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## Uncharted Waters

The world has changed and the church must adapt to the change as we observe that life is unpredictable and uncontrollable. There were too many things that happened to our nation at the close of the year such as the unexpected results of the GE15 and the unfortunate Batang Kali landslide that took 31 lives.

We wobbled into the year 2023, like entering into "Uncharted Waters" with fear and trembling. What we Malaysians had experienced in the last 5 years, we pray that it would not be repeated.

The setbacks that we faced as a nation were not pleasant and many had been praying that we do not have to experience them again, and plead to the Lord to give us a stable government for the coming five years. Therefore, the church needs to continue to uphold the government of today in prayer.

NECF as the national evangelical body is planning for a National Pastors and Leaders Conference in May 23-25 (Tuesday-Thursday) 2023, with the theme "Empowered From on High" - Acts 1:8. It would be a time that we seek to encourage and refresh each other, as Malaysia celebrates 60 years of its formation.

The two-year pandemic had wholly reshaped our lives, coupled with leadership instability and economic downturn which added more disruption to the local church. The attendance of the church has not reached the level before these disasters struck us. It is time to reset, re-vision and restore the church to remind her of the Great Commission mandate.

The Church needs to remember her calling as the Bride of Christ and to prepare for the return of the Bridegroom. With events that are happening round the world, we have chosen the theme, "The Urgency of The Times" as this year's NECF 40-Day Fast and Prayer.

I pray that with these two national events for this year, we could look forward to your participation and support as the Malaysian Church will have to take the lead to make Christ known across the nation.

God Bless you!



**Pastor Samuel Ang**  
Secretary-General



# Turn From Idols

This month, Jan 2023, my wife Gaik Sim and I celebrate our 54th spiritual birthday. Growing up as young Christians, we had it ingrained in us - beware of besetting sins, set aside idols, always come clean in your daily walk with God.

I thank God all of us have this privilege to see 2023. We are not only alive, but most of us are found in the House of the Lord, have a passion for souls, and are faithfully serving the Lord.

We have had the privilege to witness and live through the Charismatic, Toronto and Pensacola revivals. Literally millions were touched and renewed. When we visited Toronto and Pensacola, we saw God literally and miraculously move and change lives.

One testimony still fresh in our minds was of a young lady. Before she stepped into the water to be baptised, the pastor held up a key, saying - "this is the key to the venue where she would regularly go to meet a married man, to commit adultery. Today as she takes this step of water baptism, she is surrendering this key to be thrown away, and repents of her life of sin."

One thing we have learned is that every revival and renewal comes like waves. As with the ocean's waves, when they recede, debris is often left on the beach. And if God's people want to stay renewed and refreshed, we must not cling onto the debris exposed by the Holy Spirit.

All manner of uncleanness and idolatry must be gotten rid of.

We cannot afford to ignore the onslaught of the "isms" in Church today - materialism, secularism, polytheism, humanism, narcissism, racism, individualism, liberalism. The list is almost endless.

Political Christianity is emerging; failed succession plans are often based on secular models; God's will is too often ignored by the generation who are not diligent to seek Him like Jacob. We seek prophetic input not to obey, but because we are curious about the future. Apostolic ministries don't seem to be able to move unless "business

class" is on the table, and they seem almost always motivated to minister in "big gatherings" only.

Yes, under a beguiled Aaron-like leadership, we are busy dancing before our golden calf.

As we start a new year, there is only one way, to do it. Like David, we must have clean hands, pure hearts, and our souls purged from idols (Psa 24:4).

I want to claim this promise for 2023 - "He shall receive blessing from the LORD" (Psa 24:5a). This is only possible, if we are willing to allow our souls to be purged from idols.

In the song Que Sera Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be), the little girl asks her mother, "What will I be? Will I be pretty? Will I be rich?" Today, we similarly ask God for blessings of health and wealth; we move from church to church with no regards to our spiritual inheritance. The Church cannot be told to move out like Abraham. The generation of pioneers is becoming extinct. Yes, we ask God what we will be ... but mainly for our own desires.

Perhaps only two questions need to be asked which were asked by King David:

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? (Psa 24:3)

When we first got saved, we learned to "turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 These 1:9).

