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**Last** year I was teaching Homiletics to a class of eleven pastors, Bible school's dean and teachers in East Asia. I painstakingly taught them to lift up the cross in their messages because the power of the Gospel not only justifies the believers, it also sanctifies and glorifies them.

However, when I was listening to each student's preaching, I could not hear any mention of the cross at all, except the last lady preacher who barely mentioned the cross after many evaluations.

I asked them, "Why didn't you all preach the cross?"

They answered, "I forgot!" Or "I am not used to preaching the cross!" or "I thought the congregation are all believers. I do not need to preach the cross."

So I said, "No wonder the government of Zhejiang province is taking down all the crosses because we ourselves as pastors have already taken down the cross! We have not lifted up the cross in our preaching! Now the government is just doing what we have been doing all this while. There is nothing to be astounded or shocking about. There is nothing to be protesting about."

Dear brothers and sisters, have our pulpits today taken down the cross? Please listen carefully to the preaching today. How many pastors are still preaching the cross? Most pastors do not think that our congregations need to hear the cross. Most Sunday school teachers also think that our Sunday school students do not need the message of the cross. Therefore we seldom preach or teach the cross. In the long run, congregations would think that the cross is not important at all. So they would not have the burden for the Gospel. They would not invite non-Christian friends to come to worship or Sunday school. And they themselves would find it difficult to live a Christian life apart from the power of the cross.

One day, would the crosses on the Malaysian churches be taken down? Would the taking down of the cross incident in West Malaysia be a prediction of the future? I don't know. But I do know that if we ourselves do not cherish the cross, we have lost the value of churches' existence; we have lost the power of the Gospel to give us full salvation.

Apostle Paul firmly proclaims, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

*By Rev Dr Tie King Tai  
Principal*



# Taking Down the Cross





Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung's Family Group: Tien En Methodist Church, Sibü  
 Rev. Dr. Francis Wong King Sing's Family Group: Hong Ang & Teo Guan Methodist Church, Sibü  
 Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong's Family Group: Chiew Cho Methodist Church, Sibü



**Rev. Bonnie Sedau, Rev. Elizabeth Enjut & Rev. Ningkan Sur-ing's Family Groups:**

Dalam mission trip ini, kami pergi ke kalangan orang Iban di kawasan Kanowit, iaitu Nanga Dap, Ngemah dan Ngungun. Di ketiga-tiga tempat ini, kami pergi ke rumah-rumah panjang. Kali ini, dalam mission trip boleh dikatakan mencabar di mana kami harus mengguna perahu untuk pergi ke sesuatu tempat. Apa yang menjadi pelajaran kami adalah erti bekerjasama dan bagaimana kami boleh memahami antara satu sama lain. Berterima kasih kepada Tuhan kerana melalui missions trip ini kami boleh melihat keperluan jemaat-jemaat di kawasan ini malah bukan sekadar di tempat ini, di seluruh dunia juga masih mencari kebenaran. Memerlukan kita sebagai penginjil membawa firman Tuhan kepada mereka. ~ from student

**..... Missions Awareness Week**

**Missions Awareness Week is an annual event of MTS, for all the lecturers and students to have training for the first three days and followed by four days of short-term missions exposure to different places according to their family groups. The theme for this year was "Missions in the World Today". Some missionaries were invited to share their experiences during the first three days of training.**



Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing's Family Group: Betong Preaching Centre & Spaoh, Sarikei



Miss Irene Lai Dhing Dhing's Family Group: Sing Eng Methodist Church, Sri Aman



Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu's Family Group: En Tao Methodist Church, Sibü



Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King's Family Group: Bee Eng Methodist Church, Sarikei



Miss Cecilia Ting Ik Huang's Family Group: Methodist Town Church & Pusa, Sarikei



Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai's Family Group: Ming Kuong Methodist Church, Bintangor  
 Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng's Family Group: Kai Nguong Methodist Church, Bintangor  
 Rev. Hoo Sing Hang's Family Group: Hock Ing Methodist Church, Kapit

Rev. Lee Ai Sing's Family Group: Sing Kwong & Jing Ang Methodist Church, Bintangor

(23/2 - 1/3/2015)

# News from MTS



**26/01/2015** -- The brothers from Sibu Methodist Fellow Service Centre presented MTS lecturers and students with Mandarin oranges.



**05/02/2015** -- Wesley Centre of Research and Practical Theology of MTS organized an Interactive Forum at Wei Kuok Hall. The topic was: "New Cult: World Mission Society Church of God—'God the Mother'?" The theme speaker was Rev. Dr. Wong King Sing, Christian Apologetics lecturer.



