

ANOVA RESEARCH PROCESS

Bahasa Malaysia (BM)-Speaking Youth Report

Malaysia

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Completed Report



ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations, OneHope has shared the life of Jesus with over 653 million children and young people.



NECF MALAYSIA

The National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia is an umbrella body representing about 2,500 evangelical churches in the country. NECF is one of the three founding members of the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) and is represented through the CFM, on the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism. It has been able to garner the evangelical voice in making its distinctive marks on the nation, especially in prayer, research, leadership development and evangelism. The current emphasis on community transformation seeks to mobilize churches to contribute their resources towards nation building.

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Section I: Executive Summary

General Information for Malaysia ANOVA Research Process

From October 14 – 16, 2010, 16 student focus groups (from a Christian perspective) and 7 interviews with evangelical leaders were convened in the states of Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia to provide information for this project.

Key Issues

STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES: RELATIVE TO CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE:

- BM-speaking youth value their relationships and are predisposed to group activities.
- Youth seek counsel when facing difficulties in life.
- Youth are highly interested in television and social networking sites.
- Youth believe that spiritual instructions can help them address their challenges in life.
- Youth have dreams and ambitions in life.

LEADERS PERSPECTIVE:

- Christian leaders see language as an important factor in bridging the gap among the different speaking groups.
- Church leaders see spiritual potential in BM-speaking youth.
- Leaders are aware of the need to make Christianity practical and relevant to the youth.
- Most leaders believe that youth today are more spiritually inclined and committed in their involvement in church's activities.
- Leaders recognize the need for authenticity inside the church.
- Leaders see the importance of mentoring to support and guide the youth.

WEAKNESSES & THREATS: RELATIVE TO CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE:

- Youth seem to be highly influenced by their peers that sometimes affect their decision-making.
- Youth have difficulty in making decisions when facing life issues.
- Youth do not see media affecting the common challenges they face such as, boy/girl relationships, pregnancies out of wedlock and other sexuality issues.
- Some youth believe that different religions could co-exist in harmony.
- There is a fear among BM-speaking Christian youth that sharing about their faith in schools and other public areas will lead them to trouble.

LEADERS PERSPECTIVE

- Leaders notice that non-Christians impact the youth to be drawn away from their faith and behave willfully.
- Leaders see the negative influence of media to how the youth handle their passions and desires.
- Peer pressure and excessive school activities tend to draw the Christian youth away from their faith.

Recommendations

- Provide youth-related programs and activities, utilizing different mediums (music, sports, technology, drama, etc) that are interesting to the youth and also cater to their needs.
- Conduct family training workshops and activities that will nurture and strengthen family relationships.
- Create programs that will provide mentors for Christian youth.
- Consider connecting with Malaysia Sports Ministry Coalition/Kids' Games for local church volunteer training and possible mentoring/discipleship programs.
- Develop programs using Internet and TV that will entertain and instruct youth on Christian values.
- Utilize *The GodMan* as a tool to effectively teach character education.
- Employ social networking in ministry to youth.
- Further Study
- To fully understand the attitudes and behaviors of the BM-speaking youth, a research involving the non-Christian BM-speaking youth should also be carried out.

Responses to Research Questions/Areas

1. What are the main interests of Malaysian youth today?

- a. What is the most common media that appeals to youth?**
- b. What activities attract youth?**

Across all groups, Internet and TV are the most common forms of media that appeal to Bahasa Malaysia (BM)-speaking youth. While all groups identify Facebook as a very popular social networking site, the younger and older youth also use Twitter and YouTube respectively. In addition, both groups go online to play games and enjoy watching movies, which coincides with TV watching.

While it cannot be said that the majority of younger youth enjoy reading, novels, comic books and magazines are identified as the most popular and pleasurable forms of reading materials. Older youth, however, enjoy reading newspapers and magazines to gain information even though online news is less censored than printed ones.

Outside of visual stimuli, older and younger groups enjoy listening to music through the radio; additionally, older youth use an MP3 player. Not only do older BM youth listen to music, they also engage with their music through singing and playing the guitar.

Various social activities including sports (football, badminton and swimming), walking around town or simply hanging out with friends are common activities that occupy all youth's time. Older youth specify that they go shopping while hanging out with their friends; moreover, they go to church and are involved in ministry.

While both groups of youth find time to engage in social activities, younger youth spend most of their free time alone sleeping. Differently, older youth draw and make crafts to pass their time.

2. What influences are most important in shaping youth's values?

- a. What differences in perception exist between parents and teens regarding the role of the family?**
- b. Who do youth go to for answers when they have a problem?**

BM leaders feel that peers often influence BM-speaking youth, thus pushing them closer to their friends than they are to their family. Furthermore, leaders observe that youth seem obligated to learn and use English not only because of the pressure their English-speaking friends bring, but also to function in the fast-paced society. One respondent cited that when a youth goes to the bank to get a loan, the bank would charge a higher amount of interest if he/she does not speak English.

Additionally, they perceive that media greatly impacts youth of today. One negative effect that leaders see is the violence that is promoted in the movies. Leaders believe that youth today are more violent because of their attempts to mimic what they see on the silver screen. Similarly,

they sense that romantic movies encourage youth to be more public in showing their affection towards the opposite sex.

Another source of influence that leaders acknowledge are non-Christians. Leaders think that non-Christians will not only lead them away from their faith but also encourage them to do bad or wrong things.

Both leaders and all youth affirm that BM-speaking youth would seek counsel from their family, specifically parents when faced with problems. Leaders think that youth feel like there is nothing to hide to their parents, especially when they have good family relationships, although some youth report they talk only to their mother and not their father and still others will talk to their sister. Furthermore, leaders believe that they lack the maturity to handle life problems outside of their comfort zone and will literally return back home.

However, older youth report that while it might be difficult to deal with issues away from home, they will seek advice from friends, girlfriends and people that are close to them. Younger youth will also go to their friends for advice even though the majority of them are close to home. BM leaders also confirm this. Youth see their friends as trustworthy, comfort-givers and more understanding at times than their parents. All youth concur they would go to their parents when faced with financial problems or issues deemed to be major.

Outside of the family, younger youth will go to their teachers to seek counsel. They see their teachers as older, more experienced and able to give sound suggestions. On the other hand, leaders believe that youth in general will ask for advice from pastors. While NGO counseling centers were mentioned, leaders are unaware if this resource has been tapped into by the youth.

Even though youth do not specifically mention pastors as an outlet to share their problems, Christian youth did mention that they would go to God/Jesus in prayer. While these reports come from youth who are open enough to share, some youth from both groups state that they prefer to keep their personal problems to themselves. Older youth express that when problems are just too much to bear, while still remaining silent, they will just sit and cry.

3. How does language and ethnicity affect today's youth?

Most of the leaders interviewed view language as a help to bridge the gap among the different speaking groups in the church. They believe that common language in the church is essential so that congregation can understand each other thus able to fellowship with one another. One of the challenges identified though is when people from the villages or towns come to church and they do not speak any of the 3 languages spoken in the church. Village people will often feel discriminated and embarrassed since the only language they speak is their mother tongue. Leaders often encounter the same problem when they go to villages to minister. Leaders believe that though there are 3 main languages in the country, the reality is only some people speak at least 2 of these.

Older youth like to engage in English forms of media in order to improve their English skills. Leaders believe this is because BM-speaking youth feel inferior when conversing with English speaking people.

While older youth notice a bias with how their teachers treat individuals based on race, very little has been said about it.

4. What is the main problem youth deal with today?

Across all groups, they are aware of the influence that youth's peers have on the BM-speaking youth. More of the older youth disclose peer pressure as a common problem that youth their age face while younger youth report it less. On the other hand, leaders share the same opinion as the BM-speaking youth. Leaders feel that peers often influence youth thus making them closer to their friends than they are to their parents. When under such circumstances, youth have difficulty in deciding and doing the right thing. Furthermore, they do not know how to handle their passion and desires which makes them more vulnerable to peer pressure.

While leaders see that media influences their passions and desires, youth only reveal that they tend to have more problems with boy/girl relationships. They do not see media impacting their behavior in their relationship with the opposite sex. Overwhelmingly, older youth communicate that interpersonal relationships such as friendships, gangs and boy/girl relationships are most problematic in their lives. Interestingly, younger youth mentioned pregnancies out of wedlock as well as other vague sexuality issues as common. BM leaders also perceive boy/girl relationship as another issue that BM speaking youth are dealing with. Some leaders see it as a big problem in college and boarding schools where students are staying while studying and away from their families. Furthermore, younger youth identify the fear of being rejected, infighting, bad attitudes toward one another and bad mouthing are some of the issues that they face in relating with their friends.

For all youth, family matters can also be a problem. While being away from their family makes it difficult for the older youth to make decisions and to manage their life, younger youth deal with high expectations from their parents to get good grades.

In as much as financial problems are a concern between both youth groups, younger youth deal with simpler money problems and will go to their parents for assistance. Older youth on the other hand cope with more critical ones like finding a job and managing income that can eventually lead to difficult monetary problems.

While younger youth express their concern about the pressures they face in school to get good grades, older youth have to deal with balancing school work with other activities, studies, amount of homework and where to go next in school. Furthermore, thoughts about the future, such as knowing what is next in life, wondering if they will be able to accomplish their dreams, making commitments and decisions, setting goals and knowing the purpose in life are other issues that older youth face. More adverse problems that older youth cite include drugs, vandalism, blackmailing, going to pubs, fighting, anger control and suicide.

Differently, BM leaders see religion as one of the main issues that youth are confronted with. Leaders recognize that most of the BM youth do not only have little knowledge in the Bible, they also do not know how to apply Biblical truths in their life. Every leader interviewed acknowledged that the aggressive propagation of Islam (Islamization) nowadays can easily affect the superficial spiritual condition of BM-speaking Christian youth. When in the church, youth do not know what to do because they are not aware of what their role should be. Leaders believe this is due to lack of education/teachings on faith and other spiritual things inside the church.

Some leaders mentioned that the lack of mentors to support and guide the youth is another problem youth are facing. While the older generation does see a value in the youth, that future depends on them, the answer to the question “who will support them?” remains undetermined.

Another challenge leaders believe that BM speaking youth encounter is in the area of confidence/self-esteem. Leaders sense that youth feel inferior either because of their race, lack of education or that they have come from rural areas. Furthermore, the inability to speak a foreign language does not only hinder them from communicating with others, it also causes them to feel lower in status.

5. Are Malaysian youth interested in religion and spirituality?

- a. How do Malaysian youth perceive the church?**
- b. What do Malaysian youth consider to be the appropriate relationship between religions?**
- c. What are the barriers and challenges in the minds of Malaysian youth towards Christianity?**
- d. What help do youth expect to receive from religion?**

Most leaders interviewed are convinced that Christian background youth nowadays are very committed to go to church while others believe that some youth are not so interested. Leaders notice that youth that are active in the church will most likely be involved in the worship/music ministry. Further, leaders recognize that youth in the church today are better versed in the Word of God than the generation before them. However, Christian youth do not share about their faith in schools and other public areas for fear of encountering problems in these places. While Christian students think that being quiet about what they believe in is the same as respecting other religions, leaders view this as choosing to stay in their comfort zones.

