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The Christian Churches through the Ages





Vision Statement

To prepare our members for Jesus' soon return & with united spirit and prayer, evangelize the whole of Peninsular Malaysia.

Mission Statement

We, the Seventh-day Adventist Church exist to preach the gospel to prepare the people in Peninsular Malaysia for Jesus Christ's second coming, by ministering to their physical, mental, social and spiritual need through in-reach and outreach programs of the Church.

Values

Matthew 25:14-30 1 Corinthians 4:9 Philippians 2:5-8

I WILL GO

Spiritual Growth Objectives Leadership Objectives Holy Spirit Objectives

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Content

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lest We Forget

Our History & Humble Beginnings -History of the Christian Church: Divine Purpose of Existence, Zeal for Evangelism, & Biblical Visions

- 04 ENGLISH
- 05 BM
- 06 TAMIL
- 07 MANDARIN

EDITORIAL REMARK

08 Understand Our Past

INSPIRATIONAL

09 Reformation and What It means for Today's Mission

COVER STORY

12 The Christian Churches Through the Ages

HEALTH TIPS

14 Strengthen your Digestive System

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

16 BM Churches Camp "JUMPSTART"

NEWS UPDATE

- 18 Klang Chinese
- 20 Personal Ministries
- 22 JB English
- 24 Penang Adventist Hospital Church
- 26 Kuantan Chinese
- 27 The Lighthouse
- 28 Shah Alam Indian
- 30 Stewardship Ministries
- 32 Melaka
- 34 KL Chinese
- 36 Klang Chinese
- **37 BOOK ADVERTISEMENT**
- **40 UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICE**
- 41 CHILDREN COLUMN
- 42 YOUTH COLUMN

VISION

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*Please note that unsolicited manuscripts will be subjected to the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Lest We Forget

Our History & Humble Beginnings

History of the Christian Church: **Divine Purpose of Existence, Zeal for Evangelism, & Biblical Visions**

Tan Meng Cheng, President, Peninsular Malaysia Mission

he history of Christian church can be traced all the way back to the first century when Jesus called the Twelve Disciples. They were not perfect, but Jesus transformed and empowered them with His Holy Spirit. Jesus' mission was to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God by inviting the people to repentance and to believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). He called the disciples to follow and learn after Him (Matt. 10:38; 11:29; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:24). His followers are to do the same work and continue to multiply the disciples by His Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 2:38-47). Sadly, from the church history, the church can become stagnant in growth, or on the decline due to (1) losing the purpose of existence, (2) diminishing zeal for evangelism and (3) blurry vision for the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Losing the Purpose of Existence

When the church lost their sense of existence, feeling complacent with the fellowship of members more than what they are called to do and failing to see themselves as a movement called by God to reach out according to the promise in Acts 1:8, the church became irrelevant to the world and

cease to represent Christ to the world. Seventh-day Adventists are called to fulfill a mission, to proclaim the everlasting gospel in this generation before Christ's return. It exists for a divine purpose!

Losing the Zeal for Evangelism

The sole reason for the existence of the church is for evangelism, reaching every soul possible with the good news of Christ's Crucified and His Soon Coming. "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world."[1] If as a church, we are not excited about this message and evangelism is no longer the top priority of our church business agenda, we need to reexamine the need to congregate as a people of God. Evangelism should be the heart of the church. Without evangelism, the church is dying! From the history of the Christian church, we witness great revival and tremendous growth when the church is active in soul winning effort.

Losing the Vision of the Great Commandment and Great Commission

"Where there is no vision, the people

perish" (Proverbs 29:18). A church without a vision and goal cannot grow strong because there is no purpose of existence and zeal for evangelism. The two driving forces that can motivate the mission of the church are found in the "Great Commandment" (Matt. 22:37-39) and the "Great Commission" (Matt. 28:18-20) of Jesus Christ. The former gives the foundation of our Christian's life and God's command: to love God and our neighbors; and the latter set the direction and goal for our church ministry and its existence: to make disciples for all nations.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a unique mission/message that is based on Revelation 14:6-11. It gives us the meaning of our existence, the motivation to evangelize to the end of the world and the call to be faithful to Christ's teaching. Let us preach with the power of the Holy Spirit, equip all members to carry on this mission and continue to multiply for Christ's honor and glory.

[¹] Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, 9.

Jangan Kita Lupa Sejarah & Asal Usul Kita

Sejarah Gereja Kristian: **Tujuan Kewujudan, Semangat Penginjilan, & Wawasan Berasaskan Kitab Suci**

Tan Meng Cheng,

President, Peninsular Malaysia Mission

 ejarah gereja Kristian boleh dijejak kembali ke abad pertama apabila Yesus memanggil dua belas orang murid Mereka tidak sempurna, tetapi Yesus telah mengubah dan memperkasakan mereka dengan Roh Kudus-Nva. Misi Yesus adalah untuk memberitakan khabar baik kerajaan Tuhan dengan mengundang orang ramai untuk bertaubat dan percaya akan Injil (Markus 1:15). Dia memanggil para murid untuk mengikuti dan belajar daripada-Nya (Mat. 10:38; 11:29; Markus 8:34; Luk 9:24). Pengikut-pengikut-Nya hendaklah melakukan kerja yang sama dan terus memperbanyakkan muridmurid melalui Roh Kudus-Nya (rujuk Kisah Para Rasul 2:38-47). Malangnya, dengan meneliti sejarah gereja, kita dapati gereja boleh terbantut dalam pertumbuhan, atau merosot kerana (1) kehilangan tujuan kewujudan, (2) berkurangnya semangat untuk penginjilan dan (3) visi kabur tentang Amanat Agung dan Perintah Agung.

Hilang Tujuan Kewujudan

Apabila gereja kehilangan rasa kenapa mereka wujud, puas sekadar berkumpul bersama anggota berbanding melakukan pekerjaan yang Tuhan telah panggil mereka untuk lakukan dan gagal melihat diri mereka sebagai gerakan yang dipanggil oleh Tuhan untuk menjangkau menurut janji dalam Kisah 1:8, gereja menjadi tidak relevan kepada dunia dan tidak lagi mewakili Kristus kepada dunia. Anggota Masehi Advent Hari Ketujuh dipanggil untuk memenuhi misi, untuk memberitakan Injil yang kekal dalam generasi ini sebelum kedatangan Kristus. Ia wujud untuk tujuan Ilahi!

Kehilangan Semangat untuk Penginjilan

Satu-satunya sebab kewujudan gereja adalah untuk penginjilan, menjangkau setiap jiwa yang mungkin dengan berita baik tentang Kristus yang Disalibkan dan Kedatangan-Nya yang Tidak Lama Lagi. "Jemaat adalah alat yang ditentukan oleh Allah untuk keselamatan manusia. Jemaat itu telah diorganisasikan untuk pelayanan, dan tugasnya ialah membawa kabar Injil ke seluruh dunia."[1] Jika gereja tidak teruja dengan mesej ini dan penginjilan tidak lagi menjadi keutamaan dalam agenda pekerjaan gereja, kita perlu mengkaji semula keperluan untuk berhimpun sebagai umat Tuhan. Penginjilan harus menjadi nadi gereja. Tanpa penginjilan, gereja sedang nazak! Dalam sejarah gereja Kristian, kita menyaksikan kebangkitan yang hebat dan pertumbuhan yang luar biasa apabila gereja aktif dalam usaha memenangkan jiwa.

Kehilangan Visi Perintah Agung dan Amanat Agung

"Tanpa hidayah, rakyat tidak terkendali" (Amsal 29:18). Sebuah gereja tanpa visi dan matlamat tidak boleh meniadi kuat kerana tidak ada tujuan kewujudan dan semangat untuk penginjilan. Dua daya penggerak yang boleh memotivasikan misi gereja terkandung dalam "Perintah Agung" (Mat. 22:37-39) dan "Amanat Agung" (Mat. 28:18-20) Yesus Kristus. Yang pertama memberikan asas kepada kehidupan Kristian kita dan perintah Tuhan: untuk mengasihi Tuhan dan sesama kita; dan yang kedua menetapkan hala tuju dan matlamat untuk pelayanan gereja kita dan kewujudannya: untuk menjadikan semua bangsa murid-Nva.

Gereja Masehi Advent Hari Ketujuh mempunyai misi/mesej unik yang berdasarkan Wahyu 14:6-11. Ia memberikan kita maksud kewujudan kita, motivasi untuk menginjil hingga akhir dunia dan panggilan untuk setia kepada ajaran Kristus. Marilah kita berkhutbah dengan kuasa Roh Kudus, melengkapkan semua anggota untuk menjalankan misi ini dan terus berlipat ganda demi kehormatan dan kemuliaan Kristus.

[¹] Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, 9.

<u>நாம் மறந்துவிடாதபடி - நமது வரலாறும் தாழ்மையான தொடக்கங்களும் -கிறிஸ்தவ திருச்சபையின் வரலாறு: சத்துவத்தின் தெய்வீக நோக்கம்,</u> சுவிசேஷத்திற்கான வைராக்கியம், & வேதாகம தரிசனங்கள்

Tan Meng Cheng, தலைவர் தீபகர்ப மலேசியா மிஷன்

நூற்றாண்டில், கிறிஸ்துவ திருச்சபையின் முதல் இயேசு பன்னிரண்டு *சீட*ர்களை வரலாற்றை அழைத்தபோது காணலாம். அவர்கள் குறையற்றவர்கள் இல்லை, ஆனால் இயேசு தம் பரிசுத்த ஆவியால் மாற்றியமைத்து அதிகாரமளித்துள்ளார்<mark>.</mark> அவர்களை ஜனங்களை மனந்திரும்பி நற்செய்தியை நம்பும்படி அழைப்பதன் மூலம் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைப் பற்றிய நற்செய்தியை அறிவிப்பதே இயேசுவின் பணியாக இருந்தது. (மாற்கு 1:15). தம்மைப் பின்பற்றவும் கற்றுக்கொள்ளவும் சீடர்களை அழைத்தார் (மத். 10:38; மாற்கு 8:34; லூக்கா 9:24). 11:29: அவரைப் பின்பற்றுபவர்களும் அதே பணியை செய்து, அவரது பரிசுத்த ஆவியினால் சீடர்களைப் பெருக்கிக் கொள்ள 2:38-47). வேண்டும் (cf. அப்போஸ்தலர் துரதிர்ஷ்டவசமாக, திருச்சபையின் வரலாற்றில் இருந்து, சபை வளர்ச்சி கீழ் காணும் காரணக்கால் தேக்கமடையலாம் அல்லது வீழ்ச்சியடையலாம் (1) வாழ்வின் உணர்வை இழப்பது, (2) சுவிசேஷத்திற்கான வைராக்கியம் குறைதல் மற்றும் (3) பெரிய ஆணையம் மற்றும் பெரிய கட்டளைக்கான மங்கலான பார்வை.

