



Perplexed but not in Despair!

A Note from the Principal

The prolonged pandemic has certainly hit us hard. Many of our students and faculty have not been able to go home ever since the beginning of the various control movements. The whole MTS community will continue to stay back in the campus during this coming June holiday. The unpredictable and unstable of the internet line in the MTS vicinity brought constant sighs of frustration. Long hours of facing the computer brought wearied body. Shouts of joy are long overdue from the ping-pong room or basketball court. One of our alumni was stranded here for half a year after the completion of her coursework. She wasted several air tickets before she could made her way back to Indonesia. Looking at the deficit of our account since last year could be very intimidating. Finding creativity in on-line teaching and engaging a fruitful online learning stretched the limits of everyone. Our hearts are hurting and anxious as we witness the pandemic sending the daily records on a roller coaster ride.

We could go on and on, but wait a minute! Is not God faithful and He continues to reign? Yes, wearing the "faith lens" makes clear the amazing things God is still doing. Despite the challenging online classes, we are now in the last week of the first semester! Kind hearted brothers and sisters continue to bless us with 'surprises'. God has sent 120 MSTMS & STMS students who are enthusiastic in walking their faith journey with us online, for the very first time. We celebrated our God-gifted creativities over a week of digital evangelism in our recent Mission Awareness Week. Two of our current students from Indonesia will be joining us via

zoom classes to complete their final semester. We are also anticipating the coming of 4 Iban students for our Pre-Theological programme. We are especially touched by the 9th Batch STMS students (Yr. 2001) and many other brothers and sisters who send us timely gifts to ease the financial deficit. The SCAC JMYF, MYF, MJAF have each given us RM10,000 for the Friends of MTS to help support many of our needy students. God still remember our need during these lean years and He is still at work! Like the psalmist, this act of recollection allows us to sing out loud in the midst of perplexity: "God's faithfulness endures forever!" (Ps 118: 1 & 20).

As a theological institution, God has taught us many precious faith lessons during this pandemic, especially to live out what we have been teaching. We would not allow ourselves to be rooted in very bad theology. We need to keep running to God for help, to rest in His care and to be assured of his love. Suffering always puts our heart under attack. *Suffering makes us all susceptible to temptations that wouldn't have had such power over us otherwise.*¹ This pandemic is making us emotionally exhausting and spiritually burdensome. It challenges our comfort zones and areas where we thought we were strong at. It could kidnap our thoughts and dust them with toxic negativities and despairs. Lo behold, one could be consumed by all these and forget all about God's

faithfulness. This is a force driving us away from God.

A confession of this suffering and hopelessness to God and remembering His faithfulness will free us from attempting to do what we don't have the power to do on our own. Paul did that exactly as he recalled the suffering in his ministry. Paul knew the power and victory of Jesus in his life because he was continually in situations where only the power and victory of Jesus could meet his need. Focusing on God's goodness and faithfulness to use "clay pots" like us assured us that He will carry us through this pandemic: But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Cor 4: 7 – 9)

Pandemic does not control or define us, God does. God's faithfulness endures forever!



By Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng, Principal

¹ Paul David Tripp, *Suffering: Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense*, Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2018, 46.

MTS News & Prayer Items

\ The MTS Board of Management 2021-2024 /

Chairman: Bishop Dr. Lau Hui Ming

Vice Chairman: Bishop Dr. Hii Kong Hock

Secretary: Mr. James Lau Pan Yeu

Assistant Secretary: Mr. Jefri Ngalambai

Treasurer: Mr. Ali Sebau

Members:

From SCAC: Rev. Wong Koi Fo, Rev. Dr. Grace Wong Poh Sing
Rev. Diong Pick Chiong, Rev. Yeo Chee Jin, Mr. Ronnie Hii Ru Wei, Mr. Ling Teck Huat.

From SIAC: Bishop Bonnie Sedau, Rev. Jatan ak Badi, Rev. Lembai ak Banyang, Rev. Olyver Aldyendess Broken, YBhg. Dato Ir. Alice Jawan, Mdm. Jacqueline Jalawai.

From SAC: Rev. Mo Mee Kiu, Mr. Yong Siong Mew, Datuk Seri Lau Kiing Ho.

