

New Vision, New Dynamism, New Campus

Greetings in the name of our Lord! As the new principal of MBS, I
would like to represent the seminary to say a BIG thank you to your
unceasing support in the past, and I do hope that our partnership in

unceasing support in the past, and I do hope that our partnership in Christ will be strengthened further as we serve the Lord faithfully in 2010. It is my pleasure to share with you some of my aspirations as to how MBS can be a great blessing to the students, faculty and staff.

1 EMPHASIS ON PRAYER FOR RENEWAL IN SPIRITUAL LIFE

As an interdenominational seminary, we indeed need our Lord's mercy and grace, and the support of brothers and sisters in local churches and beyond in other parts of the world. Thus, in my capacity as the new Principal, I called for three days of fasting and prayer amongst the faculty members on Jan. 6-8, 2010. We thank the Lord for our supporters who not only provide for us in terms of finance, but also uphold us in their prayers. We trust that the Lord will continue to bring renewal of spiritual life in our midst as we humble ourselves and pray.

2 CULTIVATING A LOVING AND CARING COMMUNITY

MBS believes in cultivating a close fellowship amongst faculty, staff and students by means of prayer and practical care for one another. This will form the foundation of our spirituality as a witness for the Lord in Matrysia.

3 EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC COURSES AND EDUCATIONAL METHODS

The mission of MBS is to prepare well-trained pastors and missionaries for churches. Thus, all lecturers are required to teach in their respective fields (biblical, theological and pastoral courses) with competence. Beginning from this year, there will be an evaluation of all existing courses. We encourage our lecturers to further their research and publish their findings. Besides the faculty of MBS, we will continue to invite reputable, international scholars in various academic disciplines as our guest lecturers for modular courses.

4 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Praise God for blessing MBS with a strong faculty team. At present, we have in total 17 full-time lecturers in both the Chinese and English Departments. We especially thank Dr. Tan Kim Sal for his continuous service in MBS as the Residential Research Scholar after retiring from Principalship.



We also thank God for providing us with new lecturers. For the English Department, we have Dr. Roger Senior from UK, Elder Jack Mock from Sydney, and Mr. Tan Geok Hock, an alumnus of MBS.

5 CURRICULUM REVISION AND NEW PROGRAMS

Praise the Lord that since 2009, we have two new graduate programs in the Chinese Department, namely, Master of Divinity with emphasis in Mission, and Master of Ministry in Family Ministries. The latter program is in partnership with the Family Keepers international. In addition, we are in the process of working out the possibility of introducing the Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry with a reputable seminary atroad, and hopefully, these programs will be introduced in 2011.

Likewise, in the English Department, two new programs have also been introduced in 2009: Master of Ministry with special emphasis on "Making Sense of the Market Place," and Theological Education Annex which is a church based program in theological education for church members MBS has agreed to assist the Maktab Alkitab Sabah (MTS), the theological college of SIB at Ranau, with its upgrading of Bachelor of Theology program as part of an on-going partnership with SIB (Sabah).

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From the Dean

Conspiracy of Grace

In my first editorial I emphasised that MBS is not a cemetery. Rather it is a greenhouse, birthing many ministries and programmes that will help us make a difference in the training and equipping of pastors, missionaries and Christian leaders in Malaysia and in Asia.

However it is also my prayer that MBS be known as a community of grace.

A safe place for students to remove their masks and be themselves. A place where they are known personally by name and where they are unconditionally loved, mentored and nurtured to be more and more like Christ.

Seminaries can be difficult, lonely, competitive, dog eat dog places. Under the pressures of weekend ministries and the stress of maintaining a good GPA, spirituality, love, kindness and (heaven forbid!) Christ likeness can go out the window. We do not want that ever to happen at MBS. Instead I pray that we will be a community where all our students are recipients (not victims) of a conspiracy of grace.

Let me share this delightful story with you so that you understand what I mean by a conspiracy of grace:

"It was the area Little League championship game. The stands were packed full with families of each of the players. The game was a nail biter. The final play of the match was about to begin.

