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2018

berita NECF



Chairman's Message

Ten Keys to Revival

By Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng

The song *Touching Heaven, Changing Earth* was sung at a recent Klang Valley Pastors' Fellowship (KVPF) meeting held at NECF's office. As I mused over the lyric "send revival," I am reminded that whilst revival is God's prerogative, we cannot neglect our 'human responsibility.' There are ten things we need to work on if we want to see revival take place in our churches:-

1. Wrestling in Prayer

For revival to happen we need to approach prayer like a wrestler approaches the ring — in shape, alert and on our guard – because there are opposing forces that seek to pin us to the mat and defeat us even as we pray. This is in sharp contrast to prayer that involves no agony which tends to slip into Pharisaic formality and tradition.

We need to start regular prayer meetings if we have not already done so. We need to relearn how to agonise on our knees. Our prayer meetings need to be revitalised so that we would once again carry the nation in our hearts.

2. Word Is Primary

It is not unexpected that only churches strong in the Word will usher in revival. Under the reign of Josiah (2 Kings 22), religious reforms took place when the Scriptures was accorded its rightful place. Josiah "tore his clothes"

(v11) when he heard the words of the Book. This has been characteristic through every revival throughout church history; the powerful preaching of God's Word ignited the Church by the fire of His truth. There can be no revival without making Christ pre-eminent and His Word primary.

3. Witness of the Person

A clear sign of revival is when our hearts are filled with such a love for Jesus that we long to share this love with every person possible. The presence and love of God become so real we cannot but testify of them to others. Like Naaman, every believer should exclaim, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel..." (2 Kings 5:15b NKJV).

What a joy to hear of how Pastor Looi Kok Kim made it a point to share the Gospel and lead a soul to the Lord during the recent 40 days of prayer and fast. In every revival, we can expect to see multitudes coming to the faith.

4. Workmen Are Made

For revival to bring forth lasting fruit, we need to make workmen of His people - "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15b - NASB). We are commissioned by the Lord to make disciples, not converts. Those saved and those who have been revived are to be a great army of disciples who will disciple others.

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ADDRESS

32, Jalan SS2/103, 47300 Petaling Jaya,

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Tel: 603-7727 8227 Fax: 603-7729 1139

Email: enquiries@necf.org.my

Website: www.necf.org.my

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5. Work Is a Privilege

Revival always results in a voluntary spirit of service for Christ.

When Isaiah saw the Lord "high and lifted up" in Isaiah 6, three things happened: First, he responded in repentance (v 4). (Incidentally, this was also the response of Job and Peter when they came face-to-face with the greatness of God). Second, he was purified with a coal from off the altar. And finally, he volunteered to serve: "Here am I! Send me." (v 8).

If there is a move of God with no resultant increase of workers or renewed passion to serve, it is most probably a *pseudo revival*. One observation about past Malaysian renewals - following each move, the 'work-horse' company increased in numbers.

6. Will of God Is Paramount

When revival comes, the zeal of God will capture His people; it will ignite in them an *obsession* to walk in His will. It is a tragic waste of resources that so many good men and women of God today are in the wrong places because they are not willing to submit to His will.

When the individual is not willing to walk in God's perfect will for his life nor be part of God's will for his own local church, it is ludicrous to intercede for God's will to be done in our nation.

7. Walk of Holiness

Repentance is a hallmark of every move of God. An awareness of God's holiness and a consciousness of His presence will forge a fear of Him in us to live blameless before God and men.

Nominal Christianity is a clear sign we need revival. Too many of our youth are addicted to gaming and clubbing. Pornography no longer just lingers on the horizon but parades itself right in our face. Indeed, sin is crouching at the door (Gen 4:7) and not enough is being done to confront it.

8. Wealth Released

As with the Church during the Acts era, God's people will lay their silver and gold at the foot of the Cross. We will discover that there is abundance for every good work. But generosity is not always a Spirit-motivated trait; it is also a habit to be nurtured, and this takes sacrifice and a heart for the needy. When we are reluctant to be generous, we can actually hinder the move of God.

9. Wonders and Signs

The supernatural working of the Holy Spirit will follow the preaching of His Word. Miracles of healing, deliverance from oppression and bondage will be an important key in the last days to usher many into the kingdom.

But we must begin with the natural - sharing the word of eternal life and laying hands on the sick. As we engage in the natural, God will add the "super" to the natural.

10. Worship – The Overflow of Love

The love for the Lord and desire for intimacy with Him would result in an everyday walk of unbroken communion with our Lord.

