

beritaNECF

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



By Rev. Eu Hong Seng

Jezebel is in town...

There has never been a more wicked, chameleon-like and mysterious personality than Jezebel.

Born to a priest of Astarte, who killed his predecessor to gain kingship, she is no stranger to political maneuvering, intrigue and even brutal killings (1 Kings 18:4).

Her infamy is so unprecedented that her moniker has never been used since the Old Testament times to this day except to represent all that is evil, cruel and corrupt. Scriptures is relentlessly unkind in its comments concerning her role in public religious and political affairs. She was more than a manipulator of men, she was an idolatress.

When she married Ahab the king of Israel, an alliance was forged between the people of the Book and the Sidonians. Ahab went on to build an altar for Baal, and this was no routine outward declaration of devotion and service (1 Kings 16:31); it was actually required protocol for the alliance as well as for Jezebel's devotions.¹

The temple of Baal (1 Kings 16:32) which housed the altar of Baal, soon multiplied and became more than token shrines as seen in the open conflict between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). In response to the growing pervasion of Baalism², Elijah built an altar and called down fire from above, demonstrating the power of Yahweh. This was followed by the mass execution of the prophets of Baal.

Should we then do any less if the Church wants to see the wickedness of Jezebel rolled back today? Is it not time for us to be at *our* Mount Carmel and similarly *build an altar*³ to ask God to show Himself on behalf of His people?

Apart from introducing Baal worship and the building of altars to him, Jezebel's prowess included this *spirit of intimidation*. After such an awesome manifestation of fire from heaven and the slaying of Baal's many prophets, who would have imagined that the prophet of God would flee before the queen's wrath (1 Kings 19:1-3)? This is most perplexing. But then Jezebel is not your ordinary demure Phoenician princess but clearly a terrorist-like and strong-arm tactician of the highest order, albeit one with a painted face⁴.

In today's open society, many are unapologetically insolent in their stance for varied causes - from environmental issues to human rights violations, as well as the many other forms of social discrimination. However, when it comes to the persecution of Christians - often in the forms of forced emigration, blatant slaying and beheading - the response from the world has been bewilderingly mild, if not totally muted. Is this not evidence of the same Jezebelic spirit of intimidation at work - foreboding violent retaliation when goaded?

We would be foolish to confine *the clash of altars* at Mt Carmel and the consequent outplay of intimidation to the pages of the Old Testament.

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...continued from front page:

"Jezebel is in town..."

The apocalyptic writings of the apostle John warn us Jezebel will resurface in the last days. Indeed, she is alive and well. In the Thyatira Church (Revelation 2:20-22), she continues to seduce, beguile and promote immorality and idolatry amongst believers.

Unfortunately, a large segment of the Church continues to be casual and ignorant of the insidious Jezebel at play in our affairs⁵.

The Church is impatient as well, expecting God to "do it now" – just because we offered prayers at our altars. It is interesting to note God gave Jezebel time to repent (Revelation 2:22), although eventually she did not. Meanwhile in this grace-given season, we need to stay alert to contend and overcome this same venomous spirit of intimidation.

Nevertheless, Scriptures encourages those "who have not known the depths of Satan" to hold fast to what we have until He comes. If we do so, we are promised "the power over the nations."⁶

Alas, without the emergence of the Elijah generation to confront all that Jezebel represents, there can be no change in our land. The showdown at the altar must take place for victory to be forged.

In the prelude to the Seven Trumpets, incense mixed with the *prayer of the saints*, were offered before the altar⁷ at the heavenly throne.

Indeed, let His Church come before *the altar in the last days* and fill it with prayer, and wage warfare against the spirit of idolatry, intimidation and immorality, to reclaim our beloved land.

Jezebel needs to be driven out of town.

¹ ISBE

² represented by the many altars

³ No reference to physical altars intended here.

⁴ 2 Kings 9:30

⁵ No less than three of her children also come to the throne of Israelite territories: Ahaziah and Joram are, successively, kings in the north; Athaliah reigns as queen in the south. (Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible). There is no "quick fix" as far as the problem of Jezebel is concerned.

⁶ Interesting promise to the Thyatira church - Revelation 2:26 (NKJV) And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations

⁷ Revelation 8:2-4 (NKJV) 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.



Exciting News: National Family Season Initiative 2017

NECF Family Commission is launching a new initiative in 2017 with exciting programmes for the church leadership and the congregation from Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14 to Father's Day on Sunday, June 18. Note this down in your 2017 calendar and lookout for further news on this!

