

Berita NECF

Editorial

Who Shall Lead?

The men of Issachar, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, had this commendation recorded in 2 Chron 12:32 – “who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”

That is what is expected of us Christians. We are to discern the times and to take the lead on issues that affect nation building.

At our recent BGM on May 22, Transparency International (Malaysia) President Datuk Paul Low gave a talk on corruption to the delegates comprising pastors and leaders.

In his conclusion on the topic “Nation Building Through Transformation – Eliminating Cor-

ruption”, he held out some hope that the battle against corruption was inching forward.

He observed that the Prime Minister appeared committed to eradicating corruption through the several measures he had implemented, such as the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), National Key Results Areas (NKRA), the use of integrity pact in public procurement and the approval of the Whistleblower Protection Act in Parliament.

Fearing that corruption might become institutionalised as a way of life in Malaysia, he called for individual commitment to fight the scourge.

As individuals, there are many ways we can fight this battle (little though they may seem), such as refusing to bribe those in authority, standing for righteousness, voting for integrity and good governance, making the elected representatives more accountable and serving in organisations or advocacy groups that promote good governance

All these will cumulate at a *kairos* time for the Church to take the lead into uncharted waters.

Otherwise, corrupt practices will become customary and acceptable and there will then descend a sense of hopelessness among the

Continued on pg 4...



LIGHTING UP THE REVIVAL FLAME...

RunNat runners lighting up the “cauldron” at the start of the Global Day of Prayer service at Stadium Malawati on May 23. Story on pg 8.

Inside this Issue

Chairman: The Unnamed Doing the Unimaginable	2
Good Times Rolling In	3
Subsidy withdrawal?	5
Youths to change the world	6
GDOP Reflections	8
The Christian Vote	9
Special Insurance Deal	11
Historic car park crusade	12
Alpha course at NS camps	13

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Chairman's Message



By Rev. Eu Hong Seng

The unnamed doing the unimaginable!

Almost everybody talked about them. Yet, today we know so little about them.

They brought their paralysed friend to Jesus, fought through the crowd, did not do the conventional thing (going through the front door), took risks (broke the roof of a home when they most probably didn't know the owner), did much preparation (they knew where Jesus was and they had the ropes to let down their friend from the roof) – all because they were determined to see their friend healed.

They had no name cards, no e-mail addresses, no hint of postal codes, no names, no traceable background, no references, no mobile contacts.

The only thing they had was “faith.”

Yet two miracles happened that day.

Firstly, their crippled friend was undeniably healed, and secondly, the community burst out in praise, “We have never seen anything like this!” (Mark 2:12 NLT)

As I think of the Malaysian Church and the transformation of the nation, I often think of this parallel.

Unfortunately the Church is very much like the paralysed man – “sick” – and had to be carried. Whilst much of society is immobilised by sin, the Church is so slow moving that she might as well be paralysed. Sometimes it takes years, before a community hears of Christ or gets to see any good works done in the name of Christ.

Is it not true that often we had to be carried – we are overly dependent on grants, not to mention that many of other faiths are more forward looking and are quick to respond to needs, crisis and injustices?

“Whilst much
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Surely we need the unnamed to do the unimaginable today.

Whilst we preach “transformation,” we practise “transmogrification”¹. Indeed much of what we do is sometimes “laughable” because it's so insignificant and inconsequential. It does not impact society and the only people who are excited about it are the church folks, because we have “done something,” albeit not significant. We have forgotten that it is “us” who are suppose to be “insignificant”, not the works.

At the recent NECF Malaysia BGM in May, for the first time in our history, the members of NECF endorsed two noteworthy nation-building projects costing over RM40 million, viz the launch of the e-portal “Good Times” and the purchase of a 30-acre land to set up a vocational school².

Continued next page..

Good Times Rolling In

Vocational School project for skills training approved

Two major nation-building projects – an Internet news media and a vocational school cum youth camp – were unrolled by NECF Malaysia at its recent 12th BGM.

The Internet news media, called “Good Times”, has a grand vision of transforming Malaysia into a God-fearing nation by re-claiming the ‘seven mountains’ of culture – government, arts and entertainment, business, media, education, religion and media. The vision is based on the conviction that as Christians, we are to exercise our kingly and priestly roles over the nations according to Ephesians 2:4-6.

The proposal for Good Times was put before delegates at the BGM by Sreedhar Subramaniam, a founding member of the successful Internet news portal, The Malaysian Insider. The delegates gave NECF the green light for the project which is scheduled to be launched in August.

Good Times aims to influence the world system operating in the seven mountains in Malaysia with the ways of God, according to Sreedhar. The Internet news portal will therefore have seven sections, each section for each mountain, carrying articles contributed by key Christians working in the mountains concerned.

Speaking on the vocational school cum youth camp project, NECF Chairman Rev. Eu Hong Seng explained that the project was part of NECF’s nation-building efforts to rally churches to participate in nation building.

Rev. Eu revealed that two donors have donated a piece of land measuring 25 acres located in Negri Sembilan bordering Selangor and the plan was for the vocational school to be run on the lines of Monfort Boys Town which has helped provide vocational skills to countless male youths sidelined by the mainstream schools.

Earlier in his address, Rev. Eu Hong Seng explained his personal view of nation building as “a conspiracy of good work on a national scale by God’s people”. He also



Sreedhar heralding the Good Times.



NECF Secretary-General Sam Ang standing on the plot of land which will house the vocational school.

highlighted the need for continued intercession on the Allah issue and talked about the need to strengthen the NECF Council and the leadership at large by grooming the young, nurturing the tired and inspiring the old.

In presenting the Treasurer’s report, NECF Treasurer Dr Khoo Kay Hup stressed that despite some positive improvements at the end of last year, NECF was still in need of funds and urged churches to give generously to the ministry.

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The challenge before us is to have faith, not to waste time “reasoning” like the religious leaders of Jesus’ day. And trust God that as we do what we can, He will do what we can’t. It was the faith of the unnamed four that helped them “accomplish” the task before them. Today, we need similar undoubting creativity and determination to move

forward.

It’s time we humble ourselves so that God can use us. Be content to be anonymous, plan the work well, exercise faith, press in “into Jesus’ presence”, then see miracles unfold before us. A partially paralysed Church awaits healing and our society needs genuine transformation.

For nation building to succeed, we need “nameless carriers” of the

vision. If we do it right, the Malaysian community is bound to exclaim “We have never seen anything like this!”

