

MALAYSIA
BIBLE SEMINARY
NEWSLETTER

ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT

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connections

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

Malaysia Bible Seminary

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To-date Status Report of MBS Kundang Campus Development Project

In about 1984 MBS purchased a block of six adjoining units of 3 ½ storey shop-houses in Klang ("the Klang Campus") which has housed the MBS Seminary from 1988 until the present time. During these intervening years, by the Lord's grace and through the generous contributions of Christian brothers and sisters, it has also purchased or acquired 5 more double-storey houses in the vicinity to provide residential premises for its students.

However, the Seminary has never intended the Klang Campus to be permanent campus. This is partly because it is too small and congested, and also due to its being located in a rather busy business district, hence not so conducive for use as a study centre. For these reasons, over the years, MBS has committed much prayers and consideration into finding a place that will provide a more ideal location as a campus.

The opportunity came in 2005, when MBS purchased a property at Kundang (located between Sungai Buloh and Rawang). The property is made up of a 10.3 acres piece of land with buildings, meeting halls,



MBS Council, Faculty, Staff & Students

playgrounds, a swimming pool, and other resort facilities ("the Kundang Campus"). The purchase price of the Kundang Campus was RM5,250,000-00. Once again through the help of the Lord and with the contribution of various Christian believers, MBS was able to pay off the purchase price of the Kundang Campus as well as related expenses, which totaled about RM6,000,000.00

However, extension, renovation and upgrading works are necessary before the Kundang Campus can be utilized as a campus proper. Since its purchase, MBS has devoted a substantial amount of time to the designing, planning and upgrading of the Kundang Campus.

We are grateful to the Lord that MBS has completed its planning and detailed design for the extension and renovation works of the Kundang Campus. It has also recently completed the tender exercise and has appointed a contractor to do the works. The entire cost for the project, including putting up of 2 new blocks for students' hostels, addition of lecture rooms and office space, etc. etc., plus professional fees for various consultations, and the purchase of furniture and fittings, IT installation and mobilization expenses ("the Kundang Campus Project") is estimated to be in the range of RM6,500,000-00.

In order to raise the funds required for the Kundang Campus project, MBS is considering several steps to be taken. First of all, it is taking steps to dispose of its present properties. We thank God that at this point of time, there is an opportunity to sell off our 6 units of shop-house en-block at the price of RM4,800,000.00 (S&P transaction in process). With that amount we will still need about RM1,700,000.00 to pay for the whole project, scheduled to be completed latest by August 2010.

.....Contd back page

God moves in mysterious ways!

BY JACK MOCK

God moves in mysterious ways! Who would have thought that God would be leading us back to MBS? It was during a reunion for the batch of the 1979/1980 PLKM/MBS students in Malacca during January and after giving a talk in the MBS chapel that the Principal and the new Dean Tony Lim sounded me out about the possibility of returning to MBS! At the time I was intending to retire early and planned to use my gifts in teaching in some Christian ministry in Sydney. I did not expect the “call of God” to take us back to the same country and the same bible college but this time with no children!



Lorna and I have very fond memories of the early days of a close knit MBS community and we were delighted to be updated on MBS alumni serving in various churches in the major cities and rural areas or being in some Christian organisation. In Malacca we shared our joys and sorrows in Christian ministry. Both our children Derek and Jacqueline are married and Derek is expecting his third child late November and we will also miss all our friends at the Chinese Christian Church, Sydney where Lorna was involved in the music ministry and I was an elder.

I am looking forward to both teaching and doing further research in the area of doctrine and ethics; renewing old friendships and making new ones; being part of a team committed to teaching the bible clearly, faithfully and relevantly both to the market place and the Malaysian church context. In my view we should read both the bible and newspaper daily. If we read only the bible then we will be so “heavenly minded but of no earthly use”; on the other hand if we read only the newspaper then we will become pessimistic or even an alarmist, e.g. the global financial crisis, climate change, etc and hence miss out on God’s perspective and future plan for His world.

History is HIS – STORY.

One of the aims of a bible seminary is to assist the churches to become “salt and light to the earth” and not just to be like the old medieval monastery set apart from world. Our aim is to train students to handle the word of God (both OT and NT) respecting its original,

historical-grammatical context and then applied sensitively to our immediate personal and church context, empowered by God’s Spirit to be obedient to it and thereby become more and more like our Lord Jesus (character formation); and then to engage others to embrace Jesus as their Lord and Master (evangelism, apologetics and mission)

The seminary is there to serve the churches (and not just do theological reflection and scholarship for its own sake or for folks to obtain degrees/certificates!?) by making its programs relevant to their needs, hence I am impressed by MBS attempt to provide theological training by extension.

On the other hand, the churches need to encourage their folks (not just the young ones!) who have leadership/ teaching gifts to go for seminary training and to support it by practical help.

It should be a joint partnership as we grow the churches together in Malaysia .

Jason Lim

It is good to be home again

in Malaysia after six years of missionary work with the Chinese Overseas Mission (COCM). Since 1950, COCM established itself as the first Chinese Christian Mission with the goal of ministering to the Chinese diaspora living across Europe. I give thanks to the Lord who helped me to start a residential Chinese Bible College under the umbrella of COCM. As its first Dean, I struggled to leave my pioneer work behind and return home for a new posting in MBS. However, I am reminded by my doctoral dissertation that I am called to be a stranger in the world (1 Peter 2:11). As such I am thankful to God for giving me the privilege to serve at my alma mater again.

