

51, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg,
P.O.Box 78, 96007 Sibul, Sarawak.
Tel: +6084-321409 Fax: +6084-341409
website: www.mtssibu.edu.my
email: general@mtssibu.edu.my

A Note from the Principal Only One New Student This Year?

By Rev Dr Tie King Tai, Principal

Since the end of last year, people seemed to be very concerned because they perceived that MTS (Methodist Theological School) had only one new student.

Many church pastors and members thought that the situation was rather grave. Even MTS board members, lecturers, staff, etc also mistakenly thought so. Therefore whenever somebody asked me about this, I had to reply patiently as follow:

"O, only one new student this year? Where did you get the news from? This year, our Worship & Music program broke the record by taking in five new students. Theology program also took in nine new students consisting of five Chinese (four majoring in Missiology) and four Iban. On top of these, we also had a record intake of STMS students, well over one hundred, along with TEE students. So this year we admitted not just one but over 120 new students. Altogether we have about 300 students!"

After this "patient" explanation, the question would be clearer: "My question is about new students who are in Theology program preparing to be a pastor."

"O, we have five new ones, four Iban and one Chinese, preparing to be pastors."

"My concern is about SCAC..."

Now that is clearest. It is true that

SCAC has sponsored only one new student under the Board of Ministry to be a future pastor. In fact, over the past two years, SCAC has been having a shortage of new students who study to be pastors in the future. Last year, there were two new students while this year only one. Therefore people are rightfully concerned.

Why are we in such a situation? Why is the number of students aspiring to be pastors getting fewer and fewer? Has this to do with the following three reasons?

First, consequences of complaints?

Several years ago, during MTS Annual Graduation Thanksgiving dinner, a lay leader was looking at the large number of theological students performing on stage. We had the two largest classes with about 50 students then. He commented, "Wow, so many theological students! How can our church pay their salaries in the future?" Does his comment represent the comments of other church leaders? Over the past four or five years, several churches have complained, "We did not request, how come the annual conference sent to us so many pastors? We don't have enough parsonages for them. We have to rent houses for them. This is a bit troublesome."

Has God heard these comments and complaints? Are these words a



Rev Dr Tie King Tai

hindrance to more dedications into pastoral ministry?

Of course we should not put all the blames upon these comments and complaints. Is the decrease of such students also due to the nature of pastoral ministry? Is it related to people's demand for "super-pastors"?

Second, expectations for super-pastors?

It is an undeniable fact that churches or pastors themselves have rather high expectations for pastors. We expect pastors to be good and talented in all aspects: preach and teach well in the pulpit, visit and care lovingly for the flock, have administrative gift, love their family, have honorable public pastoral image, etc. Where can we find such a super-pastor? Therefore some people would rather become a missionary or music director, maybe they would wait for the right time to enter MTS, perhaps they would just give up.

Besides comments and complaints, super-pastor expectations, there

might be another reason why such students have decreased in number. What is the reason? Is it because MTS has not been active in recruiting students?

Third, proactive in new student recruitments?

For many years, many have dedicated themselves into full-time ministry during MTS nights, dedication camps, theological Sundays, etc. But not many have entered MTS. MTS and churches have been passive in waiting for students to come. We have not been actively involved in going out to recruit. Maybe it is time MTS initiates a new student recruitment department? Churches should also form Dedication Fellowship to follow up on these dedicators?

A company must have three areas of operations to be successful: Administration, Production, Marketing & Sales. These are also required of a seminary or church. But like many other seminaries in South East Asia, MTS only has Administration (staff) and Production (faculty) with not much Marketing & Sales activities. Maybe the terms are too secular. We can change them into "Promotion and Development." In recent years, some seminaries have awakened to such a need and have started such a department. Is it time for MTS to change (ubah) from passive waiting to proactive recruiting?

May the Lord lead us in His direction so that in the near future, people would not be concerned with "only one new student this year" but would be overjoyed with "many more new students." Our Lord Jesus says, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:38)

NEWS From MTS

YEAR 2010

Books Donation

An Anonymous donor donated some books to MTS library on 14th October 2010. Mr Wong Meng Lei, Director of Board of Christian Literature SCAC, delivered the books on behalf of the donor.



12th Graduation Service

MTS 12th Graduation Service was held on 30th October 2010 at Wei Kuok Hall, Sibiu. The President of SIAC, Rev. Steward Damat ak Mambang was the speaker for the service and his wife translated for him. Besides that, the Chairman of our Board of Management, Rev. Dato' Dr. Su Chii Ann gave the charge. The consecration of hand-bells was held during the service. Mdm. Wong Duan Ding, who sponsored the purchase of the hand-bells, was invited to officiate the consecration.

