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PP5332/01/2010 (023461)

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



MALAYSIA BIBLE
SEMINARY
NEWSLETTER
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
SEP 2009
ISSUE 117



RENEWED AND MOVING FORWARD: INTRODUCING THE PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE

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Bearing the theme "Renewed and Moving Forward", the Seminary is undergoing a process of rejuvenation these couple of years, and thank God, indeed, we do experience God's gracious guiding presence in our midst.

Both the English and the Chinese Department are going through some changes in terms of personnel and programs, as you may read from our Newsletters. For the English Department in particular, we are most grateful that the Lord has brought in Rev. Dr. Tony Lim to serve as the departmental Dean since January this year. Together with the Associate Dean Ms. Allison Lee and others, the new Dean has been able to initiate significant break-through in many ways, especially in church relations. Please continue to cooperate and give him all the encouragement and support that he needs to bring the English Department to greater heights for God's glory & blessings to many.

At this point it is my great pleasure to make a very important announcement on behalf of MBS Council to all concerned vis-à-vis appointment of the new Principal of MBS in the person of Dr. Jason Lim Jit Fong, effective January 2010. As for myself, I joined MBS full-time since 1981, and will have served as Principal for 13 years by the end of 2009. Further, as I approach the retirement age of 60, it is an opportune time to hand over the portfolio to a younger and most worthy colleague. However, I will continue to serve the Seminary on a year to year basis.

Academically, Dr. Jason graduated with First Class Honours in Civil Engineering from University of Malaya (1988), completed his MCS program at MBS (1992), and M.Th. in N.T. studies with Westminster Theological Seminary (1994), finally culminating in Ph.D. in N.T. from Sheffield University, UK (1998). His doctoral thesis on 1st Peter has been published by Alliance Bible Seminary, HK (2005), and he has also co-authored a commentary on 1st Peter with Greg W. Forbes, published by ATA in 2007. Professionally, he used to serve as a lecturer in engineering, a pastor, as well as an Associate Dean (Chinese Department) of MBS, before he was called to lead as Dean of COCM Bible College, UK, from September 2003 to August 2009.

Dr. Jason has a strong sense of mission, and is very much gifted in musical composition. He has written over a hundred gospel songs and has produced 4 CDs so far. He is blessed with a dear wife in Mdm. Emily Tan Lai Kien and three lovely children (Jennifer-14, Benjamin-10, and Stephanie-8).

Please continue to uphold MBS in your prayers and with practical help as we strive to be continually renewed and moving forward. I trust that with God's mercy and grace as well as your blessing, the best for the Seminary is yet to come.

Rev. Dr. Tan Kim Sai
PRINCIPAL

Recently some of us, lecturers from our local seminaries, gathered together and had a good time of fellowship and discussion. We were talking about the training of our students. In the ensuing discussions that followed, one senior lecturer commented in a mixture of exasperation and frustration, "How come some of our students do not seem able to integrate their theology and their everyday lives?"

She went on, "We teach them the doctrine of God and that God is trustworthy and in sovereign control not only of our lives but the universe. Yet issues of trust and dependence upon God remain a major problem. What they were taught and how they live do not seem connected."

I thought about her comments long after our time of fellowship was over. Why the disconnect between theology and experience? We teach that God is loving, merciful and compassionate. Yet for many, the dominant experience of God is that of fear. Mike Mason articulates this feeling well. In his book, *Practising the Presence of People* he wrote:

"For years I had believed in Jesus, worshipped Him, followed Him, even loved Him. But I had never felt we were friends. He was someone who kept me on edge, not someone with whom I could completely relax. Whenever I came to Him, I always felt bad for all the ways my life didn't measure up. Like Peter, I would say in fear, 'go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!' In a sense, instead of inviting Jesus into my life, I kept telling Him to go away. I knew I wasn't good enough for Him and never would be."

Mike Mason knows all the right theology. He knows that it is wrong for him to make himself acceptable before Jesus would receive him. The basis of his relationship and indeed 'friendship' with Jesus is the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Yet knowing that he was saved by Jesus, did not make him feel safe with Jesus. Again we see here the disconnect between theology and experience.