Ex-officio: Bishop Dr. T. Jeyakumar (Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia), Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng (MTS Principal).



- Pray for courageous & visionary leadership in an unprecedented time.
- MTS will proceed with the final phase of building project which include an extended admin. block and a multi purpose sport hall. Pray that the board members will have the wisdom in planning and decisions making, especially at this time of economic sluggishness.



\ 2021 MTS Full-time Faculty /

- Pray for wisdom in preparing online & hybrid teaching.
- Overcome the challenges & to serve with love & patience.
- A balance in keeping their own family in order & to serve the whole community.



04/01/2021: MTS first Semester Opening Service,

9:00am at Wesley Methodist Church. Theme: "The First Call".

Speaker: Bishop Dr. Lau Hui Ming (Bishop of SCAC).



The Statistic of Full-Time Students for Each Class and Language in 2021						
Class	Theology Program			Theology Program major in Missiology	Worship & Music Program	Total
	Chinese	Iban	BM	Chinese	Chinese	
Pre Theo.	0	1	3	-	-	4
Year 1	6	4	4	0	0	14
Year 2	6	0	-	1	1	8
Year 3	7	0	-	0	1	8
Year 4	13	0	-	0	1	14
Total	32	5	7	1	3	48

2021 1st Year BM Students (from left to right):
Angelly Ling, Murni Ak Mikai, Petrus Sempurai Ak Rengking, Lovinna Ak Merang.

2021 1st Year Iban Students (from left to right):
Annee Anak Aibu, Selverter Stephen Anak Salim, Rachel Mandang Ak Nabau.
*Aliceson Nyaring Anak Richard (absence)

2021 1st Year Chinese Students (from left to right):
Yu Tze Hing, Ivan Kong Shi Li, Tiong Chang Hao, Edwin Lai Kok Wei, Michelle Sun. *Hii Lee Siong (absence)



Muscoliny Anak Panting



Jack Anak Bilun



Cerol Anak Tensy



Michael Owen Anak Sinau

2021 Pre-Theological Students
(Total 4 new students)

- **BM:** Muscoliny Anak Panting, Jack Anak Bilun, Cerol Anak Tensy
- **Iban:** Michael Owen Anak Sinau

- Pray that God will help the new students to adapt to the community life in MTS.
- Pray that God will grant new students good health and strong spiritual life.

2021 2nd Semester MTS Intensive Courses offered for Master of Ministry Program, and TEE Family & Counseling Ministry Program

Date	Subject	Lecturer
05-09/07/2021	Spiritual Formation of the Pastor	Dr. Yuen Wei Man
12/6-18/07/2021 (5 weekends)	Parenting & Children Counseling	Mdm. Ling Ching Nee
08-10/10/2021, 15-17/10/2021	Religious Law & Family Ethics	Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung & Mr. Jason Wong

- Pray for the well being 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.

Wesley Centre, Religion & Culture Centre Upcoming Events

Date, Time & Venue	Event	Theme	Speaker
21-22/08/2021 Via Zoom	Public Lecture	Love Our Indigenous People	Rev. Dr. Mark Durie
09/10/2021 Via Zoom	Interaction Forum II	Artificial Intelligence: Tower of Babel or Blessing?'	Rev. Dr. Su Chii Ann (<i>MTS Full-time Lecturer, Director of Field Education</i>)

- Please pray for the speaker, venue, PA & network system, electricity supply for the events.
- Please pray that the interaction forum will run smoothly and many people are able to attend both events.