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Driven By Prayer To Kota Bharu

By Lee Chong San

Launch of 40-day Fast and Prayer at Faith Sanctuary of Glory

In the early hours of Friday, 18th July, NECF assistant secretary-general, Rev Andy Chi, together with four members of the NECF Prayer Commission, embarked on a prayer drive to Kota Bharu. We had an ambitious plan of making many stops along the way to raise altars to the Lord. Our target was to be in Kota Bharu in time for a quick dinner before the 40-day Fast and Prayer launch started.

Our first stop was Genting Sempah, at the foothills of Genting Highlands, where we anointed the land with oil, worshipped the Lord and prayed for the area. We repeated these at all the stops throughout the journey. After a quick breakfast, we proceeded to Bentong. There was a minor scare with one of the rear tyres of our Toyota Innova as it looked rather deflated. Thankfully, it was not a puncture and we were safely on our way again after re-inflating the tyre at the nearby Petronas station.

We proceeded to a park next to Sungai Bentong and raised another altar there. At Raub, we prayed under the town's flagpole, on which a tattered flag of Malaysia fluttered limply in the wind. Our hearts were saddened as the flag reminded us of the sorry state of affairs in our country. At Kuala Lipis, we were astounded to learn that the Sungai Pahang's water level had risen to at least 50 feet to flood the town.

Next, we made a small detour to visit the Orang Asli's settlement in Kuala Betis before returning to the main road for a well-earned rest, lunch and banana fritters at Gua Musang. Our two final stops before reaching Kota Bharu were Kuala Krai and Temangan. There was still some water-marks left on the buildings caused by the floods of more than 1 ½ years ago.

We arrived at Kota Bharu more than 12 ½ hours after our departure from Petaling Jaya. A sumptuous Thai dinner was hosted by Pr Henderson Wee of Christian Praise Centre. Rev. Andy launched the 40-day Fast and Prayer for Kota Bharu at Faith Sanctuary of Glory. The church has many young Orang Asal from East Malaysia, many of whom came to Kota Bharu for their studies and have stayed on to live and work there upon the completion of their studies.

There was a great time of worship led by the youthful worship team followed by a devotion delivered by Rev. Andy. The corporate prayer was led by Sister Tan Poh Kian. There was a fantastic time of fellowship after the launch among the 80 pastors, leaders and church members across different denominations and churches of Kota Bharu.

On Saturday morning, we continued our prayer drive in Kota Bharu, driving north, all the way up to the border of Malaysia and Thailand at Pengkalan Kubor. We prayed for a church in Wakaf Bharu which reportedly was the place of a powerful revival in the 1970s. Along the way, we stopped to view several strongholds and prayed over them.

We left Kota Bharu after a late lunch and reached home almost 40 hours after we departed from PJ. We were tired but incredibly blessed to meet and make new friends there, and to learn of their ministries and struggles. We ask that you continue to uphold the Kelantan churches, their pastors and leaders as they labour in the harvest fields of Kelantan.



Lee Chong San is a member of NECF's Prayer Commission. He worships at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang Jaya.

Moving On Wheels In Prayer To Kuala Terengganu

By Pastor Josephine Lu

On our prayer journey all the way up to Kuala Terengganu on 8 August, we stopped at specific spots to prophetically declare that prayer altars be set up in villages and towns that included Karak, Mentakab, Maran and Cukai.

Among the items we prayed for included the setting up of businesses in the East Coast to provide job opportunities for younger people; for schools and the young generation to experience God; for the salvation of the locals; for churches and their evangelistic efforts; and, we also prayed against the spread of terrorism and extremism.

About 80 people also came to celebrate the 40-day Fast and Prayer launch at Lifeline Assemblies Of God (AOG) Church, Kuala Terengganu. They included representatives from Kuala Krai, Kota Bharu, Kuantan, Dungun, Pekan and other places. The message given by Pastor Josephine Lu of NECF's Prayer Commission was on revival -- turning our hearts to the Lord and allowing Him to search us as we cry out for revival for our land. The meeting ended with people praying for our hearts to be fully surrendered to Him and crying out for transformation in our nation.

NECF's assistant secretary-general, Rev Andy Chi, met up with the local pastors and leaders of the East Coast Commission the next day. They shared about their struggles such as students being hindered from attending church because of persecutions from family and others and pastors being harassed in some ways by the local authorities. Yet they see these as pure joy and continue to be faithful in their work. Pastor Nick Resien of Faith Sanctuary of Glory, Kota Bharu, Kelantan gave the encouraging news that East Malaysians were willing to stay on in Kota Bharu after their university graduation to work and serve there. Rev Yesudason Rajandurai from Immanuel Missions Centre Kuala Krai, Kelantan shared on the Tamil work in Kuala Krai.