¹ To transmogrify is to change something in a funny or strange way; to change something into something very different, especially in a way that is funny or strange.

² Subject to Government’s approval.

NECF



Malaysia Council

TWELVE PEOPLE stood for election for the 2010–2011 NECF Malaysia Council. Eleven were elected based on the highest number of votes received.

The NECF Executive Committee members remain the same. They were elected without contest. The council members are as follows (in no particular order):

PR CHAN THEAM LAI

Pastor of Canning Garden Baptist Church, Ipoh, and Ipoh English Pastors' Fellowship Coordinator

REV. SIMON CHANDRAN

Pastor of Emmanuel Christian Assembly, Taiping, and Taiping Tamil Pastors' Fellowship Coordinator

REV. JERRY DUSING

SIB Sabah President

MISS EE JOO LIAN

Lawyer, lay-leader at First AG Church and NECF representative in the CFM Exco

REV. FOO MOY PENG

Dean, Jubilee Initiative Malaysia

PR SAMUEL SURENDRAN KRISHNAN

Senior Pastor of Excel Point Community Church Penang and Penang BM Pastors Fellowship Chairman

ELDER THOMAS LIM KOK BENG

Elder of Petra Centre, Kuantan, and member of NECF Chinese Commission

REV. DEXTER LOW

Senior Pastor of Latter Rain Churches Malaysia

REV. PETER PENGIRAN MUTANG

SIB Sarawak President

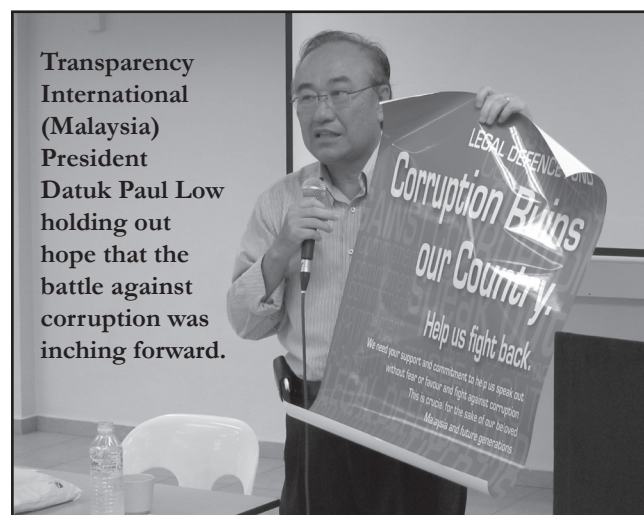
REV. NG KOK KEE

Secretary-General of Assembly of God Malaysia and Bible College Malaysia Principal

REV. ELISHA SATVINDER

Senior Pastor of New Covenant Community

...continued from front cover



citizenry.

Is the Church doing enough in the war against corruption?

Even as the Government and the country are thick in the corruption battlefield, the Church herself has not been spared of internal accusations of financial misuse for personal gains.

The sensational Singapore government's investigation into the finances of the 33,000-member City Harvest Church has rocked churches on both sides of the causeway and laid bare the issue of financial transparency and accountability in churches.

Have the Malaysian churches done enough or are they doing enough to keep their accounts above reproach?

Opinions vary and depend on how much transparency each individual church wants to put in place.

Since most of our local churches are independently run, they have their own set of accountability measures determined by their leaders.

However, churches must find ways to promote more accountability and transparency to their members to allay any perception that invites doubt and the possibility of investigation.

After all, aren't we, the people of God, called to be the light of the world? How can we shine in this darkened nation when our own light is dimmed by disrepute?

This is why we must put our house in order and take initiatives to educate our pastors and leaders that we must be accountable for our actions and decisions.

As a national body, NECF Malaysia hopes to expand our resources with the assistance of Transparency International as well through theological education so that future leaders will become competent in this area to enable them to transform this nation through the local churches.

We will keep you updated on the events relating to this important issue and seek your support and prayer as we avail the resources for our churches.

Is there any good in withdrawing subsidies?

The Government's recent announcement of an impending subsidy cut or withdrawal has roused heated debates among the public.

In all articles written on the subject (at least in the mainstream media), the contention seems to be that a subsidy withdrawal, or at least a subsidy cut, is good and beneficial in the long run for the country's economy.

Datuk Seri Jala, the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department who mooted the idea during the subsidy rationalisation lab open day in Kuala Lumpur on May 27, implored the Malaysian public to "make the changes ... now". His call is based on:

- Our progressively increasing fiscal deficit over the last 10 years from RM5 billion to RM47 billion last year;
- Increase in borrowing due to our slower GDP growth rate, resulting in our government taking loans with debts from RM90 billion in 1997 to RM362 billion last year; and
- Malaysia being one of the world's highest subsidised countries in proportion to our GDP at 4.7%.

Briefly, Datuk Idris revealed that if the country continued on the same trend, based on our annual increase of 12 percent, our debt would reach a staggering RM1,158 billion in 2019. He postulated that based on our escalating deficit exceeding 10 percent, Malaysia might end up bankrupt and in a similar economic situation like Greece!

The sum projection by the Minister is alarming and cause for great concern for those of us living towards that era. Yet, there are those who may say that this is government propaganda and they are merely figures based on assumptions and projections.

Life, they say, is more volatile and positive.



We say...

While the critics may have a point, what about us Christians? Are we to adopt the posture and position found in mainstream media that the withdrawal of subsidies is good for the nation? John Teo, for example argues that,

Far better (and what would make more administrative sense) would be to do away with such subsidies altogether and seeing to it that targeted groups get direct cash handouts or higher salaries to cushion them from price increase. The bottom line is that the issue of subsidy withdrawal cannot be taken in isolation and must be rolled out as part of the overall strategy to re-jig our economy to become not just healthily sustainable but the high-income one to which we aspire (John Teo, "Overall Subsidy Cuts will be good for Malaysia", *News Straits Times*, June 4).

While this assertion may seem good in writing and may even appear sensible, we hear news about the Barisan Nasional Government's intention to buy three special ships for our navy costing RM2.2 billion! Now, if things are that bad, how can the Government justify spending so much in buying ships that we may or may not have use for, or at least deemed necessary, with monies which the Minister said we did not have?

As Christians who are called to be stewards and custodians of earth's resources, it is imperative that we

are aware of and participate in the process of common decisions about managing the resources of our common life in Malaysia and ensuring that the institutions so created do their work effectively.

Christians must, to the best of our ability and God-given gifts and talents, ensure the best possible livelihood for everyone, that no one be exploited or taken advantage of in this new scheme of subsidy withdrawal, if it were to happen.

