

beritaNECF

EDITORIAL

National Prayer Rally Fires Up The Church To Pray For Nation

By Jack Cheah

The culmination of NECF's 15th 40-Day Fast and Prayer was a prayer rally on 13th September at Wisma Eagles, Taman Perindustrian UEP Subang Jaya, Selangor. The prayer rally was also held in conjunction with Malaysia's 52nd Malaysia Day celebrations.

The event attracted the participation of people mainly from churches in the Klang Valley and its vicinity. They came to pray for the church and the nation and also to hear the message that was given by Dr John Mulinde of World Trumpet Ministries, Uganda. Ugandan speakers had in the past come to Malaysia to share how God transformed Uganda through prayer and how the level of prayer was raised by building prayer altars nationwide.

In his welcoming address and opening speech, NECF chairman, Rev Eu Hong Seng, emphasised that there was a great need to pray and the time was urgent to do so. Therefore, the Malaysian church could not afford to be prayerless in the impending prayer revival. The church needs a fresh encounter with God to witness again a power encounter like the manifestation of the 10 plagues as recorded in the book of Exodus.



The congregation worshipping at the National Prayer Rally 2015

Dr John in his message, *Contending For the Nations*, based on Matthew 28: 18-20, stressed that it was possible to pray and believe for a nation to be won for God. This was because all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ. Making disciples, according to him, entails not only personal and family salvation but also transforming the economy, government and the entire fabric of society of the nation. He elaborated that nations are people groups with a common identity in terms of language, ethnicity, territory and a common destiny.

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Malaysian Church Has Claim To Divine Inheritance

Disciples model after Christ, the Master, in order to serve and bear fruit for Him. For a nation to be a disciple requires it to abide in Christ, meaning it secures His presence in the land and to have His word -- His values and divine principles -- abide in the land.

Dr John said that the end of the process of discipling nations was to bring them into a covenant relationship with God. He said that God has apportioned His inheritance to the nations based on that relationship. That inheritance comes through eternal life, wealth, worship, family, economy, government and belief systems. He concluded by saying that God has given the Malaysian church the mandate to disciple the nation in order to claim its inheritance from God.

Time was also allotted to prayers of intercession. There were prayers of repentance, prayers for family and generations, and prayers covering marriages, family altars and life challenges. This was followed by prayers for the church for, among others, revival and spiritual awakening, spiritual discernment and strength in doctrinal clarity and conviction. Finally, there were prayers for the nation and particularly in contending for souls and its destiny in order to turn back to God.

The congregation was then led into a prayer of declaration by Pastor Chomy Ching. It was a time to invoke and affirm that God would come and fill the land with His glory. It was also to declare and decree God's blessings to abound in the churches with a reciprocal spiritual awakening and revival pursuing the destiny of transformation of lives. In addition, it was to declare and decree that God's holiness and salvation would abound to families and that generations would seek Him.



Blowing of the shofar during worship

A collection was made at the rally for the Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP), a programme initiated by the NECF Education Commission to empower school-going children in the rural areas with education through tuition. A special announcement was also made regarding the dedication of Peacehaven, Genting Highlands as the 24 by 7 Prayer Centre for the Klang Valley, which was launched on 14 September. Four intercessors from Dr John's team have been specially brought in to undertake prayer ministry work at the centre for 60 days and to help strengthen the 24 by 7 prayer initiative nationwide.

The rally drew a sizeable crowd of about 1,300 people. There was a strong sense of the anointing and presence of God throughout the sessions. It was indeed a timely occasion to be reminded afresh about the importance and urgency to pray unceasingly, 24 by 7. The message that was conveyed with much authority and power was loud and clear: Prayer is greatly needed not only for the individual, family and church but also to contend for the nation, believing that it can be won for God.

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Jack Cheah is the commission secretariat of NECF. He is keen to see NECF as a catalyst in transforming the nation holistically.



Chairman's Message

Politics Of The Gods: It's Complicated

By Rev Eu Hong Seng

Almost all believers are familiar with the account on the deliverance of the people of the Book, culminating in the crossing at the Red Sea some 3500 years ago.

The ruler of the day was no doubt despotic. There was no chance of forming any human rights commission, for sure. Workers were whipped at their masters' fancy. Raw materials were not always provided, but the quota of bricks for the various ongoing projects still had to be met.

