

Q3
2019berita
NECF

Chairman's Message

Lying with Delilah By Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng

With the apocalyptic writings in the book of Revelation being played out, Jezebel, the evil wife of King Ahab at the time of Elijah, has become a subject of much exposition and foreboding among believers these days. In contrast, little has been spoken of Delilah, another Old Testament personality of equal portent for the present-day Church.

As Paul warned the Ephesus Church, we are not wrestling against flesh and blood. Today, the spirits of both Jezebel and Delilah clearly are leading the gameplay amongst the *rulers of darkness*.

While the Jezebel of old ranted against and manipulated the leadership of God's people, she lives on by attacking the prophetic anointing and increasing the company of weak leadership in our midst.

Delilah, who preceded Jezebel by about 200 years, enjoyed the infamy of bringing down Samson — God's man of the hour during the Judges era (Judges 16). Nevertheless, Delilah, whose name means "faithless one", was more than just a duplicitous Philistine seductress.

Whilst the Jezebel spirit controls and manipulates key leadership, the Delilahs among us strive to entangle and ensnare our troops in the forefront through ungodly

and unholy habits and relationships. Indeed, the Church ignores the onslaught of Delilah at great peril.

Delilah effortlessly found her way into Samson's heart because he knowingly frequented the harlot's lair prior to meeting her¹. Many have no qualms fraternizing with Delilah presuming all is safe because we have strength and talents. Little do we realise when we are unclean and un-consecrated like Samson, we become fair game for our enemies who wait at the gate ready to pounce and decimate us.

At Sorek, Samson fell in love almost instantly. Blinded by love, he was totally incapable of seeing the "lords of the Philistines" behind the woman he was involved with².

Although Samson's strength was unmatched, when he *fell in love* - he met his match. Delilah immediately sought to entice him, to find out the secret of his strength. She didn't even try to hide her motivation — "how you can be tied up and subdued" (Judges 16:6b NIV).

When the spirit of Delilah is intertwined in the polity of the Church, men will cast aside their Nazarite vows and discard their God-given destinies. Sadly, many a leader today thinks nothing of sleeping on Delilah's lap.

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...continued from front page:

Re-examining and applying Pareto's Law into such a situation, the eighty percent who are content to allow the twenty percent do most of the work, could prophetically and effectively be the foolish company who are lulled to sleep before the coming of the Bridegroom. This tryst with Delilah inevitably results in humiliation, imprisonment, irreversible blindness, shame and certain death — even for Samson, a hero listed in the hall of faith in Hebrews 11.

The great General George S. Patton once said our motivation is not to die for our country, but that the enemy dies for his³. Though Samson wiped out the entire leadership of the Philistines and hordes of Dagon worshippers, nonetheless he died along with them - a pyrrhic victory that Patton would surely not espouse.

If we succumb to the manipulative Jezebel and seductive Delilah in these last days, we risk a hollow display at His coming — numbers without testimony; worship without incense; labour without fruitfulness; and talented leadership without anointing.

When the leadership fornicates with "the faithless one," she loses more than just hair and strength. Indeed when the Son of Man appears, will He find faith in His Church (Luke 18:8)? When the Church awakes from lying in Delilah's embrace, she will discover the Lord had departed and she did not even know it (Judges 16:20).

Let's be forewarned.

¹ Judges 16:1 (NKJV) 1 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

² Judges 16:5 (NKJV) 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

³ Rephrased to omit the foul language used.

SPECIAL BOOK PROMOTION!

DOING THE RIGHT THING: A PRACTICAL GUIDE ON LEGAL MATTERS FOR CHURCHES IN MALAYSIA. (2nd. Edition)



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SAMPLE FROM CHAPTER ONE: CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Question: What is the legal or constitutional status of a church in Malaysia?

DOING THE RIGHT THING

granted to all religious groups, and not limited to Islam only. Therefore, establishing and maintaining a church is constitutionally protected.