It has to do with ensuring that the goods necessary for survival and for the functioning as free and equal citizens in this country are made available for all and take priority over all other gains and benefits that may favour some select groups or elite.

To this end, we call on the Government in the implementation of this subsidy withdrawal to: (1) ensure that there is a safety net in place for those in poverty; (2) address the continued stream of leakage and wastage in the system that have bode distrust and skepticism; and (3) continuously educate our public on the ills and disadvantages of subsidies for long-term public life and interest.

We therefore call on Christians and the Church of Malaysia to pray:

- For the Government to be wise and honest in managing public funds
- For a responsible Government who reveres the role it has been placed in to protect and manage the resources;
- For a Government that is sensitive to the needs of the rakyat, particularly the poor;
- For the appointment of capable, skilled, responsible leaders of the highest integrity to plan, manage and execute projects that are truly beneficial to the rakyat; and
- Against grand, wasteful projects that are drawn up to benefit certain people.

It has been over-said that today's youths will determine tomorrow's future. From the pulpit to the pew, the message has been bandied about with much fervour. But are our youths rising to the challenge? More importantly, how are they being nurtured for the future?

"The millennial generation is most equipped with knowledge, power and creativity and if they are channeled right at this young age, they will be great leaders." This quote was succinctly pointed out in a promotional write-up for "Change Your World" (CYW), a movement initiated to mobilise youths

through serving the needs of their community. For example, in the "I Love Kluang" event held last August, the young participants mobilised the collection and distribution of food parcels to the poor in the southern (Johor) town.

Since then, the event has evolved into a mini-movement "I Love Kluang" has brought over 200 youths from various races and faiths to meet the challenge of consistently visiting, feeding and caring for more than 60 poor families on a long-term basis.

The youths also managed to help the stateless children in their town to

www.changeyourworld.com.my for more details.)

2) Awareness

The second goal of CYW is to heighten youths' awareness of social injustice – human trafficking, inhumane treatment of refugees, poverty or corruption, etc. – so as to rouse them to join the fight against societal abuses. CYW has adopted the battle against human trafficking with its partnership with Tenaganita.

CYW opines that this generation of youths is the most ignorant about national and world current affairs but

Getting youths to change their world



Kluang youths with their collection of food items ready for distribution.



Penang youths painting the Rifle Range flats as part of the "I Love Penang" initiative.

to take ownership of their future in the country.

Initiated by 1a.m., the worship ministry of Eaglepoint Covenant Fellowship, CYW targets youths aged 15 to 25 years to help change the world around them. This is a huge mission to fulfill and thankfully, CYW has the partnership of churches and three NGOs – Community at Heart, Tenaganita and World Vision – to help effect the change.

Change comes through achieving two broad goals – ownership and awareness.

1) Ownership

Firstly, the youths are challenged to take ownership of their towns/cities

obtain identity cards and raised some RM20,000 to buy school uniforms for 248 children.

Meanwhile, the "I Love Penang" group, formed last November, painted the abodes of poor families at the Rifle Range flats, mobilised collection and distribution food parcels to the needy and even organised an appreciation ceremony for their local police.

On the larger scale, there is the "I Love Malaysia" movement, launched last November, which has been raising funds for Tenaganita to fight human trafficking.

The next city launch is in Kuala Lumpur on Sept 4 when the city youths will be challenged to take up the "I Love Kuala Lumpur" call. (Check out

at the same time, the conscious ones are the most passionate in desiring change. Hence, they are the ones getting involved in causes for betterment and therefore, there must be outlets for them to express their idealism.

By heightening the youths' awareness of social injustice and also pointing them to causes they can get involved with, CYW is helping to raise future leaders with passion for transformation.

A journey, not an event

1a.m. Director Kelvin Lim pointed out that CYW is not a one-off event but a journey that would help transform not just the recipients, but also the participants into passionate, socially-

conscious and proactive youths.

The journey comprises three phases of a pre-event, main event and post-event, all meticulously and strategically planned to inspire long-lasting, sustainable passion.

The pre-event, called “Change Your World Quest 1 & 2”, comprises one-hour sessions that include ice breakers, multi-media presentations and discussions organised in a fun, non-threatening environment. The program is even scripted to spare facilitators the hassles of planning what to say.

Then comes the main event, called “Change Your World Tour” – a four-hour event of high-energy music, media and sharing of the Word when youths are challenged on the mission of city ownership, and nation and world crisis awareness.

With the youths charged up from the pre- and main event, they then move on to the third phase, “Change Your World Venture”, where their passion is channeled into charitable works. Earlier at the main event, the youths would have been challenged to run a cause for their town which had been pre-selected by their churches.

At the CYW Venture, the youths will take the lead in mobilising other youths from all races and faiths to take part in the cause.

“Change Your World Venture is big enough for every young person and is not just catered for Christians, though the aim is for Christians to be the salt and light of their city.

The Christian youths are therefore called to lead and champion the causes of the social needs and welfare of their city,” explained Kelvin.

Social and welfare awareness is just the beginning of what CYW is about, for the heartbeat of CYW is to bring the millennial generation to crave for justice, mercy and faithfulness.

“We want Christians to lead through in all the pre-, main and post-events. We call it Watch & Pray, Act & Build, Follow & Lead. In summary, Christians are to be the example by loving their neighbours so that they can lead their friends to know Christ through practical ways. It’s Friendship Evangelism,” enthused Kelvin.

Transformed Christian youths leading and rallying other youths to change communities for the better. With such a mission, the future looks brighter.

Camp participants urged to Pray, Participate and Prepare



Participants, young and old, joining hands to pray for the nation.

Increased awareness of and a deeper insight into the issues facing the country, particularly religious resurgence, have inspired participants at the recent NECF Malaysia annual Chinese prayer camp to pray with greater urgency for the nation.

Participants shared that the speakers’ messages opened their eyes to the many issues in the country and that these were things not often talked about in their churches.

NECF Chairman Rev. Eu Hong Seng shared about the Islamic resurgence in Malaysia, its historical development and impact on society at large and on individual lives. He told the 120 participants that the “cow-head” incident and the fire-bombing to church premises following the ‘Allah’ court decision early this year were the results of religious extremism.

With religious polarisation on the rise due to religious resurgence, there is a great urgency to not only pray but take appropriate actions to check the dangerous trend, Rev. Eu said and urged Christians to get involved in nation building by doing good works on a national scale as their collective witness as God’s people.

