

beritaNECF

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



By Rev. Eu Hong Seng

CORRUPTION in the Church (the flip side)

In June this year, Professor Ramesh Richard of the Dallas Theological Seminary in the USA identified the Number 1 problem in the World – corruption!

Earlier, on 12 May, Prime Minister David Cameron hosted a landmark international anti-corruption summit in London where world leaders converged in London to discuss the problem of corruption. This resulted in the first-ever global declaration against corruption and heads of nations committed themselves to expose, punish and *drive out* corruption. Unfortunately, like many other similar declarations made at other high-level summits, this will likely remain collective noble words at best.

Meanwhile, in Malaysia, corruption continues unabated.

While we lament the declining state of integrity of our nation and world, we, too, must wake up to the fact that the Church has not been spared from the malaise of corruption within her own ranks either.

I believe corruption in the Church is three-fold.

First is the corruption of the Great Commission. The world-wide Church's greatest challenge is the "de-disciplinization" of the Church.

Undeniably we may have more believers today, but there are fewer *disciples* in the Church. While we teach believers many truths, we have failed to teach them to *obey*. Too many things are presented as optional in Christianity today.

The operative word "go" in the Great Commission has dropped off from our preaching in many churches. We can boast of having the best trainers and well-equipped seminaries in Asia -- the only snag is the majority of our graduates remain ensconced in plushy sanctuaries and cannot be told to "go".

Many of our churches shamelessly boast of growth, but in reality we have "stolen" sheep from each other. The largest church in Malaysia is the "mobile church" as hundreds "seek" and "are led" to find the ideal church Sunday after Sunday. Because the work of making disciples can be tedious and onerous, the shortcut to growing a congregation is easily sheep-stealing. Yes, our great commission has been "corrupted".

Next is the corruption of worship. Worship is an honor; it is a privilege.

Psalm 95 gives us the very clear distinction between thanksgiving, praise and worship. Thanksgiving relates to God's goodness – "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song" (Psalm 95:2), "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4). Praise relates to God's greatness – "for the Lord is the great God" (Psa 95:3). Worship on the other hand relates to God's holiness – "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker (Psalm 95:6).

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“CORRUPTION in the Church”

It can be said that thanksgiving and praise are primarily utterances of the mouth, but worship is primarily an attitude.

So how has corruption crept into our worship? Through carelessness. It is not an uncommon sight in many of our churches to see a large number of members arriving late for worship services. In Thailand, no one approaches the king simply by walking in – one is expected to *slide in* on the floor. Even the crossing of legs is improper in the presence of the king of Thailand. How much more then are we to approach the King of kings? No casual dressing, no carefree attitude for sure.

Far too many have picked up this habit of evaluating worship services. Surely God does not care about what we think? Let us not forget it is He alone who decides if His people's worship has risen like sweet incense to Him. Worship is about God, not our opinions.

Our worship can also be corrupted because there is no fear of God. Many saunter into church without their Bibles, while others are engrossed in chit-chat during worship. In fact, I recall chancing upon a believer who had a mug in one hand and a bread roll in another, relaxing way at the back of the sanctuary while a worship service was going on!

Nowadays, worship has also been hijacked and used as a means to draw the young into the more trendy churches. Thanks to flashing multi-color lights, smoke machines, pulsating music, “worship” has been *enhanced* and *made palatable* for the young people – leaving their parents consoling themselves that “at least my kids are attending church”. Never mind that we have effectively emptied the

youth hall of another church. We tell ourselves, “at least God is moving in our place, and the youth are coming in.” “Worship” has become a tool we use.

When we have a successful concert, we think it is a “revival”. But a concert is not necessarily worship. We have learned to *manufacture* worship. And then there is the clamor for shorter worship services with shorter sermons. Have we not corrupted worship?

Lastly, there is the corruption of the Word. The moral standard in some churches -- never mind what is in the world -- is plunging to new lows every year.

What the United Nations says seems more to hold more weight than what the Bible says. So many things are being done in the name of human rights. Homosexuality is gaining acceptance with some, hence practicing gay pastors and members are openly embraced without impunity.

We are anxious to be perceived as politically correct, socially acceptable and culturally sensitive.

What happened to absolute truths and unwavering convictions based on the Word? What happened to clear, uncompromising, Christo-centric preaching and teaching of the Scriptures?

Saints, a corrupted Church cannot be salt or light. We must return to unadulterated worship, preaching of the uncorrupted Word and get “go-ing” in the work of the Great Commission.

It is time to end the self-righteous posture of sloganeering and finger-pointing. Let the Church succeed where the world and, in particular, our nation have failed. Let's walk the talk and end corruption where it matters most – in ourselves, foremost.

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NECF's 15th BGM Shows The Way Forward

By Jack Cheah



Participants getting ready at the 15th Biennial General Meeting

The NECF 15th Biennial General Meeting (BGM) was held on 7 May 2016 at Petaling Jaya Gospel Hall. NECF chairman Rev Eu Hong Seng, in his welcoming address and report, gave updates on the on-going court cases regarding the “Allah” issue, office renovation and the National Prayer Altar. He said that although the *Catholic Herald* lost its final bid to review the Federal Court’s earlier judgment, the bright spot was the court’s decision on the Jill Ireland’s case in her favour, resulting in the return of the CDs confiscated from her. However, the decision on her constitutional right to use the word “Allah” has not been determined.

