

Several months ago, I posted a question on my facebook wall like this: "Do you agree that those who dedicate themselves to become pastors should work in society first before going for theological training? Would they definitely be better off in their future pastoral ministry and personal relationships?"

I was surprised by the responses because quite a number of young people (maybe facebook was mainly for younger generation but there were also some older folks) responded with good answers. Allow me to summarize as follows:

### A. Definitely better off to have working experience

1. Pastors with working experience would know more people including big bosses. They would deal with matters more patiently with different perspectives and helpful details. Their sermons would have more real life illustrations.

2. They would work more carefully, to avoid any troubles that the church might encounter. Maybe they would face more difficulty in facing "destruction" and "rebuilding" in their lives, but once they overcome this difficulty, they would grow into maturity. They would understand better those who do work.

### B. Not necessarily better off with working experience

1. To have working experience sure would get more social experiences, but that does not mean that they would have better personal relationships. Personal relationships depend

## A Note from the Principal Is Working Experience Important?



By Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai

on each person's character.

2. Some pastors with working experiences would sometimes think too highly of themselves so that others have to listen to them. Therefore sometimes it is difficult to communicate with them.

### C. Working experience is not of utmost importance

1. It is important that when we serve, we serve out of our love for our Lord to faithfully carry out the work entrusted by Him.

2. God wants me as a person, not my background or experiences. Did prophet Samuel have working experience? Did God not choose him when he was still a small boy?

3. To serve God in full-time vocation is to place His will as my priority. God does not choose according to whether we have working experience or not. He has a different will and timing for each person.

4. It is of secondary importance whether we have working experience or not. The important things to note are: (1) whether God has called you to become a pastor (2) why did you respond to Him then? (3) what kind of pastor you want to become (4) humility, always ask "is God glorified in what I do?"

5. Pastors without working experience may be more sensitive to spiritual matters, simpler in thinking, just wanting to do more for the Lord, even to die for Him. They also would submit more easily to spiritual life formation process and would be more humble due to insufficient experience.

6. We can all learn pastoral ministry and personal relationships in the church. Every person grows in the process of learning. Having experience in society is good but it is more important to learn from the Bible.

7. Walk closely with God. Let Him lead us step by step through pastoral ministry. It is more valuable than experiences. I had worked for five years before I entered theological school. But I do not think that I have become a better pastor because of this experience. My pastoral ministry and personal relationships have grown in the grace of God as I learn to boldly make changes bit by bit through trials and errors to upgrade myself in the ministry.

8. The most important thing to do is for both pastors and members to strive to grow in our ministry and relationships.



## NEWS FROM MTS

### Missions Awareness Week (22 – 28/2/2010)

Missions Awareness Week is one of the annual ministries of MTS. All lecturers, theological students and STMS students were involved in this ministry. Rev Dr John Lee Seung Gon from Korea spoke to MTS community on 23rd and 24th February, on the theme: "Make Disciple of All Nations in 21st Century" before the community left for missions work. Rev. Thomas Lau, our lecturer was the Bahasa Malaysia translator. Other than that, the Evangelism Committee of the Student Body arranged some evangelism training especially for STMS and first year students. There were four interest groups arranged for students to choose and to be trained:

1. Learning Iban Language & Culture – by Rev. Bonnie Sedau
2. Learning Hakka – by Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng
3. How to bring ancestral worshippers to Christ – by Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai (Chinese), Rev. Elizabeth Enjut (Iban)
4. Roles of Music in Missions – by Rev. Lu Chen Tiong (Chinese), Mdm. Doreen Teo (Iban)

From February 25th to 28th, all lecturers and students went out to 10 different places and churches for short-term missions exposure according to their family groups after the training and briefing.



Rev Dr John Lee Seung Gon

### Building Fund Donation Handover

On 10th February, representatives of SCAC Methodist Youth Fellowship and Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship handed over the donations for MTS new hostels building, witnessed by the Director of Fellowships of SCAC, Rev Kiew Tie Siong and the donations received by our principal, Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai.



### MTS Night

This year, MTS Night was held on 19th March at Masland Methodist Church, Sibü. "Make Disciples of All Nations In 21st Century" was the theme of the night. A sketch about how Rev. St. Patrick offered himself to God was presented by the students and it was accompanied by some songs sang by MTS choir. Rev. Thomas Lau was the speaker of the night.



