



Not Difficult to Obey God's Word

A Note from the Principal

It's quite common to hear Christians or theological students or even pastors saying something like, "It's not easy to be a Christian" or "It's not easy to obey God's Word" or "It's difficult to keep His commandments."

When we say that, are we expressing the truth or are we going against the truth? I believe this kind of saying is not expressing the truth but going against the truth unknowingly and habitually.

Therefore, for the past two years or so, I have been preaching the most important message in many churches: "Not difficult to obey God's Word," based on Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Therefore, I also want to pen the truth here to encourage you.

For many years, I had known Apostle John's saying in 1 John 5:3 "In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" John clearly pointed out that God's commands are not burdensome or not difficult to obey. That was in New Testament.

But to read something similar in the Old Testament was astounding to me when I was reading and pondering upon Deuteronomy one morning two years ago. Moses said, "Now what

I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." (30:11)

Moses was preaching the commandments of God in the whole book of Deuteronomy. Before the end of the book, he taught the people of Israel that it was not too difficult to obey God's commands.

Why is it not difficult to obey God's Word? Listen to Moses' explanation: "No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." (Deut 30:14) The Word is neither up in heaven nor beyond the sea (30:12-13) but in our mouth and heart. Everybody can obey!

In Romans 10, Apostle Paul used the very words of Moses in explaining our salvation: "9 Because if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation."

Is it difficult to be saved? Not at all! Simply confess with mouth and trust in heart!

Is it difficult to live victoriously or to experience full salvation then? Not at all! Simply have faith in the Son of

God as pointed out by Apostle John in 1 John 5: "4 because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. 5 Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?"

We need to change our mindset from thinking that it's difficult to obey God's Word to it's NOT difficult to do so by the power of God as we trust in our heart and confess with our mouth. This change of mindset will not only transform our lives but also our ministry (such as teaching and preaching) to be Gospel-oriented, Christ-centered, and Spirit-empowered to transform God's people as well. When we as teacher and preacher of God's Word think and say the truth that it is NOT difficult to obey God's Word, God's people will also follow in the same thinking and saying.



By Rev Dr Tie King Tai
Principal



Missions Awareness Week (22-28/02/2016)

This year, MTS annual event – Missions Awareness Week was held from February 22nd to 28th. All the lecturers and students gathered at Wesley Methodist Church for a 3-day training before going out to different places for short-term missions exposure. Through the 3-day training, all the participants get to know more about the urgency of preaching the gospel to the indigenous people and also learned how to share the gospel to them, so that all the participants are better equipped before they go for short-term missions.

Due to the large number of students this year, some part-time lecturers were invited to help in leading some of the family groups. All of the groups worked together with different local churches for evangelism ministry. We thank all the pastors, leaders and church members for their hospitality and loving care during our stay with them.

Family Groups

Rev. Lisa Ting's Family Group
 Miss Irene Lai's Family Group
 Rev. Kong Chong Ling's Family Group
 Rev. Wong Koi Fo's Family Group
 Rev. Thomas Lau's Family Group
 Rev. Lu Chen Tiong's Family Group
 Rev. Ling Tung Kiing's Family Group
 Rev. Tie King Tai's Family Group
 Rev. Khoo Ho Peng's Family Group
 Rev. Angela Ting's Family Group
 Rev. Francis Wong's Family Group
 Miss Cecilia Ting's Family Group
 Rev. Hoo Sing Hang's Family Group
 Rev. Sii Hee Tiong's Family
 Rev. Paul Ting's Family Group
 Rev. Enjut & Rev. Ningkan's Family Groups