Rev Eu informed the meeting that a major facelift of the NECF office was undertaken in 2015 and most of the costs incurred have been met by money raised from members and friends. He also mentioned that the National Prayer Altar was launched by NECF and the Klang Valley Pastors’ Fellowship (KVPPF) at Peacehaven, Genting Highlands on September 14, 2015. The objective was for the Church to establish prayer altars across the nation in order to transform it.

As a way forward, Rev Eu emphasised the need for the Church to be more discerning in public discourses in the wake of stringent controls on the media and recent legislations which have led to the shrinking of public space for engagement. The secretariat, on its part, will undertake more deputation work in order to more effectively communicate and engage with members towards transforming the nation through the local Church.

In his Assistant Secretary-General’s report, Rev Andy Chi said that the NECF secretariat underwent a change of leadership and structure. A management team, comprising Pr Dr Khoo Kay Hup, Pr Samuel Ang and Rev Andy Chi, was set up to execute the decisions of the exco and council. This change has brought about a change of direction and in operations. The focus now is on raising prayer altars nationwide and strengthening Christian communities which are vulnerable to Islamisation. The strategic initiatives adopted are to implement the Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP) and the Holiday Empowerment Leadership Programme (HELP).

He further conveyed the good news that NECF’s application for religious land in Cyberjaya has been approved. The location of the land is near the Multimedia University and the Setia Eco Glades Housing Estate.

On NECF’s financial standing, Honorary Treasurer Pr Samuel Ang reported that there was a surplus for the years 2014 and 2015. He added that the surplus was due to two factors, namely the reduction in staff and saving of rent arising from the non-renewal of the rental agreement for the adjoining office space of the first floor.

The election of the Executive Council for the new term of 2016-2018 saw a few changes. Elder Kong Yeng Pooi declined reelection as Vice-Chairman I and Pr Dr Khoo Kay Hup was elected to fill the post. However, Elder Kong was elected as a council member. Pr Chomy Ching Choon Mee

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"NECF's 15th BGM shows the way forward"

was elected as Vice-Chairman II. Rev Ng Kok Kee declined reelection as the Hon. Assistant Treasurer and Rev Ong Sek Leang was elected to fill the post. Rev Ong is currently the Senior Pastor of Metro Tabernacle and the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Malaysia. Rev Foo Moy Peng, Senior Pastor of KG 112 and also academic dean of Jubilee Initiative Malaysia (Bible College) was elected as a council member.

Pr Dr Khoo made a special presentation on the nation-building agenda. The presentation started off by highlighting the religious and post-modernism threats to the family institution. He went on to stress the importance of establishing prayer altars throughout the land and outlined the programmes planned to counter these threats. The programmes include empowering children and youth through the Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP) and the Holiday Empowerment of Leaders Programme (HELP).

A forum was held in conjunction with the BGM with the first speaker, Dato' Steven C.M. Wong, from the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, speaking on the *National Economy Outlook*. He stated that based on poor domestic sentiment and pessimistic expectations, the economy is definitely slowing at 3.5% but less than 4% risk build-up. The economy faces risks ahead as a result of weaker global conditions, especially in emerging economies, high domestic debt levels and declining corporate earnings and cash flows. To sum it up, Malaysia enters the 2016/17 period with relatively decent economic fundamentals but a stressed economic system and weakened institutions and social cohesion. There is a need to proceed with caution.

The second speaker, Dato' Dennis Ignatius, ex Malaysian High Commissioner to Canada, shared on the challenges and opportunities ahead for the nation under the topic *Longing For A Better Country* based on Hebrews 11: 6. He stated 4 challenges that the nation faces today, namely Wahhabi Islam, Injustice, Secular Humanism and Demographic Change. Wahhabism, which is the state ideology of Saudi Arabia, inspires nearly all the militant Islamic groups such as ISIS. It seeks to completely eradicate every vestige of Christianity from all Muslim lands. Secular humanism is gaining the upper hand especially among young Christians at the expense of belief in God. Injustice in the form of corruption has become so pervasive that it no longer offends one's moral sensibilities. Human trafficking where migrant workers and refugees are exploited is indeed gross injustice. Demographic change refers to the declining birth rates and migration of the Chinese population as compared to the increasing growth of the Malay Muslim population and migrants from neighbouring lands. Its impact upon church growth has to be considered in terms of support from adherents and the structure best suited to meet the needs of this changing demographics as well as



Rev Ong is the new Hon. Assistant Treasurer



Rev Foo elected as a council member

how we reach today's youth who are restless and impatient with the way the church is presently run.

He concluded by saying that the Church needs a fresh revelation, fresh wisdom and fresh fire as it enters this new season of challenges. It is time for Pentecostal and Evangelical, Catholic and Protestant pastors and believers in the marketplace to come together to pray, strategise and discern what the Spirit is saying to His church at such a time as this.

