

# Onward NECF

with 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting (BGM) on its 40<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary

NECF held its 18th Biennial General Meeting (BGM) on the 21st of May 2022 at SS Gospel Centre, Petaling Jaya. A total of 53 people attended the event. In his welcoming address, the Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng, NECF Chairman provided updates and thoughts regarding the 5 main issues that took place during the past two years. These include the turbulent times faced by the Church, the nation during the pandemic and the present status of the Allah case.

He continued by sharing his thoughts on the Last Days leadership which he feels as much needed at present. There are 7 characteristics that constitute Last Days leadership namely courage, holiness, being prophetic, transformational, the practice of disciple leadership, the need to be wise and there must be a belief in the Church. Basically, it is a call to lead the church and people strictly according to the principles of

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God's Word and mindful with conscience that it is now the last days when the Lord Jesus will be coming again.

The Chairman concluded by mentioning that NECF is going to do greater things in the years ahead and this will be through emphasis by NECF on nurturing the Last Days church.

The election of the new NECF Council for 2022-2023 saw only one change i.e. Pr Liew Yean Huat of Georgetown Baptist Church elected as a Council Member. The other Council Members were re-elected. The following are the elected Council Members for 2022-2023.

## NECF 2022-2023 Council

- CHAIRMAN -  
**Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng**  
Full Gospel Tabernacle Bhd
- VICE CHAIRMAN I -  
**Bishop Ong Sek Leang**  
Metro Tabernacle A/G
- VICE CHAIRMAN II -  
**Elder Dr Khoo Kay Hup**  
Full Gospel Assembly Berhad
- HONORARY SECRETARY -  
**Rev Elisha Satvinder**  
New Covenant Community
- HONORARY TREASURER -  
**Elder Chan Cheng Lock**  
SS Gospel Centre
- ASSISTANT HONORARY TREASURER -  
**Pr Chomy Ching Choon Mee**  
Philadelphia Church, KL
- COUNCIL MEMBERS -  
**Pr Tay Wah Seng**  
The Vineyard  
**Rev Chan Theam Lai**  
Canning Garden Baptist Church  
**Rev Foo Moy Peng**  
Jubilee Initiative Malaysia Bhd  
**Rev Dr Victor Lee Tat Yan**  
Bible College of Malaysia  
**Rev Sesuraja Anthoney**  
Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship, Klang  
**Rev Richard Yun**  
Calvary Church  
**Rev Datuk Jerry Dusing**  
Sidang Injil Borneo, Sabah  
**Rev Bina Agong**  
Borneo Evangelical Mission, Sarawak  
**Rev Dexter Low Tiong Siah**  
Latter Rain Church of Malaysia  
**Pr Liew Yen Huat**  
Georgetown Baptist Church

In conjunction with its 40th Anniversary, Pr Samuel Ang informed the meeting as well as expressed gratitude that NECF in its 40 years journey was able to partner with many local NGOs involved in community work. The NECF Council as such has approved that funds totaling RM 140,000.00 be given to 11 NGOs which are involved in this work. The recipients with the field of community work and the amount of assistance given are as follows:

Malaysian CARE for Social Work	RM 10,000
HISTEAM for Relief Work	RM 15,000
Dignity for Children Foundation – School for Refugee Kids	RM 15,000
Kenosis Home for Drug Rehabilitation	RM 10,000
Malaysia Campus Crusade for Christ for Evangelism	RM 10,000
Shah Alam Gospel Centre for Relief Work	RM 15,000
Persatuan Kebajikan Kasih, Segamat for Orphanage	RM 10,000
E E Friendship (M) Bhd for Evangelism Training	RM 10,000
Eagles Dialysis Centre Bhd for the purchase of dialysis machine	RM 20,000
Eagles Physio Sdn Bhd for Physiotherapy	RM 10,000
COSA for Single mothers and children	RM 15,000

Presentation of cheques was carried out to the representatives of NGOs who attended the meeting.