<u>வாழ்வின் உணர்வை இழப்பது</u>

சபை தங்கள் இருப்பு உணர்வை இழந்தபோது, அவர்கள் செய்ய அழைக்கப்பட்டதை விட உறுப்பினர்களின் கூட்டுறவுடன் மனநிறைவை உணர்ந்து, அப்போஸ்தலர் 1:8 இல் உள்ள வாக்குறுதியின்படி அடைய கடவுளால் அழைக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு இயக்கமாக தங்களைக் காணத் தவறியது. உலகத்திற்குப் பொருத்தமற்றதாகி, உலகிற்கு கிறிஸ்துவைப் பிரதிநிதித்துவப்படுத்துவதை நிறுத்துகிறது. ஏழாம் நாள் அட்வென்டிஸ்டுகள் கிறிஸ்துவின் வருகைக்கு முன் இந்த தலைமுறையில் நித்திய நற்செய்தியை அறிவிக்க பணியை நிறைவேற்ற ஒரு அழைக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். தெய்வீக இது ଇ(फ நோக்கத்திற்காக உள்ளது!

<u>சுவிசேஷத்திற்கான வைராக்கியம் குறைதல்</u>

கிறிஸ்துவின் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டு அவர் விரைவில் வரப்போகிறார் என்ற நற்செய்தியுடன் கூடிய ஒவ்வொரு ஆன்மாவையும் சென்றடைவதே சபையின் சத்துவத்திற்க்கான ஒரே காரணம். "சபை என்பது மனிதர்களின் இரட்சிப்புக்காக தேவனால் நியமிக்கப்பட்ட நிறுவனம். இது சேவைக்காக ஒழுங்கமைக்கப்பட்டது, மேலும் நற்செய்தியை உலகிற்கு எடுத்துச் செல்வதே இதன் நோக்கம்."[¹] இச் செய்தியைப் பற்றி சபை உற்சாகமடையவில்லை என்றால், சுவிசேஷம் என்பது சபையின் வணிக நிகழ்ச்சி நிரலின் முதன்மையான முன்னுரிமையாக இல்லாவிட்டால், தேவனின் மக்களாக ஒன்றுகூட வேண்டியதன் அவசியத்தை நாம் மறுபரிசீலனை செய்ய வேண்டும். சுவிசேஷம் சபையின் இதயமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். சுவிசேஷம் இல்லாவிட்டால், சபை இறந்து போகும்! கிறிஸ்தவ சபையின் வரலாற்றிலிருந்து, ஆன்மாவை வெல்லும் முயற்சியில் தீவிரமாக சபை இருக்கும்போது, மிகப்பெரிய மறுமலர்ச்சசியும் வளர்ச்சியையும்க் காண்கிறோம்.

<u>பெரிய ஆணையம் மற்றும் பெரிய கட்டளைக்கான</u> மங்கலான பார்வை<u>.</u>

தரிசனம் இல்லாத இட்த்தில் னைங்கள் அழிந்துபோவார்கள்" (நீதிமொழிகள் 29:18). ஒரு தரிசனம் மற்றும் குறிக்கோள் இல்லாத ஒரு சபை வலுவாக வளர ஏனென்றால் மடியாகு, இருப்பு உணர்வு மர்பம் சுவிசேஷத்திற்கான வைராக்கியம் இல்லை. சபையின் பணியை ஊக்குவிக்கக்கூடிய இரண்டு உந்து சக்திகள் இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் "பெரிய கட்டளை" (மத். 22:37-39) "பெரிய மற்றும் ஆணையம்" (மத். 28:18-20) ஆகியவற்றில் காணப்படுகின்றன. முந்தையது நமது கிறிஸ்தவரின் வாழ்க்கையின் அடித்தளத்தையும் கடவுளின் கட்டளையையும் கொடுக்கிறது: தேவனையும் *நம்* அண்டை வீட்டாரையும் நேசிக்க வேண்டும்; பிந்தையது நமது சபை ஊழியம் மற்றும் அதன் இருப்புக்கான திசையையும் இலக்கையும்2 அமைத்தது: அனைத்து நாடுகளுக்கும் சீடர்களை உருவாக்குவது. வெளிப்படுத்துதல் 14:6-11 -யின் அடிப்படையில் ஏழாம் ஒரு தனித்துவமான நாள் அட்வென்டிஸ்ட் திருச்சபை பணி/செய்தியைக் கொண்டுள்ளது. இது நமது வாழ்வின் அர்த்தத்தையும், உலக முடிவு வரை சுவிசேஷம் செய்வதற்கான உந்துதலையும், கிறிஸ்துவின் போதனைக்கு உண்மையாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்ற அழைப்பையும் தருகிறது. பரிசுத்த ஆவியின் வல்லமையுடன் பிரசங்கிப்போம், இந்த பணியை மேற்கொள்ள அனைத்து உறுப்பினர்களையும் தயார்படுத்துவோம், கிறிஸ்துவின் மரியாதைக்கும் மகிமைக்காக தொடர்ந்து பெருகுவோம்.

1] எலன் ஜி. வைட், அப்போஸ்தலர்களின் செயல்கள், 9.

唯恐我们忘记

我们的历史和卑微的开端

基督教会的历史: 存在的神圣目的、 布道的热情和圣经的愿景

陈明祯, 马来西亚半岛区会会长

基督教会的历史可以追溯到公元一 世纪,当时耶稣召集了十二门 徒。他们并不完美,但耶稣使圣灵 改变了他们,并赋予他们力量。耶稣 的使命是通过邀请人们悔改并相信福 音,来宣扬上帝国度的好消息(马可 福音 1:15)。祂呼吁门徒跟随祂,并 效学祂的榜样(马太福音10:38; 11:29 ; 马可福音 8:34; 路加福音 9:24)。 祂的追随者也要做同样的工作,并藉 着圣灵的帮助继续使门徒倍增(参见 使徒行传 2:38-47)。但可悲的是,从 教会历史看来教会可能会因这几个因 素,而陷入增长停滞或衰落的情况。 其因素有(1)失去存在感、(2)减 弱传福音的热诚和(3)对大使命和 大诫命的看法模糊。

失去存在的意义

当教会失去存在的意义,对教友之间 的团契感到自满,而没有意识到自己 应该做什么,也没有把自己看作是上 帝召唤的一项运动,需按照使徒行 传 1:8 中的承诺去接触他人时,教 会就变得与世界无关,不再代表基 督。基督复临安息日会被召唤去完 成一项使命,在基督复临之前向这 一代人宣扬永恒的福音。它的存在 是为了神圣的目的!

失去传福音的热忱

教会存在的唯一原因就是传福音,尽 可能地向每一个生灵传达基督被钉十 字架和祂即将复临的好消息。"教会是 上帝指定拯救人类的机构。教会是为 了服务而成立的,其使命是将福音传 遍世界。"[1]如果教会对这信息不感兴 趣,传福音也不再是教会事务议程的 首要任务,那么我们就需要重新审视 聚集上帝子民的必要性。传福音应该 是教会的核心。没有传福音,教会就 会消亡!从基督教会的历史中来看, 当教会积极参与救灵的工作时,就可 以见证到伟大的复兴和巨大的增长。

失去大诫命和大使命的愿景

"没有异象,民就放肆"(箴言 29:18) 。没有愿景和目标的教会无法发展壮 大,因为缺乏存在的y意义和传福音的 热忱。能够激励教会使命的两大驱动 力,就是耶稣基督的"大诫命"(马太 福音 22:37-39)和"大使命"(马太福音 28:18-20)。前者奠定了基督徒生活的 基础,并上帝的命令:爱上帝和我们 的邻舍;后者为我们教会的事工设定 了方向和目标,以及其存在:为各国 培训门徒。

基督复临安息日会有一个独特的使命/ 信息,是基于启示录 14:6-11。它赋予 我们存在的意义、在末日传讲福音的 动力、以及忠于基督教导的号召。让 我们以圣灵的力量传道,装备全体教 友来宣传这使命,并继续为基督的荣 耀而倍增。

[7] 怀著:使徒行述,第一章

Understanding Our Past

Corina Ling, Editorial Board

Generally, many first-generation affluent individuals are humble and generous, kind and courteous, they don't act as though as if the world owes them something. But you will notice that the not so rich ones tend to act otherwise. This is reflected in the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:23-31. I would like to suggest that the ones that go through hardship tend to treasure and appreciate what they have so they behave differently from those who inherit the treasures.

Similarly, as you read this issue of Vision, think back of the early New Testament church, how they understood God's commission and were willing to go to the ends of the earth to win all nations to the faith even at the expense of their life. As you read about the Protestant Reformation, see how with the reality of the gospel living in them, it compelled them to be missionaries who had faith in the great commission.

Then let us asks ourselves this, are we doing justice to the gospel when we succumb to the demands of society and break the 10 Commandments? Do we have the courage to stand out/up and be counted as Seventh-day Adventists when our actions go directly against the very reason why our reformative fathers protested and came here.



INSPIRATIONAL



Reformation and What It means for Today's Mission

Renie Ubara,

Ministerial Association & Field Secretary

Reformation can happen in different spectrums; political such as French Revolution (1789-1799), social such as Civil Rights Movement (1950s-1960s), economic such as New Deal (1933-1939), legal such as Napoleonic Code (1804), (Williamson, 1994), educational such as Educational Reform Movement (19th Century), and scientific such as Green Revolution (1940s-1960s). One that is near to us in Malaysia, a political reformation which happened in September 1998 that was started by our current Prime Minister, Dato Sri Anwar Ibrahim. Maybe the most recent movement in politics and economy is BRICS counter the dollar dominance and the G7.

Understanding the Word Reformation At A Glance

What is the meaning of reformation? Based on the Britannica Dictionary (2024), reformation is the act or process of improving something or someone by removing or correcting faults, problems.



Reformation happens when, there is a motivation to change due to dissatisfaction of existing systems. Reformation encounters resistance from people in power who desire to maintain the status quo, thus resulting in clashes. Leadership and advocacy are the driving qualities of leaders who are visionary and charismatic in maneuvering followers to fulfil certain agendas. Reformation is long-term and the gradual process with time bring the major factor where certain timeline develops from one major event to another causing changes to occur. When reformation happens, there is big impact to the minds, emotions, and actions of a particular group of people and a large number is affected.