Across all groups of youth, religion is said to be very important. Younger youth view religion as their salvation, a source to guide and teach them to be a good person and gives them purpose in life and understanding that they are children of God. Also, they believe that their religion (the 10 Commandments, the Holy Spirit and the Bible) offers them practical everyday help. Further, they express that the Holy Spirit guides them to do the right thing and corrects them when wrong – like an inner conscience. The Bible on the other hand, gives them instruction on how to live their lives and overcome challenges and the desire to do wrong. Additionally, they believe

the power of faith performs miracles, enables them to do anything they think is right regardless of opposition, teaches them right from wrong and gives them hope.

In the same way, older youth see religion as a valuable guide in their daily life that will help and teach them to become a good person. Older youth believe that through religion, unseemly behaviors such as smoking, cheating in school and going to clubs can be avoided. This leads then to a change in lifestyle that is in the way they act, dress, think and behave in public. While it is believed that the Bible has the answers to life's questions, speaks truths into their lives and convicts them when they are wrong, prayer is viewed as a guide in life.

While some BM-speaking older youth believe that different religions could co-exist in harmony, others see otherwise. Those who do not suppose it is possible express that aside from favoritism in religion shown by the government, there is also no understanding among the existing religions. Furthermore, they feel that if religions would co-exist in harmony, it would compromise the Word of God because no one would share the truth. On the other hand, those who state the possibility of this, report that it can only be accomplished through God. Moreover, it is dependent on the people who will live out their faith through actions and not just say it in words. This will change the youth's mindset that all religions are the same, that is, they all teach people to be a good person. Still others believe that it is only possible if there is tolerance and respect for other's beliefs; that members of different faiths do not intentionally hurt others' feelings with their words and actions. While majority of the respondents are split in their beliefs, few do not know if it is possible and still others do not believe that religion should be a major issue.

Some of the challenges leaders see that BM-speaking youth need to overcome so they will not be drawn away from their faith in Christ are peer pressure and busyness in school activities. While this is the case, leaders also mentioned that there should be authenticity in the Christian church so the youth can distinguish the difference between Christianity and other religions. The church must find ways to impact the lives of the youth so that they will not be enticed by other religions and be converted.

6. What is the current relationship between the older and younger generation in Malaysia?

While Christian leaders believe that everyone has a role to carry out in order to bring a closer understanding between parents and children, majority of the leaders recognize that this issue is a challenge to the leaders. The church should sponsor seminars for parents ("Men Camp" – a seminar at church where men go to learn their roles in the house) and for children/youth ("No Apologies" – promoted by Focus on the Family which talks about the importance of keeping away from pre-marital sex). Leaders believe that when members of the family know their respective roles, the gap closes. Also, the church should conduct sports night where family could play games like football together. Leaders believe that activities like these would bring the family closer.

Leaders acknowledge that parents have also a responsibility to fulfill. Parents should spend more time with their children and encourage them when they loose interest in life.

Furthermore, parents need to tell their children what they need to do in order to achieve their goals. However, they should still let their children decide what they want to be and help them do everything they can to achieve their dreams.

While nothing much is said by the BM-speaking youth about the present relationship between the older and younger generations, the youth however express their closeness to their parents when they encounter difficulty and challenges in life. In addition, some younger youth communicate that they share their problems to their teachers because of the teachers' maturity and experience.

7. How do Malaysians view the current education system?

- a. Parent/Pastors?**
- b. Students?**

Leaders believe that BM speaking youth already know the importance of education to them. They see that one gets more advantages when he/she is educated. They feel its importance although competition and pressure to earn a degree is also sensed. While the mindset of wanting to be educated is fairly new (probably within the last 5 years), this thought is not as existent in the minds of the youth living in the villages and rural areas. While majority of youth interviewed desire to pursue higher education, it appears that, only a small number of them go to college.

Leaders see the government's effort in motivating families to encourage their children to attend school. Leaders acknowledge that government's attempt to promote education is much greater now than that of 10 years ago; attending both primary and secondary schools are compulsory.

Aside from the secular education, leaders think that there is a need for Christian education. Church needs to change its education system and emulate the government's efforts and passion in advancing the education of the youth.

Leaders are aware that most parents are supportive of their children's education because they can see the competition between those who are educated and those who are not. However, parents living in rural areas may not be as supportive because they need their children to help them in the daily chores. Leaders believe that education should be made practical for the youth that is if they are interested in agriculture, they should be sent to where they can learn agriculture and apply that knowledge. Also, opportunities to learn special skills should be provided, e.g. if youth want to learn about how to be a factory worker, they should be sent to a factory worker and learn.

Overwhelmingly, BM-speaking older youth report that they are unsatisfied with the way things are in their school. Reasons vary from simple such as expensive fees, stressful environment, and poor facilities to complex ones like unhealthy competition between classmates, religious conflicts between students and discrimination by teacher based on religion and race.

Additionally, other youth express that they do not like school because of exams and if they attend school it is because they want to see their friends.

The majority of students interviewed expressed dissatisfaction with the way things are at their school. Students mentioned such things as expensive fees, racial and religious discrimination, poor facilities, a sense of unhealthy competition, etc. Among those who are somewhat satisfied with their school, they report that boring teachers, school location and school management are some of the reasons that keep them from being fully satisfied.

8. What are practical ways to make Christianity and discipleship relevant to this generation?

Leaders believe that there are practical ways to make Christianity relevant to the youth today. One of the things leaders mentioned is through living by example. Leaders understand that if the church will show a good example and not just preach/tell the youth what to do, more youth will be drawn to Christianity. Providing youth-related activities in the church, creating a youth environment and holding programs that will connect to the interest of the youth are also cited as possible ways to make Christianity real to the youth. Furthermore, leaders feel that there is a need to constantly teach the youth about discipleship.

Section II: Project Overview

Rationale for Project

To design the most effective programs to reach the children and youth of a nation, it is important to capture pertinent information about a population prior to launching new programs or designing products. In the ANOVA research process, focus groups¹ were conducted throughout Malaysia to gather information on the behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs of Malaysian youth, as well as the challenges that exist in conducting ministering to them in Malaysia. Interviews were also conducted throughout Malaysia with adults who work directly with youth to gain their views on the youth of Malaysia.

Unlike surveys, where respondents are oftentimes limited in their answer choices, focus groups allow for any idea to be introduced through the discussion of topics relevant to study participants. When seeking to understand the nature and needs of a population, this type of research is employed best when including those deemed most informed.

Broadly speaking, this project sought to gather information around the following areas:

- 1) The biggest challenges young people face
- 2) The barriers to evangelism/Christian outreach and opportunities for programs and organizations
- 3) The current ministry realities of BM-speaking young people in Malaysia

The information gathered from this project can assist organizations, such as OneHope and other project partners, in planning their outreach strategies and life improvement programs for Malaysia's children and youth. Also, the findings from this project may be valuable in developing products that are relevant and appealing for young people while also addressing their heartfelt needs.

Additionally, information gather from this project can help already existing organizations work smarter not harder by being aware of other established organizations, knowing the needs of their target audience, understanding and identifying the desired outcomes (what organizations want to see change as a result of their efforts) of their organization and of others; the usefulness and help of a partnership with other organizations, and the accessibility of engaging with other organizations. In Malaysia, the beginning of an ANOVA research process was performed. An ANOVA process should be done prior to program design because it's a tool useful for organizations to work most effectively and use resources already present.

ANOVA stands for:

A – **Asset Mapping**: identifying pre-existing qualities in the community. These can range from natural resources, social resources, cultural resources, public/government resources, etc.

¹5-8 people who have something in common and are called together to speak on how they feel or think about an issue or idea

N – Needs Assessment: Identifying needs of a defined population and determining the way things currently are and the way they should be in the future as well as prioritizing these needs.

O – Outcomes Identification: Desire changes for the individual, community, organization, etc. after their involvement with the program or service.

V – Value Proposition: Benefits for all parties involved (i.e. the individual receiving the program, the organization hosting the program, financial contributors, etc.)

A – Access: Availability to the target audience, to the needs, to the organization, etc. Ask specific questions that can answer: Who? What? Where? When? How? And Why?

While Asset Mapping and Needs Assessment can be functional for a broad audience, the entire ANOVA research process should be done by individual organizations to be most effective to tailor fit the outcomes, values, and access.

Convened Groups

Focus groups are convened to provide information on the social, economic, and program dynamics of the targeted region. Following a multiple-category design, focus groups were convened for the following demographic profiles:

- Evangelical Leaders & Pastors working with the Bahasa Malaysia-speaking community
- 13-16 Year Old Students
- 17-22 Year Old Students

Regions for Focus Groups

A double-layer approach was used in conducting this research as multiple demographic groups met in the following areas of Malaysia:

- Sabah
- Sarawak

Leadership and Facilitators

OneHope in partnership with the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) conducted this research project. Rev. Ty & Cina Silva (Regional Directors, OneHope Asia Pacific), Kimberly Russel (Research Director, OneHope), Rodel Lacson (Ministry Consultant, OneHope Malaysia), Jessica Drachenberg (Missionary, OneHope) and Joy Barachina-Lojo (Regional Research Coordinator, OneHope Asia Pacific) facilitated the project in conjunction with Eugene Yapp (Executive Secretary for Research, NECF).

Kimberly Russel conducted the focus group training on October 11, 2010 at the Focus in the Family Resource Center in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. A total of 10 people were trained to serve as focus group facilitators (herein referred to as facilitators) for this project.

The following people served as focus group facilitators: Rodel Lacson, Jessica Drachenberg and Joy B. Lojo (OneHope)

The following people served as note takers: Jessica Drachenberg, Kimberly Russel, and Joy B. Lojo (OneHope).

Charlynn Cheah served as the translator during the interviews with the pastors and focus group discussions.

Focus Group Composition and Format

No more than 10 persons were included in the majority of groups convened for this project. Additionally, efforts were made to minimize social and economic disparities among participants. As some participant groups were deemed to be especially information rich, multiple groups were conducted for some demographic profiles (e.g. students).

In this report, findings from multiple groups of a single demographic profile were consolidated to provide a consensus account for that group. Additionally, the names of focus group participants and other identifiers are not included in this report.

Each focus group session took approximately 60-90 minutes. After a brief welcome and overview of the topic areas², focus group participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and knowledge of the subject matter. Each focus group had approximately 5-7 topic areas for discussion. Discussion was structured to identify commonalities and areas of diverging opinions between participants.

The findings from all focus groups are included in this report.

Schedule for Data Collection

On September 27 – 30, 2010 meetings were convened in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur (Sept. 27-28) and Kota Kinabalu (29-30). Research questions and topic guides were created for each demographic group.

Focus groups were organized under the supervision of Rodel Lacson (OneHope Malaysia) and Eugene Yapp (National Evangelical Christian Fellowship-NECF). The following persons assisted in coordinating groups: Catherine Teong (SIB), Pastor Maurice Giluk, Pastor Tram Epoi, Pastor Hinly Jackson and Mabel Ho.

The organizations that facilitated this project include: National Evangelical Christian Fellowship Research Commission, SIB: KL, Maranatha Church (KK), SIB: Kuching, Good News Fellowship, Kid's EE Malaysia,

Data Analysis and Reporting

A note taker recorded information shared in each focus group. Upon completion of a focus group, the facilitation team completed a focus group report form, which was then sent to the analysis team for review. The majority of focus groups were conducted in English.