He added that Christians must place their hope in a sovereign God who is watching over Malaysia and make a stand to stay in the country.

Speaker Jonathan Low, who is FGA KL Chinese Church Youth Pastor, said youths should not be confined to the four walls of their churches but must be released to do their work outside their churches.

Youths have plenty of energy and passion, which are much needed for ministries, and the older generation should appreciate and bless them. Following his sharing, the older participants said they realised from his message that they need to review their attitudes towards the youths in their churches, to be more flexible and bless them to do their work.

Speaker Dr Joseph Ozawa continued to exhort the participants by reminding them to be prepared to face the difficulties of the end-times.

The Senior Consultant Psychologist of the Subordinate Courts of Singapore presented graphs showing the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters as one of the signs pointing to the Lord’s return and advised Christians to “know the times” and be ready.

Some 8,500 people packed Stadium Malawati, Shah Alam, for a highly-charged, electrifying night of prayer and worship at the May 23 Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) 2010 event.

But, as GDOP organising committee chairman Dr Tan Nget Hong said, it was not the size of the crowd that was heartening but that the people came from all walks of life and various denominations and language groups – the English-, Chinese- and Tamil-language churches, plus a group of some 150 Orang Asli brethren.

These people were part of the 300 million Christians from over 200 nations, all with one heart and mind praying for their nations and the world on that Pentecost Sunday.

The Malaysian crowd started gathering as early as 4.30pm and eagerly filed into the stadium at 5pm when the main gate opened. By 5.30pm, an estimated 10 percent of the hall was filled.

NECF Malaysia Executive Secretary (Prayer) Andy Chi took to the stage and began a pre-GDOP prayer session. He reminded all those present that the event was not a concert for a “feel good time” but a prayer meeting.

The session started with a prayer of confession. Following that, Andy, Dr Chan Geok Onn and Pr Phua Seng Tiong prayed for the nation.

GDOP 2010 started punctually at 6.30pm with a rapturous welcome for the 28 RunNat Malaysia runners, led by former national shuttler Lee Wan Wah and national hurdler Kenny Martin, who ran into the stadium, each carrying a state and national flag.

Earlier, the runners had each run 10 kilometers from Kuala Lumpur to the stadium. The excitement was palpable with the crowd roaring as the runners circled the stadium and lighted the cauldron of artificial fire to officially start the GDOP event.

This was followed by a song presentation led by Pr Alvin Tan and accompanied by tambourine dancers and flag bearers. NECF Chairman Rev. Eu Hong Seng then welcomed the various language groups – Bahasa, Mandarin and Tamil – as well as the indigenous Orang Asli group.

Thereafter Pr Alvin and his team led the crowd in a time of praise and worship, which started off upbeat and highly-charged and then slowed down to a hushed reverence as the crowd meditated on God’s lovingkindness and everlasting love.

DUMC Senior Pastor Dr Daniel Ho gave the exhortation for God’s people to return to Him so that we might begin to change the destiny of the nation. He reminded the people that it was God’s desire to see Malaysia flourish but Satan had robbed and plundered the resources of this great land.

It is now time for the people to awaken, repent and allow God to restore this land to its rightful place. In other words, we are to be a “life-giving seed” to the nation.

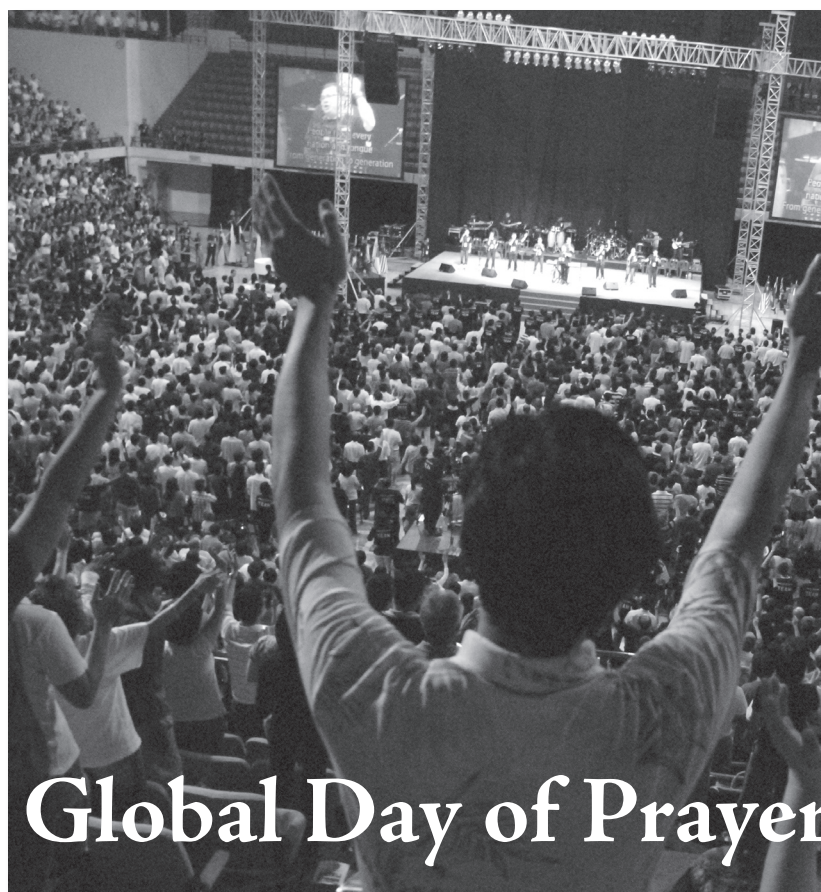
As the evening progressed, several pastors and church leaders were invited up stage to pray for the various aspects confronting our nation.

Pr Phua Seng Tiong prayed a prayer of repentance and sought forgiveness from the Orang Asli representatives on behalf of the Malaysian Church for having neglected the plight of the Malaysian Bumiputera Church.

Throughout the night, there was much singing and prayer and many dropped to their knees as they cried out for the nation.

SIB Kuala Lumpur Senior Pastor Dr Chew Weng Chee ended the programme by calling all pastors to go up front whereupon he prayed for God’s blessing and anointing on them as spiritual leaders of the church of Christ.

Many attendees commented that the evening was “electrifying”



and commended the organising committee led by Elder Dr Tan Nget Hong and Pr Looi Kok Khim, the worship team led by Pr Alvin and the 600 volunteers for the excellently-executed event.