The Chairman rounded up by bringing to the attention of the meeting that NECF will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a special lunch right after the BGM and a special video commemorating the occasion was shown to all present. Bishop Ong Sek Leang, NECF Vice-Chairman I closed with a word of prayer thanking God for His faithfulness and favour upon NECF for the last 40 years and that His favour will continue exponentially for the coming years.



*Pr Richard Lee from Kenosis Home for Drug Rehabilitation receiving NECF's cheque from Elder Dr Khoo Kay Hup.*



# Nothing But The GOODNESS OF GOD And He Will Do Better

As we celebrate our 40th. Anniversary and reflect on the journey, we see nothing but the incredible goodness of God. For that we are grateful despite it not being an easy journey and that is not to say, the Church has no flaws. These were initial statements that Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng, NECF Chairman made on video at the Thanksgiving Lunch in conjunction with the Anniversary on May 21, 2022 at Oriental Pavilion, Jaya 33 in Petaling Jaya.

The Chairman added in his speech that as of today NECF represents over 4000 evangelical churches. It is a member of the World Evangelical Alliance and one of the 3 founding members of the Christian Federation of Malaysia which represents more than 95% of the Body of Christ in Malaysia.

He acknowledged the contributions of the late Mr David Boler, the founding NECF Chairman for his statesman leadership and Rev Tan Sri Prince Guneratnam, the second Chairman. Together with the various Secretary-Generals, beginning with Dato' Dr Daniel Ho and presently Pr Sam Ang, they laid a solid foundation for NECF.

With the second coming of Christ imminent, the challenge for NECF according to him is to provide Last Days leadership and the Church must be prophetic. We must arise and quickly run through the camp and set up prayer altars throughout the nation. The people of God need to be challenged to be pure in order to be the bride ready for His return.



Rev Eu claimed Ezekiel 36:11 as God's promise for NECF for the next ten years as follows:

*I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. (NKJV)*

According to him, God says, "I will... do better for you than at your beginnings..." It is not that we need to do better - though this we must - but **it is He who** will do better. We have this blessed assurance that our next ten years can and will be better than our first 40 years.



*Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng receiving his appreciation gift for his 40 years leadership and contribution towards NECF.*

In appreciation of his leadership and unstinting contribution to NECF for 40 years, a plaque with an eagle engraved on it was presented as a gift to Rev Eu by Bishop Ong Sek Leang, NECF Vice-Chairman I. Bishop Ong also prayed for Rev Eu. In his response for the gift, Rev Eu thanked NECF for the gift as well as everyone for celebrating with NECF.

He went on to say that God laid the acronym "MSG" in his heart. M is Meekness, S is Servant and G is Godliness. His goal for the next 10 years is simply to be a meek servant and a godly leader. He stressed that he is here only by the grace of God, and because of His mercy. It is not because there is no one out there better than me.

This was followed by a video presentation of the NECF Building Project in Cyberjaya as well as a brief explanation of the project by Elder Chan Cheng Lock, NECF Honorary Treasurer. NECF's 40 years' journey since its founding in 1982 on video was then shown.

There were about 150 people who graced the thanksgiving celebration represented by the Council, guests, church supporters and the NECF secretariat. We will always be forever grateful for the partnership and prayer of the local churches for where NECF is today.

Truly on this historic NECF's 40th anniversary, we can proclaim with gusto as the NECF Chairman called us to do, "To God be the glory, great things He has done for us."

## New Ordinary Members

We want to warmly welcome all our New Ordinary Members approved between the months of January to May 2022

Global Leadership Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Petaling Jaya

Calvary Tabernacle, Port Klang

Lifeline House of Triunity Berhad, Petaling Jaya

C.E.F (Malaysia) Bhd, Kepong

Lord's Prayer House Kapar, Klang

Sidang Injil Borneo, Serdang, Seri Kembangan

Bethel Ministries, Setapak

Charis Word Centre, Balakong

MYC Cornerstone Community Centre Berhad, Miri



# Lord, Restore Our Land

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” – Genesis 8:22

In Genesis we read how Joseph applied divine insight and strategies to manage the food shortage in Egypt. God enabled Joseph to be “discerning and wise” to store up grain for the famine that was approaching. As the world grapples with the global food security crisis, the Church can and should play a pivotal role in preparation and intervention.