We spent some time raising a prayer altar before God by meditating on the book of Philipians. As we prayed, we felt God was saying to the East Coast churches that the Lord is working in their hearts, and that they have the mandate of bringing the hearts of the people back to the Lord. Through relationship with Christ and with one another, God is to release forth His great power. Psalm 133 was given with the exhortation of "how good it is for brethren to dwell in unity". God desires to raise a new standard and



Stopping to pray in Maran, Pahang



The 40-day Fast and Prayer launch at Lifeline AOG Church, Kuala Terengganu

they are encouraged not to bow down but rise above their circumstances. A challenge of stepping out boldly was given to the group as a whole.

We ended the prayer session with a prophetic act of holding hands and standing together for the pastors and for the states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang.



Pastor Josephine Lu is a member of NECF's Prayer Commission. She worships at Full Gospel Assembly, Kuala Lumpur.

Fired Up By English Literacy Facilitator Training Workshop

By Jack Cheah



English Literacy Facilitator Training Workshop in session

There is a great need to improve not just English but Bible literacy as well among the poor and marginalized in the rural and urban communities. In line with this, NECF collaborated with Bible League Malaysia to train volunteers to use Scripture and Scripture stories to start and teach in English literacy classes.

The *English Literacy Facilitator Training Workshop* (Firm Foundations Programme) was held from 26 to 27 August at the NECF office in Petaling Jaya. It was conducted by 3 Bible League International master trainers namely Sis Lynda Tan, Sis Cindy Gan and Sis Liew Lee Ping with 31 participants from 15 churches. The feedback from participants on the session was very positive and encouraging. Following are comments from some of them:

"I am grateful to join this training workshop. The five of us from our church who attended are fired up and charged to use this programme for our outreach to the poor urban community. We have been praying for a breakthrough since we started teaching English and mathematics to a group of students in the community a few years ago. Through this training, I am very encouraged by the master trainers who gave real-life testimonies on how their students could read and write after attending the literacy class for a year and half, committing themselves to it for two hours per week. They not only are able to read the Bible but they can even start teaching and discipling others. This is indeed a great and effective tool for evangelism and discipleship. The great news is that I can partner with Bible League Malaysia as they are ready to provide books to every student once confirmation is made about starting a tuition class." Rita Kong, volunteer and member of People's Park Baptist Church.

"I am glad that I attended this workshop! This definitely serves as a good guide and tool for us who are interested to serve the Lord through community work. Thanks to the generosity of Bible League Malaysia for giving free Bibles and materials to the participants." Por Kie Yee, volunteer and member of Charisma Baptist Church

"I wish to offer my gratitude to the servants of God who organized this wonderful workshop! The master trainers were so dedicated and full of enthusiasm. Their presentations were clear and impressive. The 2-day training was full of fun and laughter. The teaching programme and the materials are also Bible-centered. Moreover, the teaching methodology is so effective that it is very easy even for students with zero literacy to learn English. This will definitely attract a lot of non-believers, especially in a rural place like Cameron Highlands. I believe that through this method, not only will we be able to help them improve their level of English literacy but, more importantly, we can lead both the students and their family members to Christ." Wong Jin Yee, volunteer and member of Cameron First Assembly of God

"When I came for the training, I did not realize that God had a plan for me to use what was acquired *immediately*. I was supposed to go with my church for a mission trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia. The last day of training came, and our missionary in Cambodia still hadn't told us what was the exact plan was for us in the mission trip. Come Sunday, and then we were told that we were to teach English through Bible Stories. If I had not gone through this workshop, I guess, I would not have been prepared. Thanks to God and all the master trainers who poured out their hearts in getting us equipped, I was able to cover 3 lessons well over 3 days of teaching during the mission trip. The mission team did not know the standard of English of the Cambodian youth, but, in the end, we did teach English and managed to get the Gospel to them. Hallelujah!" Polly Ooi, volunteer and member of Diakonia Christian Church, Rawang

Training workshops such as this are needed to ensure that volunteers are competent to teach in English literacy classes. As the content of the literacy learning programme is Bible-centred, the volunteers can also use it as outreach and discipleship tools. As participants or students of the classes begin to better understand God's Word in the process of learning English, they are drawn to faith in Him and ultimately become the nucleus of a new church to be disciplined to grow towards maturity.



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

Seeing With The Eyes Of Faith: A Divine Turnaround

By Tan Poh Kian

The National 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2016 launch was held at the Petaling Jaya Evangelical Free Church (EFC) with more than 200 Christians turning up to intercede for the nation on 5 August. The night event was followed by an overnight prayer meeting, which stretched from 10.30pm to 6am the following day, with about 50 people from different churches participating in the three slots of two-and-a-half hour watches.

The superintendent of AOG Malaysia and honorary assistant treasurer of the NECF executive council, Rev Ong Sek Leang, was the guest speaker at the launch and his inspiring message challenged many to rethink and realign our roles and responsibilities as followers of Christ of this nation.

