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Newsletter

MTS

December 2016



Give Thanks

A Note from the Principal

to God for You

In last year's annual conference (SCAC) in November, I began my MTS report by giving thanks to God for our churches in giving towards MTS so that MTS has a surplus every year. I also mentioned that other seminary principals/presidents are envious of my position in MTS because I do not need to go around soliciting funds from churches and individuals while they need to do so.

In fact, it has been my personal conviction and policy over the years in ministry that I do not solicit funds individually and personally for ministry. Instead we just make known our needs and trust God for voluntary response from God's people and churches. In this way, people would give out of their willingness and joy instead of reluctance and complaint.

Over the years, MTS has been experiencing God's abundant provisions when churches and people happily and voluntarily give to support Iban students and foreign students (as Friends of MTS), to support general funds, building funds, sponsorships, etc. Please allow me to share some examples:

1. After a Thursday night prayer

meeting in which a church prayed for MTS, a brother from the church came to MTS, bringing along RM100,000 check to support general fund;

2. In MTS newsletter, we shared that four Iban students needed sponsorships. A couple came across the sharing. They came to my office, bringing along a check sufficient to support the four students for four years;

3. A sister in church asked me what MTS needed. I mentioned "Friends of MTS" to support needy students. Since then, she and her family have been giving regularly towards MTS;

4. SCAC has been giving generously every year;

5. Many pastors are giving conscientiously from their own pockets and are also encouraging their churches and members to give regularly;

6. Some church members have been giving faithfully over the past many years.

7. The list goes on and on.

MTS feels like Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Philippians: "18 I have received full payment and have more



Rev Dr Tie King Tai

than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Philippians 4)

Pastors, brothers and sisters, on behalf of MTS, I give thanks to God for you. May God bless you abundantly for your love and support for MTS!

By Rev Dr Tie King Tai
Principal

News from MTS



20-21/6/2016:

MTS held the Silent Retreat and 2nd Semester Opening Ceremony at Methodist Centennial Park.



25/6/2016:

MTS Night at Mei Ann Methodist Church, Miri at 7:30pm. Speaker: Rev Dr Tie King Tai.



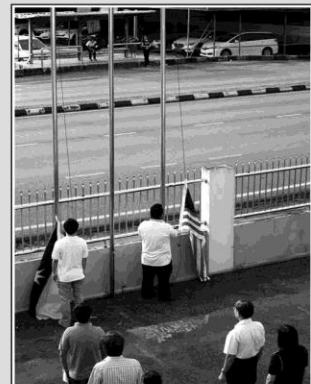
26/6/2016:

Miri Dedication Camp. Speaker: Rev Lau King Huong, Rev Ting Chu Yih and Rev Ling Man Hsi.



22-30/7/2016:

MTS participated in the Borneo Cultural Festival. We opened a booth with the theme "Happiness at the Next Station".



15/7/2016:

MTS held a national flag raising ceremony at 7.45am. Lecturers and students sing the national anthem and Sarawak state anthem, while the National Flag and Sarawak flag were raised in sequence.

15/7/2016:

2 in 1 Celebration: Parents' Day and Birthday Celebrations. MTS community and their parents were invited to join these celebrations.



15-17/8/2016:

MTS held the 9th Wesleyan Seminar. All MTS lecturers shared different topics, one of the panel speakers: Rev Dr Wong Tik Hua: Eschatological Living in John Wesley's Theology"



(from top)

- 1) Miss Ting Hwa Ing (Principal's Office Admin. Assistant)
- 2) Mr. Moh Heng Huong (IT Officer)
- 3) Miss Magdalene Ting Ding Chui (Deans' Assistant)

New MTS staff members

The 11th Batch STMS College Graduation Service

Date: 26th August 2016

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibu



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 7 new students (including 2 foreign students) enrolled in the Pre-Theological program commencing on June 20th. They are: (From left) Guinnesson Ayai Sendera, Nancy Ak Ngalambai, Liu Yu Hang, Qi Xiang, Finsen Wong Lee Ying, Tan Kok Hua. Mastine Robert Suwor (first right) will be taking M. Div. program in STM, 2017.