² See page 16 for topic areas for each demographic group

This report addresses the questions and topic areas identified by OneHope, NECF and other project partners as essential for decision-making, distribution planning and outcome design for youth programs in the region. Common and/or recurring themes from focus groups are identified and compared across demographic profiles. Additionally, when possible, information from secondary sources is included to provide greater clarity for future planning.

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Focus Group Research Questions

1. What are the main interests of Malaysian youth today?
2. What influences are most important in shaping youth's values?
 - a. What differences in perception exist between parents and teens regarding the role of the family?
 - b. Who do youth go to for answers when they have a problem?
3. How does language and ethnicity affect today's youth?
4. What is the main problem youth deal with today?
5. Are Malaysian youth interested in religion and spirituality?
 - a. How do Malaysian youth perceive the church?
 - b. What do the Malaysian consider to be the appropriate relationship between religions?
 - c. What are the barriers and challenges in the minds of Malaysian youth towards Christianity?
 - d. What help do youth expect to receive from religion?
6. What is the current relationship between the older and younger generation in Malaysia?
7. How do Malaysians view the current education system?
 - a. Parents/Pastors?
 - b. Students?
8. What are practical ways to make Christianity and discipleship relevant to this generation?

FOCUS GROUP TYPES

Evangelical Leaders & Pastors Interview

- What two words would you use to describe BM youth today?
- What is the main issue or problem that BM youth deal with today?
- What role does media play in the lives of youth today?
- In what ways do you think we can bring a closer understanding between parents and children?
- How can we bring forward the importance of education to the BM youth?
- How do BM youth express themselves spiritually?
- How does language impact national harmony and unity in the church?
- Among all the things that were discussed, what do you think is the most important or what stands out to you?

17-22 Year Old Students

- What did you do today
- How important is a handphone to you?
- Which type of media appeals to you the most? (Internet, TV, Gaming, Movies, etc.)
- Other than school/work, what is the activity that you spend most of your time doing in a day?
- What kind of activities do you do with your family?
- How satisfied/happy are you with the way “things” are in your school?
- What about your life brings the greatest happiness?
- What is the main issue or problem that youth your age deal with?
- When you have a problem, whom do you look to for advice?
- In what way do you look to religion to guide you?
- How do you think it is possible for different religions to co-exist in harmony?
- From what we have talked about, what do you feel most strongly about?

12-16 Year Old Students

- What do you enjoy most about school?
- When you're not in school, what is the activity that you spend most of your time doing in a day?
- Which type of media do you enjoy the most (Internet, TV, Gaming, Movies, etc.)?
- What kind of activities do you do with your family?
- What is the main problem that youth your age deal with today?
- When you have a problem, whom do you look to for advice?
- In what ways is religion important to you?
- From what we have talked about, what do you feel most strongly about?

Section III: Synopsis of Data and Findings

Evangelical Leaders and Pastors

Christian leaders describe Bahasa Malaysia (BM) speaking youth in positive ways: energetic, have potential for growth, modern or fashionable and willing to follow leaders. Although still vacillating on what to become in the future, the potential to make a name for themselves is already evident among the youth. Leaders think if these youth will be guided and nurtured, opportunities of sharing the Gospel to them will be more possible, therefore will lead to youth's spiritual growth. Youth today are also seen as fashionable or modern and more exposed to technology and media. This makes them more advanced and knowledgeable than many adults in their world. In addition, leaders observe that youth today enjoy social networking.

Leaders report that while youth in the past are timid and shy, youth nowadays are more open and able to express themselves. Furthermore, leaders see that youth do not just need leaders to guide and help them face the challenges in life; they are also willing to follow them.

While these constructive descriptions about the youth are given, leaders also perceive BM youth as immature, without ambition and feelings of inferiority. Leaders note that when youth, who would go out from their respective towns into the city to either study or work, when they encounter problems, would often resort to going back to their hometowns. Leaders associate this for youth's immaturity and inability to handle difficulties in life. In addition, leaders believe that problems occur when youth from rural areas come to the city, they do not seek the church's help, thus their spiritual life also suffers.

Leaders working among the BM speaking youth surmise that the feeling of inferiority comes when BM youth mingle with English speaking people as well as with those who belong to the higher socio-economic status (SES). Additionally, leaders see youth as secretive and will not really share secrets with their family. Leaders believe this leads parents to mistrust their children. Furthermore, youth's exposure to a lot of things through media causes parents to have misgivings about their own children. Moreover, youth are also seen as insincere, thus, pastors doubt if the youth are being totally honest when they relate their daily activities to them.

The main issue or problem identified for the BM speaking youth today is peer pressure. Leaders feel that peers often influence youth thus making them closer to their friends than they are to their parents. However, this does not mean that they will only share their problems to their friends. Under certain circumstances youth have difficulty in deciding and doing the right thing. Furthermore, they do not know how to handle their passion and desires which makes them more vulnerable to peer pressure. The proliferation of ideas on sex education has made "sex" accessible and "normal" for the youth. While many older people oppose sex education because it makes the youth's behavior worse, youth feel like they can "handle" having sex safely through it.

Another challenge that youth face today is the issue on religion. Leaders recognize that most of the BM youth do not only have little knowledge in the Bible, they also do not know how to apply Biblical truths in their life. Every leader interviewed acknowledged that the aggressive propagation of Islam (Islamization) nowadays can easily affect the superficial spiritual condition of BM-speaking Christian youth. When in the church, youth do not know what to do because they are not aware of what their role should be. This is due to lack of education/teachings on faith and other spiritual things inside the church. To address this, leaders believe that the church should educate the youth about their standing or position as a Christian and the roles that they need to take.

Other challenges that leaders believe youth encounter are confidence/self-esteem and boy/girl relationship. Leaders sense that BM speaking youth feel inferior either because of their race, their lack of education or that they have come from rural areas. Furthermore, the inability to speak foreign language does not only hinder them from communicating with others, it also causes them to feel lower in status.

Boy/girl relationship is another issue that BM speaking youth are confronted with. Some leaders see it as a big problem in college and boarding schools where students are staying while studying and away from their families. While this is also a growing concern, very little has been said about it.

Some leaders mentioned that the lack of mentors to support and guide the youth is another problem youth are facing. While the older generation does see a value in the youth, that future depends on them, the answer to the question “who will support them?” remains undetermined.

A majority of Christian leaders believe that media can either bring destruction or development; it can be a good or bad thing. While youth are predisposed to follow what media promotes, they need to learn which is good so the negative effects of media will not influence them. Leaders recognize that while using Internet and Facebook is very famous, television has still the biggest impact among the BM speaking youth. While leaders acknowledge that media is not all negative, they believe that adults still need to pay attention and guide the youth.

One of the negative effects of media that leaders see is the violence that is promoted in movies. Leaders are convinced that BM speaking youth today are more violent because of what they see in the movies; they are tempted to try the violent acts shown. Moreover, romantic movies encourage youth to hold hands with the opposite sex without being embarrassed whereas before they were really shy to do it. In addition, leaders feel that the availability and accessibility of the use of Internet and Facebook have escalated peer pressure among the youth.

Leaders recognize that both peer pressure and media highly influence BM speaking youth today. They believe that youth that are not active in the church will feel greater pressure from media and peer while those active in the church do not feel as much. Furthermore, when youth mingle with people without strong faith in Christ, they are easily influenced. However, if

they associate with Christians, they will also be impacted. Leaders feel that youth need to be taught how to find friends that will have good influence on them.

Since youth want to be like their friends, to be at the same “level” as their friends, they feel a lot of pressure to speak English when they see their friends speak English very well. Also, leaders report that BM speaking youth believe they have an advantage if they know how to speak English. An incident cited was when a youth would go to a bank to get loans, the bank would charge him/her twice as much for interest if he/she does not speak English well. This and more force BM speaking youth to go to English classes although they do not really want to get a good education.

While Christian leaders believe that everyone has a role to carry out in order to bring a closer understanding between parents and children, majority of the leaders recognize that this issue is a challenge to the leaders. The church should sponsor seminars for parents (“Men Camp” – a seminar at church where men go to learn their roles in the house) and for children/youth (“No Apologies” – promoted by Focus on the Family which talks about the importance of keeping away from pre-marital sex). Leaders believe that when members of the family know their respective roles, the gap closes. Also, the church should conduct sports night where family could play together (like football). Leaders believe that activities like these would bring the family closer.

Leaders acknowledge that parents have also a responsibility to fulfill. Parents should spend more time with their children and encourage them when they loose interest in life. Furthermore, parents need to tell their children what they need to do in order to achieve their goals. However, they should still let their children decide what they want to be and help them do everything they can to achieve their dreams.

When BM speaking youth are faced with problems, leaders report that youth go to their family or parents for advice. Younger youth, youth from the interior towns that are staying in the city and even older youth would recourse to going to their parents when faced with problems. Youth feel like there is nothing to hide to their parents, especially when they have good family relationship. However, leaders note that youth from the city and outside the church will go to their friends when faced with problem. Sometimes, youth would talk to pastors and share their problems. While minor problems shared are kept between the pastor and the youth, major problems are shared by the pastor to the parents. Leaders recognize that sometimes youth do not know where to look for advice which is why the Church must encourage the youth to go to their parents for sound advice. Although there are non-government organizations (NGOs) that provide counseling, leaders are unsure if these are utilized by the youth.

Leaders believe that BM speaking youth already know the importance of education to them. They see that one gets more advantages when he/she is educated. They feel its importance although competition and pressure to earn a degree is also sensed. While the mindset of wanting to be educated is fairly new (probably within the last 5 years), this thought is not as existent in the minds of the youth living in the villages and rural areas. Most youth will pursue secondary education while a small number of them will go to college.

Leaders see the government's effort in motivating families to encourage their children to attend school. Leaders acknowledge that government's attempt to promote education is much greater now than that of 10 years ago; attending both primary and secondary schools are compulsory.

Aside from the secular education, leaders think that there is a need for Christian education. Church needs to change its education system and emulate the government's efforts and passion in advancing the education of the youth.

Leaders are aware that most parents are supportive of their children's education because they can see the competition between those who are educated and those who are not. However, parents living in rural areas may not be as supportive because they need their children to help them in the daily chores. Leaders believe that education should be made practical for the youth that is if they are interested in agriculture, they should be sent to where they can learn agriculture and apply that knowledge. Also, opportunities to learn special skills should be provided, e.g. if youth want to learn about how to be a factory worker, they should be sent to a factory worker and learn.

Leaders believe that BM speaking youth have also hopes and dreams. In the past, all students only knew how to be farmers. Nowadays, most of them have other dreams and aspirations such as to become teachers, doctors, go to college and get a degree in Music or Culinary.

Most leaders are convinced that youth nowadays are very committed to go to church while others believe that some youth are not so interested. Leaders notice that youth that are active in the church will most likely be involved in the worship/music ministry. Further, leaders recognize that youth in the church today are better versed in the Word of God than the generation before them. However, Christian youth do not share about their faith in schools and other public areas for fear of encountering problems in these places where Islam is preached. While Christian students think that being quiet about what they believe in is the same as respecting other religions, leaders view this as choosing to stay in their comfort zones.

Some of the challenges leaders see that BM-speaking youth need to overcome so they will not be drawn away from their faith in Christ are peer pressure and busyness in school activities. While this is the case, leaders also mentioned that there should be authenticity in the Christian church so the youth can distinguish the difference between Christianity and other religions. Church must find ways to impact the lives of the youth so that they will not be enticed by other religions and be converted.

