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A Note from the Principal

Rev Dr Tie King Tai

5:15 AM PRAYER AT MTS

Many people get up very early (some even as early as 3 or 4 am!) in the mornings to exercise, to go to school, to do marketing, to prepare for business, to travel, even to fish or to golf. Some of these are important things such as enhancing good health, meeting school requirements, earning money, etc. But some are of lesser importance such as hobbies.

If we can do these things so early in the mornings, why can't we learn to get up early to do the most important things in eternity such as drawing near to God in His Word and in prayers? Let us learn from our Lord Jesus: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." (Mark 1:35)

John Wesley, the founder of Methodist movement, would get up as early as 4 am to pray and then to preach at

5 am. He used to say that he thought very little of a man who did not pray four hours every day. In his later years Wesley was known to spend up to 8 hours in prayer.

Around 2006, MTS started to encourage students and lecturers to get up and pray at 5 am. But very few would get up so early to do so individually. Towards the end of 2009, MTS decided to do so corporately. So in 2010, we began 5:15-6:15 am corporate morning devotions from Tuesday to Friday. I am thankful that faculty members and students were united in one accord to do so. However, before and after we began, we heard negative comments from outsiders, especially, and sadly, from some church pastors and leaders! Nevertheless, we have learned to persevere over the past four years or so.

And by God's grace, early morning devotions have gradually become a

"trademark" of MTS.

When I was invited to present Spiritual Formation of Seminaries in a recent international theological seminar, I shared our experience of early morning devotions. Some seminary heads thought it was an unbelievable thing to do for seminarians. But some affirmed the significance of such a spiritual discipline and training for our future church pastors and leaders. Some church pastors and leaders would even send their church members to be trained in MTS for future ministry just because MTS has such a spiritual discipline among other disciplines.

We pray that MTS can become a humble example in this spiritual discipline of early morning prayer, not only for other seminaries but also for all churches to follow.

All glory be to God and peace to all who commit to rise early and pray!

MTS MORNING SERVICE

Time:

5:15am-6:15am

Every Tuesday (English),
Wednesday & Friday (Mandarin)

Venue:

MTS Chapel
(Admin. Block 1st floor)





Rev. Paul Ting Huat Ung
(MTS Chaplain cum Acting Dean of Students)

The morning service in MTS is not only a prayer meeting, it is also a spiritual practice of self-sacrifice. To wake up early and pray is a great challenge for us who sleep and wake up late. Therefore, the Morning Prayer Meeting challenges us to give up our desires, reschedule our time, to express our love to God.



Rev. Lee Ai Sing
(Director of Library)

I enjoy the 5:15am Morning Prayer. Before I start my daily work, I can come to my Lord and pray unto Him. I can concentrate on my prayer because I have plenty of time before I go to work at eight in the morning. I do not have to worry about what I should do afterwards.



Alan Lau Song Heng
(2nd year Theological Student – from Chinese Methodist Church Australia)

I told myself, since I had responded to God's calling, I have to comply with the rules of the school. In the begin-

ning, I was not used to it. I have to make sure that my alarm clock was set properly. Sometimes I was afraid that I could not wake up on time and even could not hear the ringing tone of the handphone, and sometimes became sleepless at night. But after a few months, I began to enjoy the Morning Prayer time, and it has become an indispensable part of my life. Morning Service brings a lot of benefits to me. Early morning, I can bring everything unto Him, get close to Him, and then only I start my daily life. It is very meaningful and it trains me to walk closely with God, to pray unto Him and to be with Him more regularly.



Elder Chuan Wen Ho
(3rd year student of Theological program major in Missiology – from Taiwan Presbyterian Church)

Everyone will face some difficulties in their life, and Morning Prayer has become a compulsory daily activity. No matter in school work or in the way we treat others, we really need strength from our Lord. So no matter whether there is Morning Prayer or not at MTS, both my wife and I will wake up and pray to God at 5am, because it is too important.

