



**MALAYSIA BIBLE  
SEMINARY  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2011  
ISSUE 121**

# Connections

We believe in the inspiration of the entire Bible and its inerrancy

## Brand - new Leaders

I accepted the Lord for the first time over forty years ago, and even today I remember what a profound impact it had on my life. At the time I described it as "seeing the light," although many of my friends mocked me mercilessly as a result. I felt like a man who had been lost in a fog, but who now at last could see clearly which way to go.



**Roger Senior**, Lecturer (MBS)  
PhD (Theol) candidate  
with AGST Alliance

Everything had changed and nothing could be the same again. The apostle Paul in 2 Cor 5:17 describes it like this: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" When we become Christians everything is different. Our hopes, our desires, our aims, our attitudes - everything is different. But note that Paul said "the old has gone, the new has come;" he did not say that the old has been improved. He said it has gone! The problem is that when we become Christians we often just try to improve the things we have already been doing. e.g. Before we became Christians, we loved our parents, but now we try to love them more. Before, we worked, but now we try work harder, for the Lord. Before, we ate our food, but now we say thank you to God before we eat. In other words our behaviour is a bit different, but we are not noticeably a new creation. But when we become Christians there are some things which should be completely different from the world. Among these is our understanding of leadership. One of the aims of MBS is to train people to

be godly leaders, both in church and society. In Mk 10:35 James and John, under the influence of their mother, came up to Jesus and asked him for the best seats in the coming kingdom. They were two of Jesus' closest friends and perhaps they thought they deserved special seats. But Jesus answered them in two ways.

In v38 Jesus asked them: "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?" He was here referring to his suffering on the cross, and He asked his disciples whether they too would be willing to go on that path of suffering. I wonder if they were shocked by what Jesus said? Perhaps they thought that the leader's life should be an easy one. Some years ago I went to buy a new office chair. My previous one had been uncomfortable so I made sure that I bought one which was more padded. However when I got it back to the office I discovered that it was useless. The back of the chair was not upright, but leant backwards. It might have been all right to sleep in, but it was no

# Message from Rev. Dr. Tony Lim Dean (English Department)

We have a new tag line! We hope that our tag line captures succinctly, the essence of what MBS is about in terms of its training philosophy. Our tag line goes like this:

“In imitation of Christ. Lives in the making.”

At MBS we are committed to the Biblical Discipleship of our students. We believe that the goal of Biblical Discipleship is to be like Jesus. (See Lk 6:40; Mt 10:24-25, A disciple when fully trained will be like the master) It is our desire that as a result of our teaching, training, living and mentoring, our students will be deeply committed to a lifelong process of imitating Christ, seeking to be like Jesus.



This emphasis on Christ-likeness is also a distinctively Pauline motif. Note the following passages:

- My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, (Gal 4:19)
- But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed in the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit ( 2 Cor 3:18)
- For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.... (Rom 8:29)

We have thus revamped our curriculum to reflect this emphasis on biblical discipleship. We want to teach in such a way that lives are transformed. Hence the emphasis is on the content of the Word rather than on critical and technical issues. This does not mean we dumb down scholarship. But what we want is godly scholarship where teaching and the way we live are not divorced.

We have weekly small group meetings that continue throughout the academic year. This gives our lecturers the opportunity to get to know

each of their students well. Our lecturers are the students' mentors and role models.

We carefully monitor our students practical ministry in churches and para-church organisations. That way we have concrete ways to evaluate the effectiveness of our teaching and training as the churches act as independent external auditors of our students and indirectly our seminary!

It is our prayer that through all these efforts, that we will be true to our tagline:  
“In imitation of Christ. Lives in the making.”

Moving on.....

We are glad to announce that this year's Klang Valley Bible Expositor, Rev David Cook, principal of Sydney Mission and Bible College, will be kicking off our School of Preaching. David and his team of lecturers and students will be conducting a preaching workshop from 28-30 September. This is a hands on preaching workshop where participants will work on a biblical passage together. They will then be given the opportunity to preach from the passage and their sermons will be evaluated by David and his team. This is the only way to learn how to preach. So do mark

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# MBS School of Preaching

## Introducing MBS Certificate of Preaching

At the centre of MBS's name is "Bible" and we are committed not only to helping people understand and correctly interpret the Bible, but also to help them to preach effectively in a way which is faithful to the original Scriptures. Our B.Th. and M.Div. courses now have a track which is dedicated to Biblical Studies and Preaching, but we are aware that many existing church leaders would like help in upgrading their preaching. In order to do this, MBS is establishing a School of Preaching. This school will have modules lasting for three days which will be open to all pastors and church leaders who have preaching responsibilities. Each module will focus on one aspect of expository preaching, e.g. preaching the Gospels and Acts, preaching the Psalms, evangelistic sermons etc. The modules will be led by experienced preachers and teachers of homiletics, and will each include some general introductory teaching on the subject so that participants can enter the programme at any stage. Our desire is that through

this school, preachers would be more effective in their preaching and that lives would be changed through the ministry of the Word.