Naturally, the descendants of Joseph cried out to their God for deliverance. But God sent Moses to lead them out to worship Him. Not exactly what they had in mind. They pined for deliverance, but God wanted a people who would worship Him.

This led to a series of confrontation between God and the gods of the land, resulting in numerous plagues unleashed. On stage, the main players were Pharaoh and his magicians, on one side, with Moses and the people of God, on the other.

In retracing the circumstances leading to the exodus, one would notice that there were four "M" cards being played out during that time.¹

Egyptian antiquity records reveal the *ketuanan* mentality of the dominant race. Irrespective of one's interpretation of biblical history or perspective of justice, the Egyptians were the **Masters** of the land -- therein lies "M" card #1.

Genesis records for us the travel of the Jewish people to Egypt circa BC 1707 due to acute famine. The patriarch Joseph was sent ahead and became well respected for his economic genius. After his demise, the succeeding Pharaohs, being poor students of history, did not acknowledge the contributions of Joseph and the Jewish people.²

The Egyptians ended up treating the Jewish populace as mere settlers -- a source of cheap, if not free, labor. Imagine the chagrin of the employers to have thousands of their workers leaving their worksite merely to worship -- this was "M" card #2 -- it's all about **Money**.

At the sight of the Jews fleeing towards the Red Sea after the last plague affecting the firstborn, Pharaoh hardened his heart again exclaiming, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" (Exodus

14:5). The potential loss of **Manpower** was "M" Card #3. It was the same issue in their first encounter when the king of Egypt screamed at Moses: "Why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." (Exodus 5:4)

While these cards may simply be seen as mere differences in policies, labor disputes, human rights to freedom of worship and mere politics of man, it is the fourth "M" card that reveals that there is more than that which meets the eye.

At the onset when Aaron's miraculous rod turned into a serpent as a sign that Moses was "the voice" sent by God, Pharaoh summoned the **Magicians** (the fourth "M" here) and sorcerers to use their enchantments.³

Thereafter, the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh shifted to the realm of the supernatural, starting with the first plague of waters being turned into blood with the magicians of Egypt again at the scene (Exodus 7:22). Interestingly, historians suggest that the unleashing of the ten plagues was the demonstration of God's dealings with the gods of the Egyptians⁴.

As we see the prayer movement gaining momentum in our nation, we must not be naïve to assume that the spirits of the land are not being stirred up as well. One cannot dismiss the reality of the politics of the gods in full battle array. Such battles are not simple to define. The heart of Pharaoh was hardened at each phase right up to the very end. When the soul of the nation is at stake, one can expect a prolonged battle.

The interplay between the gods and our God is indeed complex and complicated.

Nevertheless, when we remain faithful and fully trust in His wisdom, our God will grant us the understanding and perseverance to travail through the challenging journey ahead of us in our beloved nation.

Footnotes:

¹ Very much like the 4 R cards played out in our land viz the race, religion, rulers and the "rural-urban divide" cards.

² Genesis chapter 42

³ See Exodus 7:1

⁴ See "Survey of the OT" and "OT Today" by Andrew E Hill & John H Walton

As we see the prayer movement gaining momentum in our nation, we must not be naïve to assume that the spirits of the land are not being stirred up as well.

Call To Me...

By Rev Looi Kok Kim

The prayer conference by the NECF Prayer Commission from September 7-9 taught a deeper and clearer understanding of the importance of establishing a prayer altar to protect the land. The conference was attended by more than 700 participants, including pastors, intercessors and Bahasa Malaysia-speaking Christians from East Malaysia.

There were also international participants from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong at the conference.

The theme of the conference was Jeremiah 33:3: "Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (NASB)

Dr John Mulinde, founder of World Trumpet Ministries, was the main speaker. He expounded on Jeremiah in all the sessions at the three-day conference at the Full Gospel Assembly Kuala Lumpur. He unveiled a deeper insight of Jeremiah 33:3 by giving a clear understanding of the meaning of prayer altars and providing a biblical foundation to the different approaches to prayer through Scriptural examples. The focus was on laying the foundation to pray for God's destiny for the nation and the important principles of setting up prayer altars.

