out of touch with them and their needs. Some of this is perpetuated by youth's entertainment expectations. They

experience entertainment outside the church and bring these expectations into their church experience. For example, youth are more interested in sports and fashion than church activities. The key factor seems to be providing an environment where young people can have fun and experience a genuine encounter with God. Until that happens, though, misperceptions about the church will continue.   For instance, some youth view Christianity as just another religion and that it is not applicable to their daily lives. Add to this the growing gap between the older and younger generations and one can see why today's youth are uncomfortable with church. Furthermore, youth pastors report that the older generation is too critical of the younger generation. More needs to be done within the church in the area of teaching the adult congregation how to relate to Malaysian youth. Most youth pastors acknowledge that this is not only a problem with the congregation, but with the pastors as well. In some instances, pastors do not even allow "youth culture" into their churches. This type of mindset is a barrier that makes it difficult for the younger generation to engage in Christianity.   The consensus among youth pastors seems to be that the church and its congregants need to do a better job accepting today's youth.

Youth pastors have a variety of ideas when it comes to reaching this generation. There are a lot of methods and tools that could be employed to make Christianity more appealing. Media, fashion, language and music are all tools that the church can use to get young people more interested in Christianity. That being said, while youth pastors recognize the importance of these methods, the consensus seems to be that there needs to be a shift in the way the church and its leaders relate to the youth. Malaysian youth need to feel like they are a part of the church and not some separate group. Youth ministry cannot be compartmentalized. It must be a key part of the church and encouraged from the lead pastor. Furthermore, some youth pastors believe the older generation and pastors need to be less critical and more accepting of the younger generation. Their talent and creativity could be a real asset to the church if channeled properly. For this to happen though more mentoring and role modeling needs to take place from the top down. Add all this to God's desire to see the next generation transformed, and real change can happen in Malaysia.

Teachers
Compared to the time they were in school, teachers see a big difference in the different aspects of the education system now. Attention on particulars such as lesson content, skills development and discipline are not fully provided which might have an impact on the attitudes and behaviors shown by the Malaysian youth nowadays.

Teachers report that there is a gap that needs to be filled up when it comes to the knowledge level of today's youth. Some teachers have noticed that some youth possess no creativity and cannot properly interpret problems. Teachers agree that their students have weak imaginations and this may be a contributor to their lack of creativity.

Regarding family life, teachers report that the topic of whose role it is to discipline the children is becoming an issue. In the past, the parents carried out the role of discipline. Currently, parents seem lax in this area, and they do not want teachers to discipline their children as well. This is a growing problem in the education system because parents are not teaching their children to respect elders.

Teachers notice that technology has contributed to the gap between the older and younger generation. Today's youth are greatly influenced by the Internet and this is reflected in their day-to-day activities. The Internet and mobile phones have widened the gap between the younger and older generation. Some teachers find it difficult to stay up on all the trends and changes in technology because everything changes so quickly. That being said, teachers acknowledge that they need to be quick and adapt to these changes. Teachers also report that the current generation does not purchase newspapers and that they don't care about anything but the Internet. While teachers admit teenagers are good at Internet social skills, they are weak in real life relationships. Additionally, youth do not like to talk to teachers.

Regarding the education system, teachers report that students complain about the curriculum they have to learn. Some students feel that the subjects are not relevant and wish they could choose more interesting subjects. Furthermore, students ask questions about the amount of homework they receive. Some teachers believe that these misconceptions by students are because the media is projecting the wrong message. Another contributing factor to this could be young people's admiration of celebrities. In some way this creates a false reality. As a result, some youth expect life to be easy without needing to work hard. Ironically, some teachers did admit that school is focuses too much on academics and not character-building lessons.

Another growing concern among teachers is the issue of student's transition between Forms. In the past, students had to pass an exam to move from lower secondary to upper secondary. Recently, this rule changed and even though students still take the exam, they are allowed to advance Forms regardless of the grade they receive. The problem with this is that some students enter upper secondary school unprepared for the classes they will encounter. Teachers report that the system will develop nicely if some filter is in place that would prevent students who are not ready from entering upper secondary school.

While in school, teachers find that many students are interested in sports. While not expressed by the youth themselves, teachers believe that sports activities in the school are a venue for students to vent out their emotions.

The issue of ethnicity and language is a key issue in the lives of Malaysian youth. This issue is especially relevant in the classroom. Teachers agree embracing one's ethnicity even by grouping together based on race is not a problem as long as students do not

offend one another. Furthermore, teachers have to balance this issue by being sensitive to all groups. This is a challenge.

While teachers tend to view the influence of media on the youth as a negative, some teachers do see the value that media and technology can have in the classroom. Since media is a part of teenage life, teachers agree that they need to use computers to teach because of the advantages related to visual attraction and animation. This could impact the learning experience in a positive way and create curiosity and interest among Malaysian youth.

Parents

Parents expressed positive sentiments regarding their role of raising and bonding with their children. The challenge to keep learning and keep up with their children needs at every stage of growth was also acknowledged. Going to malls or eating out stands out as the most common family activity.

Teens' preoccupation with staying connected to friends through social networking (FaceBook, MSN, hand phones) presents a challenge to family time. TV is also a deterrent – even though the family may be under one roof, the focus is on the screen rather than one another. Excessive homework as well as religious activities and compulsory extra-curricular activities eat away at free time on weekdays. Urban parents also find it difficult to carve out family time during the week due to work responsibilities.

While parents recognize the influence of friends and secular media, they still see themselves as the primary influence in their children's lives by their example and teaching. Parents identified the importance of guarding their children's relationships, including friends and other adults who can speak into their lives, especially spiritual leaders. They agree that it is important to begin building strong relationships with their children and laying a moral foundation while the children are still young.

Another competing influence is the education system where much time and effort is spent on shaping the minds and values of the next generation. Parents expressed strong concern over the politicizing of education. There is also concern on the emphasis of academic knowledge without practical life application.

Parents are divided on whether it is appropriate to give their children freedom of religion. (Note: All parents in the focus groups were Christian.) Those who believe that their children should make their own choice also said that it was important for parents to lead by example and provide guidance.

When it comes to a child's freedom to choose their course of study and career, most parents agree that this is appropriate. This does not remove the parents from the

decision making process, but puts them in the role of a guide, especially in the area of helping their children identify their strengths and weaknesses.

Students (English)
Across groups, Malaysian youth report that relationships, particularly with friends, are important to them. While students engage in various activities, many times these activities involve their peers. Some of these activities include hanging out at shopping malls, watching movies, playing sports, talking, joking around and interacting with one another on FaceBook. As a result, when faced with problems, youth tend to seek advice and comfort from their friends. Some youth indicate that their friends are more understanding and listen better than their parents or teachers.

While hanging out with friends is a popular free-time activity, Malaysian youth also view education as extremely important. When faced with days off from school, many students use their time studying for exams and even receiving additional help from tutors. These tuition centers are available to students who want to learn more. Furthermore, teenagers report that one of the main issues or problems they currently deal with is education related. For example, some youth struggle with the competition related to academics. Additionally, maintaining the proper discipline to excel in their studies and homework is another area of concern for the youth. As a result, some students report feeling stressed because they are worried about their studies.

Social interaction is important aspect of a teenagers' life. Youth tend to value relationships and desire to be understood by their peers. Students fear being ignored and being the focal point of false rumors. Gossiping among girls is common and is believed by some to be the source of miscommunication among teens. To combat this issue, some students would like to spend more time with their friends to help avoid misunderstandings that could cause problems.

Some youth are also interested in fashion. Participants report that male youth tend to follow Korean trends, like wearing clothes similar to Korean boy bands, which study participants identified as being more feminine. While youth did not look up to movie or television stars as role models, some young people aspire to be like celebrities.