MTS During the Covid-19 Pandemic

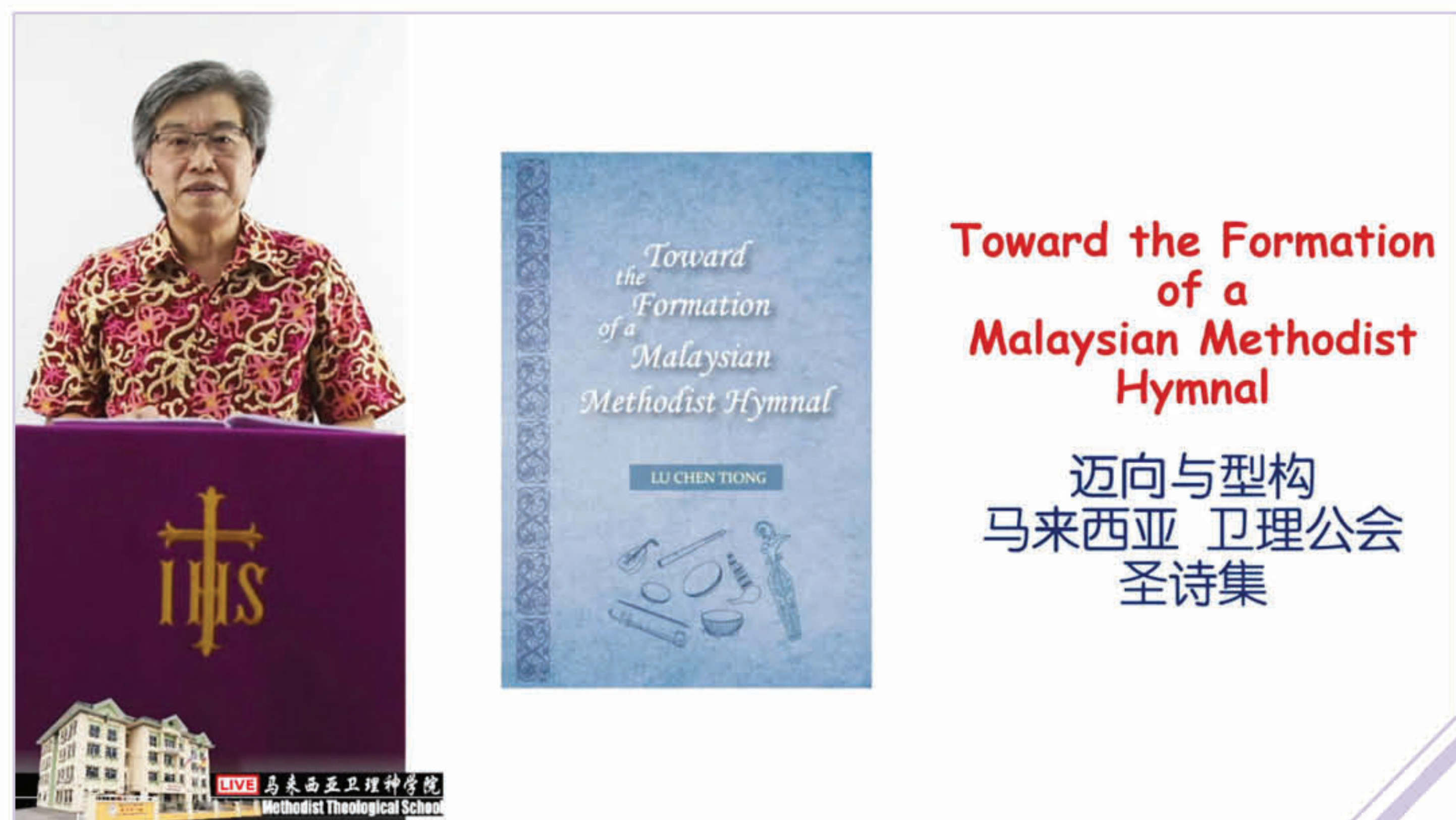
During the implementation of the MCO in Sibul, all the students stayed in the campus for the first time to celebrate the Chinese New Year.



We have successfully conducted the following online events:

a) Organized a medical talk (Pengenalan bagi Covid-19) for the community, in Mandarin (21/01/2021, by Dr. Peter Lau Sie Teck) and Bahasa Malaysia (23/01/2021, by Dr. Adele anak Steward Damat).