Dr John, together with his team of intercessors, also led the participants in prayer. The intercessors shared words of exhortation and prayed for the participants. The challenge that impressed the participants most was the call to spiritual discipline. The first aspect of the discipline of prayer was a commitment to read 10 chapters of the Bible a day, the second was to have a consistent prayer life beginning with ourselves and then spreading to our families, and the third was to attend the local church's prayer meeting.

The conference sessions were divided under the three

points of Jeremiah 33:3, namely, *Call to Me, I will answer you, and tell you the deep things of God which you do not know*. Dr John shared the various postures of prayer, and pointed to the need for a believer to have a "provoking heart" before He reveals the "deep things that you do not know". Prayers were not answered, he said, because motives were wrong. The closing of the day one session, *Call to Me*, established the biblical principle of: "Honour God and He will be on your side and nothing can go against you."

On the second day, participants were asked to pray for Dr John who was not feeling well. While still praying for him, he entered the auditorium and the participants started clapping. He started the session without any sign of frailty. Earlier, in the opening introduction, Dr John had expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Malaysian churches for taking care of him when he fell ill during the previous conference last November.

In expounding on Jeremiah 33:3, Dr John focused on one basic biblical principle: God will answer prayers when a believer operates under the law of God. The oppressor does not operate under the law of God. The effectiveness of an intercessor depends on understanding that there are three parties involved. Firstly, God Himself revealed Jeremiah 29:11. Every word in the Bible is God's character and truth. Secondly, intercession requires you to deal with the spirit of unbelief. God's thoughts and our thoughts are not the same. But as we continue to seek Him, we take His thoughts and His words. Hence, our attitude will change through the process of knowing Him and we will not ask like presenting a prayer list. The third party is Satan. In John 10:10, Satan came to rob and to destroy God's purpose. Therefore, we should pray at all times and know the enemy's tactics.



Dr John (right) speaking with Rev Jeremiah Kong translating in Bahasa Malaysia .

"The primary purpose of prayer is not to get things done, but to change us to be more like Him. Don't believe He will never hear us. He will always answer our prayers."

Dr John Mulinde

Dr John then asked us to stand up and stretch out our hands as if to touch Jesus' palm. He then prayed, "Lord, teach me how to pray." In that moment, God's presence touched us. The conclusion of the day two sessions was the principle that corporate prayer overcomes national sins. National sins can be dealt with when local churches are united and come together to pray and seek the Lord.

When a society is wounded with social injustice, domestic violence, corruption and lawlessness, intercessors have to take care not to get a sense of anger, frustration or bitterness. If we have such feelings and pray, it will be impossible to stand in the gap and such prayers will not be able to set the society free from these oppressions. Dr John cited the Uganda church experience. When the church was filled with believers who were wounded, the national sin of death and oppression was not overcome. What can God do when the land is filled with wickedness? The challenge is for believers to consecrate their hearts. Dr John said that God is looking for a man to set apart and be available to Him to tell the mighty things that we do not know. The day concluded with prayer for the participants to dedicate their lives to set them apart for God.

On the third day, the participants were called to respond to God's call to "Call to Me." The response demands that we

set aside our lives and stand in the gap for a nation so that the cycle of recreation will begin from us. That would take time and requires a process of transformation. The requirements to set apart were explained from Judges 13:1-5. Firstly, we need to be spiritually distinct and separate from the sins of the land through the example of Godly leadership and consistent prayer. Secondly, we need to yield 100% to the law of God. Satan does not break spiritual law; if he needs to do that, he uses human beings as agents. Thirdly, we are also priests and our priesthood should prevail wherever we are.

The final conclusion of the conference was a call for Christians in Malaysia to be united with one hope to intercede and cry to the Lord for a breakthrough. Christians in Malaysia must start to build their own personal altars and join a local church or combined church prayer meeting to pray for a breakthrough for the nation. Once the cycle of sin is broken, a new cycle of blessing will begin to pour out in our lives and it would be the spark to ignite revival.



Rev Looi Kok Kim is a member of NECF's Prayer Commission. He is the Senior Pastor of Charis Sanctuary AG.

REEP RURAL EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Programme to arrest decline in English among rural children

Introduction

The Rural Education Empowerment Programme or REEP is a new initiative under NECF to address the deteriorating standard of proficiency in English, Mathematics and Science, especially among school-going children in the country.

What is REEP?