Rev Eu, the final speaker in speaking about *The Church Today*, stressed the importance of the 3 Es, i.e. Evangelicalism, Ecclesiology and Eschatology. Evangelicalism, as defined by David W. Bebbington, Professor of History at the University of Stirling, Scotland, was formulated as the Bebbington Quadrilateral. It comprises 4 primary qualities i.e. conversionism, actionism, Biblicalism and crucicentrism. Conversionism is the belief that lives need to be transformed through a born again experience and a lifelong process of following Jesus. Actionism is the expression and demonstration of the Gospel in missionary and social reform efforts. Biblicalism is a high regard for and obedience to the Bible as the ultimate authority. Crucicentrism is a stress on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as making possible the redemption of humanity.

Ecclesiology refers to the template of the Last Day's church as given in the Book of Revelations which the modern Church is to model after. Eschatology is important as the Church needs to always live in full consciousness of the second coming of Christ in order to have the cutting edge.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of Business & Economy and Education Commission, NECF.

Revive Us Lord!

By Tan Poh Kian

Revival is viewed as “glamorous” and a glorious phenomenon that most Christians and churches would like to experience. As a national body of Christians, NECF champions the idea of transforming our nation through strengthening and empowering local churches. We believe that when local churches are revived, they will serve as a catalyst of restoration in all the spheres of society. Thus, we have been mobilizing churches to be involved in fasting and praying for the nation as an annual endeavour. The theme of our 40-day fast and prayer for this year (from 7 August to 15 September) is *Revive us O Lord*, with Psalm 85 as our heartfelt cry and petition to the Lord for our nation, Malaysia.

What then, does “revival” mean? Many people equate “revival” to huge crowds attending a meeting or mass conversions taking place in a certain area. Whilst this is undeniably true, it is indeed the effect or outcome of “revival” on believers of Christ that is more important.

The Hebrew word for “revive” (its transliteration is “*chayah*”) carries the meanings of living, sustaining life, or to be restored to life or health (from sickness, discouragement, faintness, and death), etc. It revolves around the idea of the wholeness of a being -- spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. As such, when we talk about revival, it is a restoration of one’s life and health to its perfect and original condition, when we were first created in the image of God, with an unbroken connection with our Maker.

The book of Psalms is a good means for us to understand the approach to true revival. Revival starts when we reconnect with God, by calling upon His name (Psalm 80:18) and meditating upon His Word (Psalm 119:25, 40, 50, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156). We cannot have true revival without communicating with God -- knowing Him through His living Word -- and by seeking His face through earnest prayers.

Lately, as I sought the Lord at the National Prayer Altar, I was reminded of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem, the desolation of God’s temple and the dismissal of the priesthood system among God’s people in 586BC. Surprisingly, the Lord dealt with the kingdoms of Israel and Judah harshly not because of their evil or impotent kings, since Israel never had any good kings while Judah managed to find only a few. But the utter rejection of God came when the temple was filled with all kinds of evil altars and pagan worship which the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah cried out against.

All these rampant sins were caused by the disobedience of the priests and prophets, whom Micah reproached fiercely with a lamentation that “her leaders judge for a bride, her priests teach for a price and her prophets tell fortunes for money” (Micah 3:11). They have shown contempt for their responsibilities as God’s chosen and holy vessels in faithfully delivering His full counsel and building His Kingdom. Instead they sought their own agendas and

2016
40-DAY FAST & PRAYER
REVIVE US
O LORD PSALM 85

KLANG VALLEY PRAYER LAUNCH AND OVERNIGHT PRAYER MEETING
5-6 AUGUST 2016
PETALING JAYA EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (PJEFCC)
HERITAGE CENTRE, NO. 3, JALAN 13/6, 46200 PETALING JAYA
PRAYER LAUNCH ▶ 8.00 – 10.00PM
OVERNIGHT PRAYER ▶ 10.30PM – 6.00AM

KLANG VALLEY MALAYSIA DAY PRAYER RALLY
14TH SEPTEMBER 2016
FULL GOSPEL TABERNACLE
WISMA EAGLES, NO 5 JALAN TP4, TAMAN PERINDUSTRIAN UEP, 47620 SUBANG JAYA
8.00 – 10.00PM
GUEST SPEAKER ▶ DR FRANK DAMAZIO

 Dr. Frank Damazio is the pastor of City Bible Church, a thriving multi-site church that is passionate in reaching their metro area for Christ. Characterized by dynamic prayer, powerful worship, and relevant preaching of the Word, it is a church with a blend of all ages and many nationalities. Frank is also the Chairman of Ministers Fellowship International, a fellowship of hundreds of church nationwide and thousands around the world. Frank has a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Oral Roberts University and has authored over thirty books. He speaks locally, nationally, and internationally, and is dedicated to raising up leaders and building world-impacting local churches.

worldly gains in the house of God. Their spiritual senses were numbed by their own deceptive ways and they were not even alarmed by the trumpet of God sounding the impending judgment.