When He is our first love, we would be like Enoch who longed to walk with God in the garden each day. His people would want to linger in His presence and just cannot wait for the next worship service. Worship will become the pre-occupation of our hearts when revival fire is aflame across our land.

Then, we will experience afresh what it means to worship with the fear of God in our hearts. I find it preposterous for Christians to pray for government officials to "serve the rakyat with godly fear." Realistically, how can we so pray, when we have *no fear of God* ourselves when we enter His House?

Revival is possible. Yes, "send revival". The Church needs cleansing, restoration and alignment – the essence of true revival. And when that happens, then there is real hope for our nation.



The Call to Lead in Integrity, Transparency and Accountability

By Dr Wong Hong Meng

Integrity, transparency and accountability are three very important words. For a long while we lamented their absence in the governance of our country. We knew how important they are for the future of the nation and its people. So we fought for them. Then hope arrived; we could finally have these qualities. And now we are waiting for them to be delivered by the new government.

The absence of integrity, transparency and accountability in public administration is the slippery slope to corruption, abuse of power and injustices. Integrity refers to honesty, truthfulness, trustworthiness, fairness and impartiality. Transparency is the timely availability of relevant and reliable information on decisions made and the results therefrom even before they are asked for. Accountability is the acceptance of responsibility for what transparency reveals. These three attributes are interrelated and co-dependent. Integrity is the foundation for transparency and accountability. Without integrity transparency and accountability are meaningless leading only to lies and deceptions. Transparency without accountability is pointless.

These same qualities are clamoured for in the marketplace. The very existence of the free market economy depends on them yet we do not often get them. Regulations and legislation are required to provide some minimum standards. Integrity, transparency and accountability are also prerequisites of our normal Christian lives. The world is

appalled when these qualities cannot be seen in us. We are indeed judged with higher standards: "What? Christian also can do like that!" these are words we hear when a Christian fails. They are not often heard when those of other faiths fail. A rather back-handed compliment to Christians!

For Christian leaders, integrity is reasonably assumed to be a given. But does this integrity lead on to transparency and accountability? How transparent are our churches and ministries? How and to whom are we accountable? "I am only accountable to God" would not be sufficient. We are all stewards managing God's resources entrusted to us for the benefit of God's beneficiaries. We are accountable not just to God but also to the beneficiaries as well as to those through whom God provides the resources. When a Christian leader fails to be transparent and accountable we tend to sweep the matter under the carpet. Whilst we are quick to condemn the lack of transparency and accountability of government and corporate leaders, when it comes to one of our own we would not want to wash dirty linen in public. Doing so would dishonour God's name, we reason. Jesus' admonition is that we should do to others what we wish done to us. We demand from others transparency and accountability and yet we are often unwilling to demand the same from ourselves. The recent case in Singapore should have alerted us to the potential dangers of this attitude. How do these words: "They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (Daniel 6:4) resonate with us?

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Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8, set us an example as to how to be transparent and accountable in the manner he handled the substantial offering from the Corinthians to the poor in Jerusalem.

- Neither he nor his close associates handled the money on their own. He formed a committee with participation from others outside of his group to travel with the money.
- As Titus was from Paul's inner circle (8:23) he volunteered independent oversight: "We are also sending another brother with Titus. All the churches praise him as a preacher of the Good News. He was appointed by the churches to accompany us as we take the offering to Jerusalem" (8:18).
- Yet another independent member was added: "We are also sending with them another of our brothers who has proven himself many times and has shown on many occasions how eager he is" (8:22).
- "We are traveling together to guard against any criticism for the way we are handling this generous gift" (8:20). The committee was collectively responsible for providing checks and balances.
- "We are careful to be honourable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honourable" (8:21). Paul wanted not only to be transparent and accountable but also to be seen to be so.

Finally, here is another story. Pastor Fred, more than 80 years old, had retired quite some years ago. He and his wife were still ministering to the poorer communities in the region. He was visiting a former congregation of his, and a sister who knew him from way back presented him with a small love gift. He immediately asked if the gift was for him or his ministry. The sister was puzzled. What difference would it make since he was already retired and he and his ministry were one and the same? He was not answerable to any church or organization. He explained that there was a difference. If it was for his ministry he would have to record it in his little note book. At the end of the year he would show the book to his pastor, who was in his nineties. This old retired pastor was maintaining his integrity through transparency and accountability even when he was not required to do so.