This led me realise that our



FROM THE
DEAN (ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT)

DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE MIND AND THE HEART

feeling, our experience is a truer barometer of our belief system than our ability to rationally spout out our theology. Our head tells us that God loves us and is for us and not against us. Our feeling or emotion tells us "I am not so sure about that!"

The reason is that very often our memories of God's dealing with folks we know and folks that we love tell us that God has abandoned them. Our prayers for deliverance, for healing, for help were ignored. These memories forged out of a myriad of experiences, then create the theology we really believe in our hearts. What we really believe is that "God is not for us but against us." But this belief is embedded in us so subliminally that we are not conscious of it at all. Most of us would recoil in horror and despair if this is pointed out to us. But our feeling, our emotion or better still, our heart do not lie to us. What we really believe in our heart of hearts may not be what we believe in our head.

Similarly, our memories of how people treat us, especially key authority figures like fathers, teachers, pastors may distort our understanding of who God is. If our father is a stern, distant and authoritarian figure, then our mental picture we have of God

our heavenly father is the same!

Hence lecturers in bible seminaries cannot just teach correct theology. Even though the theology we teach is firmly grounded and faithful to Scripture. Like the Puritan pastors in 17th century England, we must also be 'physician of the soul'. We must not only teach our students, we must pastor them and know what is in their hearts.

Moving on, we are really grateful to the good response to our preaching seminar conducted by Rev Cook and Jonathan Dykes from Sydney Missionary and Bible College on 29th June. This is part of our ongoing effort to serve the local churches and our alumni. MBS will continue to be proactive, creative, flexible and responsive to the needs of the local church. Do check out the Masters module for the coming semesters as well as our modules for our church based Theological Education by Extension.

I look forward to your feedback and suggestions. You may email me via tonylim@mbs.org.my.

Rev Dr Tony Lim
DEAN, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



A THIRTY-YEAR JOURNEY

Rev. Loh Soon Choy, Lecturer Emeritus

At last! At 71 going 72, I shall stop being a full-time faculty from January 2010. but it may still not be exactly "So long, farewell..."(like in the Sound of Music) or 'Sayonara'! God willing, I hope it will not be "Retirement" but "Re-tyre-ment" or "Re-fire-ment" – from His ministry but at a slower pace! Perhaps it was prophetically indicated in our last year's 30th Anniversary Souvenir Magazine title that we all are to be "Renewed & Moving Forward" – whether we stay on with MBS or are leaving! Or, as General MacArthur said, "Old generals do not retire. They fade away."

The Dean Dr. Tony Lim gave me the honour to write this article as a sort of 'wrap up' (brief reflection) of my over 30 years' involvement with MBS – 34 to be exact if we counted the pre-inaugural or "protem committee" years for the English Department from 1975. He did not say 'Farewell' or 'Retirement' but 'since you'll be leaving'. Technically all three expressions are correct. Yet 'leaving' also expresses a partial truth as, the Principal Dr. Tan Kim Sai reminded me several times that I am supposed to be still associated with MBS as Lecturer Emeritus (a life-long post-retirement honorific title). Such is the problem of language both to reveal and to conceal! Or is it the Asian – "yin-yang" way that cherishes the 'Yes-and-No? That may not always be helpful because knowing when and how to say Goodbye properly is important both personally and institutionally! As the Dean wisely said, staff and faculty are admitted by the front door, they should exit properly by the front door too! Especially for those who have a founder or pioneer complex!

Some of my thoughts on retirement and farewell were already expressed in our MBS Newsletter March 2007 issue, "Why is it difficult to say Goodbye". Here I have the opportunity to elaborate further.