The history of Israel and Judah points out to our need to search intently for our role as the priesthood of God over the land in relation to the rise and fall of our nation. We have to humbly acknowledge that we do play a major role in seeing our nation having breakthroughs in the natural realm in the wake of receiving our own breakthroughs in the spiritual realm. Let the 40-day fast and prayer be a season where we will seek our God with all our heart, serving our altars with godly fear and adoration, knowing that the judgment, or the revival of God starts first with His people before He deals with the nations, as revealed throughout the Bible. Let’s start by focusing on reading and meditating on the Word of God to allow Him to align our wills and our ways to His, to repent and to pray fervently for the revival of our Church and our land.



Tan Poh Kian is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Prayer Commission, NECF.

Inspiring Testimonies At Prayer Altar Gathering

By Tan Poh Kian



Participants at the prayer altar gathering.

The recent prayer altar gathering on June 13 saw a commendable turnout of more than 700 participants from 73 churches and Christian organisations. Held at the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Subang Jaya, Selangor, many inspiring real-life testimonies were shared by different individuals who had successfully raised their prayer altars in their respective spheres of influence, particularly the communities they live in.

Testimonies that were shared included:

Churches gathered together in Puchong to raise their community prayer altars in response to someone who had desired so, years ago.

A person who responded to the call of God to build an altar for the Lord. Healings and deliverances which took place in Marak Parak, Sabah where people came before the altars of God and called out to Him in desperation. Someone who did not know God personally had a vision of Jesus Christ, was convicted and subsequently became a follower of Christ.

People who were ministered to at the altars of God without the presence of any gifted preacher or miracle worker, but mainly by the move of the Holy Spirit and the sovereign work of God Himself.

Pastor Dr Lew Lee Choo, the deputy Senior Pastor of SIBKL took time to explain to the participants what prayer altar is by elaborating on the differences between a prayer

meeting and a prayer altar. She further explained why we need to build prayer altars across our nation. Rev Looi Kok Kim of NECF's Prayer Commission shared about the prayer altar efforts by the Cheras Pastors' Fellowship as well as the prayer altar training sessions he helped to conduct in Perlis and Lawas recently.

Dr. John Mulinde, the guest speaker and founder of World Trumpet Mission, emphasized the need and importance of ushering God's presence and making His abode over the nation of Malaysia. He shared on the lives of Abraham and David to illustrate the work of God which was released through His sovereign presence as they honoured Him by building altars and tabernacles for His dwelling. Abraham's building of altars over the length and the breadth of Canaan he travelled through speaks of his acknowledgement of God's ownership and possession of the land. David's tabernacle speaks of a continuous worship and hallowing of God's name with priests and Levites involved extensively and corporately in building God's altars.

This is a season for Malaysian churches to earnestly seek to be restored to her priesthood call. This will involve the Body of Christ seeking Him day and night unceasingly and calling forth His favour and mighty deeds to be released fully in our nation as they make an abode for Him on our land.



Tan Poh Kian is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Prayer Commission, NECF.

3G

Bluetooth

Praying Through Technology Gets More Involved

By Michelle Chan

It all started when my friend and I attended a solemn assembly in a church in June last year. We were struck to the core by the message of impending judgement over Malaysia, and decided to do something about it. The problem was we did not know exactly what to do. So we kept each other accountable to pray from 5am until 7am on weekdays. We did this from our homes through WhatsApp, which we later transferred to another more secure app. The beauty of this chat facility was that it helped keep us awake and pray like how we used to chat.

We shared the burden with some others, and to our surprise, they also developed the desire to pray. Very quickly, our group grew to 40 people from 6 different churches; some of whom we know personally, while others were friends of friends who wanted a platform to pray. We were surprised and very encouraged because we felt we weren't doing this alone. We developed guidelines of worship, reading the word and praying during the two hours, and the response was enthusiastic.

However, six months later, more than half the group had left, as some could not endure the early morning discipline, while others felt they were called to other things. Our group became leaner, but more focused. More challenges began to come our way. My two friends and I were tired from the regime of waking up early and preparing prayer items everyday, so we wondered if we should disband the group. At that juncture, we attended the National Prayer Summit, which gave us a boost spiritually, and renewed our convictions to not only continue praying, but to increase our efforts doing it. So we trudged on. Three months down the line, we experienced another challenge where we almost dispersed the group. This time round, God sent two Ugandan pastors to plant a bigger vision in us. My friends and I realised our own weaknesses and the grace of God that carried us through. We had wanted God to transform

our nation ... but God was more interested in transforming us first.

Meanwhile, things were happening in our cell groups and families. News about us praying reached others. People from our cell groups started to take prayer more seriously. We started to regularly take groups up to pray at the National Prayer Altar (NPA) in Peacehaven. A good number of our cell group members and some of our families started to join our trips to the NPA. They felt the presence of God and more began to join us.