The call for transparency and accountability from Christian leaders is not to cast aspersion on their integrity. Instead it is to protect them from crossing over the line into unintended abuse of power and financial impropriety. Incidentally, a mega church in Australia declared in its annual report that though not required to, they are in compliance with the Australian Code of Corporate Governance. Are we the head or the tail, leading or lagging behind in these qualities of integrity, transparency and accountability?



Dr. Wong Hong Meng is a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Malaysia Governing Council. He worships at Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC), Petaling Jaya



Equipped to Handle Flood Relief Work Effectively

By Rev Andy Chi

Handover of the fiberglass boat by NECF Secretary General Rev Andy Chi to CREST Executive Director Bro Cheong Chee Keen

Malaysia is not exempted from the threat of disasters. Within the last two decades, Malaysia has experienced tsunami, widespread flooding and earthquakes. In order to prepare the Church to serve others effectively in the event of a disaster, more training and equipping is needed to produce skilful volunteers.

In 1998, Crisis Relief Services and Training Bhd (CREST), a non-profit faith-based (Christian) humanitarian organisation was formed and registered. CREST has been promoting disaster awareness, risk reduction and training among churches for the last 19 years.

Three years ago, CREST added a boat handling and water surface rescue course to their training programme. During the three-year period, CREST had to source for boats to conduct this training as they did not have a boat of their own.

During the 2017 Penang floods, they received an urgent call for boats to be sent to the flooded areas in Penang. After many inquiries, CREST managed to secure and send two boats with the help of their volunteers from Port Dickson to Penang. However, because of the

time taken for inquiries and despatch, the boats arrived in Penang but were not utilized as the floods had subsided.

Boats are especially useful during floods. They are good for delivering food when land transport systems are cut off by flood waters like the East Coast floods in 2014. It can also be used for search and rescue operations and the evacuation of residents who are trapped.

Noting the importance and usefulness of having a boat ready at hand, NECF made the decision to purchase a boat for CREST from its Disaster Relief Fund. On 17 July 2018, NECF delivered a 15-foot long fiberglass boat with a 15 hp. Suzuki outboard engine and eight life jackets to CREST costing RM 8,364.00 for the purpose of water surface rescue and training.

With this boat we hope that CREST will be able to respond faster to flood victims as well as to train more people to handle the boat for future flood relief operations.



The boat comes with a paddle, life jackets and an outboard boat engine



Rev Andy Chi is the Secretary-General of NECF

The Key to Contentment in Life from a Christian Financial Planner's Perspective

By Rajen Devadason

The more complex our world grows, the more important it is for us to focus on the basics of life: We should return to Jesus and to the first principles of God.

Toward that end, the most foundational truth I know pertaining to Christians and the church is that we love because Jesus first loved us.

Mull over that as I touch on the well-known tension between serving God or mammon¹, the idol of money². In our multi-polar, multi-faith world, there is no doubt Religion is big business and that can involve big money.

Within our Christian community, this means we need to be vigilant against the worst purveyors of the worst versions of the so-called Prosperity Gospel. These snake oil salesmen claim – incorrectly – that all of God's children would be rolling in money IF they knew how to claim the correct promises from God's Word.

There are two reasons that just aren't so: God is sovereign, and God cannot be put into a neat, tidy box for us to manipulate like some stratospheric Santa Claus.

Frankly, based on my personal experience in various churches in Malaysia, England, the US and Singapore, it appears to me the worst mis-quoters and false teachers of such venomous doctrine, which appeals to huge groups of desperate individuals³, are charlatans in the West who prey on the poor and vulnerable.

While I know from Scripture, as well as through observation and experience, that God does indeed honour His Promises, and is inclined to bless his sons and daughters that does not mean every Christian will end up a millionaire with a secondary residence in some swanky country club.

What each Christian needs to focus on nurturing is a deep-seated contentment that stems from knowing who we truly are in Jesus⁴. The Apostle Paul took great pains to emphasise this in his first letter to Timothy.

In our modern age of great absolute wealth living beside great relative poverty, great advances by statesmen and scientists diluted by great depravities committed by kleptocrats and other purveyors of malfeasance, and great social progress being won in the face of great ecological destruction, it is no wonder that many of the 7.5 billion people alive today greatly despair for the world their children will inherit.

The ultimate solution for the 21st century is the same one made available by the Incarnate Son of God in the 1st century. With Jesus, we have a clear and present hope and an eternal home. Without Jesus, it doesn't matter how

much we pile up on Earth, we will still end up worse than impoverished in the afterlife.

What does all that have to do with how Christians should deal with and manage money today?

