



Matthew 9:37-39 records that the Lord Jesus felt compassion when he saw many people being displaced spiritually and heading for destruction. They were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Many of them were ready to believe in Jesus, the Savior and to follow Him on the journey to eternal life (John 4:35). The crisis was the shortage of workers to shepherd them! Two thousand years later, far from the time of Jesus, the world is still desperately needing the gospel. The call is ever so urgent, and yet the workers are few. During this pandemic, in many parts of Asia, churches spent a lot of energy to find creative ways to shepherd and to gather the flocks that were suddenly displaced by many health and social political factors. Churches have walked a path that they have never taken, and are facing unprecedented challenges. Church pastors and leaders are struggling to find more effective ways to providing care and reaching out to their members. This process could easily cause the Church to lose sight of the Great Commission given by the Lord Jesus (Matthew 28 19-20), and at the expense of nurturing those who are called to full-time ministry. In addition, under the impact of the pandemic, some who are called to full-time ministry have become hesitant, and many also considered to postpone their training in the seminary. During the recent ATESEA webinar, many representatives from different seminaries in South East Asia also share the same dilemma¹. If this phenomenon continues for a few more years, it is likely that there will be a gap in the continuity of the pastoral leadership. Indeed, we're facing a crisis!



Message From the Principal

The Lord Jesus was compassionate for the crowd, his heart was all out for them. There was a shortage of workers to meet the needs of this massive crowd. This is also the concern for those who stand at the forefront of theological education. The Lord Jesus spoke of two strategic plans to face such challenges. First, He asked his disciples to earnestly cry out to God to send workers (v. 38). Prayer is one of the concrete actions of faith. Some people may think that the best policy to meet the needs is for seminaries to conduct many recruitment exercises. This certainly makes sense. But the Lord Jesus wants us to put our faith in God first. He made us understood from the start that the sovereignty rests with God; He is the God who calls and sends the workers. The Church is just an instrument of God; the seminary is just a vessel! The primary task of churches and seminaries is to rely on God to raise up workers. The Church needs to earnestly ask God to raise workers for this vast harvesting field (v. 38).

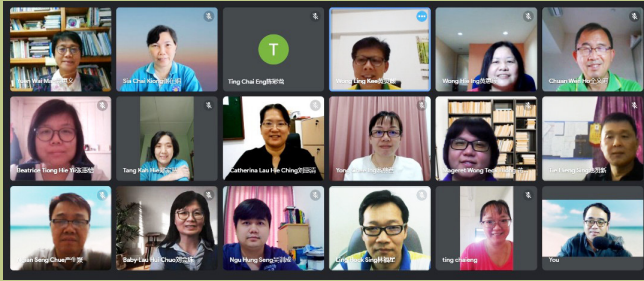
Secondly, in the following verses of Matthew 10, the Lord Jesus sent his disciples to become workers and empowered them to serve in the

harvesting field. It is the Lord Jesus who personally inspired them and sent them. The Church is a base to raise and provide workers, and every member of the Church is called to join the harvesting team and to fulfill God's commission in each person's workplace, community, campus, or family. God will also raise full-time workers from among His people. The Church shoulders the heavy responsibility of nurturing, supervising, motivating and sending them to receive formal training so that these workers in turn can continue to lead the Church to fulfill God's mission. Therefore, the Church and the seminary must work together closely. The church is likened to the "mother's womb" that nurtures these workers, and the seminary is entrusted, for a short period of time, to train them further in the might and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Towards the end of that journey, they may gain the momentum to grow wholistically --- in knowledge & wisdom, physical, socially and spiritually. It is most comforting and encouraging to know that those who participate in the harvesting are given the promise and will be empowered and to receive the authority from God (Matt. 10:1). Even if they should encounter perse-

¹"Risk Management in the context of theological education in South East Asia" Online Webinar organized by ATESEA (Association of Theological Education in South East Asia), 3 - 4/11/2021.