Number of Graduates for each program:

- Master of Ministry: 1
- Bachelor of Theology: 2
- Diploma of Christian Studies: 5
- Master of Divinity: 1
- Diploma of Theology: 5
- Certificate of Christian Studies: 4
- Licentiate of Theology: 1



Graduation Thanksgiving Dinner

On 29th October 2010, MTS held the graduation thanksgiving dinner at Good Happiness Restaurant at 7.00pm. The dinner started with the welcoming speech given by the Principal, Rev. Dato' Dr. Su Chii Ann, the President of SCAC, who is also the Chairman of MTS Board of Management was invited to deliver his speech as well.



Building Fund Donation by Siong Ong Methodist Church

On 8th November 2010, representatives of Siong Ong Methodist Church from Kapit District handed over RM5,000 for MTS new hostels building fund.

Paramount Hotel Thanksgiving Service

Paramount Hotel held its Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 20th November 2010 at 11.30am. The whole MTS community, including lecturers & their family members, students and staff were invited to attend the service and lunch.



Building Fund Donation by Sebiew Youth Fellowship

On 21st December 2010, Rev. Wong Mee Ing on behalf of the Youth Fellowship of Sebiew Methodist Church handed over the donations for MTS new hostels building fund.



YEAR 2011

First Semester Opening Service

Date: 3rd January 2011
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai
 Translator: Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu
 Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul

Number of new students in 2011:

- Theological Program (Chinese): 1
- Theological Program major in Missiology (Chinese): 4
- Theological Program (Iban): 4
- Worship and Music Program: 5
- Elective students: 2 (Theological Program)
- 2nd Batch STMS Music: 22
- 6th Batch STMS Iban: 6
- 6th Batch STMS English: 21
- 19th Batch STMS Chinese: 57
- 12th Batch Theological Education by Extension: 7



1st Year Students
(Theological Program
- Chinese)



1st Year Students (Theological Program - Iban)



1st Year Students
(Worship & Music Program)

Blood Donation Campaign

Date: 22nd January 2011
 Organizer: MTS Student Body
 Assisted by: Rejang Medical Centre



2011 Siong Ong & Hock Ing MC CNY Visit

Representatives of Hock Ing MC and Siong Ong MC of Kapit district celebrated Chinese New Year with us on 28th January 2011 evening. Kapit District Superintendent, Rev Yu Ming Puo, Pastor Nancy Yu, Pastor Kong Choo Chiang, Pastor Ngu Teck Tiong, Brother Tiong Ping (Associate Lay Leader of Hock Ing MC), Brother Lau (Lay Leader of Siong Ong MC) came together with other church members. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them for their gift and loving care.



6th Batch STMS English Graduation Service

Date: 28th January 2011 Venue: Wesley MC, Sibul

Speaker:
 Pastor Dr. Peter Tie Lok Hung
 21 STMS (English) students graduated.



Missions Awareness Week (21 – 27/2/2011)



One of the annual ministries of MTS – Missions Awareness Week was held from 21st to 27th February. On the first three days, we invited Rev. Sii Hee Tiong to give 3 talks on the theme: “Reach the Unreached Peoples” and Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu, our lecturer was the Bahasa Malaysia translator.

From February 24th to 27th, all lecturers and students went to 10 different places and churches for short-term missions exposure according to their family groups.

- Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai's Family Group: Wan Ming MC, Sibul
- Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King's Family Group: Chin Fu MC, Kuching
- Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng's Family Group: Saratok and Roban area
- Rev. Hoo Sing Hang's Family Group: Lai Ang MC and Zhen Guang MC, Bintangor
- Rev. Lee Ai Sing's Family Group: Spaoh and Pusa area
- Rev. Ang Keng Yong's Family Group: Shiuan En MC, Sibul
- Rev. Lu Chen Tiong's Family Group: Julau MC, Julau
- Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu's Family Group: Tien En MC, Sibul
- Miss Cecilia Ting Ik Huong's Family Group: Chiew Cho MC, Sibul
- Rev. Bonnie Sedau & Rev. Elizabeth Enjut's Family Groups: Tutus and Igan area

2011 Community Basketball Match Closing Ceremony

On 23rd February 2011, the closing ceremony for the 7th MTS Community Basketball Match was held at 5.00pm in MTS. The purpose of organizing such a match is to establish a closer relationship with those who often play basketball at the MTS basketball court, including the non-believers. As usual, there was a basketball shooting competition and thereafter, a community dinner was served.