A lot, I believe, but I'll limit myself here to elaborating on three principles based on conventional biblical doctrine (which you should NOT take my word for but which you should also verify for yourself by opening your Bible and studying the source verses listed at the end of this article);

- 1. Love is more important than money.** We are at liberty to love God and people with immense exuberance simply because God first loved us⁵.
- 2. We prove to ourselves that we love our God more than our money when we give away money.** This pertains to blessing others, especially the poor⁶.
- 3. Do not give to get because God knows our hearts and minds.** Instead, give out of love and obedience to God's liberating truths⁷.

Don't get me wrong; like you I would rather be rich than poor. That is understandable. Humanity is wired by God to grow. Furthermore, the Bible teaches us that exhibiting diligence in our work is better than being lazy⁸.

Yet we all know people who work hard and still don't have much to show for it. I don't have a neat explanation for this reality. What I know, though, is that it makes sense for each of us to savour life's journey even as we strive and work to make a better life for our loved ones.

As we aim for greater heights of accomplishment, though, we should constantly guard the condition of our heart to ensure it stays warm, soft and pliable before Jesus. We need to grow in love with Him daily because He, indisputably, loved us so much more.

1 KJV **Matthew 6:24**

2 www.dictionary.com/browse/mammon

3 NIV **2 Timothy 4:3**

4 NIV **1 Timothy 6:6**

5 NIV **1 John 4:19**

6 NIV **Deuteronomy 15:10-11**

7 NIV **Psalms 26:2-3**

8 NIV **Proverbs 12:24**



Rajen Devadason, CFP (Certified Financial Planner), is the CEO of RD WealthCreation Sdn Bhd and a Securities Commission-licensed financial planner with Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad. He worships at Agape Community Church, Seremban



Do We Suffer from the CEO Disease?

God calls us to a life of reflection and self-awareness

By Roshan Thiran

Goleman, Boyatzis and McKee in their book *Primal Leadership* refer to “CEO disease” as “the information vacuum around a leader created when people withhold important (and sometimes unpleasant) information.”

Unfortunately, we see numerous instances of this “CEO Disease” in Asian organisations and churches. This happens when the leader is in denial of the real state of the organisation and is not open to criticism or bad news. In fact, in some organisations, boards are filled with members who cannot question the leader’s performance, even if it is the cause of some of the issues. This leader is now unlikely to be offered much in the form of feedback needed to improve performance. This leader will have significant blind spots which he or she will never know exists.

A few weeks ago, I visited the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. Their charismatic leader Bill Hybels had stepped down due to pressure from various groups. The media were upset that the church board did not take early action when some concerns were raised. When I was there, both the newly appointed senior pastors also resigned that same week. A key part of the issue at this mega-church was the fact that no one raised key questions to the leader and the Board early enough for them to act.

So how do we stop this disease? The antidote for this disease: Self-awareness. *“The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them,”* says Colin Powell. *“They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care.”* No one welcomes bad news about themselves, but self-aware leaders not only accept feedback, they even seek it out. They do so because they want to keep learning and growing. Without awareness there is no growth.

A large number of scriptures, including James 4:10 urge us to “humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up.” Instead many leaders of this world believe in exalting ourselves and our strengths. The Lord continually asks us to examine ourselves, yet not many leaders are aware of their real strengths or areas of development. The deeper the self-awareness obtained, the greater the leader. Yet most leaders have no time for personal reflection.

Why do people avoid exploration of the self? Self-awareness is simply being conscious of your strengths while acknowledging that God is continually moulding and teaching you. This includes admitting when you don’t have the answer and owning up to mistakes, which can sometimes be painful. Whether you acknowledge your weaknesses or not, everyone still sees them. The scriptures teach us to continually confess our sins, but if we are unaware of what they are, how can we do so?

Constant Self-Awareness Is Key

Constant self-awareness is critical because your strengths which in the past may have gotten you to where you are may become an issue area today. Years ago, we promoted a high performing individual contributor to a managerial role. He was great in details, executed well and had strong process skills. Once promoted, he had significant problems with his team. His strength in process rigour and execution became his weakness as he micro-managed instead of empowering his team. Neither could his strength of individual execution be translated to the team environment. We all saw these weaknesses playing out but he just could not see why he was not succeeding. Self-awareness is extremely challenging as it is difficult to see in you what others see so easily. So how do we get started in this journey of self-awareness?