# News from MTS



**21/05/2015** - - MTS Student Body organized a 3-in-1 Celebration: Teachers' Day, Gawai Festival and Birthday.



**27/06/2015** - - MTS Night at Gloria Methodist Church, Bintulu.

**28/06/2015** - - MTS Dedication Camp in Bintulu (at Ming Ong Methodist Church). Sharing by (from left): Rev. Yiong Yai Ling, Rev. Wong Hin Hung, Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung (moderator), Rev. Samuel Law Ning Seng.

**11/07/2015** - - Blood Donation Campaign organized by MTS Student Body.



**25/02/2015** - - MTS community was invited to a Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner hosted by some members of Cheng Uong Methodist Church, Sibul.

**06/03/2015** - - 10th Batch STMS English Graduation Service. There were 13 of them.

**20/03/2015** - - MTS Night Sibul. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai.

**21/03/2015** - - MTS Dedication Camp Sibul. Sharing by (Form left): Rev. Timothy Toh Fuh Yun, Rev. Diong Pick Chiong, Rev. Ting Gin Gin. First from right: Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung who moderated the sharing.

**30/04/2015** - - Wesley Centre of Research and Practical Theology of our school organized an Interactive Forum at 8.30pm at Wei Kuok Hall on 30th April 2015. The topic was "Prophetic Utterances". The key speakers were Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai and Rev Hii Mee Yieng, Pastor-in-charge of BEM (SIB) Hosanna Church, Sibul.



# The 23rd Batch of STMS Chinese, the 10th Batch of STMS Iban and the 6th Batch of STMS Music Graduation Service

Date: 27th March 2015  
Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü

(clockwise)  
The 23rd Batch of STMS Chinese students – Class of Aaron (32)

Speaker: Rev. Tony Chieng Tai Ming, Bintangor District Superintendent

The 10th Batch of Iban STMS students (5)

The 6th Batch of STMS Music students (23)

The 23rd Batch of STMS Chinese students – Class of Moses (44)



## Pre-Theological Program Students

Pre-Theological program is a 4-month program, designed for those who are called to go into full time ministry to ascertain their ability for higher theological studies and pursuit. This year, MTS has 8 new students (including 5 foreign students) enrolled on June 23rd in Pre-Theological program. Pray that they will be well prepared and be ready to take up Theological program by next year.

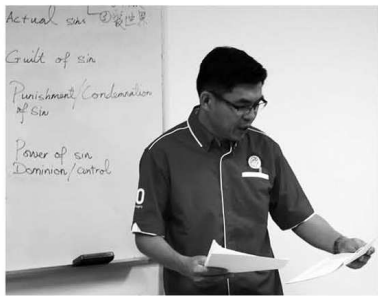


## 10th Batch STMS College

The 10th Batch of STMS College program started on July 6th. This year, 9 college or university students take up this course during their college semester holidays. The objectives of this program include:

1. To equip Christians to become Christ's disciples for the advancement of the Gospel;
2. To provide in-depth study for young Christians who are involved in various ministries in the church, equipping them to be more effective in their ministry;
3. To help Christians who have dedicated their lives to be sure of God's calling.

# Intensive Courses & Invited Speakers



**Rev. Thomas Lau:**  
March 9th -13th ~ taught on "History and Theology of the Methodist Church" for M.Min. students.



**Rev. Dr. Yeh Kao Fang:**  
March 23rd - 27th ~ taught on "Family & Lifecycle" for the students of Family Ministry program.



**Dr. Perry Shaw:** Professor of Christian Education of Arab Baptist Theological School, Beirut, Lebanon, and the Director of ABTS' Educational Ministries Resources Centre, was the trainer for MTS Faculty Development Seminar on May 26th – 27th.

VISITORS



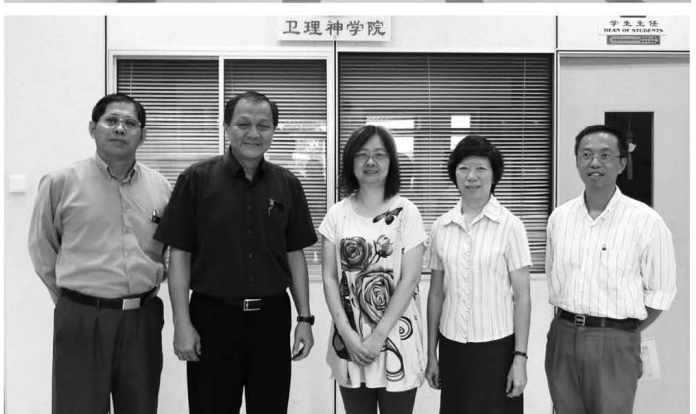
(clockwise from top left)  
**18/04/2015:** Brothers and sisters from Setiawan.

**08/06/2015:** Brothers and sisters from the Methodist Adult Fellowship of the Methodist Chinese Annual Conference (CAC).

