

**Enabled To Act
Compassion To Serve**

2018 HISTEAM annual report

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

Receiving God's new things

On 9th of May, Malaysia experienced political tsunami, we are so blessed to witness the miraculous work of God in Malaysia history. On the 10th of May, I prayed to God: "Oh Lord! You had overturned a 60-year-old corrupted government; I hereby make another request of miracle, could you please help Malaysian Churches to change her wineskin." Malaysian Churches are in dire need of moving with and obey to God's desire, to allow God to perform new things, so that the Church may be the salt and light, thus regain the power to lead prophetically. As for HISTEAM, I hope we usher the coming of 2020 by listening to God more attentively and wait upon Him, make appropriate alignments in all areas, so that we are parallel with Him. Then we will be prepared to realize God's new thing in His destined season. In these coming two years, HISTEAM will remain faithful to God's given vision and calling; we will make some alignments and be prepared in the following three areas:

1. Strengthen our organization structure and leadership

Thank God for giving us Godly directors and executive committee, they have always been with us in this difficult journey. We have been praying for new directors' candidates from marketplace or pastoral background for these reasons:

- to strengthen our relationship with local churches,
- to strengthen the research and developments of ministries that are under righteousness and mercy wings,
- to strengthen resource development and financial sustainability,
- to strengthen the structure and impact of caring network.

We welcome any like-minded candidate that agrees with our vision to join us.

2. Maximise the impact and power of caring

The two main arms of HISTEAM, 7979 community service and Serve the East (STE) ministry had already worked with over 200 churches to bring Christ's love to the poor in urban and rural setting. We have to make or maintain this network to be stronger and more cohesive, so that everyone in this network will respond as one united body when time comes. It will definitely be helpful in mobilizing our partnering churches to bring hope and love into small towns and cities throughout the country.

3. Boldly embark on a journey of walking with the First Born

This distinctive walk is a walk of Chinese and the First born (Orang Asli/Orang Asal), they will live together therefore forming an integration and making a big leap to both culture. In our two past Holistic Care Conferences, which was held in Sabah (2014) and Sarawak (2018), we had a session of repentance and reconciliation during our opening ceremony. We apologized sincerely to our First Born, to seek their forgiveness for being greedy, selfish, ignorant and proud as Chinese. We discriminate them, rob their land and even slay innocent lives. We hope that from now onwards, with the help of Holy Spirit, Chinese Christians will humbly and meekly carry their cross into the First Born community like a friend or family members.

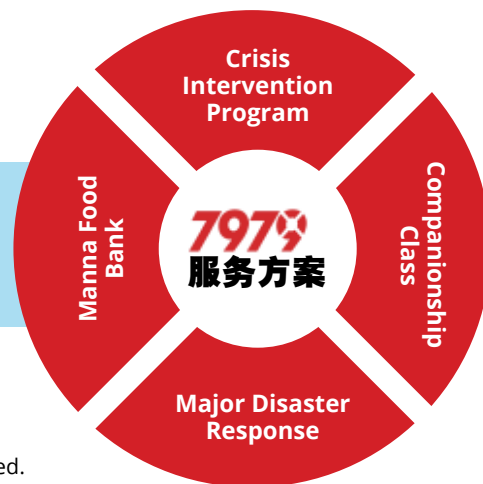
In this walk of Chinese and First Born, we witnessed the naïve faith of first born, their undying hope towards their land, their loving hospitality towards guests, their loving action had touched our hearts and it only make us more determine towards our conviction. If only Chinese Christians are willing to pass down God given anointing in business, generously share our passion for education and abundant resources to our First Born, I believe we will experience the unity of multiracial and culture of Malaysian Churches and the revival that we had coveted. In the month of February, 2018, with the presence of Sabah pastoral leaders, we launched Micah Centre ministry. God has been good to us, He answered our prayers. He brought 7 Chinese teenagers to us to receive 10 months of cross cultural training, to enable them to walk boldly into First Born community, while humbly walking with Jesus.

I am really looking forward to see the new things that God is going to do among Malaysian Chinese churches. With trembling heart, I believe God will make a way in the wilderness and stream in the wasteland so that we may testify His wonderful work and faithfulness.

His servant,
Rev. Andrew Wong, CEO.



7979 Holistic Care Relief Network, (7979, homophonic for “go and save, go and save” in Mandarin) partner with local churches on setting up of 7979 Holistic Care Station, mobilize trained volunteer to serve the poor and needy in the community. 7979 serving the community through the Crisis Intervention Program, Companionship Class, Major Disaster Response and Manna Food Bank.



Partner Churches

Till October 2018, there is a total of 114 7979 Holistic Care stations been established. This year we have new partners include Sibuan and Sarikei in Sarawak and Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

	Kedah/ Perlis	Penang	Perak	KL/ Selangor	NS/ Malacca	Johor	East Coast	East M'sia	Total
Baptist	3	9		3	1			1	17
Methodism			3	2	1	1			7
Presbyterian			2	4	1	11	4		22
AOG	1	2	2	4	3	2	1		15
Lutheranism			2	1				1	4
Christadelphian		1	1	1	2		1	1	7
Basel Mission								8	8
CNEC		1		1		2	2		6
Anglican		1							1
SIB								1	1
Individual/Local		2	1	7	2	5	3	6	26
Total	4	16	11	23	10	21	11	18	114



HISTEAM supports 7979 through three ways: resources sharing, practical training and supporting program.