God began to set up altars around me. At the learning centre where I teach, the principal asked for a regular time where the teachers and students could pray together. In fact, the principal was so encouraged that she started an altar in her own home! Next, I started a family altar at my home, where an interesting development took place. After my dad delegated spiritual leadership to me, I noticed that even his very stubborn, disobedient and untrainable dog started to obey me. I am quite amused by this. I have also started to get involved in my church's prayer group, with the intention of strengthening the altar there. Finally, I joined a community altar in my neighbourhood, where we get together every week. Here, we pray for issues pertaining to our locality and the church of Malaysia.

Never in my wildest imagination that the desire to pray through a WhatsApp accountability chat with one friend would spark off such a chain of events that affected people around us. I pray that you will begin to have that desire to build your personal, family or church altars. The perseverance to continue and simply knowing the great rewards of being with Him in a deeper way everyday is never more needed than today.



Michelle Chan was a former journalist, filmmaker- turned-caregiver and part-time teacher. She worships at DUMC.

The Tamil Church's March to Peacehaven

By Rev Gabriel Jabanathan

As a follow-up to the *National Tamil Prayer Altar Conference* held on 27 February, a second *Tamil Prayer Altar Conference* was held on 16 June at the Full Gospel Tabernacle, Subang Jaya. This time, at the request of Dr John Mulinde, founder of World Trumpet Mission, only about 100 key pastors and church leaders were invited. It was held to deliberate on matters pertaining to implementing the Prayer Altar strategy in the Tamil Church.

Dr John reminded and redefined the implications related to the Prayer Altar strategy in its larger perspective. He helped those present see beyond a personal ministry focus. He challenged the people to pray to impact the five pillars of society -- religion, family, economy, government and social order. His heart-cry was felt right through the conference, that God wants the Church to contend for the destiny of the nation.

This was a reawakening call to the Tamil Church to readjust its mostly local prayer perspective to a national one. As a result of this powerful and engaging follow-up conference, more Tamil church pastors are expressing great interest to go up to Peacehaven in Genting to pray for as

many days as possible. Scores of Tamil church pastors and intercessors are now making their way to the Genting hills to pray. This is just a beginning of the Prayer Altar wave. The Prayer Altar fever is catching up more and more among the Tamil churches.

The presence of Rev Daniel Velloo (who is currently pastoring a growing church in Ipoh) at the conference was a tremendous boost to the participants. He powerfully motivated the participants to think of making regular visits to Peacehaven. He has come forward to help Tamil churches get involved more regularly and consistently in this new prayer wave. One thing that was strongly felt by the key pastors who attended the conference was that urgent and intensive engagement of the intercessors of the Tamil Church was needed if this prayer wave is to continue to hit on a national scale leading to the establishing of prayer altar centres all over the country. A church in slumber is gradually awakening to see its place in the destiny of the nation.

Something that came out very clearly from this second prayer altar conference was that God has used Dr John to strongly stamp an impression and a sense of urgency on the hearts of the pastors and intercessors that the hour to pray unceasingly with the Kingdom perspective is NOW!



Rev Gabriel Jabanathan is the chairman of the NECF's Tamil Commission and Senior Pastor of Charis Word Centre Networking Churches.

Seminar Teaches The Importance Of Apologetics

By Clement Tan

The Christian faith has been increasingly under attack by people of other faiths in recent years. The Bible has been misinterpreted and twisted to suit their way of thinking rather than what it actually means. At a time such as this, it is critical for Christians to be always ready to give an answer to what they believe in their engagement with friends of other faiths. After all, the Apostle Peter emphasised on this in 1 Peter 3:15-16: *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."*

It was timely that the *Contending for the Faith* seminar was held from May 30-31, 2016 at Wisma Eagles, Taman Perindustrian UEP Subang Jaya. A total of 152 participants comprising youths and full-time workers attended the event. During the seminar, it was highlighted that there are many other faiths or belief systems that distorted the truth with a hidden agenda of deceiving others to accept their ideologies and belief systems. What these deceptive religions and cults taught clearly deviated from the biblical worldview. This is not only worrying but alarming to mention the least.

It is imperative that Christians are always on guard against departing from the truth of the Word that they hold and placing their faith in something that they don't fully understand.

There is a clarion call for a proactive response to prevent Christians not only from wavering in their faith but also to lead those who have gone astray back to the truth. At the same time it is important to prevent such situations from occurring. Loving God with our mind has never been more needed than today, with a greater emphasis on the promotion and practice of the discipline of apologetics.

The seminar benefitted the participants in terms of enabling them to think analytically as well as stirring an interest in them to compare and critically assess the predominant religion and other cults with the Christian faith. They will then be enabled to be merciful to those who doubt and snatch them from the fire by sharing the truth that we know is in Christ Jesus (Jude 22-23). It is hoped that this will lead to the greater use of apologetics in the Christian community in the near future.



Clement Tan is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Research Commission, NECF

Successful First Nazarite Training In Sandakan

By Rev Andy Chi



BCCM EGC Youth Campers

The first Nazarite training in East Malaysia was held for the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia English General Council Youth Camp from the 8 to 10 June in Sandakan, Sabah. Nazarite trainers Pastor Alvin Tan, Pastor Lee Yew Meng, Rosaleen Goh, Melissa Ong and Daniel Chi conducted the *Nazarite Phase 1 Training on Humility* at the Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Sung Siew in Sandakan, Sabah. A total of 119 registered campers attended the training.