Common motivation behind the reformation movement include; (1) Social inequality and injustice, (2) Religious dissatisfaction, (3) Political corruption and oppression, (4) Economic hardship and inefficiency, (5) Cultural and intellectual changes, (6) Environmental concerns, (7) Technological advances, (8) Globalization of influences and tensions, (9) Peoples' movements and advocacy, (10) Crisis and conflicts. This motivation can be overlapping and connecting one to another in a multiplex of events that give energy to reformation movements.

The most remarkably impactful and historically long-lasting form of reformation is the spiritual reformation; Jesus' New Testament Reformation and the Protestant Reformation.

Jesus' Reformation and Mission

In the most loving way, God through Jesus Christ came to sinful humanity and brought the way of life, He brought the spiritual kingdom of God to the lives of those who believe, and this brought about conversion. Every character in the Bible experienced not just conversion but transformation, and each has a different unique conversion story.

I would like to challenge all readers to write down them own personal transformation story, a testimony of how Jesus' changed and reformed you through the Holy Spirit. The transforming power brings spiritual reformation in a Christian life. And for those who deeply feel it, they become missionaries for life! (Richardson, 2006). Perhaps like that of Paul's powerful transformational testimony on the road to Damascus, Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-21; 26:12-18. He was going to kill Christians, but he was transformed to be the greatest missionary!

Jesus' reformation was filled with the Father's love, mercy and grace. He instigated no violence, but He was painfully violated for the salvation of humanity. The church started no wars, but He empowered the church to face spiritual wars. This reformation needs to begin in each of our homes, in every family. The pen of inspiration beautifully explained:

"You who profess to love God, take Jesus with you wherever you go; and, like the patriarchs of old, erect an altar to the Lord wherever you pitch your tent. A reformation in this respect is needed, —a reformation that shall be deep and broad. Parents need to reform; ministers need to reform. They need God in their households. They need to build the waste places of Zion; to set up her gates, and make strong her walls for a defence of the people" Christian Education 235.3.

Protestant Reformation and Mission

What can we learn about mission from the Protestant Reformation? It is an internal-mission, Christians reaching Christians. The pen of inspiration writes, "Wycliffe, Luther, and many others who blessed the world by their influence and their faith." (White, 1911).

Driven by the Reformation principles of sola gratia (grace alone), sola scriptura (the primacy of Scripture), sola fide (justification by faith), and presbyterii fedilium (the priesthood of all believers), the reformers felt strongly called to reach the church with God's truth again and to discard the adulterous teaching of man. (General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2024). No other way but to reform and go back to the real identity of Christianity which the Roman church has lost.

What can we learn about missions from history? I would like to suggest the following:



First, every believer is a missionary. The reformation forwarded strongly the teaching of the priesthood of all believers, which means that all Christians have a role in Christ's mission. (1 Peter 2:9; 3:15). With our identity founded in Christ, we are called to share the Father's love that we personally experienced in Jesus Christ. It is a missional call to be actively involved in a mission.

Second, living the power of the gospel. Not living life my way, or other's way but living a lifestyle driven by the power of the gospel. (Romans 1:16). The Reformation showed not just the essentiality of conversion but the transformative power of the gospel message. A calling to be missionaries of Christ in sharing the good news urgently, boldly, zealously, and intentionally, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Third, responding in faith to the great commission. The Reformation highlighted the call to missio dei (mission of God), and to disciple making of all nations.

From the Reformation, the faithful ones glean the command to fulfil the Great Commission by doing intentional mission and discipling all nations, recognizing the inherent transformative power of the gospel that brings salvation to all who believe. Understanding the mission of the church involves every believer actively participating in the mission, ready to share the Father's love to everyone.

Conclusion

The Reformation history has shown us the importance of mission. Mission is the very reason for our existence as a church. The Reformation has in a way forced or encouraged us to think deeply of where we are in our missional endeavours as a church, to ask serious questions regarding our missional identity. Do I live a missionary spirit or I have lost that identity? The harvest is plentiful but laborers are few. Let's humbly pray that spiritual reformation for mission will be what each of us, Adventists in PEM experience today until our Reformer, Jesus, comes.

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The Christian Churches Through the Ages

Thomas Chin, Farlim

The Church of the New Testament

The church of the New Testament received its fundamental beliefs from the Old Testament church. It accepted the law of God as a rule of life. The Lord Jesus knew that some people would think that He came to replace the teachings of the Old Testament church and the law, so He said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." (Matthew 5:17)

Like the Old Testament church, the New Testament church loved and cherished the law of God. Paul declared, "I delight in the law of God after the inward man" (Romans 7:22).

The Church of the New Testament was privileged to have the Lord of glory come to them in human form.

Unfortunately, the members of the church, even though they studied the Scriptures, were so bound by walls of tradition that they missed accepting Jesus as the Saviour of the world. The apostles continued to preach, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The apostolic church was organized after the ascension of Christ, and James became the first general president. The church had a strong evangelistic program. In addition to the twelve, we read of Paul, perhaps the greatest evangelist of all time, and of Barnabas, Silas, John Mark, Apollos, Timothy and Titus. The deacons were also elected as officers of the early church.

It seems that the headquarters of the early church was at Jerusalem, but the apostles and teachers were commissioned to go "into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Officers and members of the early Christian church wrote Gospels and Epistles, not only for the early church, but also for the Christian church in later centuries.

Only a few weeks after their Lord ascended to heaven, the members of the New Testament church suffered persecution. The disciples were put in prison for preaching, and Stephen became the first martyr. As Christianity spread through the Roman Empire, the church came in contact with paganism, and the followers of Jesus were imprisoned, tortured and put to death.

The darkest hours of persecution were from about A.D. 100 to 300. When the sword did not end the Christian church, the enemy of souls tried another method of attack. He attempted to make the church popular with the state and bring pagan rites and ceremonies into the Christian religion. Little by little false teachings filtered into the church. The simple faith was lost as Christians became wealthy and powerful in business and government. In 476 A.D. the barbarian tribes from the north overthrew the Roman Empire, and in the struggle that followed, the head of the church at Rome became known as the bishop.

The Bible was not placed in the hands of the church members, partly because only handwritten copies were available in those times, but mainly because the leaders of the church were afraid to let the people study the Holy Scriptures lest they discover that some church doctrines – such as the immortality of the soul, the worship of the saints, purgatory and the observance of Sunday - were not taught by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church of Rome states that it changed the day of worship from the seventh to the first day of the week. History and the Bible show that the observance of Sunday as a Christian institution came from paganism.

Despite the compromise and apostasy that crept into the church, there was always a faithful remnant who had the faith of Jesus and kept the commandments of God.

The Church of the Dark Ages

By the sixth century, the bishops of Rome held power over most of the Christian churches. This strong leadership was known as the papacy, with the pope as the head. In 538 the papal power became supreme and ruled for a period of 1260 years, as was predicted by Daniel and John in their prophetic books. This period of papal supremacy ended in 1798, when the pope of Rome was taken prisoner.

By means of secular authority the church forced the followers of Jesus to choose either to accept the false doctrines and pagan ceremonies of Catholicism or to suffer imprisonment and perhaps death by the sword or by burning at the stake. This long period of history has been called the Dark Ages. As one historian stated, "The noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world." (J. A. Wylie, quoted in Great Controversy page 60).

"Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God- men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know. They were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented or mutilated. Yet they stood firm, and from age to age maintained their faith in its purity, as a sacred heritage for the generations to come" (GC 61).

(Source: Church Heritage Manual, pages 6-8)

Strengthen your Digestive System

Dr Steve Kuan, *MD ABLM Lifestyle Physician* By guarding the digestive system, a person can become healthier providing good nutrients to our body.

A healthy choice of food and practice may reduce many chronic diseases in our modern world. By guarding the digestive system, a person can become healthier providing good nutrients to our body.

Digestion starts in the mouth. God has provided man with strong teeth to masticate food where salivary enzyme with mixed with the food to breakdown starch and break them into smaller pieces. Properly chewed food will be moistened, so it will easily move through our oesophagus and assist the stomach in digestion.

The stomach is a strong, muscular organ that holds food and mixes it with acid and enzymes to form a liquid. Well-chewed food and a good selection of foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and legumes provided by our Creator will strengthen our stomach. Prepare the stomach for its work by avoiding water or any form of liquid thirty minutes before meals. Drinking water during and after meals, when the stomach is processing our food, may hinder its function and delay digestion. This can dilute gastric enzymes, leading to problems such as acidity and heartburn.

Digestion continues in the small intestine further breaking down the food and then absorbs its nutrients such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and water from the food, so they can be used by our body. It also solidifies the waste. Well-processed food from the stomach will help in this process.

Food then moves to the colon, where water, some nutrients, and electrolytes are removed from the partially digested food. What remains is solid waste, called stool. Sufficient fiber intake helps in forming well-shaped stools.

The entire process takes a few hours, depending on the type of food. Allow four to five hours for digestion before the next meal. It is recommended not to consume food or snacks between meals to allow our digestive system to work smoothly.

15

BM Churches Camp "JUMPSTART"

Didi Laura,

Penang Adventist Hospital Church

On 5th to 7th July 2024, BM Churches Camp was held at Stella Maris, Tanjung Tokong, Penang. This year gathering was hosted by Penang Adventist Hospital Church. 288 registered participants from 10 BM Churches in PEM gathered for 3 days and 2 nights. The main speaker was Pastor John Mendellu from Indonesia. Pastor John is the current Assistant Vice President Editorial Publishing House of Indonesia. The theme for BM KEM this year is "Jumpstart – Tetapi kamu akan memiliki Kuasa", taken from Act 1:8, " Tetapi kamu akan menerima kuasa, kalau Roh Kudus turun ke atas kamu, dan kamu akan menjadi saksi-Ku di Yerusalem dan di seluruh Yudea dan Samaria dan sampai ke ujung bumi". The participants had four sessions with Pastor John and one workshop with local speakers. The following sessions were presented by Pastor John.

- · Jumpstart | Part 1 THE CONDITION & THE CHOSEN (Syarat & Yang terpilih)
- · Jumpstart | Part 2 THE PROMISE & THE POWER (Janji & Kuasa)
- · Jumpstart | Part 3 THE TRANSITION & THE WITNESS (Peralihan & Saksi)
- · Jumpstart | Part 4THE TARGET & THE GOAL (Sasaran & Tujuan)

Around 60 children under the age of 12 participated in the camp. The children ministry of PAHC under the leadership of Sister Ellis Ammey Maik (Children's Program coordinator) and Sister Asteotie Abidin (Head of PAHC's Children Ministry) arranged a special session just for these children throughout the three days camp. The camp has been a blessing to all who participated. This highly anticipated annual event will be hosted next year by Klang BM and Pandamaran church.