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Churches across the Nation gathered together unto the Lord for Malaysia Day Prayer Rally 2018



NECF participating with CFM in Georgetown, Penang



Ipoh, Perak



Johor Bahru, Johor



Klang, Selangor



Kota Bharu, Kelantan



Kota Kinabalu, Sabah



Petaling Jaya, Selangor



Seremban, Negeri Sembilan



Subang Jaya, Selangor

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The Johari Window

Recently, I was helping a leader gain more insight into his leadership. I explained the Johari window, which has 4 major quadrants:

- **Open Self** – What others know about you and which you know too
- **Blind Self** – What others can see about you, which you can't see.
- **Hidden Self** – What others don't know about you, but you do--Your secrets.
- **Unknown Self** – What others don't know about you and neither do you.

We all have blind spots and if we can learn what they are, we become better leaders. The Johari Window encourages us to enlarge our Open Self while shrinking our Blind and Unknown Self. Not knowing your blind spots is the reason this 'CEO Disease' continues to proliferate.

The best way to shrink your Blind Self is to get constant feedback, especially from your team. It may take a lifetime to gain complete awareness of yourself, but it can be accelerated by honest feedback from others. All leaders should periodically re-examine expectations set versus actual results achieved. 2 Corinthians 13:5 urges us to continually 'examine ourselves' whilst David cries to the Lord in Psalm 26:2 to 'examine me, O Lord!'

One of the big problems Christian leaders have is our eagerness to follow worldly leadership. Pastor Jamin Goggin and theologian Kyle Strobel wrote a great book comparing the leadership of the world today (they termed it Way of the Dragon) vs the leadership that Christ portrayed (the Way of the Lamb). The dragon exalts itself while the Lamb leads humbly. Romans 12: 3 states, "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

It is very tough to lead like the Lamb. All around us, there are calls for leaders to show off, mask their weakness and showcase greatness. Only when leaders learn to listen and be humble enough to get tough feedback from others, will they be able to lead like the Lamb.

Being able to see your reflection in the mirror helps you to fix your hair and make needed changes. Feedback on your behaviour helps you to be a better leader and improves your judgment. When we become better leaders, everyone wins. Especially the churches we serve.

Being an Authentic Leader

Paul spent three years reflecting before starting his personal journey. Moses had 40 years to reflect and to become self-aware. Even business leaders like Andrea Jung and others, have reflection rituals that help them to be constantly self-aware.

Leadership has to be authentic. You need to be who you are, not try to emulate somebody else. And the only way you can do that is when you spend time with yourself, reflecting. And from getting real feedback on what you are doing right – and wrong!

The reality, as Bill George puts it *"is that no one can be authentic by trying to be like someone else. There is no doubt that you can learn from the experiences of others, but there is no way you can be successful trying to be like them. People trust you when you are genuine and authentic, not an imitation."*

Focus on Strengths Not Weaknesses

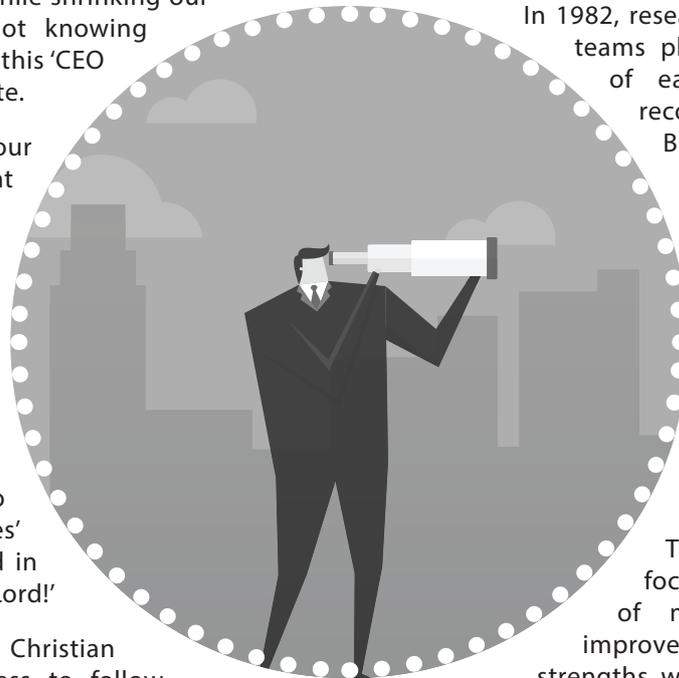
In 1982, researchers videotaped two bowling teams playing several games. Members of each team then watched the recordings to improve their games. But the videos received were edited differently with one team receiving a recording of only their mistakes whilst the other team's video highlighted only their good performances. After studying the videos, both teams improved their game, but the team which studied its successes improved its score twice as much as the one studying mistakes.