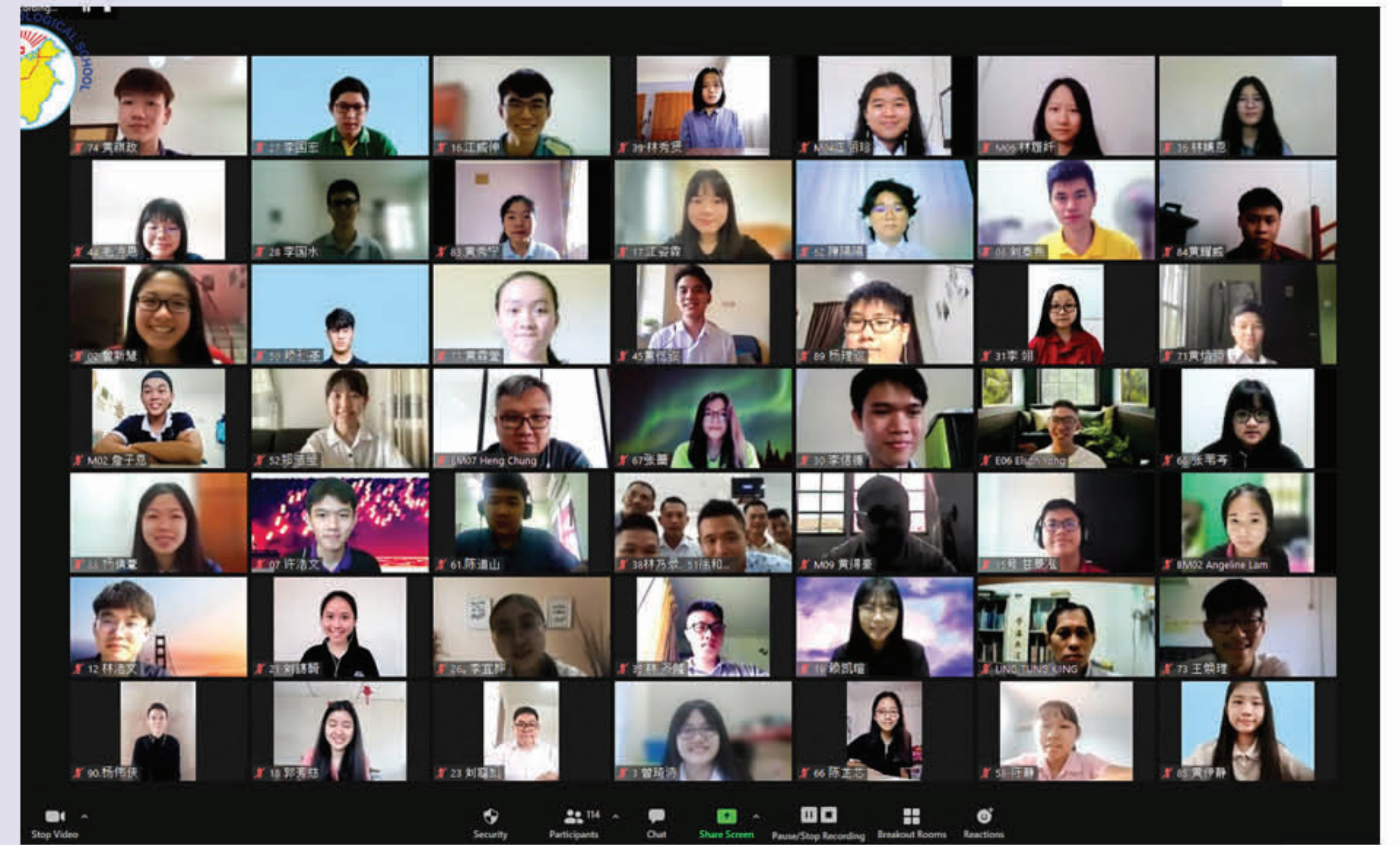
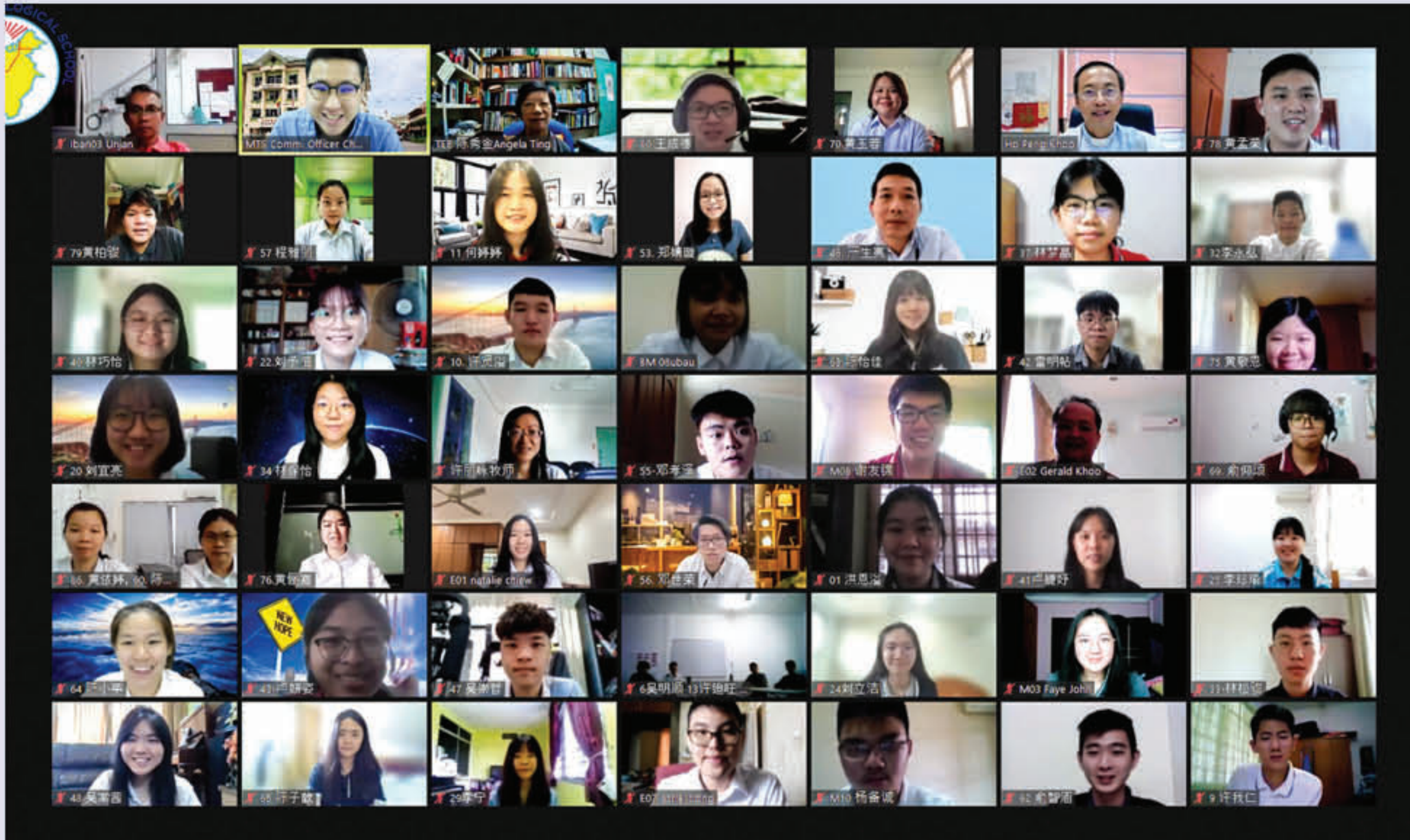
b) The 1st online Wesleyan Theological Forum had been successfully carried out on 27/02/2021. Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong presented a remarkable lecture on 'Charles Wesley's Lyrical Theology' in Mandarin. Dr. Lu's book (Toward the Formation of a Malaysian Methodist Hymnal) was also launched and introduced.