Participants of the 2024 BM Churches Camp



Pr Medellu during the main session



Pr Tan Weoi Siong during the workshop session 2



Pr Renie Ubara during the workshop session 1



Afternoon workshop



Elder Rony Asun during the workshop session 4



Children's session

NEWS UPDATE

Malaysia Union Mission ASI Convention:

A Success at Furama Hotel, Bukit Bintang

by Yew Chen Zhen, Klang Chinese

The Malaysia Union Mission (MAUM) hosted the first-ever Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) Convention at the Furama Hotel in Bukit Bintang. The weekend event brought together 200 attendees from East and West Malaysia, as well as Singapore, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration.

The convention featured Pastor John Bradshaw from It Is Written ministries as the main speaker. His insightful discussions on identity emphasized how our identity in Christ shapes our lives and actions. Pastor Bradshaw's talks resonated deeply with attendees, highlighting the importance of living out one's faith in daily life. A notable highlight of the convention was the launch of the "Twentysomething Program" by Brother Lip Sin. This peercoaching initiative is designed to help young adults in their 20s build their 'identity capital'. The program aims to connect likeminded young professionals across various aspects of their lives, including career, faith, relationships, and finances.

The convention also included a panel discussion featuring successful Adventists who shared their personal journeys and how their experiences in their 20s shaped their current success. These stories were inspirational, offering valuable insights and encouragement to the younger attendees.



Pastor John Bradshaw, the main plenary speaker

Panelists at the "Twentysomething Program"



Participants from East & West Malaysia and Singapore

Healthy Recipe

In addition to the enriching discussions and programs, the convention provided an opportunity to hear exciting mission reports from different areas of Malaysia. These reports showcased the ongoing efforts and successes in spreading the message and work of the Adventist church across the region.

The event included a high Sabbath, filled with worship and fellowship. On the final day, it was announced that the next MAUM ASI Convention will be held in Sabah, promising another opportunity for growth, learning, and connection.

This inaugural ASI Convention is evidence of the impact of collective efforts in advancing the mission of the Adventist church by bringing entrepreneurial ministries across the country and leveraging on the power of community.

We look forward to the continued success and inspiration that the next convention in Sabah will undoubtedly bring.



Peter Lee and Alyzrona Gapang of Savor Restaurant

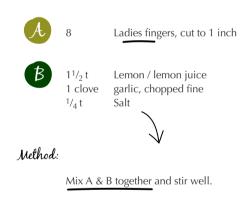


David Fam, president of MAUM ASI, giving the closing remarks



Ladies Finger Salad Healthy Appetizer

Ingredients:



Nutritional Fact

Lady finger or "Okra" is rich in magnesium, folate, fiber, antioxidants, and vitamins C, K1 and A.

It may help support healthy pregnancy, heart health, blood sugar. it may even have anticancer properties.

Recipe courtesy of: Aenon Health Care

Fisher of Men Bible Study Camp

by Robert Agustin, Personal Ministries

The Bible Study Training Camp entitled "Fishers of Men" was organized 26-28 April 2024 at the Swiss-Belinn Cherengin Hills in Janda Baik, Bentong, Pahang. The PEM Personal Ministries organized the event, in partnership with the Mission and Union's Children Ministries and Sabbath School Departments.

79 participants and presenters from PEM attended the camp with 41 people focusing on the adult Bible studies training, while 16 focused on children's Bible studies. Participants were lay leaders and lay members of the church. The major purpose of the camp was to provide lay leaders with the necessary skills and expertise to lead effective Bible studies. The course also sought to motivate and encourage participants to actively participate in Bible study ministry and outreach in their communities.

The panel of speakers include, Malaysia Union Mission's Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Jim Gabu, Children's & Women's Ministries Director, Sister Faridah Lausin, and Penang Adventist Hospital's Head Chaplin, Pastor Sunny Tan.

The camp featured a comprehensive program with workshops tailored to various aspects of Bible study ministry, reflecting the unity and shared vision of the organizers.



Fishers of Men: I Will Go!



Guest Speakers (from left to right): Pr. Jim Gabu, Sister Faridah Lausin, Pr. Tan Meng Cheng, Pr. Renie Ubara and Pr. Sunny Tan



Group photo

The workshops covered practical teachings and techniques for sharing the Bible with others. PEM President, Pastor Tan Meng Cheng, in his Sabbath message, emphasized the necessity of "Winning one for Christ." He urged the participants to strive to win one soul. In another session, Seremban Church pastor Pastor Frendy Rubil said, "Don't worry! God will give you the courage and spiritual gifts you need to advance the Gospel in your area. You are the chosen!" Breakout sessions for workshop-style presentations were also held to accommodate the various language and children's groups.

Each training session was a testament to the active and engaging participation of the attendees. At the end of the program, participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to attend such a camp. They were thankful for the new knowledge on sharing the Bible, which they felt was a significant addition to their skills. Elder Alex Rajakumar of Petaling Jaya English Church shared, "I have been an SDA member and leader for over 40 years, but this was the first time PEM had a Bible Study Training Camp to prepare lay leaders to lead Bible studies. We need more practical training like this."

Most of the participants found the training to be sufficient, but they expressed a desire to learn and do more. Overall, they enjoyed the training and felt a deep sense of satisfaction and encouragement to lead Bible studies when they returned to their region.

In retrospect, Pastor Robert J. Agustin expressed, "Many souls are dying without knowing Jesus Christ. Let us bring them to Christ and the knowledge of Jesus."

Reported by Pr. Robert J. Agustin, PEM Personal Ministries Director, and Hazel Wanda Ginajil-Gara, MAUM Communication Department.



Sabbath School Discussion



Teachers from Children's Ministries: Learning How to Give Bible Study to Children



Practical Session on Giving Bible Study

NEWS UPDATE

Let's Go Camping:

An Unforgettable Adventure with the JB Eagles Adventurers & Pathfinders

by MG Tan Weoi Siong, MG Nancy Chan & MG Elton Ong, JB English



Camp Poster

I magine a vibrant group of adventurers, young and old, setting out for a weekend of fun, faith, and exploration in the heart of nature. That's exactly what the Johor Bahru Eagle Pathfinder Club's annual camp, "Let's Go Camping," was all about! Held at the beautiful Punggai Bayu Impian Campsite in Pengerang, Johor, with the motto "Become One With Nature," this year's camp was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

The excitement started with lively car rides from JB English Church to the campsite. As we arrived at the campsite on the afternoon of 15th June, the place quickly buzzed with activity as everyone pitched in to set up tents and check in. Within a couple of hours, our campsite was transformed into a cozy home away from home. After the official opening ceremony, the parents prepared delicious dinner before the evening worship. Everyone participated in the ice-breaking session led by MIT Sean Yeo and MG Elsa Ong. This was a fantastic way to get to know each other better and set the tone for the fun-filled days ahead.

The next day kicked off with a morning devotional, followed by exciting activities planned for different age groups. The Master Guides and Junior Pathfinders, led by MG Tan Weoi Siong, embarked on a journey to learn about "Bridges" and "Animal Camouflage." We were taught to see Jesus as the bridge that connects



Group Photo After Closing Ceremony

us to God. We also learned some fascinating facts about how different animals camouflage themselves in nature, sparking our curiosity and appreciation for God's amazing creations. As the Bible tells us, "How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of vour creatures. There is the sea. vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number- living things both large and small" (Psalm 104:24-25). This verse truly came alive as we explored the wonders of nature surrounding us. Meanwhile, the young adventurers had a blast exploring the beach, collecting seashells, and participating in other engaging outdoor activities.

Later in the afternoon, we all came together for a camp cook-off! Divided into teams, we put on our aprons and unleashed our inner chefs. The camp cookery was intense, yet friendly, and each team presented a delicious and creative meal. It was a great demonstration of teamwork and everyone's hidden culinary talents!

As the sun began to set, we gathered around the crackling campfire for a night filled with games, songs, and fellowship. Led by MG Elsa, MG Elton, MG Wei Yuan, MG Elma, and MG Solmon, the campfire night was a perfect opportunity to bond with each other and reflect on the beauty of nature under a blanket of stars. That night we all celebrated Father's Day together, with the specially ordered cake sponsored by the JB English church families.

On the third day, as we gathered for the closing ceremony, our heart was heavy but filled with cherished memories. We took the opportunity to express gratitude for everyone's participation, teamwork, and dedication. The theme, "Become One With Nature," truly resonated with everyone as we reflected on the beauty of God's creation and the spiritual growth we experienced throughout the camp.

We left with memories surely to be remembered, with a renewed sense of community, and a commitment to serve God and His people. And we are looking forward to our next adventure!

Before departing, we all came together for a final act of service – a beach clean-up. Working together, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and parents ensured the campsite was left spotless. It may have been a bit tiring, but it was a small way to show our appreciation for the beautiful surroundings God has blessed us with.



Group Photo - Animal Camouflage



Special Father's Day Celebration during Campfire night

NEWS UPDATE

Tema Hari Adventurer Sedunia: Jesus Tahu, Dia Menjaga Kamu.

by MG Susanila Anak Nohik, Penang Adventist Hospital Church



Gambar semua kanak-kanak yang mengambil bahagian



Nyanyian lagu kebangsaan, lagu Pathfinder dan Adventurer



Lafazan ikrar Adventurer

Gereja Hospital Adventist Pulau Pinang telah menyambut Hari Adventurer Sedunia di Gereja Penang Adventist Hospital dengan melakukan aktiviti berikut:

Mengambil alih acara kebaktian kedua iaitu dari 11.00 pagi sehingga 1.00 petang.

Presider : MG Rino Zainol

Bacaan ayat Kitab Suci: Adventurer Johanson Peter Lagu Istimewa: Adventurer James Robert Danim Pembicara : Pathfinder Abigail Zoey Aguinaldo Ayat Kitab Suci: Mazmur 139: 1-2 Tajuk Khotbah : Yesus Sahabat Yang Mengambil Berat

Mesej dari pembicara mengajar bahawa Yesus adalah Sahabat yang tidak pernah meninggalkan kita. Dia sentiasa hadir dalam setiap langkah dan setiap saat dalam hidup kita. Dia menemani kita dalam kegembiraan kita, menghibur kita dalam kesedihan kita dan membimbing kita dengan kasih-Nya yang tiada batas.