Hence, there is no doubt that Articles 11(1) and 150(1) of the Federal Constitution firmly guarantee the constitutional status of churches established throughout the whole of Malaysia. Such freedom of religion means Christians have the freedom to establish churches for the purpose of worship, fellowship and ministry as these activities are essential and central to the practice of our faith. No other interpretation of the Constitution would be logical.

IN WHAT FORM SHOULD A CHURCH EXIST IN MALAYSIA?

The most practical question is not whether a church can exist, but rather in what form it may exist as a legal entity in Malaysia.

Since the Federal Constitution guarantees the existence of churches, a church's right to exist is not disputed. A church need not be registered through any government agency or be registered as an institution under the Societies Act 1960, Companies Act 2016 or be a member of any registered Christian organisation? Does a church need to be registered as an institution under the Societies Act 1960, Companies Act 2016 or be a member of any registered Christian organisation? Such a church that is not registered may encounter practical difficulties with matters involving land (ancestral property), bank accounts (bankable property), or when applying for approval from government authorities (for instance, when applying for

This book is available for purchase at NECF office



Bridge-Builders and Peacemakers in the Nation

By Jack Cheah

The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) comprising the Catholic Church of Malaysia, the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM) and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) had its 18th Biennial General Conference on 23rd April 2019 at the CCM Ecumenical Centre, Petaling Jaya. It was attended by CFM Executive Committee members, representatives of the Catholic Church of Malaysia, CCM, NECF and observers, totalling about 70 people.

In his opening speech, CFM Chairman Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim highlighted the change in government on 9 May 2018 which brought a breath of fresh air after 61 years. According to him, CFM played a part in urging the Christian community to discern and choose wisely those who would govern the country prior to the General Election in that year. However, it would be premature to assume that with a new government, all our past problems will go away as there is still much to be done.

Archbishop Julian stressed that CFM's current role in nation-building as the voice of conscience to constantly remind the government to uphold religious freedom, to engage in constant dialogues with all religious leaders and to protect the interest of mission schools must continue.

Indeed, the path to becoming great again as a nation involves bringing down the walls that divide its people due to religion, ethnicity, gender and political affiliation. Christians in the nation, following the footsteps of Jesus, must seriously take up their roles as bridge-builders and peacemakers.

The conference saw the election of the new Executive Committee Members for 2019-2021 as follows:

NO	POSITION	NAME
1	Chairman	Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim
2	Vice-Chairman (Sabah / Sarawak)	Archbishop Simon Poh Hoon Seng
3	Vice-Chairman	Bishop Dr. Ong Hwai Teik
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15	Committee Member	Mr. Gopala Krishnan K. Sundaram



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF

A Joyful Easter Celebration

By Jack Cheah

Easter was celebrated at the NECF office slightly earlier on 17 April with a special gathering. At the gathering, there was a briefing on NECF and its programmes which was then followed by singing, exhortation and lunch. This is the first time NECF had organised the event. Present were NECF Council Members led by Chairman Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng, NECF Commission Heads and Members, NECF staff led by Secretary-General Rev Andy Chi, Evangelical Denominational Heads and Representatives and Pastors' Fellowship Heads and Members from Kuantan, Puchong, Subang, Ampang, Rawang, Cheras, Shah Alam, Kajang, Klang, Klang Valley (Bahasa Malaysia) and PJ North.



Briefing on NECF programmes by staff

The briefing session was conducted by the NECF staff team. They welcomed guests and announced NECF's coming events. The topics included NECF's direction, an introduction to the Restorative Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP) and the Financial Literacy Programme, State of the Nation and Prayer Altar.

NECF Chairman Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng who gave the exhortation shared on five lessons which can be drawn from the fall of Jericho as stated in Chapter 6 of the book of Joshua. They are as follows:

(1) The Need for Us to be Open to Seek the Help of Others

It is stated in Joshua 2:1 that two spies were sent by Joshua to view the land, especially Jericho. They came to the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. Rahab, a foreigner who betrayed her own people, assisted in helping Israel to capture Jericho. In the transformation of the nation, we need to be open to seek the help of others, including our enemies in order to succeed.