To God be the glory for the great things he has done!



er Outpouring



Pix (clockwise from top): Praying for spiritual breakthrough for Malaysia; RunNat runners, led by former shuttler Lee Wan Wah and national hurdler Kenny Martin, approaching the stadium; prayers of anointing for pastors and Christian leaders; and Pr Phua Seng Tiong seeking forgiveness on behalf of the Malaysian Church from the Orang Asli representatives.

Awesome event, but what's its significance?

NECF Malaysia Research Executive Eugene Yapp (right) reflects on the GDOP 2010 stadium event and throws some tough questions.



Like all big events drawing crowds by the thousands, the GDOP 2010 held on Pentecost Sunday was no different. It had all the fanfare and hype of a successful mega event.

In terms of organisation, the coordination of personnel and volunteers were spot-on and the organising committee must be commended on a job well done.

In terms of programme, the flow was faultless. As for participation, the crowd came in droves and charged up the atmosphere. In short, the evening was simply electrifying as attested by many.

Yet, for all its magnificent display, mega events such as this usually attract differences of opinion. Some dismissed it as all hype and lacking in prayer. Those from the more conservative tradition labeled it as too triumphalistic for their liking. On the other side of the spectrum, there are those who found it moving and exciting.

On the surface, how one perceived GDOP 2010 will depend on one's own liking or preferences. But on a deeper level, several questions spring forth. What is the significance of this event and how does it relate to the transformation of Malaysia? Is it just about another "event" in the calendar of the Malaysian Church?

From the viewpoint of social dynamics, it must be pointed out that events have the potential of changing not only the casual forces but the very logic by which consequences flow.

Events may bring about changes by transforming the cultural

categories that shape human thoughts

and actions, thus impacting the social institutions and individuals leading to change. It is capable of altering the very perception and conception of different social actors, thus serving as construction of new discursive resources and mobilisation of collective action for change.

Yet for such historical events to be meaningful in ways just described, significance must be attached to the event in the collective memory of the church.

In the Old Testament, the one single defining event for the Israelites was the Exodus. And yet for all its signs and wonders, a major significance was attached to this great event. What is it?

Deut.7:7-9 says, "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations**" (emphasis mine).

Continued next page..

Fast and Prayer Turns Ten

New fasting period from Aug. 8 to Sept. 16 to coincide with Malaysia Day

This year will be our 10th National 40-Day Fast and Prayer, marking a decade that started in 2001.

Much has taken place since our first Fast and Prayer, with the biggest impact being the March 8 (2008) general elections. While we have seen significant changes in the nation, the struggle for national transformation is a long way to go.

There are still many areas in the nation that demand change and the Malaysian Church must continue to stand in the gap to intercede for revival and transformation.

As God continues to bring changes to the land, He has also led us to change the date for our Fast and Prayer – from Merdeka Day to Malaysia Day. For it was on Sept 16, 1963, that Malaysia was birthed as a nation with the joining of Peninsular Malaya, Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore to form Malaysia.

To coincide with the new date, the Fast and Prayer will run from Aug 8 to Sept 16. It will be launched on July 27 at 8.30p.m. at SIB KL. The church's senior pastor Dr Chew Weng Chee will give the message.

As usual, on the 39th night of the fast, there will a National

Prayer Rally and this year, it will be held on the Sept 15 at Metro Tabernacle at its new building near Batu Caves.

In addition to calling the Malaysian Church to persevere in prayer, there is an urgent need to prepare the next generation for the coming revival as they will be the ones to take this nation for the Lord.

But they will not be able to do it by themselves. They will need the guidance, wisdom, support and help of the present generation to get them ready. Hence, this year's Fast and Prayer theme – “Uniting the Generations”.

Finally, together with the call to fast and pray, we would like to challenge believers to give towards the National 40-Day Fast and Prayer Charity Fund. This year's collection will go towards nation-building projects.

The prophet Isaiah taught that the fast that pleases the Lord is the fast that is accompanied with acts of kindness and justice. This is our opportunity to please the Lord and make a difference, so as you fast, do consider dedicating what you have saved from your meals to this fund.



...continued from previous page

Following this great proclamation, an ethnical injunction was attached to its significance thus: “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” (vs 6)

In the same way, if GDOP 2010 is to have a lasting impact – a potential for transforming human thoughts and actions, and capable of altering the perception of Christians as the new “social actors” who will be mobilised for collective action towards change – a significance must be attached to that event.

In this post-GDOP 2010 event of the 90 days of blessings, it is incumbent on the leaders of the organising committee, intercessors and pastors to give meaning to this event and to then articulate this meaning in clear terms as a follow-up for the benefit of the

masses.

With the significance spelled out and encased in our minds, then only will be meaningful for us. In that way, we believers will be reminded and embedded in our collective consciousness as to how God has worked in our midst, thereby motivating us for greater actions and sacrifices.

Specifically, as intercessors and pastors articulate the significance of GDOP 2010, it must address several practical questions faced by the Christian community in her social-cultural context:

1. How does this event serve to move the hearts and minds of Christians to engage in collective witness in transforming society and nation-building in Malaysia?
2. How does this event serve to prepare the hearts and minds of Christians in the words of Jesus to “deny yourself, take up the cross and follow me”?
3. How does this event serve to allow the presence of God and the

Holy Spirit to work through the church and begin empowering the individuals and collectively to lead ethically and transformed lives?

Admittedly, these are no easy questions to answer and any significance attached to GDOP 2010 must, to a reasonable extent, address and provide an answer to these questions.

Otherwise, GDOP 2010 may at best be said to be another wonderful Christian event that came and went, just like the rest, without any lasting impact or difference. Is the significance therefore unity, prayerfulness, victory, the fall of Satan, a contrite heart? Or is it a precursor to greater things to come?

It seems to me that much work needs to be done on the part of us Christians in preparation and nurture before it can be said that we are in reality “transforming the nation through the local church”.

Let us all put our hands together and plow ahead for the sake of Malaysia to the glory of God.

The Christian Vote

Freelance writer and long-time journalist *BOB TEOH* makes an impassioned plea to Christians to register as a voter. He is proud to have been a voter since 1969.

Every vote counts. This point was forcibly driven home in the recent Sibu parliamentary by-election in Sarawak (16 May 2010). Sibu is the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition's stronghold – it has never lost this seat. But this time it did. And by only 398 votes.

