

# Nothing Shall Remain The Same

*thus says the Lord GOD: "Remove the turban, and take off the crown; **Nothing shall remain the same.** Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted. Ezekiel 21:26 (NKJV)*

The world is fast changing. Growing darkness is sweeping across and overshadowing nations and continents. The tide of wickedness is rising.

Recently, when a French-Algerian teenager was shot by the police, riots and unrest broke out with the burning of public facilities and police stations in numerous cities in France, even spreading to other European countries. Endemic and institutional racism is emerging. Lawlessness is no longer so easily explained away. Shootings in schools and colleges in the US are today not uncommon news.

The LGBTQ issue has become the new faultline of the Church. Pride parades are unashamedly promoted, as the concept of the "pride month."

It's time for the Church to be reminded of Daniel's prophetic warning - "One like the Son of Man" shall come with the clouds of heaven! [Daniel 7:13].

And that this shall take place "when the transgressors have reached their fullness" [Daniel 8:23].

Ezekiel, a compatriot of Daniel, cautions in the OT of the impending Babylonian captivity - "I will draw My sword out of its sheath ..." [Ezekiel 21:3]. Ezekiel bluntly declares "you have made your iniquity to be remembered ... your transgressions are uncovered ... your sins appear" [Ezekiel 21:24]. It's not just an issue of sin. God's people have become guilty of the whole gamut of iniquity, transgressions and sins.

Ezekiel then pronounces God's indictment -

*thus says the Lord GOD: "... **Nothing shall remain the same.** Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted. Ezekiel 21:26 (NKJV)*

The context of this prophetic word is found in Ezekiel 20:1 - "in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month". This occurred in approximately 590 BC. The destruction of Jerusalem took place shortly after, circa 588-586 BC.<sup>1</sup>

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The Open Bible tells us that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages. First, in 605 B.C., he overcame Jehoiakim and carried off key hostages including Daniel and his friends. Second, in 597 B.C., the rebellion of Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin brought further punishment; and Nebuchadnezzar made Jerusalem submit a second time. He carried off ten thousand hostages including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel. Third, in 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city after a long siege and disrupted all of Judah.<sup>2</sup>

Hence the warning that “nothing shall remain the same” appears like a near-final message of doom, just before the last and final [third] captivity. The last king Zedekiah would lose his crown, and the kingdom of Judah would end.

Whilst we pray for our nation, the world (our mission field), and our churches – for revival, for a move of God, for *things to improve*, we need to recognize that His Coming is fast approaching, and the parousia writings tell us things can only and will *get worse*.

Never has it been more clear than today that foolish virgins are refusing *to retain God in their knowledge*. Consequently, God is giving us *over to a debased mind* – Rom 1:28-31. The apostle Paul describes mankind as wicked, sexually immoral, malicious, full of envy, murder, strife, evil-minded, haters of God, violent inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, and deserving of death.

The last pandemic taught us that the Church is not going to be the same anymore. The stubborn company who has refused to hear the trumpet call<sup>3</sup> to gather, is not going to come back. The recalcitrant company who refused to enter Noah’s Ark to be saved, is with us. The mocking dissenters who lived till the last days in Sodom and Gomorrah will not relent. Revelation tells us the Seals, the Trumpets and the Bowls will be catastrophic and calamitous. Despite this, the final victory belongs to God’s chosen people.

When God deals, nothing shall remain the same.

Whilst waiting for the final blow as “the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the road, at the fork of the two roads” [Ezekiel 21:21], the prophet Ezekiel is further instructed to uncompromisingly preach to His people **“show her all her abominations”** [Ezekiel 22:2]. **This is prophetic of the compelling need in our present-day Church.** The divine countdown to Judah’s end (our end) is well advanced– this is similarly true today.

Nobody likes to be told where we are erroneous and wicked. Besides Paul’s list, the slumbering Church’s list surely includes stubborn idolatry, corruption of worship, obstinate refusal to make disciples, indiscipline in devotional life, and the entertainment atmosphere which is a cover-up for the Ichabod phenomenon in our services. The list is just too long.

Nothing shall remain the same. Zedekiah would be dethroned and humiliated and all would be lost. Today’s generation too often presumes the worst possible scenario would be just the “same old, same old.” No, it’s going to be much worse, before the coming of the King of kings.

Men of God would presumptuously seek a word from the Lord. But God’s terse response would be “I will not be inquired of by you” [Ezekiel 20:3b].

Yes, we need this voice in the wilderness, before His Second Coming, to “make known to them the abominations of their fathers” [Ezekiel 20:4]. And again, in Ezekiel 22:2 “declare to her all her abominations” [ESV].