Aside from hanging out with friends and spending time on their studies, Malaysian youth are interested in a wide-range of activities. Across groups, spending time on the Internet, especially FaceBook and YouTube, is very popular. Most attribute this to the fact that the Internet is a place where everything can be easily accessed. Some of the other media related activities that appeal to teenagers include watching movies, listening to music, watching, and sending SMS messages to their friends, and watching television. Korean dramas are one particular genre that some youth enjoy watching. Even though these other types of media are fun, a majority of Malaysian youth agrees that spending time on the Internet is most enjoyable. Other non-media related activities

that appeal to students include playing sports, like badminton, going to the gym, shopping, hanging out and talking at mamak stalls, sleeping, and reading.

While reading is not one of the most popular activities of students, those who do read enjoy reading novels and magazines, such as *Galaxy*, *Hot*, and *Cleo*. The popular fiction book at this time reported across groups is the *Twilight* series. Comics and Manga were also mentioned as popular reading options among the younger youth.

Across groups, Malaysian teenagers report that the most common activity they do with their families is having a meal together. Other activities that families do together include, traveling (usually within Malaysia), shopping, and playing sports together. While some students desire to spend more time with their family, they admit that they do not spend that much time together. That being said, when faced with a problem, many students look to their family and parents for advice. When youth feel like they do not have anybody to talk to when faced with a problem, they tend to keep their feelings inside and not tell anybody. Furthermore, in some instances students even use FaceBook as an outlet to post their problems.

Overwhelmingly, students are unhappy with the current state of educational system. Across groups, youth report that they are unsatisfied with their teachers. Many students feel that their teachers do not understand them or listen to their concerns. Furthermore, when faced with a problem some students said they would go to a teacher they were close to while others stated they would never go to a teacher. One group of students unanimously said they would never consider a teacher as a role model, and would never go to them for advice. Aside from their dissatisfaction with teachers, some youth are unhappy with the rules and believe they are too strict. The perception about the school system is an important one because there is a value placed on education by Malaysian youth. As mentioned earlier, tutoring/tuition outside of class time is common among students.

Malaysian youth believe religion can help benefit their personal lives. Whether its happiness, confidence, or sense of identity, some Christian youth believe God can help them when they face a problem. They see prayer as an important part of everyday life. However, some teenagers don't believe in a religion. Overall, teenagers report that for different religions to co-exist in Malaysia, there needs to be more tolerance, equal rights, understanding, and respect between the different major religions. Some youth believe that people should follow their own religion and not proselytize others, which will result in greater peace and harmony.

Section IV: Secondary Information[3]

Formerly an agricultural country playing catch-up with its neighbors, Malaysia has flourished into a thriving hub of information technology. Malaysia is now among the most advanced countries in Asia and now bears the face of progress in the region (Robles, 2008[4]). This change could have greatly influenced the attitudes, behaviors and beliefs of Malaysian youth. To supplement the work done in this project, presented below are findings from additional research conducted on the behaviors of Malaysian youth.

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[3] As derived from secondary sources & not from the primary information collected from the focus group conducted for this project

[4] Robles, Jojo. (2008). Past is Present in Malaysia 51 Years after Independence. PRLog Free Press Release. http://www.prlog.org/10103992-past-is-present-in-malaysia-51-years-after-independence.html

Media

One of the most evident consequences of this advancement is the preoccupation of Malaysian youth with activities involving the use of Internet. According to a recent survey by global market research company Synovate, 40% of Malaysian youth between the ages of 8 to 24 said that the Internet keeps them up-to-date, and 43% said that Internet gives them useful information while 45% said that they plan to use the Internet

QUICK FACTS	
General Information	
Area	329, 750 square kilometers
Infant Mortality Rate	6.6 deaths/1, 000 live births
Life Expectancy at birth	71.8 years (Male); 76.3 years (Female)
Internet Users	14,904,000
Population Information	
Total Population	27, 730, 000
Population Growth Rate	2.4% per annum
Population in Peninsular Malaysia	23 million
Male Population	14,074,000 (50.8%)
Female Population	13,656,000 (49.2%)
% of population that is 14 years old or younger	32%
% of population that is 15-59 years old	62.9%
% of population that is 60 years old or older	4.8%
Population by Ethnic Groups	
Malays and other Bumiputera	65%
Chinese	26%
Indians	4.0
Others (unlisted ethnic groups)	1%
Education	
% of Adults Literacy	88.7%
% of persons aged 6-24 not attending school	-
Religion Affiliations (of total population)	
Islam	60.4%
Buddhism	19.2%
Christianity	9.1%
Hindu	6.3%
Confucianism/Taoism/Traditional Chinese Religion	2.6%
Others	2.4%
Information Sources: National Census 2000, Department of Statistics Malaysia; Census of Population and Housing Malaysia 2000, Dept of Statistics Malaysia; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Malaysia	

more over other media[5].

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[5] ADOIMagazine. http://www.prlog.org/10103992-past-is-present-in-malaysia-51-years-after-independence.html

Apart from blogging, social networking has also occupied the online activity list of Malaysian youngsters with over one third (38%) reading other people's social network profile pages. Thirty-one percent update their own profile pages while 44% take the initiative to read other people's social network profile pages as well as update their own[6].

Reinforcing their love for the TV, 33% of the 906 people polled said they could not live without TV, 19% chose the internet, 18% said their mobile phones were what they couldn't live without, 2% said newspaper and 1% radio. However, 45% said they would use the Internet more often compared to the TV (22%), mobile phones (11%), newspapers (7%), radio (3%) and magazines (2%). Malaysian youths were also discovered to be active bloggers as 48% spent some of their time blogging and 38% said they read blogs and 22% read blogs and made comments on them[7].

Education

Malaysia's national education policy has been formulated in the context of the country's vision of reaching developed nation status by 2020. The education system has been reformed to ensure the development of a highly educated and skilled as well as strongly motivated professional workforce. In keeping with its objective of providing highly skilled human resources necessary for the development of the nation, the Government has accorded high priority to education. The Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) allocated RM 50.6 billion over five years to education and training, an increase of RM 39.5 billion from the Seventh Five Year Plan (1995-2000)[8].

The national education system, as stipulated in the Education Act of 1996, encompasses pre-school, primary, secondary, post-secondary and higher education. Pre-school consists of one to two years and primary school comprises grades one to six. Secondary school is divided into two levels: lower secondary, which lasts for three years (four years

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[6] Eusouff, Ray. Survey: 45% of Malaysian Youth Use Internet over Other Media. Yoyooh.com.. 2009.
[7] Malaysian Youth Like Web, Love TV. http://www.marketresearchworld.net/index.
[8] Data for the Ninth Five Year Plan were from "Higher education key to developed status: Malaysia" IslamOnline.net at< http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=29164>. Data for the Seventh Five Year Plan were from ESCAP (2002), p.1.

in the case of students who take a Remove Class[9]); and upper-secondary, which is two years in duration. Postsecondary school lasts for two years and prepares students for higher education in colleges, polytechnics, universities and other institutions of higher learning. The national education system has three categories of educational institutions: those established and maintained by the Ministry of Education; those that receive financial aid from the Government; and those that are established and maintained by private organizations[10].

Information technology has also been incorporated in education. The Ministry of Education has undertaken an initiative to establish a Smart School programme, which comprises schools equipped with computers to promote information technology among students[11].

Section V: Raw Data from Malaysia Discovery Focus Groups

Compiled Notes for Evangelical Leaders and Pastors

OPENING : WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE TOP CURRENT EVENT IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ?
o   National

- Politics in this country

- Sibu government elections

     - Technology and media, iPad, iPhone

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[9] Data for the Ninth Five Year Plan were from "Higher education key to developed status: Malaysia" IslamOnline.net at< http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=29164>. Data for the Seventh Five Year Plan were from ESCAP (2002), p.1.
[10] Understanding Youth Issues in Selected Countries in the Asian and Pacific Region. 2007. United Nations. NY.
[11] Youth in Malaysia: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes. 2002. United Nations. NY

- Subsidy issues in Malaysia (certain domestic products)

- Youth festivals, i.e. Youth '10. Many youth attend but those from church less. Church disconnect with outside world. Church youth should be encouraged to attend outside festivals, church needs to open up.

