

## A Note from the Principal

# How to be sure of God's calling?

By Rev Dr Tie King Tai, Principal of MTS, Sibu



Rev Dr Tie King Tai

**O**ne morning, I received a call from a great mother who asked, "What conditions are needed for my Form 4 son to enter MTS in the future?"

I said, "Born again, daily devotions, church involvements especially evangelism, good school results, better to attend STMS and Pre-Theo..."

She responded, "I will help him prepare well." She is a good mother called by God.

However, it is not enough if only the mother is called and prepared. Her child also needs to be called and prepared.

How then would this child be sure of God's calling to him? How could he transform a passive calling and preparation of parents such as Hannah's offering up of Samuel into an active calling and preparation of children themselves such as Samuel's hearing of God's calling to him?

This is a question asked by many: "How to be sure of God's calling upon me to become His servant?" Allow me to list seven signs of God's calling:

**1. God speaks:** Since it is God's calling, you would have God's words speaking to you. For example, when God called me years ago, God spoke to me with many Bible verses such as Isaiah 6:8 "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"

**2. Spirit touches:** God's Word and God's Spirit work hand in hand. The Spirit touches your heart to give you the thought of full-time dedication. He also prompts you to make such a dedication. When I refused to dedicate my life to God, I was restless until I made the decision. Restlessness was turned into gladness.

**3. Life testimony:** Because of your faith in Jesus Christ, you received a born-again life which is also growing. You live a devotional life so that brothers and sisters would see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in you. They also see Christ-likeness. Non-Christians would also trust in Jesus due to your testimony.

**4. Ministry involvements:** You have humble and active church ministry involvements. You have good relationships with brothers and sisters in serving together. You bear

fruits in your ministry especially in evangelism and follow-up as you lead people to Christ and help them grow.

**5. Others affirm:** As brothers and sisters especially spiritual elders and parents observe your life and ministry, they feel that for you to become a preacher would be a beautiful thing.

**6. Heart at peace:** If you do not respond to God's calling, you experience no peace in your heart. But when you respond positively, your heart would experience peace granted by God.

**7. Respond by faith:** When you are still not sure of the way ahead, you hold on God's Word and step forward the path of dedication by faith, just like Abraham: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8)

Sometimes, circumstances also play some role in God's calling. But circumstances should not hinder you from dedicating your life to God. They could be a good trial to strengthen you to move on in your dedication to God.

When God calls, He not only speaks to the parents, He also speaks to their children. ☺

## Graduation Thanks-giving Dinner

MTS Graduation Thanks-giving dinner was held on 28th October 2011 at Good Happiness Restaurant.

Sharing by Rev. Steward Damat



Performance by the graduates

## 13th Graduation Service

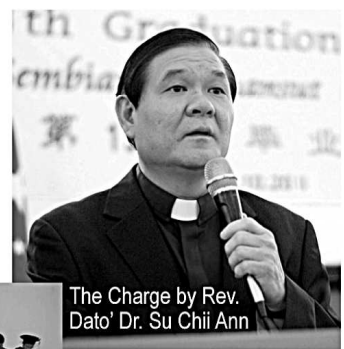
The 13th Graduation Service (since the reopening of Degree Courses) was held on 29th October 2011 at Wei Kuok Hall, Sibui. The Principal of Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary – Dr. John Ong Bee Chung was invited to speak for the occasion whereas our lecturer, Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu translated for him.

### Number of Graduates for each program:

- Master of Ministry: 1
- Master of Divinity: 2
- Master of Divinity (major in Missiology): 1
- Bachelor of Divinity: 1
- Bachelor of Theology: 8
- Diploma of Theology: 1
- Certificate of Theology (major in Missiology): 1
- Bachelor of Arts in Worship and Music: 1
- Master of Christian Studies: 4
- Diploma of Christian Studies: 6
- Certificate of Christian Studies: 1



from left: Rev. Thomas Lau, Dr. John Ong Bee Chung



The Charge by Rev. Dato' Dr. Su Chii Ann



Commissioning Prayer



Graduates' Response



MTS Ringers' presentation



Group photo (MTS Board members, faculty and graduates)

## Paramount Hotel Thanksgiving Service

MTS community, including lecturers & their family members, students and staff were invited to attend the Paramount Hotel Thanksgiving Service on 5th November 2011.