The underdog, DAP's Wong Ho Leng, polled 18,845 votes against BN candidate Robert Lau's 18,447 votes. All that was needed was for Lau to get an extra 399 votes and he would have beaten Wong to the post by one solitary vote. Yes, every vote counts.

The irony is that there are plenty of votes lying around for the picking. There are 15.47 million people who are eligible to vote. Of this, nearly one-third or 4.39 million have not yet registered as voters.

These potential new 4.39 million voters will make a significant difference in how the country is governed. Like Sibu, many parliamentary and state constituencies are won or lost by slim margins. Yes, if 4.39 million people who are eligible to register as voters sign up, they will determine whether Malaysia should continue as a one-party regime or a two-party democracy.

Any new Prime Minister needs to get a fresh mandate. Therefore, I believe the next general elections will be held soon – within a year or so. This is not a prophecy but common sense. The Prime Minister had done well in winning Hulu Selangor (in April) and he was banking on taking the Sibu by-election.

This was a seat he couldn't lose. If he had won, then we can expect the Sarawak state elections to be called any time.

Will we finally see the emergence of a two-party democracy? It depends very much on the missing 4.39 million votes. Are you one of these missing votes? Your one solitary vote can make a world of a difference.

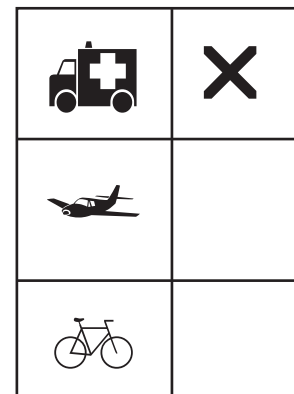
The Christian block of voters is the largest after the Malay and Chinese blocks. It is even higher than what MIC can deliver.

Yes, the Christian vote makes a real difference. It does not matter who or how you vote but vote you must. If you have not registered, do so now. If you know someone in your church who has not registered

yet, get him/her to do so. Better still get your church to hold a voter registration campaign.

Romans 13 talks about governments being ordained by God. You can help to ensure the next government is a just and righteous one. Register now unless you don't give a hoot to a godly government.

It is no coincidence that God has made it out that every one out of 10 persons in Malaysia is a Christian. Don't be merely a statistic. Be a Christian voter. There are Christian lawmakers on both sides of the political divide. Make sure you vote the godly ones. That's not only your right but your responsibility.



As a strategy, do not register in the Klang valley even if you work and live here. Register to vote in your hometowns to spread out the voters nationwide.

My wife and I are registered to vote in Taiping. At the last general elections, we drove back there to cast our votes. Our two votes were among the many that made the difference.

Some Christians who have emigrated made it a point to fly back just to vote at the last general elections. That cost them a lot in airfares. You need only to register and go to the nearest polling station at the next general elections. It costs you virtually nothing to exercise your right.

We get the kind of government we deserve. If you are not a voter, by default you have chosen the worst form of government.

The tyranny of an iron-grip of a taken-for-granted two-thirds majority in Parliament was broken at the last elections. It must remain broken. Please register now as a voter. Every precious vote counts for your own future, that of our children, the generations to come and the Church in Malaysia. To God be the glory.

Register now. Go to <http://www.spr.gov.my/eng/>

Get your church to hold a voter registration campaign.



Thousands of people, mainly youths, responding to the altar call by Rev. Philip Mantofa (far right) at the open-air car park crusade.

Historic open-air car park crusade

The serious problem currently facing Malaysian churches is not a shortage of funds or lack of resources. Rather, it is the lack of young people in the churches and this poses a serious threat to church development, whether rural or urban.

In response to this growing threat, some Klang Valley pastors got together seven years ago and started the “Awakening for Jesus” (A4J) revival movement. Primarily, this movement seeks to help churches raise a consecrated new generation committed to mission and entering into the end-time spiritual harvest through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A4J, in partnership with NECF Malaysia, recently held the “ONE” Kingdom Revival Conference at FGA Kuala Lumpur which was attended by Christians from 77 churches from various languages and denominations, including people from Indonesia, Taiwan, Singapore, China and the Philippines.

The main speaker was Rev. Philip Mantofa, the Deputy Senior Pastor of the 42,000-member Mawar Sharon Church in Surabaya. Other speakers included Rev. Ewen Chow and Rev. Jonathan Chow from Bread of Life Christian Church Taipei, Rev. Yosep Moro Wijaya and Rev. Yudi Koesmanto from Mawar Sharon Church Sumatera and Sulawesi respectively, and Rev. Jonathan Loh from FGA KL.

The Real Pastor

A day before the A4J conference, Rev. Philip spoke to about 250 pastors and ministry leaders at a special meeting organised by NECF. Speaking on “Raising a Passionate Church in Challenging Times”, he shared passionately on his experiences and how he served his people out of love.

He said that contrary to popular belief, prayer and fasting do not bring revival. Rather, revival happens when God’s people live holy lives, obeying Him, protecting the Holy Spirit’s desires and be completely sold out to Him.

Evidently, such people are more inclined to fast and pray, he observed. Obeying God and living holy lives are the daily grind that every Christian, especially pastors and leaders, has to do. They are hard tasks as they demand denying self, taking up the cross and following Him.

For pastors and leaders, this would mean dying to any desire for position but instead, recognising that ministry is about influencing people through humble service, he said and called on pastors to repent from hypocrisy, carnality, pride and the desire for position.

“Pastors are to serve God’s people wholeheartedly from a holy, truthful heart and out of a deep love for His people. We must be willing to lay down our lives for our sheep,” challenged the 35-year-old pastor whose congregation

includes a youth church of 8,000 people.

He also advised people thinking of becoming pastors to be free from financial encumbrances so that they would not be beholden to their congregation. Otherwise, they may not be able to speak the truth for fear of losing their income.

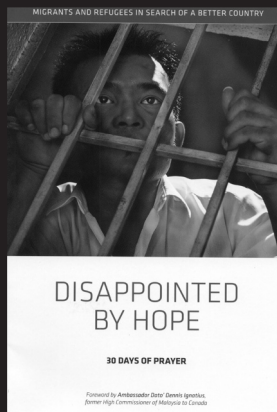
Open-air car park crusade

Rev. Philip also spoke at three public night meetings at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium outdoor car park. It was a historic moment as this was the first time such a large-scale public evangelistic crusade was held there.

Over 12,000 people – mainly youths – attended the crusades where 4,000 people responded to the altar call and more than 820 confessed faith in Jesus.