Pada sebelah petang dari pukul 3.00 petang sehingga 5.00 petang, Kumpulan Adventurer dibawa ke kawasan membeli-belah Komtar untuk mengedar risalah kesihatan dan buku 'HOPE FOR TOMORROW'. Mereka dibantu oleh ibu-bapa serta ahli Kelab Orient yang lain.

Seramai lebih kurang 50 orang menyertai acara ini. Sebanyak lebih kurang 47 buah buku dan risalah lain telah diedarkan. Di samping itu, mereka juga diberikan buah epal. Seramai 50 orang telah menerimanya.

Dengan menyertai aktiviti hari ini, generasi muda diajar untuk membahagikan kasih kepada mereka yang memerlukannya. Pada masa yang sama, buku dan risalah yang diedar memberitahu khabar baik kepada orang lain yang belum tahu dan belum mengenali Yesus.

Keanggotaan: 14 anggota Adventurer Bimbingan: Kelab Orient. Pengarah: MG Susanila Anak Nohik Timbalan Pengarah: MG Juwel Anak Jusep Jurutulis: MIT Cizelle Cynexx Samuel Pengajar: MG Vilma Madin, MG Ellis Ammey Maik, MG Crystal Bagah, MG Katerine Jenit, MG Irene Gaban.



Lafazan ikrar Pathfinder



Ahli Kelab Orient menuju Komtar



Gambar Kelab Orient

25

NEWS UPDATE

The True Health Message

by Edmund Chong, Kuantan Chinese

ommunity Health Seminar

From 11th to 15th June 2024, our church hosted a health seminar titled "Origin of Disease and Natural Remedies." This event aimed to educate and empower participants with knowledge about the root causes of various diseases and the natural remedies available to combat them. This initiative was part of our outreach effort to promote holistic well-being within the local community. Out of the 50 registered participants, twothirds were non-church members.

The speaker for the seminar was Sister Choi Cha Soon, founder of Bethel Sanatarium in South Korea, established 35 years ago. As Sister Choi speaks only in her native language, translators were provided to translate her messages into Mandarin and English. The five-night seminar covered a range of topics, including the primordial causes of disease, detoxification, and mental health. After each session, the speaker and translator stayed back to clarify doubts, answer questions, and pray with participants. Night after night, we received positive feedback and gratitude for the wealth of knowledge shared and the practical tools provided.

An Unexpected Turn

On the final night of the seminar, Sister Choi decided to deviate from the planned topic to share her life testimony and preach about Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life. She passionately spoke about the impact of knowing Jesus on her patients, while emphasizing that she never imposed her beliefs on anyone. This unexpected change left many participants, including myself, initially unsure how to react. That night, I reflected on Sister Choi's sharing and was reminded of a patient I treated during my internship.

Reminiscing A Past Experience

He was the most positive leukaemia patient I had ever encountered. Despite multiple successful remissions, he had recurrent relapses, which meant he was a very familiar face in the paediatric oncology ward. He underwent countless rounds of chemotherapy but always remained cheerful. His smile and encouragement were a beacon of hope for other patients. His parents were very health-conscious people, they got a house at the city outskirt away from all the city pollution and served him the healthiest food and juices. However, one day he had a severe relapse that required prolonged ICU admission, and when he was finally extubated, I remember vividly when he looked at us and said in a weak voice, "I want to die; I don't want to suffer anymore." His statement shocked us all, as he had always been the most optimistic person in the room.

I found myself questioning the point of all the treatments he had to endure, the efforts of his parents to provide him with healthy foods, a clean place to stay, and his unwavering positivity. Despite all the chemotherapy and struggles, he still faced a harsh end. Life often pushes us to our limits, and even the strongest can eventually surrender and seek rest. Although health is important and contributes to a good quality of life, death is inevitable. Does health only means living longer on this temporary earth?

A Deeper Message

Sister Choi's testimony underscored that there is more to life than just physical health. Emotional and social well-being are equally important in contributing to a meaningful life. Faith and relationship with God play vital roles in healthful living. The hope of eternal life after death, as Sister Choi shared, is perhaps the truest health message, one that promises not just temporary relief but everlasting peace.

Isaiah 53 declares, "with His stripes we are healed," pointing to a profound healing that extends beyond physical health but rather eternal salvation from sin and death. Malachi 4 prophesies the coming of Christ, the Sun of righteousness, arises with healing in His wings, giving eternal rewards to all who fear Him. Health work is an entering wedge- the right hand of the gospel; but let's not forget to share the most important truths of salvation with care and clarity.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1John 5:12



Group photo on the last night of our seminar



Sister Choi with the rest of Korean team members and the organizing committee members of Kuantan Chinese church

Our Journey

by Christina Leong, The Lighthouse

My name is Christina and my son, Tian Loong, is a special need child with autism. We travelled from Kuala Lumpur to Penang in search of a long-term sustainable network support for him.

I grew up in a family of four. My parents worked tirelessly to provide the best education possible for us. I understood the importance of education, and I worked hard to achieve what I have today in the IT industry. My upbringing gave me confidence in overcoming all obstacles by myself thus far.

My son was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2. Many shared with me that, 'I should feel blessed'. I often retorted in my mind, 'You are not in my shoes'. Upon receiving my son' diagnose, my natural problem-solving self was immersed into understanding the world of autism. Yet, despite efforts to support him, I still faced gaps in his development as I pursued interventions and therapies. I had to reassess my expectations and each time I failed, I fell into a self-blaming cycle, bouncing back and forth.

Our worries and fear grew as my son grew up. We worried about his future, especially after we are gone. We love our child. We both have this last wish, which is, we would outlive our son, sparing him the pain of wandering in this complicated world alone. Coming to Penang with a weary heart, we finally found a supportive community and network for my son.

However, soon enough I realized that I just cannot simply rely on the Christian family here as everyone has their own life and families to attend to. I wondered if I had made the right decision to relocate to such a place far from home?

Yet, my son expressed his desire to embrace Christianity amidst this uncertain path. He chose to be called as Timothy, a young servant leader to be. He even foresees himself attending a college in Penang. I felt his sense of belonging. Seeing his desire, I decided to support him on his spiritual journey, embarking myself on a quest to deepen my understanding of Christ through Bible studies.

It was through this growing pain that I realized my son's profound purpose in my life. God is teaching me through my special son, to be humble, surrendering my pride and ego to God. Only through surrendering myself and humbling myself, that I can slow things down and learn to listen and understand him. His odd behaviours and development gaps taught me the meaning of unconditional acceptance – i.e. the Agape love, a phrase I learnt from the church elder of Lighthouse, Dr. Chew, in his Bible study class.

Along this spiritual journey, I was moved by the power of worship and the presence of the Holy Spirit, especially when I hesitantly took my very first step to pray. Then I was encountered with a divine affirmation, which I leant that my son was indeed a gift from God—a light that led me to embrace the unconditional love, humility, and ultimately, a path towards peace through Christ.

Does this new found faith erase my fears or doubts? No, they still linger, especially in moments of struggles and setbacks in my son's development. However, I've learned to place my trust in God's guidance, to surrender my fears, and to find solace in the peace, which comes from walking with God in faith. I know he is a work in progress, and so do I.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my husband, my family who have been my pillars of strength that led me this far. I entrusted the Lord as our pillar of faith, we will go further. I would also like to express my gratitude to church members who came across in this journey, who planted the seeds in us, and the seed grew in our hearts.



Family of Christina & Timothy

I am also thankful to the Lighthouse church, which gave us overwhelming warmth and led us to know God. May we continue to walk this journey together faithfully, guided by the wisdom of God and the warmth of His love.



Baptism on 2nd March 2024 - Timothy Wong & Christina Leong

27

NEWS UPDATE

Shah Alam **Pathfinder Club**

by Prema Ashok, Shah Alam Indian

On 18th May 2024, our church celebrated World Adventurer Day with an inspiring and joyful Sabbath School and Divine Service. The highlight of the day was a special presentation by our adorable and talented Adventurer kids, with wonderful assistance from our dedicated Pathfinder members.

The children's enthusiasm and commitment made the day memorable for everyone. The church is incredibly proud of their efforts and their spirit.

Thank you to all who participated and supported this wonderful event.



Adventurer special presentation



Children participating



Reciting the Pathfinder Law

The Misunderstood Rollercoaster

by Jeremy Low

Sister Beatrice practically vibrated with excitement. Back from her Australian vacation, she recounted her adventures with the zeal of a returning missionary. Her conquest? Not a remote village, but the heart-stopping heights at Dreamworld, a theme park on the Gold Coast.

"It was like a sign from God!" she declared, eyes shining. "Remember Phil. 4:13? 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me'?"

Beatrice had faced her Everest: a monstrous rollercoaster that clawed its way towards the heavens before plummeting back to earth. Terror threatened to paralyze her, but then she recalled the verse. It was a promise, a divine power-up! So, with scripture as her shield, she bravely boarded the ride, emerging exhilarated and triumphant.

I listened, a silent observer in her whirlwind of enthusiasm. While I shared her joy in conquering her fear, a niggling doubt lingered. What did it truly mean to "claim" a verse? The Bible offered no such instruction manual.

Hesitantly, I brought up the context. Phil. 4:13 wasn't a universal cheat code. It was the testimony of Paul, a whisper from a Roman prison cell. Paul spoke of resilience, of finding strength in the face of hardship, "in any and every circumstance" (Phil. 4:11).

The rollercoaster, thrilling as it may have been, wasn't quite the battle Paul envisioned. His "all things" referred to the relentless pursuit of spreading the Gospel, not conquering amusement park rides.

Beatrice's misinterpretation, however innocent, highlighted a larger problem. We often cherry-pick verses or statements to fit our narratives. The call to persevere in adversity became a green light to chase fleeting thrills. God's voice, meant to guide and challenge, was muted by our selfserving desires.

The irony was delicious. We twisted scripture to make it relevant to our lives when the truer path lay in aligning ourselves with the wisdom of the Bible.

Let us not bend your Word to our will. Grant us wisdom when handling your Word, understanding, and the courage to follow. May your will, not ours, be done.

28

WHY MATTHEW IS THE FIRST BOOK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (NT)

by Jeremy Low

D uring the end of the 1st until the 2nd century AD, the church leaders, particularly in the early churches, read the gospel of Matthew more frequently than any other gospel. The gospel of Mark, written before 70AD, was the first gospel among the synoptic gospels, while Galatians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians were written between 48AD to 55AD. Matthew was only written after 70AD.