- Malaysia Communications and Multi Media Commissions (MCMC) will give 1 million laptops to poor students and build 1000 more telecommunicatiosn towers to increase broadband penetration in the nation.

  - Some or only few people will get richer – a lot of government projects are just a channel for corruption for a few to get rich

  - Just gives an impression but will not be followed up

  - Urban poor students can have access to information – this will just expose the misdeeds of the government

    - Avenue for students to vent out their anger (against the government online)

  - Information without guidance and oversight – this will soon lead to vices

    - Discipline/Guidance cannot be given by the teachers because they are absent

  - Deal with moral and language issues, deal with what is most important

- Global

  - Oil spill in Gulf of Mexico – environmental concerns

INTRODUCTION : HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN MINISTRY ?

TRANSITION : WHAT TWO WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE THE MALAYSIAN YOUTH TODAY ?
- Sheltered – compared to older generation (of 30 years ago) (2x)

  - Spoiled

    - overly protected

    - Too contented and comfortable, decision made for them by their parents

- • Some youth are also treated like kings and queens at home, is, spoilt.
    - ▪ Where does the money go? – this is after spending much for a child's course and then nothing happened
  - o Lack of discipline
    - ▪ Making wrong decisions
  - o Narcisstic – what's in it for me (WIIFM)?
  - o Influences
    - ▪ Media-oriented
    - ▪ Materialistic
    - ▪ Influence of friends stronger than parents or other adults
  - o Dare to venture
  - o Very creative, maybe due to volume of knowledge available
    - ▪ Each generation is creative in different ways. Church needs to create a platform for youth to use their creativity

AREA KEY 1 : HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE INTEREST LEVEL OF MALAYSIAN YOUTH IN RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY ?
  - o They are spiritual and want to experience God, not just talk about God. The keyword is experiential.
    - ▪ Is the church meeting this experiential need? The awareness is there, more so in urban churches, but non-urban churches are less aware of youth issues, e.g. many youths in non-urban churches may not even have an e-mail address yet.
    - ▪ Churches (urban) are aware but still discovering how to, or what methods to employ. The older generation needs to be more accepting of the young, more trusting and not "limiting" them.
  - o Declining – they're just looking for comfort and what is just done for them.
    - ▪ Materialism – no focus on religion
    - ▪ Parents' pre-occupation with education – nothing else is more important, not so much on what is God's will
    - ▪ WIIFM (What's In It For Me ?) – because of internet ; anything that will make them look best and popular

AREA KEY 2: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS HINDRANCES TO YOUTH BEING DRAWN TO CHURCH AND FAITH IN CHRIST?

- Hard to find emerging young leaders:

    - In our time, being a leader begins at 20, now it's hard to do something like that; it's hard to find Joshuas now.

    - There's no way to pass on the baton – this is a sad trend

- Culture shift toward materialism

    - The culture now says education is the basis for good life.

    - Church's idea – if you become a Christian, God will bless you. = Prosperity Gospel

- Weak discipleship in church

    - Nowadays, the church is not strong in basic discipleship. No follow up activities. Christians are growing up without the right foundation.

    - Wide knowledge but no depth. We think we know a lot.

    - Lack of interest in digging into the Word

- Parents themselves are the hindrance because they protect children from hardships of life making them spiritually weak

- Lack of fatherhood or mentors, role models. Elders are too critical

- Barrier of acceptance, older gen views the youth culture as "weird".

    - Not wiling to invest their time, due to being ill equipped.

    - Church is not preparing the adult congregation to connect with the young, due to ill equipped again.

    - Church must set boundaries and not boxes, boxes is labeling and labels divides → issue of acceptance.

- Church must partner with parents/adults to work with youth.

- Mindset of church as a "holy" place for "good" people only, therefore neglecting the youths who are lost.

- Church is performance driven, egg. School grades. Dealing with the surface only.

- Mindset is that youths are the responsibility of the youth pastors and youth workers, hence those not "in the ministry" do not get involved in connecting and mentoring. Senior Pastor needs to play an important role in connecting with the youths, being a role model to other adults.

AREA KEY 3: WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS TO MAKE CHRISTIANITY RELEVANT TO THIS GENERATION AND ENCOURAGE DISCIPLESHIP?

- Start before teenage years
    - It's too late to start with teenagers, we should start very early, and we should start with the young ones. Teenagers are already set.
        - For example, teenage girls will trade sex for RM5. So there is really a need to start with the younger ones.
    - To be effective reach the younger generations
- Emphasize basics of faith
    - Go back to basics – prayer, word, and discipleship. Church became more complicated and trying to make it more sophisticated (more trendy, acceptable to the generation now)
    - Other parents are concerned with well being, we need to be more pro-active (spiritually)
- Proactive parenting
    - Youth spend only 2 hours a week in the church. A lot of work needs to be done on weekdays. Where is God during this time? Where are the parents?
    - Role modeling needs to happen at home, can't expect the church/ministry to instill spirituality if it doesn't happen at home.
    - Parents should do connecting with their children to bring them to a new level.
        - Bad habits are picked up more than the good ones.
- Intentionally raise up spiritual fathers (mentors)
- Senior Pastor / Elders need to be a role model, need to "let go."
- Younger generation need to rise up to the challenge.
- Need to educate the older generation due to the clash of values.
- This needs to be a church-wide vision.
- Role modeling needs to happen at home, can't expect the church/ministry to instill spirituality if it doesn't happen at home.

AREA KEY 4 : WHAT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU SEE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY COMPARED TO 10 YEARS AGO ?

- Change in family dynamics/priorities
    - Before, it is just one parent who would work but now it is both = reasons for lack of connection

- Dinner & lunch time could be an interaction time with children.
- Youth leaders themselves need help
- Internet networking
  - Opportunities :
    - Social networking – you can touchbase with them
  - Challenges:
    - Youth worker thinks that if they're doing facebook they're doing work
    - Less relational
      - People are 5-dimensional beings : sight, sound, touch, speak, etc.
        - You know when to pull back and to release
    - Young people are more easily drawn to uncleanness of the net.
      - Uncleanness is a very powerful tool of the devil.
- Youth ministry cannot be compartmentalized, needs to be part of the church.
- Need to focus on the young, be opened minded.
- All the generations must come together for missions, not youth doing their own thing, women's ministry doing their own thing, men's ministry doing their own thing, etc.
- Church is too inward focused.
- Youth minsitry is about youth reaching out, not just coming on Saturday to "sing some songs."
- Youth ministry needs to be reaching the non-believers and not cater to church youth only.

What is the church's response ? (Follow–up question)
- Quite weak
  - There's no time to sit down and reflect (on doing the more important things in ministry)
  - Influence of big churches over small churches – many conferences to attend
  - Playing the numbers game
- If church will take care of the family, then society will take care of itself (because family is the basic unit of the society)

- Need for mentoring within the church world
  - To mentor the younger generation – there's a big gap between the older generation and the new generation (a gap)
  - More personal touch is needed/important to get the people together
  - Go down to the ground more (reach the younger ones, go back to the basics)
  - Youth don't have someone to mentor them
  - They don't have someone to look up to

AREA KEY 5 : WHAT ROLE DOES MEDIA PLAY IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH TODAY ?
- Social networking – youth connect through this
  - Youth are not caught up with mainstream media.
- Changing trends – hunger for reality and authenticity. They can spot a fake.
  - Because youth see no substitute for social networking, they are captured (trapped) in the vicious net
- Political awareness – flight or fight responses

AREA 6 : WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE YOUNGER AND OLDER GENERATION IN MALAYSIA ?
- Less intimate
  - Absentee parents – compensating the absence through material things
  - Missing the point of personal connection (impartation) because of internet/technology – they miss the way it works
    - Young lad in tears because he saw friends in FB having a good time while he is having a lousy time. His pastor talked to him and connected with him. The lad has given up video playing and he has now gone back to church.
- Many teachers, not so many followers (Paul's message to Corinth cited)
  - There's no strong follow up done for young people
- Typical Chinese family where the father is not close to the children, but overall this is improving compared to previous times.
- The olders see themselves as in authority.