It is a structured, remedial programme for children of the Orang Asli, East Malaysian native and Indian communities, especially the Christian population who are lagging behind in their studies. As an after-school tuition program, it will be conducted once a week, preferably on a Saturday. It will equip participating children with the basic foundation skills – 3 R's (i.e. reading, writing and arithmetic) – so that they can complete their school education without dropping out prematurely.

Why REEP is needed?

The school drop-out rate amongst children from the Orang Asli, East Malaysian native and Indian communities is alarmingly high at this time. This programme will not only address the basic skills required but also provide guidance and motivation for them to have interest and will to study.

How will REEP be implemented ?

NECF through the Education Commission collaborating with the Bahasa Malaysia and Orang Asli Commissions will prepare to undertake this program as a pilot project as follows:

1. Local churches will be mobilized to provide the venues.
2. Children from selected areas will be identified to attend the training.
3. Suitable individuals, for example, retirees and college students, will be identified and mobilized as volunteer tutors.

When and where will REEP be implemented?

The pilot project will kick start for Peninsular Malaysia in the month of November 2015 targeting the Orang Asli community in the Kampar area of Perak. For Sarawak and Sabah, it will be implemented at a later date upon endorsement and support by the native communities there. The native community in Miri has been targeted for Sarawak whilst for Sabah, the native communities in Ranau and Nabawan have been targeted.

Young People Learn About Holiness In Nazarite Course

By Melissa Ong

The Nazarite Training Programme is aimed at equipping young adults to be the catalysts for change in society. More than just a programme to pass on biblical knowledge, it is also intended for character building. Hence, knowing God for who He really is and what He requires of us are important steps in this training.

The programme is broken up into phases with each phase focusing on one aspect of Christian character. The first *Nazarite Training Phase 1* was on humility. As the title suggests, the *Nazarite Training Phase 2: Holiness* emphasized on holiness in our lives. Phase 2 was held on September 23 and 24 at the People's Park Baptist Church, Petaling Jaya. The training was led by Pastor Jerome Ocampo, founder of Jesus Revolution Now! from the Philippines.

The event drew over 50 participants, mainly youths and young adults from various churches in the Klang Valley.

During the training, Pastor Jerome talked about the need to be holy in the context of the Law of Love. Here are some take-home points which were gained from the sessions:

Understanding the Holiness of God

Holiness is unique only to God and based on God's Law of Love. To pursue holiness without the Law of Love would lead to legalism. Holiness based on God's Law of Love is defined as choosing His highest good in every situation involving choices. God simply asks us to put Him first in all we choose, feel, think and do. Jesus has expressed this Law of Love in two simpler rules: love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

The Power of a Clean Conscience

A clear conscience involves the inner freedom of spirit towards God and others. The greatest hindrance to gaining a clear conscience is the feeling that the ones we offend are wrong too! God has blessed us with two powerful principles to clean up our conscience -- confession and restitution. The purpose of confession and restitution is to restore a ruptured relationship. Having a clean conscience benefits us in many ways, such as helping us to overcome temptation, strengthen our desire to obey God, keep us in peace, have our hearts overflow with joy, defeat the world through our testimonies and experience the developing of genuine friendships. However, confession and restitution for sins alone cannot save us. It is only by God's grace that we are saved. However, as Christians we must learn to take responsibility for our choices, good or bad.

Turning Offences into Forgiveness

Lack of forgiveness is the greatest cause of disunity. Unforgiving spirits destroy unity. God promises special grace if we get offended by others. We become the ones we hate when we keep focusing on our offender's offences. We are unaware that sometimes we start to develop the same root attitudes of the one we hate. We try hard not to copy his or her visible actions, not realizing, however, that we are also slowly becoming the ones we hate. Hence, it is important that we, as Christians, have to have the spirit of forgiveness cultivated in our lives or else we would gradually become someone who is full of bitterness.

Pursuing Moral Freedom

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the power to do what is right. There is a growing problem with lust in this generation. God has intended sex for good: for re-creation of the race by reproduction and to bring happiness via physical pleasure between husband and wife. However, Satan, bitter and jealous of man's ability to create, strategizes ways to degrade and destroy the beauty of this relationship. He plays up the physical attraction and destroys the God-designated order of the three stages in relationships, namely courtship, engagement and marriage, thus sending thousands of relationships onto the rocks.