## **Dignity Farm Academy – sowing seeds for the future!**

In 2021, Dignity for Children Foundation pioneered its Farm Academy in Bentong, Pahang as a way to return to natural and sustainable ways of farming, learning and living. It began with much toil – clearing, digging, restoring and rehabilitating “tired” soil, lots of seeding and planting, trial and error.

To promote soil fertility, we learnt about the principles of ecology to restore healthy use of soil, water and air. Organic farming takes a lot of care and effort. It involves methods that minimise pollution, using plant or animal waste to make our own compost and fertiliser, using natural pest control instead of synthetic pesticide, and preserving as much of the natural forest habitat as possible.

After 15 months, the farm is thriving with vegetables and various herbs in raised beds, flowers in bloom and fruit tree saplings. Sustainable farming methods give better crop yield and protect the soil in the long run. We also have chickens and ducks roaming freely, foraging in the stream that runs through the centre of the farm. This gives us slow-growing poultry that are far healthier than those raised in large-scale caged conditions, which are inactive and antibiotic-laden.

Our “farm to table” concept reduces environmental impact while providing a sustainable model of natural

farming to our students to learn and implement. Our programme helps them develop valuable agriculture and community-building skills, along with teamwork and character development, creating a safe space where they rediscover themselves and nature.

To us, the buzzword “environmental sustainability” describes the return to the original ecological triangle of God, Man and Nature, something long forgotten and forsaken. How do we relearn what it means to live in balance with the land? We must “return to our roots” to treat nature as a divine gift to be stewarded, not merely a resource to serve man’s needs.

Our relationship with nature is broken as we have departed far from the biblical blueprint of sustainable living with the land and creation (Leviticus 25:1-19). This disconnection leads to man exploiting the environment for profit, causing much injustice and inequality. Hunger,

poverty and inequality are interrelated and share the same roots. When there is no acknowledgement of God in how we treat nature, the land will be barren (Hosea 4:1-3).

The Church cannot be silent or oblivious to this. Our understanding of man’s responsibility and stewardship to nature must change. Can we rethink our agricultural practices and our attitude to the natural world? Here are a few practical ways the Church can contribute and restore a more just relationship with the environment and prepare for any food shortage:

### **1) Convert underutilized land to grow food**

Some churches are sitting on real estate “gold mines” that are mostly used only a day a week! There is a huge opportunity to tap into this underutilized land to grow food that can be used to bless the local community and those in need within our church community.

Our unique advantage is that we have a large pool of potential volunteers to grow and maintain food

production. Starting a community garden allows us to not only bring an awareness of stewardship of land and environment, but provides an excellent platform for skill development, income generation, and connecting with the community around us. This platform further enables us to learn more about those around us and meet other needs that can draw them to God's amazing grace. Imagine engaging poorer communities, fostering intergenerational relationships, boosting the local economy, and more!



*Dignity Farm Academy is also home to the first granite skate park built by Vans Malaysia, which co-organised a skate camp there in May 2022. Besides learning to skate, participants learnt woodworking and built their own stool from a skateboard.*

*Students engaged in farming and conducting an activity at our bamboo pavilions. The huts were designed and built using sustainable materials in partnership with SEAD Build.*

## 2) Food justice – a platform to engage the local community

One of the root causes of generational poverty is the inability of marginalized groups to access land and capital that will help them improve food security at the household or community level. Churches can help these groups to overcome economic barriers by allowing target groups to farm on plots of land owned by the church.

For example, church-owned farms could offer employment to poor families and also enable local Orang Asli kampungs to improve their farming practices and livelihood. It is a scalable prototype for churches to spread a positive influence and contribute towards solutions to inequality and food insecurity.

Besides providing food assistance to vulnerable communities, we must build a model that goes beyond a charitable approach to one that is community-led, emphasizing food justice. This is critical to help break systemic issues and root causes of food insecurity in food systems.