c) 12/03/2021: A special interaction forum on Covid-19 vaccine was held. The two speakers were Mr. Dr. Samuel Ting Chuo Yew (Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan Farmasi, Cawangan Amalan dan Perkembangan Farmasi) and Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King (MTS lecturer of Christian Education and Ethics).



d) 05/04-14/06/2021: STMS Music, STMS English, STMS Iban, STMS BM and MSTMS Chinese were conducted via Zoom.



e) MTS Night. Theme: "Servant Leader After God's Own Heart".

i. 16/04/2021 MTS Night (BM):
Speaker: Rev. Law Hui Seng. Theme: "Hati pemimpin kehambaan yang berkenan di mata Tuhan".



ii. 23/04/2021 MTS Night (Chinese):
Rev. Wong Tuong Toh, Rev. Ting Gin Gin and Rev. Dr. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu. Theme: "Servant Leader after God's Own Heart".



iii. 30/04/2021 MTS Night (Iban):
Bishop Bonnie Sedau. Theme: "' Tuai Ke Mela Ti Ngelantang Ka Ati Allah Taala' .



f) 24/04/2021: MTS Dedication Camp (Chinese). Speakers: Rev. Wong Tuong Toh, Rev. Ting Gin Gin and Rev. Dr. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu.



g) 01/05/2021: MTS Night & Dedication Camp (BM): Speakers: Ps. Geff ak Tawan, Ps. Roselind Rosy Anak Merang, Rev. Chen Chi Fook and Rev. Dr. Wong Teck Suk.

h) 08/05/2021: The 2nd online interaction forum (LIVE, in Mandarin) was held. The two speakers were Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng and Rev. Dr. John Lee (The Academic Dean of the Holy Light Theological Seminary, Taiwan). They shared on John Wesley's marriage and Wesley and Arminianism respectively.



Theological Education Sunday

MTS Lecturers are open to invitations to conduct Theological Education Sundays throughout the year. Please contact our lecturers for arrangements.

Tel: +6084-341409

MTS 2022 Intake

Prayer Items:

- Pray for the new intake next year. Pray that more brothers and sisters will respond to God's calling.
- Pray that more church members are willing to equip themselves and join MTS for TEE program.
- To meet the needs of the development of our member conferences, MTS urges each conference to consider sending at least 2 potential candidates per district per annum to be trained in MTS.

Programs offered by MTS

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

Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban / BM)		
Degree	Qualification	Duration
Master of Ministry	Possessed a first theological degree and involved in pastoral ministry for at least 5 years	7 years
Master of Divinity	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
Bachelor of Divinity	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Bachelor of Theology	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2-4 Credits and 2 passes including one of the language) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Diploma of Theology	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
Licentiate of Theology	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Theological Program – Missiology major (Language: Mandarin)		
Master of Divinity	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
Bachelor of Divinity	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Bachelor of Theology	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2, 4 Credits and 2 passes including one of the language) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Diploma of Theology	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
Licentiate of Theology	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Worship & Music Program (Language: Mandarin)		
Master of Divinity in Worship & Music	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university; non-music degree graduate must obtain Grade 6 in music theory and Grade 8 in voice or any musical instrument from Royal School of Music or equivalents. Candidates are required to take pre-requisite courses in Music Theory (harmony and form analysis), SSET, Western Music History, and at least two semesters of choral conducting class	4 years
Bachelor of Divinity in Worship & Music	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal music and theory from Royal School of Music or its equivalent	5 years
Bachelor of Theology in Worship & Music	With MCE/SPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal music and theory from Royal School of Music or its equivalent	5 years
Master of Arts in Worship & Music	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university; non-music degree graduate must obtain Grade 6 in music theory and Grade 8 in voice or any musical instrument from Royal School of Music or equivalents. Candidates are required to take pre-requisite courses in Music Theory (harmony and form analysis), SSET, Western Music History, and at least two semesters of choral conducting class	2 years
Bachelor of Arts in Worship & Music	With MCE/SPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal music and theory from Royal School of Music or its equivalent	4 years

Degree	Qualification	Duration
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 or its equivalent	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 or its equivalent	2 years
Certificate of Worship & Music by Extension	Completed SPM	3-5 years
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program (Language: Mandarin)		
Master of Christian Studies	For university graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours); equivalent to two years of full-time study in Theological Program	7 years
Bachelor of Christian Studies	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 90 credit hours); equivalent to three years of full-time study in Theological Program	7½ years
Diploma of Christian Studies	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours) and university graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	6 years
Certificate of Christian Studies	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 30 credit hours)	5 years
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in Family & Counseling Ministry (Language: Mandarin)		
Master of Arts 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 69 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 69 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 // deans.asst@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: **31th October**
- ** Application closing date for foreign students: **30th June** **

To Pray for our needs & to support our General Fund

Total income for January till May 2021: RM659,210.30
Total expenses for January till May 2021: RM889,668.22

Currently we do not have many regular donors for MTS General Fund. We are facing deficits since 2020. The total expenditure of MTS for year 2021, estimated to be about RM2,142,100. 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".

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METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
PBB 3142208112

Please email your full name and transaction record to accountclerk@mtssibu.edu.my. Thank you.