In this respect, here are some words of advice for young people who are dating:

Guys: You will have a problem being excited by a LOOK, so watch your EYES. You will also give a girl a problem by TOUCH, so keep your hands to yourself.

Girls: You are going to give a guy a problem by the way you DRESS, so watch it! Also, keep a "hands-off" attitude. It may be hard to say "NO" but you must. No heavy necking and petting can develop this way. If your boyfriend does not understand, repeat it a couple of more times and then use this emergency prayer. Extend your free hand from your shoulder, pull it back behind you. Then pray silently, "Lord, give me strength for this task." Then slap him! (If he asks for scriptural justification for your action, show him Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Cleaning Up Relationships

A man with no friends is not usually a true disciple of Christ. If you have no friends, is it because of shyness, or running from reality or because you are a silent



Pastor Jerome speaking at the Nazarite training course.

witness for Christ? Pastor Jerome explained that many fail to achieve meaningful friendships because they do not have a clear understanding of the levels of friendship. Throughout the 2-day training, Pastor Jerome taught us the importance of classifying our friendships with each level (acquaintances, casual friendship, close friendship and personal friendship), thus bringing specific friendship guidelines and responsibility to that level of relationship. He stressed that we should REMEMBER who owns us; DETERMINE what is valuable to us and not for sale such as faith, family and ministries; and NOT FORGET our purpose.

The Consecration

A symbolic ceremony was held at the end of the training where participants wrote down on a piece of paper a list of names of those they were going to ask for forgiveness for the things they had done wrong. The purpose of this was to reset the moral conscience back to the way God intended it to be. Then, they tore the lists of names into pieces, symbolic of surrendering their rights to God and pledging to live a life committed to holiness.

There are plans for another Phase 2 and a Phase 3 for 2016. Do email to youthnet@necf.org.my or "like" our Facebook page at "NECF Nazarite Training" to stay updated on upcoming events.



Melissa Ong is a member of the NECF Nazarite Committee.

Sabahans Start Disaster Response Network

By David Ong

The Sabah Disaster Response Network (SDRN) is an extended arm of the Commission of Sabah Affairs (COSA). It was initiated by a group of young and upbeat citizens with the purpose of creating awareness in the local community of the importance of individual and family disaster preparedness. SDRN's mission is to help the community find novel ways to improve its capabilities in reducing the impact of potential disasters and responding to their effects through training and education on disaster response preparedness. In short, SDRN's mission is to build a culture of safety and disaster-resilience among Sabahans.

After the 2014-2015 Malaysia floods, SDRN realized that the public had an extremely low level of awareness of disaster preparedness. SDRN believes that there is an immense need for the community to be physically and mentally prepared for future disasters. While disasters may be unpredictable, important steps can be taken before, during and after a disaster occurs to minimize the threat of the damage.

An emergency or a disaster can occur anytime without warning. Most citizens and communities are ill-prepared and rely upon government assistance to protect them from disasters. The end result is that personal safety and welfare are entrusted to large agencies which are usually overloaded with many kinds of urgent responsibilities and therefore unable to stretch their best efforts to serve everyone in the community.

There is therefore a need for a continuous effort by the government and the community to work closely together to raise the level of preparedness to be on par with neighboring countries.

In view of this, SDRN was formed on 13 May 2015 and is linked to the International Disaster Response Network (IDRN). IDRN is a collection of organizations and individuals who are committed to working together in the preparation, training, and response of local communities in the event of a large-scale disaster. IDRN was founded in the United States of America and is active in more than 50 countries around the world bringing relief and compassion to hurting communities.

SDRN shares the same goals as the IDRN, which is to train and prepare individuals, regardless of skills set or background, to survive and respond to a disaster. The training focuses on communities that generally have no background in disaster response. The training conforms to universal standards and practices, and can be applied to any global community.

Since its inception, SDRN has organized several IDRN Disaster Response Preparedness trainings and to date approximately 350 people have been trained by SDRN.



David Ong is the protem chairman of the Sabah Disaster Response Network (SDRN)

Chinese Churches Learn Of The Importance Of Public Theology

By Tan Poh Kian

The main goal of the NECF Chinese Commission for 2015 is to visit Chinese-speaking churches throughout Malaysia and to impart our vision to them. During the visits, we also promoted the 24/7 prayer initiative to keep watch over Malaysia and the annual 40-day fast and prayer for our nation. We visited Chinese churches in Ipoh, Seremban, Kota Kinabalu, Batu Pahat, Johor Bahru, Bagan Serai, Kuantan, Dungun, Sitiawan and Kota Bahru. Visits to other churches have been scheduled for the rest of the year.