The Klang Valley Malaysia Day Prayer Rally on 14 September marked the official closing of the National 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2016. The guest speaker of the night, Dr Frank Damazio, shared about the “supernatural turnaround” of God, exhorting more than 500 people in attendance to forget about what had happened in the past. Instead, they were encouraged to soak in the present and to have faith to see what God is doing

right now and to believe that new things are springing up in the future. They were to “expect” God to do great things and His hand to come upon them, bringing about promotions, provisions, protection and power. In Him, there shall be a divine turnaround or a supernatural transformation that will invade both the spiritual and physical realms of the nation.

Love offering collections were carried out on both nights in response to the call to fund the Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP), East Coast Churches and work, Holiday Empowerment Leadership Programme (HELP) and Becoming A Disciple-Maker Training.

In the midst of the present pervasive gloomy atmosphere of depressing news we receive each day, the messages shared by the speakers were truly timely. They offered a ray of hope to God’s people as they learn to fix their eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of their faith.



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



A call to intercede in prayer at the closing of the National 40-Day Fast & Prayer 2016

NECF’s Study Loan Eases Pastor’s Burden For Son’s Studies

By Paul Leong



I am very grateful for the study loan that was given to me by the NECF Foundation. The loan gave me an opportunity to complete my Diploma in Multimedia when my family was facing financial difficulties. It greatly helped to ease my parents’ burden to support me in higher education. My father was a pastor with a church. Monthly repayments of the study loan were made to the NECF Foundation regularly so that the funds could continue to be utilized for other pastors’ children’s education needs.

The financial assistance really came in handy as it contributed in no small way in helping me to complete two-and-half years of diploma studies with distinction. It also provided me with the opportunity for a credit transfer to complete my Bachelor in Advertising Graphic Design in the United Kingdom in my final year.

Today, after 5 years of working, I constantly recall how God has been faithful in not only planning but providing the means to work out my career path. He has gone further in leading me to the right job at the right time. I remembered praying and making a commitment to Him that I would not take up a job that would compromise my service in church as I serve in several ministries. I am indeed grateful that He has answered my prayer in that respect.

I am currently working as a marketing manager of a multimedia production house. I cannot thank God enough for what He has done in my life. At the same time, I am excited to see His plans unfold slowly but surely in my life.



Paul Leong worships at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang Jaya. He is happily serving God in church and in the marketplace.

Come, let's go up the Mountain of the Lord!

By Nicole Tang

September 14, 2015 marked an auspicious day and a milestone for the Church in Malaysia. It was the day the NECF, with Dr John Mulinde and his team from World Trumpet Ministry, launched the National Prayer Altar (NPA) Peacehaven, Genting Highlands. It was indeed D-Day in several ways when the Church made a declaration to the heavenlies that we will have an open heaven over Malaysia!

Firstly, we are blessed to have a place to build the NPA. FGA KL has graciously made available the bungalow at Peacehaven, Genting free of charge for this purpose.

Secondly, four Ugandan intercessors were sent to help us build the NPA. It was not easy for them as it required them to push through the spiritual atmosphere together and their prayers were heard as early as 2.30am. They took turns to lead in prayer, breaking of bread and teaching of the Word of God. We managed to gather some pastors and leaders for a time of training with the Ugandans before their departure on 20 November last year. We were blessed by their presence, prayers, teachings and fellowship.

Thirdly, as the bungalow can only take in a limited number of people, we have worked out an online registration system to manage accommodation and other logistics. We have two volunteers who have helped out from day one. One of them is a Singaporean, Sis Sai Ngim, who has graciously given her time to voluntarily help out there. At other times, God would just bring other volunteers to help out.

On December 3, last year, we were blessed with another two Ugandan pastor-intercessors. We had seven batches of training on prayer altars running weekly from Monday until Saturday. The first batch started on 4 January this year and the last ended on February 15, with over 120 participants from at least 30 churches. Of late, we have had many encouraging testimonies. Indeed, it is so good to see the fruit of labour of our trainers.

The Klang Valley Pastors Fellowship decided to start our own NPA at Peacehaven after their training. Praise be to God! With His amazing grace we started the NPA

on March 1, running from 10 am to 6 pm every day except Sunday. We began to see prayer slots slowly being taken up. Some weeks we are full-house, but there are still open slots on some days. Slowly but surely the prayer slots are filling up and we believe the day will come when we will see a 24/7 NPA.

On May 3, Dr Khoo Kay Hup, NECF Vice-Chairman I with responsibility for prayer altars, started his training on prayer altars at Peacehaven. His training went on until the end of August. He has trained over 30 leaders from various churches. Pr Daniel Velloo of the Word of Life Church, Ipoh has also started training for the Tamil churches at Peacehaven. Pr Lew Lee Choo and Pr Looi Kok Kim of the NECF's Prayer Altar Committee too have conducted training sessions on prayer altars.