As the growth model moves further out from cities, we must think out of the box in terms of food security, leveraging on land that has not been utilised practically, particularly in East Malaysia. By planning ahead and working with communities to properly steward the land we have, the church can get ready to be sustainable and prepared to face food shortage.

When we understand that these issues are caused by human failings, it will transform the way we relate to nature and the environment. May it spur us to mobilise our communities to put faith into action through stewardship. Restoring the land is part of God's redemption story.

Rev. Elisha Satvinder is Senior Pastor of New Covenant Community and the co-founder of the work of Dignity for Children Foundation, a Non-Profit providing quality education and holistic care to underprivileged children since 1998. Dignity Farm Academy invites individuals or organisations that are interested to partner with or support the work to contact [dignity@dignityforchildren.org](mailto:dignity@dignityforchildren.org).

## 3) Move beyond the urban-centric model

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the risk of concentrating economic growth in cities, with smaller towns hollowed out by rural-urban migration. As a result, small-town economies are unable to provide sufficient jobs for the local population. When cities are overpopulated, one of the challenges faced by the urban poor is malnutrition due to reliance on cheap, processed food. This contributes to chronic health issues which burden the healthcare system.



*L to R: Thriving organically grown vegetables ready to be harvested (L). Geese and duck ranging freely at the stream.(R).*



*A-frame chicken coop built by hand.*

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**Rev Elisha Satvinder**  
New Covenant Community



*Rev. Elisha Satvinder is Senior Pastor of New Covenant Community and the co-founder of the work of Dignity for Children Foundation, a Non-Profit providing quality education and holistic care to underprivileged children since 1998. Dignity Farm Academy invites individuals or organisations that are interested to partner with or support the work to contact [dignity@dignityforchildren.org](mailto:dignity@dignityforchildren.org).*





# Keeping Abreast of Covid-19:

## Special focus on Minimising Harm from Long Covid

There is an enormous amount of information, studies and data on Covid-19 and it is not always possible to stay abreast. In addition, there is much disinformation and false news circulating that damages our ability to respond well. This article is to provide an update on the concerns of Long Covid and how to keep our church congregation safe from harm. The pandemic is far from over and we need to be wise and have discernment as we engage with others. It is important to note that the science may change as more information becomes available.

### False Perspectives that Current Data & Science Does Not Support

- The pandemic is over - we can return to life as pre-pandemic
- Omicron is mild - "just get infected and move on with life"
- Natural infection is more protective than vaccination
- Covid-19 is very mild in children
- Reinfections are rare
- Masks are not useful, even indoors
- Long Covid is uncommon if vaccinated

### Vaccination

With the use of effective vaccination, our risk for dying from Covid-19 is considerably reduced. It is however important to note that Omicron is not a mild variant - its effect has been muted by vaccination. We can see this from the recent high mortality (highest in the world) in Hong Kong due to Omicron; this happened because between 20-40% of those aged above 60 years choose not to get vaccinated.

Remember that the data and studies suggest that this is possibly a 3-dose vaccine. We need the third dose (1st booster) to have adequate protection. Ministry of Health (MOH) data (February-March 2022) showed that adults are 4-5 times more likely to die if they have not received their third dose (booster)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, data shows that 2 doses of the Sinovac vaccine are weaker than the Pfizer vaccine in offering protection<sup>2</sup> (see Figure on page 8).

MOH data shows that those with comorbidities are at highest risk; this means those with disability, those who are immunocompromised or have chronic medical problems (like congenital heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, etc).

<sup>1</sup> Mahesh Appannan. Computing the incidence of a COVID-19 outcome variable (e.g. deaths), by vax status. Ministry of Health, Malaysia. <[https://github.com/MoH-Malaysia/covid19-public/blob/main/notebooks/deaths\\_capita\\_vaxstatus.ipynb](https://github.com/MoH-Malaysia/covid19-public/blob/main/notebooks/deaths_capita_vaxstatus.ipynb)>

<sup>2</sup> McMenamin, Nealon, Lin, et al (March 2022). Vaccine effectiveness of two and three doses of BNT162b2 and CoronaVac against COVID-19 in Hong Kong. <[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4064649](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4064649)>



A number of international studies also show that protection from vaccination is much better and more sustainable than that from a natural infection. However, having a breakthrough infection after vaccination gives the highest level of immunity (hybrid immunity).