A fittle boy with his large family watching from the stands, stood alone at the vast baseball diamond, waiting to bat. The bases were loaded, with two out. If he made an out, the game would be over and his team would lose. If he walked or hit the ball, he would be the hero of the game. His team would have won.

Guess what? He missed the first, the second and the third pitch. He was out!

The opposing team went crazy, their family members swarmed on to the field and everyone was dancing, laughing, cheering and celebrating.

As for the little boy, he was still standing at the plate, devastated, alone, his head down in diagrace. Suddenly someone yelled, 'Okay, let's play ball'. Startled the little boy looked up to see his family spread out over the field. Grandpa was pitching, Dad was catching, Mum was at first base. Under David was at second and the rest of the family had covered the other positions.

Before the little boy knew what was happening a wonderful game of baseball was on! And you know what? When the time came for the little boy to bat, he didn't miss!

One person who was watching this amazing event commented to a friend, "I watched a little boy fall victim to a conspiracy of grace!"

The little boy, the loser, who struck out, failed his team, disappointed his family, went from loser to hero. The little boy who would have been left with the awful memory of his past failures, was instead given a memory of grace, love and acceptance."

(Adapted from an account given by Mike Yaconelli in his book, Messy Spirituality. Christianity for the rest of us.)

How wonderful if MBS and our churches were communities of grace. Won't you join me in praying that this will happen?

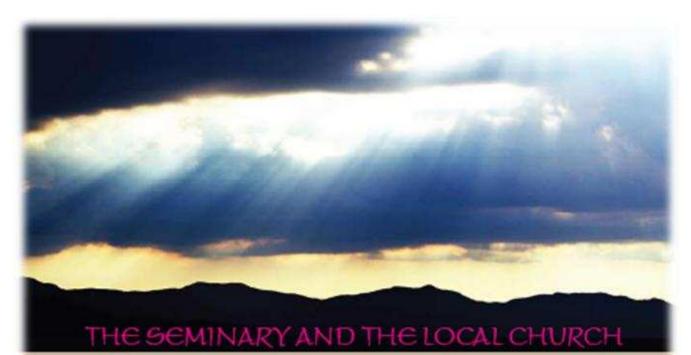
In His America Grace.

REV DR TONY LIM

Dean, Bughah Department

MOS





The local church is very important in the Scriptures. It is the assembly of God's people for mutual edification (I Corinthians 14) and encouragement (Hebrews 10:25). It is the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27) and the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-33) expressed in a local setting. The seminary, on the other hand, is unknown in the Bible and so is not a theologically necessity. Therefore the seminary must be there to serve the church and not the converse.

The Spirit tells us in Ephesians 4:11-12 that God gifts his church with various word gifts to equip his people for the work of ministry.

Word Ministers (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers) + Equip the saints + Ministry

Our initial expectation on reading this is that every church will be given the gifts for these things. Further reflection however, shows us this is not necessarily the case. The apostles, for instance, could not have been in every church in their time. Therefore it is conceivable that some word ministers equip God's people in more than one local church.

If you put together a team of servants of Jesus Christ who seek to serve his church by equipping God's people for works of service - and the intention of this ministry is to serve more than one local church - you have the functional marks of a seminary. The team of servants who are gifted in word ministry train people from different churches in that ministry so that they in turn can equip the saints in their own churches for a variety of ministries.

Seen this way, a seminary is primarily its faculty – the team who are doing the equipping. Everything else that happens in the seminary is to facilitate their work of equipping the saints for ministry in the churches. This should be reflected in the priorities of the seminary. A seminary is only ever as good as its faculty – measured by their usefulness to the local church.