In order to help partner churches to manage the cases effectively, this year we launched the “Online Cases Management System”. Through the digitalized process of application and record, reduce paper usage, and enable us to response the application in a timely manner. This also enables the volunteers and managers to have easy-access to data and update of cases.

2. Progress of program

a. Crisis Intervention Program

This is 7979 key program. When churches begin to serve the community, we will have an opportunity to help the family in crisis. Through giving out of relief fund, and the use of Blessing Arrival booklet, the volunteers learn to listen, accompany, sharing and bless others, and thus experiencing the love and goodness of God.

The collaboration within the network plays its part. Whenever a family need to be relocated due to medical reason or work, we will refer them to a partner church in that area so that they continue to be taken care of.

b. Companionship Class

In 2018, the number of classes had increased to 25, with a total of 321 primary student, of which 285 is under our aid program. This year we had a major breakthrough, the first non-Chinese church started the class - JB Iban Methodist Church. This is to help many Iban family from Sarawak who is working in JB, so that their children will have a safe and secure place to do their homework.

This program is the most frequent service and with the highest expenditure. Every month we need to subsidy up to RM150 for each child. We really need public support.

c. Major Disaster Response

Disaster could happen anytime across the world, and it's important for us to look into it. Till Oct 2018, we had conducted 17 talks and training across Malaysia, and also established 6 Disaster Response Task Force (DRTF) at Klang Valley, Kuantan, Kota Kinabalu, Muar, Northern Malaysia and Teluk Intan.

Sept 28, when the earthquake and tsunami happened in Sulawesi, the co-workers from our international partner – CCRA were with us. Therefore, we decided to jointly respond to the crisis and work with our partner in Indonesia – PGTI to start a 2 years relief and rebuilding program.



d. Manna Food Bank

After the test run in Penang and Seremban last year, we started another one in Ipoh in July this year. We hope this program will help our partner churches to work together to serve the poorest of the poor in their community.

Area	Participating Church	No of cases
Penang	15	85
Seremban	7	84
Ipoh	3	20
Total	25	189

3. Human Resource

7979 department had recruited another 3 co-workers, making a total of 7. One of them is the area representative based in Penang, serving the churches in Penang, Kedah and Perlis. This is our newly added position.

Sis Crysty Seng from Social Service Section and sis Leong Zheng En from Major Disaster Management Section had left on March and October respectively, thanks both of them for serving for so many years and we wish to bless them all the best in their future undertakings.

Currently 7979 department consists of three major sections:

Social Service Section: Program planning and case assessment.

Resource Management Section: Activity organising and resource inventory.

Disaster Response Section: Response to major disaster and Conduct DRR program.

4. Vision for 2019

Key activity and training for 2019:

1. 7979 Challenger Camp (May 11)

2. Companionship Class Teachers' Training Camp (25th – 27th March 2019)

3. National Volunteer Manager Assembly (8 – 10 September 2019)

Due to the development of Manna Food Bank and the need for larger storage space, we hope to find a warehouse in Klang Valley area.

7979

Crisis Intervention Programme



Ah Mei was admitted in hospital when she met 7979 volunteer who visited an old lady next to her bed, they came forth to greet and show concerned to her. She was deeply touched by their loving kindness.

She was just underwent surgery because of intestinal inflammation, not only having health problem, her marriage was also broken. All these blows had caused her to fall in depression, furthermore she needs to take care of her 90 years old disabled mother and her daughter who also suffered depression. Due to the reason, she couldn't work and in deep financial difficulty.

After three visitation by Seremban Christian Revival center, both Ah Mei and her mother accepted Christ. Her health also keep improving, she gives all glory to God. As for her mother, even though facing some objection from relatives, but her faith never been shaken, she received Jesus as her savior firmly.

Although there are still many family problem remains or unable to change, but Ah Mei choose to trust Lord Jesus.

Data Records (from October 2017 to September 2018)

We served a total of **83 families**, averagely **7 application per month**. Total crisis aid fund release amounted to **RM71,400.00**.

Critical Aid Cases by State

State	No of Cases	%	State	No of Cases	%
Penang	24	28.90	Kedah	1	1.20
Johor	12	14.46	N. Sembilan	13	15.67
Perak	6	7.23	Sarawak	3	3.61
KL / Selangor	15	18.10	Perlis	0	0
Pahang	3	3.61	Terengganu	0	0
Kelantan	3	3.61	Malacca	0	0
Sabah	3	3.61	Brunei	0	0

Total Closed Cases to date: 301

The number of families seeking for help is increasing every year, this reminds the church that we need more volunteers to commit in social welfare works. To equip and prepare volunteers from churches to start critical intervention program and provides care to families, from January to September 2018, we had conducted a total of 13 Basic Volunteer (Visitation) Training Class.

VISION FOR 2019

Churches to help 90 families

Conduct 15 volunteer training class for new partner church

7979TM

Companionship Class



Jon and Reb are Indian siblings that came from a poor family who had 9 children. The elder brother, Jon is in Standard 2 this year, he joined the companionship class since 2017; the younger sister, Reb joined this year when she goes to Standard 1. When they first came into the Companionship Class, probably because of skin colour and language, they dare not engaged with anyone. The younger sister, Reb is a bit reluctant and always ignore teachers, also she is very picky on foods. After patiently teaching and guiding for a period of time, both of them are adapted to the environment of mixing with different race. Recently they joined a camp that organized by the church, they improved tremendously. Not only can play together with other children, Reb also became more discipline, her attitude also changed, more polite and no longer picky on food. Their change in character and habits had pleased all the teachers.