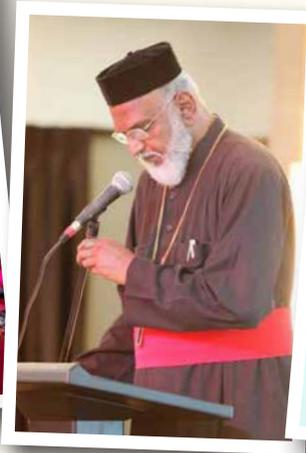
Today, easily 60 percent of the Church are not in active service. No doubt, there is an iceberg of idols not seen on the surface.

I pray in 2023, we will be turn from idols.



**Eu Hong Seng**  
NECF Chairman

# Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM)'s 2022 Christmas Hi-Tea Reception



The CFM's 2022 Christmas Hi-Tea Reception was held on December 17 at the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM)'s Ecumenical Centre in Petaling Jaya. It was held after the conclusion of the 15th General Election and the formation of a unity government led by the new Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat (YAB) Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Among the distinguished guests present were the Yang Berbahagia Dato' Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, wife of the Prime Minister, Yang Berhormat Hannah Yeoh, Minister of Youth and Sports and Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi, Minister of Works.

In his speech, Cor Episcopa Philip Thomas, CFM Chairman and President of the Council of Churches of Malaysia briefly shared that Christmas is actually about the birth of a Saviour who came to bring reconciliation, peace, hope and love to the world. In the spirit of Christmas he called on Christians to show the love of God by being ready to serve the needs of fellow Malaysians who are faced with a possibility of a global recession, the expected monsoon flood and aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. With regards to the political state of the nation, he called on Christians to push for a greater nation-building resolve to forge a united and resilient Malaysia. Finally he called on Christians to remember in their prayers for all the victims of the recent landslide in



Batang Kali; for the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Rulers, Governors and political leaders; and the Prime Minister and his cabinet members.

Dato' Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail who represented the Prime Minister, began her brief speech by stating that Islam and Christianity have some common similarities such as the belief in the birth of Christ. She also made a remark that she was raised in a convent school. Thereafter, she made reference to Malaysia's Independence Day and the need for all Malaysians to come together and rebuild the nation. In conclusion, she wished all Malaysian Christians a harmonious and prosperous Christmas.

Following the speeches, several stage performances were held. The reception ended with a group photo session.

# 2022 East Coast Flood Response

The East Coast flood affair is an annual occurrence due to the end of the year monsoon season. Thankfully, the predicted widespread flood by the Malaysia Meteorological Department didn't occur. Based on local assessment and feedback by government and non-government agencies, this year's flood had a ten percent impact compared to 2014/2015 flood. Nevertheless, many areas were still affected by the monsoon flood and our National Crisis Relief Network (NCRN) initiated by NECF in partnership with the local Disaster Response Network and churches were able to offer some needed assistance as captured in the following pictures:

## Kampung Durian Mentangau Dungun



*Food supplies for 40 Orang Asli families in Kampung Orang Asli Durian Mentangau Dungun which was cut off by flood waters. Food supply was provided by Elim Harvest Assembly Dungun and delivered with the help of Bomba and Asia Crisis Response Alliance (ACRA - a partner of NCRN).*

## Kampung Putat 7 Pasir Mas



*Food supplies for 48 families in Kampung Putat 7 Pasir Mas which was cut off by flood waters. Food supplies provided by Grad Tiding Petaling Jaya, procured with the assistance of the Kelantan Disaster Response Network (KDRN - a partner of NCRN) and delivered via boat by ACRA.*

## Kampung Teraji Pasir Mas



*Crisis Relief Services & Training (CREST) with KDRN and Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM) conducted rapid assessment at Kampung Teraji Pasir Mas. CREST loaned two of their water jets to APM for cleaning operations.*

## Taman Bukit Sirih & Taman Warisan Kuala Krai



*Cooking hardware and mattresses for 220 families in Kuala Krai that was hit by up to seven feet of flood waters. Items were provided by the Methodist Crisis Relief & Development (MCRD - a partner of NCRN) and delivered with KDRN and Kuala Krai Local Coordination Centre (LCC) Team assistance*

## Kuala Pertang Kuala Krai



*Cooking items, mattresses and food bags for 112 families in Kuala Pertang Kuala Krai that was hit by up to twelve feet of flood waters. Cooking items and mattresses were supplied by Holistic Intergrated Services (7979 HISTEAM - a partner of NCRN) and food bags by MCRD. Items were distributed by 7979 HISTEAM and KDRN*

## SJK(C) Chung Hwa Jerteh



*Replacement cupboards, desks and chairs that were damaged or swept away by flood waters for SJK(C) Chung Hwa Jerteh donated and delivered by MCRD after assessment and info from KDRN.*

NECF would like to thank all of our partnes and churches who came forward to collaborate and contribute towards the recent flood relief efforts in the East Coast.