During the visits, we conducted open meetings mostly on public theology, and we facilitated fellowship sessions with local pastors and leaders. The fellowships have enhanced the spirit of collaboration and friendship among pastors and churches, and enabled churches to have a more concrete and clear knowledge about the vision and missions of NECF. At the same time, the meetings increased the prayer momentum of churches to pray and seek the Lord together in unity.

In addition, the talks on public theology broadened the insight of believers in terms of their public faith, and enabled them to have a new perspective and knowledge regarding public issues in Malaysia. We hope to assist believers in Christ and churches all over Malaysia to further reflect on how they can be involved individually as well as corporately in public and overall nation building, in order to execute our call and responsibility of transforming our communities and nation as Christians and as the Church.

What is Public Theology?

The theme on public theology this year is *Keeping Watch over Our Land and Entering Our Destiny*. What then is “public theology”? The term “public” denotes issues and events that are relevant to the general public as a whole, whether these affect the general public directly or indirectly. Hence, “public theology” is a study to discover from the Bible, the mission and responsibilities that Christians of this age have towards our communities, societies and nation, and understand how practical our faith is to this generation. In other words, it is to know how the Church, the institution that represents God, can function as the head in providing guidelines and directions to public issues in our society and nation.

When God created man, He endowed man with the

authority to rule over the whole earth. Apart from walking with God, Adam had to discipline himself in ruling over the earth and to multiply and to be fruitful in numbers so that his offspring could fill the whole earth. Adam’s mission was beyond his own family boundary, extending towards the community he lived in. He had to be concerned about the ecological aspects of the earth. In other words, Christian faith surpasses mere religious conduct and behaviour, and all the spiritual activities found in the Church institution. It encompasses all relevant fields connected with human living like politics, economy, education, culture, laws, and the marketplace.

A Brief Overview

Politics is a subject frequently mentioned in the Bible, and most of the prophets sent by God, for example, Isaiah and Jeremiah, had critically challenged the authorities of their day. They had uprightly confronted kings and governors who were corrupt and who had abused their powers. They pointed out and rebuked all kinds of unrighteous, unjust and wicked practices in their societies.

John, the Baptist, did not spare the two political and religious parties of his day by reproaching the Sadducees, who were the pro-governor elites and royal priests, as well as the politically marginalized Pharisees, who turned up to be religious extremists. He was also critical of the tax collectors and soldiers serving the interests of the Roman empire. All these civil servants were told to be upright and uphold their integrity in their respective positions, and to forsake all their corrupt practices.

The Bible does not promote a theology that makes us stand aloof from worldly affairs. Instead, it encourages and spurs us to be active and participative in the world in order to make a change and a difference.

However, as a result of the close union between the Roman Catholic church and the state in the past, modern-day churches are deterred from involving themselves in sensitive political issues as they perceive it is best if the Church has nothing to do with the state politically. Yet, how can we keep away from politics when Adam was given the authority to rule over the earth?

Basically, Christians have misinterpreted the concept of “separation of Church and State”. The separation of Church and State does not mean that Christians are to detach themselves from political issues, or are *not* to

interfere in politics. What it does mean is that the Church has to draw a clear line and stand firm on its convictions, and assume its role as a prophet who shall monitor kings and governors, so that it can sound the trumpet of justice and correction whenever the government fails to practice justice, love and the holiness of God under any circumstance. By doing so, the Church enriches the nation as a whole. In the current political situation, whether in regard with the ruling parties or opposition parties, or the people, they are directed to the righteous way of God and to the truth of God.

In the past, missionaries were aggressive in establishing schools when they entered their mission fields, and they enhanced the living standards of local communities through proper education, which resulted in a tremendous transformation of the local culture. Nowadays, what are the roles played by churches in the Malaysian education system? We know that the Malaysian Chinese schools are constantly faced by a shortage of finances to run their operations. Chinese primary schools often encounter problems such as an insufficient supply of teachers and government funds, and independent secondary schools have to survive without proper government recognition.