Dedication Camp

12th March 2011

Venue: MTS Chapel

Speakers: Rev. Thomas Lau
Sie Ngiu, Rev. Ting Yeng Ping
and Miss Lau Jeck Yee.



The 1st Batch of Executive Committee Members of MTS Alumni Association

MTS Alumni Association has successfully called upon a BGM on 2nd May 2011 (Monday) at 9am at MTS Chapel. During the BGM, the 1st Batch of Executive Committee Members were elected as below:

Advisor: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai
(Principal)

Chairman: Tan Chung Kiat

Secretary: Wong Siew Lang

Treasurer: Wong Mee King

Internal Auditor: Tai Sing Leh

Committee Members: Ningkan Galung ak Suring, Hii Yew Tung, Pao Kiew Lik

MTS Night (Chinese) for Sibü East District

MTS' yearly event – MTS Night Chinese in Sibü East District was held on 11th March at Masland Methodist Church. The theme for the night was "Revival entails action" and the speaker was Dr. Dennis Ngieng, the Director of ThM Program and Professor of Systematic Theology in Tyndale University College & Seminary of Toronto, Canada. The drama presented that night portrayed the life of late Rev. Wong Ding Ming, about how he responded to God's calling, and his journey from China to Sarawak.



Rev. Kwan
Choi Eng

The 19th Batch of STMS Chinese, the 6th Batch of STMS Iban and the 2nd Batch of STMS Music Graduation Service

Date: 25th March 2010

Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü

Speaker: Rev. Kwan Choi Eng, Sarikei District Superintendent

Translator: Mdm. Yan Foong Peng

There were 55 STMS Chinese students, 6 STMS Iban students and 22 STMS Music students graduated.



The 6th Batch of STMS Iban students



The 19th Batch of STMS Chinese students



The 2nd Batch of STMS Music students

Visiting Lecturers



Rev. Job Hu and Mrs. Ruth Hu

Date: 7th – 14th March

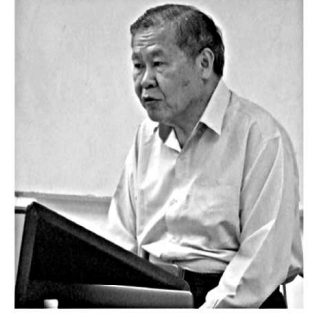
Taught a M.Min. intensive course on "Pastor's Family & Marriage"



Mrs. Ruth Hu

Date: 14th – 18th March

Taught an intensive course on "Lively Application of the Bible in Teaching"



Mr. John Ling Tung Chuang

Date: 2nd – 6th May

Taught an intensive course on "Tent-Making"

Visitors

- 22/07/2010: Members of the Senior Citizen Fellowship of Bayan Baru Chinese Methodist Church, Penang.
- 09/09/2010: The Deputy International Director of Gospel Operation International, Dr John K. Chang, and the Director of Gospel Fellowship For Chinese Christians-Malaysia, Rev Simon Lim.
- 13/09/2010: Church members of Kum Yan Methodist Church, Foochow Methodist Church and Wesley Methodist Church from Singapore.
- 02/10/2010: The members of Junior Youth and Youth Fellowship of Fu Ling Methodist Church, led by Pastor Debbie Yet Yung Choo and Miss Ting Kee Ling.
- 09/10/2010: Members of Soul Works Music and CrossXRoad from West Malaysia.
- 20/10/2010: Bishop Amat Tumino of Gereja Methodist Indonesia Wilayah II and some brothers from Jakarta church.
- 05/11/2010: Members from the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship (JMYF) of Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church, led by Pastor Lu Ai Lin.
- 26/11/2010: The participants of SIM 2010 Youth Mission Camp.
- 02/12/2010: The participants of "No Apologies" Workshop from Kapit and Sibul Districts.
- 03/12/2010: Rev. Dr. David Chan Lu-Pang, Vice President of Alliance Bible Seminary, and Rev. Ho Kai-Ming, Director of Field Education Department of Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong.
- 21/12/2010: The youth from Life Methodist Church, Miri.
- 21/12/2010: The youth of Junior Youth Fellowship from Sebiew Methodist Church, Bintulu, led by Rev. Wong Mee Ing.
- 12/03/2011: Church members from Bintulu District and Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church of Sibul.
- 15/03/2011: The youth of Junior Youth Fellowship from Ming Ong Methodist Church, Bintulu, led by Rev. Nickie Goh Teck Vei and Pastor Nguang Ung Soon.
- 26/03/2011: Members of the Young Methodist Christian Students (YMCS) from SMK St. Anthony, Sarikei.