Guest performers for the crusades were Jovy Theng (producer and singer in Malaysia, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan), SiEn Vanessa (Gospel Singer from Taiwan), Joshua Band from Taiwan and Malaysia Drummers for Christ.

Rev. Philip, who has been deeply burdened to pray for Malaysia, challenged the people to remain faithful to the country. For a whole two hours, the people then sang “Malaysia is filled with His Glory” and there was a strong presence of the Holy Spirit as the people wept and prayed for Malaysia.



THIS 30-DAY PRAYER GUIDE highlights the plight of migrants and refugees in Malaysia and will engage readers in prayerful action.

There are over 2.5 million documented migrants and refugees plus an estimated 2.5 million undocumented ones.

Refugees in Malaysia are not guaranteed protection nor given the right to work. This leaves them extremely vulnerable to extortion, deportation and human trafficking.

Jointly published by YWAM Penang and Raise Their Voice, the guides cost RM5 each. To get your copy, email disappointedbyhope@gmail.com

Two generations united

Rev. Ewen shared that there is an “independent spirit” among the younger and older generations in churches where the youths are doing their own things while the older generation does not trust them.

Quoting Malachi 4:6, “He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...”, Rev. Ewen urged the youths to honour the older generation. In so doing, they can inherit the rich spiritual heritage from the older generation.

On the other hand, the older generation should trust the youths and give them spiritual covering. There can only be victory when the two generations are united just like the unity of Moses’ staff and Joshua’s sword.

Through this conference, participants were awakened to the fact that for revival to hit Malaysia, there must first be unity between the younger and older generations, and between denominations and language groups.

Alpha Course at NS camps

By Major Kuldip Gill

I was a young Christian when I first met the National Director of Alpha Malaysia who asked me if I was keen to get into the Alpha team. I watched the Alpha video and met a team of Alpha practitioners who changed my view of evangelism.

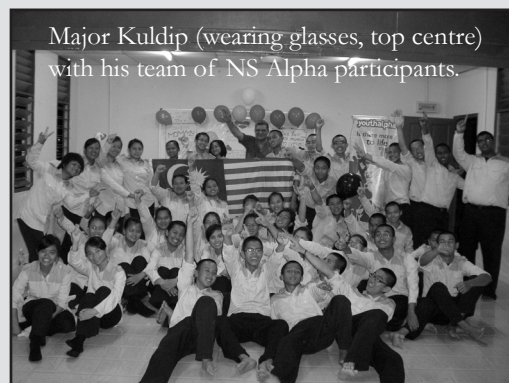
Thus began my journey with the National Service (NS) Alpha programme where I help to train pastors and other Christians volunteers to run the Alpha course at the NS camps.

On 5 Dec 2009, we conducted the first Alpha refresher course in Kuala Lumpur. The first batch of 12 facilitators were commissioned and the first Alpha batch of NS participants started in January 2010 at a camp in Kuala Lumpur.

Currently, 46 camps are running the Alpha course with another 14 set to go. There are a total of 86 NS camps throughout the nation and 79 are actively running Christian classes.

We are still looking at training more facilitators for the other camps. We are actually ministering to about 17,000 Christians every year and 70 percent are from Sabah and Sarawak.

These opportunities, presented to us on a silver platter, allow us to actually do something, however small or insignificant we may seem to be in



His Kingdom.

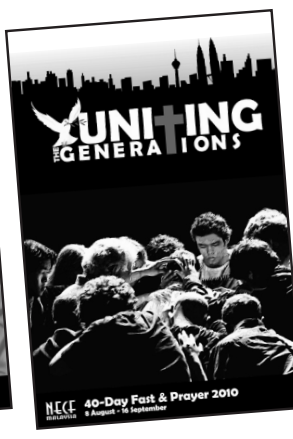
Alpha is not easy but I can say it is actually ‘do-able’. The secret of Alpha is to let the participants come up with the answers in small group discussions. You need to just smile, pretend to be intelligent and best of all, memorise the following phrases – “How interesting”; “What do the rest of you think?”; “Ok! Let’s eat”.

We can make a difference to the lives of the NS participants if we really care and use all our skills of supporting, counselling, praying, listening and guiding, just as our Father in heaven is doing to us.

There is great satisfaction in being part of the transformation process of the young NS participants.

(Kuldip is the coordinator for the NS Alpha programme. He can be reached at 012-212 6500.)

Have you ordered your Fast & Prayer Guides?



THE ADULT VERSION is available in English, Bahasa, Chinese and Tamil while the children’s version is available in all four languages except Tamil.

Please get your copies from NECF Malaysia.

COMING UP ...

Missional Conference

August 26–27, 2010

FGT @ Wisma Eagles, Subang Jaya

Highlights:

- ✓ Workshops on community projects
- ✓ Message by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Dato' Idris Jala on Government Transformation Programme

This is NOT a missions conference. Instead, this is a conference to rouse churches to step out of their doors onto their communities. Dr Paul Alexander, a former pastor who spearheaded a vibrant missional church in the UK, will share the Biblical perspective of the missional church and its critical role in nation building.

The afternoon sessions will be filled with workshops conducted by Christians who have established impactful ministries for the needy. They are:

E-media

Participants will learn about the e-media's potentials and strength in influencing transformation of community and society as a whole. This workshop will also feature the e-media set up by NECF for not only a source of news but a platform of influence and impact on society. Sreedhar Subramaniam, a founder of The Malaysian Insider responsible for establishing the site and managing it, will



unveil NECF's e-media "Good Times" and talk about its potential.



Arts and Media

Colin Kirton, is a renowned figure in the arts and media scene with his own production, "Footstool Players", will share how Christians can be a channel of influence to communicate common values to the public.

Transforming community through business

Bruce and Cathie Chong own a specialty shop which supplies raw honey, royal jelly, bee pollen and green propolis. The couple will share their working model and ideas, and how their concept has been able to bring about developments in poorer communities. Participants will be inspired to help the marginalised community by establishing businesses that will provide employment opportunities for the needy.

Rural development

Pr Dr Paul Chen has been involved in rural development work within the Jehai Orang Asli community for many years. He will share how churches may contribute to developing the welfare of the people and how to motivate Christians and churches to get involved.

Community school

Rev. Elisha Satvinder has set up several community schools around the country. He will share how he started the ministry and how Christians may begin to bring moral education and values to people across the racial divide.

Youths for nation-building

Youth pastor Lim Jit Pang has successfully mobilised hundreds of youths of various races and religions to be involved in making an impact in Kluang, Johor. He will share how he motivated the youths to serve the needy, regardless of race and religion in Kluang.