Wu Hsin Chuan
(wife of Chuan Wen Ho)

Before I came to Malaysia, my husband and I had a commitment with each other: I prayed in Taiwan, and my husband prayed in Malaysia, both at 5am, and this was our source of spiritual power. Now that I am in Malaysia, and we serve together in the same missions field, we still wake up at 5 am to pray. We also encourage our brothers and sisters

to pray together, because we know that Morning Prayer is very important. When there is morning prayer, there is strength. Especially when we miss our friends and family in Taiwan, when we face some difficulties and stress, through the sermons preached by pastors during Morning Service, and verses read from the bible, we are encouraged and it becomes a precious moment for me.



Law King
(Church member)

I received a lot of blessings during MTS Morning Prayer service. God uses the sermons preached by the pastors to encourage me, affirm me, remind me, console me, and heal me. I also enjoy the Morning service, especially the half hour of personal prayer time. During the prayer time, I can come to Him personally, and besides that, when I hear a lot of whispers of prayer surrounding me, I feel I am surrounded by the love of God, and I can feel the strength!



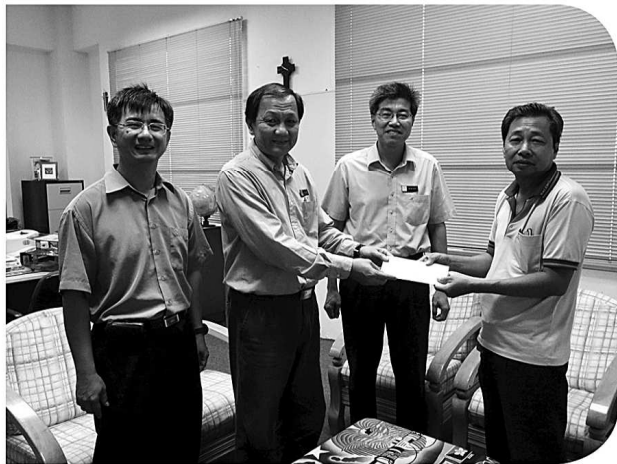
Chan Sin Ming
(wife of Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai)

For me, Morning Service is a spiritual discipline. Since it is a discipline, it entails efforts. It is hard to wake up at four or five in the early morning, but I love this discipline. I am willing to remind myself that the first word I hear everyday is from God and the first word I speak everyday is to God.

WORK OF MERCY



On 9th May 2013, we handed a love gift from Work of Mercy to Brother Chai.



On 21st June 2013, we handed a love gift from Work of Mercy to Sister Liang Wen Fang. Her husband received the donation on her behalf.

MTS is joining in the efforts to help the fire victims of Kampung Datu/Hilir Sibu with a donation of RM5,000 to the Jawatankuasa Bencana Kampung Datu/Hilir Sibu. Rev Dr Tie King Tai, Principal of MTS, handed over the cheque to Mr Sim Kok Kee, Resident of Sibu Division. This was witnessed by YB Annuar Rapae, Member of the Sarawak State Assembly for Nangka, and Rev Paul Ting Huat Ung, Chaplain of MTS. Through this act of public donation, Rev Dr Tie King Tai hoped to show concerns of the school to the victims. We continued to respond to the calling for helping the victims of Kampung Datu by donating some mattresses on 28th June 2013.



MTS NEWS

INTERACTION ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUE

The Wesley Centre of MTS organized the first Forum on current affairs at 8.30pm on 2nd May 2013. The topic of the night was "Who to Vote for?", and it was open to church pastors and members to attend.