Along the way, we realized that the bungalow was in need of some upgrading work. Various people, churches and the host owner responded well to the appeal for sponsors. As a result, we managed to, among many things, change the carpet and install new curtains besides buying a fridge, musical instruments, a new amplifier and new lightings plus adding a new coat of paint.

On August 30, a gathering of trainees took place at Peacehaven where 26 participants who were trained shared their experiences on their prayer altars. The testimonies really motivated everyone in the bungalow and we could honestly feel that no one wanted to be left out in seeking God. It is not a competition but rather a motivation within us to diligently abide in His presence and to be seriously connected to God. If prayer altar is about an open heaven over our lives, why not build on it?

As people continue to come up to Peacehaven, we could see that the four hours or eight hours of prevailing in prayer were getting lighter for them. It has to do with His presence! Truly, there were many times when the presence of God was very strong in the place. It was not about filling those eight hours but intentionally seeking the Lord together. Most of the time, we would worship for more than an hour, exalt the Lord in the language we know best, break bread, read the Word of God and pray.

As of now, prayer and training will continue at Peacehaven. We aim to train more leaders to build prayer altars throughout our land. It would be so amazing to see personal, family, church and community altars springing up in cities, towns and villages thereby saturating the spiritual atmosphere of our nation with the presence of God.

We wish to thank every church for participating at the NPA. It is now a year old and we will encourage more to go up the Mountain of the Lord and build Him an altar. Micah 4:2 says "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord." Together let us build an altar to the Lord.



Interceding in full concentration for the nation



Nicole Tang has been helping in co-ordinating the NPA since its inception.

Stories From The East Coast: Ministry Among The Orang Asli

By Rose Teng

It began one Saturday evening in 1999 at a Mandarin worship service when 3 Orang Asli (OA) men came. One who had been passing out blood for quite some time asked for prayer and was later healed. At the next service, which was an evangelistic meeting, he brought 15 OA men. When the altar call was given, all of them, including 2 bomoh (traditional healers) received Christ. That began the work of serving the new OA brethren and reaching out to their community.

We then stopped the OA from coming for a while because we encountered some problems having them in our Mandarin service. But one father who was a bomoh himself pestered us to pray for his son. So we arranged for a meeting just for them. 13 OA came, including the village headman, who wanted to see what was happening at the church meetings. My co-worker shared a gospel message with them and the headman was the first to respond to the altar call to receive Christ and he asked everyone else to do the same. Then, I prayed for the son who had handicapped hands and was unable to speak. Later we found that he was partially healed of his infirmities. But that was enough to cause many OA in the village to come to church and our OA ministry was birthed.

At the next OA meeting, a blind man who was the chief bomoh in the village came among others. He showed a Christian praise song book in the Malay language which someone gave to him in 1984 and shared with him about Jesus. He wanted to believe but that person never came again! He accepted the Lord that day at our meeting and was baptized with four other men and two ladies at that meeting. That was our first OA baptism.

Subsequently, more and more OA came to our meetings, believed in Jesus and were baptised. We had new converts and baptism frequently for the following months. In one of our meetings we baptised more than 20 persons, young and old. All 3 bomoh in the village were baptised very early in our ministry. Among those who were baptised were some OA from other villages.

The miracle of healing was a major factor which contributed towards the rapid growth of the OA ministry. One lady was healed of goiter. Her son who was coughing out blood was healed miraculously by God through prayer. Another lady was healed of a skin problem, which led her to believe in Jesus. Yet another lady was healed of tuberculosis. Many other healing miracles took place.

I must admit that I was reluctant to be involved in the OA ministry at first. Having a full-time job and being involved in planting the Chinese church was busy enough for me. The OA ministry not only took up more of my time but there were also many challenges. But seeing the hand of God in the ministry, how could I not do the

ministry? Looking back, I am so thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve the OA. It was indeed a privilege rather than a sacrifice. I had never seen so many miracles in my first year of serving the OA compared to all my many years of previous ministry experience in a town church.

The OA ministry is a very different ministry from other ministries. Reaching the people with the gospel not only involves overcoming problems related to cross-cultural evangelism; it also entails meeting their many needs besides their spiritual needs. Their poverty, illiteracy, traditional beliefs and practices present a great challenge in our effort to evangelize and disciple the people. It is an impossible mission without the abundant grace of God.

The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. I find that this is not only true in our ministry but also in other OA ministries which my friends are involved in. In our 17 years of OA ministry, we only had a full-time OA pastor for about two years. A few East Malaysian pastors tried serving in our ministry but only one remained with us for about two years. We are still looking for a full-time pastor to help us in the ministry.