- Youth do not know how to interact and respect the older generation due to the Internet culture which lacks physical etiquette, ie, mannerism and greeting people.

- Can't clap with one hand, both generations must work at it , the older needs to learn to embrace/accept and the younger needs to learn to submit and receive teaching.

AREA KEY 7 : HOW DOES LANGUAGE IMPACT NATIONAL HARMONY AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH ?
- No problem in the language ; it's not an issue (2)

    - Youth are not overly concerned about language.

- There's no division ; they are more united now compared before (30 years ago)

- Church has not allowed the language to divide us

- Can youth embrace nation building issues ? Yes, but they need to be exposed to these issues .

CONCLUSION : AMONG ALL THINGS THAT WERE DISCUSSED, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OR WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ?
- Influence of the net – affecting this generation and the next to come. It can even intensify , it can even be a huge challenge to the church.

- Materialism – one of the issue this generation faces

- The older generation needs to come down to their level and accept the youth, only then can effective teaching happen.

- Pertaining Senior Pastor, it's easy for him to hire youth workers to reach young people but that is not enough, the entire church and all resources need to be channeled to have the youths in mind, i.e. not just a Youth Ministry thing.

- Strengthening the Christian family – it is the root cause

    - Surface problem (materialism) –> surface cause –>root problem (structure of the family) –>root cause (disregard the priestly and prophetic role in the family)

    - Go back to Paul, be more international in spiritual fathering because misbehaved children often due to absentee fathers.

Compiled Notes For Youth Pastors

OPENING: WHAT DID YOU DO IN LAST WEEK'S YOUTH MEETING?
- Outdoor sports activities
  - Young people are encouraged to bring a friend along. The purpose is to evangelize. One of the activities is playing Frisbee.
  - Team games. They can bring along their friends. Some of those who came for the games will be back for service.
- Visitation
  - Send the youth out for visitations to various homes like old folks' home, handicapped children home, mentally challenged people's home and the hospital. The purpose is for the youth to learn to care and relate to the people ; to build bridges. Instead of getting money from church, they pool their money themselves to get some gifts to the homes they are visiting. The young people are split into groups for the visitation.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT BEING A YOUTH PASTOR?
- Seeing change in the young people's life; transformation. There is satisfaction.
- Easier to lead than adults, struggle to bring out their energy, need to harness their energy. Need to see lives saved and transformatioin. Not just a mundane church.
- Able to build the church with the young people. Would like to see the young people rising up. Can see the Gospel brings out in a new method.
- Getting to know all types of people. It is a challenge. In the other hand can see their creativity too.
- Believe in building the next generation. A person makes the most important decision during their young age (focus on studies or mess it up for their future). If they do it right the first time, they have a good future, but they are not in the position to make such, youth leaders are there to lead them and teach them. As a guidance.

TRANSITION: WHAT ARE TWO WORDS YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE THIS GENERATION OF YOUTH?
- POSITIVE
  - Music
  - Color
  - Expressive
  - Passionate (2)
  - Creative (2)
  - Talented
  - Daring
  - Adventure seeker
  - Multi tasking
  - Media-oriented
- NEGATIVE
  - Materialistic

- o Too contented and comfortable, decisions made for them by parents
- o Overly-protected
- o Self centered
- o Lost (2)

KEY AREA 1: WHAT IS THE MAIN ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT MALAYSIAN YOUTH DEAL WITH TODAY?
- Self identity
  - o They do not know their own identity. (2)
  - o They don't know their identity thus they don't know how to relate to others.
  - o They are being superficial in their relationship with others. It's like putting on mask when going out with their friends.
  - o Fashion and music become very important to them. They lost touch in relationship.
- They are making wrong choices and hasty decisions
- Relationship challenges:
  - o Lack of fatherhood or mentors, role models
  - o Barrier acceptance, older generation view the youth culture as "weird"
  - o Typical Chinese family where the father is not close to the children, but overall is improving compared to previous times
  - o The youth do not know how to interact and respect the older generation due to internet culture which lacks physical etiquette, i.e. Mannerism and greeting people

KEY AREA 2: How do Malaysian youth see church and its influence on them?
- Boring (3)
  - o Since they want to be entertained, they expect the same entertainment and wow factor from the church. They are thinking what they can get out of it. This is applicable to Christian and non Christian youth.
  - o Very holy therefore boring. Expect the church to tell them to do the right thing. They know what advice they are going to get if they ask the pastors.
- Out-of-touch
  - o Just another religion.
  - o Too spiritual.
  - o As they search for answers, they don't feel the church in general is applicable to their life.
  - o Mindset of church as a "holy" place for "good" people only, therefore neglecting the youth who are lost
- Church leadership
  - o God is raising up leaders that provides message that are more relevant to their life. (2)
  - o Elders are too critical

- o Church is not preparing the adult congregation to connect with the younger generation
- o Church is performance-driven, egg. School grades. Dealing with the surface and not inside

KEY AREA 3: HOW IS THE CHURCH CULTURE KEEPING PACE WITH THE WORLD AROUND IT, ESPECIALLY YOUTH CULTURE?
- GOOD
    - o Better than it used to be and slowly getting better and more relevant.
    - o Relatable but still some distance off. The method of presenting the gospel to them is more acceptable to them. They want the church to be contemporary.
    - o Keeping well with the pace with the culture. The church has youth meetings with contemporary songs. Last time it used to be just psalm and hymn. In Ipoh the church is found to be keeping with the pace. But we need to build relationship with them.
    - o Intentionally raise up spiritual fathers/mentors and elders and pastors need to be role models.
    - o Is the church meeting this experiential need? The awareness is there, more so in urban churches, but non-urban churches are less aware of youth issues, e.g. may youth in non-urban churches may not even have an e-mail address yet
    - o
- OFF
    - o A lot more to learn about teen likings and what they want. There is still a room to explore. Some pastors still do not allow some youth culture in the church, there are still some barriers. There are still people who have old mindsets that are far form the youth. (5)
    - o Those who are too long in church but not growing tend to see the religious things and stop the church from moving forward.
    - o Urban churches are aware but still discovering how to, or what methods to employ. The older generation needs to be more accepting of the young people, more trusting and not "limiting" them.
    - o Church must set boundaries and not boxes, boxes is labeling and label divides -> issue of acceptance

KEY AREA 4: HOW DOES PEER PRESSURE AND MEDIA INFLUENCE YOUTH TODAY?
- MEDIA:
    - o The media influences the peers and the peers in return influence the youth. Anything that gives them the source of identity like YouTube (the youth can have the freedom to post anything online and can be popular or be the overnight sensation) or FaceBook, (because they can post anything online and like to see whether any friends like their thoughts) (3)
    - o All sorts of media.

- Engross in the virtual world, they could not take the hurt of rejection in the real world whereas in the virtual world, they can handle the rejection.
  - The media really shapes their mindset. They even celebrate birthdays online.
- Give them false hope. (3) Young people are like consumers. Media makes them happy. However, they also drain out the young people creativity. The X generation is much more creative than the current Generation (generation Y or millennium generation). The young people are just there waiting to be served. For example, waiting for new games to be out (PSP). The X generation is creating the games for them. It makes them less creative.
- Friends are about media. If they want to know a friend they need to get connected with the current media.
- They are living in the virtual world instead of the real world. (5)
- There are youth festivals (e.g. Youth '10) that are media-filled events and many of the youth outside the church attend. Church is disconnected from the outside world.

