

Just before the term ends, the students have the grapevine in front of Charles Wesley Hall pruned. The plant has not been fruitful ever since it was planted some years ago. The students did a good job and the whole plant was almost barren. It looked rather miserable!

2020 is a year of “pruning” for our community too. Since the movement control order started in mid-March, our take-for-granted face-to-face learning and Christian conferencing and fellowship were forced to sudden halt from time to time. Uncertainties has taken its toll on us but by God’s grace, we were able to move forwards. As we recalled these past months, we celebrate God’s goodness:

1. For years, the faculty has been talking about the possibilities of digital classes. The pandemic has forced us implement a long overdue new mode of teaching within weeks! We have discovered many potential resources for our use. Both faculty and students (including TEE students) were able to adapt to online classes and subsequently a hybrid of online-virtual classes.

2. We have lots of concern for not meeting each other virtually. Both faculty and students have encouraged each other and keep watch of our character building and spiritual formation by sharing our daily devotion reflection through our family WhatsApp groups. Believe it or not, we meet daily in our own family groups for chapel time via Live Streaming. Our relationship with each other has grown more intimately than we would before.

3. Planning and meetings to cope with changes could be exhausting.

PRUNING TO BE FRUITFUL

A Note from the Principal

But we were made more focus on our vision and mission of theological education. We seek to be innovative and walk in-step with the Spirit’s guidance to fulfill that which God has for us in MTS — to train those who are called to proclaim Christ as they serve as pastors, missionaries, music directors and leaders in different local churches and agencies.

4. It’s a lean year for us and yet we have experienced Jehovah Jireh. God has supplied sufficiently for all the students who are under scholarships. We managed to pay our all our bills and our lecturers and staff lack nothing.

Just a few days ago, I took a closer look at the grapevine at the entrance of Charles Wesley Hall again. To my delight, new shoots sprouted the from those barren miserable branches and fruits are hanging all over! The pruning process might not looks good for a while but it brought fruitfulness in due season. The pandemic, for a while, might “meant evil against us” but the Lord “meant it for good” for those who put their trust in Him (cf. Gen. 50:20, Rom. 8:28).



May you also experience God’s “pruning to be fruitful” process this Advent and Christmas season, and in due season, a fruitful life! (Jn. 15:2) Praise Him evermore!



By Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng
PRINCIPAL

You are cordially invited to attend
2021 MTS 1ST SEMESTER OPENING CEREMONY

Time: 4 January 2021 (Monday) 9.00am
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibul.

News from MTS



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1) 15-16 Jun: MTS Silent Retreat for lecturers & students conducted in-person (Chapel) + LIVE.

2&3) 27 Jun: MTS Night (Online) | Mandarin 10am; BM 7.15PM.



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4) 11-12 Aug: Faculty Retreat conducted in-person (Chapel) + LIVE.

5) 21 Aug: MSTMS College Graduation, 3.00PM conducted in-person (Chapel) + LIVE.

6) 1 Oct: MTS Junior Recital, 7.15PM at Chapel.

7) 24 Oct: 22nd Graduation Service (since its reopening of Degree Courses), 9am at conducted in-person (Masland Methodist Church, Sibuluan) + LIVE.



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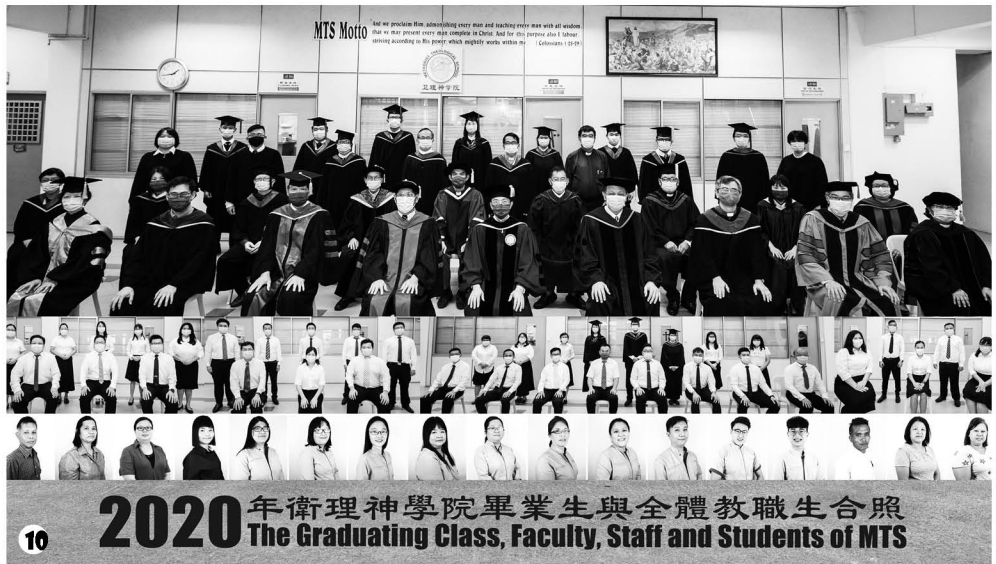
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8) 7 Nov: MTS community was invited by Paramount Hotel to participate in their 18th Year End Thanksgiving Service and luncheon.