**23/06/2015:** Rev. Lucy Lee, brothers and sisters from Wesley Methodist Church, Teluk Intan, Trinity Annual Conference.

**23/06/2015:** Dr. Annisa SY Wong (middle), the Director of Research and Development of Bethel Bible Seminary, Hong Kong.

**12/06/2015:** Some youths from the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship of Yien Sung Methodist Church, Sarikei visited us. They were led by Rev. Wong Lee Chiang and they presented a love gift to MTS during their visit.



# Upcoming News & Prayer Items

## 1. MTS 2016 Intake

### 1.1. Programs offered in MTS

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

<b>Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban)</b>		
<b>Degree</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Duration</b>
M. Min.	Possessed 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 Grade 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	Completed 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 (Language: Mandarin)</b>		
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
D.C.S.	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours) and university graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	6 years
C.C.S.	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 30 credit hours)	5 years
<b>Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in Family Ministry (Language: Mandarin)</b>		
M.A. in Family Ministry	For theology graduates, requires 42 credit hours on Family Ministry courses and 360 hours of practicum.	5-8 years
Master in Family Ministry	For university graduates, requires 66 credit hours on Biblical, Theological and Family Ministry courses, and 240 hours of practicum.	5-8 years
Diploma in Family Ministry	For non-graduates, requires 66 credit hours on Biblical, Theological and Family Ministry courses, and 120 hours of practicum.	5-8 years

- You may obtain the application form from the 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/Theological Program major in Missiology: 15 September
  - (b) Worship & Music Program: 15 September
  - (c) TEE Program/TEE Family Ministry Program: 31 October
- \*\* Application closing date for foreign students: 30 June \*\*



# Upcoming News & Prayer Items

## 1.2. Prayer items

Pray for the new intake next year. Pray that more brothers and sisters will response to God's calling. Pray that more church members are willing to equip themselves and come to MTS for TEE program.

## 2. Course offered for M.Min. Program

- Pray for the good health of the lecturers. Pray that God will grant him wisdom in his teaching.
- Pray for the students to be in good health to cope with the intensive course.

### Master of Ministry Program:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>
21-25/09/2015	Pastoral Theology in the 21st Century	Dr. Alfred Su

## 3. Interactive Forum on Contemporary Issues in Bintulu

Since 2013, MTS Wesley Centre takes up the challenge to organize interactive forums on contemporary issues from time to time, in order for the church to play a prophetic and missional role in the society. This year, an interactive forum will be held in Bintulu on October 15th (7pm) on the theme: "Anti-Corruption: Mission Impossible? – III"; Speaker: Dr. Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai (managing director of NEHEMIAH Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd; a recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Star Outstanding Business Award (SOBA) in 2011).



Dr. Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai

## 4. MTS Financial Situation

### 4.1. MTS General Fund

The monthly expenses for MTS is about RM160 thousands, including salary and allowances for full time and part time lecturers & staff, utilities, books purchase for library, maintenance fees and others. Currently we seldom have regular donors for MTS General Fund. That is why this year we are facing deficits almost every month. Please pray for God's providence towards "MTS General Fund". Pray that more brothers and sisters are willing to give and support MTS ministry financially.

We welcome brothers and sisters to participate in the

work of God. Please specify your offering as "MTS General Fund".

### 4.2. Friends of MTS

In the previous MTS Newsletter, MTS had published about the needs of "Friends of MTS" as follow: "There are some students from the Iban churches and foreign nations such as China who need committed churches and members to support them. Besides the needy students, we also have lecturers who need constant upgrading in order to provide better training for our students. Such upgrading also needs funding. We are inviting you to prayerfully consider to support them."

We thank the Lord for the responses from some churches and members in becoming the "Friends of MTS". As until June 30th, 2015, amounts received in "Friends of MTS" are as follow:

1. Support Iban students: RM 48,830
2. Support students from China: RM 18,650
3. Support in Faculty upgrading: RM 4,600

This year, we have 8 Iban students, total expenses for year 2015 would be RM 76,840. Therefore for year 2015, we are still short of RM 28,010. In order to support all the 8 Iban students until they graduate, total amount needed would be RM 146,800.

Whereas for students from China, we have recruited 5 in June. Total expenses for 5 international students in year 2015 will come to RM 29,350, and still short of RM 10,700. The total amount to support all the 5 students from China until they graduate will come to RM 218,270.

If the Lord leads you to support our needy students and lecturers, we will acknowledge you as "Friends of MTS". Please fill up a "Friends of MTS" Sponsorship form and submit to MTS. You may pledge to sponsor one or more students until graduation. You may also choose to donate a sum of money on a regular or irregular basis. May the Lord bless you as you give.