KEY AREA 5: HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE THE INTEREST OF YOUTH IN THE CHURCH AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES COMPARED TO SPORTS OR FASHION?
- CLOSE:
  - Previously church and others do not mix, but now everything is inseparable.
- MID:
  - Partially. Those who are serving will talk more about church. Youth generally need to know about their purpose and then they will be more inclined to the church. Those with purpose will live differently.
- FAR:
  - Very far apart, more are interested in sports and fashion
  - The world has more to offer than the church. Church is only on the weekends.
  - Church youth should be encouraged to attend festivals outside the church, church needs to open up
- A God encounter:
  - If they have a God encounter, they will talk about God. Without God, they will talk about other stuff.
  - Normally young people get together; they don't talk about the church. But some do get together and talk about the church for instance after the youth camp. Once they have a God encounter, they will be inclined to talk about church. In Ipoh, it is still more about others than church. Unless the church do something.

CONCLUSION: GIVEN THE THINGS WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT HERE, WHAT TOOLS OR METHODS DO YOU THINK MIGHT HELP MINISTRY TO THIS GENERATION BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

- Church need to embrace the 7 beliefs. Tools will be the media. When the church stop being afraid about the world that they can be more efficient in getting the youth. They need to upgrade the media in the church to catch their attention.
- Get young people involve in the Work of God. They can relate to God and be more interested. An avenue to make God relevant in their life.
- Have a church without walls; take the church out there. It is more than that in the church. Bring kingdom impact. When the church move together to impact the world, the world will ask question and be interested.
- The church needs to open door for the people to express. There are lots of talents and they need to discover and channel the creativity in the church. Learn to love and care for people, not just work on the church appearance, but also need to educate the people that love and care is important.
- 3 things, language, music and fashion. Tools and methods can help to be effective, but cannot sustain the ministry. God himself is needed to make it last. Everything is just a tool to get the youths attention, but God makes them stay on. (3)
- God given us the gifts, need to be bold to apply it, it will makes the difference. The world has the tools, but the church has the tools and ht supernatural. Need to raise up a generation that stands up and be bold.
- Mindset is that youth are the responsibility of the youth pastors and youth workers, hence those not "in the ministry" do not get involved in connecting and mentoring. Senior pastor needs to play an important role in connecting with the youth, being a role model to other adults.
- Youth ministry cannot be compartmentalized, need to be part of the church
- Need to focus on the youth, be open minded
- Youth ministry is about youth reaching out, not come on Saturday and "sing some songs"
- All the generation must come together for missions, not each ministry (youth, women, men, etc.) doing its own thing
- The older generation needs to come down to their level and accept the youth, only then can effective teaching happen

- Pertaining to senior pastor, it's easy for him to hire youth workers to reach young people but that is not enough, the entire church and all resources need to be channeled to have youth in mind.

Compiled Notes for Teachers

OPENING: HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON TEACHING AS A PROFESSION ?

- It was not a first choice course.

  o Did not chose to be a teacher. His choice is whether to be a police or being a temporary teacher.However his passion was built up being a temporary teacher and finally become a teacher for over 20 yrs.

  o No plans to be aducator, previous work in administrative work within a college. Started with counseling student (career or course). Providing solution to the students. Found satisfaction there and become an educator later.

- Decided on it while still in school/university

  o Decided to beome a teacher in 2nd yr of University, never think of it previously. Have the passion.

  o Decided in form 6. Like the relationship of teacher and student, can help the student change for good in life.

INTRODUCTION : HOW IS TEACHING DIFFERENT TODAY THAN WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL ?

- Knowledge Content

  o Big gap in knowledge, more knowledge based previously, but currently not much knowledge base. Void of knowledge, the beauty of language is taken away and just structure only, no literature.

- Skills Development

  o The system is design such a way to give importance in exam only. There is no creativity and students can't intepret problem. **(2)**

  o Without communication skill, the students can't approach the world upon graduation.

  o Currently is more spoon feeding, the system do not train students to think, only memorize.

- Discipline

  o The responsibility of disciplining children previously is from the parents, but currently parents do not do that. Student complain about teacher using the cane. Currently, parents want teacher to teach, but do not allow them to discipline their children. Furthermore, parents nowadays do not teach children to respect the elders.

  o In comparison with the government system, the teachers can discipline the students, whereas in the international school system, caning is not allowed. However, he found that without

caning, other forms of disciplinary actions can be used, such as warning, counselling, positive feedback and etc. He found that it is equally effective. (Commented by a formally international school teacher)

- o Think punishment should be enforced from 11-15 yrs old. Not over 15yrs old.

- o Punishment by caning is taking the easy way out for the educators giving discipline.

- o It is commented that the above methods can only apply to certain students. (Commented by a government school teacher)

- School Atmosphere

  - o In secondary school, the study environment is not conducive, just story telling or do nothing at all. In college, he finds himself having struggles because of the change in environment. Environment is able to make people do their best and be more hardworking

TRANSITION : WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS THAT HAVE CREATED THIS CHANGE ?
NOTE : DIDN'T GET TO ASK THIS QUESTION

KET AREA 1 : WHAT IS THE MAIN ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DEAL WITH ?

- Education System

  - o Problem not created by educators, but by the institution. The policy was enforced, creating contradiction among colleagues. Need to accept even do not agree to it. The conflict between academic and management is evident.

  - o There are problems in the education system, as everything is focused in paper. He thinks that the students have to learn to think out of the box.

  - o Do not encounter behavioral problem with student. He treats students as friends. His way of approaching them makes them respect him.

  - o Blame the system and not the students. **(3)**

  - o Malaysia has SRP previously. When the students cannot pass through SRP, they will not be able to continue their education. However, with the new system, PMR replaced SRP and it allows all students to pass through Form 3, and therefore all students will

end their education in Form 5. This system let those who are unprepared to enroll to other courses and this creates a problem. Those who enroll in college do not have the quality to handle the course. On the other hand, foreign people fill the current low positions because the local people do not want to fill those positions. The system will develop nicely if there is filter. Every one becomes ambitious.

- Character Building
  - Think school is academic-based; teachers are neglecting character building in school. **(2)**.

KEY AREA 2: WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE YOUNGER AND OLDER GENERATION IN MALAYSIA?

- Communication gap

  - Think that there are many topics that can't share with the younger generation, as he does not know what young people are talking. The younger generation is always talking about fashion and technology. Young people are not interested with what he says. Young generation is too narrow on understanding of technology. If technology is link to dollar, young people will be interested. Materialistic. (One does not agree with this).

  - Children do not like to talk to teachers but friends. They are good at Internet on social skills, not in reality and relationships. **(3)**

  - Current generation does not buy newspaper, all only using FaceBook. There is a huge gap created by the Internet and mobile phone. It destroys the English language. **(3)**.

  - Young generation does not care about anything but Internet. **(3)**

- Lack of respect

  - People are not respecting each other; young people are not doing that. It is on newspaper everyday that students are victimizing teachers when they discipline them. To respect people is one solution to this problem.

KEY AREA 3: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON THE YOUTH CULTURE?

- Internet

  - Feels this is a good factor. **(2)**

  - FaceBook and you tube create curiosity.

- Role model

- o Follow people that they admire. **(2)**

- o Everyone is searching for something such as his or her identity. It is lost now.

- o Tend to follow the wrong people. Benchmarking is off for the young people. **(2)**.

- Do not understand the trend of the youth.

KEY AREA 4: WHAT COMMENTS DO YOU RECEIVE FROM STUDENTS ABOUT THE CURRENT EDUCATION SYSTEM?

- Complaints

  - o The student asked, "Why need to study so much, why do we have homework, why could we not select interesting subject?" (2)

  - o Students are doing what the teachers want. Need to balance the system. They are confused. Students are asking why they are studying subjects that are not relevant to them. We need to give students way to express and we try to help them out. Need to listen to them, not just dismiss them.