My prayer is that God would raise Ezekiels in our midst, men whose hearts are broken [over the backslidden Church]. Men who would groan with bitter grief because of the prodigal Church.<sup>4</sup> Men who are bold to confront our generation – the abominations we shamelessly commit whilst raising hands in His sanctuary.<sup>5</sup>

**Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng**  
NECF, Chairman.

12th July 2023

<sup>1</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary: The Prophets (Ezekiel)*, electronic ed., vol. 25 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 103.

<sup>2</sup> *The Open Bible: New King James Version*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998).

<sup>3</sup> Like the trumpets call in Numbers 10

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 21:6 (NKJV) Sigh therefore, son of man, with a breaking heart, and sigh with bitterness before their eyes.

Ezekiel 21:6 (ESV) “As for you, son of man, groan; with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan before their eyes.

<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 22:2 (ESV) “And you, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Then declare to her all her abominations

# The CFM 2023-2024 Executive Committee

The following are the new Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) Executive Committee for the year 2023 to 2025 duly elected at the recent Biennial General Conference held at the CCM Ecumenical Center Petaling Jaya on the 17th of April 2023.

## CHAIRMAN

- Episcopa Philip Thomas

## VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Archbishop Dr Simon Poh Hoon Seng

## VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Bishop Datuk Danald Jute

## VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng

## HON SECRETARY

- Bishop Thomas Low Kok Chan



## ASSISTANT HON TREASURER

- Dato' Varghese George

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Ms Rita Sabrina Wong Kee Ling
- Ms Sharmila Sekarajasekaran
- Rev Foo Moy Peng
- Rev Datuk Ir Jerry Dusing
- Bishop Ong Sek Leang
- Rev Fr Xavier Andrew
- Mr Arokiadass Anthonysamy

## Ordinary Membership Approved From January to June 2023

	CHURCH	TOWN
1	Cross & Crown Church Penang	Georgetown
2	Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) Subang Perdana	Shah Alam
3	Sidang Injil Borneo Damansara Central (SIBDC)	Kota Damansara
4	Immanuel Tabernacle of Praise	Sitiawan
5	Emmanuel Evangelical Community Church	Skudai
6	Christ Gospel Church	Sitiawan
7	Victory Christian Centre	Ampang
8	Ipoh Agape Community Church	Menglembu
9	Agape Renewal Fellowship	Petaling Jaya
10	Cornerstone Immanuel	Shah Alam
11	New Covenant City Church	Georgetown
12	Revival of Latter Rain Church	Johor Bahru
13	Shepherd Church	Ipoh
14	Joshua Generation Christian Fellowship	Klang



# 2033

## WEA Joins Call to Global Church for a Decade of Great Commission Effort

The World Evangelical Alliance together with more than twenty global networks and ministries issued a call to the global Church for a decade of focusing on fulfilling the Great Commission. The statement follows a recent meeting of evangelical leaders hosted by Empowered21 Global Chair Dr. Billy Wilson and Dr. Rick Warren, Executive Director of Finishing the Task and Founding Pastor of Saddleback Church.

WEA Secretary General Bishop Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher and Deputy Secretary General for Ministries Rev. Samuel E. Chiang participated in the discussions and the writing of a commitment document. The participating 27 ministry leaders agreed to significant efforts over the next decade, including collaborating with one another, praying for the salvation of others, mobilizing followers of Jesus to join in the efforts, investing increased resources for evangelism and going with the good news to the ends of the earth.

Schirmmacher commented at that time that “after our meeting, the World Evangelical Alliance is even more committed to ‘2033.’ It was a great meeting of collaboration, planning and global leaders becoming friends for the gospel’s sake.”

As part of its journey towards 2033, the WEA will convene a Future of the Gospel Forum focused on key areas in society that are relevant for effective evangelism. The by-invitation-only event will be held on October 8-12, 2023 in Northern Cyprus and serve as a stepping stone towards the next WEA General Assembly in 2025.

“The rising global generation is perhaps the most cause-oriented generation in the history of the world. This call and clear statement from the leadership of the global Church to reach everyone in the world with the love, truth and power of Jesus is going to be incredibly appealing for a decade of unprecedented evangelism,” said Rob Hoskins, President of OneHope who also serves as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary General of the WEA.



*The WEA joined more than two dozen ministry and network leaders in New York City to plan for a decade of Great Commission efforts towards 2033. Photo (c) Martin Warnecke, WEA*

The following is the full statement:

### **2033 - A CALL TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH FOR A DECADE OF GREAT COMMISSION EFFORT**

Recognizing the need of the more than 8 billion individuals on earth to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ,

Believing that God our Savior has provided the way of salvation for all people through the mediating work of His Son and that it is not His will that any should perish but that everyone should come to repentance,

Responding to the commission of Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations, preaching the gospel to everyone in the power of the Holy Spirit,

Approaching the 2000 year anniversary of Christ's Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost,

We therefore unite to:

- Collaborate with one another toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission
- Pray for the salvation of our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the people of the nations of the world
- Mobilize the followers of Jesus entrusted to our ministry and local churches in reaching every person on earth with His grace and truth
- Invest increased resources in evangelistic efforts especially for people who have never heard the gospel
- Go with the good news using every means available so that everyone has the opportunity to know Jesus Christ.