If Chinese churches do not have insight into all these issues that are relevant to the Chinese community and if Christians are not willing to participate in these issues, there will be a huge gap between the Chinese community and the Chinese churches, and Christian faith will become irrelevant to the Chinese society. For the Church to be impactful and relevant, the Church has to be willing to help

solve these community issues based on biblical principles.

Last year, Malaysia encountered the most severe natural disaster in its history when floods hit the East Coast. We thank God that churches contributed much in flood relief efforts. But, what about the man-made disasters happening everywhere? Is the Church ready to be the prophetic voice for this nation in these situations? What does the Church have to say when our bumiputera brothers and sisters and towns and cities in East Malaysia are threatened by the construction of dams which risk the destruction of the ecological environment? Are we going to be indifferent observers or are we going to extend extensive help and care to protect the environment? These are real challenges faced by Malaysians. As people of God, we have to voice our concern in the midst of injustice, and we need to offer practical aid in times of need.

Other concerns include the values and practices of the marketplace. The NECF Chinese Commission desires to deepen the public consciousness of Christians in Malaysia by conducting seminars on public theology in order to relearn our public roles assigned by God. When Malaysia is going through a troubled season we have to be quick to identify it as the season of God to rise and declare the truth of Christ so that Christians practice it in the public places.



Tan Poh Kian is the Assistant Executive Secretary of NECF's Chinese Commissions.

Family Commission Goes Down To The Ground

By Pastor Matthew Ling

On the Move

The NECF Family Commission continues to work hard on its present phase of strategic planning. At the same time, the team has begun hitting the ground meeting church leaders to explore opportunities for partnership on family ministry development in our nation.

Our First Stop - Penang

The City Transformation Team of Penang Ministers Fellowship (PMF) formed the Family Sphere Team in 2014 with the task of carrying out plans to transform families in the state.

Organised together with Family Ministries Malaysia, a fellowship of family ministry leaders and organisations, the commission conducted two events on 21st August this year with PMF.

The overall goal of the morning session, attended by 50 pastors and church leaders from 35 churches, was to explain the strategic position of the family in the church, its current shaky state, and the opportunities that the PMF had in strengthening it. We also highlighted key findings of the on-going *Malaysia National Family Needs Survey* and the family struggles that the Malaysian

Church is currently facing.

20 pastors and church leaders attended the afternoon session. Conducted in the dialogue format, the focus was to explore collaborative opportunities among the churches for building a strong citywide family ministry.

Next Stop

It was an excellent start with the Penang Ministers Fellowship to get to know the family ministry needs of the city church network and the great opportunities that the Family Commission could contribute to meeting these needs. The commission will continue with this plan for church networks in other cities and towns of Malaysia.

Our next stop is Ipoh. The consultation is scheduled for 30th November and 1st December. For further information, please contact Pastor Chan Theam Lai, the chairman of Ipoh Pastors Fellowship.



Pastor Matthew Ling is the chairman of the NECF Family Commission.



The disaster aid team leader briefing villagers of Sunkhani in Dolkha district.

Aid To Nepal Earthquake Victims

By Jack Cheah

Nepal experienced two major earthquakes of magnitudes 7.8 and 7.3 on 25 April and 12 May respectively. The country also felt hundreds of 4 to 5 magnitude tremors after the first earthquake. Out of a total of 75 districts in Nepal, 10 districts which surround the Kathmandu Valley were badly affected. The main affected area was the north central region in the foothills of the Himalayas. The death toll from both earthquakes is about 9,000 and thousands of homes were also destroyed. Many people suffered financial losses as a result of a loss of livestock and the collapse of businesses. They also experienced trauma and fear due to the many tremors that occurred after the two major earthquakes.

NECF was quick to come to the aid of the earthquake victims by extending aid in kind to them. We went through

Full Gospel Tabernacle (FGT) in Subang Jaya which has existing work in Nepal. Aid amounting to USD 15,618 was given to the victims in the affected villages of Pantang, Phuplingdada and Petku in the Sinhupalchowk district and Sunkhani village in the Dolkha district. A total of 1,030 families from these four villages received aid which was distributed between 17 and 18 June and 17 and 18 July. The aid consisted of rice, dhall, blankets, buckets and mugs. Assistance was also given to finance the repair work of churches affected by the earthquakes.