Leaders believe that there are practical ways to make Christianity relevant to the youth today. One of the things leaders mentioned is through living by example. Leaders understand that if church will show a good example and not just preach/tell the youth what to do, more youth will be drawn to Christianity. Providing youth-related activities in the church, creating a youth environment and holding programs that will connect to the interest of the youth are also cited as possible ways to make Christianity real to the youth. Furthermore, leaders feel that there is a need to constantly teach the youth about discipleship.

Most of the leaders interviewed view language as a help to bridge the gap. They believe that common language in the church is essential so that congregation can understand each other thus able to fellowship with one another. One of the challenges identified though is when people from the villages or towns come to church and they do not speak any of the 3 languages spoken in the church. Village people will often feel discriminated and embarrassed since the only language they speak is their mother tongue. Leaders often encounter the same problem when they go to villages to minister. Leaders believe that though there are 3 main languages in the country, the reality is only some people speak at least 2 of these.

Older Youth

The focus groups with the Bahasa Malaysia (BM) youth reveal that they spend most of their time outside of school/work engaging with multimedia entertainment. The most common source of media they state using is the computer, specifically to use the Internet for social networking sights like Facebook, Skype, and YouTube. In addition to the computer BM youth also state that they are fond of watching TV, predominantly sports, movies, or a variety of things. They also enjoy listening to music through the radio or MP3 player, reading magazines or newspapers, playing games, and using their handphone.

Most respondents from the focus groups state that their handphone is very important to them. There are a variety of uses a handphone gives youth. Not only do they use it to communicate but also as a camera, music device, SMS, keeping track of numbers, in cases of emergencies, as a source of information, and for religious purposes. A few express that it's somewhat important and no one said it isn't important.

These sources of media are highly favored because they allow the youth to be connected to others and the outside world. Youth specify that they view the Internet as a good source of information and current news because it's less censored. They feel like they're getting more of the truth than through printed news or broadcasted news. They also communicate keeping up with sports as another way of staying connected to others and the outside world. As far as popular culture, youth feel that media allows them to remain current with social trends such as artwork, fashion, music, and innovative ideas. Additionally, they view these venues of media as tools to help improve their English skills or gain success through online businesses.

Outside of multimedia entertainment, the next favorite activity that BM-speaking respondents report is social activities. Social activities include hanging out with friends or going shopping. Additionally, BM-speaking youth also express that they participate in recreational activities, individual activities, religious activities, and engage in the Fine Arts as things that take up most of their time. Youth not only like watching sports, they like playing sports. They also share that they go walking around town amongst other forms of exercise. Youth, who prefer to be by themselves, state that they spend most of their time sleeping, being alone, or not engaging in other activities outside of school.

Youth who report being involved in an organized religion state that they spend most of their time going to church, being involved in ministry, or going on missions trips. Still other youth (in general) report spending a good majority of their time singing, playing the guitar, and

drawing/crafts. Additionally, some youth report helping out with housework, cooking, staying at home to chat, or studying as activities that takes up most of their time.

While those activities were done either by themselves or with friends, youth report that they also watch TV, play music and watch movies with their families. They also go to church and pray with their family as well. In addition to these activities, they help out in domestic work such as gardening, cleaning or housework, and cooking. Youth also share that they go on picnics, eat, go shopping, talk, and travel both for work and pleasure with their families. Some report that they don't do any activities with their family because they live far away from them. Youth express that the topics in which they discuss with their family include day-to-day events such as daily activities, school, work, or current events like sports and music.

Since a lot of respondents report that they talk about school to their parents, an overwhelming majority of them report that they are unsatisfied with the way things are in their school. While reasons vary, they include discrimination by teacher or administration based on religion and race. They also express that the fees are too expensive and there's problems within the financial management because some have experienced faulty financial records. Additionally, students report that they are unsatisfied with school because of religious conflicts between students, stressful environment, poor facilities, lack of respect and unhealthy competition between classmates; as well as a very "free" lifestyle amongst peers. Others communicate that they don't like school because of the exams or that they only attend school because of friends. Only a handful of respondents express that they were somewhat satisfied with school; however, their reasoning mirrors that of students who are not satisfied with school. They state that they're somewhat satisfied with school because of boring teachers, some problems with management, location of school, and again that they only go to school for friends. Their highlight, which they report makes them like school, are Mondays when they're able to catch-up with friends from the weekend. Only a couple youth report that they are satisfied with school, and one went on to explain it was because his teacher is pretty.

Reasonably, their dissatisfactions are the main areas that they'd change about their school experience. Most respondents report that they'd change the religious atmosphere by incorporating Christian activities, corporate prayer, and hold a Christian club on campus. Furthermore, youth report that they'd change how the school administration handles student affairs (including management of campus, provide transportation, non-bias, and finances), organization and allow students to come to school later in the morning. Also like their dissatisfaction, youth reveal that they'd change finances as far as personal salary, housing, more scholarship to help defer school expenses, and cheaper food. Student life, such as being a new student, finding someone to be in a relationship with and simply waiting for thing to change are also areas that youth report that they'd want to change. Others suggest that they'd shorten lecture time, have lectures start on time, give out easier exams, have only one subject per week, take out math and history from the curriculum, and change lecturers as ways to improve the classroom.

Outside of these generic topics that they discuss with their family, youth also report that they discuss spiritual matters, family, friends, and even some personal matters like their future, how to solve problems, and even relationships. Some also reported that they don't talk a lot with

their family, and more specifically they rarely talk to their dad. Others express that their family already knows everything because they have such a good relationship.

Some main issues that BM youth report having which some coincide with what they talk to their family about include school, economic, interpersonal relationships; problems concerning the future, family, vices or illegal activity, violence, and their love for music. Youth report that their studies, amount of homework, balancing school and other activities, as well as where to go next in school as key problems youth their age face concerning school. Economically, youth report that it's difficult to get a job, manage income, which leads to money problems and all around finance problems. An overwhelming majority of respondents across all focus groups report interpersonal relationships as a main issue youth their age face. Looking deeper into the matter, they report that friendships – peer pressure, negative influence of friends, honesty between friends, betrayal amongst friends, and bullying – and boy girl relationships as the heaviest issues. Additionally, they report that relationships in general are a problem as well as getting married really early, and gangs as problems that they all face.

Youth believe that in order to have a good boy-girl relationship both individuals have to have certain characteristics, religion, as well as maturity, good priorities and the ability for both to grow closer together. Youth list honesty, trust, respect, understanding, helping, love, patience, not jealous, self-controlled, grace, openness, and friendships as characteristics they look for in a good boy-girl relationship. Spiritually, youth look for someone with similar faith, belief in God and Christ, ability to pray together and to minister together. They also report that they believe both individuals need to be ready emotionally and financially as well as knowing what's wanted in a relationship, willingness to marry the person, and the ability to answer the questions: Why do you want to be in a relationship? Additionally, they report that both individuals need to have good priorities like focus on studies if in school and a focus on family in order to have a good boy-girl relationship as well as the ability to grow closer together.

Other common problems youth report concern the future. When thinking about the future, youth report that some problems they face are their own doubt that they'll be able to accomplish their dreams, ability to know what's next in life, setting goals, knowing their purpose in life and making decisions and commitments. Youth also report their family as a main issue. They state that the distance between them and their families make it difficult to make decisions and to manage life. Lastly, other problems that youth report facing include drugs, going to pubs, vandalism, and blackmail amongst other "bad things;" as well as anger, fighting, and suicide.

Even though some report that they live far away from their family, both parents, or just their mother or father, when faced with a problem youth still report that they go to their family for advice. Sometimes it's dependent upon the type of the problem - like if they're having a money problems. Other respondents report that they go to their friends for advice when not close to their family – like an older friend, girlfriend or someone close to them. Some state that they'll seek their religion for advice through prayer, God, or Jesus.

Others share that they seek advice depending more upon the situation, if they do not get an answer from God they'll share problems with friends; or if it's a problem with college they'll talk

to friends. Still others state that they'll pray, and then talk to mom or sister, and then to friends. Some even report that they keep their problems to themselves, and if it's too much for them to handle alone they'll cry.

They choose to go to these persons for advice because of the youth's faith in that individual, the encouragement that person will give them. Youth also see them as trustworthy, understanding, giver of hope, source of accountability, dependable, and sweet. Youth also take into account the duration and depth of their relationship with that person when seeking advice, or who will give them what they need to hear at that time.

Looking at the other side of the coin, positive aspects in youth's life that bring them happiness include the people in their lives like family, friends and co-workers; or spiritual matters such as praying with family or talking about life and ministry as areas in their life that bring them the greatest happiness. Additionally, youth report that human rights, which includes peaceful relationships, being kind to one another, and freedom as other areas that bring them happiness. Some youth report that when life goes smoothly or they're able to find a solution for a problem, music and work brings them happiness.

BM youth in this age group are thinking about the future and have great aspirations for their future. Most respondents report that they see a successful life as having money and good fortune not only to live comfortably, better life, nice car or house, but also to give money back to special religious projects. Others report that they'd like to achieve a profession in medicine, such as a medical assistant, doctor or nurse; as well as an art designer, own their own business or café, and be a mechanical engineer. Less specifically other youth state that they'd like to have a good job.

Youth were able to identify different levels or areas of goals in their lives, not all were focused on prosperity and profession. Youth identified personal, communal, and spiritual growth as other areas they want to achieve in life. Personally, youth report that they want to be a good father, get married, be a role model, have more confidence, be mature, finish school, make their family proud, become an acknowledgeable person, help their family, teach back in their home town, and travel the world. Others simply report that they want to achieve important things in life. In their communities, they state that they'd like to change traditions specifically religious lifestyles in their villages, family economic status or beliefs, and the youth culture of getting married so young. Spiritually, they report that they want to get closer to God, share their faith, help the church, build a bigger church, use music to share their faith, become more religious, and study theology

BM youth in this limited church youth report say that religion helps guide them in life or that the Bible guides their life to make good/right decisions, and that they look to their religion for help guiding their future. Others report that they look to the Bible to give them answers to life's problems, convict them when they're wrong, speak truth into their lives, help change bad things into good things; as well as using the Bible to help them grow spiritually by obeying God's Word and remembering God's Word. Still some express that they look to religion to help change their mindset, to become a better person, their feelings towards God, to avoid bad behaviors such as smoking, cheating in school, or going to clubs – which also ties into changes

in lifestyle how they act, dress, behave in public, speak and think. Youth also report that religion gives them a standard of living such as daily activities or asking God before making decisions. Some even report that prayer helps guide them through life – in general.

Youth were split in their belief that different religions could co-exist in harmony. Some state it's not possible because of the current situation in the country and even state that they see favoritism between religions. They also express that people are judgmental and there's no understanding between religions. Some even state that they feel that if religions would co-exist in harmony that it would compromise the Word of God because no one would share the truth. Others state that intolerance of other religions makes it impossible, as well as certain focuses of other religions that continues to segregate religions, or if God was excluded from the conversation.

While others state the possibility of this, those youth report that it can only be accomplished through God; or it would have to be dependent upon the people if they will live out their faith not just say it with their words, because the youth believe that all religions teach to do good and be a good person. They also believe it to be possible if there's tolerance and respect for others' beliefs, if together they can love others instead of judge others, and if others of different faiths don't intentionally hurt other's feelings with their words or actions. Even though the majority of respondents were split in the beliefs, few did not know if it was possible and others didn't believe that religion should be a major issue but more so peace because they found it hard to say with all the fighting between religions.