We dedicate our lives to obeying Christ's command and call for the global Church to unite with us in making the next ten years the greatest decade of Great Commission effort in history.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 2:3-6; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15

# Report on Economic Crisis Assistance

## Introduction and Background

Sri Lanka's current economic crisis is rooted in several factors, including political instability, the COVID-19 pandemic, a declining tourism industry, and a high level of external debt. The political instability that has plagued the country in recent years has contributed to a lack of investor confidence, which has led to a decline in foreign investment. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these problems, causing a significant slowdown in economic activity and disrupting global supply chains. The tourism industry which contributes significantly to the revenue for Sri Lanka was hit hard by the pandemic. Travel restrictions and lockdowns have led to a sharp decline in tourist arrivals, causing a significant loss of revenue for the country.

Sri Lanka also faces a high level of external debt, which has been a cause for concern for many years. The country has struggled to repay its debts, and the COVID-19 pandemic along with the current economic recession has made it even more difficult to do so. The economic crisis has also had a significant impact on low-income families in Sri Lanka. Increase of inflation has made it even more difficult for families to afford basic necessities such as food and housing. Due to this unemployment has also risen in many sectors particularly in the tourism industry. The pandemic and the subsequent economic crisis has been a huge



challenge to bread winners as they are struggling to find jobs and provide for their families. The government implemented various measures to try and address the economic crisis, including seeking assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), increasing taxes, and implementing austerity measures. However, these measures have also had a negative impact on low-income families, as they resulted in higher prices for basic goods and services and reduced social spending on healthcare and education.

The National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL) is a non-profit organization that has been providing relief assistance and engaged in development activities in Sri Lanka for over 60 years. The NCEASL's work is driven by the belief that all people deserve to live with dignity and respect regardless of their background. In this report, we will outline the relief work carried out by the NCEASL, to support vulnerable communities affected by the current economic turmoil and natural disasters in Sri Lanka.

The NCEASL has been working tirelessly to support vulnerable communities affected by the economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. We have been at the forefront of assisting households struggling to access basic services and meet their daily needs. The NCEASL's work has been vital in ensuring that vulnerable communities, including war widows, single mothers, daily wage earners, people living in extreme poverty in the upcountry, and families of prisoners, receive the help they need during these difficult times. The NCEASL was able to reach out to over 3,100 families. Given below are the relief efforts carried out by the NCEASL with the support of **National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Malaysia**.



## Supporting Low Income Families in the North

The NCEASL has been providing relief assistance to low income families in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, as this region has been severely impacted by the economic crises especially the war widows and single mother's as well as many other families struggling to meet their daily needs. The NCEASL has been providing them with food assistance, dry rations to the vulnerable households in that region.



## Assisting People Affected by Floods and Landslides in the Upcountry

In February 2023, Sri Lanka experienced heavy rainfall, leading to floods and landslides in many parts of the country. The NCEASL responded by providing relief assistance to affected communities in the upcountry region, including those living under extreme poverty for over two centuries, with 98% of the population working as tea pluckers at the plantation sectors. The NCEASL provided cooked meals for those who were in temporary camps, food assistance, and hygiene kits to affected households.



## Supporting Families of Prisoners

The NCEASL has been providing support to families of prisoners affected by the economic crisis. Many families have lost their sources of income, making it difficult for them to provide for their loved ones. The NCEASL has been working with the Prison Fellowship of Sri Lanka to provide food assistance and other essentials, securing them with the resources they need to support their families.



## Thank you:

The NCEASL would like to express its gratitude to the **National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Malaysia** for its unwavering support in carrying out relief work in Sri Lanka. With the financial assistance received from the NECF, the NCEASL was able to reach more vulnerable communities and provide much needed relief assistance. The NCEASL appreciates the support of the Malaysian Evangelical Alliance and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.





# The NECF 40-Day Fast and Prayer

## The Urgency of the Times

The NECF 40-Day Fast and Prayer is an annual event that holds great significance among the churches of Malaysia. Ever since its commencement more than two decades ago, it has served to bring together Christians from diverse backgrounds and denominations into a season of fasting and prayer. During this period, believers across the land heed the call of Christ to seek first the Kingdom of God (Mat. 6:33) 'to reign over our lives, revive our churches and transform our nation.