The participants were attentive throughout every session and participated in all of the discussions. At the end of the camp, many expressed that they were positively impacted by the training. Among them was Janice Li. This is her testimony:

It was a great opportunity for me to attend the Nazarite Phase 1: Humility Training at our NaziriteDNA Camp in Sandakan. It really helped me to understand how I need to commit myself to God's way rather than to my way. First of all, being a Nazarite, is not just about the vow, but to learn and examine ourselves and walk the talk. I got to understand about humility by defining pride as taught in the training. Everyone has pride, but it depends on how we deal with it. Sometimes I find it difficult to humble myself before God because of my own pride and I know it's very dishonouring to God. The first session really helped me to understand more about my pride and how I should deal with it. Besides that, it also helped me to rediscover myself.

Almost everyone wears a mask to hide their true and real self, including myself. Sometimes, I would hide my true personality and identity before others, and try to be like them. But I have learnt why I should remove this mask and be myself no matter who I am. Sometimes, I've blamed God and others for my unchangeable characteristics and

situations. I realize this is a lie and a trap I've been falling into. It has taught me to examine my individuality, to always give thanks and be grateful to God no matter what situation I am in and to accept myself.

Burning personal rights is the most challenging part for me. Sometimes, I find it hard to understand my own personal rights. I do not know what rights I should consecrate and the way He wants to use me. It has been a challenge for me to serve God and to do well in my studies at the same time. I do not know whether I should give up serving God in order to concentrate on my studies. I have served God before and know by His grace He has given me talent to serve and it is my privilege to glorify Him. At the end, I made the decision to consecrate everything and let Him take control. I know it will remain a challenge but I fully trust that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I believe God will not put a test that I cannot overcome.

The next training will be the second *Phase 2 Training on Holiness* to be held at GA611 Bread of Life Centre, Petaling Jaya from 15-17 September. The earlier announcement of the *Phase 3 Training on Hunger for God* has been postponed to 2017. To attend the coming Phase 2 training, participants must complete the Phase 1 on humility. We encourage those who have completed their Phase 1 to seize this opportunity to move on to Phase 2. Pastor Jerome Ocampo, founder of Jesus Revolution Now, will be conducting the training and it will be translated into Mandarin. For more info, please visit our website at www.necf.org.my.



Rev Andy Chi is the Assistant Secretary-General of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) and chairman of the East Coast Commission.)

What Killed Goliath?

By Pr Dr Philip Lyn

"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David"
(1 Sam 17:50)

What killed Goliath? It wasn't the sword. It was the sling and stone. Amazing as it may seem, that was what finished him off. Why then did David cut off his head? It was for Israel's sake. They needed to see from their lines that Goliath was truly gone, never to rise again. Conversely David needed to demonstrate conclusively to the Philistines that their champion was dead! The effect for one side was electrifying. The blow to the other was devastating!

But here is the question. Why did the writer see it necessary to include this phrase "But there was no sword in the hand of David" after the giant was killed? Surely a sword was no longer consequential to the outcome? Why then? Three possible reasons come to mind. The first was to highlight that David finished off Goliath with the latter's own sword (v 18), a mark of utter disdain for him. It also hinted that though David was a youth he was already a man of strength! The second was to showcase David's faith and leadership; he never stalled to admire his handiwork – he had expected Goliath to fall! He now moved swiftly to sever the head of the enemy for his people's sake. But how? He had no sword. So he used Goliath's!! Amazing nous.

But for me, the third reason is the heart of it all. It was to draw a contrast between God's ways and the ways of man. God's way is a stone and a sling. Man's way is the sword. Slings and stones are pretty useless against the armoured giants of war. So we think. That's why when the giants of corruption, religious extremism and racism stalk our land, we instinctively reach for political, legal and media means first for redress. We forget the humble sling-n-stone of prayer. David practiced repeatedly for years in obscurity before the stone flew from his sling. We must similarly prostrate ourselves, unseen, before God day and night. The recently tabled Hudud amendment bill roars across the land like Goliath's challenge. We need to remember: it was not the sword that slayed the giant. It was the stone that did it.



Pr Dr Philip Lyn is the Senior Pastor of Skyline SIB Church, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and also a practicing medical specialist.

The NECF-GELA Insurance Scheme A Timely Help To Pastor's Family

By Pastor Lam Kee Hing

For the past 33 years, I have been ministering largely to the indigenous people of our land. It started with the Orang Asli in Pahang in 1983 and continues till today in East Malaysia since 1988 when the Lord led my wife, Mei Chan, and I to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

During the course of my ministry, I have known of at least two indigenous pastors who died in tragic circumstances and who had no insurance coverage. There were many other cases where the pastors were unable to work anymore due to serious injuries or illnesses leading to the loss of family income. It made the already suffering and devastated families even poorer and more dependent on other people's goodwill and charity.