Some Christians from nearby churches had come to our ministry with the intention to help us but all of them backed out after a short while. Only four of us plod on week after week in our ministry. It is taxing in many ways but the joy of the Lord is our strength. Praise God!

We welcomed mission teams to help on weekends but the impact was limited simply because of the short time that they were with us. If mission teams or individuals can come to work with us for longer periods, say 3 or 6 months, the impact will be more significant for us.

The poverty of the OA is a very important area to be addressed. Education is seen as the only way for them to get out of their poverty. We had tried operating a "hostel" for some secondary school students many years ago where they stayed together in a house and we provided food and tuition for them. But it did not work out well. They preferred the fun-filled life in the village! We found that giving tuition to the students in their village was a better option. We have tried it but we lack the manpower to sustain it.

Many of the OA boys dropped out of school very early to follow their fathers to go into the jungle to gather things to sell. We need people who can provide skills training to help them earn a better income. They cannot join many of the free training programmes because they do not meet the minimum requirements. Very few young men venture out of their village to work in other places. Because of their lack of education and skills, they generally have very low self-esteem and feel insecure working in a new place.

We spend a lot every year in the OA ministry. Our major



expenditures are on food for our weekly worship services, gifts of rice and other foodstuffs for the OA families a few times a year, church van maintenance, non-prescription medicine, and pocket money for secondary school students. Since the people are very poor, we distribute old clothes and foodstuff a few times a year to help them. We are fully aware that handouts are not the solution for their poverty. But it is necessary to meet immediate needs. We try to strike a balance between helping them and pampering them.

Our financial supply itself is a miracle. God is indeed our Jehovah Jireh. When we first started, we had very little money – only what we had from ourselves and a few friends and family members. But God moved individuals to give to our ministry whenever we needed extra funds -- even individuals who did not know us personally but heard of our ministries through friends. Very few churches supported us financially even until today. Our main support comes from individuals. We spent a lot in the ministry even without a full-time pastor but we were never short of funds all these 17 years!

Many OA ministries that I know of are in need of funds. There are OA pastors whom I know serve with low salaries. I pray that city churches will catch the vision to be partners in the OA ministries. While it is good to send mission teams to serve overseas, we have a wide mission field here in our own homeland. Why not channel some of our manpower and resources to help build the OA Church?

Above all, the OA ministry needs prayer support as we face challenges from within and without. At one point in our ministry, we lost many families when they converted to another faith. It was by the grace of God that we did not lose the whole ministry. God had indeed kept them for Himself.

This is the season for the salvation of the OA. I have seen some of my friends, who were inexperienced in the OA ministry but enthusiastic in reaching out to the OA, reap amazing results as they laboured for the Lord. The Lord is still working miracles today, confirming the preaching of the Word among the OA with accompanying signs. Will you be a part of this great harvest of precious souls? If you cannot be involved physically in the mission field, you can support the work by giving and praying for the OA Church.

Rose Teng is a former college lecturer and is now serving full-time in Pahang.

Perlis Churches Start Again To Meet For Combined Prayer

By Janet Ow Yang

A combined prayer rally to mark the drawing to a close of the National 40-Day Fast and Prayer 2016 for churches in Perlis was held on 8 September 2016 at the Kangar Baptist Church. The number of people who turned up was beyond expectation as the church hall was full to capacity with the participation of 6 local churches. The last combined prayer meeting of the local churches was held more than 10 years ago! This year, other than local pastors and co-workers who attended, there were also ministers and leaders who came from Korea, Hatyai, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Langkawi and Kedah.

Rev. Looi Kok Kim, a member of the NECF Prayer Commission who led the meeting reminded the participants of the theme of NECF's 40-day fast and prayer for our nation, "Revive us, O Lord!" At the same time, he also imparted afresh the vision of building prayer altars which greatly stirred the hearts of the participants. Churches in Perlis have in fact begun to focus on building personal, family, church and regional prayer altars. Perlis, being a small state at the far north end of Malaysia is nevertheless an indispensable part in the plan of God for the entire nation. As believers in Christ, the Perlis church bears the responsibility of mobilizing the new and younger generation to get them involved in the current wave of revival through prayer. Thus, let the church arise! For the Lord has stirred up one from the north who calls on His name (Isaiah 41:25). Let's grab hold of the great opportunity available for His church to march on their journey of revival even though they might be weary sometimes. For this is neither the starting point nor will it be the end, but this is the mission to be accomplished progressively unto eternity. Therefore, go as one who has been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).

It is indeed never too late or too much to ask for churches in Perlis to start all over to meet again after not having done so for more than 10 years, especially to pray together. It is heartening to note that a small group of believers in Kangar never give up on anticipating God's mighty move in the state of Perlis. For the past ten years, they have been faithfully coming together every night during the annual 40-day fast and prayer season, and calling out to God for the revival of Perlis and the entire nation.