News from MTS



5-9 July: M. Min. Modular Courses by Dr. Yuen Wei Man. Subject: “Spiritual Formation of the Pastor”. (Online)



2 Oct: Blood Donation. Twenty-two donors include pastors, lecturers, and students.

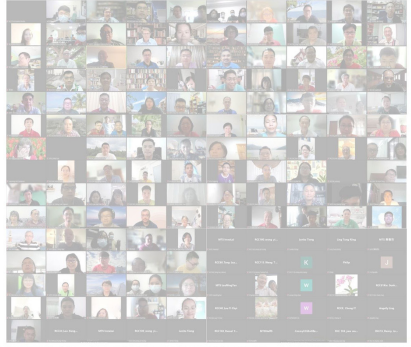


RCC 3rd Public Lecture
(Webinar)

21-22 August 2021

Theme: “Love our Indigenous People”

Organized by The Religion and Culture Centre (RCC) & The Wesley Centre
Methodist Theological School, website: www.mtssbu.edu.my
Tel: +6084-321409 | Fax: +6084-341409



21-22 Aug: Wesley Centre and Religion & Culture Centre combined public lecture (webinar) by Rev. Dr. Mark has been successfully held on August 21-22, 2021. Topic: “Love Our Indigenous People”.

cution, God has already promised to give the appropriate words for them to speak (Matthew 10: 20)! Those who responded to His calling have no worries, because He promised to supply every needs and has promised his presence with them (cf. Matthew 28:19-20). What else is more precious than this promise? Those who are called but hesitate should hear the words of the Lord Jesus again and to offer of their lives completely to God in His opportune time. Although the Christian population in Sabah and Sarawak accounts for 45% of the Christian population in Malaysia, we cannot be complacent or to take this figure for granted. What does this figure reveal to us? How many Christians are standing on the solid rock of Christ? Are there many who have lost their first love? (cf. Rev. 2:2) Are there many who are afraid to suffer for the Lord? (cf. Rev. 2:10) Will many face the temptation

of “Balam”? (cf. Rev. 2:14) Can they gain a foothold as they face the present temptation of the “Nicolaitan” and “Jezebel”? (cf. Rev. 2:15, 20). The Christians on the Borneo Island are indebted to preach the Gospel to the whole of Malaysia! How many Chinese and indigenous people are longing for the freedom and eternal hope that only the gospel affords? Do we hear the Lord of the harvest calling Christians from Sabah and Sarawak to take our part in the global harvest field? Either here or there, far or near, we have an unaccomplished mission!

During this pandemic, MTS enrolment is facing a “new low” for the coming year. On the one hand, we are grateful for a total of seven new students who enrolled for the Bahasa Malaysia Theology course. This is the second year we have ventured into this new journey. We are

humbled by the fact that there are only two enrolments for the Chinese Theology course. If this trend is not reversed in the next few years, will the Methodist Church on the Borneo Island encounter a gap in the future pastoral leadership? Pastors and church leaders, would you become God’s mouthpiece to challenge those whom God has called? Who has heard the call of the Lord and is willing to bridge this gap? Is that you? Is that me?



By Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng, Principal



4 Oct: MTS “Su Shan Yi Graduation Recital”, 7:15pm at Chapel + Facebook Live.

Scan QR code for playback.



30 Oct: MTS 23rd Graduation Service (since its reopening of Degree Courses), 9am at Wei Kuok Hall + Facebook Live. Speaker: Bishop Bonnie Sedau; translated by Rev. Yan Foong Peng. 30 (1 Dip. CS; 3 MCS; 3 MAFCM; 1 BAWM; 7 B.Th.; 7 B.D.; 5 M.Div; 3 M.Min).

Scan QR code for playback.



2021 MTS Magazine has been published - “God Is with Us Under One Roof”. This magazine contains sermons, insights, and testimonies from theological students. Among them, there are good books recommended. Scan the QR code to get the electronic version.



▶ MTS UPCOMING NEWS & PRAYER ITEMS ◀

1. 2022 MTS 1st Semester Opening Service

2022 MTS 1st Semester Opening Service will be held on 4th January 2022, Tuesday at 9:00 am @ Wesley Church. More information will be announced through MTS Facebook page and MTS website.