Prelude:  
presented  
by STMS  
students -  
Aaron Siaw  
and Irene  
Tiong



### "Korean Culture and Language" Talk

Before students left for Korea, Student Body arranged a talk on "Korean Culture and Language" on 14th April. The speaker was Mdm. Lau and her talk was translated to Bahasa Malaysia by Brother Lau Ong Heng.

### Borneo Cultural Festival 16th July – 25th July



MTS Stall



Methodist Care Centre was invited to participate during the festival; There were also some Christian books on sale.

### Dedication Camp

Date: 20th March 2010 8:00am  
Venue: MTS Chapel  
Speakers: Rev. Tong Chu Yiung,  
Rev. Grace Wong Poh Sing, Rev.  
Chiong Kong Ling.





**The 18th Batch of STMS Chinese, the 5th Batch of STMS Iban and the 1st Batch of STMS Music Graduation Service**

Date: 26th March 2010 3:00pm

Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibu

Speaker: Rev. Pang Neng Soon

Translator: Mdm. Yan Foong Peng

There were 41 STMS Chinese students, 12 STMS Iban students and 33 STMS Music students graduated.



The 18th Batch of STMS Chinese students



The 1st Batch of STMS Music students



The 5th Batch of STMS Iban students

**Senior students' trip to Bupyeong Methodist Church, Korea**

31 senior students (2nd year – 4th year students) led by the principal, Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai and a lecturer, Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu, visited Bupyeong Methodist Church in Korea from 6th May to 14th May. Our students were touched by the warm hospitality of the Korean churches and they had a lot of new experiences during their stay in Korea.

**MTS Trip to Sabah**

A group of 39 MTS lecturers and students from the Chinese department went to Sabah on 26th June for 3 days and 2 nights. They were assigned according to their family groups to various churches in Kota Kinabalu to conduct Theological Sunday services. Other than that, MTS night (26th June) and Dedication Camp (28th June) were organized at Shern En Methodist Church, KK. Some of the lecturers and students had a chance to visit Sabah Theological Seminary on 28th June.



MTS Night at Shern En Methodist Church, Sabah



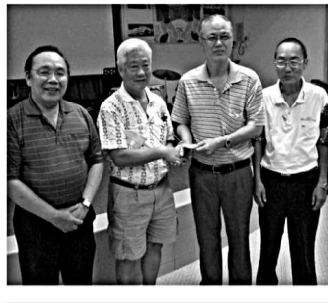
Visited Sabah Theological Seminary





### **STMS College Graduation Service**

Date: 25th June 2010 3:00p.m.  
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibu  
Speaker: Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu  
There were 18 STMS College students graduated.



### **Building Fund Donation by Seremban Chinese Methodist Church**

The group members of Moses Cell Group of Seremban Chinese Methodist Church handed over their donation for MTS new hostels building when they visited us on 3rd July.

### **2010 2nd Blood Donation Campaign**

Date: 17th July 2010  
Organizer: MTS Student Body  
Assisted by: Rejang Medical Centre



## **WORK OF MERCY**

On 9th February 2010, MTS' Work of Mercy was extended to the mother of Hii Lu Leh and the father of Ling Yien. The money was received by Hii Lu Leh (first from right) and Ling Yien (second from right).



On 24th June 2010, MTS' Work of Mercy was extended to Brother Kong Chung Chee (2nd year Theological student).



### **Farewell for Miss Irene Lai**

On 1st July 2010, MTS faculty, staff, a board member representative and 2 student representatives attended a farewell lunch with Miss Irene Lai Dhing Dhing at Sheraton Restaurant. Ms Irene is going to pursue her study in Master of Sacred Music in SMU, United States.



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### **Basketball Competition Closing Ceremony**



## **Teachers' Day, Birthday, Gawai and Basketball Competition Closing Ceremony**

There was a 4 in 1 celebration (Teachers' Day, Birthday, Gawai and Basketball Competition Closing Ceremony) organized by the Student Body on 26th April.