In light of that, here are three key thoughts to remember as we embark on this 40 days:

### a) The spirit is one of Unity

What is one thing that has done more damage to the Church than anything else? Disunity would be a fair answer. Both the Old and New Testament highlight the importance of unity. Of greater significance, our Lord Jesus himself prayed that we would be one (Jn. 17:21). Regrettably, it is said that the problem with the Church today is not just that we are disunited but that we don't even care about it. Or do we?

Well, the collective participation in NECF 40 Day Fast and Prayer is us saying that we do, in fact, care about it. It shows that we are willing to walk together in spite of our differences. After all, the church is a family (Eph. 2:19) and like in any household there are bound to be disagreements. Nevertheless, we don't give up on one another. Instead we choose to unite around what we can all agree on - one of which is the need for corporate prayer.

Hence we do well to remember this is not just an individual endeavour but a shared spiritual journey. This is a collective movement of thousands of believers across Malaysia uniting as one voice to call upon the Name of the Lord. In days of old, when the trumpet was sounded the different tribes of Israel gather as one nation to war against the enemy (Num. 10:9). Likewise, even as the rallying call has gone out, may the different denominations gather as one to wage war in the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12). Together, in Christ, we shall overcome.

### b) The theme is one Urgency

This year, we have been led to unite around the theme: *"The Urgency of the Times"*. The Scriptural reference being Luke 14:23, taken from the Parable of the Great Banquet. The verse is a command to go out and bring in all who would receive the Masters Invitation.

Our God is the King who invites us to His table. There is always a place at his table for each and every one of us. That in itself is a marvellous thing. But we must not be complacent in that. Instead we must realise the there



are seats yet to be filled and it is our duty to bring the Great Invitation to others before the end of all things. Do these things still grip our hearts? Is there a sense of urgency even as we move each day closer to "the end."

In light of "the end", the Apostle Peter gave a warning and a way forward. He wrote, *"The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."* (1 Pt. 4:7). The last hour is upon us (1 Jn. 2:18). Yet, there are thousands upon thousands of souls who still need the Lord. Surely there is an urgency to go deeper in with prayer and further out with the gospel.

### c) The outcome is one of Unwavering Faith

A cynical question that one may ask is, *"We have been praying for years and there seems to be no improvement in our circumstances?"*

Well, even if that were true, I shudder to think what would have happened if the people of God had not been praying all these years. For we know it is God who holds back evil (2 Th. 2:7) and we know that He works in response to the prayers of His people (1 Jn 5:14). God has been good, God has been merciful, but let us not be presumptuous in our dealings with Him. Instead let us humble ourselves that we may stand firm to the end and be saved, come what may. Notwithstanding the state of the nation, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached and then the end will come (Mat. 24:14).

### Conclusion

Are you apathetic about the urgency of the times? Christ will awaken your heart as you fast and pray. Are you anxious about the urgency of the times? Christ will assuage your fears as you fast and pray. Only abide in Him and do not let this season pass you by - for your own sake and for the sake of the Nation, but above all for the sake of His Great and Glorious Name.



# National Conference Report for NECF Berita

The NECF Pastors and Leaders Conference was held at Wisma Eagles on May 23-25, 2023 at Subang Jaya. To create the event attraction, we launched the conference with a public meeting on Tuesday evening on May 23, and our speaker graced the session with the theme ***Reset by the Spirit.***

Pastor Al Toledo who hails from Chicago Tabernacle Church was our conference speaker and took six sessions with the following titles.

***Reset by the Spirit***

***Reset your Faith***

***Reset your Team***

***Reset your Resolve***

***Reset your Personal Stewardship***

***Reset your Personal Altar***

***Session 1 (night)***

***Session 2 (morning)***

***Session 3 (morning)***

***Session 4 (night)***

***Session 5 (morning)***

***Session 6 (morning)***

The purpose of the conference was to bless both Pastors and Leaders for their sacrifice in providing the pastoral care and nurturing during the pandemic period. We managed to serve over 400 pastors/leaders representing 129 churches including East Malaysia. Hotel accommodation was also arranged for those who came from outstation with the partnership from Full Gospel Business Fellowship.







The feedback from the participants was encouraging and we are pleased to highlight some of them below.