Out of all that was discussed, the majority of youth respondents report that they felt most strongly about religion and spiritual matters.

Younger Youth

Across the younger focus groups, it is reported that having friends is the most popular reason why the younger youth enjoy going to school. Girls see social interaction such as gossiping with fellow girls as enjoyable while a boy would see this as an opportunity to interact with the opposite sex. Although most enjoy going to school for social reasons, others look to learning, studies and having good teachers as main motivations of enjoyment in going to school.

When asked what their aspirations and goals are in life, some youth expressed desires to be teachers and some want to become doctors. Other professions identified include being a scientist, quantity surveyor, stewardess, pharmacist, veterinarian and a police officer. While most are more focused on community service oriented vocations, some expressed wanting to become a millionaire, a movie director, an actress and a fashion designer.

BM younger youth report that being online using Facebook and Twitter, and playing online games take up their time when they are not in school. Sport activities such as playing football, badminton, and swimming are also very popular activities that youth do when not in school. While some may spend their time reading, others use their time watching TV, listening to music, sleeping, hanging out with friends, being with family and helping out at homes doing household chores.

Most of the younger youth identify computer and the Internet as the types of media they enjoy using. Some would normally use the computers for online social interaction such as chatting and talking with friends, while others would use it as a source of information. Radio and music are also listed as most popular among this age grouping because they provide inspiration, help de-stress and prevent boredom. TV and movies are also venues for them both to learn and just be entertained.

While novel, comic books, and magazines are identified as the most popular reading materials among the BM younger youth outside of school textbooks, it cannot be said that the majority of the youth interviewed enjoy reading. This is evidenced by the fact that only a few of them spend at least an hour a week reading. Many report that they only spend a few minutes a week reading while some do not read at all. However, there were a few of them that say that they finish reading at least one book per week.

Various activities such as shopping together, talking, praying, playing with siblings and parents, watching TV, going to church and sharing a meal are what the youth do together with their families.

Significantly, when talking with their families about certain issues, school and life issues are the common topics they discussed with them. They also talk with their families about friends and what movies to watch. While some would like to talk to their family about their personal interests, they also express desire to discuss family future, life experiences, holidays, ambition in life, boy-girl relationship, love and marriage.

When faced with problems, younger BM youth tend to go to their friends and parents for advice. They feel that they can tell their mothers anything because their mothers have always been supportive of them. They also go to their parents when they are facing financial, school and major problems. Friends have always been trustworthy and comfort-givers. Younger youth feel that because they belong to the same generation their friends understand them better than their parents. While some go to their teachers because they are older, more experienced and can give suggestions, and some go God for advice and pray, others just choose to keep the problems to themselves and just live it out.

Many see relationships with family and friends as some of the main problems that BM youth face. Fear of being rejected, infighting, bad attitudes toward one another and badmouthing are among the things they regularly deal with when with friends. Peer pressure, sexuality, and relationship with the opposite sex are also issues they face. Another challenge identified is the high expectation of their parents for them to get good grades and this puts a lot of pressure on them.

Outside of advice, most BM younger youth respondents in this limited church youth report say that religion is very important to them. They view religion as a source to guide them, stability and dependency on God, something that will teach them to be a good person who will avoid doing wrong things, gives them purpose in life and understanding that they are children of God, and is their salvation. They also believe that with religion there is peace, teaches them to receive grace, and to put things into perspective so they're not focused on external things.

Similarly, they believe that through the 10 Commandments, Holy Spirit, the Bible, and prayer that their religion offers them practical everyday help. They further express that the Holy Spirit helps guide them to do right and will correct them when wrong – like an inner conscious. Also, they express that the Bible gives them instructions on how to live their lives and how to overcome challenges and the desire to do wrong. Additionally, they believe in the power of their faith to perform miracles, teach them right from wrong, do anything regardless of opposition, and give them hope.

BM speaking younger youth respondents in these focus groups have a strong passion towards spiritual matters. Out of every topic discussed, they rated religion and spiritual matters the highest.

Section IV: Secondary Information³

Formerly an agricultural country playing catch-up with its neighbors, Malaysia has flourished into a thriving hub of information technology. Malaysia is now among the most advanced countries in Asia and now bears the face of progress in the region (Robles,2008⁴). This change could have greatly influenced the attitudes, behaviors and beliefs of Malaysian youth. To supplement the work done in this project, presented below are findings from additional research conducted on the behaviors of Malaysian youth.

QUICK FACTS	
<i>General Information</i>	
Area	329, 750 square kilometers
Infant Mortality Rate	6.6 deaths/1, 000 live births
Life Expectancy at birth	71.8 years (Male); 76.3 years (Female)
Internet Users	14,904,000
<i>Population Information</i>	
Total Population	27, 730, 000
Population Growth Rate	2.4% per annum
Population in Peninsular Malaysia	23 million
Male Population	14,074,000 (50.8%)
Female Population	13,656,000 (49.2%)
% of population that is 14 years old or younger	32%
% of population that is 15-59 years old	62.9%
% of population that is 60 years old or older	4.8%
<i>Population by Ethnic Groups</i>	
Malays and other Bumiputera	65%
Chinese	26%
Indians	4.0
Others (unlisted ethnic groups)	1%
<i>Education</i>	
% of Adults Literacy	88.7%
% of persons aged 6-24 not attending school	-
<i>Religion Affiliations (of total population)</i>	
Islam	60.4%
Buddhism	19.2%
Christianity	9.1%
Hindu	6.3%
Confucianism/Taoism/Traditional Chinese Religion	2.6%
Others	2.4%
<i>Information Sources: National Census 2000, Department of Statistics Malaysia; Census of Population and Housing Malaysia 2000, Dept of Statistics Malaysia; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Malaysia</i>	

³ As derived from secondary sources & not from the primary information collected from the focus group conducted for this project. The information gathered is about the Malaysian youth in general and not specific for any language group.

⁴ Robles, Jojo. (2008). Past is Present in Malaysia 51 Years after Independence. PRLog Free Press Release. <http://www.prlog.org/10103992-past-is-present-in-malaysia-51-years-after-independence.html>

Media

One of the most evident consequences of this advancement is the preoccupation of Malaysian youth with activities involving the use of Internet. According to a recent survey by global market research company Synovate, 40% of Malaysian youth between the ages of 8 to 24 said that the Internet keeps them up-to-date, and 43% said that Internet gives them useful information while 45% said that they plan to use the Internet more over other media⁵.

Apart from blogging, social networking has also occupied the online activity list of Malaysian youngsters with over one third (38%) reading other people's social network profile pages. Thirty-one percent update their own profile pages while 44% take the initiative to read other people's social network profile pages as well as update their own⁶.

Reinforcing their love for the TV, 33% of the 906 people polled said they could not live without TV, 19% chose the internet, 18% said their mobile phones were what they couldn't live without, 2% said newspaper and 1% radio. However, 45% said they would use the Internet more often compared to the TV (22%), mobile phones (11%), newspapers (7%), radio (3%) and magazines (2%). Malaysian youths were also discovered to be active bloggers as 48% spent some of their time blogging and 38% said they read blogs and 22% read blogs and made comments on them⁷.

Education

Malaysia's national education policy has been formulated in the context of the country's vision of reaching developed nation status by 2020. The education system has been reformed to ensure the development of a highly educated and skilled as well as strongly motivated professional workforce. In keeping with its objective of providing highly skilled human resources necessary for the development of the nation, the Government has accorded high priority to education. The Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) allocated RM 50.6 billion over five years to education and training, an increase of RM 39.5 billion from the Seventh Five Year Plan (1995-2000)⁸.

The national education system, as stipulated in the Education Act of 1996, encompasses pre-

⁵ ADOIMagazine. <http://www.prlog.org/10103992-past-is-present-in-malaysia-51-years-after-independence.html>

⁶ Eusouff, Ray. Survey: 45% of Malaysian Youth Use Internet over Other Media. Yoyooh.com.. 2009.

⁷ Malaysian Youth Like Web, Love TV. <http://www.marketresearchworld.net/index>.

⁸ Data for the Ninth Five Year Plan were from "Higher education key to developed status: Malaysia" IslamOnline.net at < <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=29164>>. Data for the Seventh Five Year Plan were from ESCAP (2002), p.1.

school, primary, secondary, post-secondary and higher education. Pre-school consists of one to two years and primary school comprises grades one to six. Secondary school is divided into two levels: lower secondary, which lasts for three years (four years in the case of students who take a Remove Class⁹); and upper-secondary, which is two years in duration. Postsecondary school lasts for two years and prepares students for higher education in colleges, polytechnics, universities and other institutions of higher learning. The national education system has three categories of educational institutions: those established and maintained by the Ministry of Education; those that receive financial aid from the Government; and those that are established and maintained by private organizations¹⁰.

Information technology has also been incorporated in education. The Ministry of Education has undertaken an initiative to establish a Smart School programme, which comprises schools equipped with computers to promote information technology among students¹¹.

⁹ Data for the Ninth Five Year Plan were from “Higher education key to developed status: Malaysia” IslamOnline.net at < <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=29164>>. Data for the Seventh Five Year Plan were from ESCAP (2002), p.1.

¹⁰ Understanding Youth Issues in Selected Countries in the Asian and Pacific Region. 2007. United Nations. NY.

¹¹ Youth in Malaysia: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes. 2002. United Nations. NY

Section V: Raw Data from Malaysia Focus Groups (BM-Speaking Group)

Compiled Notes for Evangelical Leaders and Pastors

OPENING: (was not asked)

INTRODUCTION: (was not asked)

TRANSITION: WHAT TWO WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE BM-SPEAKING YOUTH TODAY ?

- Positive (11)
 - Full of spirit/Energetic/ Free-spirited/Active - 4
 - Potential – 3
 - to be someone maybe not known yet – 2
 - They have potential to grow and we have the potential to share the gospel with them.
 - Modern /Fashionable – 3
 - Relationship & Challenging – they need leadership to lead and to help them face challenges
 - Youth used to be timid but now they are more open and able to express themselves
 - Exposed to technology/media – 3
 - Youth are more advanced than adults today because they have accessed to great knowledge through the media
 - Willing to follow leaders – 2
 - Enjoy social networking
- Negative (7)
 - Immature – 2
 - Problems happen when the rural youth come to the city but they don't tap into the church so their spiritual life suffers.
 - Saba youth → before leaving from Saba they have good relationships ; after they face many challenges they would want to go back to their hometowns
 - Very secretive – 2
 - Parents now do not trust their children as much as in the past
 - Youth like to keep their secrets inside
 - Now they are not as sincere – they are not totally honest in telling the pastors what they are actually doing
 -
 - No ambition
 - People who don't speak English feel inferior when they are mixing with English speaking people. They also have a lower SES level compared with those who live in town and can speak English.
 - Very hard for parents to trust them now because they are exposed to so much through the media

KEY AREA 1: WHAT IS THE MAIN ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT OA YOUTH DEAL WITH TODAY?