(2) Expect Insiders' Opposition

It is evident that there were enemies inside Israel's camp because as mentioned in Joshua 2:2, the king of Jericho was told that some of the Israelites had come to spy out the land. As Joshua laid siege on Jericho, it was not only to prevent those inside the city from coming out but also



those outside i.e. in his camp from going into the city. As we move forward, we need wisdom in order to be aware that enemies to our faith are not always found outside but could be inside for e.g. in WhatsApp and Facebook groups.

(3) God Has Not Called Us to Succeed by Ourselves

In the conquest of Jericho, everybody had a role to play beginning from the armed guards who marched ahead, to the seven priests who carried and blew the trumpets, to the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to the rear guards. The whole team was to march around silently, worship and shout at the right time. Similarly, a great team or church today needs to be able to

- **Walk together**
- **Work together**
- **Worship together; and**
- **War together**

On worshipping together, it is more difficult than we realise because not everybody is present at the same time to do so.

(4) Value of Going Around in Circles

Just as the Israelites marched around Jericho once for six days and seven times on the seventh day, God also took time to create the earth in six days. This speaks of the grace of God especially with regards to the time the church is given to respond to the call of God. People need time to discard complacency and to embrace the vision and burden of the church. As the Malaysian church is not well known for patience, she needs to rise up in prayer as well as her need for leadership. She needs to see Jericho not just an event but a journey. The church still needs to learn about missions, timing, how to deal with money and how to obey.

(5) The Double Wall

Historians tell us that the Jericho wall was actually a double wall. The first wall (26-30 ft. height) was separated from the second wall (30 ft. height) by an embankment which sloped up to it. Thus, the city appeared impregnable and indestructible.



Exhortation by Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng

In terms of application today, there are two battles to be fought in order to conquer it: one, the political front, and the second, within the church which is the bigger enemy. The second battle involves being faithful in another man's property in order to be given your own, as stressed in the Parable of the Shrewd Manager in Luke 16:1-12. Many people in the church, for e.g. just cannot wait to be in the limelight and for glory at position No.1 and do not want to remain at Number 2. They are trying to cross another wall when they, in fact, cannot cross their own wall. Just like King Zedekiah of Judah, as recorded in Jeremiah 39:4-5, who rebelled against the Babylonians and tried to flee Jerusalem through the gates between the two walls but failed, many in the church may not succeed as well.

Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng concluded by emphasising that breaking through the double wall of Jericho is not an option. It stands in the way of the Promised Land. There is a great need to pray for the church and nation in order to enter it so that transformation of both can be realised.

The turnout at the Easter Lunch Gathering event was good with about 60 people in attendance. Truly a meaningful commemoration and joyful celebration of the risen Christ!



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF

NECF welcomes new members

Church	Pastor	City / Town
Ordinary Members		
Arise Shine Ministry	Pr Aaron Jerry Prakash A/L Kaneison	Kuala Lumpur
Bethel Prophetic Ministries	Pr Sarala a/p Jeyaraman	Klang
Blessed Hope Fellowship, Mangkabusu	Rev Piri Agong	Klang
Centre of Glory, Johor Bahru	Pr Chua Soon Kiat	Johor Bahru
JB Tamil Assembly	Rev Duraisingam a/l Samuel Samy Kutty	Skudai
Keys Mission Berhad	Rev Lee Sai Yew	Petaling Jaya
Salvation Praise Sanctuary	Rev Rames A/L Muniandy	Sungai Petani
Sidang Injil Triang	Pr Joham Ali	Bandar Bera
Stream of Life Community Church	Pr Don Chong Yoon Kong	Ipoh
Tabernacle of Christ, Tangkak	Pr Vincent John A/L John Selliah	Bukit Katil
The Rock Christian Society Kuala Lumpur	Pr Cyrus William Gomez	Kuala Lumpur



Sunday School children standing on the site of their totally destroyed church building

Rendering Needed Assistance to Disaster Victims

By Jack Cheah



Rev. Dr Ronny Mandang, General Chairman of FIECI, handing over financial aid to pastors of churches



One of the damaged churches in Palu

Earthquakes and tsunamis struck the Palu and Donggala areas in Sulawesi, Indonesia on September 28, 2018. The death toll is more than 2,000 lives, besides the destruction of enormous assets like residential houses, commercial buildings and religious houses of worship. Many disaster victims suffered financial losses arising out of the loss of livestock and collapse of businesses. The victims also experienced trauma and fear.