*We had a tremendous Conference on 23-25 May organized by NECF.*

*Our speaker, Al Toledo gave a highly anointed message covering the importance of our personal prayer altar and our personal stewardship / servanthood which can impact our nation and lead to revival and transformation in our land.*

*The participants were greatly inspired as our tears flowed freely in anticipation of the immense rain (salvation and healing) that will fall on our nation!*

*Be prepared!*

Michael Cheng from FGBMFI

*I was glad that I made it to the conference with 4 of my leaders. The conference was very beneficial indeed. The morning worship and devotion for the 2 days drew us to focus on the Lord and to hear from Him on His heart for His church in Malaysia. Pastor Hong Seng and Pastor Ong who are well versed with the conditions of the churches in our Malaysian context spoke passionately under the anointing of the Spirit.*

*The plenary sessions by Pastor Al Toledo were excellent. He does not just preach on the relevant topics on RESET but also brought us to respond together to the messages with prayer and altar calls.*

*We did not just get good biblical and practical messages but we also received strong impartation flowing from the LORD's throne to us.*

*The teachings on the necessity of both having an Altar that is always on fire and effective Stewardship of His calling with discipline and fruitfulness was very clear. We as pastors need to model a life of Altar and Stewardship and then disciple our leaders and members to live as such.*

*The time where we can catch up with one another in fellowship was so good as we have missed that for the past 3 years.*

*All in all, an excellent Pastors and Leaders' conference. Thank you NECF for organising the conference.*

Khor Hoe Chai from The Hope of Glory Centre

*I was blessed at the Conference. The speaker, Pastor Al Toledo, spoke with passion, clarity, and humility. The prayer moments during the message time were meaningful, and allowed the conferees to actively participate in the listening to and appropriating of the Word shared.*

*Pastor Al unpacked the theme – RESET– into six relevant areas of Christian conduct/commitment. The thoughts on Reset by the Spirit, Reset Your Personal Stewardship and Reset Your Personal Altar were notably constructive for me. The gracious and generous hospitality of FGT capped an edifying conference.*

Goh Poh Gaik



# Young Men with Holy Habits

*What young men will be, in all probability, depends on what they are now. Young men seem to forget this.*

I am a pastor, and my occupational duty requires me to read. So for the past 35 years, I have acquired literally tons of books. My office, my house, and even my bedroom are all inundated with books. Some I remember buying, and some I remember receiving as gifts. I don't remember whether I received or bought J.C. Ryle's *Thoughts for Young Men*, but I do know this: God used it to permanently change me.

I have read and reread this book over and over and over again. I have shared it over and over and over again. I love the whole book, but particularly a section titled "How Young Men Turn Out Depends Largely on What They are Now." As a twentysomething who passionately desired to know and please God, what I read changed me.

Another reason I want to encourage you is this: what young men will be, in all probability, depends on what they are now. Young men seem to forget this. . . . Why do I say all this? I say it because habits are hard to break. . . . Habits have long roots. If sin is allowed to make its home in your heart, it will not be evicted at your command. Habit becomes second nature; and its chains are like "a threefold cord (which) is not quickly broken." . . . Habits, like trees, are strengthened by age. A child can bend an oak when it is still a young sapling; but a hundred men cannot root it up when it is a full-grown tree. . . . Habits of good or habits of evil are growing stronger in your heart each day. Every day you are either getting nearer to God, or further away. Every year that you continue to be unrepentant, the wall of division between you and heaven becomes higher and thicker; the gulf to be crossed becomes deeper and broader. Be afraid of the hardening effect of lingering in sin day after day! Now is the time to do something about it. (*Thoughts for Young Men*, 15, 17–18)

Through Ryle's pen, God inflamed two desires in me that grew into holy habits in my Christian walk — one desire was for a healthy fear of my sin, and the other was a longing to please God.

## **Flee Sinful Habits**

Life is directional, and walking the wrong way leads to deeper and deeper entanglements into sin. Like a child fearful of getting lost, I feared yanking my hand away from my Father's and drifting away from him into sin. God motivated me through Ryle's admonition to develop the habits of shunning folly and seeking wisdom, which come from fearing God.

By the grace of God, I developed real transparent relationships and friendships where accountability was expected and practiced. God stirred my heart to flee from my former sinful habits rather than to compromise with them. He led me to seek, find, and listen to counsel from older and wise believers.

If you are an older man or woman reading this, I encourage you to seek out young men and women and teach them this truth. The eternal well-being of



our souls depends on fighting sin by God's grace rather than yielding to it and assuming that with God there is sin-permitting grace (Romans 6:1–2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8). Satan hisses his lie in every young believer's ear that God's laws are too harsh and sin is too delightful to reject. Tell them the truth! Sin enslaves and leads to death, but knowing God through Christ will immeasurably satisfy us more than any worldly gain can (Philippians 3:8). Therefore, no one can be too radical in putting to death habits that lead to sin (Matthew 5:29–30; Colossians 3:5).

## **Build Holy Habits**

God also used Ryle to teach me the sanctifying power of holy habits. We experience this dynamic in all our relationships. We grow closer to someone or move further away from them depending on the habits we practice. Holy habits are means of grace that fan the flame of your love for God and keep his love for you before your eyes. Simply put, God gave me a passionate desire to experience him through his sanctifying means of grace.