This research concludes that focusing on yourself, regardless of mistakes or strengths, yields improvement, but zooming in on your strengths was significantly more beneficial.

Rath and Conchie in *Strengths Based Leadership*, revealed the secret to being an effective leader: Knowing your strengths and leveraging them.

Every single business leader I have interviewed started their journey of leadership with the discipline of self-awareness. All of them focused on their strengths and built an authentic leadership style from who they were. You can do likewise.

Christ began His mornings in quiet reflection and in prayer. Great men of faith spent countless hours learning to be self-aware. If you want to be an impactful leader, learn to get feedback, reflect and be self-aware.



Roshan Thiran is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Leaderonomics, a social enterprise passionate about transforming the nation through leadership development. He is also a Scripture Union Council member and part of the Wawasan Penabur ministry. He worships at Pusat Injil Kelana Jaya, Petaling Jaya.

NECF Foundation Extends Financial Assistance to Full-Time Servants of God

By Jack Cheah

NECF Foundation was set up with the belief that financial assistance should be given to full-time servants of God in order to take care of their material needs sufficiently. They will then be enabled to give their best to their ministries.

The role of the Foundation in this regard is to complement churches and para-church organisations by extending financial assistance to pastors, full-time Christian workers, missionaries and their families as *a provider of last resort*.

The financial assistance extended by the NECF Foundation has benefitted and helped many servants of God and their family members.

Rev. Dr. C. Jeyabalan a/l Chelliah of Jesus Christ Family Ministries, Ipoh, Perak, shares his testimony:

When I needed treatment for my chronic kidney failure, the NECF Foundation extended their assistance to me. I would like to thank the NECF for the financial support that they faithfully rendered to me from 2012 to 2017. By the grace of God and with their support, I am currently enjoying an improved health condition. Above all, my ministry for our Lord is fruitful too. All these blessings have been made possible by the Lord's provision through the Foundation. I thereby, once again, extend my heartfelt thanks to the Lord and NECF. Thank you.

Types of Financial Assistance

The assistance that is given falls into two main categories, namely Financial Aids (as given to Rev. Dr. C. Jeyabalan a/l Chelliah above) and Interest-free Loans.

Financial Aids are given for Medical Expenses and Living Expenses. Medical Expenses refer to the cost of surgery or treatment of various ailments for the applicant and/

or his/her family at a local government hospital. These include medical expenses of the physically challenged for the applicant and/or his/her family. The maximum limit of assistance is RM 15,000 per annum.



Living Expenses refer to the support for the applicant and his/her family in cases of temporary or permanent disability of the applicant exceeding 6 months as a result of accident or illness, when the employer is unable to render support. The maximum limit of assistance is RM 1,000 per month to be reviewed every 6 months. These include expenses of the pastor's or full-time worker's family in cases of sudden death of the pastor or full-time worker. The maximum limit of assistance is RM 15,000 in a lump sum.

Interest-free Loans are given for the support of a child's education at a local college or university only, which includes enrolment in a twinning programme up to a Bachelor's degree. The maximum limit of assistance is RM 20,000 for the entire duration of the programme. Repayment of the loan by monthly instalments commences upon the first drawdown of the loan.

How to Apply for Financial Assistance

Applicants must be Malaysians attached to a church or para-church organisation in Malaysia who are members of NECF Malaysia. Application is on a prescribed form obtainable from the NECF Office which has to be duly completed and sent to NECF. If the basic criteria are met and the need is deemed reasonable, the applicant shall be called for an interview with the NECF Foundation Board. The case will then be tabled before the next Board meeting for approval.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF



Harvest Comes with Responsibilities

40-Day Fast and Pray 2018

By Rev Looi Kok Kim

The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the labourers *are* few...! This is the theme taken from Matthew 8:35-38 for the 40-Day Fast and Pray this year. The highly anticipated launch was held at Full Gospel Assembly Kuala Lumpur on 1st August with more than 500 pastors, full-time workers and lay Christians gathered to pray. The highlights of the launch were the testimony of YB Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment, and the dedication of the Covenant-Keeper Accountability cards. The closure of the 40-Day Fast and Pray was the Malaysia Day Prayer Rally held at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang Jaya on 16 September, and attended by many pastors and over a 1000 people from the Klang Valley and nearby area churches. All came together with great enthusiasm to pray for the churches, the new government, and the nation.