In 2014, while I was reading the Berita NECF, the article about the NECF- Insurance Initiative launched in collaboration with the Great Eastern Life Assurance (GELA) Company to insure the lives of Christians, in particular, indigenous pastors and leaders, caught my immediate attention. I called using the contact number given and spoke to Ms Laura Chong of GELA who explained the whole scheme to me. As I prayed about who I could help, the Lord put in my heart to sponsor six indigenous pastors and kindergarten teachers from Maranatha Church, the

REEP Reaches Other Parts Of Peninsula And East Malaysia

By Jack Cheah

The Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP) was introduced for the first time in the eastern part of Peninsular Malaysia at the Christian Training Centre, Mentakab, Pahang. The training of volunteer tutors for this programme was conducted on 9 April and a total of 23 participants from 6 Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) churches in Mentakab, Jerantut and the nearby areas attended the session. Sis Ruth Cheah of NECF's Education Commission conducted the training session.

One of the churches which attended the training session, SIB Terbol, has since implemented REEP starting from 30 April. This is a village church near Temerloh which comprises mainly Orang Asli members. The programme is presently managed by 3 Orang Asli kindergarten teachers who are assisted by other volunteers. Its introduction to the

indigenous church I had pastored together with my wife for 10 years.

Of the six indigenous pastors, two were a couple, namely Pastor Poilis Gaisin and his wife Irna who have 5 children. While Irna was an active Christian who came from the Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) church background, Pastor Poilis came from a traditionally religious background. He was once known as the village's "Champion Lihing (rice wine) drinker"! Through his wife's prayer and encouragement, he started attending Maranatha Church and was born again. From then on, his life began to change. He once held 3 jobs simultaneously to feed his young family – as a school bus driver in the morning, a cane factory worker during the day and a watchman at night. He and his family used to travel 15 km one-way to attend Maranatha church services and meetings.

When Maranatha Church planted a new church near his village, Pastor Poilis became the natural leader and was eventually appointed as the Pastor of the new church. He served the church faithfully as a bi-vocational pastor. He drove a school bus in the daytime while serving as the Pastor of the flock in the new church. In 2013, he was diagnosed with nose cancer and about the same time, his wife Irna was found to be diabetic with kidney problems. Her condition worsened and she had to go for dialysis three times weekly. However, they both continued to serve the church

faithfully until 2014. As both he and his wife's health began to deteriorate, the Maranatha Church leadership decided to ask them to take a rest from the ministry. They continued to actively participate in the church services and activities without having to shoulder the responsibilities of leadership.

On 10th November last year, he accidentally choked on a piece of orange and was rushed to hospital in a coma. Unfortunately, he passed away the next day.

Looking back, I am indeed very thankful that Pastor Poilis was covered by an insurance policy. Thanks to Ms Chong's help, the family received a cheque of slightly more than RM 17,000. His widow, Irna, shared with me that the insurance money is being used to further the education of their youngest – twin daughters – who are studying in Form Three. The rest of the money was put into Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) for their future needs in view of the fact that she also has serious health problems.

Based on this experience, I urge all Christians to take advantage of the special NECF–GELA Insurance Partnership Scheme. For those who are able, one good way of sharing your blessings is to sponsor at least one indigenous pastor each year. I must say I am so glad I did.



Pastor Lam Kee Hing heads the Cornerstone Resources Berhad (CRB) ministry, which encourages, equips and empowers indigenous pastors and leaders in Malaysia.

village saw a very encouraging participation of 32 Orang Asli students from the nearby school hostel. The number of participants is projected to increase in the future.

The training of REEP volunteer tutors in East Malaysia was held for the first time in Ranau, Sabah on 30 April. It was conducted at SIB Tudangan with 46 participants from 11 SIB churches in the Ranau District. The lively training session with a captive and enthusiastic audience was led and facilitated by Sis Ruth Cheah.

SIB Kibbas which attended the training session has started to implement REEP by holding its first tuition session on 20 May. The children who attended the tuition session are of Dusun and Sino-Dusun ethnic backgrounds. Prior to this, the church had secured the full cooperation of the parents of the students and village leaders to carry out the programme. The attendance of 19 children on that day was most encouraging and they cooperated well and participated enthusiastically during the session. The programme is presently run by 3 volunteers with the assistance of 2 others.

REEP was extended to Kuantan, Pahang with the holding of the training session for volunteer trainers on 22 June at the Kuantan Presbyterian Centre. The session was attended by 52 volunteers from 12 churches in Kuantan, Pekan and Sungai Lembing. Bro Cheli Nadarajah and Sis Kong Lai Mei of NECF's Education Commission led and facilitated the lively sessions.

Churches which attended the training session in Kuantan are not short of opportunities to initiate and

manage REEP in their respective localities. An opportunity has come to introduce REEP at the Rapha Children's Home in Kuantan which provides a home for orphans, underprivileged and abused children as well as children from poor families. It is currently home to 39 children of Chinese, Orang Asli and Indian backgrounds with most of them attending primary schools. One church which attended the REEP training is seriously considering implementing REEP at this home.