## Preaching Workshop - By Rev David Cook

We are delighted to announce that the **Rev David Cook**, will launch our inaugural **School of Preaching** from the 28 to the 30 September 2011. Rev Cook is the Principal of SMBC (Sydney Missionary and Bible College). He is also the Klang Valley Bible Conference's keynote speaker in October this year. Rev Cook will be conducting a workshop on **"How to Preach from the Wisdom Literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and some wisdom poetry)"**.

These preaching workshops will become an **annual event** in our MBS calendar.

*Who should attend this Workshop/ Conference on Preaching?*

Pastors/church workers/  
elders/lay preachers/youth

workers and anyone who wants to upgrade their expository preaching skills are encouraged to attend this 3 days conference (9am to 5pm).

Please note these dates in your calendar. The venue will be our new campus at Kuang. Accommodation can be provided.

There is a great need for clear, faithful bible teaching through systematic expository preaching that is relevant to our congregations. It appears that some biblical illiteracy exists in some circles and the School of Preaching hopes to rectify this situation. Our aim is to teach the whole bible and different biblical genres from both Old Testament and New Testament.

The program will include both input by the main speaker (assisted by Grant Thorp who is a regular speaker at the Katoomba Christian Conferences) who will preach a sermon and then explain how they put it together; a brief overview of how to interpret that particular genre and then in small groups participants will be required to work on the same genre and to prepare a short talk with evaluation.

See website for further details.

## FROM PAGE 02

out your calendar so that you will not miss being trained by one of the Western World's most acknowledged preacher. For more details please refer to our website and contact our Registrar. ☩

**Rev Dr Tony Lim**  
Dean, English Department





# ED Alumni Retreat

23-25 Jan 2011

An Outline of the talk at the MBS Chapel Service during the Alumni Reunion By Dr. Chong Kwong Tek on 25 Jan 2011



Today is very meaningful to me personally to be given the privilege to worship with the staff & students of the English Department of MBS, as well as the alumni who are having a grand time at this beautiful campus.

I recall the Inaugural Service of the PLKM (Pusat Latihan Kristen Melaka) which was the predecessor of the English department of MBS, of which I was the first board chairman. At that meeting only 50 % of the students was able to be there. The other 50% was pushing his punctured motor cycle along the then hilly KL-Seremban trunk road,



eventually arriving the next day. So began the first semester in 1976 with two students and two lecturers.

Today 35 years later I have the joy of spending some hilarious moments with some of the graduates reminiscing about their student days when they were preparing to serve God. You are following in their footsteps as you are being equipped here, and like them you will then go out from this school, into the world to serve.

In these few days of our retreat, we have tried to explore the true meaning of equipping God's ministers for today. Let's look at some lessons we can learn from our Master Jesus in one incident recorded by a medical doctor in Luke 7:11-17.

Using his medical knowledge, Dr. Luke gave the family history & background of a widow who had lost her only son. Reading between the lines we sense that the encounter was not a coincidence but a deliberate attempt by Jesus to meet her need. He had come from Capernaum to Nain having walked about 20 miles to meet this funeral procession. Jesus always goes out of his way to find people with needs and to meet those needs.

Compare this with our natural inclination to avoid people with needs. As pastors and leaders we can easily adopt a "professional" mentality when we only see members by appointment, delegating visitations and counseling to other staff. Contrast this with Jesus who went out of his way to deliberately go looking for needy people to minister to them.

Secondly, Jesus touched the coffin, breaking Jewish laws and traditions! He showed compassion and closeness to a grieving mother and would not be stopped by legalistic practices.

Once I had breakfast with a group of pastors. We were discussing "why people do not like to come to church." I mentioned that many people in our city were hurting because of divorce, but asked why it is that do they not come to the church, where we have the skills to minister to them. One pastor exclaimed, "I think we should preach more about the evils of divorce!" In frustration I

countered, "Now I know the reason why divorcees are not coming."