Janet Ow Yang is an Elder of Perlis Grace Centre, Kangar and a faithful intercessor.

Tackling Child Safety

By Clement Tan

Child safety is an important and serious issue facing the nation today in the light of several cases of child abuse. In line with this, the first Child Safe Seminar was held at the NECF office on 8 October. We had 66 participants from various churches and organizations. The speakers were Dato' Dr. Amar Singh, a renowned pediatrician attached to General Hospital Ipoh, and Bro James Nayagam, who is the chairman of Suriana Welfare Society for Children.

Both speakers shared at length about the issues that our children face today, which range from sexual abuse to emotional issues. They shared how such issues can have profound implications on the lives of the children affected by them.

The sharing moved the hearts of the participants and created awareness among them that it is important for all to ensure that children are protected and allowed to feel safe wherever they are in order to create in them a healthy self-image and to reduce psychological or emotional scars.

It is hoped that through this seminar, the participants will be challenged to take what they have learnt to inform their churches about the issue or be further trained to be well-equipped to truly ensure that they can create a safe and conducive environment for our children to dwell in as they develop in their knowledge and understanding of God.

There were requests from participants to publicise the issue of child safety outside the Klang Valley and the resources that are available for this ministry in the light of recent media coverage that highlighted the seriousness of this issue. As such, NECF intends to take the lead to provide greater awareness and resources for churches, homes and Christian bodies that are involved working with children.



Clement Tan is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Research Commission, NECF

Remembering The Persecuted Church

In conjunction with the Suffering Church Action week, 30 October-6 November 2016, we reprint here an article regarding the war that is currently raging in heaven. This article is as it appeared in the editorial of the September/October 2016 issue of Barnabas Aid and is reproduced with permission from Barnabas Fund, the publisher.

Kingdoms are in turmoil. Uncertainty abounds. Danger threatens.

On Wednesday 29 June 2016, Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi declared that "the Muslim world is going through a dangerous turning point and is facing unprecedented challenges targeting its existence". He spoke of the Muslim world fragmenting, of the creation of movements that are hostile to other religious groups and minorities, and of the dangers this will pose not only to Muslim societies but to the rest of humanity.

But it is not just Islam which is at a dangerous turning point. Hinduism has increasingly moved into militancy. It has taken a turn backwards in time to rediscover its lost heritage and to identify India and its peoples with a new militant ideology. The same goes for Buddhism, which is rediscovering its nationalist identity, as well as for the worldwide resurgence in totalitarianism of many kinds. In Russia, more and more the move is towards the suppression of religious liberty and free speech and a

regurgitation of its old Marxist past. For the West, what has been termed "the new civic religion" is seeking to control the hearts and minds of nations with its own ethics, doctrines and practices.

What all of these movements have in common is their implacable hatred of Christianity, their desire to see the Church of Jesus Christ come to an end and to create a world that is free of Christian presence, Christian values and Christian ideals.

A war is currently raging. The rise of these ideologies and their conflict with Christianity and the Church must be seen not just from a human perspective but also from the divine. There is war in heaven (Revelation 12:7), with Satan and his hordes in violent conflict with Michael and the angels. At the heart of this conflict is Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) The forces of hell have now been unleashed, as before in the past, but now with much greater ferocity. There is growing persecution of the Church worldwide, but it is taking the form not of mere discrimination but of annihilation. It seeks nothing less than the genocide of Christianity. The devil is on earth, roaming around, filled with fury and hatred (Revelation 12:14). As for the Church, we can be assured that God keeps her in the palms of His hands, that she is destined for glory as Christ's bride and that she will be victorious. But, for now, she must be faithful unto death, keep her testimony true and pure, and know that she is protected by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11).

Times Of Refreshing For Tamil Pastors' Wives

By Rev Gabriel Jabanathan

The Tamil Commission of NECF hosted a one-day conference solely for Tamil pastors' wives on 3 October at Full Gospel Tabernacle Subang. A total of 59 of them and 43 pastors turned up for the event.

This was the first time a conference of such nature was organised purely for the Tamil pastors' wives. The speaker was Pastor Pramila Jeyaraj, an eloquent and prolific speaker from the Metropolitan City of Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka, India. She co-pastors a growing church of almost 1000 people in that city with her husband.

The conference was organised with the sole aim of encouraging pastors' wives who, so often, quietly and patiently, bear so much of the demands and challenges of the ministry along with their husbands. This generally went unnoticed and was sometimes unappreciated by the congregation. The gathering was planned to boost the spiritual and mental morale of the women.