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THE FACULTY SERVES THE LOCAL CHURCHES IN 3 MAIN WAYS:

Firstly, faculty members train and equip leaders to serve the churches. They must therefore be competent in the word and good at ministry themselves. This doesn't mean they need to be experts in every area of ministry. But the heart of ministry is speaking the truth in love: teaching and proclaiming God's Spirit-inspired Word in the context of relationships. Faculty members need to excel at both truth and love in order to be effective in training those they serve directly. Furthermore, they need to seek to reproduce these characteristics in the lives of the people they train so that they in turn are able to train others in local churches. That is why good seminary lecturers are good pastor-teachers. We must avoid the temptation of looking for lecturers whose passion is purely academic and don't have the heart to love and equip God's people.

Secondly, faculty members are to defend the centrality of the Gospel in the seminary and the church. There is an often quoted illustration that one generation proclaims the Gospel and keeps it central. The next generation believes the Gospel but something else takes centre stage. They assume the Gospel, but they are really passionate about something else. That 'something else' may not be bad thing and often is something quite positive. But the next generation are in danger of holding fast to that 'something else' and losing the Gospel. Seminary faculty members need to keep on reminding each other and their students about the centrality of the Gospel. This needs to be both consciously articulated and generally modelled. A Gospel-centred hermeneutic needs to be employed when coming to the Scriptures and Gospel centred sermons exemplified. Students need to be taught to think about everything in life and ministry from the Gospel outwards. Students who are shaped by a seminary where the Gospel is central will serve their churches by keeping the Gospel central there.

Thirdly, faculty members are to be alert for false teaching. We have been warned many times that false teachers will arise from among us. Seminaries can either be a bulwark against this or be the door by which these teachings enter the church. Liberalism infected many churches over the years through the seminaries. On the other hand, faculty members who hold fast to the word of truth are able to identify, warn about and seek to refute false teaching. Faculty members should be prepared not only to identify and refute the heresies of yesterday but, more importantly, the heresies of tomorrow which we have not heard of yet. This sounds negative but it is actually love in action. The seminary serves the church by warning her against being led astray.

Faculty who are useful to the local church therefore are those who are godly, who are firmly centred on the Gospel of Jesus and are faithful to him, who love God's people and have both the necessary knowledge and skills to teach them and who are able to think clearly and critically under the authority of God's Word, Academic qualifications therefore are only a part of what makes a good faculty member. It is not only the faculty who are doing this word ministry in the seminary. The students, equipped by the faculty, are also meant to be teaching each other by speaking the truth to each other in love

Faculty > Equip the students > ministry (muth in love).

Thus, a community is formed that builds itself up in love, exemplifying the desired outcomes in the local church.

Since Christian ministry is about speaking the truth in love, understanding and applying God's word is core in the curriculum. The 3 keys areas that must therefore be prioritised are Biblical Studies (especially exegesis), Biblical theology (which shows how the Bible is a unified story control on Christ) and Doctrine (systematic theology). These will be more important to the local church in the long term than the many subjects they may be clamouring for today. Seminary graduates must have the tools, skills, humility and confidence to handle the Bible rightly - understanding each passage in the context of the whole of God's revelation which culminates in Jesus. A seminary that regularly graduates students who cannot properly handle the God's Word or think theologically has failed - no matter how much they may know about other things.

The seminary is a partner and servant of local churches. Churches 'outsource' some of the equipping ministry of the church to the seminary faculty. The seminary is also a defender of the truth in the wider Christian community. The seminary exists, not for itself but for the glory of God, exhibited as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully proclaimed and lived out in the local church.

ANDREW CHEAH

Is on the ministry team at St, Mary's
Anglican Cathedral where he pastors
the SMACC (contemporary)
congregations at Bataran Merdeka
and the Ascended Christ Anglican (ACA)
church in Ampang.
He is also on the leadership teams
of the Gospel Growth Fellowship (GGF)
and the Mang Valley Sible Conference
(KVBC).