I developed a habit of praying as soon as I woke up each morning. I committed to reading the Bible no matter how busy my schedule became. So when big school projects were due, midterms came around, and finals arrived, you'd still find me in the library at lunchtime, reading my Bible. As weeks turned into months, and months into years, and now years into decades, my commitments turned into lifelong habits. Those holy habits enabled me, through God's grace, to grow in the knowledge of my God and his love for me.

In addition to Sunday-morning worship, I also committed to attending Sunday school and a midweek Bible study. There I learned how to study my Bible. I learned theology. I learned key books of the Bible. I learned practical theologies, like how to share the gospel and how to disciple or lead a small group. I marvel at how easily Christians neglect making fellowship a pillar habit in their lives.



Consider 2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace.” On the one hand, Paul commands Timothy as a young man to flee youthful passion and to pursue godly virtues. And then he encourages him not to do that alone, but to do so “along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” You see the point. To fail to make fellowship with godly believers an uncompromising habit is to forfeit a powerful means of grace that will help you fight against sin and pursue godliness. Young readers, I pray that you will be wise and listen as I add my testimony to Ryle’s exhortation.

### Learn from a Dead Man

What I am saying about these habits isn’t a profound insight. Why would we expect the means of grace that sanctify us to be too complicated for a babe in Christ to understand and apply? God deals with us as his children and feeds us accordingly so that we can grow. What Ryle encourages his young readers to do is what the Scripture says the earliest believers did, devoting “themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

When I first read his life-changing book, it had already been well over a hundred years since Ryle had gone to be with the Lord. That didn’t hinder God from using his keenly crafted words to disciple this newly saved urban kid sitting in secular classrooms at UCLA. If Christ

carries another hundred years, I’m sure there will be countless more young Bobby Scotts out there who, as young believers, need to be confronted and exhorted. I pray that you and I will be faithful to join him in calling young men to these holy habits.



*Bobby Scott (@pastorbbscott) pastors Community of Faith Bible Church in the Los Angeles area. He cherishes his devoted wife, Naomi, and his six children. It is his consuming desire to be used by God to strengthen the urban church, and he believes this objective will be best met by building families and developing a ministry upon the teaching of the word of God.*

## School of Tomorrow Training for the OA

50 adults in a room powering their way through the “Ants on an Apple” phonics song was not how I envisioned a training session for the OA would be. However, in that moment, what came shining through was the passion and the commitment that everyone there had towards improving the educational opportunities of the most marginalized of our countrymen.

We, at St. Mary’s Agape Mission School, have been running a modified version of the School of Tomorrow ACE® (Accelerated Christian Education) for over 8 years. It is heavily phonics based and we have seen remarkable achievements in the non-English speaking refugee community that we serve. As such, when Dr Ngeh Hoong Eng of the NECF approached me to train people interested in working with the OA in the way we run this program, our team was most excited! We are getting refugee children who have zero English, to fluently read and write in a few short years, so why not use the same system with our OA who currently have no access to education?

Personally speaking, this was an amazing weekend. Catching up with old friends - Datin Mary Vun, the ACE country consultant for Malaysia also attended with colleagues who were interested in OA work, meeting people so passionate about reaching the OA, meeting OA brothers and sisters determined to educate their children.

It was an intense weekend. What could easily be a week-long training session was crammed into a full day and



2 half days. My initial plan was just to ‘do what we can and forget the rest’. However, the motivation and sheer force of will in the room carried us through it all! There were extended study sessions after dinner and a lot of collaborative work. The food was amazing and Sister Joey kept us well supplied with snacks of all sorts!

I am still processing all that I learned from the attendees. I was humbled, and am also very excited to see what will happen in years to come. My prayer is that God will continue to strengthen and make their fire burn brighter to make a change for the OA. My call to all who cannot physically be a part of the OA work (myself included!) is to reach out to those who are doing this work. Support them in whatever way you can. Our nation cannot progress unless ALL the people of our nation do.

Soli Deo Gloria

**Dr. Mei Tan**  
Pandan Indah Myanmar  
Refugee School







NECF OA Pastors' Retreat

# “Where There is Unity, the Kingdom of God Flourishes”

## Introduction

The recent NECF OA Pastors' Retreat took place from 4th to 6th May 2023 at Grand Kampar Hotel. Centred around the theme “Kesatuan dibangun, Kerajaan Tuhan berkembang” (Where there is unity, the Kingdom of God flourishes), this gathering brought together 54 participants, including Orang Asli pastors from diverse churches, tribes, and backgrounds across the Peninsular and individuals who are actively involved in this ministry. It emphasized the paramount importance of unity, collaboration, and bridge-building in advancing the Kingdom of God among the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia.