NECF responded to the needs of the victims in the two areas by providing financial aid amounting to RM 50,000.00 or the equivalent 172,856,574.00 rupiahs. It was extended to the Fellowship of Indonesian Evangelical Churches and Institutions (FIECI) which through its Social and Community Service Commission channelled the money to 16 churches for the rebuilding of their buildings that were damaged. Each church received 10,000,000.00 rupiahs. Assistance amounting to 12,856,674.00 rupiahs was also given for the livestock and agricultural development programme in Donggala.

It is noted that FIECI's Social and Community Service Commission together with related parties had provided assistance to the disaster victims in the form of food, clothes and counselling for those who suffered post-disaster trauma.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF



Marilee, the speaker
(third from left) with the
Commission members

Destined for Significance

By Grace Hee

That was the title of the talk by Marilee Pierce Dunker on April 27, 2019 organized by the NECF Women Commission as part of the Destiny Talks series. Her story-telling gift shone through and warmed the hearts of all thirty plus women who gathered at the event.

Marilee shared her journey as a daughter of destiny with her ups and downs, joys and pains and touched the hearts of the listeners deeply. The second daughter of Bob Pierce (founder of World Vision), she had childhood dreams of being a "princess" and a Hollywood actress but her world was turned upside down when her eldest sister Sharon committed suicide at age 25. She said, "Our faith doesn't protect us from suffering." She came face to face with the harsh realities of her faith and life.

Despite the sadness, Marilee continued her pursuit of her Hollywood dream and a breakthrough came. In the midst of making the decision, she sought God who spoke to her, "Go ahead and take it. I will bless you. But if you will give me your gifts and talents, I will use you." Her crossroads question became: "Do you want to be blessed or do you want to be used?" She chose the latter.

She became a stay-home Mom, serving the Lord in the church and telling people about Jesus. Twenty-two years later, while attending the 50th anniversary event of World Vision as a guest, she felt the Lord asking her why she was



Attendees of the talk being prayed for

not part of World Vision. Not knowing what she could do, she wrote to the President of World Vision with the offer of just pouring coffee for the staff. She was taken in at age 51! Overwhelmed by the size of the work, she complained to God about being too old for the work, and the Lord's witty reply was, "You are old enough."

Thus, began a season in her journey travelling to 40-plus nations, just being a face and a voice for World Vision. The Lord has been using her story-telling gifts and compassion to speak for suffering women and children. Listening to her stories of women and children she had encountered in her ministry truly moved the hearts of the listeners to tears. She is living her father's cry: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break Yours."

The Women Commission hopes to continue to organize a series of Destiny Talks in the coming months, as part of the vision of raising up daughters of destiny for the Kingdom of God here in Malaysia and beyond. See you there!



Grace Hee, a Consultant and Sole Proprietor of Advantage Safety Consultancy is the Chairperson of NECF's Women Commission. She is married to Rev Ron Hee of New Life Restoration Centre group of churches.



Raising Faith in These Trying Times

By Jack Cheah

A seminar on hearing the Word of God through the use of the audio Bible was held at the *Rumah Methodist* (Methodist House), Bandar Muadzam Shah, Pahang, on 22 June. NECF and Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship (FGBMF) jointly organised the event which was attended by 25 participants comprising Orang Asli people from the surrounding villages in the Rompin District, Pahang.

The seminar was conducted by Rev Subashini Achari of the Faith Comes by Hearing Ministry which has a mission for every person to hear the Word of God in his/her own language. Since 2013, it has worked with FGBMF Malaysia to distribute audio Bibles in the form of the solar powered *Proclaimer* sets. These sets are especially suited for use in remote areas that have no electricity supply or have difficulties getting electricity. The sound volume is programmed to be loud and thus, the sets can be used in places where many people gather together.