As many would know, the New Testament (NT) was put together in the later 4th century and the Gospel of Matthew was put as the first book in the NT by the early church leaders for the following reasons:

1) Matthew's gospel is the most organized among the synoptic gospels, despite not being in chronological order. It is divided into seven major sections, each focusing on different aspects of Jesus Christ's life and ministry, providing a clear structure.

2) Matthew emphasizes the theme of Jesus as the Messiah more than any other book in the New Testament. Throughout the gospel, Matthew uses hyperbolism to highlight important theological principles and stories that were significant for the early church audience, both Jewish and Gentile Christians. From the genealogy of Joseph to the divine titles ascribed to Jesus, Matthew consistently emphasizes Jesus' role as the Messiah the linked between the Old and New Testaments.

3) Matthew presents the theological principle of adoption through Joseph's role as the adopted father of Jesus. This highlights the concept that every human being can be part of God's new covenant through Jesus Christ, but it requires repentance, acceptance, and obedience to God's will. Matthew includes various narratives, such as John the Baptist preparing the way for the Messiah, the temptation of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, healings, parables, and more, all emphasizing that Jesus is the Messiah who must suffer, die, and resurrect according to God's everlasting gospel.

4) To support his advocacy for adoption, Matthew referenced five controversial women in the initial chapter. He

also highlighted stories of marginalized individuals, such as tax collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus. Gentiles seeking healing and spiritual restoration from Jesus, and outcasts. These narratives were crucial in challenging the belief held by established Jewish leaders that economic and physical challenges were a result of sin and noncompliance with additional laws they had created alongside the teachings of the Torah. These leaders also emphasized loyalty to the Jewish God and the chosen people, the Jews. In contrast, Jesus the Messiah introduced profound teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, along with other significant theological themes such as God the Father, the gospel of the suffering Messiah, death and resurrection, and the Great Commission. Through repentance and acceptance of Jesus as the foundation for carrying out God's will, the grace and mercy of the LORD, extended through Jesus Christ, would be available to all sinners as part of the kingdom of God.

5) Mathew's gospel extensively incorporates Old Testament prophecies. He draws from various passages and verses from at least ten books, including the Torah, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, and Micah. Among these, Isaiah is the most frequently referenced book by Matthew. For Matthew, the events surrounding Jesus were directly foretold in the Old Testament. He sees Jesus as the fulfilment of the covenants made with Abraham and David, as well as all the prophecies pointing towards the coming of a future Messiah to establish God's kingdom.

The placement of Matthew as the initial book in the New Testament held great significance for the Christian church. Consequently, it is crucial for devoted Bible readers and followers of Jesus to grasp the gospel according to Matthew within its historical, cultural, and literary framework. By doing so, they can fully comprehend the narrative of the gospel and the teachings of Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God. This understanding serves as the driving force behind participating in the Great Commission, which involves spreading the message of salvation and becoming disciples of Jesus Christ to people worldwide. May the Lord bestow upon us His grace, mercy, peace, and joy during this Christmas season and the upcoming year 2024, in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen!



God Protects His People During War

by Chai Mien Seng, Stewardship Ministries

¹¹ **M** y people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4: 6). In this article we are looking at a piece of history not many people know it exist. 30 years of Christian Religious War-1618-1648. One of the longest and most brutal war in human history for which more than 8 million casualties from military battles of Protestants Faith and Roman Catholic Faith.

As I write, currently there are two devasting wars (1) Ukraine and Russian War, more than half a million soldiers already killed and thousands of wounded soldiers, destruction of land and properties, exodus of refugees. (2) Hamas and Israel War, the majority of which are innocent women and children, already more than thirty thousand killed. Even today, we hear of rumours of war, on Northeast Asia and South China Sea.

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon." Interestingly the land beast with two horns like a lamb (United States) is involved in most of wars around the globe in name of democracy.

Thirty years War of 1618-1648.

The Protestant Reformation began in 1517 and counter reformation that follow created opportunity for conflict and war. The authority of the Catholic Church in Europe was in question for the first time in a long time, and the continent divided into Catholics and Protestants. While some countries, such as England and the Netherlands, were clearly Protestant, others remained staunchly Catholic like Spain and France, still others were marked by acute internal division.

Four phases of the War

Phase I: The Bohemian Phase Civil War between Catholic and Protestants (1618-1625)

In 1618, Ferdinand II, Catholic ruler of Bohemia, started to limit the kinds of religious activities allowed by his subjects. Protestants under his rule felt restricted and oppressed and took up arms against the government. The rebels sought help from Protestants in other areas. These areas included Denmark, Netherlands, and Great Britain. Local war became regional war. Ferdinand and his allied defeated the Protestants group in the Battle of White Mountain.

Phase II: The Danish Phase (1625-1629)

The Protestant Danes entered the war to help the Protestants in Germany. Ferdinand with help of their Catholic Habsburg rulers of Spain and Austria defeated the Protestants in Germany. Ferdinand declared an "Edict of Restitution" which took back lands for the Catholic Church that had previously been overtaken by Protestants. Ferdinand also limited worship only two groups: Catholics and Lutherans.

Phase III: The Swedish Phase (1630-1635) Catholic joined Protestant to fight against Catholic

In this phase, Sweden's Protestant king, Gustavus Adolphus, decided to get involved in defending the Protestants in Europe. However, France's Catholic chief minister and Catholic Cardinal Richelieu feared the increasing power of the Habsburgs (Austrian Catholics). He, therefore, aided the Swedish Protestants in their fight against Habsburg Catholicism! Gustavus Adolphus was killed in battle in 1632, weakening the Protestants.

Phase IV: The French Phase (1635-1648) Catholic against Catholic

Though Gustavus Adolphus death had dealt a blow to the Protestants course, Cardinal Richelieu of France felt the threat of Dutch Catholics, they were gaining more and more power and won more battles, and the Protestants was no threat to France. Richelieu funded and sent the military to Spain to make war on the weaker side of the Habsburg clan.

Why Does This Thirty Years Matter?

The war that had dragged on for three decades resulted in deaths of between 30% and 66% (8 million or more soldiers perished) of the entire male population of many German territories. These figures seem hard to believe, but you must consider that not all the deaths came from battle. Disease, which was far more likely to kill the soldiers in their warweakened states, and starvation.

They were tired of wars by 1648, and all the countries in Europe were devastated by their losses. There was still a great divide between Catholics and Protestants, now they began to believe that the religious differences could not be solved by war. The war was fought for nothing.

Finally in 1648, the countries agreed to stop the religious conflict in the Peace of Westphalia. In it, over 300 German princes were given the right to decide which religions would dominate in their principalities. Because of this independence, the goal of Christendom: Europe to be dominated by Catholic rulers and the Catholic faith – would never be realized. The Bible prophecy of Daniel 2 is to be fulfilled: no more earthly world empire in Europe and the whole world after the demised of Roman Empire.

"As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. "(Daniel 2:43-44 NKJV).

Lessons We can Learn

War, religious war is one of the primary Satanic strategies isusing violence to resolve conflict. Satan and his host are actively involved in every war on this earth. Satan is delighted to see mass human destruction, misery and brutal suffering. He even more delighted to see human beings matching to their eternal destruction with him. Satan started war in heaven, and wars continue this earth ever since. (Revelation 12:7-9). The conflict (War) will only end when Satan and his host will be consumed with eternal fire (Revelation 20:10)

Jesus Christ himself told us: "And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. (Matthew 24:6-7 NKJV).

Satan and his host created conflict and war within the country (civic war) and between nations (regional war) and allied nations against allied nations (world war). The unseen power (Satan and his evil angels) truly engage and influence the human actors to carry out his plan of mass human destruction through war.

Satan will use a noble issue like antislavery for Christians to join the righteous war against slavery. (American civil war in 1860's did not abolish slavery).

Today we hear the same argument to preserve democracy, you need to go to war with your opponents. Democracy is moral high ground used to drum up support and many buy into this bait as they enlist to fight in the war when the actual purpose of the elites was to maintain their power and authority, nothing to do with democracy.

What should we do during War?

(1) God's people should be closely united in bond of Christian fellowship and love and need not fear because God alone is their shield and strength. For example, God shield his people, 20 Hiroshima Seventh-day Adventist members from the nuclear fire on 6th August 1945, Hiroshima, Japan (The Hiroshima Miracle, Adventist Review article Aug 6, 2020). (2) God's people must be awake during war. Satan casts a sleeping spell on God's people. "This death stupor is from Satan." (1 Testimonies for Church p. 261) the sleeping spell is doing nothing for gospel work, to keep God people from acting their part in spreading the truth during war.

(3) Satan controls the minds of un-consecrated Sabbathkeepers and leads them to be jealous of one another, fault finding so labour of God's servants precious time be occupied in settling little differences that they have no time to proclaiming the truth to unbelievers.

(4) During time of war and of great crisis there will be many looking to heaven for answer, and this is the best time to proclaim the present truth: the third angel message to warn the world and give them hope. The messengers must be sanctified by the truth and experience the truth in their life to effectively proclaim it to others.

(5) During war, the young men will be drafted into armies to fight the war, they believe they are doing righteous act not knowing they are used by politicians to be sacrifice for their own benefit as King David did to his loyal soldier Uriah. (2 Samuel 11:14-15).

Adventists should be conscientious objector during war. Now is the time for Adventist Youth to humble themselves before God and turn to Him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon, now is the time for youth not to focus their mind "on appearance and display" as mentioned in the prophecy of Isaiah 3.

In Isaiah 3:25 "Your men shall fall by the sword, And your mighty in the war." Will be strictly fulfilled for non-Christians and those so-called professed Christians. But For God's people they are protected: War lifts his helmet to his brow; O God, protect Thy people now. This should be our prayer as we face the war.

31

NEWS UPDATE Empower Me: A Weekend at the Voice of Youth Camp 2024

by Maegry Magdalene, Melaka

I magine this: a beautiful retreat tucked away in Melaka, filled with laughter, inspiring talks, and deep conversations about faith. That was exactly what the Voice of Youth Camp 2024 was all about! Held 5th -7th April 2024 at the El Sanctuary in Alor Gajah, it was a chance for young people from the Melaka Seventh-day Adventist Church to connect, grow, and be empowered by their faith.