## 2012 First Semester Opening Service

Date: 3rd January 2012

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai

Translator: Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, Sibui

### Number of new students in 2012:

Theological Program (Chinese): 16

Theological Program major in Missiology (Chinese): 4

Theological Program (Iban): 2

3rd Batch STMS Music: 19

7th Batch STMS Iban: 6 (1 withdrawn)

7th Batch STMS English: 7

20th Batch STMS Chinese: 64

Theological Education by Extension: 7



- 1) 3rd Batch STMS Music Students
- 2) 1st Year Students
- 3) 20th Batch STMS Chinese Students
- 4) 7th Batch STMS Iban Students
- 5) 7th Batch STMS English Students



## Hock Ing & Siong Ong MC CNY Visit

Representatives of Hock Ing Methodist Church and Siong Ong Methodist Church of Kapit district celebrated Chinese New Year with us again on 18th January 2012 evening, they brought Ang Paus with them. Kapit District Superintendent, Rev Yu Ming Puo, Rev. Sii Ting Seng, Pastor Nancy Yu, Pastor Ngu Teck Tiong, Brother Tiong Ping (Associate Lay Leader of Hock Ing Methodist Church), Brother Lau (Lay Leader of Siong Ong Methodist Church) came together with other church members. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them for their loving care.



## 7th Batch STMS English Graduation Service - 10/2/2012



7 STMS English students graduated.



Speaker: Rev. James Chin

## Missions Awareness Week (20-26/2/2012)

Missions Awareness Week, one of the annual ministries of MTS was held from 20th to 26th February this year. Rev James Hudson Taylor IV was invited to speak to the MTS community in the first three days, on the theme: "Missions from Generation to Generation" before the community left for missions work. Rev. Thomas Lau, our lecturer was the Bahasa Malaysia translator. From February 23rd to 26th, all lecturers and students went to 10 different places and churches for short-term missions exposure according to their family groups.



Rev James Hudson Taylor IV

## 2012 ATESEA Accreditation Visit

On 13th to 15th February 2012, three members of the accreditation team of Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) visited MTS.



From left: Dr. Limuel Equina (Executive Director, ATESEA), Dr. Muriel Montenegro (Divinity School, Silliman University, Philippines), Dr. Daniel Nuhamara (former Dean, Faculty of Theology and now professor of Theology Faculty, Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga, Indonesia)



Exit Meeting

1 Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai's Family Group: Maong Methodist Church, Kuching



2 Rev. Francis Wong King Sing's Family Group: Tien En Methodist Church, Sibuan

3 Rev. Dr. Ling Tung Kiing's Family Group: Shiu En Methodist Church, Sibuan



4 Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu's Family Group: Gan En Methodist Church, Miri

5 Rev. Dr. Angela Ting Siew King: Betong Preaching Centre



6 Ms Cecilia Ting Ik Huong's Family Group: Wan Ming Methodist Church, Sibuan

7 Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng's Family Group: Gereja Methodist Tudan, Miri