ATESEA Accreditation



Accreditation Team with MTS Board members, faculty and staff.



Accreditation Team with MTS Alumni.

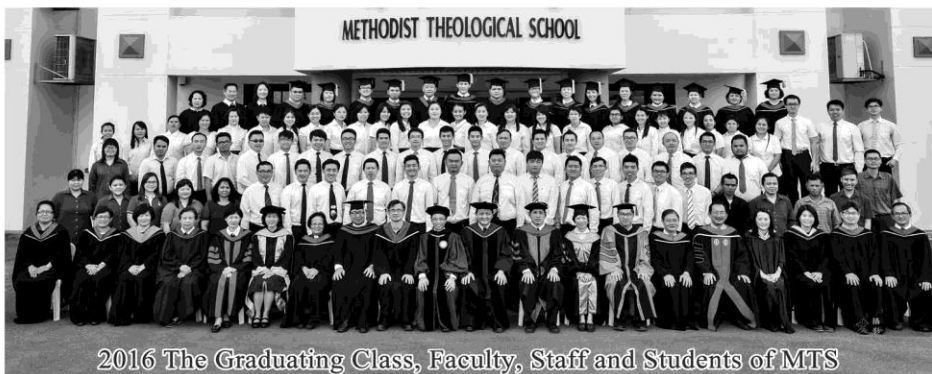
ATESEA Accreditation Team came on Oct 6-7 to accredit our programs. They highly praised our school's fine work and strongly affirmed our M. Div, B. D. and B. Th. programs, including missiology, Worship & Music programs.

18th MTS Graduation Service (since the reopening of Degree Courses)

29th October 2016

Venue: Masland Methodist Church, Sibü

Total number of Graduates: 30 (3 Master of Ministry; 4 Master of Divinity; 3 Master of Divinity major in Missiology; 1 Bachelor of Divinity; 5 B. Th; 1 B.Th. major in Missiology; 1 Dip. Th. & 1 L. Th. major in Missiology; 1 CWM; 4 MCS; 6 DCS).



2016 The Graduating Class, Faculty, Staff and Students of MTS



Speaker: Bishop Emeritus Dr. Hwa Yung, translated by Rev Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu.



Commissioning Prayer for the Graduates.

Graduation Thanksgiving Lunch

Date: 29th October 2016
Venue: Grand Jasmine Ballroom (2nd Floor), RH Hotel, Sibul.



Interaction Forum

Wesley Centre of MTS organized Interaction Forums on certain Contemporary Issues.



28/7/2016: "Is heavy metal evil?". The speaker was Rev. Dr. Lu Chen Tiong.



13/10/2016: Lawyer Wong Seng Ho speaking on the topic: "Hudud Law from a Christian perspective".

Visitors

1) 18/07/2016:

Some brothers and sisters from Methodist Senior Learning Centre visited us.

2) 09/08/2016:

Brothers from The Gideons International visited us.



1) 1/7/2016

Miss Min Kai Yi taught Vocal in MTS.

2) 11-15/7/2016

Rev Dr Ling Tung Kiing taught a M. Min. intensive course on "Church Leadership in The 21st Century".

3) 11-15/7/2016

Our Principal, Rev Dr Tie King Tai, taught a M.Min. intensive course on "Advanced Preaching" together with Miss Teresina Chen.

4) 21-29/9/2016

Dr Titus Loong taught an intensive course on Cultural Anthropology".

5) 25-29/7/2016

Dr Rachel Ting taught a Theological Education by Extension (Family Ministry Major) course on "The Changing Family Structure".