The theme this year was "Empower Me," and with 26 participants, including a new friend interested in learning more about our faith, the energy was electric. We were blessed to have Pastor Tan Weoi Siong and Pastor Renie Ubara join us as special guests, sharing their wisdom and guidance throughout the camp. Maegan Maulder, the president of the camp, did an incredible job of putting everything together. There were so many fun activities planned, from nature walks and social nights to informative workshops and thought-provoking seminars. It was the perfect mix of learning, socializing, and spiritual reflection.

One of the most powerful moments for me was the town hall session. It was a safe space where we could anonymously ask questions about anything that was on our minds, from mental health to faith struggles, and even LGBTQ+ issues. It was so encouraging to hear from the pastors and each other and know that we weren't alone in our journeys.



Pastor Renie Ubara receiving token of appreciation from Joel, Melaka Youth Leader



Pastor Tan Weoi Siong receiving token of appreciation from Joel



Main VOY Group Photo with Walk-in Melaka SDAC Members



Afternoon Group Photo After VOY Team Building Activity



Morning Outdoor Nature Walk



VOY Encouragement Board

Another special part of the camp was the prayer ceremony. We all wrote down things we were grateful for and prayers we wanted to lift up, and then symbolically burned them in a bonfire. It was a beautiful way to release our worries and trust in God's plan. The Sabbath was also a highlight, where we joined the Melaka SDA church for worship and fellowship. It felt amazing to be surrounded by such a supportive community.

The camp wasn't just about talks and activities – it was also about building friendships. There were these awesome bulletin boards set up, one with envelopes labeled with words like "love," "hope," and "faith." Inside, we found Bible verses and quotes that uplifted our spirits. Another board had envelopes with everyone's names on them, where we could leave each other positive messages. By the end of the camp, these little notes had become treasured keepsakes.

We also heard some incredible talks from inspiring speakers like Pastor Tan Weoi Siong, Pastor Renie Ubara, Sis. Ngo Xiao Yun, Bro. Afwed, and Sis. Ivylona. They shared their stories about overcoming challenges, the importance of prayer and perseverance, and even tips on managing stress. Dr. Chan Wai See even had a fun and interactive session on healthy living, complete with games that helped us bond with each other.

The Melaka Voice of Youth Camp 2024 was an unforgettable experience. It was filled with so much energy, laughter, and spiritual growth. The feedback from everyone was amazing, and the youth group at the Melaka church is already looking forward to planning the next one! We are so grateful to the pastors, church members, and everyone on the youth committee who helped make this camp possible. It wasn't just a weekend getaway; it was an empowering experience that left a lasting impact on all of us.

NEWS UPDATE

6.9 双亲感恩会

黄佩珊, 吉隆坡中文堂



领唱永远是破冰带动欢乐气氛的环节



可爱的小女孩开头炮演出"天父的花园"



钢琴独奏"耶稣爱我"

吉隆坡中文堂音乐事工部于2024年6月9日, 傍晚6点至8:30pm破天荒第一次在教堂建筑物以 外,举办了首次双亲感恩会。

这活动始于一个简单的想法,那就是教会不 应该停留在单向吸引人来教堂,而是应该主动走 出去与人群接触。再者,诗歌班不应该只是停留 在教堂里唱歌而已,它是可以走到外面去唱歌、 作音乐布道。

基于这个'走出去'的想法,我在今年初就开 始物色一个合适的公众场地来举办这次的音乐布 道活动。在圣灵奇妙的带领下,我找到了一个距 离教堂车程大约10分钟、鲜为人知的公园 – Indah Water Eco Park,并租下了它们一座可容纳15 桌圆席的小礼堂。

由于在后疫情这段时间里,我不晓得教友们 及外界人士对这活动的反应会如何,因此就抱着一 颗小信心设下一个小小的目标:100位出席人数。

华人新年之后,我就开始启动诗歌班积极 练歌、邀请青年团表演话剧、儿童班献唱,一起 来为这活动作准备。在中期筹备阶段,也邀请了 一些教会事奉新鲜人一起来参与台前、幕后的工 作,目的在于装备新人知识、能力并扩大教会潜 在事奉人员。有一位母亲在活动结束后,告诉我 说她非常高兴看见自己的孩子在教会中找到一个 他可服事的岗位,为主所用。

因着要掌握教友及来宾们的出席人数、简单 资料及准备各方面资源,我们采纳了报名制度。 感谢主,在5月初作出宣传之后,在短短两个星期 之内就已经有130位报名参加活动。从报名截止之 后直到活动举办当天,仍有许多人恳求我们让他 们出席。最后,我们的总出席人数有157位,其中 有88位是非信徒/非本会教友,而且当中有34位父 亲,56位母亲。这样的成果确实让我雀跃不已。 我从中看见教会弟兄姐妹们那股传福音的热忱, 当我们都已经准备好要把身边的人带来认识主, 圣灵就燃起我们的心,给我们信心去邀请人。

除此之外,当晚的节目也感动了许多在座的 父母,不禁让他们深受感动而掉泪。有一位身为 父亲的来宾说,那份感动萦绕着他,甚至在他回 家的路上不禁放声而哭。 其实从筹办到整个活动结束,上帝有很多奇妙的作 为和带领,我无法在此一一述说。正如约翰福音21:25节 所说的,耶稣所行的事还有许多,若是一一都写出来,我 想,就是全世界也容不下所要写的书。相比之下,我还不 至于写到全世界那么长的篇幅,然而上帝丰盛的恩典、慈 爱的教导,使得这次的布道活动成功顺利举行;这已足以 让我把一切的荣耀、颂赞归给他。 这次的活动,对我们教会而言,只是一个开始,是 一个撒种阶段。种子要在泥地里健康发芽成长,还需要 我们这些农夫与圣灵合作,继续耕耘直到收割。愿吉隆 坡中文堂的弟兄姐妹们,继续加油!

也愿其他读着这篇文章的弟兄姐妹们,从这篇分享 当中得着启发和动力。



青年团的话剧传递了每个角色的付出和该有的珍惜



父母亲的心声分享,看见上帝的恩典和智慧



特邀的乐龄嘉宾带来的表演,也十分动容敬佩



老歌环节,是台上台下互动的歌唱的美好时刻

NEWS UPDATE

巴生"席明纳"研讨会: 探索疾病与自然治愈

萧晶蔚, 巴生中文堂

巴生基督复临安息日会平安堂于今年6月6日至10日成 功举办了,主题为"疾病与自然治愈"的席明纳研讨会。本次 研讨会邀请了韩国著名的伯特利疗养院的创始人崔且顺女士 (Mrs. Choi Cha Soon),作为主讲嘉宾。吸引了80多位关注 健康和自然疗法的参与者前来聆听和学习。

研讨会主题概述:

本次研讨会的主题探讨非传染性的疾病,如癌症、糖尿病、 心脏病等,以及其预防与治疗的方法。崔且顺女士分享了她 自身的丰富经验,如何透过自然疗法和健康饮食的生活方 式,来改善、医治及预防这些疾病。

活动回顾:

6月6日(四): 讨论了"疾病是什么?"这一个基本的问题, 帮助参与者理解疾病的根源。 6月7日(五): 重点讲解了排毒的重要性,以及其方法。

6月8日(六): 介绍了自然疗法的原理,也探讨了心理健康 的专题,了解如何治愈抑郁和忧郁。

6月9日(日): 分享了恢复健康的饮食方式,特别强调了水果饮食和正确的健康饮食方法。

6月10日(一): 研讨了耶稣如何医治疾病,从信仰角度给 予参与者启示。

参与者反馈:

崔且顺女士在研讨会上详细讲述了水果饮食和正确的健 康饮食方法。许多参与者在研讨会后尝试了这些建议,并成



崔女士(右)与其翻译(左)给大家分享关于健康饮食的信息



这场分享吸引了不同年龄层的参加者



功体验到了血糖和血压下降,以及睡眠质量改善的效果。参与 者们的亲身经历证明了自然疗法的有效性,进一步增强了对健 康饮食方式的信心。

活动亮点:

崔且顺女士详细讲述了她在国际健康领域中35年的研究和实践 经验,通过非药物治疗帮助了众多患者恢复健康,包括许多癌 症患者。她的演讲深入浅出,赢得了参与者的高度评价和热烈 掌声。

未来活动预告:

为了延续这次研讨会的热度和效果,巴生基督复临安息日会平 安堂将在不久后推出为期10天的健康饮食与生活实践活动,名 为"健康一百分"。该项目将进一步教授如何通过健康饮食和生 活方式来改善整体健康,欢迎广大公众报名参与。

总结:

本次席明纳研讨会不仅提供了宝贵的健康知识,还促进了社区 成员之间的互动与交流。通过此次活动,参与者们更加了解了 自然疗法的重要性,并获得了有益的健康指导。 巴生基督复临安息日会平安堂感谢所有参与者的热情支持,并 期待在未来举办更多有意义的健康讲座和活动。



崔女士(左)为参与者分享,吴女士(右)为其分享提供中文翻译



除了韩语分享,中文翻译以外,也有热心的教友以及参与者给 群众提供英语翻译

BOOK ADVERTISEMENT



Illustrated Bible

Price: RM 225

Product from: Safeliz Publishing House Cover: Leather and colourful.

This Illustrated Bible is a good way to help children and adults, to have a more meaningful devotion time with our Father. It is a complete edition of the Holy Scriptures using The New American Standard language with more than 500 beautiful images that facilitate the assimilation of the great lessons of the word of God.

Words and images are two great pillars in the educative development of the human beings. Thus when combined wisely, the result highly effective; because they make understanding certain concept easier and helps one to memorize the information.



Good For Me

Price: RM 95

Product from: Safeliz Publishing House Cover: Hard cover and colourful.

Good for Me illustrates how the harmony of the three important dimensions in children's life; body, mind and relationships- bring ultimate health and happiness.

It serves as a guide for children, with the help of their parents, to help take care of their body as it addresses issues such as nutrition, physical exercise, rest and hygiene habits. It helps their developing minds as they learn about topics such as decision making, the habit of reading and training the mind, and in building wholesome friendship as it focuses on topics like the importance of respect, quality relationship, obedience and trust in God.



37



Vacant Position: Senior Accountant

The Malaysia Union Mission located in Seremban 2; Malaysia is seeking applications for a full-time senior accountant.