## Key lessons on Unity

Rev Simon Petrus and Pastor Sanusi shared key insights during the retreat which resonate deeply with the participants:

### 1. Where there is Unity, the Kingdom of God Flourishes

- a) **Don't Fight Alone:** The retreat highlighted the importance of standing together and not facing challenges alone. The Orang Asli pastors were encouraged to recognize the power of collective effort, seeking support, wisdom, and prayer from fellow pastors and believers. By uniting, they can overcome many challenges and work towards the shared goal of spreading God's love and salvation.
- b) **Partnerships Bring Victory and God's Blessing:** The pastors were urged to actively seek partnerships and collaborations with one another, churches, and organizations. Through these partnerships, they can combine resources, talents, and experiences to make a more substantial impact. The retreat emphasized that partnerships not only lead to victory in the face of adversities but also open doors for God's help

and blessings to flow abundantly. Through unity and cooperation, the pastors could witness the tangible work of God in their ministries.

### 2. Building Bridges

- a) **Embrace God's Kingdom Viewpoint:** The pastors were reminded that the Church belongs to God and operates under His authority. By adopting God's Kingdom viewpoint, they transcend denominational boundaries and personal agendas, focusing instead on the greater purpose of advancing God's kingdom. This perspective allows them to prioritize unity, cooperation, and mutual support among believers.
- b) **Seek to Glorify God and Serve Each Other:** The ultimate goal for the pastors is to bring honour and glory to God in all their actions and interactions. Setting aside personal ambitions, they were encouraged to embrace a humble and servant-hearted approach, fostering an environment of mutual respect, love, and encouragement among believers. Such an atmosphere nurtures unity and enables collective efforts for the flourishing of God's kingdom.
- c) **Embrace the Heart of God for Unity:** Central to bridge-building is the understanding that God desires unity among His people. The pastors were encouraged to align their hearts with God's desire for unity, celebrating the diversity within the Body of Christ. Actively seeking to bridge gaps, reconcile differences, and promote understanding, they become a powerful testimony of God's love and grace, drawing others to the Kingdom and bringing transformation to their communities.



## Conclusion

Being part of this gathering, even though I am not an Orang Asli myself, was a deeply enriching and humbling experience. Witnessing the pastors wholeheartedly serving God in the face of numerous challenges brought immense joy and inspiration to my own journey. I am truly grateful for this meaningful experience and eagerly anticipate the continued flourishing of God's kingdom.

One aspect that stood out to me during the retreat was the diverse age range of the pastors, ranging from the 20s to the 60s. This combination of experiences, energy, and exuberance has created a unique dynamic within the group. It is truly encouraging to see the wisdom and guidance of the older pastors blending harmoniously with the passion and enthusiasm of the younger ones. It was enjoyable and humorous to see them enjoying the team building games and showcase their talents during the talent night event.

Looking forward, I believe it would be beneficial for upcoming retreats to provide more opportunities for the pastors to strengthen their relationships and share the struggles they face. By fostering an environment of open dialogue, they can build stronger relationships and find support in one another, especially for those who are experiencing challenges in their ministries and personal lives. Additionally, creating spaces for collaborative work and projects would allow them to leverage their diverse gifts and strengths for even greater impact to the glory of God.

The WhatsApp group formed after the retreat is greatly appreciated as it allows ongoing interaction among pastors,

serving as a valuable tool for sharing updates, seeking advice, and mutual encouragement in their ministries.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the NECF OA Commission for their dedication and commitment in organizing this retreat. Prayerfully and hopefully, the impact of this gathering will continue to be felt in the years ahead, serving as a catalyst for unity, growth, and collaboration among the OA pastors.

As we envision that day when we, alongside the Orang Asli from different tribes, join the heavenly choir to sing a new song, we are reminded of Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV:

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'"



## NECF Tamil Youthnet “UNITED” Conference

NECF Tamil Commission organized a youth conference titled “UNITED” with the aim of bringing together young people from different churches and backgrounds to foster unity, spiritual growth, and a deeper understanding of the Gospel.

The conference took place on Saturday, June 03rd, 2023 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Full Gospel Assembly Kuala Lumpur followed by Night Rally for Tamil churches held from 3-4 June.



The conference featured dynamic speakers and workshops on Youth Leadership by Pr. Charles Sathis (Calvary Community Church JB) and Youth Today by Rev. Timothy (Tamil Methodist Church Subang), these workshop sessions inspired and challenged the youth to live out their faith boldly and ready to serve in the Kingdom of God in their various spheres of influence.

The plenary speaker Pr. Gresson Edinbaro who is the Lead Pastor of Powercentral Church in India and Dubai spoke on Youth as Champions and Youth “You are Favoured”. The conference also provided a platform for networking and building relationships among youth from different churches, enabling them to support and encourage one another in their spiritual journey. Two days of Night Rally drew about 500 – 800 people followed by many testimonies of healing and deliverance.