REEP training was held for the first time in Sarawak on 2 July. Bro Jack Cheah of NECF conducted the training at the Borneo Evangelical Church (SIB) Morsjaya, Miri with 12 participants from 3 churches and students from the Teachers' Training Institute. The participants viewed the training received as very helpful and needed for their respective communities. They were encouraged to pass on the training received by organizing their own training sessions for other volunteers who could not attend the session. This is in line with the concept of Training of Trainers with the objective of imparting training to a wider reach of volunteer tutors as advocated by NECF for REEP.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of Business & Economy and Education Commission, NECF.

Pastors Wives
TIMES OF REFRESHING
 conference

DON'T MISS THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM A WOMAN PASTOR WHO BRINGS A SPECIAL WORD OF REFRESHING INTO THE LIVES OF PASTORS' WIVES.



SPEAKER
 Pastor Pramila Jayaraj
 (India)

Pastor Pramila, along with her husband Pastor Samuel Jayaraj, is pastoring The Jubilee Revival AG in Bangalore, India. It's a fast growing church. She is a gifted communicator of God's word. Her in-depth knowledge and revelation of the word of God has been impacting and transforming the lives of many people. Her burden is to tap the huge, unused potential of women in the church. Her desire is to educate, empower and equip women in effective service.

03 October
 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

WISMA EAGLES
 Full Gospel Tabernacle
 5, Jalan TP 4,
 Taman Perindustrian
 UEP, Subang Jaya,
 Selangor.

REGISTRATION
RM30.00

CONTACTS

Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan (Chairman)
 012-2177 394

Rev. Peter Jabasekaran (Vice-Chairman)
 013-3942 025

Rev. Dr. Dhoss (Conference Coordinator)
 019-5508 987

NECF
 MALAYSIA

Pastor Daniel Loh
 017-8866 003

ATTENTION ALL PASTORS!

During the morning hour a special session called "A MEDICAL TALK ON PASTORS' HEALTH" will be held for pastors who accompany their wives for this Conference. The speaker will be Dr. Dhoss. And during the afternoon, there will be another session for pastors to ask questions on health issues.

Nazarite Training Phase 2 (Holiness)
15th-17th SEPT 2016



PR JEROME OCAMPO

GA611 Bread of Life Centre
 1st Floor, Block B, Dataran Hamodal, No. 4, Jalan 13/4, 46200 Petaling Jaya.

For Inquiry
 TEL: +603 - 7727 8227
 FAX: +603 - 7729 1138
 Email: youthnet@necf.org.my

Schedule

15th THURSDAY
 10:00am-1:00pm
 2:00pm-5:30pm
 7:30pm-10:00pm

16th FRIDAY
 2:00pm-5:30pm
 7:30pm-10:00pm

17th SATURDAY
 9:00am-12:00pm
 1:00pm-2:00pm

Registration
 Go to: www.necf.org.my

Requirement
 Must have completed phase 1 (Certificate as proof)
 Have Registered and Paid for phase 2 (see website for details)
 Must attend all sessions of phase 2 to qualify for certificate

NECF
 YOUTHNET

NECF IN COLLABORATION WITH **BibleLeague**
 MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL
 God's Word. Local Church. Global Strategy.

Firm Foundations
 Reader
 with New Testament, Eastern-Read Version and Tutor's Guide

Firm Foundations
 Workbook

There is a great need to improve both the English and Bible literacy of the poor and marginalised in the rural and urban communities. In line with this, NECF is collaborating with Bible League Malaysia to train volunteer tutors for the purpose of tutoring English by Bible Reading using the Easy to Read Version (ERV). The following is the proposed date and venue for the 2-day training to be conducted by Bible League Malaysia's master trainers:

Date & Time : 26-27 August (Friday & Saturday) 2016
 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

Venue : Conference Room, Ground Floor, NECF's Office
 32, Jalan SS2/103, Petaling Jaya.

Fee : RM 30

As there is a limit to the number of participants for effectiveness, please register quickly if you are interested to attend the workshop.

PRAYER ALTAR GATHERING 2



WITH DR. JOHN MULINDE
 (Uganda)
 Founder
 World Trumpet Mission

AT PEACEHAVEN,
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 Pahang.

Open for all who have a burden to be prayer altar builders nationwide, and who have a heart to see our land saturated with the PRESENCE of GOD, and by so doing, provide a hedge of protection over our communities, churches and homes.

REGISTRATION
RM70.00

DAY-1 20th Oct Thursday

1ST SESSION
 2.30pm - 5.00pm

FREE-TIME
 5.00pm - 8.00pm

DINNER
 8.30pm

2ND SESSION
 8.00pm - 10.00pm

DAY-2 21st Oct Friday

BREAKFAST
 8.30am - 9.30am

3RD SESSION
 9.30am - 12.30pm

LUNCH
 12.30pm - 1.30pm

DISMISSAL
 2.00pm

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Organised by NECF Malaysia

For registration, kindly click on the google link below. For further inquiries please call NECF office at 03-77278227.

For more information, log on to www.necf.org.my