- Peer pressure (7)
 - They have trouble deciding what is right and wrong to do
 - They are really influenced by their friends and they are often closer to their friends than they are to their family
 - Youth don't know how to handle their problems and desires which is why they are very easily influenced
 - Sex education has only made things worse by making things more "normal" and accessible. Many people oppose it because it makes the behavior of youth even worse because now they feel like they can "handle" having sex safely.
 - They have sexual desires so they go and have sex with their friends. They don't know how to handle their feelings

- Religion/Spirituality (6)
 - What they stand for as a Christian
 - Islamization – Islam is everything & the manipulation of it
 - Low Bible knowledge
 - Know the Bible but not know how to apply it to life
 - Don't know what to do in church/ Don't have a clear role in the church or in society
 - Lack of education – especially in faith and spiritual things
 - Depends on church, but there are roles for youth but they don't know which one to take

- Others (6)
 - Confidence/Self-esteem (2)
 - No confidence because of race, education, or come from rural areas/economy
 - Youth that only speak in BM feel a hindrance in communicating with others and makes them feel inferior to others.
 - Future depends on them, but who's supporting them? /Looking for guidance but no one is there to do it (2)
 - No money
 - Secularization
 - Materialism
 - The older generation does see a value in the youth

- Boy/girl relationships (2)
 - It's a big problem in college and boarding schools where students are living away from their families.

KEY AREA 2: WHAT ROLE DOES MEDIA PLAY IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH TODAY ?

- Neutral (7)
 - Represents a big challenge

- Youth follow it
- TV has the biggest media influence
- Internet : facebook is very famous (access to internet of E. Malaysia in the interior is not great)
- They need to learn which is good and which is not or they will be influenced.
- Media can either bring destruction or development. It can be a good or bad thing.
- Negative (2)
 - They are able to see English movies, which are often about love. Now a boy and girl can hold hands and not feel embarrassed. (Before they felt really reserved)
 - See violence in movies and then they will be tempted to try it. BM-speaking youth today are more violent because of things that they see in the media. Church needs to teach them how to respect other people.
 - They use the Internet and facebook a lot. Facebook used has really increased and it's very accessible. This has increased the influence of peer pressure.
- Positive
 - Not all negative but in some areas we need to pay attention & guide them with influence of media

Follow-up question: How does peer pressure and media influence BM-speaking youth today?

- Both (5)
 - Hard to express
 - Those that aren't active in the church media and peer pressure is greater, those active in the church not as much because they have the church.
- Peer Pressure (2)
 - When they mix with people not as strong in Christ they are easily influenced. But if they mix with Christians, they can be easily influenced by them too.
 - We need to teach them how to find the right friends so they will have good influences.
 - They want to be like their friends
 - They feel a lot of pressure to speak English so they can be at the same "level" as their English-speaking friends.
 - Ex. When they go to get loans from the bank, if the bank see that they are BM-speaking they will charge them twice as much for interest.
 - Youth will go to English classes but they are not learning. Youth don't really want to get a good education.
 - Government wants education to have instruction in English, but parents have protested.

KEY AREA 3: IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK WE CAN BRING A CLOSER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN?

- Church/Leaders' Role (3)
 - This is a leader's challenge.
 - Teach how to have better understanding and respect their parents.

- Youth should be taught why education is important so they will see the importance to have education now.
- The church should have seminars for parents on how to be a good father/mother.
 - “Men Camp” → a seminar at church where men go to learn their roles in the house (there is also a similar one for women)
 - “No Apologies” → it’s Focus on the Family things which talks about the importance of not having pre-marital sex.
 - When members of the family know their correct role, the gap closes
- The church could have a sports night where family play gaps together (like Football) to bring them closer together.
- Parents’ Role (2)
 - Spend more time with them
 - Some loose interest and parents are an important role to encourage
 - Parents need to tell their children what they need to do in order to achieve their goals. But yet, parents should let kids decide what they want to be and help them do everything they can to achieve their dream.
- Children/Youth’s Role (2)
 - For the interior students, they are too close to their parents

Follow-up question: Whom do BM youth look to for advice when they have a problem?

- Family/Parents (8)
 - If there’s a good relationship in family, then they’ll talk to family because there’s nothing to hide
 - Interior youth go to their parents
 - Youth that are now in the city but originally from rural areas, when faced with problem will go back home
 - Mostly solve problems in their family
 - Go to their family if they’re older
 - Mothers (familiar exposure)
 - 1st they’ll go to parents (both mother and father) those that are 12-16
 - Younger youth go to family
- Friends (5)
 - Seen as going to their friends more for advice
 - Youth outside of the church go to friends
 - Those from the city will go to their friends
 - 15-20 year olds go to friends
- Pastor (3)
 - Talk to pastors sometime
 - When youth share problems with the pastor he will keep the problems just between himself and the youth if they are minor. However, if they are major, he will share the problems also with the parents to get them involved.
- Other responses (2)
 - NGO provide counseling but not sure if it’s used

- They do not know where to look for advice.
- Church must encourage them to go to their parents and not to their friends.

KEY AREA 4: HOW CAN WE BRING FORWARD THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO THE BM-YOUTH?

- Youth (6)
 - Not enough encouragement to stay in school
 - After 4/5 very few go to university
 - Can apply to system for college but not to a specific college
 - Most pursue higher education but still it's a small number go to college
 - Don't think Christian education is important but General education is important
 - After form 5 they often ask for advice on which school to go to
 - They see that you get more advantages from being educated
 - This mindset of wanting to be educated is fairly new (probably just within the last 5 years). Although the mindset isn't as present among youth living in villages and rural areas.
 - It's very important. They feel a sense of competition and the pressure to earn a degree.

- Government (4)
 - Government encourages families to encourage the children to attend school
 - Encouragement of school is greater now than 10 years ago – even in the interior part of East Malaysia
 - There's a compulsory for primary school
 - Secondary school is mandatory

- Church (2)
 - Change church education system
 - Church needs to follow what the government is doing to gain interest in school for Christian education

- Parents (2)
 - Most parents are supportive for education because they also see the competition between those who are educated and those who are not. Although parents living in rural areas may not be supportive because they need their children for manpower. – 2
 - We need to make it practical. Ex. If they are interested in agriculture we need to bring them to a place that does agriculture so they can learn. – 2
 - They need to have specialized learning opportunities. Ex. If they want to learn about how to be a factory worker, they should be able to go to a factory and learn. – 2

Follow-up question: Describe hopes that BM youth have for their future.

- General (4)
 - They have a desire for a future
 - Most young people have hopes and dreams

- They see that they still have a lot of work to do because they are still trying to learn English.
- When they come to town they need to adjust to city life and the church must play an important role in the adjustment process and to help to youth discover their dreams.
- In the past, all students knew how to be farmers. Now they have other dreams and opportunities.
- We need to expose students to these opportunities so they will be able to have dreams of becoming something else besides a farmer.
- Profession/Career (3)
 - They have different aspirations: teacher, doctors, college
 - Culinary
 - Music

KEY AREA 5: HOW DO BM-YOUTH EXPRESS THEMSELVES SPIRITUALLY?

- Church/spiritual activities (4)
 - Not so interested in spiritual activities – 2
 - If they're not an active person, they aren't a spiritual person (high activity = high spirituality...opposite applies too)
 - Youth are generally very committed to church /go to church – 2
 - Young people like to be involved in worship ministry/music part – 2
 - They have youth outreach trips to rural villages
- Prayer & Bible reading (2)
 - Outside of Christians they may have prayer
 - Youth now in the church are well versed with the word of God. They are much better than the generation before.
 - They read the Bible.
- Other responses
 - Muslim channels on TV to improve their faith
 - Not many youth are full of faith in their life
 - Lots of info online about religions compared to Christianity
 - They respect other religion
 - They don't protest or speak out about Christianity in school because of problems in school where Islam is preached
 - The students stay within their comfort zones

Follow-up question: What are the challenges that BM-speaking youth need to overcome in being drawn away from the church and their faith in Christ?

- Outside Influences (3)
 - Peer pressure
 - Busyness – with studies and work they have no time for church
 - Marriages (mix marriages in religion)
- Islamization (2)
 - Build house for people that is why they feel like they're in debt for that so they join Muslim faith

- Government is the biggest challenge because they do everything to get away from Christianity
- Muslims are coming to the youth through school. There are many Muslim teachers.
- Muslims are using many means to reach the children.
- Muslims are even eating pork as a means of connecting with the children and drawing them to Islam.
- Weak foundation of faith (2)
 - Don't have strong faith, they'll walk away
 - The foundation of faith is often there but the conviction is often not so material thing still easily influence them.
- Lack of authenticity in the Christian church
 - There were some youth that were active in the church before and now became Muslim. They converted because they see it all as the same. They cannot distinguish the difference between different religions.
 - The charismatic church is very focused on having an "emotional" experience and not making sure that it's really impacting children to the core. They see that it hasn't really impacted the youth and this is why some are converting to other religions (Islam).

Follow-up question: What are some practical ways to make Christianity relevant to the BM-speaking youth that will encourage discipleship?

- Living by example (6)
 - Have Christian life would help make it relevant
 - What we do as a Christian in everyday life
 - To do something in the community (like acts of love)
 - Church should show a good example. We must not just tell them but we must show them too.
 - Having a holistic approach – try to apply what they study in school to the church.
 - Doing it now in our own ways within the Christian church
- Youth-related activities in the church (5)
 - Have a youth department and youth time/youth event/youth environment – 3
 - Have age specific ministries
 - Programs connected to interests: ex – sports, music, education
 - Tried to open a youth center for youth fellowship (not like Sunday service)
 - We need to create attractive church programs since the times are changing (ex. Have a youth camp which is attractive to youth because it allows them to mingle with their friends)
- Discipleship teachings (2)
 - We need to go back to basic teaching and teach them while they are still young
 - We must constantly disciple them, month-by-month and year-by-year.
- Other responses
 - Sometimes the church is very exclusive to indigenous languages
 - Sometimes lost contact to the outside so they aren't good witnesses (indigenous people groups)
 - Focused ministry and involvement in the church

- Involvement in their life
- Personal development
- The media is important and we need to teach them how to use it wisely

KEY AREA 6: HOW DOES LANGUAGE IMPACT NATIONAL HARMONY AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH ?

- Positive (4)
 - Language learning will help bridge gap : English is a communication tool.
 - We don't experience a challenge because everyone can speak BM in the church that we attend.
 - When we understand one another we can have better fellowship.
 - It's important that we have a common language within the church
 - They are educated in this language as well
- Negative (3)
 - Language is a problem within the church – if they can't speak one of the 3 languages they'll be discriminated against
 - When we go to the villages though we sometimes see problems because they only speak the mother tongue.
 - When they go to English churches they often feel embarrassed because they do not understand.
- Neutral
 - 3 department for each culture and language within the church : Chinese, English and BM – 2
 - The root is the culture that goes with language
 - Language of kids : mother tongue is good, English not sure how well they can speak and Chinese is low
 - Youth need Chinese for work & BM for government language (education and life)
 - There are now 3 main languages – right now people speak at least 2 of these 3

CONCLUSION : AMONG ALL THINGS THAT WERE DISCUSSED, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OR WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ?

- Youth (3)
 - The youth need to be strong in religion. If they are not they will suffer
 - They need to understand the differences between right and wrong and the difference between religions.
 - I have a heart for the younger generation and want them to love God.
 - How they resolve together
- Education – it influences everything and helps them get status in life and more confidence (2)
- Church/Spirituality (2)
 - Make faith relevant by having tools to teach the children about Jesus (right now there are no tools for BM students)
 - We need to plan church activities that are attractive to them.
- All are important
- Mass media
- Communication

- Relationships

Compiled Notes for Older Youth

OPENING: HOW IMPORTANT IS A HAND PHONE TO YOU?