Our target group for companionship class is the children from financially weak family and also single parent family, cross-generation guidance and family with foreign spouses. The class take place at least 4 days a week, every day at least 3 hours, services provided include homework guidance, life education and family care. This year, we had served 321 students nationwide, include 285 aided child, every month we spent about RM40,000.00.

Annual Activities

1. Companionship Class Start-up Briefing

Feb 2 – Lighthouse Community Centre A/G
Apr 21 – Johor Bahru Iban Methodist Church
May 26 – Agape Community Centre Balakong A/G
June 23 – Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre
Oct 7 – Southern Ipoh Presbyterian Church

2. Companionship Class Teachers Training Camp

Mar 19 – 21 – “You are my Joy” 5th Teacher Training Camp
July 21 – Teacher Training Workshop by Dr. Wendy Huang

Our footprint: total of 25 classes

1. Pulau Pinang 3 – Pusat Baptist Permata, Prai Baptist Church, Lighthouse Community Centre A/G*

2. Perak 3 – Elim Gospel Hall, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Pengkalan, Grace Lutheran Church.

3. Johor 10 – Kluang Herald Presbyterian Church, Tabernacle of God, Gereja Presbyterian Air Hitam, Yong Peng Presbyterian Church, Gereja Presbyterian Segamat, HolyWord Church Pekan Nanas, Johor Jaya Vision Church, Chen Li Presbyterian Church, Grace Church Batu Pahat, Johor Bahru Iban Methodist Church*

4. Pahang 2 – GP Kuantan Glorious Grace, Kuantan Praise Christian Church

5. Malacca 1 – Presbyterian Church Malacca

6. Negeri Sembilan 4 – Seremban Gospel Hall, Seremban Praise Sanctuary, Agape Community Centre, Lukut Gospel Chapel*

7. Selangor 2 – First Baptist Church, Agape Community Centre Balakong A/G*

*New centre started 2018

Thanksgiving

On Oct 10, as the teachers from JB area gathered for fellowship, 11 teachers shared honestly about everything that experienced throughout the time that they served the children; there is joy and tears, disappointment, feel of giving up, struggles ...

Yet when they saw the child changed, became more mature, more positive, they knew that all that they did is worthwhile. What amazed the teachers is they also grew together with the child.

At the end of the meeting, the teachers encourage each other, and willing to commit themselves because of the love, they will walk together continually. You are the best.

We also would like to thank all those who had contributed towards the companionship class, your generosity had given this child an opportunity to experience love and care. Thank you.

Vision and Target for 2019

We estimated an increase of 4 – 6 classes. Due to the increase expenditure, we will restructure the program, increase the selection and introduce new methods.

On Mar 25 – 27 next year, we will organize teacher training camp, Mon Q Financial Education Workshop and Children Counselling Class for Teachers.



Due to global warming and climate change, major disaster had been **increasing**. This reminds us the end time is near, are we ready to face the **final judgement** that is in the parable of Sheep and Goat in Matthew 25? To those who are suffering, are we doing our part to extend **our helping hand**?



Major Disaster Management Programme

There is a management cycle in the disaster response. Relief is just a small part, but the rebuilding and mitigation preparation is equally important if not more. **"Would rather be a disaster-free day, can't be not prepared for a day."** This slogan remind us to prepare ourselves well and reduce the negative impact of disaster, then only we can extend our helping hand to others. Church will also be able to connect with community through this, building reputation for future needs.

Thank God that this year more churches, organizations and individuals had seen these need, and try their best to strengthen their capacity for disaster response and preparation.

7979 Disaster Response Plan includes five aspects:

1. Training

Base on the need of churches and communities, we had organized various activities, from one hour awareness talk to eight hours training and educational program.

We had organized 15 trainings from October 2017 to September 2018:

- 7 Awareness Talks (2 hours)
- 5 Awareness Education (4 hours)
- 1 Fire Disaster Awareness (1 hour)
- 2 Volunteer Training (8 hours)

2. Organizing

Till October 2018, we had established 6 Disaster Response Task Force (DRTF) in Klang Valley, Kuantan, Kota Kinabalu, Muar, Northern Malaysia and Teluk Intan. Total members of 92 peoples. Currently we share all the relevant information through Whatsapp Groups.

3. Equipping

As we response to the flood in Penang during September and November 2017, we had set up an tools and equipment storage site in Northern Malaysia to enable us to response immediately when disaster happen in that area. Currently we had the storage sites in KL, Kuantan, Dungun, Segamat and Bukit Mertajam.

4. Drill

This year, we launch the "Table-top Drill", in which different parties are able to assess their current position and improve their weakness. The drill also helps to build communication and understanding between different organization, helping churches and volunteers to make better preparation, equipping them to the best.

- 2 Table Drill at Kuantan (3 hours)

5. Mobilization

In December 2017, we had organize a rebuilding community service in Bukit Mertajam together with local churches. Through exhibition, activities and giving of gift, we build up the relationship with the local community.

In collaboration with oversea partner 1919, we decided to respond to our neighbour's crisis that happened on 28th Sept in Sulawesi.

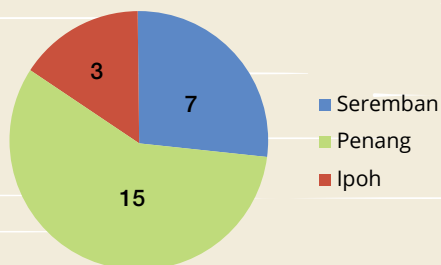
We worked hand-in-hand with local partner PGTI, started a two-year relief and rebuilding program.