A 30-year journey – sometimes more like a run – is not a stroll in the park. It spanned three distinct "eras" under three different principals. By God's grace it witnessed a teaching load of many courses (including evening classes) here and in East Malaysia; supervision of theses and graduation papers; participation in many meetings, seminars, conferences, deputation programmes, speaking engagements, mission trips, college functions and retreats. Besides being the first Malaysian Dean, I had also a variety of departmental duties such as being associate dean later, dean of students, director of practical ministries, chapel master, faculty representative to help pioneer the (then called) School of Graduate Studies(SOGS) and even,

at one time, a coordinator for fund-raising! There were many opportunities to pray, worship, work, play, sing, laugh, camp, cook & eat together! There have been a good number of excellent and gifted colleagues and students local and international. We even nicknamed a period the "days of Camelot" and advertised that besides godliness and learning, "At MBS Theology and Rembrandt go together"! We had in earlier days, opportunities for week-end street evangelism, our own Saturday Story Club for our neighbourhood, exorcism of church members by invitation, and "all-night" (half-night) prayer meetings for Council, faculty and staff members!

All these details (and the list can still go on!) – are to illustrate the many, many roles a seminarian can do for the seminary and its precious students besides or as part of the priority roles of teaching, preaching, modelling, mentoring, writing and publishing!

And I must hasten to add that all the above for 30 years would not have been possible without my dear wife, Lydia (the author of "Nine Jewels" published by MBS, 2008) – and my church the PJ Evangelical Free Church.

The journey has also blessed me with three sabbatical study leaves to upgrade myself – respectively in the Philippines, New Zealand and the United States – plus professional consultations, mission trips and working holidays in half a dozen other countries. I was even given a scholarship to do a Ph.D. in Theology on Aberdeen. I declined the offer in favour of a younger candidate as I also believed that we could "upgrade" ourselves sometimes without necessarily doing a Ph.D – hence my reason for mentioning this as a matter of stewardship.

Were there any regrets or discontent? Of course, as that would be usually part or any long journey. Well, as W. E. B. Du Bois says as the first Afro-American Ph. D. from Harvard University and Professor of Sociology in Harvard,

"Education among all kinds of men always has had, and always will have, an element of danger and revolution, of dissatisfaction and discontent" (in his *THE SOUL OF BLACK FOLK*, Barnes & Noble Classics, New York 2003).

I regret that in our Malaysian context, we cannot have a Christian liberal arts seminary or tertiary institution. That would help ensure a more wholistic and complete training of the mind, soul and spirit. As Erasmus said (the man who laid the Reformation "egg"

HAPPENINGS

Round and about MBS



CONGRATULATIONS

CONSECRATION OF ASSISTANT BISHOP

Congratulations to Bishop Melter Jini Tais, MBS graduate (B.Th) 1992 who was consecrated as the Assistant Bishop of the Anglican Church, Sabah on 14th August 2009.



Bishop Albert Vun (left) & Assistant Bishop Melter Jini Tais (right)

THE COUNCIL MEMBERS, FACULTY, STAFF AND GRADUATING STUDENTS OF

MALAYSIA BIBLE SEMINARY

request the honour of your presence at

THE 28TH GRADUATION SERVICE

to be held on Saturday, November 7th, 2009 at 4.00pm

*at the Klang Chinese Methodist Church,
6-A Jalan Mohet, Klang, Selangor.*

Speaker: Rev. Kong Chi Hai

Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Malaysia.

*Love gifts will be channeled to the General Fund.

Fellowship Dinner will be served at the Restoran Taman Rasnah, Jalan Batu Tiga Lama, Klang at 7.00pm.

Admission by coupon. Please contact Mr. Henry Teh for subscription before October 30th, 2009 (Tel: 03-3342 7482)

ENQUIRIES FOR 2010

We welcome enquiries/applications for the following programmes:

Our Undergraduate programmes are Cert. in Biblical Studies (1 yr.); Cert. Th. (2 yrs); Dip. Th. (3 yrs.); and B. Min./B. Th. (4 yrs.). Those with STPM or Pre-U equivalent may be admitted into the B.Th. (honors) Programme.

Our Graduate programmes are the Grad. Dip. C.S. (1 yr.); M. C. S. (2 yrs.); and the M. Div. (3 yrs), for those with a Bachelor degree or equivalent.

The M. Min. is offered part-time on a modular basis (min. 3 years) in combination with appropriate day or evening classes/special modules for B. Th., Grad. Dip. C.S. & M.C.S. programmes.

Special programme: Theological Education Annex is a basic Certificate in Christian Studies (applicant must be at least 18 years old with SPM)

Admissions are also considered at the beginning of each academic semester (January and June) for suitable candidates.