- Very Important (35)
 - Communicate with friends (8)
 - Camera (4)
 - SMS (4)
 - Communicate with people far away (3)
 - Useful in emergencies (3)
 - Communicate with family (3)
 - Use it for Bible study (2)
 - Keep track of phone numbers
 - Hear radio through phone
- Somewhat Important (7)
 - I like it, but I could live without it (6)
 - I only use it when I need it

KEY AREA 1: WHICH TYPE OF MEDIA DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

- Facebook (13)
- Computer/internet (12)
- TV (9)
- All (4)
- Radio (3)
- Magazines (2)
- Newspaper (2)
- MP3 Player
- Hand phone

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THAT MEDIA?

- TV
 - Watch sports (3)
 - Watch movies (2)
 - Much variety (2)
 - Watch the news
 - Improve English by listening to English movies
- Computer/internet
 - Get information (4)
 - Chat with friends (2)
 - Skype (2)
 - Keep up with sports
 - Online business
 - News is less-sensored
 - See new ideas
 - You tube

- Facebook
 - Share information about Christ (5)
 - Communicate with friends
 - Find new friends
 - Contact friends from other churches
 - My picture is online
- Hand phone
- Radio
 - Listen to music
- Magazines
 - Artwork
 - Sports
 - Fashion
- Newspaper
 - Stay informed on the news (2)
- MP3 Player
 - Download and learn music (2)

KEY AREA 2: OTHER THAN SCHOOL/WORK WHAT IS THE ACTIVITY THAT YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME DOING IN A DAY?

- Hanging out with friends (8)
- Facebook (8)
- Reading (6)
- Listen to/play music (6)
- Sleeping (5)
- Playing games (5)
- Shopping (5)
- No other activities in addition to school (4)
- Go to church/participate in church activities (4)
- Playing sports (3)
- Walking around town/watching people (2)
- Help with housework (2)
- Drawing/Crafts (2)
- Play guitar (2)
- Exercise
- Being alone
- Doing ministry
- Watch TV
- Stay at home and chat
- Cooking
- Sing

KEY AREA 3: WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FAMILY?

- Go to Church (5)

- No activities because I'm far away from my family (4)
- Shopping (4)
- Talking (4)
- Watching movies (3)
- Going on Picnics (2)
- Watching TV (2)
- Eating (2)
- Work in the garden/farm (2)
- Cleaning/housework (2)
- Play music (2)
- Go to family farm
- Praying
- Cooking
- Travel

WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOUR FAMILY?

- School/my studies (9)
- About family members (7)
- Spirituality (7)
- Sports (3)
- My friends (2)
- Current events
- My future
- How to resolve problems
- My work
- Not a lot
- Music
- My family already talks about everything

KEY AREA 4A (STUDENTS): HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE IN YOUR SCHOOL?

- Not satisfied (26)
 - Discrimination by teachers/administrators based on religion (7)
 - The Muslims have a lot of influence and because of that you can't do any ministry in school. The school said that if I do one more wrong thing I'll be punished by the Muslims.
 - My school is under a Muslim so you cannot talk about Christ. Women must cover their face with a scarf, even if they are Christians.
- Somewhat satisfied (7)
 - Boring teachers
 - Some problems with management
 - Location of school
- Satisfied (1)
 - Finances (5)

- Financial management
- Expensive fees
- Faulty financial records
- Discrimination by teachers/administrators based on race (4)
- Religious conflict between students (2)
- Stressful (2)
- My teacher is pretty
- Poor facilities
- No respect for one another
- Sense of unhealthy competition
- Very “free” lifestyle among classmates

KEY AREA 4B (WORKERS): WHAT ABOUT YOUR LIFE BRINGS THE GREATEST HAPPINESS?

- Peaceful relations (4)
- When it goes smoothly (4)
- Being kind to others (2)
- Family (2)
- Friends (2)
- Freedom
- About life & ministry
- Pray with family
- I’m happy because I can always go around the town and can go anywhere because his work is his passion as he gets to go around to different offices
- Sometimes I’m satisfied and sometimes I’m not. Sometimes life is stressful and that doesn’t cause happiness. It’s fulfilling when I can find a solution to fix my problems and find a good solution.
- Life is stressful but I’m happy because I have a good colleague to work with

Follow-up question: If you could change anything in your school/work experience, what would you change?

- I’d want my college to be all Christians (6)
- Manage large campus – CEO/chief must arrange earlier of campus
- Management so all students can enjoy to study
- Hard for new students
- Just waiting for things to change
- College must have a Christian club
- Christian activity can be allowed in college
- Arrangement of helping students move provide transportation
- Less rent for housing
- My salary
- Class time – the lectures are not very punctual now. Want to shorten the lecture time.
- Wishes that all classmates where Christians and that they believe in God.
- I’d want to see the religious climate change. Every day a group of students get together after school and pray for our school.
- Keep praying

- I'd want Muslim girls to be able to take off their scarf
- Change the lecturer because right now they are very strict
- There are a lot of gays. It's hard to find a true man. It's hard to find true guys and true love.
- I wouldn't want to get the scholarship because it's too expensive. It's a study now, pay later program. I'd just want a scholarship and not have to pay later.
- Want to change the school management because they like to take the money from us.
- Management is biased

Follow-up question: What do you hope to achieve in life?

- Medical Assistant – (4)
- Good job (4)
- Good salary (4)
- Draw closer to God – (3)
- Be successful – (3)
- Help family (2)
- Nurse
- Doctor
- Art designer to design T-shirts
- Be successful in 3 years
- Be more religious
- Have my own business and open a café
- Change the religious lifestyle in the villages
- Change my family status
- All of us want to be successful – to have a good job
- Whatever God says, we must follow
- Make my family proud
- Build a bigger church
- Good future and want to make my family happy. My father and my mother work so hard for me to get money for me to continue my studies.
- I saw a vision where I was standing in front of many people. I believe that God has something for me. I'd love to make music so people can listen to the word of God.
- Be a billionaire because then I would be able to build big churches so many people could come
- Be a good father
- I hope I can be successful in my job when I graduate. I hope that I'm very close to Christ so that I can share my faith in Christ with my friends
- To be Rich
- To be an acknowledgeable person
- To have a good salary and have high-pay
- Nice house, nice car, nice husband
- Be a mechanical engineer so I can get a good salary and go off shore
- Want to travel around the world
- Achieve what God has set before me

- Support financially those in full-time ministry
- Family to believe in God
- More confidence in life
- Mature
- Give back to family what they gave to me
- Better life- get a job because of school
- Can do own activities like help church
- Better life and don't forget God
- Better life/good life
- Finish studies
- Help in church
- Continue to study theology at STS (Theology university)
- Get married
- Share God
- Change family in the economy of the family
- Important things
- Teacher in her home town
- Role model for the village I came from
- Helping a family with economy
- Change tradition, doesn't want to get married young

KEY AREA 5: WHAT IS THE MAIN ISSUE OR PROBLEM THAT YOUTH YOUR AGE DEAL WITH?

- Relationship (9)
- BGR – (5)
- Peer pressure (3)
- Negative influence of friends (3)
- Money (3)
- It's difficult to get a job – (2)
- Studies – (2)
- Friends
- I can't be honest to give an honest rebuke to my friends
- The teachers give too many assignments
- Money problems
- Dream problems – whether we will be able to achieve our dreams
- Friendships can be problems. Sometimes friends betray us.
- There was a period in life when I wanted to kill myself, but God saved me.
- Boy/Girl relationships
- Studying and ministry – it's hard to do both. Usually if you're doing one, the other will suffer
- Youth and family – many youth are far away from their family. Sometimes their father/mother is far away or even dead.
- Jobs – still looking for better jobs
- Relationships – many agreed (boy/girl relationship)

- Boys are still looking for a really good woman and the girls are still looking for a really good guy
- Easily get angry
- Family
- Managing income
- Know what's coming – future
- What are they supposed to do in life
- Finances
- Making decisions
- Finances
- Manage your life far from family
- Making decisions when away from family
- Influence of friends
- Following friends within a gang
- Love of music
- Vandalism
- Go to pubs
- Fight one another
- Fight a lot
- Easy to do bad things
- Drugs
- Blackmail
- Bully
- Getting married really early

Follow-up question: What do you think are the things needed to have a good girl-boy relationship?

- Relationship with God (13)
- Trust (4)
- Ask yourself/them: why do you want to be in a relationship? (2)
- Understanding (2)
- Love (2)
- Respecting each other
- Honesty
- Help each other
- Understand each other
- Must have the same faith
- Pick someone who goes to our church and understands our faith
- We can pray for each other
- Share problems with each other
- Grow closer together
- Must put God first
- Someone who can take care of us when we are old

- Must know God first. If we want to search for the girls, the girls must know God first.
- Must know each other
- Must minister together
- Christ-centered
- Both people must be strong in Christ
- Strong faith and grace
- Understand each other
- Help each other
- No jealousy
- Lots of trust
- God
- Fear of the Lord
- What they want
- Patience
- Respect
- Friendship
- Willingness to marry the person (big question)
- Be ready emotionally and financially
- Financially secure
- Ask God
- Faith and belief
- Know the boundaries/limits
- Believe in God
- Understanding each other
- Love each other

KEY AREA 6: WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WHOM DO YOU LOOK TO FOR ADVICE?

- God, then after depends on type of problem (3)
- Friends – (3)
- Pray first, the mother, then friends (3)
- God (2)
- Family – (2)
- Pray – (2)
- Keep to yourself (2)
- Share it with someone older than me because they have more experience than us and understand things better.
- Because we are too far from our families, the first people I seek for advice are my friends. I can't share all of my problems with my friends, just some of them. I most prefer to share my problems with God.
- When I can't find the answers in God, then I share these problems with my friends
- I share with my friends because they can keep my secrets
- I like to be alone and if I can't take it anymore than I cry.
- Go to God
- Go to friends

- Friends, pray, family
- The first thing is prayer. Then, share with my friends.
- Jesus
- Someone close to us
- Prayers sent to above
- Family
- Friends
- Pray then friends
- Pray then sister then friends
- Older friends
- Parents
- Father
- When far from family talk to friends
- Problem with money talk to family
- Problem at college talk to friends
- Parents

Follow-up Question: What about that person makes you want to go to them?

- I trust them. (6)
- Trustworthy (6)
- They can be trusted and maybe the person can help (2)
- Faith in them (2)
- My family understands me better than anyone
- I feel my friends know me better than my family so I go to them
- I only talk to my siblings and not my parents
- It depends on the problem. If it's a big problem I'll share it with my family.
- We know each other
- They provide hope
- Encouragement
- Can call them
- Known you long enough
- Depends on situation
- School go to friends
- Money go to family

KEY AREA 7: IN WHAT WAY DO YOU LOOK TO RELIGION TO GUIDE YOU?