Recipients holding the Proclaimer sets (in boxes)

Rev Subashini, in her talk, spoke of the importance of the Word of God through speaking, reading and hearing in order to strengthen one's spiritual life. This is particularly urgent at this time as it was reported in the Malay Mail online paper on 21 June that the Kelantan Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Council (MAIK) has an ambitious plan to convert all the Orang Asli within its state borders to Islam



Rev Subashini showing how to use the Proclaimer sets

by 2049. If Kelantan has this plan, there is no stopping other states that have an Orang Asli population from following suit. Thus, unless the Word of God is made readily accessible to the Orang Asli, they will not be able to withstand this religious threat.

According to her, there are five important aspects that need to be considered when using the *Proclaimer* sets:

- **Primarily to hear the reading of the Bible**
- **Group setting**
- **Discussion involving the heads, hearts and hands (application)**
- **Follow up by those in charge e.g. pastors**
- **Testimonies of transformation of lives.**

Participants were challenged to raise their faith by hearing the Word of God and were shown how to use these sets. A total of ten sets was presented for free to the participants for use in their villages and churches.

It needs to be mentioned that the seminar has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of churches with NECF, represented by Jack Cheah. Bro Yek Shih Cherng whose church, the Evangelical Baptist Church USJ1 Subang Jaya, is involved with three other Baptist churches in the NECF's Restoration Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP), provided transport for the Orang Asli from Kampung Wawah to the seminar. Dr Ngeh Hoong Eng of NECF was instrumental in getting her church, the Mega Methodist Church Damansara Perdana, Petaling Jaya, which is involved in the Orang Asli work, to arrange transport for the Orang Asli from the other villages.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF



Pray and Move for God's Will to Be Done in the Nation

By Tan Poh Kian

The 2019 National Chinese Prayer Camp was held at the Grand Kampar Hotel, Kampar from 19 to 21 May 2019. The camp which was organised by the NECF Chinese Commission saw more than 400 participants from about 60 Chinese churches in attendance.

Pastor David Damien, Pastor Dr Lew Lee Choo and Pastor Yew Kuan Yee were invited to share messages at the camp. Pastor David is the Director of Watchmen for the Nations and facilitates the gathering worldwide in preparing the Church as a dwelling place for God's presence. Pastor Dr Lew is the Deputy Senior Pastor of Sidang Injil Borneo (SIB) KL. Pastor Yew is the Research Director of Life SOAR Resources Bhd and a member of the NECF Chinese Commission. The messages (with the titles) of the three speakers are summarised below.

Pastor David Damien: Building the "Resting Place" of God

Unity in the Body of Christ was the concern and prayer of Jesus before the Father (John 17:11). While we are occupied and trying our best to build churches, to carry forward our doctrines and to expand our denominations, there is nevertheless, a need for us to quiet down and reflect upon God's questions in Isaiah 66:1: *"Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will be my resting place be?"*

Pastor David Damien exhorted churches to keep forging forward with the Kingdom concept and values which we have received. It is when churches reach the unity in the knowledge of Christ Jesus that we are capable of creating a "resting place" for the Lord.

He proceeded to share an experience when he was a guest of a couple at their home. Throughout the whole night he was restless. He wrestled within himself and contemplated leaving the place. Everything, including the couple, seemed to be alright on the surface. Nevertheless, he felt a strange undercurrent deep within his spirit. He wouldn't have minded visiting the couple, but he dreaded having to stay overnight.

The same goes with Christ when His churches are not united in mind and spirit. He cannot move freely and mightily when our relationships are in a mess, distant or stressful even though outwardly, there is no fight or brawl. We might see some good work of God here and there. But we are yet to experience the fullness of God dwelling in our midst and His peace ruling and reigning as He becomes our strength and might in winning souls and exercising His heavenly rule.

Pastor David Damien was an adopted son of a Chinese lady by God's divine appointment. He was used by God to bring healing to her after she had lost her son. Since then, God has opened doors for him to minister to the Chinese people. He



Camp participants worshipping and praying

challenged the Chinese churches to align themselves with the call and mission of God for this generation, and to flow with the tide of the Spirit in ministering to the needs of a lost world.