The speaker was simply amazing! Streams of refreshing waters figuratively just gushed out and flowed through the meeting. The Spirit of God used the speaker to bring about a pleasant, soothing, refreshing and restoring touch. It was noteworthy to listen to some of her key, penetrating thoughts, imparted and laced with grace and comfort, such as:-

- The need to take rest in a stress-ridden ministry
- The need to be themselves and be real and natural, not to imitate others
- Not to lose the joy of life and ministry
- Be content in the way God has made them
- Know who they are before God
- Not to compare with others and not to be someone else
- Know their self-worth, dignity and importance; and
- God's primary concern is about them and not the ministry.

The Session Ended With A Time Of A Fulfilling, Refreshing Ministry.

A Two-Hour Session Medical Talk For The Pastors

A two-hour medical talk was held simultaneously for the pastors who accompanied their wives. It was conducted by Pr Dr Asoka Dhoss who is also a very active member of the Tamil Commission. It was a most eye-opening, informative and health-awareness-stirring session. The various health hazards and the need for pastors to maintain general health awareness were extremely well expressed. The presentation by Pr Dr Dhoss was well received as the pastors gave a very appreciative response to his session.



Rev Gabriel Jabanathan is the chairman of the NECF's Tamil Commission and Senior Pastor of Charis Word Centre Networking Churches.

REEP Makes Its Presence Felt In Penang And Sibul

By Jack Cheah

The first training of volunteer tutors for the Rural Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP) in Penang was held at the Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall on 3 October. It needs to be emphasised that this after-school tuition programme was developed to address the deteriorating standards of proficiency in English and mathematics among school-going children from marginalized communities which include not only the Orang Asli and East Malaysian natives but also the poor Chinese. In fact, this is what the Penang churches have set to do through this programme. It is indeed timely that 37 participants from 10 different churches participated in the training session. Their feedback was very positive and encouraging.

Bro Teo Pek Bing, who is an elder at the Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall, commented how, as one of the participants, he was greatly helped by the training session. Here are his comments:

"On 3rd October 2016, we had the REEP training, very ably conducted by Sis Ruth Cheah. The active and rather boisterous Q&A sessions displayed the excitement of the people with the programme. Quite a few even wanted to get personal copies of the material. Our initial plan will be to use the materials in our Kids English Club outreach in Balik Pulau. The children's command of English there is very poor. Right now the children are grouped roughly by ages, rather than their actual intellectual level of English. The diagnostic tests under REEP will help us to group them according to their appropriate levels. The REEP study materials will help the volunteer tutors to help the students. We will begin with English first and then see if we have the bandwidth to conduct the mathematics subject."

REEP held its second training session in Sarawak at the Borneo Evangelical Mission (BEM) Usahajaya Church, Sibul on 15 October. The first was held at BEM Morsjaya, Miri on 2 July. A total of 26 participants from 8 Iban-speaking churches under the umbrella of Gempuru Besai (Amalgamated Group of Ibans) attended the session.

Bro Peter Nyua Anak Ugoh, who is the secretary of the group for the Sibul Zone, commented that many participants expressed great interest to pass on what they had acquired at the training session to their respective churches. Greatly appreciative of the training received, they reported that their churches plan to implement REEP when the new school term starts in 2017.



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

DISCIPLE-MAKER SEMINAR

- + HOW DID JESUS DISCIPLE HIS FOLLOWERS?
- + WHERE DO WE BEGIN WITH DISCIPLE MAKING?
- + WHAT ARE THE DISCIPLE MAKING PROCESSES NEEDED?
- + WHAT SHOULD OUR DISCIPLE MAKING PRODUCE?

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To take us through this seminar, we have invited **Bishop Efraim Tendo** who is the current Secretary General/CEO of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA); also formerly the National Director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) for more than 20 years representing some 30,000 evangelical churches in the Philippines. He has a very strong passion for the Church of Jesus Christ which has led him towards empowering churches in disciple making.

NECF MALAYSIA

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Ezekiel 37:1-14

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fast & prayer

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PUASA & DOA

四十天禁食祷告

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NECF MALAYSIA

2017

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TUHAN
Yehezkiel 37:1-14

盼望在神
以西结书37:1-14

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நம்பிக்கை
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INTRO SESSION
6th June (Tue)
8.00 - 10.00pm

SESSION 1
7th June (Wed)
8.00 - 10.30pm

SESSION 2
8th June (Thu)
8.00 - 10.30pm

SESSION 3
9th June (Fri)
10.00am - 12.30pm

SESSION 4
2.00 - 6.00pm

SESSION 5
7.30 - 10.30pm

BOILER ROOM
9th & 10th (Fri & Sat)
10.00pm - 7.00pm

SESSION 6
10th June (Sat)
10.00am - 1.00pm

NECF Council & Staff wish all readers

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS & A FRUITFUL NEW YEAR!