Completed application forms (obtainable from the MBS office registrar) must be sent in to MBS at least 6 weeks before the beginning of each academic semester. Please call the registrar of English Department for more details.

EXTENSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT FOR KUNDANG CAMPUS.

Having received provisional approval for our Kundang Building Plan (as built), MBS has followed-up with an Alteration Plan for extension and renovations to existing premises. Renovations and extension work are expected to begin soon, and the project (including furnishings and fittings) will cost about RM6 million. The Council hopes to raise about RM5 million in terms of donation for the project, and in the mean-time, MBS is also looking for purchasers to our Klang campus consisting of 6 shop-lots and 5 terrace houses. Please pray for us, and help us in whatever way you can in this regard. Thank you.

THE KLANG VALLEY BIBLE CONFERENCE 2009 SPEAKER: BRYAN CHAPELL



EXPOSITORY PREACHING SEMINAR 2009 CHRIST-CENTRED PREACHING

PETALING JAYA

Wednesday & Thursday
7 & 8 October 2009

Dewan Tropicana, Clubhouse
Tropicana Golf & Country Resort
Petaling Jaya

PENANG

Friday & Saturday
9 & 10 October 2009

Wesley Methodist Church
136 Jalan Burmah
10050 Penang

GOD'S GREAT PLAN: EXPOSITIONS FROM DANIEL

Speaker : Bryan Chapell
Date : Tuesday - Thursday
6 - 8 October 2009
Time : 8.15pm
Venue : Tropicana Golf & Country Resort, Petaling Jaya.

For further information, write to:

KLCC Organising Committee
c/o Evangel Book Centre,
No. 31, Jalan SS 2/64, 47300 Petaling Jaya
Email: info@kvbc.info • Website: www.kvbc.info

A THIRTY-YEAR JOURNEY CONT. FROM PAGE 3

that Luther hatched),

"The best way to reform the church was by good scholarship, by a study of the Bible in Hebrew and Greek and by a return to the early church fathers.."

But as Renaissance humanist Christian scholar, he also hastened to add, "Only when humour illuminated the mind did it become truly profound!"

However, as MBS enters into its fourth exciting era, we can take comfort that among our graduates, by His grace, there have been many who are proving to be "living letters" and testimonies for Christ and the transformation power of the Gospel: "letter of recommendation...written on our hearts, known and read by everybody...a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor. 3:1-3 NIV).

MODULAR COURSES 2009

OLD TESTAMENT & MISSION MR. MARTIN GOLDSMITH

Venue : Damansara Utama
: Methodist Church, P. J.
Date : Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2009
Time : 7.30pm-10.00pm (Mon-Fri)

COURSE FEES

Tuition (credit) : RM 200.00
Audit (w/o credit) : RM 100.00
Audit for MBS
Alumni/Student : RM 80.00

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS REV. DR. EDDY HO

Venue : Malaysia Bible Seminary
Date : Oct. 5-9, 2009
Time : 9.00am-5.00pm (Mon-Fri)

COURSE FEES

Graduate : RM 300
Undergraduate : RM 180
Audit : RM 100

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION DR. ANDREW CLARK

Venue : Damansara Utama
: Methodist Church, P.J.
Date : Oct. 19-23, 2009
Time : 9.00am-5.00pm (Mon-Fri)

COURSE FEES

Graduate : RM 300
Undergraduate : RM 180
Audit : RM 100

For registration or enquiries please contact Ms. Anne Lim at Malaysia Bible Seminary 03-33427482 or fax in 03-33412094



MBS 31ST ANNIVERSARY

Cake cutting by MBS Chairman, Prof. Dr. Tan Chong Jin (on the left), Principal Rev. Dr. Tan Kim Sai (centre), Hon. Treasurer, Elder Mok Cheh Liang (on the right)



Choir presentation from the Chinese Department



Speaker: Rt. Rev. Bishop Ng Moon Hing, Bishop, Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia.
Interpreter: Dr. Doris Hoo Lin Hwei.



Tea fellowship after the Thanksgiving Service.



Tea fellowship after the Thanksgiving Service.



Presentation by the English Department.