8 Rev. Hoo Sing Hang's Family Group: Chiew Cho Methodist Church, Sibuan

9 Rev. Lu Chen Tiong's Family Group: Kiew Ong Methodist Church, Durin

Rev. Bonnie Sedau and Rev. Elizabeth Enjut's Family Groups: Bekakong & Sg. Assan



## VISITORS

29/03/2011	Mr Ernest W. Cheng, Managing Director of Canadian Test Centre, and Mr Wong Yuen Kai
23/04/2011	1st Sarikei Girls' Brigade
28-29/04/2011	Some visitors from Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC)
28/05/2011	Methodist Young Adult Fellowship of Nyelong Park Methodist Church, Sarikei
11/06/2011	Sang Ik Methodist Church, Bintangor, under the leadership of Pastor Wong Lee Chiang
11/06/2011	Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship (JMYF) from Zion Methodist Church, Sibul, under the leadership of Rev Monica Siaw Yu Jinn
21/06/2011	Dr Edwin Tay, lecturer in Systematic and Historical Theology of Biblical Graduate School of Theology, Singapore
01/07/2011	Datuk and Datin Hii Yii Chiong. They also donated a sum of money for Iban students
15/07/2011	Rev Dr Boonratna Boayen, Rev Dr Rung Rueengsan-Ajin and Elder Chusak Wuthiwaropas from The Church of Christ, Thailand
29/07/2011	Pastors and church leaders of Australian Methodist Church
06/08/2011	A group of brothers and sisters from Korea
12/08/2011	A group of sisters from Brunei
18/08/2011	Rev Ong Fook from Gereja Kristen Grace Taman Bukit Maluri
25/08/2011	Rev Joshua Khong Chee Leong from Trinity Annual Conference, with wife Ms Eileen Chan, daughters Ruth and Sarah from Wesley Methodist Church, Kuantan
08/09/2011	Mr Sunil Jacob Ram, Asia Regional Auditor of GBGM, USA
20/09/2011	Dr Josh Yeh from Family Keepers International
19/11/2011	A group of visitors from Cambodia, under the leadership of Rev Jessica Tiong
06/12/2011	A group of visitors from Fujian Christian Council, China
18/01/2012	Pastor and Mrs Peter Chung, Mr and Mrs 陈国祥 (Auckland Chinese Methodist Church) and Brother James Mo from New Zealand
19/01/2012	Some leaders from Indonesia visited us and held a dialogue session with us, include Bishop and Mrs Darwis Manurung (of the Methodist Church of Indonesia), Pdt & Mrs Kristi Wilson Sinurat (Sekretaris Pengurus), Rev Putro Saptanio (Rector of Theological Seminary), Rev and Mrs David Wu (District Superintendent of Tionghoa) and Mr Hong Tat Tjong.

## VISITING LECTURERS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

### DR. CHRISTINA LONG

9th July 2011: talked on "How to Excel in Learning Piano" and "Practical Survival Skills for Church Pianist", taught a piano master class.

11th July 2011: Piano concert at Wei Kuok Hall

### DR. SHARON CHAN

19th – 23rd September 2011: taught an intensive course on Holistic Missions.

### DR. PERRY SHAW

31st October – 4th November 2011: MTS Faculty training

### DR. LIONG YUK CHIONG

17th January 2012: preached during the morning chapel service

### REV. JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR IV

20th – 22nd February 2012: Missions Awareness Week's speaker

21st February 2012: preached during the morning chapel service

### REV. DR. HII KONG HOCK

5th – 9th March 2012: taught a M.Min. modular course on "Preaching from the New Testament"



## 1. Recruitment of 7th Batch (2012) of STMS College

Purposes:

- (1) To equip Christians to become Christ's disciples for the advancement of the Gospel.
- (2) To provide in-depth study for young Christians who are involved in various ministries in the church, equipping them to become more effective in their ministries.
- (3) To help Christians who have dedicated their lives to be sure of God's calling.

Language: Chinese Medium

Duration: 2 July – 17 August 2012

Qualification for Application:

1. Born again Christian, baptized & confirmed (actively involved in ministry).
2. College students or College graduates.
3. Aged 21 and above, physically healthy, psychologically and spiritually sound.
4. Having an obedient heart, be consistent throughout the course, willing to love people and work hard.
5. Formal recommendation from church pastor.

Applicants can get the application form from your church pastor or MTS. You may also browse through our website: [www.mtssibu.edu.my](http://www.mtssibu.edu.my) to obtain the form.

Application form must be sent to:

*Director of TEE/STMS program  
Methodist Theological School  
No.51, Jalan Tun Abang Haji  
Openg, P.O.Box 78, 96007  
Sibu, Sarawak.*

Tel: 084-321409 Fax: 084-341409  
email: [tee@mtssibu.edu.my](mailto:tee@mtssibu.edu.my)

**Closing date for application: 15 May 2012**

## 2. Recruitment of Pre-Theological Program

Purpose: To prepare the students to become more mature and confident before commencing the vigorous theological training.