Our national 3rd dose (1st booster) rate of 68.4% in adults is of concern. It is important that all adults (and teenagers with comorbidities) get their third dose of vaccination.

### The Concern of Long Covid

One poorly discussed issue is the serious impact of Long Covid; also called Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Post-Covid Conditions. There is a growing body of evidence on Long Covid that needs our attention. We need to be aware of this possible impact of a Covid-19 infection.

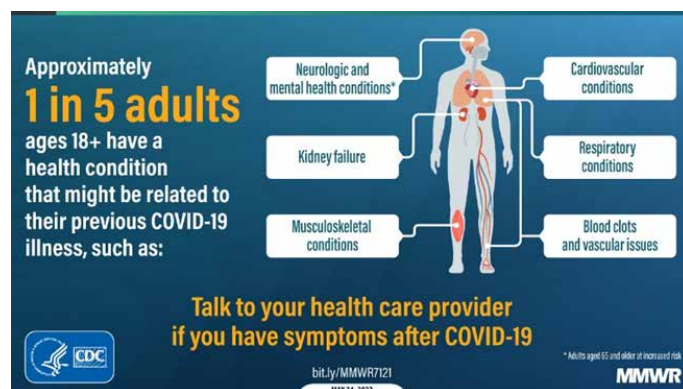
Data from 50 international studies<sup>3</sup> showed a worldwide prevalence of Long Covid of 43% (95% CI 39-46%); higher in hospitalised persons (54%) than non-hospitalised (34%) persons. This review of data showed that rates were highest in the Asian studies. Long Covid risk after an asymptomatic infection is estimated at 20-30%. The Long Covid risk in children from 21 studies was 25%<sup>4</sup>.

MOH media reports<sup>5</sup> in May 2022 stated that 10-15% of Malaysians infected with Covid-19 developed Long Covid; it was higher if you had category 4 or 5 illness (65%). 30-40% return to work within 3 months and 60-70% within 6 months. Currently more than 9,000 Long Covid sufferers are receiving treatment (2,798 in hospital) in MOH facilities.

A study on Long Covid by University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC)<sup>6</sup> released in April 2022 showed that at 3-6 months after a Covid-19 infection 21% of persons were struggling with Long Covid. The common symptoms were fatigue, brain fog (cannot think clearly or have trouble processing information), depression, anxiety, insomnia, joint or muscle aches, etc. 73% had reduced their working hours and 24% had to take leave or resign from the job. In the study, the risk of Long Covid for adults was not related to age (same for young or old adults). Long Covid occurred in 17.5% of mild cases and 10% of asymptomatic cases.

Of concern is a May 2022 report on Long Covid posted on the US CDC MMWR website<sup>7</sup> showing data that “one in five Covid-19 survivors aged 18–64 years and one in four survivors aged ≥65 years experienced at least one incident condition (persistent symptoms or organ dysfunction) that might be attributable to previous Covid-19” (see graphic from CDC).

For those of us who have supported or spoken to those struggling with Long Covid, it is very worrying. Healthy, young persons, are now no longer able to function as before. They are not able to exercise or teach or work as they used to. It is very incapacitating. From the UMMC study (10% with Long Covid after 6 months) we can assume that there are at least 450,000 people nationwide with Long Covid currently.



### Does Vaccination Help Prevent Long Covid?

Previous studies showed that vaccination reduces the risk of Long Covid by approximately 50%. However, a new, large study published in Nature Medicine<sup>8</sup>, suggests vaccination could decrease the risk of Long Covid by only 15%. The authors conclude that reliance on vaccination “as a sole mitigation strategy may not optimally reduce long-term health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection”.