We want to thank churches who responded to our appeal letter. The total collection for Nepal relief work was RM49,173. NECF topped up another RM10,631, making it a sum of RM59,804. After converting to USD, the total amount came up to USD15,682.



A boy from the village of Phuplingdada in Singhupalchowk district carrying a bag of rice.



Bags of rice for distribution to villagers of Petku in Singhupalchowk district.

NECF Office Gets A Makeover

By Jack Cheah

The NECF office underwent a major renovation costing RM180,000 from 30 March until the end of July. It was the first time since the NECF moved to the present premises in 1995 that such a large-scale renovation was undertaken.

Improvements were necessary because of wear and tear and there was a need to enhance the appearance of the office as well. The management was responsive to requests from the staff and NECF members to make the office a more conducive and presentable place of work for the staff and for dealings with the public. In addition, there was a need to make room for the staff as the lease of the rented first floor had expired.

There were two major types of renovation that were undertaken by two different contractors. The first renovation involved architectural (partition, flooring, painting, etc.) restructuring, rewiring and installation of split air conditioning. The second involved toilet works.

The big conference room on the ground floor was also renovated. New office furniture was also bought to complete the improved look. New executive chairs, conference chairs, hanging wall storage cabinets and steel safes were added for the comfort and functional needs of the staff.

A great amount of inconvenience, discomfort and health hazards were experienced by the staff during the course of the renovation work. There was much relief and satisfaction when it was finally over. At the end of it all, the office now has a new, neater look and appears more conducive for work and for interactions with the public.

Currently, the general office, the secretary-general's office, the stationary rooms and the pantry corner are located on the first floor.

Just as the office has undergone a physical renovation for the better, it is our hope and prayer that the Malaysian church, too, would undergo a spiritual renovation that will impact society and the nation for the glory of God.



Dedication of the office and staff in the new Conference Room on the Ground Floor.

CHARGING TO DESTINY

DATE: 26TH NOVEMBER
TIME: 8.00PM
VENUE: PEOPLE'S PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
 NO. 14, JALAN 55/43/14
 47301, PETALING JAYA
 SELANGOR, MALAYSIA
SPEAKER: DR JOHN MULINDE
THEME: CHARGING TO DESTINY 2
ADMISSION: NECE YOUTHNET
PRICE: FREE

'Charging To Destiny' is about inspiring the youths and young adults today to capture and pursue after God's Destiny for their lives and their generation. God is looking for a generation who would dare to set themselves apart to establish His purposes on earth and shake the nations. Come and be equipped and made ready for your destiny!

LOCATION MAP

SPEAKER
DR JOHN MULINDE

John Mulinde is the Founder of World Trumpet Mission and is Chairman of the ministry's International Board of Directors. World Trumpet Mission, an international ministry that promotes transforming revival globally has been a part of the work of transformation that God has brought about in the nation of Uganda and in nations all over the world. John has been called by the Lord to "Blow the Trumpet" in the nations, calling the church to repentance and preparing the Body of Christ for the day of the Lord's return. He has been traveling the past few decades, sharing this message throughout the world. John and his wife Sheila have eight children and live in Kampala, Uganda.

复兴大会
REVIVAL FIRE
Conference

Come and experience the Transformation Power of God's word with Dr John Mulinde!

同来经历 John Mulinde 博士从神的言语，带来转化的大能！

John Mulinde is the Founder of World Trumpet Mission and is Chairman of the ministry's International Board of Directors, World Trumpet Mission, an international ministry that promotes transforming revival globally, has been a part of the work of transformation that God has brought about in the nation of Uganda and in nations all over the world. John has been called by the Lord to "Blow the Trumpet" in the nations, calling the church to repentance and preparing the Body of Christ for the day of the Lord's return. He has been traveling the past few decades, sharing this message throughout the world. John and his wife Sheila have eight children and live in Kampala, Uganda.

Venue: Holy Seal (City Mall)

Session 1
20th Nov 7.30pm

Session 2
21st Nov 8.30am

Session 3
21st Nov 7.30pm

Language / 中文翻译:
 English with Chinese Translation

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Inquiries / 询问:
Sis Cathy 017-811 1268

To all our member churches, associates and friends,
 thank you for your continued support and partnership in 2015.
Wishing A Blessed Christmas & A Good Year Ahead.

~ NECF Council and Secretariat