The 2018 Manna Food Bank Annual Report on Participating Churches and Cases

2017 & 2018 Participating Churches

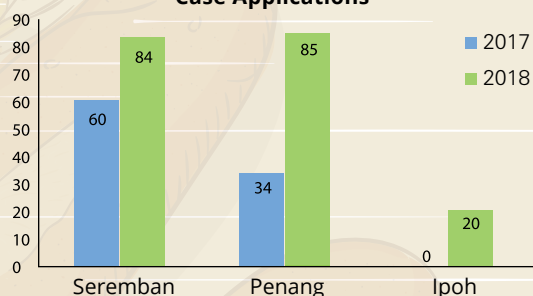


Annual Events

July: The trial run of Ipoh Manna Food Bank: 3 churches participated with 11 cases

July: The 1st Annual Penang Manna Food Bank's Thanksgiving Sharing

The Growth Record of Manna Food Bank's Case Applications



2017 & 2018 The number of new case at Manna Food Bank is 189

A Ministry that is Led by God

Thanks to God's safeguarding and provision, the Manna Food Bank has entered its second year of operation. Along the way, there was no lack of challenges ranging from the need for funding, the purchase of goods, the logistics, and the church's role to visit, assess, and service of cases, which are all indispensable steps. It is heartening, therefore, to see that due to the faithful ministry of partnering churches, the cases have grown from 94 in 2017 to 189 at present – which means, within a year, they have almost doubled. This has realized our goals for 2018. The growth in the number of cases not only testifies the faithfulness of participating churches, but it also demonstrates the dire need for assistance of many more poor families out there which are seeking help. It is believed that the number of families needing assistance will continue to grow. This requires more prayers as well as contributions of money and material supplies to ensure our partners can serve the poor families without any worry.

With our gratitude to God, we opened a new distribution point in Ipoh this year. The existing distribution points for the Manna Food Bank are located in 3 places, namely, Penang, Seremban and Ipoh. Through these 3 distribution points, the ministers from 25 churches serve 189 needy families.

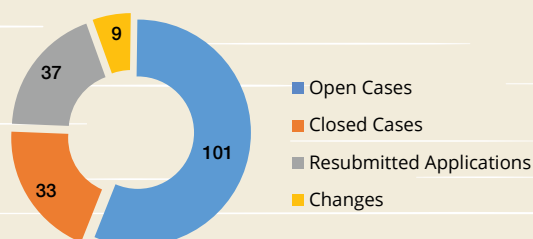
Giving Thanks for God's Grace

With gratefulness for God's grace, we have seen more churches participating in and more cases being served by the Manna Food Bank ministry. Due to the increase in the number of individuals being served and the consequent rise in the amount of goods being purchased, a larger vehicle is required. Our God is Jehovah Jireh and knows our needs. We have been able to purchase a 1mt lorry which can transport a far greater number of food packs.

Outlook for 2019

We hope to be able to promote and develop further in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. We also wish to see that the number of participating churches grows from 26 to 35 and that of the aid cases reaches 250. At present, we still require lots of sponsorship of resources and donations. We are also looking for a suitable warehouse.

Number of Cases



The number of cases being served in 2018 is 101. There are 37 cases reapplied for further assistance, 9 cases stopped and 33 being closed; thankfully, altogether the number of cases being served is 180.



Love in Action The Challenger Camp

The 6th Challenger Camp was held on Saturday 19 May 2018. The purpose is to create public awareness on caring of vulnerable groups and fund raising for 7979 service funds.

This year we went back to Tanjung Sepat again, the whole journey includes 65km cycling and hiking in Bukit Jurga. A total of 37 teams participated, including 2 teams from Penang.

The challenger set off from SJK (C) Tanjung Sepat, passing through Lover's bridge, Malay Village, Morib Beach and Bukit Jurga. Along the beach, the road is rather plain, not really challenging. But as we reached Bukit Jurga, on the journey back to starting point, the challenge began. This night ride is truly a big challenge, tiring and riding in the rain. The participants complete the challenge through the spirit of supporting each other, keep moving forward and persistent till the end.

It is worth mentioning that our friends from Dual Blessing and children from Genpact also joining us this time. They overcome their personal obstacle and complete the challenge with wheel chair.

We thank God for their spirit of persistence and never give up.

The international strategic partner of HISTEAM in Taiwan – Chinese Christian Relief Association organized the 16th 1919 Public Fund Raising Program, calling public to donate and help family in crisis. At 7:30 am on 23rd December 2017, the 1919 pan island cyclist team of 38 warriors begin their 15-day journey of about 1,500km. The ride ends on 6th January 2018. Our director Mr Wong Chai Soon together with his family participate in the ride and raised RM32,219,86 for 7979.

This year (2018), our CEO Rev. Andrew Wong will become one of the rider, from December 2018 to January 2019, 15 days riding through Taiwan. Apart from various challenge on climate changes and journey, the most important things is he will visit churches and listen to their testimony on social care.

Rev. Andrew will raise the fund for 7979 to enable our churches to continue support the community through Crisis Intervention Program, Companionship Class, Major Disaster Response and Manna Food Bank.