Are we too concerned with preaching correct doctrines rather than ministering to the hurting? 'Preach more about the sins of divorce' indeed! Every divorcee knows the evils of divorce and the devastating trauma of a broken marriage, so why would they want salt rubbed into their wounds? Like Christ, we may need to set aside doctrines in order to minister to the broken hearted and set the captives free; giving them the good news that God still loves them, and doesn't frown at them.

Thirdly, I noticed that it was easier for Jesus to help the dead than the living. Compare the time when he tried to help the lame man at the Bethesda pool. The man argued defensively and blamed others for not helping him. But from a dead boy there was no argument. When Jesus said, "get up!" he sat up. There are times when we need to be silent and just obey.

We had to do this when my brother contracted nose cancer. By the time it was detected the cancer had eroded the base of his skull. He was dying. A friend asked me, "Do you think your brother would allow me to pray for healing?" In the past we had debated whether miracles of healing still occurred today. Now with death staring at us I said, "Please go & pray for him." The result was God healed his cancer instantaneously.

Knowing correct doctrine is necessary, but like the dead man, sometimes we just need to obey the implicit instruction of Jesus.

In summary, as servants, let us follow our Master's example:

- Go out of your way to look for needy people to minister to.
- Theology and doctrine sometimes need to defer to meeting people's felt needs.
- Rationalization and knowledge must not prevent us from following Jesus' sometimes seemingly unusual instructions. ☩

# Sharing the Gospel in the 'End-Times'

The magnitude of the March 11 (2011) Tohoku earthquake in northern Honshu, Japan, of 9.0 (as recently revised by US Geological Survey and the Japanese seismologists) is just becoming clear. It was the fourth largest in the world since 1900 and the largest in Japan since modern instrumental recordings began 130 years ago. This tragedy recalls vividly the end-time biblical prophecies which point to many more catastrophic events that are yet to come. How should the church prepare for this, and what should it do during such times?



Dr Jason Lim, Principal

## 1.0 The Urgency of the 'End Times'

As we reflect upon these recent tragic events, we are reminded of the many revelations and prophecies about the 'end times' in the Bible, which include: (1) Wars and rumours of wars (Matt.24:7; 6:4); (2) Earthquakes (Matt.24:7); (3) Famine (Matt.24:7); (4) Persecutions (Matt.24:9; Rev.6:9); (5) False teachers or prophets (Matt.24:5,11); (6) Decline in moral standards (Matt.24:12; Rev.9:20-21); (7) Lack of love (Matt. 24:12); (8) Economic crises (Rev.6:5-7); (9) Plagues (Rev.6:8); and (10) Environmental problems (Rev.16:1-12).

As Christians, we should recognize the urgency which a knowledge of the 'end times' brings, and make the most of every opportunity that God gives us (Eph. 5:16). As the days of this world are numbered, we need to realize with a deeper conviction that we are in the final stage of the 'end times' and respond accordingly.

## 2.0 Reaping the Harvest in the 'End-Times'

Since William Carey's missionary efforts in bringing the gospel to the East, the following centuries saw only about 2.5% born-again Christians there before 1900. This figure increased to 5% from 1900 until 1970, and 30 years later it increased to 11.2%. Today we thank God that there are about 150,000 people who come to the knowledge of God each day. During the 1974 Lausanne Conference, it was reported that there are about 2.7 billion people who had not heard the gospel. By 1992 it was estimated that about 77% are believers, or have listened at least once to the Gospel. Today 1/3 of our world population claims to be Christians.

Over the last 20 years, there has been significant progress in some traditionally hard ground. After the Gulf war, more and more churches were set up. In the past decade, more than 100 churches have been built. It is even reported that there are more converts to Christianity in

a certain country within the past 10 years than the total converts throughout the last 1000 years!

We thank God for the many new openings He has granted us, but we need to continue to take up the present challenges so that we won't miss out in reaping the harvest before in these 'end times'.

## 3.0 The Urgent Need to Train More Pastors and Church Leaders in the Majority World

According to Larry Pate, since the 1980s the centre for supporting mission has shifted from the first world to the third (majority) world. Hence, there is great need to train more church leaders from this majority world so that they can become world leaders in the mission fields.