Imaging God at Work

In the evening of 24th February this year, a group of senior business people and academics met up for dinner and discussions at the elegant apartment of one of the CEOs in the group. Present were Rev Dr Tony Lim and Dr Mark Lovatt from MBS, along with others of a small group which has been meeting over the past few months to discuss the opportunity of providing practical and theological input for people in the marketplace at a senior level. There is a clear need for such support: many of the business people we have interviewed talk about the isolation and demands of living out their faith in the marketplace, and the need for fellowship and guidance as they walk this journey. It is our group's intention to provide such resources, encouraging and strengthening them as they walk with God and use Biblical principles to meet the challenges of the marketplace with integrity.

Central to the programme is the concept of 'Imaging God' in business. This is the approach that to live most completely we should reflect our true nature as created in the image of God (Gen. 1, 26-28). This true self, who we were made to be, is composed of a set of elements which reflect God in his true nature: relational, passionate and creative, and with a strong sense of justice, of right and wrong. It is when we reflect God's image that we are most truly ourselves and most fully alive. The Imaging God project recognises this and seeks to apply it to our day-to-day working lives.

How is this done? Simply by the application of the qualities of God into daily working practices.

For example, the creativity of God, the Creator, can be reflected by giving people the opportunity to be creative in their work. Many of the world's best companies recognise the value of this and seek to nurture it and provide the means for people to exercise their natural inborn talents in this way to deliver exception results. Apple, with the iPod and iPhone, might be an example. Creativity is very productive, and profitable too: media firms which have the most creative talent and produce the best advertisements can charge the highest fees. Furthermore, the employees look forward to coming to work, are highly motivated and committed to the firm where they are given the chance to express themselves and do well because of it. The stifling of creativity of course has the opposite effect: dull monotonous jobs with de motivated employees ready to leave at the drop of a hat. It is not always possible to find places where creativity is appropriate, but where it can be included, outstanding results can occur.

This is well established business knowledge. What interests us here is the fact that by configuring our companies to enable people to enjoy their true Image, great energies are released and productivity goes through the roof. This is our project: to understand this Image, and shape our businesses in such a way that the (best) true nature of humanity is released and, crucially, significant business benefit results. 'Imaging' therefore has not just a personal, inward aspect to it but also a corporate, structural element, so that the business itself takes on the image of God and becomes, in fact, his presence in the marketplace. Through the Imaging God project, we expect that, by developing our businesses into something like the image of God, we see significant positive changes in how commerce is done and how our people act day to day in their jobs, bringing light, hope and strength into this stressful world as God works through us.

Further elements we will explore include such aspects of the nature of God as his glory, to be reflected in excellence; his justice, reflected in integrity; his fatherhood, expressed through HR policies which bring out the best in people; and his agape, reflected in building strong, long-lasting, trust based relationships within and

external to the company. These all bring business benefit in the medium-to-long term and create companies which are good to work for and deal with, benefiting customers, staff and shareholders alike.

The Image of God project is part of a wider development of Marketplace Theology that MBS is undertaking. Further courses are in the design stage and will be emerging over the coming months. For more information about the project, please contact Dr Tony Lim or Dr Mark Lovatt at MBS. In the meantime we continue to meet with our group and, in due course, we look forward to sharing the results with you.

The writer, D. Mark Lovett, Man Associate
Lecturer at Haragaian Stire Seminary, Mang.
He holds a Phill from the University of
Northigham, UK, on the embarg Reinhold
Naturic, published as Confronting the
WIS to Power A Reconstituention of the
Theology of Reinhold Walter.

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RTICLE BY DAVID CHEONG WHO IS CURRENTLY ONE OF OUR STUDENTS IN THE MASTERS PROGRAMME

As a new Christian believer, I used to think that an intellectual understanding of what and why we believe is not important as long as we have an experiential feeling in our heart! The heart is what you use in a relationship with God but the brain is what you use while studying science, computers, economics and history in school.

This results in a separation of the heart for spiritual stuff and the mind for secular stuff. When that happens, it is no wonder that our faith has so little impact on how we do our work or studies in the world. It is no wonder too that our daily activities outside the church have very little to do with God or the gospel. Yet Scripture tells us: "Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewal of your minds" (Romans 12:2). It doesn't say "Be transformed by the removal of your minds"!