He believes that now is the *Kairos* (opportune) moment for Malaysian churches to possess the land and to usher in the Kingdom and the Righteousness of God. Churches are to seek God beyond changes in political, economic and educational realms, etc. They have to seek the manifestation of God's Kingdom, so that whatever is deemed to be done on earth shall be accomplished as it is in heaven.

Pastor Lew Lee Choo: National Prayer Altar - A Place of Wrestling for the Destiny of a Nation

Pastor Lew Lee Choo has been actively involved in praying for the nation as she strongly believes that the National Prayer

Altar (NPA) is a pivotal place and the fiercest battle field in the spiritual realm; this is where the agendas and the destiny of our nation are called to order and into place.

She reminded all participants that all prayers offered, whether by Christians or non-Christians, are indeed powerful and they either bring forth light or darkness in territories where prayers are offered. The prayers of the righteous are effective and hence, the holy lifestyle of a priest does matter. When a priest prays in accordance with the will and agenda of God, he invites God's presence and the manifestation of His Kingdom and power!

There are 3 stages that one has to master in prayer: to seek God, to position ourselves and to assume our tasks. The primary role of a priest is to seek God and to learn His word, so that he comes to know His Will and His Way. Paul said in Ephesians 6:12 that we are not waging war against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and the spiritual wickedness in high places.

Hence, we have to put on the full armour of God and wrestle with His power and authority. Instead of being pushed around by devils in the heavenly realms, we have to take our stand, decree and demand the earth to align itself with the heavenly agendas as we position ourselves in the 3rd heaven

(referred to by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:2) i.e. God's dwelling place.

She also shared about the role of repentance in seeing the revival and restoration of a nation. In Acts 3:19 Peter urged the crowd to repent and turn to God so that their sins would be wiped out and the time of refreshing would come from the Lord. It is through repentance that we receive abundant blessings of salvation, healing and deliverance, and a restored authority for God to act on our behalf.

Lastly, she challenged all to assume their individual roles and tasks as assigned by God. When we position ourselves, take up our roles and carry out our tasks, we will fulfil the call God has for us and for the nation.



Chinese Commission members with Pastor David Damien

Pastor Yew Kuan Yee: Be New Wineskins for New Wine When the Lord Leads Us in New Ways

With his great sense of humour, Pastor Yew Kuan Yee shared on the topic of nation building. His session invited much laughter and interest from the audience.

Hitting the nail on its head, Pastor Yew went straight to the problem faced by the majority of Chinese churches. The Chinese people, in general, though as many as sand on the seashore, have turned out to be "loose sand scattering" all over the world. Indeed, before the Independence of our nation, the Chinese had typically no intention to make any commitment or contribution to our land. They just wanted to hit and go.

It is after the Independence that they started to rethink their connection with the land and then embraced this land as their very own. Yet, to most Chinese churches, we are trapped in our traditional thinking that it is unwise for Christians to be involved in politics. We miss out God's call for us as citizens of this nation when we wrongly apply the concept of "the separation of state and church".

Pastor Yew explained that the intention of "separation of state and church" is to make clear the stand that while the Church is not supposed to be blended in with the government, she is definitely a prophetic voice to the government of the day. The Church is called to be a Watchman for the nation, not just to intercede for it but to monitor its policies and to ensure that all is done in a just and righteous way. The Church will lose its prophetic and

priesthood effectiveness when she ignores politics or the government altogether.

Participants were reminded to not stop at prayers though everything should start with prayers. We are to move on to do the will of God. Many missionary movements were birthed through prayers. The missionaries who came to our land aimed to build more than just churches, they wanted to steer our nation to the truths of God.

Hence, we are called to launch into the seven cultural sectors in the world in order to leave some impactful and strategic imprints. The marketplace has to be turned into a mission field wherever God has positioned us. Since God does new things in new seasons, we who are new wineskins in Christ are called to carry new wine for growth and expansion. We have to rethink our roles in our marketplace and do new things as the Lord leads.