Latest News & Prayer Items

1. The Progress of the Construction of New Hostels

> The male students occupied the hostel and lecturers their apartments in January this year. We thank God for the completion of the two new hostels.

> Thank God also for the offerings received from the churches, brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Lord bless them and keep them.

> Now, we are still in need of about RM 898,687.65 (see below). Pray that God will continue to guide us and provide for us.

Cost of project	RM 6,500,000.00
Amount received	RM 5,601,312.35
Amount needed	RM 898,687.65

2. The Needs of Pre-Theological Program

This year, MTS has recruited 14 students in Pre-Theological Program (Chinese: 9, Iban: 5). The course takes about five months to complete and it costs about RM 3,400 per person (including tuition fee, accommodation and meals). Currently, no grant is given or pro-

The two new hostels



vided by any conference; students have to pay the fees on their own or through the support given by the churches. So we need financial support especially for the needs in the Iban Department. Please remember us in your prayer.

2011 Pre-Theo. Students (Chinese):

1. Chan Kiang Wei
2. Chen Xiao
3. Chiong Yew Hee
4. Huang Yi Dong
5. Lim Hock Sing
6. Ling Yaw Jye
7. Ting Jeck Wong
8. Tiong Mui Ping
9. Yong Ching Chi

2011 Pre-Theo. Students (Iban):

1. Alistair ak Jupiter
2. Clementine ak Broken
3. Dutton Garai ak Jimmy
4. Mesiah ak Jawi
5. Stethamnie Connie ak Jeffery

3. MTS Night (Chinese) for Sibü West District

Theme: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng

Date: 25th June 2011 at 7:15pm

Venue: Tien Tao MC, Sibü.

> Please pray for the speaker, drama presentation, PA system, weather etc.

> Pray for the participants. Pray that more brothers and sisters are willing to response to God's calling.

4. Courses offered for MTS Intensive Course and M.Min. Program

4.1 Intensive Course

Date: 19-23/9/2011

Subject: Holistic Missions

Lecturer: Dr. Sharon Chan

4.2 Master of Ministry Program

Date: 4-8/7/2011

Subj: Practical Church Management

Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Su Chii Ann

> Pray for the good health of the lecturers. Pray that God will grant them wisdom in teaching.

> Pray for the students to have good health to study during the intensive course.

5. Christina Long's Piano Events

5.1. Seminar

Session 1: How to Excel in Learning Piano

Session 2: Practical Survival Skills for Church Pianist

Date: July 9, 2011 (Saturday)

Time: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Venue: MTS Chapel

5.2 Piano Masterclass

Date: July 9, 2011 (Saturday)

Time: 1.30 - 3.30 pm

Venue: MTS Chapel

(Registration is limited, to register, please contact: Miss Cecilia Ting (Tel:084-321409))

5.3. Piano Concert

Date: July 11, 2011 (Monday)

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü.

Ticket price: RM10

Tickets are available at: MTS, Thomas' Music Studio, Grace Centre



6. MTS 2012 Intake Theological Program, Worship & Music Program and TEE Program

Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban)		
Degree	Entrance Requirements	Duration
教牧硕士 (M. Min.)	Posses a first theological degree and involved in pastoral ministry for at least 5 years	5 years
道学硕士 (M. Div.)	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
道学学士 (B. D.)	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
神学学士 (B.Th.)	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
神学文凭 (Dip. Th.)	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
神学证书 (L. Th.)	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Theological Program major in Missiology (Language: Mandarin)		
道学硕士 (M. Div.)	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
道学学士 (B. D.)	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
神学学士 (B.Th.)	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
神学文凭 (Dip. Th.)	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
神学证书 (L. Th.)	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Worship & Music Program (Language: Mandarin)		
学士 (B.A.)	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal/music and theory from Royal School of Music	4 years
文凭 (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
证书 (Certificate)	Completed SPM and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental / vocal / music and theory from Royal School of Music	2 years
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program (for advanced training of Lay people in the church)		
基督教研究硕士 (M.C.S.)	For university graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours); equivalent to two years of full time study in Theological Program	7 years
基督教研究文凭 (D.C.S.)	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours) and university graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	6 years
基督教研究证书 (C.C.S.)	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 30 credit hours)	5 years

- You may obtain the application form from the MTS office or download from our website: 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
- Application closing date for Malaysian students:
 - (a) Theological Program/Theological Program major in Missiology: 15th September
 - (b) Worship & Music Program: 15th September
 - (c) TEE Program: 31st October

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