Local Churches

Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul North District
 Tien En Methodist Church, Sibul South District
 Masland Methodist Church, Sibul South District
 Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church, Sibul South District
 Betong Preaching Centre, Sarikei District
 Sing Eng Methodist Church, Sarikei District
 Zhuo En Methodist Church, Sarikei District
 Kai Nguong Methodist Church, Bintangor District
 Sing Kwong & Jeng Ang Methodist Church, Bintangor District
 Ming Kwong Methodist Church, Bintangor District
 Lai Ang Methodist Church, Bintangor District
 Ming Nguong Methodist Church, Bintangor District
 Tien Sik Methodist Church, Sibul West District
 Tien Tao Methodist Church, Sibul West District
 Julau Methodist Church, Kapit District
 Lemanak, Engkelili

Laporan Misi Ke Kawasan Lemanak oleh pelajar dari "Rev. Elizabeth Enjut & Rev. Ningkan Suring Family Groups" :

Pada minggu MAW, kumpulan Rev. Elizabeth Enjut bersama Rev. Ningkan telah pergi ke kawasan Lemanak untuk membuat misi di sana. Ada beberapa buah rumah panjang yang kami lawati seperti di kawasan Nanga Kapu, Kachung, Ulu Kapu, dan Bawi. Di sepanjang perjalanan misi ada dua buah gereja yang ada di kawasan itu. Malang sekali ada sebuah gereja di kawasan tidak jauh dari Nanga Kapu yang telah beberapa tahun ditinggalkan begitu sahaja. Tiada orang yang menjaga gereja itu sehingga keadaan gereja itu teruk. Sebuah gereja lagi di kawasan Bawi masih diguna dan dijaga dengan elok. Perkara yang merisaukan tentang misi kali ini ialah pengangkutan. Dalam misi ini, perjalanan dari Nanga Kapu ke Bawi menggunakan jalan bukit. Di situ juga keadaan jalan agak tidak beberapa baik dan memberbahayakan. Waktu itu juga cuaca tidak beberapa menentu dan menjadikan perjalanan misi ini agak sukar.

Walaupun bagaimanapun keadaan perjalanan yang sukar sekali, tetapi respon penduduk di sana amat baik. Kebanyakan mereka didapati kehausan firman Tuhan. Mereka inginkan lagi ada orang yang datang ke sana untuk memberitakan Berita Baik kepada mereka. Akhir sekali puji syukur kepada Tuhan kerana telah mengiringi misi ini dari awal hingga ke akhir. Dalam misi ini juga ada perkara yang tidak diduga terjadi pada saat-saat tertentu. Tetapi Tuhan telah menyediakan jalanNya pada setiap masalah yang dihadapi. Pada masa akan datang, minta Tuhan supaya keadaan penduduk dari segi persekitaran mereka dapat berubah dengan baik supaya pada masa pelayan akan datang dapat dilaksanakan dengan baik.

News from MTS

Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner

MTS Community was invited to a Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner at Tang's Restaurant, Sibul, by some brothers and sisters from Cheng Uong Methodist Church on February 1st. Besides that, they also gave us ang paus. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them for their loving care every year.



Representative from Cheng Uong MC delivered a short speech.



STMS English students invited our Principal and his wife to join them in dancing.

Dedication Camp

Date: 26th March 2016

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul



Speakers (from left to right): Rev. Winnie Lau Puong Woei, Rev. Si Hee Tiong and Rev. Law Hui Seng.

News from MTS



11 STMS English students graduated.

Speaker: Rev. Tiong Huang Ong

11th Batch STMS English Graduation Service

Date: 4th March 2016

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul

3 in 1 Celebration (Birthday, Teachers' Day & Gawai Celebrations)

Date: 13th May 2016

Venue: MTS Dining Hall

1. Students washed their lecturer's feet
2. Gawai Celebration
3. Birthday celebration for those whose birthday fall on first half of the year



Passion Week with MTS

In conjunction with the Holy Week, from March 22nd till 26th, MTS daily morning chapel service with the theme "Passion and Dedication" was geared to replace the annual event - "MTS Night" in Sibul district. Through the different subtheme every morning, the participants could rethink and reevaluate their own life, and response to the love of God by dedicating themselves to Him.