We urge everyone to pray and support us, together let us serve the community and transform the community.



timeline 2018



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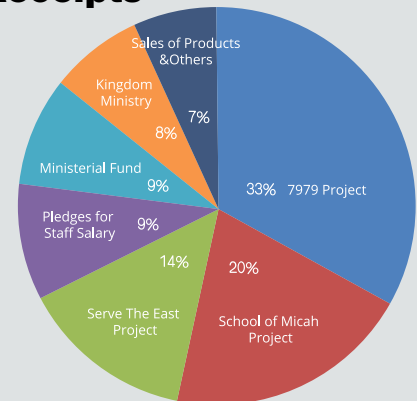


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Financial Report

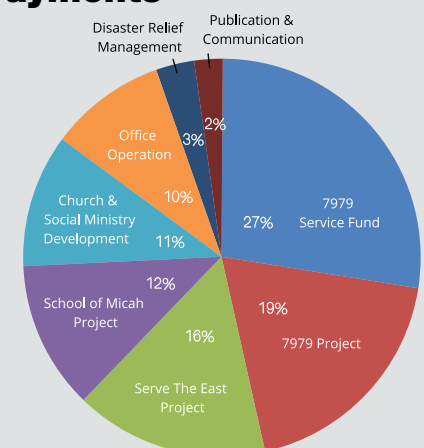
for the period Jan-Jun 2018

Receipts



7979 Project	RM	360,314.86
School of Micah Project	RM	218,832.50
Serve The East Project	RM	155,140.00
Pledges for Staff Salary	RM	102,020.00
Ministerial Fund	RM	95,645.39
Kingdom Ministry	RM	80,810.55
Sales of Products&Others	RM	74,087.15
		RM 1,086,850.45

Payments



7979 Service Fund	RM	243,713.18
7979 Project	RM	168,005.24
Serve The East Project	RM	137,486.93
School of Micah Project	RM	107,403.72
Church & Social Ministry Development	RM	96,138.32
Office Operation	RM	85,498.04
Disaster Relief Management	RM	27,894.48
Publication & Communication	RM	19,216.54
		RM 885,356.45



1. 19 May The 6th 7979 Love In Action Challenger Camp
2. 4 Apr SOM starting day!
3. 7 Apr Social Care Workshop
4. 13 Apr SOM Open Day

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5. 19 May The 6th 7979 Love In Action Challenger Camp
6. June 7979 1st Truck of Manna Food Bank
7. 14 July 7979 Manna Food Bank 1st Distribution in Ipoh
8. 21 July 7979 Training Workshop - Dr. Wendy Huang

8



9. 19 August Justice Initiative Movie Day Wawa No Cidal (太阳的孩子)
10. 12-15 Sept 3rd Malaysian Christian Holistic Care Conference "The Greatest Impact"
11. 14 Sept CEO's new book Launching in Kuching
12. 29 Sept Social Care Workshop

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13. Sept Serve the East Short Mission Trip
14. 25 Oct Justice Initiative: A Dialogue with Professor Tan Chong Tin
- 15&16. Nov Serve the East Mission Trip

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Third Malaysian Christian Holistic Care Conference **The Greatest Impact**

By Pastor  Liu Min



This conference was held in Kuching Trinity Methodist Church on September 12-14, 2018. A total of near 400 participants from Malaysia, Taiwan, China, and Brunei participated in the event.

From the speakers' lineup to the activities planned, it can be seen that this conference was carefully planned and it mobilized a lot of volunteers to work unanimously. As emphasized by Rev. Andrew Wong, this conference hopes to facilitate the unity of churches and Christian organizations and also the unity of churches of East and West Malaysia. During the opening ceremony, after the ribbon was pulled, the theme "The Greatest Impact" was revealed. It encouraged the participants to enter into the community to bear the hardship together and to support each other. West Malaysia's representative acknowledged the past exploitation of the East Malaysia compatriots and the silence under an unjust system. They seek forgiveness from the churches of East Malaysia. **East Malaysia's representatives** forgave and accepted the apologies in order to live out the essence of "restore the relationship and be united". This process left a lot of participants in tears.

Rev. Mark Shia from Taiwan (theme speaker), pointed out that churches have to live out the life of salt and light, to bring positive impact to the community and to let our neighbours feel the existence of the church is a good news. Then continue to implement the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and restore the image of mankind's original beauty. Rev. Kang Don Jin from Korea shared his personal experience and vision of revival. Together with his 2 friends, they entered into the countryside. They engaged and experienced the hard work and frustration of the farmers. Subsequently, they are filled by the Holy Spirit, comprehended the secret of farming and helped the farmers to be profitable in their farming. Now, the technique is spread to many countries and it becomes a blessing to others.

Y. B. Baru Bian, our current Works Minister shared how he fights for the land rights of the Orang Asal and Dr Paul Sinnappan shared

how he helps Indians living under the poverty line to come out from poverty through the credit union. He taught the young women how to start saving even though their salary is low by giving them education, care and counselling. Now, this program is implemented in over dozens of villages and it helps thousands of Indians to graduate from college and contribute back to the society. The funds managed by the cooperatives even exceed RM100 million. Through all these true stories, if someone is willing to live out Christianity and dedicate to the society, he/she can be a great influence.



讲员陈心洁博士与听众互

Besides that, Dr Rachel Ting shared about "Emotional health and spiritual growth". Rev. Chomy Ching, Rev. Andrew Wong and Dr Lee Mee Onn shared about "Collaboration between churches and organizations in the implementation of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment". They brought out the message of the same faith and calling of churches and seminaries, but both parties had different roles and functions to achieve the same goal. Everyone agreed that church

is the body of Christ and where Christians worship, grow and implement the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Organizations are the support units which support the churches professionally in its uniqueness. Seminaries play the role of training workers and upholding God's truth.