Teachers' Day



Birthday Celebration



Gawai Celebration



# VISITING LECTURERS & INVITED SPEAKERS

## Dr. Titus Loong

1-12 March ~ taught an intensive course on "Cultural Anthropology"  
5 March (2-4pm) ~ spoke on "Emotional Management" seminar



## Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing

8-12 March ~ taught an M.Min. intensive course on "Church Leadership in the 21st Century"



## Dr. Tan Kim Sai

26-30 April ~ taught an intensive course on "Malaysian Religions"



Dr. Tan Kim Sai

## Dr. Chuang Tsu Kung

15-18 June ~ taught an intensive course on "Missions History"



Dr. Chuang Tsu Kung

**Rev. Dr. James Ha** (the Director of Serving In Mission(SIM) Chinese Ministry Centre)

25 June ~ shared with us on SIM ministry during our morning chapel service.



Rev. Dr. James Ha

## WORSHIP & MUSIC SEMINAR

SCAC Board of Worship & Music and MTS co-organized a series of 6 seminars related to Worship and Music. So far 4 seminars have been organized and they were held at MTS Chapel:

### 1st seminar:

by Dr. I-to Loh from Taiwan (15th March)

### 2nd seminar:

by Rev. Kong Chong Ling from Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church, Sibu (12th April)

### 3rd seminar:

by Rev. Ling Sheng Guek from Sing Ang Methodist Church, Sibu (14th June)

### 4th seminar:

by Rev. Lu Chen Tiong, Director of Worship & Music Program of MTS (2nd August)

## VISITORS

### 11th March

Rev David Kunshek Lew, Rev Wang Dong and Mr Aaron Ma from Asia Bible Society of Holman Bible Publishers visited MTS and held a seminar to introduce the "Chinese Standard Bible".

### 30th March

Mr Andre and Mrs Cathy de Winne from Wesley Methodist Church, Singapore.

### 9th June

Participants of the "History Makers"

### 12th June

Junior Youth Fellowship of Sarikei Nyelong Park Methodist Church, led by Rev. Yeo Chee Jin.

### 12th June

Some church members from Sabah, led by Mr. Ling Liong Hui

### 22nd June

Pastor Lee Sang Ran of Su-Lin St. John's Methodist Church of The Methodist Church in the Republic of China, Taiwan and Rev Daniel C. Arichea, Jr, Bishop in Residence of Duke Divinity School, Philippines

### 24th June

Ms Helen de Leon-Camarce. She is the Asia Regional Auditor for Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

### 1st July

Rev and Mrs Lee Kieng Kwong

### 3rd July

the group members of Moses Cell Group of Seremban Chinese Methodist Church



## The Progress of the Construction of New Hostels

Cost of the project: RM 6,500,000.00  
Amount received : RM 3,274,214.99 (till July 2010)  
Amount we need : RM 3,225,785.01

We would like to thank all the churches, brothers and sisters in Christ for your support towards the building projects. Until now, we have received about three million ringgits. Your support to MTS is a great encouragement to us, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Again we sincerely call upon all brothers and sisters because we are still in need of about three million ringgits. If you have contributed, we are very grateful, and if you would like to continue to support MTS in this project, you are most welcome; if you have not made your contribution yet, we urge you to take immediate action, because our new hostels will be ready by end of September this year. Kindly contact us. With your heart of love for God, for our church and for MTS, let us together build MTS to glorify God and to build up His people!



March 2010



July 2010

## The 12th Graduation Service

Date: 30th October 2010 (Saturday)  
Time: 9:00a.m.  
Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibul  
Speaker: Rev. Steward Damat ak Mambang (The President of Sarawak Iban Annual Conference)  
All brothers and sisters are welcome to attend the graduation service.

## Graduation Thanksgiving Dinner

Date: 29th October 2010 (Friday)  
Time: 6:30p.m. (Dinner will start at 7:00p.m.)  
Venue: Good Happiness Restaurant, Sibul  
**Invited guests, please be punctual.**

## Worship and Music Seminar organized by the SCAC Board of Worship & Music and MTS

Venue: MTS Chapel      Time: 7:15-9:00p.m.      Language: Mandarin

Seminar No.	Title	Speaker	Date
5	Techniques of Hymn Accompaniment	Miss Cecilia Ting Ik Huong	4th October
6	Holy Communion	Rev. Kong Chong Ling / Rev. Lu Chen Tiong	6th December