<sup>3</sup> Global Prevalence of Post COVID-19 Condition or Long COVID: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review <<https://academic.oup.com/jid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/infdis/jiac136/6569364>>

<sup>4</sup> Long COVID in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis 2022 <<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.03.10.22272237v1.full.pdf>>

<sup>5</sup> CodeBlue (May 2022). MOH Estimates Two-Thirds Long Covid Prevalence Among Severe Covid-19 Cases. <<https://codeblue.galencentre.org/2022/05/10/moh-estimates-two-thirds-long-covid-prevalence-among-severe-covid-19-cases/>>

<sup>6</sup> Foong Ming Moy, Noran Naqiah Hairi, Eugene Ri Jian Lim, Awang Bulgiba (2022). Long COVID and its associated factors among COVID survivors in the community from a middle-income country – an online cross-sectional study. <<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.03.09.22272168v1>>

<sup>7</sup> Bull-Otterson L, Baca S, Saydah S, et al. Post-COVID Conditions Among Adult COVID-19 Survivors Aged 18–64 and ≥65 Years — United States, March 2020–November 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:713–717. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7121e1>>

<sup>8</sup> Ziyad Al-Aly, Benjamin Bowe, and Yan Xie (2022). Long COVID after breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infection. Nature Medicine. <<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-01840-0>>



## Summary Point

- Death and serious illness due to Covid-19 infection has been significantly reduced due to vaccination.
- A third dose (1st booster) is important to enable adequate protection against death or serious illness.
- The key concern currently is the significant Long Covid risk from infections in all age groups. Vaccination appears to reduce this by only 15%.
- Those who experience asymptomatic or mild infection are also at risk of Long Covid.

## What Then Should We Do?

The aim of sharing this is not to instil a sense of fear or dread about the future but to inform us about our risks. The declaration of a 'move to endemic' has made many relax. Others who do not read the science and data are unaware of their risks. What is required is a measured, careful approach that keeps our family and congregation safe while we continue with the needs of work, school, church and leisure.

Experience from many nations, with good vaccination rates, that have lifted restrictions, has shown us how fragile we still are in the face of this virus. Continued vigilance and discernment of the evolving situation is required. As always, the pandemic is an opportunity for us to grow our trust and dependence on our Lord.

### Dato' Dr Amar-Singh HSS

MBBS (Mal), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Glasg),  
MSc Community Paeds (Lond, dist.), Cert Theology (Aust, Hons)  
Consultant Paediatrician  
30th May 2022



*Dato' Dr Amar-Singh HSS is a Consultant Paediatrician. He served the Malaysian civil service for more than 35 years and led regional Paediatric and Clinical Research Departments in Perak. Together with his wife, Datin Dr Lim Swee Im, they offer spiritual direction.*

## Some suggestions for us to consider when meeting in church:

Safety Measure/Issue	Implementation
Maintain a routine mask mandate for adults and children (under 2yrs & disabled exempted)	Surgical and good cloth masks have only a 60-75% effectiveness. Use reliable FFP2/KF94 masks. Make masks available for those who cannot afford them.
Effective Ventilation	All rooms should have good ventilation, monitored by reliable CO2 monitors. Use sufficient capacity HEPA Portable Air Cleaners. Explore FAR UVC.
Group Size (physical distancing)	Limit congregation size to match room ventilation.
Disinfection	Clean all contact surfaces. Avoid unreliable devices and air spraying.
Testing	Use reliable nasal RTK-Ag tests, done well. Useful for church staff and any higher risk individuals.
Personal Responsibility	Members should avoid church if unwell, family unwell or had contact with a positive person.
Other High-Risk Activities	Unmasking for eating/drinking and using the toilet are high risk. Avoid eating at meetings and fix toilet ventilation.
Adults and children at high risk of serious infection / death (disabled, immunocompromised, chronic illness)	Suggest dialogue with family doctor and make a personal choice about attending meetings.
Staff meetings	Maintain online church staff meetings.