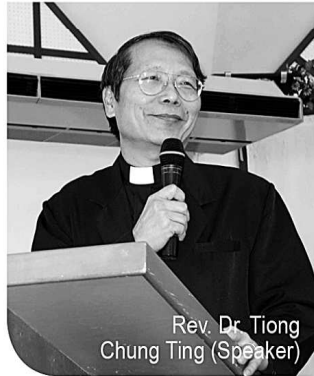
From right: Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai (Speaker), Rev. Thomas Lau Sie Ngiu (Chairman)

MTS NEWS

SHORT TERM MISSIONS SCHOOL (STMS) GRADUATION SERVICE

Date: 4th April 2013

Venue: Wei Kuok
Hall, Sibü



Rev. Dr. Tiong
Chung Ting (Speaker)



21st batch STMS Chinese students



8th batch STMS Iban students



4th Batch STMS Music students

3 IN 1 CELEBRATION

The Student Body of MTS organized a 3-in-1 celebration on 23rd May, to celebrate Teachers' Day, Gawai and Birthday. The whole MTS community was invited to attend the celebration.



Lecturers



Rev. Enjut during
the Gawai celebration



Birthday
celebration

MTS NEWS

NEW SCHOOL VAN DEDICATION SERVICE

MTS held a dedication service for our new school van at 8:15am on 7th June 2013. The new school van was donated by various fellowships (Senior Citizen Fellowship, Adult Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, and Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship) of Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, after the sharing of our need and encouragement given by the SCAC Director of Fellowship groups—Rev. Kiew Tie Siong. Mr. Wang Tao also donated the Audio Video Navigation System for the new school van. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them for their loving care.



MTS SILENT RETREAT

On July 12th till 13th, the whole MTS community including lecturers, theological students, STMS College students and some staff went to the Methodist Centennial Park to attend a Silent Retreat. Rev. Dr. Niam Kai Huey from Singapore was the Spiritual Director.

SARIKEI DEDICATION CAMP

21st July 2013 at Sarikei Methodist Town Church



MTS NEWS

BORNEO CULTURAL FESTIVAL

MTS Student Body rented a stall during the Borneo Cultural Festival, from June 28th till July 7th. The purpose of renting the stall was to bring the gospel to the public who came to the festival.



MTS NIGHT SARIKEI

On July 20th, MTS lecturers and students from Chinese department, went to Sarikei Nyelong Park Methodist Church for another MTS Night in year 2013. The theme for the night was "Life Transformed" and Rev. Paul Ting was the speaker. He reminded and encouraged brothers and sisters to transform their life and to be a good witness of our Lord Jesus Christ. Besides, he also reminded those who are called by God to serve Him in full time ministry (pastors, missionaries or directors of Worship & Music), to come forward and dedicate themselves to God.



Rev. Paul Ting (Speaker)

Pray for the Dedicators

THE BURGLARY IN MTS

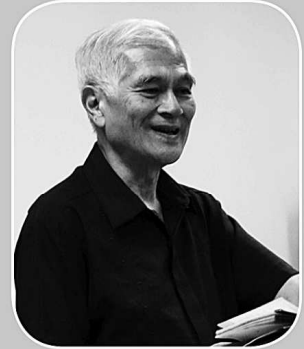
On July 26th, burglary happened in MTS. Some cash and equipments such as cameras and video cameras were stolen.



VISITING LECTURERS

AND

INVITED SPEAKERS



Dr. Titus Loong

2-9 May ~ taught an intensive course on "Cultural Anthropology"



Dr. Lee Bee Teik

7-8 May ~ taught on "Christian World-View" for Iban students



Rev. Dr. Niam Kai Huey

8-2 July ~ taught on "Spiritual Formation of the Pastors" for M.Min. students

VISITORS

05/04/2013

Mr. Massimo Falloni and Mdm. Helen Chou visited us on 5th April 2013. Mdm. Helen Chou was the niece of our first principal, Rev Dr Ivy Chou.



31/05/2013 V

Some youths from the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship of Trinity Methodist Church, Kuching, visited us. They were led by Rev Wong Hie Ing and they presented a love gift to our principal during their visit.

08/06/2013 vv

The 2nd Bintulu Girls' Brigade visited us.

08/06/2013 vvv

Some pastors from the Methodist Church of Indonesia and two lecturers from Sekolah Tinggi Teologia-Gereja Methodist Indonesia, visited us from 20th to 23rd May 2013. They had a dialogue with some of our faculty members, and presented to us some books written by two of their lecturers - Dr. Risna Sinulingga and Dr. Robert Tobing.