Interaction Forum

MTS Wesley Centre held a public interaction forum with the topic "Anti-corruption: Mission Impossible?" on 14th April at Tien Tao Methodist Church. The speaker was Brother Hii Chang Kee, the Resident of Sibul Division.



News from MTS

The 24th Batch of STMS Chinese, the 11th Batch of STMS Iban & the 7th Batch of STMS Music Graduation Service

Date: 1st April 2016

Venue: Sing Ang Methodist Church, Sibü



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1. Speaker Rev. Diong Pick Chiong (R) with Rev. Paul Ting (Translator)
2. The 11th Batch of Iban STMS students (9 graduated)
3. The 7th Batch of STMS Music students (18 graduated)
4. The 24th Batch of STMS Chinese students – Class of Moses (52 graduated)
5. The 24th Batch of STMS Chinese students – Class of Aaron (42 graduated)

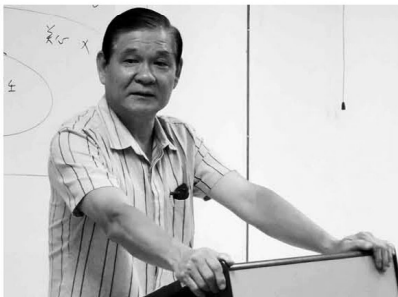


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Visiting Lecturers



[from top]

DR. LEE TOU YING: 30th March – 3rd April ~ taught an intensive course on “Marriage Education & Counseling” for TEE Family and Counseling Ministry students.

REV. DATO’ DR. SU CHII ANN: 4th – 8th April ~ taught an intensive course on “Practical Church Management” for M.Min. students

DR. MICHAEL HAWN conducted a training for Worship & Music Program’s lecturers, students and some Music Directors of SCAC on April 8th at MTS. He was also the speaker for a seminar on Hymns co-organized by MTS and SCAC Board of Worship & Music on April 9th, at Wesley Methodist Church.

Visitors



20/02/2016: Visitors from Korea; accompanied by Mr. Wong Meng Lei.

MTS Latest News & Prayer Items

1 How You Can Support Our Ministry

A. To Pray for our needs and to support our General Fund

Total income for January till April 2016: about RM783,000

Total expenses for January till April 2016: about RM792,000

Currently we don't have many regular donors for MTS General Fund. That is why sometimes we are facing **deficits**. The total expenditure of MTS for year 2016, estimated to be about one million and forty thousand Ringgit Malaysia. 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”**.

B. To become “Friends of MTS”

There are some students from the Iban churches and foreign nations such as China who need committed churches and church 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 supporting them.

We thank the Lord for the responses from some churches and members in becoming the “Friends of MTS”. Since we started “Friends of MTS” in January 2015, we have received a total amount of RM296,100, from 45 members/churches who become “Friends of MTS”. This donations had been allocated to support 5 students from China, 9 Iban Theological students and 10 Iban STMS students.

For 2016 second semester, MTS is hav-

ing some new Iban students and some foreign students from China joining us for the Pre-Theological program. By then, we will have 10 Iban students (include 3 Pre-Theo. students) and 5 students from China (include 2 Pre-Theo students) who need financial support. For year 2016, total amount needed to support Iban students is **RM81,460**, whereas for students from China is **RM60,400**.

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. Please refer to our websites (www.mtssibu.edu.my) or come to MTS for details. May the Lord bless you as you give.