There are workshops for the participants to participate, e.g. "Aging population and their well-being", "Rural poverty and alleviation strategy", "Broken family and relationship reconciliation" etc.

Right after the conference, from the evening of 14th to the noon of the next day, the first Chinese Global Leadership Summit was held at Sarawak Blessed Church. The summit was led by Rev. Mark Shia, Rev. Andrew Wong and Bro. Wong Chai Soon. From the screen, the congregation watched how international leaders devote themselves by caring for the disadvantaged group, extending justice, and developing others potentially. They acknowledged, their biggest influence is from Jesus Christ. About 2,500 people attended the evening session, many were encouraged and lives transformed. I believe these changes will extend to their daily life and bring greater impact to society.



参与者在工作坊积极讨

Serve the East



Mission exposure trip (2 times)

5th to 7th of March (Ranau, Sabah)

Participated by 6 brothers and sisters from a church in Johor Bahru. They served in two villages and led the spiritual revival meetings in the evening. Through their testimonies on how the Lord has helped them to overcome drug addiction, quit smoking and stop gambling, they reminded the local churches that nothing is too difficult for the Almighty God.

17th to 19th of September (Sarawak)

In conjunction with the 3rd Malaysian Christian Holistic Care Conference which was held in Kuching, we worked together with the Malaysian International Christian Mission in organizing a short visit and mission trip to the aboriginal village. The 22 brothers and sisters from peninsular who participated in the mission trip were divided into two teams and served among the longhouses Iban community about three hours away from Kuching.

Sis Liao Nan Hiong

I would like to thank God for healing me from Meniere's disease (ear fluid balance disorder) within two days. There wasn't any discomfort throughout the entire visit and mission trip and I managed to overcome the flight, poor weather and hilly road. One amazing feeling I had throughout the trip was the closeness we had. We didn't know each other, but we were closely knitted as we have the same belief. We are family in Christ, regardless of regions, races, languages and that's amazing.

Sis. Puah Sor Nee

My role in this exposure trip was to pen down all the beautiful testimonies. We interviewed a young girl with arthritis during the first night, simple faith she has in God has encouraged me to have stronger faith in Him. The second night, the local church we attended presented certificates to members who have completed a bible study course, and majority of the recipients are elderly brothers and sisters. Their eagerness in learning has reminded me to continue learning, and continue to be equipped in truth.

Short mission trip (two times)

28th of April to the 4th of May (Ranau, Sabah)

In conjunction with the Community Health Education course organised by the **School of Mission**, we led a group of 7 students who had gone through 4 months of training to visit 2 villages for a field trip and to build closer relationships with the community as they will be doing their 3 months practical in those villages. It was their first time travelling through hilly roads in four-wheel drive. It took us five hours to reach our destination, and we spent a few days there without electricity and internet. The students were excited about the amazing scenery, fresh air, kind villagers, cute children, etc. Through communication with the mummies, snail hunting with the kids, and meals at the local stall (warong) with the locals, the students managed to understand a little bit of the local culture and challenges they are going through. It was a good start for them.

1st to 8th of November (Ranau, Sabah)

7 brothers and sisters from Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur participated in this short mission trip. We give thanks for having a doctor in the team, which allowed us to organize a medical outreach. According to our coworker, there are quite a number of the villagers who suffer from gastric due to uncertain mealtime. Indeed, we got to know the locals better through medical outreach, and show our care towards their family members through visitations after that. Besides that, we managed to organize a children camp during the Deepavali school holiday. We exposed the children to different occupations and let them acted out the occupation they wanted to be.

Educational Empowerment Programme (REEP)

Rural Companionship Class

We started two companionship class in two villages within Kudat this year. We have about 50 students in total, including the one in Ranau. Teaching materials are limited in those villages. Hence, we supplement them with teaching material of the Rural Education Empowerment Programme by NECF to improve the English and Mathematics standards of the local children.

2019 Action Plan

Mission exposure trip (3D2N)

4th to 6th Mar: Open for registration (1 seat left)

8th to 10th Aug: Open for registration

Short mission trip

30th of Apr to 6th of May: Open for registration (2 seats left)

31st of Oct to 8th of Nov: Open for registration





Social concern education

By anna seow



Disabled Caring Ministry Workshop

Date: 29th September 2018 (Saturday)
Time: 9am to 5pm
Venue: Luther Centre, Petaling Jaya

Dr Pang Jee Ching, who has 20 years of experience, explained to us about the types of special child, characteristics of learning disability, the needs of the special child, ways of getting the right supporting resources,

and ways of determining if a child is indeed a special child. Besides Dr Pang Jee Ching guided the attendees in understanding the obstacles experienced by special needs children in reading, writing, listening, and recognition, through various kinds of activities. Lastly, she encouraged us to assist the special child in registering to the Ministry of Social Welfare in order to enjoy the education and healthcare benefits.



We have invited Rev Ong Bee Ling, to share her experience in taking care of her own special child. In her sharing, she mentioned "There will always be sadness, discouragement, and anger in the process of cultivating and accompanying the eldest son. When you are sad, allow yourself to cry, when you have no energy, get recharged. But, you cannot give up. This is because special needs children are made in the image of God, just that they are special than other ordinary children. As parents, we must appreciate who they are and accept the fact that they are different from other children.