\*\* Admission free \*\*



# MTS 2011 Intake

## Theological Program, Worship & Music Program and TEE Program

Degree	Qualification	Duration
<b>Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban)</b>		
M. Min.	Posses a first theological degree and involved in pastoral ministry for at least 5 years	5 years
M. Div.	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
B. D.	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
B.Th.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Dip. Th.	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
L. Th.	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
<b>Theological Program major in Missiology(Language: Mandarin)</b>		
M. Div.	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
B. D.	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
B.Th.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Dip. Th.	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
L. Th.	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
<b>Worship &amp; Music Program (Language: Mandarin)</b>		
B.A.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least rade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal/music and theory from Royal School of Music	4 years
Diploma	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal/music and theory from Royal School of Music	3 years
Certificate	Finished with SPM and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental / vocal / music and theory from Royal School of Music	2 years
<b>Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program (for advanced training of Lay people in the church)(Language: Mandarin)</b>		
M.C.S.	For university graduates (completed 60 credit hours); equivalent to two years of full time study in Theological Program	7 years
D.C.S.	For non-graduates (completed 60 credit hours) and university graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	6 years
C.C.S.	For non-graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	5 years

- > You may obtain the application form from MTS office or download from our website: [www.mtssibu.edu.my](http://www.mtssibu.edu.my)
- > Completed Application Form should be sent to the Principal or Academic Dean at the following address:  
 P.O.Box 78, 96007 Sibul, Sarawak, Malaysia.  
 Contact No.: +6084-321409  
 Fax: +6084-341409  
 Email: [general@mtssibu.edu.my](mailto:general@mtssibu.edu.my)
- > Application closing date for Malaysian students:
  - (a) Theological Program: 15th September
  - (b) Worship & Music Program: 30th September
  - (c) TEE Program: 31st October

**\*\* Application closing date for foreign students: 30th June \*\***

# FACULTY MEMBERS' PRAYER ITEMS

## **Principal:**

### **Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai**

1. Pray for me to have a fruitful and meaningful sabbatical leave from July to December, 2010.
2. Pray for my wife (Winnie) and children (Joy, Jan & Joshua) regarding their study.

## **Academic Dean:**

### **Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing**

1. Have wisdom to lead the sub-committee of Administrative Structure and Superintendency in Discipline Review Council.
2. Teaching TEE in Miri.

## **Dean of Students:**

### **Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng**

1. Pray for my wife, Catherine, as she goes through radiotherapy and chemotherapy. May the good Lord grant her peace, joy and healing.
2. Pray for faith, courage and joy as our family goes through this challenging period.

## **Dean of TEE:**

### **Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King**

1. My brother's and sister's families to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.
2. My parents' well-being.
3. My ministry in MTS, churches and SCAC conference level.

## **Dean of Field Education:**

### **Rev. Hoo Sing Hang**

1. Pray for my teaching in MTS. Ask God for wisdom, passion and good teaching skill.

2. Pray for my daughter, Ci Rui, who will be sitting for her UPSR exam in September. Ask God to grant her wisdom and good health.

## **Dean of Library:**

### **Rev. Lee Ai Sing**

1. Pray for the development of the MTS library, including space and volume of books.
2. Pray for my aging parents for good health and spiritual life.
3. Pray for me that my spiritual life will grow deeper.

## **Chaplain & Warden:**

### **Rev. Ang Keng Yong**

1. Thank God for safety and good health that all members of my family are enjoying.
2. Thank God for the opportunity to serve as Chaplain at MTS.
3. Ask God to give me wisdom, empathy, humility and spiritual discernment so that I may help students more effectively.
4. Pray that God would enable all members of my family and the families of my son and daughter to consistently have personal devotion.

## **Dean of Worship & Music Program: Rev. Lu Chen Tiong**

1. Serve God with joyful spirit.
2. Pray for the health of my family and pray for my children in their study.

## **Lecturer (Iban Department):**

### **Rev. Elizabeth Enjut ak Salang**

1. Pray for the Methodist Prayer Convention on 29/4 – 1/5/2011 in Sibiu, especially the speakers of workshop leaders. Ask God to choose the right workshop leaders, and pray that God would speak through them.

## **Lecturer (Chinese Department):**

### **Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu**

1. Thank God for helping my family in settling down after we came back from the USA.
2. Pray that God would grant me good health; grant my wife Meng Meu wisdom in leading "Mother Class"; and bless my children Yi Ci and Yi Xiang with knowledge and courage.
3. Pray for my involvement in oversea missions works in November.

## **Lecturer (Worship & Music Program): Cecilia Ting Ik Huang**

1. Pray that I will be able to maintain a good relationship with the Lord and people.
2. Have wisdom and patience to teach and serve in MTS.
3. Good health.