As we reflect on the success of the “UNITED” conference, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible turnout and enthusiastic participation from all who attended. There were over 1100 youth who attended this conference. We are excited to announce that the “UNITED” conference was a resounding success. As we continue to see the transformative power of youth conferences like “UNITED,” it is clear that there is a deep hunger among young people for spiritual growth, connection, and meaningful experiences within the church community.

NECF Tamil Commission would like to thank to all the youth leaders, pastors, volunteers, participants, and our partners who contributed to this conference



# National Prayer Altar At Peace Haven

Come and let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord (Micah 4:2) is call we have issued to churches under NECF since the launch of the National Prayer Altar (NPA) @ Peacehaven in 2015.

However, due to the Pandemic and the needed renovation work on the bungalow, activities at the National Prayer Altar (NPA) had to be temporarily suspended for almost 3 years. With the end of the Pandemic and completion of all renovation work, we are now ready to host prayer groups at the NPA.

The partnership of the church at large is needed to keep the NPA active and alive. If your church has a passion and burden to see the nation transform through the power of prayer, we would like to invite your church to sign up and prayer at the NPA. You can sign up and book your prayer slot via our NECF website.

Every church should at the least make one visit to the NPA each year with your leadership team, prayer group, cell groups, etc. either a day trip or overnight stay for those coming from out of state. There is free accommodation available in the bungalow that can house about 10-14 people, as well as rooms at the FGA Camp site next to the bungalow for as low as RM50 per room a night.

Different groups who have come to pray at the NPA testifying of the strong presence of God even though the place was vacant and silent for about 3 years!

Here are two such testimonies we have received:

"Our church leadership of about 20 people drove up from Ampang at 7am. We had an awesome time of worship, communion, and intercession. Initially, I was leading worship but the Holy Spirit just took over as different ones shared songs and scriptures, prayed fervently and made declaration. We had such an awesome time we didn't realize it's already past 12 noon."

Hope of Glory Church, Ampang

"When we were praying and reading the Bible together, I deeply felt the presence of God and the power of His cross. The Holy Spirit inspired me to read a few passages in chapter 53 of Isaiah and pray out in a pray-reading way....the anointing of the Holy Spirit came down and I felt His love embraced us....God's strong presence melted our hearts. God's love unites us, to love and accept each other....I was very touched that three brothers who were very inconvenient in their mobility had participated in this prayer altar..."

Philadelphia Church KL



# 40-Day Prayer Launches & Prayer Gatherings

**8.00pm**  
Salvation Praise Assembly,  
Sungai Petani (Tamil)

**20**  
July

**7.30pm**  
Trinity Baptist Church,  
Alor Setar

**22**  
July

**8.00pm**  
Emmanuel Christian Assembly,  
Taiping (Tamil)

**8.00pm**  
Emmanuel Evangelical  
Community Church, Skudai  
(Tamil)

**26**  
July

**7.30pm**  
Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship,  
Seremban (Tamil)

**8.00pm**  
Christians Praise Center,  
Kota Bahru

**28**  
July

**8.00pm**  
Kuantan Baptist Church,  
Kuantan

**30**  
July

**8.00pm**  
GA611, The Bread of Life  
Petaling Jaya (Eng-Chi Klang  
Valley Launch)

**6**  
Aug

**8.00pm**  
Full Gospel Assembly, Batu  
Pahat (Eng-Chi)

**22**  
Aug

**8.00pm**  
Tabernacle of Grace, Penang  
(Bahasa)

**21**  
July

**8.00pm**  
Praise Baptist Church, Penang  
(Tamil)

**7.45pm**  
Elim Gospel Hall, Ipoh

**25**  
July

**8.00pm**  
TMC, Malacca (Tamil)

**27**  
July

**8.00pm**  
Lifeline AOG,  
Kuala Terengganu

**29**  
July

**8.00pm**  
City Tabernacle, Selayang Baru  
(Tamil Klang Valley Launch)

**2**  
Aug

**9.30am**  
Holiday Inn, Melaka

**20**  
Aug

**9.00am**  
Georgetown Baptist Church,  
Penang

**31**  
Aug





40-Day Fast & Prayer Launch 2023

2023年40天禁食祷告推介礼

# Urgency of the times 紧迫时刻

**Date.** 6 Aug 2023(Sun)

**日期.** 2023年8月6日 (星期日)

**Time.** 8-10pm

**时间.** 晚间八至十时

**Venue.** GA611, Bread of Life PJ

**地点.** GA611灵粮堂 (八打灵再也)

Bilingual launch open to all churches  
双语推介礼, 开放给众教会

**NECF**  
MALAYSIA