2. 2022 Intensive Courses offered for Master of Ministry Programme, and TEE Family & Counseling Ministry Programme

Date	Subject	Lecturer	Class Mode
<i>Master of Ministry Courses</i>			
04-08/04/2022	“Pastoral Theology in the 21st Century”	Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng	Online
04-08/07/2022	“Church Leadership in the 21st Century”	Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing	Classes
<i>TEE Family & Counselling Ministry Programme</i>			
05/03/2022 – 28/05/2022	“Marriage Education and Counselling”	Dr. Lee Tai Ying	Online Classes
02/07/2022 – 14/09/2022	“Youth Counselling”	Dr. Lee Tai Ying	Online Classes
06/2022-10/2022	“Seniors Caring Ministry”	Rev. Dr. Tiong Chung Tiing	TBC

- 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. 2022 Full Time Programme New Students

Total 8 new theology students (Mandarin = 2; BM = 6).

Chinese: Ngu Kwong Chik, Ting Kang Hwang

BM: Cerol Anak Tensy, Jack Anak Bilun, Lenny Liana Antonius, Julaika Binti Guntur, Yii See Jing, Jacky Anak Bilun

- Pray for the new students. Pray that they are able to cope with the vigorous studies and activities in MTS.
- Pray that more church members are willing to equip themselves and come to MTS for TEE programme.

*2 pastors registered for the Master of Ministry Programme in 2022:
Rev. Betty Wong Ling Ting & Rev. Chiong Yew Hee.

4. Theological Education Sunday

MTS Lecturers are open to invitations to conduct Theological Education Sundays throughout the year. All expenses will be paid by MTS. Please contact our lecturers for arrangements.

Tel: +6084-321409

5. MTS 2022 Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Speaker
Public interaction forum by Wesley Centre		
26/02/2022 (7.15PM)	"Is John Wesley's theology of prevenient grace biblical?" "What does Romans 9 teach about the theology of Election?"	Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung Bishop Dr. Hii Kong Hock
29/04/2022 (7.15PM)	MTS Night (Chinese)	Rev. Yiong Yai Ling
30/04/2022 (8.30AM)	Dedication Camp (Chinese)	TBC
30/04/2022 (7.30PM)	MTS Night (BM)	Rev. Yiong Yai Ling
01/05/2022 (7.15PM)	MTS Night + Dedication Camp (Iban)	Rev. Yan Foong Peng
02/05/2022 (8.30AM)	Dedication Camp (BM)	TBC
09/05/2022	Seminar on Old Testament (BM)	Dr. Chelcent Fuad (Indonesia)
13/08/2022	Seminar on "Translation Skill"	TBC
24/10/2022	Seminar on New Testament (BM)	Dr Daniel Gloor (Lecturer of New Testament, STS)

- Pray for the speakers, venues, PA system, electricity supply for the events.
- Pray that the events will run smoothly, and more people are able to attend all the events.

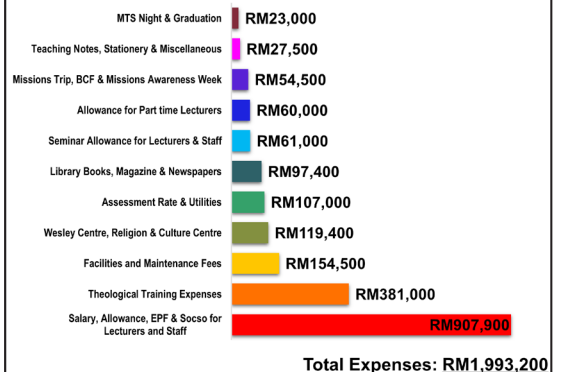
6. MTS Financial Situation

The total expenditure of MTS for year 2022 is estimated to be about RM1,993,200. 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 ministry of God. Please specify your offering as "MTS General Fund".

Public Bank Account: 3-1422081-12.

Please email your bank-in slip to accounts@mtssibu.edu.my. You may also participate in "Friends of MTS".

2022 Budget for Expenses



NOTICE

MTS office & library will be closed on the following dates in 2022:

29/01; 16/04; 14/05, 28/05; 11/06; 09/07; 23/07; 17/09; 05/11, 12/11, 19/11, 26/11; 03/12, 10/12, 17/12, 24/12; *11-27/11(Library Closed).