  - o Always ask why need to study the subjects that are not relevant to them. (2)

- Confusion

  - o They do not the have purpose of the subject to their life. First of all they do not know why they are enrolled in the college.

  - o Movies project that college life is free, but in real life it is different. Influence of the media and projecting the wrong message. Students find that the real college life is not what they imagine it to be. They want life to be easy and less of hard work. (2

- Lack of choices of programmes (subject) offered in Malaysia.

KEY AREA 5: HOW DOES ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE AFFECT YOUR CLASSROOM DYNAMICS?

- Positive (from the teacher's point of view)

  - o Find that it is interesting to work with other racial group. He find that working with other races educators allow him to learn things about other culture. As he is from pure Malay school until graduation.

- Negative

  - o First year students are good, but second year they start to group together according to ethnicity. In the third year, there is a larger

gap. Students start to be racial, even in their comments to others. When the educators ask them to make a group and they will stick to their own ethnic.

- o Do not dwell on it or else it might bring out the problem. (Malay Muslim Educator).

- o Chinese stick to Chinese and Indian stick to Indians. She can't see togetherness in the class. She encouraged them to communicate with each other but doesn't work. She arranged for them to sit mixing around, but once she left, they will sit back according to their race.

- Challenging

  - o Commented that this issue is only faced in Malaysia. (X3) Overall, if they group together according to their ethnicity, it is alright, as they are in they comfort zone, as long as they do not offend each other. Teachers need to be sensitive and not take sides. It is a challenge. (X2).

  - o The student needs to have comfort zone within them.

KEY AREA 6 : WHAT ROLE SHOULD MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE IN THE CLASSROOM WITH TODAY'S YOUTH ?

- Positive

  - o It is part and parcel in the teenage life. Chalk is gone; there is smart board now. Computers and projectors are being common. X2

- Negative

  - o Need to improve on this.

  - o Student is weak in imagination, need to use computer to teach, there is visual attraction and animation. It creates impact. X4

  - o Days of book and writing are gone.

  - o Do not agree to bring technology to the class, as it is rigid and limited. The students need to be brought out for field trips and practical works. It should bring better effect. [However, this is limited by cost -commented by another person].

KEY AREA 7 : WHAT EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SEEM TO INTEREST STUDENTS MOST ?

- Sports

  - o Sport is the majority. Venue for the student to vent out. X3

- School – organized activities
  - When the school tries to get someone to the activities organized, it will end up with the same person joining it.
  - Joining uniform bodies (e.g. Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Red Cross, Clubs) gives scores for scholarship applications. In short, the students need to join the uniform body in order for them to have enough scores to look good in their application for university later on. One the other hand, it is the teacher who leads the club that might cause the problem. Teacher in charge or curriculum society do not know how to play. For egg: Ping Pong Club. It is hard to find coach. Not having the right people for the right job, it will be a disaster. X3.
- What the students want
  - It should be what the student wants, they have their groups, it might not be Internet, anything that is not forced on to them. Should ask the students what they want. When he gave the students a choice, they formed a hobby club. He added that extra curriculum activities should balance with the student's needs and what school could offer. He even have rocket club formed by students.
  - Can't force the students. X2.

CONCLUSION : FROM WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU AS THE MOST IMPORTANT ?
- We need to get to their curiosity, to create an interest for the students.
- Think that we are in the cross road and there might be a generation gap. It is a dynamic world and people can't keep up with it. There is no stability. We need to look at the whole picture and need to have balance. Need to be quick to adapt.
- Community should not expect educators to keep up with the new things, as this will create pressure on the educators.
- All of us are criticizing, but it is because we want to change the future. It is good but need to have a way to amend the problem, a solution. To change or follow the system. But need time to change.
- Follow the rules, but need to maintain the quality.

Compiled Notes for Parents

OPENING: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A PARENT?

- Seeing them change/transform from a baby to a teenager
- Bonding with your children (3)
- Joy and happiness that money can't buy
- Children's hugs and kisses
- They keep me on my toes and growing to keep up with their growth stages
- Meeting your children's friends

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY'S FAVORITE PAST TIME TO DO TOGETHER?
- Eating out (6)
- Going to malls (5)
- Going to movies
- Jamming as a band on the weekend
- Weekend excursions

TRANSITION: WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU ENCOUNTER IN FINDING TIME TO SPEND TOGETHER AS A FAMILY?
- FaceBook
- MSN
- Handphone
- Cyber cafe
- Astro satellite TV (2)
- Church activities
- Friends are more important
- Parents busy with work/business travel
- Children's homework
- Compulsory extra-curricular activities

KEY AREA 1: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS HINDRANCES TO YOU CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN SPIRITUAL THINGS?
- Peer pressure (2)
- Lack of (i.e., weak) spiritual foundation
- Lack of example and input from the parents (2)
- Secularization of education
- Secular media that goes against traditional and Biblical values

KEY AREA 2: DO YOU AS PARENTS GIVE YOUR KIDS THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION?
- No (7)
- Let them be exposed to different ideas while providing guidance and example (7)

KEY AREA 3: WHO OR WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MAIN INFLUENCE IN YOUR CHILDREN'S LIFE?

- Media
- Friends (2)
- Parents (10)
  - Because of the foundation they lay in the children's lives
  - Because they sacrifice their own happiness for the children's happiness
  - Because the children spend more time at home than anywhere else

KEY AREA 4: WHAT ARE WAYS WE AS PARENTS INFLUENCE OUR CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR?
- Lay the foundation when they are young through teaching and discipline (3)
- Spend quality time (don't wait till they become a teen and then start to change their attitudes and behavior)
- Guarding their choice of friends
- Expose them to the right people to speak into their lives (pastors, friends, leaders)
- Learn to relate to them within their individual learning styles

KEY AREA 5: WHAT CAN WE AS PARENTS DO TO HELP OUR CHILDREN HAVE A MEANINGFUL AND SUCCESSFUL LIFE?
- Devote your life to bringing up your kids (8)
- Set an example by living out your values (7)

KEY AREA 6: HOW DO YOU AS PARENTS VIEW THE MALAYSIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM?
- Education has been politicized (12)
- Nonsense (8)
- Academic based without practical life application (2)

KEY AREA 7: SHOULD WE AS PARENTS GIVE OUR CHLDREN FREEDOM IN CHOOSING WHAT THEY WANT TO STUDY OR ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE?
- They should have the right to do what they want
- Yes, because if they have a choice they will finish schooling
- Not 100% freedom, but guided choices based on their strengths (4)
- They need to get a university degree to be able to get a professional job

CONCLUSION: FROM WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU AS IMPORTANT?
- Recognized the need to spend more time with the kids
- Enjoy them while they are still around

Completed Report

- How we live as models to set an example for our children ... it all comes down to that

Compiled Notes for 16-19 Years Old

OPENING: WHAT DID YOU DO LAST FRIDAY?
- Social/Entertainment:
    - Internet/FaceBook (6)
    - Watch movie at cinema (2)
    - Played on computer
    - Cycling
    - Gym
    - Watch TV
    - Karaoke
    - Had dinner with parents
    - Dance practice
    - Attended retreat/camp
    - Went to the temple and shopping with family
- Education:
    - Tudor/Tuition (5)
    - Study for Exam (3)
- Other:
    - Meetings (2)
    - Sleep (2)
    - Work (2)
    - Nothing
    - Stayed home

INTRODUCTION: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?
- Social/Entertainment:
    - Go out with friends (10)
    - Internet (9)
    - Attend a camp (4)
    - Watch movies (3)
    - Talk to girls
    - Sports/Exercise (5) – Ice Hockey, Football, Jog, Paintball, Gym
    - Play pool
    - Go to church
    - Shopping
    - Watch Korean dramas
- Education:
    - Tudor/Tuition (8)
    - Study (5)