Social Concern Education and me

Micah 6:8 tells us that God wants us to act justly and to love mercy, which is in line with the concept of social concern education. Besides, God cares about the balance between the

be able to solve the problem on the surface, but not at its roots. Besides, the untrained caregivers might not understand the extent of their responsibility in helping the help-seeker, which might cause the help-seeker and the society to lose confidence in the organization and ultimately tarnish the organization's reputation.

Great Commission and the Great Commandments. The Great Commission emphasizes that we must go and make disciples, while the Great Commandments emphasize on loving God and men. How do we love God and men, and at the same time preach the gospel to the communities we are in contact with? We can only put all these into practice through social concern ministry. Constant change can be seen through globalization, whereby the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, the number of the urban poor population is raising, even the rural communities are experiencing the effect of secularization. Christians equipped with social concern education are needed urgently, to be the light and salt of the community and to make a change.

In short, social concern education can increase the competency level of caregivers. As Christian caregivers, we should open up our hearts to learn as this will allow us to provide professional service to society and to adopt appropriate strategies. This will improve the standard of service provided and to gain a good reputation and respect.

Malaysia has gradually valued the development of social work education. In 2010, the Cabinet summited a memorandum of Social Workers Bill through the Malaysia Social Workers Association and has planned to regulate the professional standards of social workers. It is expected that the new government will pass this bill soon, which might make it compulsory for all caregivers to receive formal social work education.



Social concern education has not been popularized in Malaysia, and there are very few well equipped Christian social workers available too. Hence, when someone in need approaches any NGO consisting of unskilled and untrained caregivers, the organization might

I sincerely hope that churches can value social concern education, as it helps to draw a closer relationship between churches and the community. With that, the co-workers of churches and NGO will be able to provide professional caring service to the society and give glory to God.

Student testimony

The two weeks course conducted in MBS has brought to me a new understanding about social work. From the lectures on "Community Work and Development", I learn the framework to start community work. Some common mistakes many social workers have made include justifying social needs based on personal view and measure the communities' standard of living based on our own sets of values. For example, we believe that lack of money and low income define poverty, but one might not be poor just because of these two criteria. They could have been poor because of the way they live their daily lives, their attitudes. Community development is not about determining social needs from our own point of views, but to understand the needs of the particular community and work on it accordingly.

"Social Work Structure and Competency" is another important subject covered. It helps us to be professional in their judgments and in solving each case. The lecturer is experienced; hence, he managed to provide us with real-life examples for discussion. This allowed us to identify social problems professionally and to solve each problem while ensuring the well-being of each individual involved. Learning through discussion as such has enhanced our understanding. We have learnt many new things through this course, and we are still trying to digest some of it.

Chen Xiang Li



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2. 协助教会开拓社区关怀外展事工并探讨可行的模式
3. 装备华人基督徒回应蒙神爱人的大使命与达成关怀宣教的大使命

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文/黄建民

Justice a dialogue with *Initiative Group* **PROFESSOR DATO' DR. TAN CHONG TIN**

We would like to express our thanks to Professor Dato' Dr. Tan Chong Tin who graciously led us in a guided reading of Joseph E. Stiglitz's masterpiece, "The Price of Inequality", which was published in 2012. By abstracting and elucidating the core messages of the book succinctly, Professor Tan explored with us Stiglitz's biting criticism of the inequality of the economic structure of the American society.

In his book, Stiglitz pointed out that America is a very unequal society in terms of income distribution and opportunities access. He cited an example where, in the year 2012, the richest 1% of Americans own over 30% of the nation's wealth; 30 years prior to that, the figure was merely 12%. Stiglitz also showed that the income disparity between a CEO of a large corporation and that of a typical worker is 200 times, but 25 years ago, the ratio was 30 times, and Japan's figure is only 16 times.

Stiglitz argued that rent-seeking or the rent-seeking behavior is the fundamental reason why the American society is so unequal. This rent-seeking phenomenon refers to situation in which the government and businesses conspire to monopolize the market to maximize profits, institute protectionist tariffs to ward off competition from imported products or to exploit the country's primary products and resources by allowing the businesses to purchase these at unfairly favorable prices and under unjustly advantageous terms and conditions. These phenomena also extend to situations where the patent rights over certain products are manipulated and where equipment with inflated prices is sold to the government. All these shenanigans happen without any intervention from government policies. As a result, societal inequality reflects on the policy failure of the American government.

This phenomenon of inequality has negated the assertion of the great Capitalist thinker Adam Smith who argued that when everyone works for his or her own self-interest, the market will have an "invisible hand" that will lead the entire group of market participants toward an equilibrium of collective happiness. In reality, however, to build an equal society requires the proactive intervention of good government policies. Stiglitz opined that the American taxation policies favor the rich such that the average tax rate of the super-rich is often lower than that of an average taxpayer. In 2007, the top 400 wealthiest Americans have an average tax rate of 16.7% while the average tax payer's rate is 20.4%. This is due to the reduction of the capital gain tax and the salaries of the top 400 wealthiest Americans which only account for a mere 8.8% of their total income while capital gains and interest earnings due to stock holdings form 73% of that, which is taxed at a very low rate.

Why is such an unfair policy to the common people being implemented in America which prides itself for upholding a Democratic society? Stiglitz believes that the 1% special interest group representing rich businessmen has succeeded in leading and shaping the mainstream public opinions. The mainstream economic theories postulate that every man has clear and rational preferences, expectations and views. However, this is not true. The public's views are usually formed from intuitive perception, and intuitive perception is susceptible to being affected and moulded; the collective view of any group of people can be influenced, gradually altered and formed. In America, the common public opinion and perception about the high salaries of Chief Executive Officers are that they are based on the "immense contributions" to the society of such executives; and therefore, the high salaries meant to spur them to continue to contribute to the society are "fair".