The Prayer Camp began and ended with a high note. The participants were greatly blessed by the three speakers. They shared God's heart for His people in this particular season, and challenged the listeners to be united in the purpose of God, so that as they devote themselves in prayer, they will launch out to do the will of God for the nation.



Tan Poh Kian is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Prayer Commission, NECF

Empowering BM/OA Churches and Leaders

By Rev Samuel Surendran Krishnan

NECF's Bahasa Malaysia (BM)/Orang Asli (OA) Commission organized a one-day seminar for all BM and OA Pastors on 28th June 2019 at YMCA Hostel, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. The seminar was entitled "Empowering Churches and Leaders". A total of 56 participants from 25 different churches attended the seminar.

The purpose of the seminar was to create an avenue for BM/OA pastors to constantly connect and network with one another in carrying out NECF's programmes and initiatives. The seminar was specifically designed to address the current needs affecting the leaders and members of BM/OA churches. The following are the topics covered in the seminar:

- **Leadership;**
- **Finance; and**
- **Current National Issues.**

It was sad to note that this was the first BM/OA Commission event that was organized without the presence and leadership of its ex-Executive Secretary, Pr. Alfred Tais who went to be with the Lord on January 11, 2019. But moving on, his contribution and inspiration have constantly motivated us to continue building on what he had started. The BM/OA Commission, represented by three members, including its Chairman, each took a different session to speak on finance, current issues and leadership. No guest lecturer or speaker was invited. It was a proud moment to see these Commission Members stepping up to the need. Rev. Andy Chi also brought a very timely challenge to the pastors and leaders with the Post GE-14 developments in the nation in mind.

The seminar was designed with a special emphasis on prayer and intercession. All the participants were involved in a good time of intercession for the nation, churches and each other as we concluded the seminar. After a good seminar like this, we have constantly been receiving requests from the participants for more of such sessions, especially on topics touching on national and current issues. The BM/OA Commission is aware of the need for NECF to organise deputation trips to different parts of the country to constantly create awareness, share and equip the local BM/OA churches to face the challenges ahead.



Seminar in session



Group photo of seminar participants



Rev Samuel Surendran Krishnan is the chairman of NECF's Bahasa Malaysia and Orang Asli Commission and Senior Pastor of Excel Point Community Church, Penang.

Beefing up Security of Houses of Worship

By Rev Andy Chi

The world was rudely jolted when two unexpected and shocking terrorist attacks took place early this year. On March 15, a 28-year-old Australian man, described as a white supremacist, staged two consecutive terrorist attacks at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 and injuring 49 Muslim worshippers during Friday prayers. Then on April 21, three churches in Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings by a local militant Islamist group associated with National Thowheeth Jama'ath. In these attacks on Easter Sunday 259 people were killed and at least 500 others were injured.

On the home front, the Inspector-General and the Acting Deputy Inspector-General of the Royal Malaysia Police issued consecutive press statements that the police will immediately step up security and surveillance of houses of worship nationwide. There was fear that there may be irresponsible parties locally that might seize the opportunity to retaliate, replicate or take advantage of the situation to create fear and chaos.

Terrorist attacks on houses of worship are steadily on the rise in the world. In our region, we had two earlier attacks occurring in Indonesia and the Philippines prior to the Christchurch and Sri Lanka incidents. On May 13, 2018, three churches were bombed in Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia and the capital of East Java province. The explosions took place at Immaculate Saint Mary Catholic Church, Indonesia Christian Church, and Surabaya Central Pentecost Church. Following this, on January 27, 2019, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo, Philippines was hit with two bombs killing 20 worshippers.

Religion and houses of worship have now become key targets of terrorist attacks. Religion has been capitalized and made a subject and reason by terrorists to marshal support, gain sympathy, draw attention, incite fear, create conflict and overthrow powers. Unfortunately, most houses of worship are open and easily assessable to the public, thus making them vulnerable and easy targets for terrorists to stage their attacks.