## NECF OA KOMISI RETREAT 8-10 MAY 2022



# BUILDING THE ORANG ASLI (OA) CHURCH TOGETHER

The OA Commission Retreat was held at Grand Kampar Hotel, Kampar from 8 to 10 May 2022. It was attended by 17 participants, including 13 OA pastors.

The objective of this retreat was for representatives from each area or denomination to:

1. Get to know each other,
2. Unite to face the challenges together and;
3. Know God's will for the OA Church in Malaysia.

### Future Outlook of OA Outreach

The future looks promising for the OA churches. The OA believers could be in the forefront of a great revival and harvest in our country. Below are 3 possible reasons:

#### 1. Age

Most of the OA pastors are in the prime of their lives age wise, i.e. in their 30s and 40s. They are energetic, enthusiastic, and offer fresh perspectives on OA work. The OA pastors are eager to learn, comfortable with technology and resourceful. They can apply their skills and knowledge in the church and mission fields. They have an advantage in reaching the youth as they can communicate with them at their level.

#### 2. Passion

They will do whatever it takes to reach OA people with the Gospel. God is using each one of them to make a big impact across all OA villages and communities. Their passion is driven by their love for our Lord Jesus Christ and the souls of their fellow OA.

#### 3. Courage

Church planting in remote and unknown places is a risky endeavour. The OA pastors at the retreat displayed the trait and courage that are needed to do that. They are willing to go into deep jungles and difficult to access locations where there are OA villages which are yet to hear the Gospel.

### How to Help in OA Work?

#### 1. Work Together

Churches as a whole must change their mind-sets of working within their own denominations or areas as well as jointly pool their resources. They could explore areas of cooperation such as training of OA pastors and leaders, combined efforts in reaching out to the unreached OA villages, and sharing of resources such as teaching, children's materials and song books.

#### 2. Work in partnership with the OA leaders.

Churches need to work alongside and partner with OA leaders in order to enable them to achieve greater things for God.

#### 3. Provide support and guidance

In working with young OA pastors who are courageous and passionate, it is essential to be patient and also provide space for them to grow. It is necessary to guide and support them through thick and thin. They must feel that we are part of them and they are part of us, i.e. all are one in the Lord.

### Conclusion

To a great extent, the retreat has achieved its objectives. The participants have opportunities to get to know each other and explore areas for future cooperation. Many are convinced that God is doing something interesting right now that are going to result not only in lasting impact on OA communities but also the country.



**Elder Tay Cheng Chai**  
Pan Malaysia OA Mission  
Bandar Puchong Gospel Centre



# A Retreat to Rebuild, Rejuvenate and Reconnect



The last two and half years have been difficult periods for the pastors, especially those of small churches. Attendance and the giving of tithes have dropped significantly, which have led many churches, to either cut down the number of their staff or to close down.

For pastors who have lost their jobs, this may lead to psychological and financial pressures. It is with these issues in mind that the Bahasa Malaysia (BM) Commission decided to organise the Pastors' Retreat from 24th to 26th of May at the Port Dickson Methodist Centre. A total of 90 pastors from 52 churches consisting of 28 denominations from 9 states attended the retreat.

The theme of the retreat was "The Anointing That Breaks the Yoke" and Rev. Benedict Rajen from Calvary City Church, Johor Bahru was the guest speaker.

The retreat had the following objectives:

1. To encourage and rebuild the faith of pastors in order to continue to remain motivated to serve God in the face of critical challenges;
2. To provide rest and refreshment for the pastors - spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally; and
3. To develop networks of friendship among pastors so that they can support and encourage each other.

Highlights of the retreat include the Welcoming Remarks and Impartation Session by the BM Commission Chairman, Rev. Sam Surendran on the first day. While on the second day, there were two sessions by the guest speaker, Rev. Benedict Rajen. Also on the second day a session was held where members of the BM commission

shared new ministries such as Research, Pastoral Welfare, Disaster Response and Sports to the pastors.

On the second night of the retreat all participants were assigned to different groups to make special presentations. It can be said that all the groups gave very extraordinary performances. It also showed the ability of the pastors to work and interact well with each other.