There is also a need to transfer financial and other resources to the majority world. However, as David Barrett, a renowned mission scholar, has rightly pointed out, the Christian (and Catholic) populace occupies

# We Welcome the New ED students for Semester 1, 2011



Arati Thapa  
Master of Divinity



Isai Rai  
Master of Divinity



Luvsangombo Gantumur  
Master of Divinity



Aaron Tham Yew Him  
Master of Divinity



Erland Kristiawan Ng  
Master of Divinity



Lim Swee Choo  
Master of Ministry



Joanne Hee  
Master of Ministry



Caroline Pushpa Gabriel  
Master of Ministry



Anthony Ho Soon Teck  
Bachelor of Theology

# Happenings Around And About MBS



MBS Annual Retreat at Golden Sands, Port Dickson  
19-21 Jan 2011



## Condolences

Our Deepest Condolences to the Following:

1. Condolences to family members of Mrs. Yvonne Margaret Boler, who was called to be with the Lord on 16 April 2011; Mrs Yvonne Margaret Boler is wife of the late Elder David Boler, a former Council member of MBS.
2. Condolences to Elder Choo Chee Choy our Council member on the demise of his mother Madam Choo Leong Yat Pin on 22 April 2011.

We apologize for the delay in the publication of our newsletter as our KDN publication license has just been renewed.



**MBS 29th Graduation Service 13 Nov 2010**



**CNY Council Staff Annual Dinner**

**Sharing the Gospel in the 'End Times' . FROM PAGE 06**

68% of the world's resources or income, but 97% has been used for their own needs, and only 3% is given to the church; and out of this 3% only 5% is used for missions.

In line with this thought, Malaysia Bible Seminary hopes to be a channel of blessing for Asian leaders. Out of an intake of 35 new students for the first semester, we have attracted quite a number of local students as

well as international students from China, Nepal, Indonesia and Korea. We also praise God that for the first time we have a new student who has come all the way from Mongolia, and who is also a local Mongolian seminary's faculty-in-training. It is our hope that they can be more effective church leaders in their own countries when they return home after their intensive training at MBS.

As we strive harder to achieve greater goals for the Lord, please pray along with us as we try to generate the remaining funds for our new campus' renovation project (about another RM100,000) as well as the library fund (RM200,000), which is needed to support our training ministry (especially our Doctor of Ministry programs) in the near future!





# MBS 33rd Anniversary Thanksgiving cum New Campus Dedication Service



The Council, Principal, Faculty  
and Students of  
**MALAYSIA BIBLE SEMINARY**

warmly invite you to  
our 33rd Anniversary Thanksgiving  
cum

**New Campus Dedication Service**  
on

**Sunday, July 10, 2011 at 4.30pm sharp**  
at

**Lot No. 728, Jalan Kundang,  
48050 Kuang, Selangor.**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Lukas Tjandra, Founding  
Principal of Malaysia Bible Seminary  
and

**thereafter to a Buffet Dinner**

Kindly designate all love gifts to our Building Fund  
RSVP by June 28, 2011 to Ms. Betty Yee  
(Tel: 03-6037 1727, 012-2234527 Fax: 03-6037 1728)

good for sitting at a desk! I then discovered it was designed for a boss. In that context office managers did not really do anything for most of the time. They just sat in their chair and let all their underlings get on with the work. But Jesus turns that view of leadership on its head. Far from living a comfortable life, Christian leaders must be ready to suffer. In 2 Cor 11 the apostle Paul lists the sufferings he went through in his ministry. For him these were the signs that he was a genuine apostle and not a false one. We cannot train our students at MBS to suffer, but we teach them that a Christian leader shows his leadership credentials in weakness and suffering.

After talking about his coming baptism of suffering, Jesus goes on to say that "whoever wants to be first must be slave of all" (Mk 10:44). This is a quite remarkable statement. In the Roman Empire slaves were at the bottom of the social pile and objects of public humiliation - indeed they were not even considered to be human. Jesus says that if you want to be a Christian leader you must be the slave of all. What do we think are the marks of a Christian leader? How do we choose a Christian leader? We could probably draw up a list of qualifications. e.g. vision, administrative skills, decisiveness, people skills etc. And certainly we would expect them to be much better than non-Christian leaders in these areas. This may be true, but it is not what Jesus says. Jesus argues that Christian leaders should be totally different from non-Christian leaders - not those who lord it over others (v42), but slaves of all. We see here that Jesus has not just improved

the world's ideas of leadership. He has not just made leaders more effective, more religious, or even more upright. He has turned them upside down. Those who are called "leaders" must become the slaves of those they lead. We often talk about servant leadership and say we agree with it, but I wonder how many of us are willing to be treated as servants or slaves. During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed an order to transfer some regiments. When the Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, heard of the President's order, he said that Lincoln was a fool. When his words were reported to the President, Lincoln said: "If Stanton said I was a damned fool, then I must be one, for he is nearly always right, and generally says what he means. I will step over and see him." Such humility stands in stark contrast to the normal secular model of leadership. Jesus is not saying that we should be rude to our leaders. He is not here even talking about how we should relate to our leaders. He is talking to leaders. It is the leaders' attitude which Jesus wants to change. We are called to follow the example of Jesus who came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (v45). If MBS produces graduates who think that they are the best leaders in the world, then we have failed. It is only as we have hearts to serve others that we will transform the world in the spirit of Christ. My mind goes back to one day when we moved house in Korea and saw our pastor carrying our fridge on his back up the stairs. In a culture where a "teacher" should never get his hands dirty, this picture is a powerful example of the kind of leaders we should be producing. This is the task to which God has called us at MBS. Let us pray that we will all become brand-new leaders! ☩