While we are thankful that no such attacks have yet to take place in Malaysia, steps must be taken by each local house of worship committee to beef up security of their house of worship so that their congregation can continue to gather and worship God in peace and safety. Establishing a good rapport with the local police is essential towards this end and they are the right source to seek advice on how to improve the security of our houses of worship.



Rev Andy Chi is the Secretary-General of NECF



Crowd turnout at the briefing

Tackling the Terrorist Threat

By Jack Cheah

NECF organised a special briefing on security for churches on 2 July 2019 at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang Jaya. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Dato' Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay, Head of the Counter Terrorism Division (E8) of the Royal Malaysia Police Department (PDRM) was invited to conduct the briefing.

NECF chairman, Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng as the venue host, opened the session and warmly welcomed Dato' Ayob to the church to give the briefing. Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) chairman Archbishop Julian Leow, Bishop Dr Ong Hwa Teik, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, and Bishop Aaron Yap Chuan Ching, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia, were present at the session. Also in attendance were a number of NECF Council members.

The briefing highlighted the seriousness of the terrorist threat in our country with recent updates of arrests made in May 2019. Overall from year 2013 to 2019, a total of 491 individuals connected to the Daesh terrorist movement have been arrested and the police are still on the lookout for more of such individuals.

PDRM considers religious places of worship as "soft targets" of terrorists. The Counter Terrorism Division E8 Team have identified the challenges involved in protecting places of worship like churches and shared some salient steps that can be taken with immediate effect:

1. Owners of Places of Worship

- Establish good rapport with the local police in their respective areas and keep them posted on suspicious characters roaming within their premises.
- Good control of access of vehicles entering their premises such as use of stickers, simple identification (ID), checking persons in the vehicle.



Briefing by Dato' Ayob

- Institute control access of persons such as checking ID of strangers, checking handbags and backpacks.
- Secure your perimeters with Close Circuit TV (CCTV) which has good resolution to identify persons.
- Improve lighting around the premises.
- Engage canine and security guard services (if possible).
- If intruders of the premises have been caught on CCTV, act immediately to pass the photos and videos (if recorded) to the police.

2. Places of worship which are not owned

- Secure an in-house security team that can identify your worshippers.
- Be on the lookout for unattended bags/packages which are placed around the premises.
- If there are any suspicious objects found on the premises such as IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device), call the local police and E8 Team immediately. Do not attempt to remove them.
- Do not antagonize the neighbours. Have a good rapport with them as they can be the eyes and ears.

Briefing on security by PDRM is rarely held in churches, especially in Peninsular Malaysia. The turnout was indeed above expectations as the event drew an enthusiastic crowd of 349 church pastors and leaders from 168 churches, mostly from the Klang Valley.



Jack Cheah is the Executive Secretary of the Business & Economy Commission and the Education Commission, NECF

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MALAYSIA DAY PRAYER RALLY 2019

15 SEPTEMBER 2019	ENGLISH Date: 15 / 9 / 2019 Time: 8:00am Venue: FULL GOSPEL TABERNACLE, SUBANG JAYA Wisma Eagles, 5, Jalan TP 4, Taman Perindustrian Uap, 47620 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
15 SEPTEMBER 2019	BAHASA PERHIMPUNAN HARI DOA MALAYSIA 2019 Tarikh: 15 / 9 / 2019 Masa: 8:00am Lokasi: SIS CITY LIFE 6A-1, Jalan Sq.Bek. Pudu, 57100 Kuala Lumpur
16 SEPTEMBER 2019	CHINESE 2019年马来西亚日祷告庆典 日期: 2019年9月16日 时间: 早上十时 地点: 八打灵再也福音会 (PSEFC) 3, Jalan 13/6, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
16 SEPTEMBER 2019	TAMIL தொழில்நிலை நேரம் 2019 Date / திகதி: 16 / 9 / 2019 Time / நேரம்: 7:00am / 09:00am Venue / இடம்: SEKH SHEKHINAH MAGIMAYIN AALAYAM Unit 1A, 7th Floor, Sungai Mas Plaza, Jalan Ipoh 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

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