Through the lens of Stiglitz's masterpiece, Professor Tan reflected on the Malaysian society and its phenomenon of economic inequality. He used the Gini Index (The Inequality of Household Incomes) to point out that Malaysia is currently at 42%, ranking together with China, Peru and many African countries as countries with inequality in economic distribution. Often, discussions about equality in society in Malaysia only revolve around and focus too much on inter-ethnic inequality. The country's main policy in this respect is the New Economic Policy (NEP) which primarily addresses the inequality among different races. However, some recent research has pointed out that, at present, the most neglected and disadvantaged groups of people in Malaysia are actually the natives and the Indians in both the East and Peninsular Malaysia, and not the Malay community in the Peninsular Malaysia. He argued that it was the implementation of the NEP that is the main reason for the existence of the rent-seeking phenomenon in Malaysia. Corruption reflects the seriousness of the collusion between politicians and businessmen. The problem of corruption in Malaysia is indeed very grave. Among the 168 countries investigated internationally, Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranking is 55.

In regard to a proposal by the Justice Initiative Group, Professor Tan encouraged everyone to focus on exploring the biblical notions of justice and righteousness, and its perception and awareness in the Christian life, so as to build values based upon a sense of an earthly vocation with a heavenly mission, righteousness and integrity, and promote the awareness of justice. He quoted the Book of Isaiah 30:18 as an example and explained that God's compassion is a reflection on his righteousness. Therefore, pursuing righteousness and embracing compassion in works of mercy and care is not merely a precursory ministry to the spreading of the Gospel, it is also a demonstrative act highlighting God's righteousness and compassion.

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Micah Centre was officially commenced in the month of April. Our first batch of students consists of 7 aged in between 17 to 20 youngsters, coming from Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Sarawak, and Sabah. To stay at a place like Micah Centre is a great challenge for these city teens. They have to adapt the village simplicity lifestyles: no mobile phone coverage, use rainwater, learn to cook, wash clothes and cleaning. It also comprises of daily fix devotional time, this is to help them to have good habit and foundation to become Jesus' humble disciples.

For the first 4 months, the students will receive cross-cultural discipleship and equipping. This is a holistic equipping in the areas of spiritual life, character, bible knowledge, theological foundation, and cross-cultural ministering skills and knowledge. This is to prepare them for the next stage of training that is to live among and serve the Firstborn in rural villages. Our training program consists of: spiritual discipline and character building, encountering with God, spiritual gifts and application, discover God's calling, foundation of Christian belief, principles of cross-culture, the Great commission and Commandment, social justice, creation care, the rights of Firstborn, natural farming, health and hygiene knowledge, rural community development, financial planning, children evangelism and discipleship, etc.

were divided into boys and girls separately, moved into the "Orang Asal" (indigenous) community for 3 months practicum. The girl's team mainly served in these areas: 3 days in a week of companionship class, organize youth motivational camp, teach adult health and language class, leaders family altars, children evangelistic meeting and home visitation. They also preached in worship service. As for the boy's team, they mainly served in these areas: children companionship class, secondary students' tuition, Sunday School, share testimonies, lead youth discipleship class and children evangelistic meeting.

At the end of 3 months of practicum at the village, they are assigned to different *Orang Asal* ministry or organization as volunteer for 1.5 month. They will be exposed to more systematic or professional services in serving the indigenous community: social economic model, rural preschool education and secondary school's hostel ministry.

In their final month, they will be traveling as a team to different part of Malaysia to share their testimonies of 9 months of cross culture experience and discipleship journey, how they experience transformation and growth, how to live humbly among the firstborn, and how to be disciple of justice and mercy.

Liong Z-anne

This period of learning and ministering has transformed my thinking, expanded my vision and transformed my kingdom perspective. It challenged me to adjust my life direction, in this end time, I want to be more involved in God's ministry. Finally, I discover my life goal and calling here.

Tan Xin Yee

Other than learning some spiritual and biblical knowledge, I come to know many organizations and ministries that serve the *Orang Asal* community in different areas. I see their positive attitude and dedication toward underprivileged *Orang Asal* community.

Toh En Ci

At Micah Centre, I'm being equipped to serve the Firstborn of this land. However, it ended up I'm being served by them more than I serve them. In this process, I learned to use God's love to love those who are different from me in race, culture, and language.

Tan Qiu Shun

In these 3 months of serving in *Orang Asal* community, I saw many "Ibu" (mothers) live out a life of giving and share with others their belonging. They are not giving out of plenty but out of lacking.

Joseph Pei

This period of time living and serving in *Orang Asal* community, I learned to be tolerated and patient. I also learned from them to be not calculative. I felt so proud of and have respect for them. The most important thing is I found that my relationship with God is closer now.

Albert Chang

In this period of equipping, I saw the difficult and challenging life of *Orang Asal*, I see my role in helping them especially in building their spiritual life. In these 3 months of practicum among the *Orang Asal*, I have to build a good relationship with them. I introduced and shared with them the good God I know.

Gavril Lo

In these periods of equipping, it is God who wants me to seek Him, to seek my destiny and life's goal. Here, I found God and got to know Him more, and discovered my life calling. In the process, He continues to shape and mould me to be a suitable vessel for His usage.

After completing the first 4 months, the students



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