On the last day, Rev. Jasme, a commission member and the SIB Peninsular Malaysia President gave the word of encouragement during the impartation session.

Praise God for the supportive and sweet spirit of relating to one another by all the participants during the retreat. Everything went smoothly even though there was shortage of manpower to manage the retreat.

Many pastors gave positive feedback that the retreat organised by the BM Commission was the best they have attended so far. They were very encouraged and blessed by every preaching session. They also felt the strong presence of God during the Praise and Worship session.



**Pastor Nick Resien**  
Executive Secretary For Bahasa  
Language Churches





# BEAUTIFULLY ROOTED IN HIM

The NECF Tamil Commission (TC) organised a women's conference on May 28, 2022 at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang Jaya from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. The theme of the conference was Beautifully Rooted with the focus on the Bible verse as follows: *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.* (Colossians 2:7 NLT)

The objective of the conference was to empower, to inspire and to help the women rise up with strong biblical principles as the foundation. The nation has entered into the new norm and many women are struggling with their families, relationships, finances and work issues. Women are facing many great challenges which may uproot their faith, their peace, their health, and their sanity. This conference was timely as it focussed on empowering them by getting the message across that if their faith is in Him, then they will be able to face each situation with a heart of thankfulness. This is particularly so for all that He has done for them, in them and all that He will do in the future, based on their past experiences of spending time with Him.

It is gratifying to note that when the NECF TC formed a committee, the members from various churches came together in one accord and with one team spirit to organise this conference. Talk shows were held to promote the conference. In fact, Pastor Jonathan Renu organised a live talk show at Peniel Church, Petaling Jaya and it was aired two weeks before the actual date of the conference.

The conference began with NECF TC Chairman Rev Sesuraja giving the welcoming note and opening with a word of prayer. The meeting was divided into 3 sessions and it was kicked off with devotion by Rev Subashini Achari Nicolas.



The second session was led by Pastor Lydia Joy Elisha Muthu. She spoke on the branding of women and the final session was taken by Pastor Santhana Arnold Rajan. Pastor Santhana spoke on uprooting all the unnecessary baggage in a woman's life in order to be deeply rooted in Him.

Feedback received on the pre-conference talk shows and from many of the women who attended the conference was they felt that they had been truly blessed. A woman of different faith who called to seek for counselling the next day after the talk show said that she was blessed listening and participating with the matters shared.

Many came forward to say how blessed they were with the conference. They said that the speakers spoke into their lives and situations. A woman of different faith who attended the conference came forward to say that she was truly empowered and blessed with all the sessions. In fact many came forward to be prayed over and to be ministered at the end of the conference.



**Rev Subashini Achari**  
Tamil Commission Member



# NECF 40-Day Fast and Prayer

NECF 40-Day Fast & Prayer will start from 7 August 2022 to 15 September 2022, with the theme of "A Heart to know You".

There are four ways you can access our 2022 40-Day Fast & Prayer materials.

1. Get the hardcopies from us. The booklets are available for order online via the below link:  
[https://bit.ly/ORDER\\_40Day\\_FastnPrayer](https://bit.ly/ORDER_40Day_FastnPrayer)
2. Download our e-books via NECF's website  
[www.necf.org.my](http://www.necf.org.my)
3. Download our NECF Malaysia App through Google Play Store, Apple App Store & App Gallery. They include the text, audio and videos of 3 languages (English, Chinese, Bahasa) for the adult and children version
4. Subscribe to NECF's YouTube or Facebook page

## 40-Day Fast and Prayer Launches

for respective language would also be conducted as follows:

Language	Date/Day	Time	Venue
English	5 Aug 2022 (Fri)	8pm	Full Gospel Tabernacle
Chinese	3 Aug 2022 (Wed)	8pm	New Life Restoration Centre
Bahasa Malaysia	4 Aug 2022 (Thu)	8pm	Hope Kuala Lumpur
Tamil	9 Aug 2022 (Tue)	8pm	Full Gospel Tabernacle