- It always guides my life – (4)
- Ruler to set her mind to that, and to measure yourself at God's ruler of life (4)
- The word of God can speak truth to our lives. If we have a problem, the word of God can help them. (2)
- To be a better person (2)
- The fear of God → I always check to see if something is pleasing to God before making a decision

- I read the Bible and the Bible will give answers for problems and convict me when needed
- It can change the way that I feel about God and then I can find my relationship to God
- The Bible guides my life (ex. Proverbs 6:6 – Proverb about the good ant)
- The Bible can help us and it can help us change things that are bad to good.
- The Bible can teach us how to grow in our spiritual life.
- Jesus is the way the truth and the life.
- In any decision we want to make the Bible can guide us to make right decisions
- Reminds me what is right and wrong
- Helps me avoid something that is not good (like smoking)
- Don't cheat in school anymore because of God
- Lifestyle – act, dress, speak and think
- Have to behave in public
- Mindset change
- How God speaks to her
- Make good decisions
- Fear of God stop you from doing wrong things
- Faith isn't strong everyday but helps to lead the way
- Faith makes understand limits on bad and good things EX: friends invite to go clubbing but she knows to say no
- Facing problems in life, she can choose right decision
- Word of God is guidance for us
- Faith must be full of God's word
- Obey God's word
- Read Bible
- Remember God's Word
- God's Word in my mind
- Praying to not be influenced by Muslim – they tell her not to go to church

KEY AREA 8: HOW DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE FOR DIFFERENT RELIGIONS TO CO-EXIST IN HARMONY?

- Thinks living in harmony will compromise the Word of God in God's law if no one will share the truth (13)
- Different religions cannot coexist! (8)
- It's hard to get harmony with the current situation. People are always judging.
- If we keep praying it's impossible to live in harmony because we know what is good and what is bad.
- People favor Muslims. Muslims can't convert to other religions. Muslims like to twist the truth and make lies out of truth. Ex. There was a pastor who converted to Christianity and then began to preach to the Muslims. The Muslims said that he was a liar and did not understand what the Koran was saying and that was not true because he was a devout Muslim before he converted.
- It's possible when we are in God.
- It's possible because when people have different faith have problems they come to me and I speak words of God to them.

- Yes, they can but it depends on the people
- All religions teach us to do good and I think that religions can exist in harmony
- It is not possible because other religions do not understand that way we worship. Ex. Muslims are making loud noises and they interrupt others. Sometimes even the church worships until 10pm and people around are complaining because the church is being loud.
- Other religions are very concerned about foods (ex. Not eating pork)
- When Christians become Muslims it's a big issue. There is prejudice and bias so they cannot coexist in harmony.
- It's not possible because there is favoritism between religions.
- There is intolerance between religions. Ex. One term "Allah" can cause a fight so no harmony can exist.
- Religion shouldn't be a major issue
- Have unity if they focus on God
- Respect others beliefs
- Peace in a bigger picture – outside of respect – not possible if not talk about religion of God
- God is love, and love other people
- Important to have love for other people – share the love of God to other people not to cause tension
- Think twice – limit/boundaries on what they can say. Not to hurt feelings
- Respect
- Don't judge but love
- Actions speak louder than words
- Live out your faith
- Not just say something but doing
- In Peninsular Malaysia, it's hard to speak. There's always fighting. It's not control
- Muslim friends sensitive issue we can all know our limits
- Need to practice: Muslims like fighting, Christians need to focus on good things
- Respect others in religion – share our life with them but don't hurt them
- Out of experience not easy to have good relationship or to live together
- Faced same problem about food

CONCLUSION: FROM ALL THAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT TODAY, WHAT DO YOU FEEL MOST STRONGLY ABOUT?

- Religion (11)
- Challenges that youth face today (6)
- Relationship with other people (4)
- Relationship with God (4)
- Purpose in life (2)
- My studies (2)
- Love – BGR - (2)
- What my dream is in life (2)

- BGR – this is the big issue that we have in our country. Because of this issue our faith can drop. The standards even in the church can drop.
- That our government would give us freedom to express faith
- How to have a balanced life in studying and fellowship
- I must put God first
- Find a Christina role model among group of friends.
- What are the challenges in life
- Spending time with family
- Lack of harmony between different religions
- Spending time with family
- Lack of jobs
- Current issue about a lack of harmony between religions.
- Religions not existing in harmony; my studies.
- Media, family and youth
- Religion
- Family relationship
- Hopes for life – future → includes religion faith family and friend
- Faith

Compiled Notes for Younger Youth

OPENING: WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

- Study – 2
- Went to school – 2
- Semester examination
- Read book
- Finished science homework

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT SCHOOL?

- Friends – 13
 - We are girls and we like gossiping (6)
 - Like the girls
- Teacher
- Studies
- Learn more
- Not boring in school

Follow-up question: What do you want to be when you grow up?

- Doctor – 3
 - Because I can pray for my patients
 - So I can help people
- Teacher – 3
 - Science teacher – 1
- Stewardess – 2
 - I love traveling – 1
- Scientist

- Quantity surveyor
- Pharmacist – I don't want to be a doctor because it's too gory but by being a Pharmacist I could still help people but only deal with drugs
- Police Officer – because I want to fight current issues like rape
- Veterinarian – because I don't like to see stray cats and dogs around
- A millionaire – I want to buy things
- Movie director – I want to make movies
- Actress – I want to be famous
- Fashion designer – I like to design

TRANSITION: WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN SCHOOL, WHAT IS THE ACTIVITY THAT YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME DOING IN A DAY?

- Being online – 4
 - Facebook – 2
 - Twitter
 - Play games online
- Reading – 3
 - Bible, story books
- Watch TV – 2
- Listening to music – 2
- Sleeping – 2
- Playing badminton
- Swimming
- Football
- Go out with friends
- Hang out with brothers
- Doing house chores
- Playing with dogs
- Watch movies
- Help my mom

KEY AREA 1: WHICH TYPE OF MEDIA DO YOU ENJOY MOST (TV, HANDPHONE, MOVIES, RADIO, ETC.)?

Follow-up question: What is it that you like about media?

- Computer/Internet – 4
 - To chat/talk to friends on Facebook – 2
 - Online games
 - Can communicate and find information
- Radio – 2
 - It prevents boredom
 - To get inspiration
- Astro TV – 2
 - Can learn things from programs
 - Watching TV shows inspires me to be an actress

- Music – 2
 - it helps be de-stress, I'm tempted to listen to worldly songs but I try not to and pray instead.
- MP3 – I love music
- Movies – have fun

Follow-up question: Other than your school textbooks, how much time do you spend reading during a week?

- Minutes – 9
 - A few minutes – 3
 - Less than 30 minutes – 2
 - 30 minutes
 - 5 minutes
 - 4 minutes
 - 2 seconds
- I don't like reading – 4
- Weeks – 3
 - 2 books/week
 - 1 book/week
 - 1 book/ 2 weeks
- Hours – 2
 - 2 hours
 - 1 hour
- Read a lot, that sometimes books have to be taken away by mother

Follow-up question: What kinds of things do you read?

- Novels – 4
- Comic books – 3
- Story books – 3
- Magazines – 2
- Bible
- Fiction/fantasy
- Horror books
- Twilight books

KEY AREA 2: WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FAMILY?

- Shopping together – 3
- Talk – 2
- Pray – 2
- Go to church
- Play badminton together
- Not a lot of things because parents are busy
- Play
- Watching TV
- Going on picnics

- Eating
- Fishing
- We sit together and talk

Follow-up question: What topics do you talk about with your family?

- School – 5
- Discipline – 2
- God
- Our new house
- We used to do quiet times together but now everyone is really busy so we hardly have any time together
- Discipline
- Friends
- Which movies to watch

Follow-up question: What topics would you like to talk about with your family?

- My interests – 3
- Future of the family
- Attitudes
- Life experiences
- Holidays
- School
- Advice on how to become a successful pharmacist
- All of the topics – especially friends and Korean movies
- Parents already give me advice to always pray and to not rush into boy/girl relationships
- Mom tells me not to be intimate with guys. She says you can have guy friends but not boy friends
- Boy/girl relationship
- Love
- Marriage
- My ambition
- My rights

KEY AREA 3: WHAT IS THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT YOUTH YOUR AGE DEAL WITH TODAY?

- Relationships with family and friends – 4
 - Friends have bad language and back-stab – 4
 - Friends make fun of people behind their back
 - Fighting among friends
 - Bad attitudes of friends
 - Be rejected
 - My little brother disturbs me a lot, so much at times that I can't control it
 - Divorce – parents of one of my friends divorced and it really affects my friend (girl cried when she was telling us this)
- A lot of pressure to get good grades, high expectation from parents – 3
- Discipline – 2

- It's hard to be disciplined to pray. This also affects my studies.
- I don't have discipline to get up early in the morning and have my quiet time.
- Peer pressure
- Sexuality issue
- Girlfriend/boyfriend problem
- Get pregnant before marriage
- People have very bad attitudes and are short-tempered

KEY AREA 4: WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, WHOM DO YOU LOOK TO FOR ADVICE?

- Friends – 6
 - I'd go to my best friend
 - Friends understand my feelings
 - Because I trust them
- Parents – 4
 - Because I trust them
- Mother – 2
- Sister/brother – 2
- Teacher
 - Counseling teacher – 2
- God/Jesus
- Just live it out
- Pray

Follow-up question: When do you go to parents or friends to advice with problems?

- Parents – 4
 - I can talk to my mom about anything and she's always really supportive
 - I only share with my parents if it's a very major issue
 - If I have problems with money I go to my parents
 - When I have problems with studies I go to my mother
- Friends – 3
 - There's a big age gap between me and my parents so my friends understand me better because they are in the same generation
 - I find that my friends are more understanding
 - I'm not comfortable going to my parents but I'm more comfortable going to my friends
- Brother/Sister – 3
 - Go to my brother for advice when the problem is very bad
 - When I quarrel with someone I go to my brother
 - When I have problems with friends I go to my sister
- Teacher
 - I go to my counseling teacher because she is older and more experienced
- I'm scared to go to my parents because they might get mad

Follow-up question: What about that person makes you want to talk to them?

- Parents – they know more, good and trustworthy
- Friends – trustworthy
- Mom – she listens
- Teacher – can give advice and suggestions

KEY AREA 5: WHAT WAYS IS RELIGION IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- Very important (16)
 - We know that we can only depend on God – 2
 - It shows the right way to go and guides us – 2
 - It teaches us to be a good person – 2
 - God pulls me back when I stray away
 - We can avoid doing the wrong things
 - It's compulsory!
 - It's a must because when you're a Christian you can help and pray for others
 - If there is no religion there will be no peace
 - It helps us to the core and not just in external things
 - It gives a purpose in life
 - It saves my soul
 - It gives me a better life
 - It teaches us to receive grace and lets us receive grace
- We are God's children
- I have friends that are "good" people but have no religion so I fear when will happen to their lives

Follow-up question: In what ways do you think religion can give you practical everyday help?

- Give hope to life
- Miracle
- We can avoid temptation
- Religion teaches us to do what is right
- "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" → I followed this verse and my grades changed from E's to A's.
- Praying
- 10 commandments
- Holy spirit – when we do wrong the Holy spirit will guide us and condemn us. When we go to the outside world the Holy Spirit can guide us.
- The Bible – give instructions for our life. It gives guidelines for salvation and safety. It tells us how to deal with the devil when facing evil.

CONCLUSION: FROM ALL THAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT TODAY, WHAT DO YOU FEEL MOST STRONGLY ABOUT?

- Religion/religion matters – 11
- Family – 2

- About my friend's parents divorce. I'm thankful that my family is not like that because they know God.
- About the challenges in life and how I share problems with my friends
- How I want to bring my friend to church but she always says that she is busy. I also don't know how to answer questions for my friend from a Catholic background.
- Studies
- What I want to be when I grow up