As I slowly discover that love for God involves all our being (heart, head and hands), I begin to see the value of theology in my own spiritual life and ministry. Together with a group of working adults, I enrolled in Malaysia Bible Seminari (MBS) on a part time basis while working as an IT consultant. Despite the challenge of battling traffic jams to attend night classes, the MBS learning experience has been both personally-enriching and ministry-enabling. The able and helpful lecturers equipped me with a biblical framework of creation, sin and redemption through which I have the tools to discern truth from error, right from wrong, beauty from ugliness in contemporary Malaysian life and the world in general. Seminary training is an invaluable resource as I engage with marketplace issues through the blog: http://TheAgora.blogspot.com

Today, there is an urgent and serious need for the church as a redeemed community to respond to current issues like racism, inter-religious harmony, creation care, globalization and ethics in medical technology. Since the gospel is public truth (not just private

WE WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENTS FOR SEMESTER 1, 2010



LAUMETHONG Marse of Diversey



CHUNG TUCK SEON Marie of Division



LAMYEN YEE Numer of Trees,



LIAN YEN CHING Manur of Divining



SUEN CHEE KONG Name of District (in Mining)





TAN LIAN GEN Manus of Danced (in Family Ministrate)



LEE AH MOOI Ministry



Martin of Christian Markety [in Fuelly Manheso]



NGBOON WANG Music of Christian Mining in thesiy Makesol



OH PIK LAN Christian Diplome of Christian Studies



LEE FONG YEE



YEEHULIIN Sachebrof Thickey



CHUNGMING Bachelor of Theology



WANG XINDE Bubble of Thesiagy



LEW CHARK WAI Diplomate Theology



Diplomain Theology



CHEN NAM CHIENG NGA CHIN KHONG Diploma in Theology



ROWLAND KEBING Marrie of Divinity



TOASH KOH Manu of Divising



SUVARNA R. NAVUDURI Numer Chalden India



Muse of Charles Sauba



Builder of Theology



Buchdor of Thursday



MOSINGKI Consider in Thickey



VENY JULITA Confirmin Thology



Happenings Around And About MBS





Rubscus Din AL AGS PROKE

Helps





Herrich, MES Patrol

Special Dr. Deriol Ho & Interpretar Dr Ten Kine Sei



Dr. Joose and guest et CHT

2nd Semester, June 29 - Env 04, 2010 MM-Sem. Reset, June 20 - Sept 11, 2010

MALAYSIA BIBLE SEMINARY - SECOND SEMESTER 2010

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1630 an		NT INTEO I	CHRISTIAN ETHICS	RESEARCH & WRITING	THEOLOGY OF MISSION M
11.80 an		NT INTEO 1	CHRISTIAN ETHICS	RESEARCH & WRITING	THEOLOGY OF MISSION
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12.45 pm	1	UNC	H BRE	AK	
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7.45 pm 1.35 pm	OT INTRODUCTION II	HERMENEUTICS ES	CHURCE GOVERNANCE OR	GREEK II	

MODULAR COURSE

COURSE	PROGRAMME	UNIT	LECTURER	DATE & TIME	VENUE
1 Peter	B.Th/MCS/W.Min/Open	30	Dr. Crog W. Forbos	July 5-16, 2010 7:00 pm-10:00 pm	HBS, Klang
Theology I	B.Th/MCS/N.Nin/Open	30	Dr. Clive Chia	Sept 20 - 24, 2010 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	DUNC,P.J.
OT Theology	B.Th/MCS/N.Nin/Open	38	Dr. Jesudasos Jeyaraj	To be determined.	To be advised