9) 19-20 Nov: TEE Family Course – “The Changing Family Structure” Group Photo of lecturer Dr. Rachel Ting and 15 students.

10) 2020 The Graduating Class, Faculty, Staff and Students of MTS



MTS Upcoming News & Prayer Items

1. 2021 Full Time Programme New Students

Total 14 new theology students (Mandarin = 6; BM = 4; Iban = 4).

Theology	Mandarin	Bahasa Malaysia	Iban
1	Yu Tze Hing	Rachel Mandang Anak Nabau	Angelly Ling
2	Ivan Kong Shi Li	Selverter Stephen Anak Salim	Murni Anak Mikai
3	Tiong Chang Hao	Aliceson Nyaring Anak Richard	Petrus Sempurai Anak Rengking
4	Edwin Lai Kok Wei	Annee Anak Aibu	Lovinna Anak Merang
5	Hii Lee Siong	- Pray for the new students. Pray they are able to cope with the vigorous studies and activities in MTS.	
6	Michelle Sun	- Pray that more church members are willing to equip themselves and come to MTS for TEE programme	

2. 2021 Intensive Courses offered for Master of Ministry Programme, and TEE Family & Counseling Ministry Programme

Date	Subject	Lecturer	Class Mode
23-24; 30-31 Jan 20-21; 27-28 Feb	Pre-marital Education & Counseling	Dr. Winnie Chan	Online Classes
05-09 April	History & Theology of the Methodist Church	Rev. Dr. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu	Online Classes
May-Aug (Tentative)	Parenting & Children Counseling	Dr. Lee Tai Ying	Online Classes
05-09 July	Spiritual Formation of the Pastor	TBC	Online Classes
Oct-Nov	Religious Law & Family Ethics	Rev. Paul Ting & Mr. Jason Wong	In-person Classes

- 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.

3. MTS 2021 Upcoming Events

Date, Time & Venue	Event	Speaker
30 January (7.15PM) @ MTS Facebook Page	Launching the new book	Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong
16 April (7.30PM) @ Pusat Gembala Baik Xin Fu Yuan	MTS Night (BM)	Rev. Law Hui Seng
23 April (7.15PM) @TBC	MTS Night (Chinese & Iban)	TBC
24 April (8.30AM) @TBC	Dedication Camp (Chinese)	TBC
21-22 August @Webinar	RCC 3rd Public Lecture (Webinar) <Love our Indigenous People>	[Online Registration] www.mtssibu.edu.my/rcc

- Please pray for the speaker, venue, PA system, electricity supply for the events.
- Please pray that the events will run smoothly and more people are able to attend all the events.

4. MTS Financial Situation

The total expenditure of MTS for year 2021, estimated to be about RM1,496,200. 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".

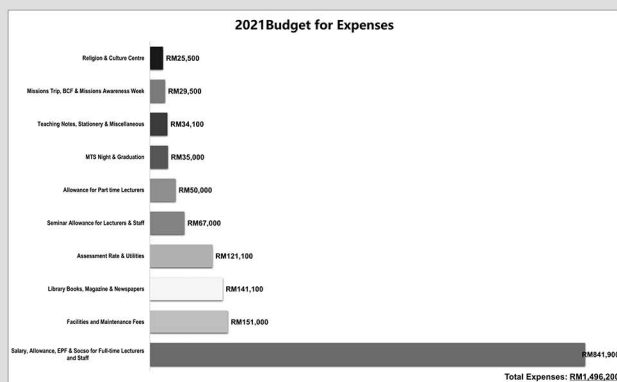
Our Public Bank Account is 3-1422081-12. (Please fax or email your bank-in slip to +6084-341409 or accounts@mtssibu.edu.my. Thank you.)

You may also participate in Friends of MTS, click here www.mtssibu.edu.my/friends.

5. Theological Education Sunday

MTS Lecturers are open to invitations to conduct Theological Education Sundays throughout the year.

Please contact our lecturers for arrangements.
Tel: +6084-321409



NEW STAFF



Ms. Zoanna Ling Ling
(Deans' Assistant)



Ms. Wong Yuan Yieng
(Facilities & Maintenance Assistant)

NOTICE

MTS office & library will be closed on the following dates in 2021:
16,30/1; 20,27/2; 15,29/5; 26/6; 17/7; 14/8; 6,12-27/11; 4,11,18/12