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S Prayer Conference 2010

● 22–23 (Mon–Tues) November 2010 ●
DUMC, Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Who should attend?	Parents, pastors/Children's Ministry workers and children involved in intercession ministries
Objective	To launch Children's Prayer Cells/Children's House of Prayer
Organiser	NECF Malaysia Prayer Commission
Fee	Adult RM60, Child RM20

Contact Mei Sean at 012-329 0680 for more information

COMING UP . . .

This seminar is specially organised for pastors and church leaders to equip them to engage the Cybergeneration – Internet-savvy people, especially the youths.

Technology is growing at such a blistering pace that the world is having a hard time keeping up with the changes. And the more technology we produce, the faster we develop newer things. As this cycle progresses, it speeds up, hence pushing technology further and faster than it ever has been before.

Social media, social networking, video gaming, pornography, and Internet addictions are all on the rise and show no signs of abating. As this trend continues to grow and evolve, there will be significant impacts and changes on our society.

But what does this mean for the church at large?

How has technology affected our faith, our ministries, our youths?

Is your church equipped to engage the Cybergeneration?

Find out at the Cyberwellness Seminar which will explore the actions we can take to counter the trends, dangers and happenings in the Cyberworld.

SPEAKERS

The speakers are from the Cybergeneration itself and they will address the issues from their experience, understanding and relevance. They will then look at cyberwellness from a biblical perspective to work towards a wholesome lifestyle.

CYBERWELLNESS SEMINAR

- ▶ **Sept. 28, 2010 (Tuesday)**
10.00a.m. – 12.30p.m.
- ▶ **NECF Malaysia office,**
SS2, Petaling Jaya
- ▶ **RM10 (to cover lunch & materials)**
- ▶ **For pastors & leaders. Limited to 50 participants on a first-come-first-served basis.**

Daniel Tan spent 10 years in IT and corporate training before becoming the Youth Pastor of SIB Kuala Lumpur. His passion is to raise a generation of young Malaysian leaders to be role models and mentors who will bring positive transformation to the nation.

Keith Woo is an avid gamer, blogger, psychologist, social networker, researcher and aspiring comedian. He hopes to challenge society to become healthy Internet users in today's tech-savvy Cyberworld. Keith is SIB KL's Project Gemilang Programme Director.

NECF MALAYSIA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Vision Christian Fellowship Johor Bahru pastored by Rev. Wong Wai Tuck; Hope Tawau pastored by Anthony Ng; Jesus Loves Fellowship Senawang pastored by Tewasukayam a/l Chandanam; First Baptist Church, Petaling Jaya, rep. by Dr Tan Eng Lee; and Pertubuhan Kristus Pulau Pinang (Christ's Commission Centre) rep. by Tan Choon Kok.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Rev. Samuel C. Jesudasan, Pr Alvin Bong Tick Hong and Rev. Johnny Wong Giam Fui.

JOB VACANCY

NECF Malaysia is looking for an **ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY** to assist the Nation-Building and Prayer ministries in the organisation.

To apply, contact Ching Bee Gaik at the NECF office (tel. 03-7727 8227).

HAITI Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January, the Haitian president announced three days of holiday for the purpose of fasting and prayer.

Haitians embraced the idea enthusiastically and churches were filled to overflowing, with most businesses closed. The Christian witness of many Haitians interviewed by foreign TV reporters after the disaster has also been stood out.

Although Christian-majority Haiti has been dominated for centuries by voodoo, it now has a growing number of evangelical Christians and a growing number of Muslims.

Praise God for how tragedy and suffering appear to be bringing this nation to seek the Lord.

PRAY •The Church of Haiti will use this window of opportunity to be a bold and compassionate witness for the Lord.

- For the restoration work on physical structures and rebuilding of lives, that they will proceed smoothly.

SRI LANKA A year ago in May 2009, the Sri Lankan government forces defeated the rebel Tamil Tigers.

But though the fighting came to an end, there has been a huge ongoing crisis: 300,000 people have been displaced by the war and are living in overcrowded camps.

Among these internally displaced people are Christians and pastors. Barnabas, an agency ministering to the Persecuted Church, provided 40 church packs, each containing five Bibles, 10 hymn books and six ground mats.

These enabled the pastors to set up 40 worshipping communities in the camp. The believers meet regularly for worship and to reach out to other

suffering inmates.

PRAY •That the believers will be strengthened through their regular meetings;

- The hearing of God's Word will bring hope and comfort to His people as they continue to endure the difficult living conditions of the camp; and
- His message of love and hope will reach out to the other suffering inmates in a powerful way through His people.

PAKISTAN Six Christians, including two women, were murdered when gunmen stormed the offices of Christian aid agency World Vision in Mansehra district in March.

Bombs or grenades were detonated before the gunmen opened fire on the staff, who were all Pakistanis.

A statement from World Vision said, "We remember those staff who have died as dedicated people seeking to improve the lives of people affected by poverty and disasters."

PRAY •For the families who have been left bereaved by this incident;

- That God will provide for their material needs through the faithful generosity of His people, and for healing of their emotions;
- That the other World Vision staff in the office will surrender their fears to their Protector and continue to faithfully serve Him; and
- For those behind the attack that they will be brought to justice.

UZBEKISTAN There has been serious concern over recent developments in Uzbekistan where a church was raided by police without a

warrant.

In May, the church in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, was raided by police, the secret police, tax inspectorate, fire Inspectors and the sanitary-epidemiological service.

The 500 church members who were in the midst of the Sunday service as well as the Sunday school children were videotaped by the police. After a five-hour search, the police detained eight church members including the Assistant Pastor Artur Avanesyan. They were kept in detention for 24 hours without any food or water and were not allowed to contact their families.

Letters of permission given by parents of 392 children to attend Sunday school were among papers taken away by the police.

On May 18, the district court sentenced three of the church members to 15 days' imprisonment. Heavy fines were imposed on five other members.

Tashkent City Church of Christ is a registered church established in 1999 and has been regularly scrutinised by the Tashkent Justice Department – as required by law. Church leaders expressed their concern that this incident is a clear sign that authorities are trying close down the church.

The raid on the church is the latest in a series of similar raids on Protestant congregations this year. There have also been several instances where Christian leaders have been convicted of various false charges.

PRAY •For justice, equality and religious freedom, not just for Uzbek Christians but for all Uzbeks; and

- The Uzbek Church will not be cowed by fear by the harassment from the government but will be even stronger instead.