Financial Report for January 2010

RM RM

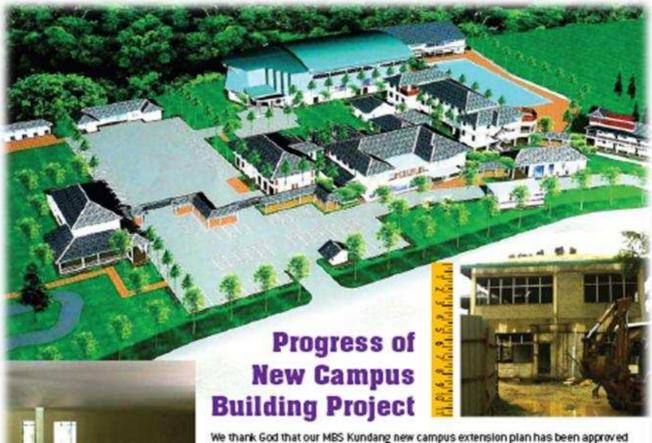
O Course Fee 41,477.00

lncome 187,270.00

① Other Income 3,432.00 232,179.00

Expenditure 147,102.00

Surplus 85,077.00



We thank God that our MBS Kundang new campus extension plan has been approved by the municipal council concerned and all renovation work is progressing well, and it is likely that the present project will be completed for use by this June/July.

Please pray that the balance of RM 1.7 million may also be met. (The present Kundang Campus Project costs about RM 6.5 million, and the sale of the stx Klang shop-lots is expected to bring in only RM 4.8 million).

However, during this period of time we are required to make progressive payments to the contractor and personnel concerned for works done, and we need your urgent financial assistance in this regard, either in terms of donations or interest-free loans. We thank you in advance for your positive response. You may send your donations by mail or via direct transfer into Public Bank, Klang – Accounts No.: 3-0853774-08. Please send us the bank-in slips for receipts, in case of interest-free loans, please contact the Principal Dr. Jason Lim (010-3657430) or Business Manager Mr. Henry Teh (016-2828100) for follow-up purposes. Thank you in advance for your kind and generous contribution. Please stay connected.







6 THE SEMINARY WITH WORLD WIDE HORIZON

Since 2002, MBS accepted international students into its various theological programs, initially we faced difficulties in obtaining visas for international students. However, in July 2009, we thank the Lord that the Home Affairs Ministry gave MBS an official letter to take in foreign students under the professional visit pass. Presently, we have students from China, Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar, India and Indonesia. Upon completion of their studies, they will return and serve in their home countries. One of our graduates is planning to start a training school in his home country possibly by the end of this year. MBS has enhanced its worldviews by the presence of international students. We welcome churches to be in partnership with MBS in training international students for God's kingdom.

7 ENHANCEMENT OF MBS WEBSITE

A new website with updated news, photos, courses offered, current and upcoming events, articles, and news of our alumni will be ready for viewing soon. We are working towards on-line teaching/ E-Learning programs. Any suggestions are most welcomed.

8 RENEWAL OF STUDENT LIFE AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT

Praise God that the extension and renovation of our new campus at Kundang is progressing well. We plan to move to the new campus, hopefully, by the end of August in 2010. It will be an entirely new environment in comparison with the present campus in Klang. The ten acres campus will provide sufficient facilities for administration, lecture rooms, library, accommodation and recreation, etc. We believe that all the facilities in the new campus will not only provide a better learning and living environment for students, staff and faculty, but also be able to serve churches more effectively. We praise God that a new

highway close to the campus will be opened, with the exit point only a couple of minutes drive from the campus. Upon the completion of this highway, the journey to and from Kundang will be greatly shortened.

7 MBS 32*0 ANNIVERSARY AND THE PRINCIPAL'S INSTALLATION

MBS 32nd Anniversary and the installation of Dr. Jason Lim as the 4th Principal will be held on 10 July 2010 (Saturday), at 4pm in Klang Chinese Methodist Church. Dr. Ka-Lun Leung, the Principal of Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong, will be the guest speaker for the occasion. All are invited and your presence will be deeply appreciated. Please remember the combined events, and uphold the new Principal in your prayers.

Please pray for me, and give me your constructive advice and support, so that I will be able to serve well, and be a great blessing to MBS and the churches at large. Shank your.

The Principal, DR. JASON LIM