LATEST NEWS + PRAYER ITEMS

1. PRE-THEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

This year, we have recruited 6 students in the Pre-Theological Program. Pray that they will be well prepared and be ready to take up Theological program by next year.

From left: Jackson Hoo Kie Yaw, Wang Hai Di, Cornie Ho, Ong Siew Thien, Zhao Shu Min, Chen Cheng Jiang.



2. THE 8TH BATCH OF STMS COLLEGE

We have recruited 20 STMS College students this year. This is a 2-month program designed for college students. Please pray for their missions trip on 15th to 18th August. Pray that God grants them wisdom and strength to share the gospel to others.



3. THE 15TH GRADUATION SERVICE

(since the reopening of Degree Courses)

Please pray for the graduates this year:

There are 17 students graduating this year, including Theological degree, Missiological degree, Master of Ministry degree, and TEE program. Pray that God will continue to guide them in their future ministry.

Graduation Thanksgiving Dinner

Date: 25th October, 2013 (Friday)

Time: 6:30p.m.

(Dinner will start at 7:00p.m. sharp)

Venue: Paramount Hotel, Sibü

Graduation Service

Date: 26th October, 2013 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00a.m.

Venue: Wei Kuok Hall, Sibü

Speaker: Bishop Ong Hwai Teik

All brothers and sisters are welcome to attend the graduation service.

MTS LATEST NEWS + PRAYER ITEMS

4. MTS 2013 INTAKE

1.1. Prayer items

- >Pray for the new intake next year. Pray that more brothers and sisters will respond to God's calling.
- >Pray that church members are willing to equip themselves and come to MTS for TEE program.
- >MTS plans to start a new program (Diploma and Master of Family Counseling) by next year. Pray for all the preparation works and planning.

1.2. Programs offered in MTS

Theological Program, Missiological Program, Worship & Music Program and TEE Program:

Theological Program (Language: Mandarin / Iban)		
Degree	Qualification	Duration
M. Min.	Possessed a first theological degree and involved in pastoral ministry for at least 5 years	5 years
M. Div.	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
B. D.	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
B.Th.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Dip. Th.	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
L. Th.	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Theological Program major in Missiology(Language: Mandarin)		
M. Div.	Attained a bachelor degree from a recognized university	3 years
B. D.	With HSC/STPM (minimum 2 Principal Passes & 2 Subsidiary Passes) or equivalent qualification	4 years
B.Th.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification	4 years
Dip. Th.	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification	3 years
L. Th.	With full certificate in JC/SRP/PMR or equivalent qualification	2 years
Worship & Music Program (Language: Mandarin)		
B.A.	With MCE/SPM (minimum Grade 2:Aggregate 1-34) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal/music and theory from Royal School of Music	4 years
Diploma	With MCE/SPM (Grade 3) or equivalent qualification and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental/vocal/music and theory from Royal School of Music	3 years
Certificate	Completed SPM and obtained at least Grade 5 or above in instrumental / vocal / music and theory from Royal School of Music	2 years
Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program (for advanced training of Lay people in the church)		
M.C.S.	For university graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours); equivalent to two years of full time study in Theological Program	7 years
D.C.S.	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 60 credit hours) and university graduates (completed 30 credit hours)	6 years
C.C.S.	For non-graduates (required to accumulate 30 credit hours)	5 years

- You may obtain the application form from the MTS office or download from our website: www.mtssibu.edu.my
- Completed Application Form should be sent to the Principal or Academic Dean at the following address:
 - P.O.Box 78, 96007 Sibu, Sarawak, Malaysia.
 - Contact No.: +6084-321409
 - Fax: +6084-341409
 - Email: general@mtssibu.edu.my
- Application closing dates for Malaysian students:
 - (a) Theological Program/Theological Program major in Missiology: 15 September
 - (b) Worship & Music Program: 15 September
 - (c) TEE Program: 31 October