# NECF 2023 Calendar

Date	Event	Host	Location
<b>JANUARY</b>			
11	Pastors And Leaders Annual Gathering	Tamil Com	
19	CNY Exco & Staff Lunch		
18-25	Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity	CFM	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
10-12	OA School Teachers Training	OA Com	Canaan Valley, Serendah
<b>MARCH</b>			
4	Tamil Women Of Destiny Conference	Tam Com	Sg Petani
14-16	Chinese Pastors Silent Retreat	Chinese Com	OMF Cameron
14-16	Crisis Relief Network Gathering	FGCJB-JBPF	Johor Bahru
<b>MAY</b>			
4-6	OA Pastors' Retreat	OA Com	Grand Kampar Hotel
23-25	National Pastors Conference With Pr Al Toledo	NECF	Wisma Eagles Subang Jaya
<b>JUNE</b>			
2-3	Tamil YouthNet Conference	Tamil Com	KL
4-6	Chinese National Prayer Camp	Chinese Com	Grand Kampar Hotel
<b>AUGUST</b>			
1-7	40-Day Fast & Prayer Launches	All	
7	40-Day Fast & Prayer Begins	All	
31	Barnabas for OA	Chinese Com	TBC
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
1-2	Barnabas for OA	Chinese Com	TBC
3-5	Tamil Pastors Kids Camp	Tamil Com	Tapah
TBC	Malaysia Day Celebration	NECF	
19-20	Leadership Conference With Dr Jim Rion	AG&NECF	
25-27	Chinese Pastors' Care Retreat	Chinese Com	Beacon Resort, Tg Malim
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
1-31	Prayer Shield For Pastors	All	
	Commission Planning Retreat for 2024	All	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
6-8	Staff Planning Retreat for 2024	Office	
10-13	Chinese National Youth Leader Training Camp	Chinese Com	TBC
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
TBC	CFM Christmas Hi-Tea	CFM - Catholic	

**SAVE THE DATE**

# NATIONAL PASTORS AND LEADERS CONFERENCE 2023

## DATE

23 - 25 MAY 2023

## VENUE

Wisma Eagles  
No 5, Jalan TP4  
Taman Perindustrian UEP  
47600 Subang Jaya  
Selangor



## SPEAKER

### PASTOR AL TOLEDO

LEAD PASTOR  
CHICAGO TABERNACLE

Pastor Al Toledo is a husband, father, grandfather, and Lead Pastor of Chicago Tabernacle and Philadelphia Tabernacle.

He was headed for a promising career as a professional baseball player when God saved him on the baseball field. While attending the Brooklyn Tabernacle, Pastor Al became friends with Chrissy Cymbala, and in time, they fell in love and both felt a call to serve the Lord together. They married in 1992 and began serving in full time ministry. After several years in pastoral ministry, Pastor Al, Chrissy, and their family moved to Chicago in 2002, to plant Chicago Tabernacle, a multi-ethnic and vibrant church. Over the past 20 plus years, Chicago Tabernacle has experienced God do above and beyond what they could ask or imagine. In 2022, through a series of miracles, Philadelphia Tabernacle was launched as the first multi-site campus and is already seeing God move in incredible ways!

Pastor Al lives with a fervent desire to see people become all God has called them to be. He is the Founder of DNA of a Leader, a leadership training launched in 2012 to staff and lay leaders at Chicago Tabernacle, emanating from his over 25 years of ministry experience. Since then DNA has been taught globally, in multiple seminaries, and in various cities.

**NECF**  
MALAYSIA



# Urgency of the times

(Luke 14:23)

**4** **DAYS**

**FAST & PRAYER**

**7.8 - 15.9 2023**

**NECF**  
MALAYSIA