Subjects:

- Bible Knowledge
- Self-growth
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Kingdom of God and the World
- Conversational English
- Basic Music
- Field works

Language: Chinese / Iban Medium

Duration: 2 July – 3 November 2012

Closing date for application: 30 April 2012

Applicants can get the application form from your church pastor or MTS. You may also browse through our website: [www.mtssibu.edu.my](http://www.mtssibu.edu.my) to obtain the form.

Application form must be sent to:  
"Academic Dean" or "Principal"

*Methodist Theological School  
No.51, Jalan Tun Abang Haji  
Openg, P.O.Box 78, 96007  
Sibu, Sarawak.*

Tel: 084-321409 Fax: 084-341409

Email: [general@mtssibu.edu.my](mailto:general@mtssibu.edu.my)

## 3. The Progress of the Construction of New Hostels

- The male students occupied the hostel and lecturers their apartments in January 2011. We thank God for the completion of the two new blocks.
- We thank God also for the offerings received from the churches, brothers and sisters in Christ. Your support is a great encouragement to us. May the Lord bless you and keep you.
- Now, we are still in need of about RM 786,539.57 (see below). Pray that God continues to guide us and provide for us. With your heart of love for God, for our church and for MTS, let us together build MTS to glorify God and to build up His people!



Building Contract Sums:	RM 6,500,000.00
Provisional Sums:	RM 830,448.49 (including consultant fees, variation orders, furniture, security features, IT, communication and power deposits, etc.)
Total Project Cost:	RM 7,330,448.49
Donations received:	RM 6,543,908.92
Shortfalls:	<b>RM 786,539.57</b>

## 4. Courses offered for MTS Intensive Course and M.Min. Program

- Pray for the good health of the lecturers. Pray that God will grant them wisdom in teaching.
- Pray for the students to have good health to study during the intensive course.

### 1.1 Intensive Course

Date:

27/8-8/9/2012

Subject:

NT Exegesis-Mark

Lecturer:

Rev. Ting Huat Ung

### 1.2 Master of Ministry Program:

Date:

9-13/7/2012

Subject:

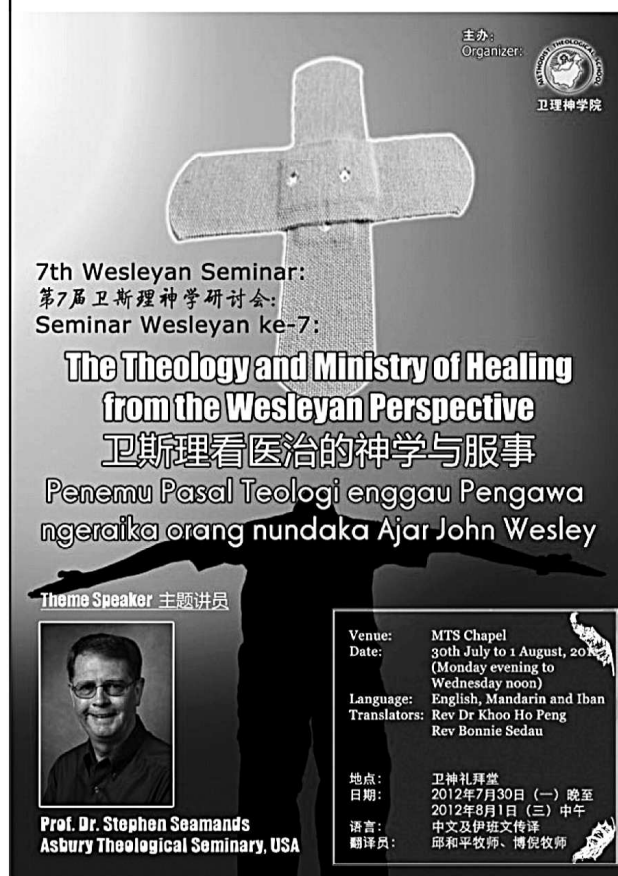
Pastoral Counseling

Lecturer:

Dr. Andrew Teo

## 5. 7th Wesleyan Seminar

- Pray for the speaker, Prof. Dr. Stephen Seamands and the translators Rev. Dr. Khoo Ho Peng and Rev. Bonnie Sedau. Pray for the good health and wisdom.
- Pray for the participants also.