# Open Lectures & Courses

## OPEN LECTURES ON EPHESIANS BY DR PETER O'BRIEN

**Peter O'Brien** (research NT scholar) from Moore Theological College is coming to MBS to give a series of lectures on the **Letter to the Ephesians** on the mornings of Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May 2011 at the new campus here at Kuang (from 9am to 1pm).

This is open to all MBS alumni, pastors and anyone interested in Pauline studies. Peter is a Pauline

expert and completed his doctorate under FF Bruce. He has written several commentaries on the New Testament, Colossians, Philippians and including Ephesians with his latest being on Hebrews. He has written monographs, journal articles on Paul's theology and co-authored a book on Biblical Theology of Missions.

Please inform Anne Lim the registrar (03-6037 1727 or email [mbs-ed-registrar@mbs.org.my]) that you plan to attend. It is FREE. ☩

## Modular Course 2011

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE MARKETPLACE BY DR MARK LOVATT

Date	: 23 - 25 Sept & 30 Sept - 2 Oct, 2011	Programme	: B.Th/MCS/M.Min/Open
Time	: 7.30pm - 10.30pm (Fri) 9.00am - 6.00pm (Sat) 2.00pm - 6.30pm (Sun)	<b>COURSE FEES</b>	
Venue	: Luther Centre Petaling Jaya	Graduate	: RM300 (3 units)
Unit	: 3.0	Undergraduate	: RM180 (3 units)
		Audit	: RM100 + RM10 registration fee

## Timetable 2011 Semester 2 (Jun 27 - Nov 4)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00 am - 12.00 pm		<b>OT 112</b> OT 2: Introduction to the Whole Bible (Biblical Theology) Jack Mock		<b>AT 231</b> Homiletics Rog Senior	<b>NT 112</b> NT Introduction 2 Allison Lee
09.00 am - 12.00 pm		<b>OT 221</b> OT Prophecy and Isaiah Allison Lee	<b>AT 922</b> Christian Spirituality Tony Lim	<b>OT 321</b> OT Poetry and Psalms Jane Senior	<b>NT 721</b> 1 & 2 Corinthians Rog Senior
02.00 pm - 05.00 pm		<b>ST 231</b> Theology 2 Michael Lim	<b>NT 113</b> Synoptic Gospels and Mark Tan Geok Hock		2 - 2:30 Preaching Clinic (all students)
02.00 pm - 03.25 pm			<b>NT 231</b> Romans Jack Mock	<b>AT 886</b> Caring for the Sick and Dying Tony Lim	
03.35 pm - 05.00 pm				<b>HL 991</b> Advanced Majority Religion Tan Kim Sai	
07.00 pm - 10.00 pm		<b>ST 111</b> Theology 1 Mark Lovatt			
<b>Key:</b>	1st year	2nd/3rd year MCS/MDiv	2nd/3rd/4th year BTh	All students except 1st year	Electives

### Extension and modular courses:

M.Div. AT 901 Dissertation (6 units)

M.Min. AT 401 Contextualisation (David Harley) July 18 - 22 (Daily 9am-5pm at DUMC)

M.Min. HL 221 Church History (Jane Senior) Sep 14 - Nov 9 (Wednesdays 9am-1pm at DUMC)

Certificate. Biblical Interpretation (Jack Mock) Jul 12 - Oct 18 (Tuesdays 8-10:30pm at Hope KL)

Certificate. Introduction to the Whole Bible (Biblical Theology) (Jack Mock) June - Sep (Sundays 11.30am - 1pm at Gospel Centre EFC)

**MALAYSIA BIBLE SEMINARY** Lot No. 728, Jalan Kundang, 48050 Kuang, Selangor. Tel: 03-6037 1727 Fax: 03-6037 1728 Mobile: 6012-223 4527

Email: mbs-ed@mbs.org.my; mbs-ed-registrar@mbs.org.my Website: http://www.mbs.org.my

Editorial Board: Dr. Tan Chong Tin & Rev Dr. Tony Lim

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