- Other:
  - Sleep (3)
  - Travel (3) – KL, Port Dickson, Grandma
  - Get Driver's License
  - Go to Port Dickson
  - Do things in the college

TRANSITION: HOW LONG WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT YOUR HANDPHONE?
- 1 day or less:
  - Few hours
  - 8 hours (2)
  - 1 day
  - If after school, maybe only 15 minutes
  - Not even 1 hour
- 2 weeks or less
  - 2 days (2)
  - 1 week
  - 2 weeks
- 1 month or more
  - 1 month (2)
  - 2 months (2)
  - Few months
- Can live without (6):
  - As long as I have an MP3 player
  - Can live without
  - Not that important
  - Don't use it that often, so it's not a problem
  - It doesn't matter if I have a hand phone or not
- Other:
  - Depends on what students are doing
  - Can't live without
  - Only use when necessary

KEY AREA 1: WHAT TYPE OF MEDIA APPEALS TO YOU THE MOST?
- Internet (19x)
  - FaceBook (8)
  - Easy access
  - Internet is cheap
  - Smart Phone
  - Choose Internet over TV, unless TV could choose both the program and the timing.
- Music (4)
- Movies (2)
- Computer

- Gossip Magazine
- TV
- Games
- Don't watch TV that often

KEY AREA 2: WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITES FREE TIME ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?
- Hang out (18x)
    - Talking with friends (8)
    - Hang out and gossip (5)
    - Lepak – hang out at mamak stall (3)
- Play sports (4)
    - Badminton (3)
    - Play Football
- Shopping (3)
    - Hang out at shopping malls
    - Window shopping
- Watch movie (3)
- Play computer games with friends
- SMS
- Sharing Interest
- Boys meet at cyber cafe
- Dating girls
- Cyber games
- Talk about girls
- Cycling and walking around
- Piano, Drums

KEY AREA 3: WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FAMILY?
- Having a meal together (22)
- Traveling (10) – within Malaysia, not internationally
- Shopping (5)
    - Not with dad (impatient)
- Watching TV (3)
- Watching movie (2)
- Play sports (2)
- Talking
- Jogging
- Work out
- Relax
- Parents are not interested

IS THE INFLUENCE OF YOUR FAMILY OR PARENTS OVER YOU GREAT?
- Okay (5)

- Yes (2)
- No

HOW OFTEN DO YOU SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY?
- On special events
- Once a month
- Everyday (3)
- Rarely (2)

DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY?
- Yes (4)
- Half and half (2)

KEY AREA 4: HOW SATISFIED/HAPPY ARE YOU WITH THE WAY "THINGS" ARE IN YOUR SCHOOL?
- Positive (2)
    - The facilities are good
    - Very happy with
- Negative (37)
    - Unsatisfied with teachers (15)
        - Teachers don't listen to student's concerns (11)
        - Teachers don't know how to present the subjects (2)
        - Don't know how to present the subjects (2)
        - Don't know what the students want
        - Teacher doesn't like me
    - Unsatisfied with the rules (3)
    - The school doesn't focus on the students life (2)
    - Schools should be more liberal and allow more freedom.
    - Feels left out because he was rejected from team (importing students to play sports)
    - Racial (races tend to group together)
    - Don't like anything about school except friends
    - The food is bad
    - School is like a jail
    - Not at all
    - To many cliques
    - Tend to lose friends when promoted to form 4
    - Administration process is very slow.
    - Recess time not long enough
    - Education system forcing us to learn, discourages us from pursuing our interests, spoon feeds information
    - Don't like other students
    - Competition with other students or even friends for school posts. Easily offend others.
- Neutral (2)
    - 40% satisfied

WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR TEACHER YOUR ROLE MODEL?
- No (8)

WOULD YOU GO TO YOUR TEACHER FOR ADVICE?
- No (8)

ARE YOU CLOSE TO YOUR TEACHERS?
- No (8)
- Except for substitute (2)

KEY AREA 5: WHAT IS THE MAIN ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DEAL WITH?
- Education (10x)
  - Competition relating to academics and posts (5)
  - Discipline in studies and homework (4)
  - Teachers being offended when they are told they are wrong
- Relationships (8x)
  - Desires to spend more time with friends to avoid misunderstanding (4)
- Being ignored and spreading false rumors (3x)
- Fashion (3x)
  - Girls tend to be more "lala" (not elegant, not original, weird, unusual dress)
  - Male fashion is more feminine (like Korean bands)
  - Male fashion is better, makes me think of wanting to be a guy
- Malaysia should improve its sports
- Aspire to be like celebrities
- Rarely share problems with one another
- Money

DO YOU THINK YOUTH WANT TO BE LIKE CELEBRTIES?
- Yes (3)
- No (3)
- Maybe (2)

KEY AREA 6: WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, WHOM DO YOU LOOK TO FOR ADVICE?
- Family (8x)
  - Parents (5)
  - Siblings (3)
- Friends (6x)
  - They listen better
- God (3x)
- No one (3x)
- People they trust
- Teachers
- Cell Leaders
- Church Youth Leader

- Post problems on FaceBook
- Depends on the problem
- Do not go to teachers (9)
  - Teachers should be more like friends, but they are not (3)
  - They would be the last people to go to.
- Do not go to parents (2)
  - They don't listen
  - They scold before I even finish

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS DO YOU SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR FAMILY?
- Money Issues
- Personal problems
- Arguments with friends
- Life issues
- Family issues

WHAT KIND DO YOU SEEK YOUR ADVICE FROM YOUR FRIENDS?
- Personal problems
- Studies

KEY AREA 7: IN WHAT WAY DO YOU LOOK TO RELIGION TO GUIDE YOU?
- Personal benefits (7x)
  - Perseverance
  - Happiness
  - Confidence
  - Sense of identity
  - Code of Ethics
  - Helps one to move on in life
  - It can be a helpful guide
- Prayer (4x)
  - Not very religious, but does pray, but thinks it is up to the person to choose what is right and wrong.
  - Prayer gives hope
- Decision-making (3x)
  - What people learn through religion will influence one's decisions.
  - It can help but one still has to make the decisions.
  - On complicated matter it will play a part in one's decision-making.
- Reading the Bible (2x)
- Not religious
- We follow what out parents do
- Not sure
- Religion does not play a role. It only makes things worse.
- Ask "What Would Jesus Do?"
- All areas
- Gives hope to the lost world

- Don't believe in religion, Only believe in Jesus
- The reason one lives is because of religion

DOES RELIGION PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUR LIFE?
- Yes (7)
- No

DOES RELIGION PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH NOWADAYS?
- No (5)
- Don't Know
- They can talk about religion but they don't practice it

DO YOU THINK YOUTHS TODAY ARE OPEN TO RELIGION?
- They are open to know more about religion, but not willing to practice it (4)
- Totally not open
- They think religion is old-fashioned (2)
- They think religion is about being 'holy-unholy'

DO YOU THINK YOUTHS TODAY ARE OPEN TO RELIGION?
- Yes (3)

KEY AREA 8: HOW DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE FOR DIFFERENT RELIGIONS TO CO-EXIST IN HARMONY?
- By giving equal rights (5)
    o No discrimination
- Tolerating each other's religion (3)
    o Other religions should not criticize one another
- History books are biased and only talk about Islam (rejects others)
- Understanding and respecting each other (3)
- As long as we know our own religion and don't go around proselytizing, it will be okay and there will be harmony (2)
- Religion should not be politicized
- Possible, but not likely because of differences
- Every religion should just follow what they are taught to do and there will be peace.
- Mentality of the people
- Stop being greedy

DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE FOR DIFFERENT RELIGIONS TO CO-EXIST IN HARMONY?
- Yes, without politics playing a part (4)
- Maybe
- In 5 years time
- Not really, hard (2)

DO YOU THINK THE 1 MALAYSIA CONCEPT IS EFFECTIVE?
- No (5)
- Maybe

DO YOU ASSOCIATE RACE WITH RELIGION?