Intensive Courses & Invited Speakers

Upcoming News & Prayer Items

1. 2017 New Students

1.1 2017 Full Time New Students

Total 17 new students: Hon Jiew Foh, Tan Kok Hua, Finsen Wong Lee Ying, Wang Yan Ting, Chuo Quan Wei, Liu Yu Hang, Qi Xiang, Jon Ling Kah Hieng, Betty Wong King Ngie, Ting Seng Kwong, Wong Kie Yung, Wong Siew Jian, Guinnesson Ayai Sendera, Michael Chagat, Nancy ak Ngalambai, Tiang Kwong Chuong and Jackson Hoo Kie Yaw.

1.2 2017 Other Students

13th Batch of M.Min. Program: 2

18th Batch of TEE program: 19

8th Batch STMS Music: 28

12th Batch STMS English: 24

25th Batch STMS Chinese-Aaron: 52

10th Batch WME Program: 3

12th Batch STMS Iban: 22

1st Batch STMS BM: 25

25th Batch STMS Chinese-Moses: 68

Prayer items:

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

2. MTS Night at Sibul

Theme: Servants after God's Own Heart

Speaker: Rev. Ting Dui Kiong and Rev. Elizabeth Enjut

Date: 24th March 2017 (Friday)

Time: 7:15pm

Venue: En Tao Methodist Church, Sibul

Prayer items:

- Please pray for the speaker, choir, PA system, weather etc.
- Please pray for the participants. Pray that more brothers and sisters are willing to respond to God's calling.

3. M.Min. Modular Courses & Intensive Course for Missiology Program

M.Min. Modular Courses & Intensive Course for Missiology Program

Date	Subject	Lecturer
13-17/3/2017	Preaching from the New Testament	Rev. Dr. Hii Kong Hock
03-04/7/2017	Pastoral Counseling	Rev. Dr. Khoo Hoo Peng
10-14/7/2017	Missionary Message of Acts	Frank Schattner

Prayer items:

- Pray for the good health of the lecturers. Pray that God will grant them wisdom in their teachings.
- Pray for the students to be in good health to cope with the intensive courses.

4. 2017 Wesley Centre Upcoming Events

4.1 Interactive Forums on Contemporary Issues

MTS Wesley Centre takes up the challenge to organize interactive forums on contemporary issues from time to time, in order that the church can play a prophetic and missional role in the society. In 2017, three interactive forums will be held in Sibul.

Upcoming News & Prayer Items

Date & venue	Theme	Speaker
9th February 2017 (Thursday 8:30-9:30 pm) Venue: Wei Kuok Hall	Iban miring – culture or religion?	Rev. Elizabeth Enjut (MTS lecturer, SIAC elder)
27th April 2017 (Thursday 7:15-9:00 pm) Zion Methodist Church	Anti-Corruption: Mission Impossible?	Brother Ling (former lay leader of CAC, from Kepong Methodist Church)
12th October 2017 (Thursday 8:30-9:30 pm) Wei Kuok Hall	Is Manmin Central Church a cult?	Rev. Dr. Francis Wong (lecturer of Christian Theology and Apologetics)

(We welcome all to the above forums. Admission is free.)

Prayer items:

- Please pray for the speaker, venue, PA system, electricity supply for each interaction forum.
- Please pray that all the interaction forums will run smoothly.
- Pray for more people to attend the forum.

4.2 One Day Theology Conference on Luther's Reformation

Date: 22 July 2017 (Saturday 8:30-4:30 pm)

Venue: Methodist Theological School

Speaker: Professor Dr. Choong Chee Pang (TTC, Singapore)

Prayer items:

- Please pray that all the preparatory work will run smoothly.
- Please pray that pastors and church members will attend this conference enthusiastically.

5. MTS Financial Situation

5.1. MTS General Fund

The monthly expenses for MTS is about RM160k, 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.

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 "Friends of MTS". As until 30th September 2016, amounts received from "Friends of MTS" are as follow:

1. Support Iban students: RM 129,657
2. Support students from China: RM 35,410
3. Support for Faculty upgrading: RM 18,850

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