At the launch of the 40-Day Fast and Pray, YB Yeo shared a truly inspiring testimony of her journey in her prayer life during her first year in the university eighteen years ago. At that time, she had picked up the NECF's 40-day Fast and Pray booklet and since then she has been using the prayer guide to fast and pray for the nation. When she was elected as a member of the Selangor State Assembly for Damansara Utama, she realized that position and power always come with privileges. But unguarded hearts can reap selfish agendas. When given the position and power to lead towards systemic change in a nation, there is a great responsibility to guard our hearts and to guard the discipline to walk intimately with God in His presence. This is the first priority of one's daily lifestyle. She shared

about her faithfulness in prolonged fasting and prayers for the will and purpose of God to be done in her life. She succinctly testified that it was the mercy and the favour of God that the General Elections (GE) 14 on 9 May brought about the change of government and a new Malaysia. As God has given a good start for His righteousness to reign, the harvest of hope is in the air.



YB Yeo reinforced her point on persistent fasting and prayer for the coming 40 days by encouraging the congregation to pray for the nation. She quoted the parable of the ten virgins where only the five virgins who were prepared by carrying the extra oil were able to enter with the bridegroom i.e. Jesus Christ to the wedding banquet. The journey that leads to a new transformation indeed needs prayers and

wisdom in grooming the next generation of leaders to love God and to value righteousness.

The Malaysia Day Prayer Rally on 16 September began with a grand colourful opening by the youth carrying and parading the 14 state flags. The national anthem was sung with great gusto and a sense of great awe and respect signifying a new Malaysia. The presence of God was ushered in during a wonderful time of uplifting worship and praise by the congregation led by the worship team of singers and musicians. Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng, NECF Chairman, shared a stirring message on the tale of two brothers who brought their offerings to God. He highlighted the five things to avoid if we want revival ushered into our land (as stated in Genesis 4: 1-15).



Firstly, the Corruption of Worship (Genesis 4:1-5). Do we honour God with our best on Sunday? We need to check our hearts. We should avoid coming late to church, avoid offering worship that is not Christo-centric and avoid giving our second-best offerings.

Secondly, Crouching of Sin at the Door (Genesis 4:6-7). We should avoid unholy deeds crouching at the door of the Church of God. These include pornography attacking our homes, couples living together before marriage and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual (LGBT) syncretism and extra-marital affairs.

Thirdly, a Commitment of Murder (Genesis 4:8-9). Like Cain, we can kill the move of God because of jealousy of our brother's worship and an unwillingness to obey God's requirements for true worship.

Fourthly, the Cry of the Blood (Genesis 4:10). There is a great urgency to save the lost. Millions are lost in eternity because we have failed as watchmen. Many churches are stunted with blood crying out in our backyard. Indeed the laborers are few and the need to go out is pressing.

Finally, the Curse of the Lord (Genesis 4:11-15). Cain became a fugitive and a vagabond. Instead of blessings we could end up with curses.

Rev Dr Eu challenged the Church to seek His face, and the pastors to ask God for the grace to minister as revivalists in our nation. He then drew lessons for the Malaysian Church from the Hebrides, the Welsh, the Moravian and the Pensacola revivals.

The congregation then formed into small groups to pray for items which included thanksgiving, revival in the Church, the new government, and the nation. This was followed by the congregation proclaiming aloud the Declaration led by Rev Ong Sek Leang, the Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Malaysia.

The sweet aroma of the powerful anointing presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt throughout the prayer rally. Many who came have been blessed with a renewed sense of faith and hope for transformation of the Church and nation.

The Malaysia Day Prayer Rally ended with a loud emphatic declaration that *Jesus is the Lord of this nation and He will fulfill His Purpose for Malaysia.*



Looi Kok Kim is the Chairman of NECF's Prayer Commission and the Senior Pastor of Charis Sanctuary (AG), Kuala Lumpur

NECF welcomes new members

Church	Pastor	City / Town
Ordinary Members		
Global Missional Church	Rev Moses Jayaseelan	Shah Alam
Neighbour Grace Assembly	Pr Goh Cheng Kooi	Seremban
New Creation Life EFC	Pr Christopher Victor	Puchong
Gereja Pentekosta Malaysia, Penang	Pr Tangaveloo A/L Murugan	Air Itam
City Hope Community Church	Pr John Ling Soon Yew	Kajang
Emmanuel Revival Church	Pr Daniel Saravanan	Kota Tinggi
Sungai Jerik Christian Church	Pr Yeng Siew Chui	Bandar Jengka

Dedication of a Fresh Altar to mark a New Era

By Pr Sam Ang Eng Hoe

In Sabah the theme for the Malaysia Day celebration was **Perayaan Kesyukuran - Era Baru (Celebration of Thanksgiving - New Era)**, held at Taman Awam, Teluk Likas, Fasa II, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from 7.00am-8.30am on Sunday morning. It was jointly organized by Sabah Council of Churches (SCC) and Commission of Sabah Affairs (COSA).