MTS Latest News & Prayer Items

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MTS 2017 Intake

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

Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban)		
Degree	Qualification	Duration
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
Theological Program – Missiology major (Language: Mandarin)		
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
Worship & Music Program (Language: Mandarin)		
M.Div. in Worship & Music	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university; non-music degree graduate must obtain LTCL/LRSM or other equivalents	3 years
B.Th. in Worship & Music	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	5 years
M.A. in Worship & Music	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university; non-music degree graduate must obtain LTCL/LRSM or other equivalents	2 years
B.A. in Worship & Music	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 in Worship & Music	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 in Worship & Music	Completed SPM and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental / vocal / music and theory from Royal School of Music	2 years
Certificate by Extension	Completed SPM	3-5 years
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program (Language: Mandarin)		
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
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in Family & Counseling Ministry (Language: Mandarin)		
M.A. in Family & Counseling Ministry	For theology graduates, requires 42 credit hours on Family Ministry courses and 360 hours of practicum.	5-8 years
Master in Family & Counseling 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 & Counseling 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.
- 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/TEE Family Ministry Program: 31st October
- ** Application closing date for foreign students: 30th June **

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.

MTS Latest News & Prayer Items

3 Courses offered for M.Min. Program and TEE Family & Counseling Ministry Program

3.1 Master of Ministry Program:

Date: 11-15/07
 Subject: Church Leadership in the 21st Century
 Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing

Date: 11-15/07
 Subject: Advanced Preaching
 Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai

3.2 TEE Family & Counseling Ministry Program:

Date: 25-29/07
 Subject: The Change of Family Structure
 Lecturer: Dr. Rachel Ting Sing Kiat

Date: 07-09/10 & 21-23/10
 Subject: Family Counseling Case Studies
 Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng

Prayer items:

- Pray for the good health of the lecturers. Pray that God will grant them wisdom in their teaching.
- Pray for the students to have good health to study during the intensive course.

4 Interaction Forums on Contemporary Issues

MTS Wesley Centre takes up the challenge to organize interaction forums on contemporary issues from time to time, in order for the church to play a prophetic and missional role in the society.

The Centre is going to host three more interaction forums in 2016:

Date: 28/7 (Thursday 8:30-9:30pm)
 Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü
 Theme: Is Heavy Metal Music evil?
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong (Director of Worship and Music program, MTS)

Date: 13/10 (Thursday 8:30-9:30pm)
 Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü
 Theme: Hudud Law from a Christian perspective
 Speaker: Brother Wong Seng Ho (a lawyer and member of Mei Ann Methodist Church, Miri).

(All are welcome to attend the above forums. Admission is free.)

Prayer items:

- Please pray for the speakers, venue, PA system, electricity supply for each interaction forum.
- Please pray that all the interaction forums will run smoothly.

5 9th Wesleyan Seminar

Theme: Wesleyan Views of Eschatology

Date: 15th – 17th August 2016

Purpose: 1) To have a more in-depth study of Wesleyan theology and its impact in the area of eschatology.
 2) To spread scriptural holiness across the land of Malaysia and other countries, bringing along the renewal of churches and transformation of nations, through a profound biblical as well as Wesleyan understanding of eschatology.

No.	Topics	Speakers
1	Eschatological Living in John Wesley's Theology	Rev. Dr. Wong Tik Wah
2	Wesleyan View of Heaven and New Creation	Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng & Rev. Ningkan Galung ak Suring
3	Wesleyan View of Hades and Hell	Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu & Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King
4	Wesleyan View of Millennium	Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung & Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai
5	Wesleyan View of Judgement	Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing, Rev. Dr. Francis Wong King Sing & Rev. Elizabeth Enjut ak Salang
6	Wesleyan Hymns on Eschatology	Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong, Ms. Cecilia Ting Ik Huong & Ms. Irene Lai Dhing Dhing
7	A Wesleyan Response to "I" Eschatology	Rev. Hoo Sing Hang

Please refer to our website (www.mtssibu.edu.my) for details.

Seminar Donation:

- RM 80 by 15th June 2016
- RM 120 by 15th July 2016
- RM 170 after 15th July 2016 (handouts and refreshments will not be arranged)

Prayer items:

- Please pray for all the speakers: good health, and wisdom.
- Please pray for all the participants: to be receptive and teachable.