- Personally no, but it's a common stereotype where people do associate race with religions

DO YOU THINK THAT STEROTYPING PREVENTS DIFFERENT RELIGION FROM CO-EXISTING IN HARMONY?
- Yes (8)

CONCLUSION: FROM WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU AS THE MOST IMPORTANT?
- Religion (7)
    - Harmony among different races and religion (3)
- Media (6)
    - Should have stricter guidelines (2)
    - Youth should be wiser in filtering what they absorb from the media
    - Youth are too addicted to media (2)
    - Addiction causes lack of family time
    - Distraction from school, family and spiritual life
- Friends (3)
    - Problems faced
- Schools should encourage creative thinking
- People we can go to for advice
- Peer pressure (i.e. friends' influence)
- Family
- Fairness and equality.

Compiled Notes for 13-15 Year Olds

OPENING: HOW ARE YOUR EXAMS GOING?
- Exams haven't finished yet (10)
- Exam only finished before holiday (5)
- Just finished
- Scary (Christian Chinese)
- Hard (Indian)
- Everyday, non stop studying (Buddhist Chinese)
- Force to study when there is exam (4)
- Need to study more (5)
- Bad
- Not too bad

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT SCHOOL?
- Recess/Free time (2)
- Friends (8)
- School bell signaling the end of school

- Sports (12)
- No smelly toilets (8)
- Friends (8)
- Teachers make jokes
- Activities (5) – don't like school but like activities, teachers not in class.
- COY Girl Guides
- Chapel time
- When teacher is not around

TRANSITION: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY TO DO JUST FOR FUN?
- Computer games (2)
- Reading (2)
  - Magazines (Galaxy, Hot, Cleo, about English sitcoms, like Glee)
  - Twilight saga
- Hanging out with friends (2)
- Sports/captain ball (basketball, football)
- Chatting
- Chit chat (Chinese)
- Talking foul language (Buddhist Chinese)
- Joking around (8)
- Playing guitar (Singh)
- Sing songs (Indian), Karaoke
- Listen to Justin Balbir (Indian/Punjabi)/music (2)
- Sleeping as normally no time for it (2)
- Internet/Online
- Watch TV like Korean Dramas
- Hang out at the mall
- Watch movie.

KEY AREA 1: WHICH TYPE OF MEDIA DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST AND WHY?
- Internet (14)
  - Because can log on YouTube and games (13)
  - Better than watching TV
  - Can do lot of stuff
  - Other media not as fun as internet
  - Can get everything on the internet and it covers everything (9)
  - FaceBook (11) – able to find out what others are doing
  - Communicating with friends
  - You can bully people/be mean when online (Chinese)
  - Can get the whole project done without doing anything (3)
- Hand phones because can SMS and chat with friends and can do many things (Chinese) (2)
- TV. Things with visuals (3) will continue to watch if there is no one to stop.

- Not TV as it is locked by parents
- Multitasking
- Radio
    - Red FM
- Watching movies (5)
    - During holidays, 2 to 3 times per month. One is not allowed by parent

KEY AREA 2: WHAT TYPE OF READING MATERIAL DO YOU FIND MOST INTERESTING AND FUN?
- Magazines (2)
- Storybook (2)
- Novel (5)
    - Form 2 (3)
    - Normal (1)
- Cook book/recipe book
- Fiction (4)
    - Twilights (1)
    - Science fiction
    - Pride and Prejudice/Classics
    - Love stories/Romance
- Comics (Chinese) (2)
- Doraemon (Chinese)
- Manga (Chinese) (2)
- Non-fiction

KEY AREA 3: HOW DO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SPEND YOUR TIME ON THE INTERNET?
- Gaming (4)
    - Dota
    - Gamebar
- Skype
- FaceBook (13)
- MSN Messenger (3)
- YouTube (6)
- Blogs
- Make friends without knowing them (Chinese) (2)
- Chat (2) with American (Chinese)
- Download movies

KEY AREA 4: WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FAMILY?
- Outing/Holiday (4) – can't split as not familiar with the place
- Go to church
- Watch movie together (2)
- Watch Astro TV programs (2)

- Celebrate birthday
- Family time/family devotion every Sunday
- Having meal together/Eat out
- Shopping (6)
    - Only enjoys it when buying things for ourselves from parents
- Play sports (2)
    - Jogging
    - Badminton (2)
- Fishing
- Exercise

KEY AREA 5: WHAT IS THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DEAL WITH TODAY?
- Teachers
    - Can't understand the student and pushing them too hard
- Studies
    - Because lots of exam (4)
    - Stress from studies (2)
- Peer pressure
    - Arguments when don't think alike
    - Fighting during game time
    - Friends problem
- Homework from school
- Gossip (girls) (3)
    - Gossip problem will not end among girls.
    - Miscommunication. Rumors trying to believe them. Sometimes think her actions are right but others think that it is wrong. Do not know how to handle this situation.
- Racism
- No problem
- Speaking in other language we don't know
- Family problems. Parents complain that she is involved in too many things. Do not study much. Was scolded by parents.
- Come together with friends and talk about everything but problems that they are facing, as they go out in huge group and need to tell the whole group, as they feel unfair to only share to certain individual in the group.

KEY AREA 6: WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, WHOM DO YOU LOOK TO FOR ADVICE?
- Parents (Mother and/or Father (5)
    - If need to talk to dad, go through mum and mum can persuade dad
    - If need to talk to mum, go through dad and dad can persuade mum

- Best friends (6) – for boys it's female friends that they confide with because they find girls more understanding
- Older sibling
- Teachers that are close to them (10)
- Depends on what kind of problems (2)
- Grandmother (2)
- Keep it to oneself (4)
  - Vent it out in the diary, as can't tell sister, as she will tell to other family members. Do not want to let other family members know. If need to tell other friends, will make sure that the person won't tell anyone. (2)
- As long as not brother
- Will go straight to the person. Like to solve things directly.
- Post on FaceBook to get advice

KEY AREA 7: WHAT ROLE DOES RELIGION PLAY IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?
- Can pray to God when facing problem (3) Friends will come and go, God is still there.
  - Ask God to show us right way when lost
  - Trust God to help.
- Like reminder
  - When angry, he can think back of what the Bible has written
  - After quarrel with friend read the Bible, and found the verse saying forgive and forget so choose to forgive friend
- Feel like God is with her
- If I need something, I pray and surely I get what I need
- Not sure (3), sometimes it helps in study, sometimes don't know or maybe it's just common sense.
- As a Christian will choose to do what is right.
- As looking at other friends, they are choosing (negative) lifestyle, like smoking, drinking and sexual activities
- Not much
- God will not come down and look for me.
- Don't know I am not religious. (2)
- Believe in himself (3)

CONCLUSION: FROM WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU AS THE MOST IMPORTANT?
- Religion (2)
  - Relationship with God
  - Set her apart from wrong doing
- Who should we turn to when we have problems (2)
  - We should turn to God

- o Share problem with others. (Did not know that majority does not share with others. Normally do not have anyone to talk to on their problems (3)
  - o We should not always keep the problem in heart, should share it out.
- Activities we spend
  - o We should share the Gospel with friends
- Studies (5) from opening questions (How are your exams?) (2)
- Family/Parents (4)
- Friends/Talking to friends
- Relationships (2)
- It is important to gossip but not super important and it is not as important as family and love (Girls)
- Not the only person who goes to school just for the activities, she finds that her classmates are studious and studies all the time.
- School life is very boring, always on duty as perfect, is not popular with other students as her duty is to carry out disciplinary actions (like: Giving out demerit points). Do not like to go to school.
- Internet/Online
  - o FaceBook