主办: Organizer: 卫理神学院

7th Wesleyan Seminar:  
第7届卫理神学研讨会:  
Seminar Wesleyan ke-7:

**The Theology and Ministry of Healing  
from the Wesleyan Perspective**  
卫理看医治的神学与服事

Penemu Pasal Teologi enggau Pengawa  
ngeraiika orang nundaka Ajar John Wesley

Theme Speaker 主题讲员



**Prof. Dr. Stephen Seamands**  
Asbury Theological Seminary, USA

Venue: MTS Chapel  
Date: 30th July to 1 August, 2012  
(Monday evening to Wednesday noon)  
Language: English, Mandarin and Iban  
Translators: Rev Dr Khoo Ho Peng  
Rev Bonnie Sedau

地点: 卫理礼堂  
日期: 2012年7月30日 (一) 晚至  
2012年8月1日 (三) 中午  
语言: 中文及伊班文  
翻译员: 邱和平牧师、博妮牧师

## 7. Pray for MTS New Students

- Please pray for the new students (refer to the name list below). Pray for wisdom from God to guide them in their study and daily life in MTS.

**Master of Divinity:** Chee Ling Nan, Lau Puong Fuang, Lau Song Heng, Ling Chee Bing, Ling Tiong Cheng, Ung Sing Hing, Yeu Chin Thai

**Bachelor of Divinity:** Chan Kiang Wei, Chiong Yew Hee, Ling Yaw Jye, Wong Ling Ting, Yong Ching Chi.

**Bachelor of Theology:** Chen Xiao, Lee Tung Sing, Lim Hock Sing

**Diploma of Theology:** Alistair ak Jupiter

**Licentiate of Theology:** Dutton Garai ak Jimmy, Ting Jeck Wong

**Master of Divinity major in Missiology:** Lee Ling Wey

**Bachelor of Theology major in Missiology:** Tiong Hang Chii

**Diploma of Theology major in Missiology:** Tang Ing Noh

**Licentiate of Theology major in Missiology:** Ling Chu Yian

## 6. MTS Night at Bintangor "Spirit Empowered Dedication"

Speaker: Rev. Francis Wong King Sing

Date: 28 July 2012

Time: 7:15pm

Venue: Kai Nguong Methodist Church

- Please pray for the speaker, drama presentation, PA system, weather etc.
- Please pray for the participants. Pray that more brothers and sisters are willing to respond to God's calling.



卫神之夜  
灵力充沛的献身

Malam Sekula Teologi Methodist  
Roh Kudus Méri Kuasa  
Ka Penyerah Diri

诗巫卫神之夜  
日期: 16.3.2012 (星期五)  
时间: 7.15pm  
地点: 福源堂

Malam MTS Sibü  
HARIBULAN: 16 March 2012 (Jumaat)  
JAM: 7.15pm  
ENDUR: Gereja Methodist Masland

诗巫献身营  
日期: 17.3.2012 (星期六)  
时间: 8.00am - 11.30am  
地点: 卫神礼拜堂

Kem Dedikasi Sibü  
HARIBULAN: 17 March 2012 (Sabtu)  
JAM: 8.00am - 11.30am  
ENDUR: Chapel Iban MTS

民丹莪卫神之夜  
日期: 28.7.2012 (星期六)  
时间: 7.15pm  
地点: 开元堂

Malam MTS Bintangor  
HARIBULAN: 28 July 2012 (Sabtu)  
JAM: 7.15pm  
ENDUR: Gereja Methodist Kai Nguong

Organized by  
卫理神学院

51, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, 11700, Seremban, Malaysia. <http://www.mts.edu.my> Tel: 084-321409/330870 Fax: 084-341409