It was a historical moment because ten years ago in 2009, the Sabah churches had built an altar (below) at Arena Astaka of which the stones represented the various states of Malaysia. The white stone that was finally placed on top represented the church of Malaysia.

Ten years have passed and God's goodness, favour and faithfulness have been experienced by the Sabah Churches. Therefore, a fresh altar with the theme **ERA BARU** was dedicated as seen in the photo below. This was done without knowing that at the Malaysia Day Celebration at National Level in Kota Kinabalu that same night the pledge would be made for **"Sabah, Sarawak to be restored as equal partners."**

To seal the event, a **Letter to God** was read out in Bahasa Malaysia and signed by both SCC and COSA represented by Bishop James Wong and Pastor Chin Chi Kiong respectively. The contents of the letter are as given below:



Letter to God

To you, O Lord, our God in heaven, the Creator of all things and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say, "Thank You, and praise You" because You heard our prayers. You opened the door of grace for us and our nation. We made a covenant with You and You honoured that covenant. You led us in our encounters of spiritual warfare and by Your power and glory You defeated all Your enemies.

Now O Lord, far be it from us that we should abandon You as our Lord and serve other gods. You are our God and You have been with us since 16 September, 1963. We will continue to commit to serve You and to obey Your voice in the land that You have given us.

On behalf of our nation, we set a new Altar for You in the New Malaysia in the New Era. We will continue to roar in our land and we reject and abandon all the ancient gods of our land and the false gods that have become Your enemies in our land.

Oh Lord our God, rule and reign in our nation and by Your Spirit Who is in us we will become Your salt and light and roar against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in the high places.

*Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever and ever. **AMEN.***

There were about 400 people who attended the event and the celebration was significant as the Sabah churches are currently experiencing pockets of revival. All Power and Glory belong to God forever and ever. AMEN.



Pr Sam Ang Eng Hoe is the Honorary Treasurer of NECF. He is also a pastor at Petaling Jaya Evangelical Free Church.

Evangelical Churches in Sarawak met for Consultation

By Magdeline Teruki



Group photo of ECOSA Consultation representatives from the evangelical churches in Sarawak

The Evangelical Churches Of Sarawak Affairs or in short ECOSA was formally established on 20 June, 2017 under NECF to represent the evangelical churches in Sarawak. The Pro Tem Committee is headed by Rev. Dato' Dr. Justin Wan, the President of Borneo Evangelical Mission, Sarawak. In view of vastness of the state of Sarawak and to ensure the effectiveness of ECOSA it was deemed necessary that three committees be formed for the Northern, Central and Southern regions. ECOSA held its first consultation meeting in Sibu from 24 to 26 July, 2018 to set up these regional committees and to formulate the Way Forward for the period 2018 to 2019.

The meeting with the theme; "Transforming Nation through the Local Church" brought together 36 representatives from the evangelical churches in Sarawak and 8 NECF staff.

The NECF staff took the evening of 24 July to explain the objectives of ECOSA. On the morning of 25 July, some Christian Non-Government Organisations which were specially invited for the meeting shared on their specialised ministries which ECOSA can tap upon and a joint plan forward was formulated. This was then followed by the appointment of the ECOSA Regional Committee members.

On the morning of 25 July, the representatives spent most of the day and evening formulating urgent initiatives to implement for the remaining of the year 2018 and also 2019 in order to address some serious socio-political-economic issues in their respective regions.

The representatives of the respective ECOSA Regional Committees presented their proposals for the Way Forward on the last day of the meeting. A lot of feedback was received and incorporated into the Way Forward.

The final day of the meeting adjourned with a consensus to have the first review meeting on November 2018.



Magdeline Teruki is the Executive Secretary of ECOSA. She is a member of the General Council for Borneo Evangelical Mission (BEM) Sarawak and worships at BEM Canada Hill, Miri, Sarawak.

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Selangor
10 November 2018
Full Gospel Tabernacle,
Wisma Eagles, Subang

Penang
13 November 2018
Georgetown Baptist Church

Malacca
17 November 2018
City Community Church

8.30am to 4.45pm

RM30 (for tea-break, lunch and training materials)

For more information & registration please visit www.necf.org.my

Merry Christmas

NECF Council & Staff
Wish All Readers
A Blessed Christmas &
A Fruitful New Year