The appointed person:

- Will demonstrate an understanding of and a commitment to the Adventist ethos of the union regional headquarters and its mission and objectives.
- Will possess a keen eye for financial details, able to prepare financial statements and budgets.
- A minimum of bachelor's degree in accounting related areas or equivalent (professional accountancy certification would be an added advantage)
- Has a minimum of 8 years in the accounting field.
- Uphold integrity and honesty
- Able to demonstrate sound time management and organizational skills
- Possess a keen eye for fine details
- Possess good interpersonal and communication skills
- Able to converse fluently in English and Bahasa Malaysia (other languages would be an added advantage)
- Able to adapt and work under intense pressure
- Willing to learn and further equip him/herself professionally to serve better in technical areas

Technical areas:

- Computer literate: able to use computer in completing tasks
 - Microsoft Office suite
 - Different accounting software available offthe-shelf
- Execute payments according to schedule and ad hoc requests
- Execute journaling and posting of accounting records, ensure accuracy and timely month-end closing
- Prepare comprehensive bank reconciliations, subledger reconciliations, creditors reconciliations, generate reports toward preparing the financial statements
- Assist in preparing annual budget and review of financial budget throughout the financial year with different stakeholders
- Undertake any other tasks as assigned by superior, contributing to overall efficiency of the accounting and treasury office

The successful applicant will also be a committed Seventh-day Adventist who willingly embraces the mission and objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

More information and a copy of Position Description and Mission Statement can be provided by contacting the following person below.

Applications, CVs and enquiries should be forwarded to:

Director of Human Resources/Executive Secretary Malaysia Union Mission

Address: No. D20, Persiaran Utama S2-1, Seremban 2, 70300 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus.

Email: nelsonbendah@maum.my and copy to: tabithaandrews@maum.my Phone: 06-6037703 Ext 112/135

What is Vision Newsletter all about?

Besides publishing updates from the Mission and local churches, it is a platform for individuals to share testimonies that serve to glorify God and edify our church members. It is through YOUR sharing that others may be blessed and be reminded of God's goodness.

Based on last year's survey, one of the things our readers enjoy reading the most from this Vision Newsletter is testimonies (it is one of my favourites too). I remember reading a testimony about a young man whose dream of becoming a teacher got shattered. He did well throughout his school years and even got chosen to attend the final stage of his interview. One thing I learned from his testimony is God knows best. All along, God wanted him to become a dentist and he couldn't be happier!

How about you? Do share with us a testimony or two!

VISION Article Submission Guide

You are welcome to write for the edification of our members.Share with us your experience with Christ. What's the latest with your local church?

We welcome scripts from all local church members of sister-institutions of Seventh-day Adventists in areas of:

News and Testimonies (800 to 1,600 words) , Evangelistic program and activities (400 to 800 words)

We reserve the right to edit / delete / reject all scripts to ensure that it is for the purpose of edifying our members.

Please note that unsolicited manuscripts will be subjected to the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Deadline:

- -15th Jan (for Mar Issue)
- -15th Apr (for Jun Issue)
- -15th Jul (for Sep Issue) -15th Oct (for Dec Issue)



Write

Indicate name / pseudonym, church / organization



Check

Check spelling and grammar, use appropriate punctuation



Avoid

Avoid insert picture in MS Word Avoid whatsapp compressed photo



Photo

Send original high-res photo atleast 1MB / 300dpi with caption



Email

vision@adventist.org.my

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 October

04-05	SS/PM	12th MAUM-PEM Online Bible Webinar	PEM
05	Ministerial	Day of Prayer & Fasting	PEM
11-12	СНМ	Children's Ministries Leadership Certification Level 11	Online
20	Admin	Executive Committee Meeting (4-YE Sep 2024)	Online
22-23	Admin	Ministerial Meeting 2	PEM
26	СНМ	Tell a Story Week Campaign	PEM

<u> 2024 November</u>

08-09	WM	Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Level 1 Part 3	Online
08-10	AY	PEM Public Campus Ministry Retreat 2024	PEM
09-15	AY	Youth eWeek of Prayer	PEM
16	СНМ	World Orphans & Vulnerable Children's Day	PEM
21	Stewardship	Stewardship Empowerment for Pastors, Directors & Officers	Online



Executive Committee Meeting (5 - Ye Nov 2024)

PEM

NOTICE FROM PEM

Please note that PEM's fax number +60 3 7984 3600 is in the process of being discontinued.

Any general communication can be sent to pem@adventist.org.my

08

Admin

CHILDREN COLUMN



FAST FACTS

It became a **prison settlement** for a short while before being settled by travelers from Tasmania.

> Gold was discovered and the area's population grew and grew.

Melbourne is a leading financial center for the country of Australia.

BUSY HANDS

Australians enjoy **many crafts,** including ceramics, grass sculptures, metal art, and "blowing" glass.

Make an Australian craft by shaping some clay into a **kangaroo** and then letting it dry in the sun. Very Australian! HOW DO YOU SAY IT? English is the language in

Australia, so here are a few words in original Aboriginal:

English	Aboriginal
Hello	Kaya
Friend	Bunji
Kangaroo	Marlu

SPECIAL PRAYER

Pray for Help in the Community

"Heavenly Father, please go with the church members who are providing food for the hungry, blankets for homeless people, bringing comfort to those in prison, and offering Bible studies."

Bunji!

Pavlova – an after-dinner desert of meringue (whipped egg white) crust, light fruit filling, and whipped cream topping.

Vegemite on Toast – vegetarian breakfast favorite

made from two slices of bread, lots of butter, and sprinkled with Vegemite (a tasty yeast extract).



FAST FACTS

Largest Portuguesespeaking city in the world: 12.4 million people.

Sao Paulo is the **largest city** in South America.

São Paulo is also home to the largest number of **Japanese people** outside of Asia.

WHAT'S FOR

Coxinha: is a popular food

consisting of shredded

chicken meat, covered in

dough, molded into a shape

resembling a teardrop,

battered and fried.

BUSY HANDS Woodcarving and

basket weaving are popular in Sao Paulo.

Weaving a simple basket or a bowl, visit: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=6V-VpXAo-aM **English** Hello Thank you

HOW DO

Portuguese Olá! Obrigada (girl), Obrigado (boy)

YOU

Jesus loves you Jesus te ama

Obrigada)

©GC Children's Ministrie

SPECIAL PRAYERS Pray for the Volunteer Christian Teachers Pray for

"Heavenly Father, please help the volunteer Christian teachers in Sao Paulo to reach boys and girls with God's love through weekly Bible studies and education."

Pray for the Pathfinder Leaders

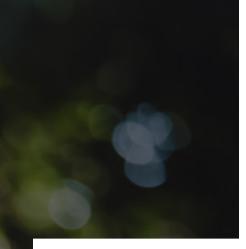
"Dear Jesus, please help the Pathfinder leaders in Sao Paulo share God's love through games, crafts, and stories.



Reconnecting Youth & Young Adults for Jesus Second Coming

Tan Weoi Siong, Youth Ministries

HOLY BIBLE



The 5C's comprised of Christ, Character, Church, Communities and Commission.



Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Reports regarding the departure of youth and young adults indicate that is often due not to doctrinal disagreements but to relational disconnections. The youth of today are not merely passive observers; they are creative visionaries eager to participate in mission work through innovative methods. They are ready to take their place at the leadership table where significant decisions are made. Our young people seek recognition, attentive listening, genuine embrace, appreciation, and active involvement.

To successfully reconnect with the youth and young adults within our community, we require daily divine intervention to effectively reach out to them. This endeavour extends beyond organizing engaging spiritual activities and programs. It is a call to delve deeper, fostering a profound reconnection with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The writing of Ellen G White, Gospel Workers, p. 210 states, "When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus, they will learn to work for God."

According to Proverbs 29:18, Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the laws.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division Adventist Youth Ministries and Peninsular Malaysia Mission Youth Ministries emphasize the 5C's vision to all our youth and young adults. The 5C's vision holistically covers many aspects of reconnecting with God during these last days.

5C's VISION of the SSD YOUTH MINISTRIES

Healthy young people who are enjoying a saving relationship with **CHRIST**, loving the Scriptures as their standard of living to reflect a Christ-like **CHARACTER**, passionately serving the **CHURCH** and **COMMUNITIES** using their God-given spiritual gifts, and vigorously fulfilling the gospel **COMMISSION** in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The 5C's comprised of Christ, Character, Church, Communities and Commission.

Christ – John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. NO one comes to the Father except through Me."

Character – Psalms 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Church – Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Communities – 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Commission – Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

As we prepare the youth and young adults in these final days, we must perpetually remind ourselves of the imminence of Jesus's return and our unwavering duty to all of humanity, regardless of our differences. The gravity of this mission cannot be overstated, as we are called to rise above our personal and communal divisions to serve a greater purpose. Our efforts should be marked by a fervent dedication to nurturing the spiritual growth and readiness of His people. This involves not only engaging in meaningful dialogue and fostering deep relationships but also embodying the principles of love, compassion, and humility in all our interactions.

It is imperative that we embrace the urgency of this moment, recognizing that our time to prepare is fleeting. Our commitment must extend beyond mere words and intentions, manifesting in consistent, daily efforts to connect with Jesus Christ and guide others towards this transformative relationship. The great mandate before us is not a task to be taken lightly, but a sacred duty that requires our wholehearted devotion and persistent action. By doing so, we ensure that we are not only readying ourselves but also empowering the next generation to stand firm in their faith and carry forward the light of Christ in an increasingly complex world.

"They [the youth] can form themselves into bands to do Christian help work... They will find many opportunities to use the talent that God has given them in carrying melody and sunshine into many lonely places darkened by sorrow and affliction, singing to those who seldom have church privileges" (Counsels to Teachers, p. 547).

We fervently pray that many people will reconnect with Jesus Christ daily.



"If the youth don't have a close and saving relationship with Jesus Christ, how can they be vigorous and active in involving themselves in the ministry?"

- Pastor Ron Genebago -



"To build our character we need to be constant in reading our bible and meditating on it, and making sure to apply it to your life before you apply it to someone else."

- Pastor Andres Peralta -

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

"Whenever we go and do community service we should have a pure motive and that motive is to serve the people in the name of Jesus that they might be brought closer to Christ."

- Pastor Gary Blanchard -



"If there was ever a time that we need to get involved in community outreach and the great commission, it's **RIGHT NOW!**"

- Pastor Gary Blanchard -



Centennial Chefoo Centre, Cameron Highlands 8th to 10th November 2024

REGISTRATION

- Kids 5yrs & below: Complimentary
- Student: RM85
- Non-Student/Working Adults: RM125
- Public Bank Berhad, Acc No: 313-5372-619
- o Fees inclusive of lodging, meals, t-shirts and retreat activities
- Scan QR For PEM PCM Retreat Registration
- o Closing date: 30 September 2024

me and join us







Scan QR For PEM PCM Retreat Registration

Acts 19:20, So, the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect



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