As the principal designate of MBS, I envision MBS will enlarge its tent across the Asian countries and beyond in training pastors, missionaries and church workers. We have students from Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia and China. MBS’ top priorities will be faculty development, planning new programmes and upgrading the library facilities. By the middle of next year, we will move to our new campus at Rawang. Every concrete effort will be taken to make the new campus a conducive environment for students to be trained holistically.

Moreover, a new team of faculty lineup is now in place in our English Department effective next year: (1) Rev. Dr. Roger Senior and his wife Jane who have served in Mongolia as missionaries for eight years (2) Mr. Jack Mock from Australia and (3). Mr. Tan Geok Hock, who is our alumnus and has been a pastor for two years. In addition, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Tony Lim, the English Department has formed a good working relationship with some churches in the Klang Valley by providing in-house training in PJ like the church-based, and market-place theological courses offered to the Christian professionals.

Please remember us in your prayers as we endeavor to break new grounds for the Lord.

Blessed Christmas and New Year to all of you.

From the Dean

Changes at MBS in 2010 - Farewells, Welcome and Curriculum Revision

The academic year 2009 has come to an end and we have had our 28th Graduation Service on 7th November. We wish our new graduates the joy of the Lord as they move on to the mission field. May they continue to be faithful servants in God's Kingdom. Farewell

We bid farewell to Rev Loh Soon Choy, Rev Dr Eddy Ho and Ps Hilmy as they leave MBS and move on to other ministries in 2010. We appreciate their many years of service to MBS and wish them the best in their future ministries.

Welcome

In their place, we praise the Lord that He has brought new lecturers to take their places.

1. Elder Jack Mock, from Sydney, Australia. Jack has taught in MBS before when the English Department was known as the Pusat Latihan Kristen, Melaka.

2. Dr Roger and Jane Senior, have been seconded by the OMF, United Kingdom. They were senior missionaries in Korea and Mongolia.

3. Last but not least, we welcome Tan Geok Hock, our own MBS alumnus.

Curriculum Revision

We revise and re-evaluate our curriculum every five years. In 2010 our curriculum is due for revision. As we revise our curriculum, what are some of the important things that we must take into consideration? As I look at it, three broad areas are crucial:

1. Academic

Aiming for academic excellence is surely one of our consideration. However we also need to address the issue of how we teach our courses, taking into deliberation, our setting and context as an Asian and



Malaysian seminary. To teach the doctrine of God for example without engaging with Islam, Hinduism and Chinese Religions will be grossly inadequate. The aim is make sure that our courses are not only academically rigorous and excellent but contextually and culturally relevant to our students as well.

2. Core ministry competencies

Our graduates when they leave MBS must be able to preach and teach the bible accurately and faithfully without fear and favour. They should be able to lead in worship, conduct marriages, funerals and baptisms in a way that are honouring and glorifying to God. Their congregations and organisations should find them competent in basic skills of counselling, administration and management.

We also need to take note of current and prevailing trends. For instance the rapid urbanisation of Malaysia. More and more of our young people are leaving their home towns and coming to Kuala Lumpur to work. As we train our students in ministry skills we need to ask new questions. Such as "What is the impact of urbanisation in terms of the way we do ministry, the way we pastor people and the way we church plant?"

3. Spiritual formation, mentoring and discipleship

Herman Miller, an office furniture manufacturing company runs one of the most admired companies in the States. It has consistently been on Fortune's 100 Best company to work for. One of the reasons for this is the company's commitment to integrity, relationships and community. Have a look at their company's philosophy: We believe that we must understand what we want to become and how we want to treat each other before we can decide what we want to do. Our corporate values pertain to what matters most--human relationships and our life as a community. We hope our values make you think. They certainly keep us focused on the right things. (Herman Miller)

As a seminary MBS must have the same commitment to train, nurture and disciple its students to spiritual maturity after Christ's likeness. Our curriculum must strive to put in place structures, programmes and values that reflect this commitment to holiness and godliness.

We are human beings and not human doings. So being must take precedence over doing. Or in the words of Herman Miller, "we believe that we must understand what we want to become and how we want to treat each other before we can decide what we want to do."

As always we are thankful for your faithful support and partnership in building the Kingdom of God here in Malaysia. Your continuing prayers for MBS are very much appreciated.

In His Amazing Grace,

Rev. Dr. Tony Lim
Dean, English Department
MBS.



Introducing Rog and Jane Senior

In Scripture the people of God are described as pilgrim people looking for a better country (Heb 11:16). While all believers are called to follow Christ like this, in our case God has called us literally to follow Him from country to country. Both of us were born in UK, but while we were at Manchester University God called us to full-time mission and we developed a particular interest in East Asia.

We joined OMF International in 1983 and spent over 16 years in Korea. Rog's main ministry was in expository preaching training, and Jane's was discipleship. Following this, for eight years we were in Mongolia working at the Union Bible Theological College, with Rog concentrating on teaching Bible related subjects, and Jane church history.

Early in 2009 we faced some difficulties in renewing our visas and felt the Lord challenging us to consider moving yet again. Many people suggested that we consider ministering in Malaysia, and at MBS in particular. Over the years we have met many Malaysian believers and have been impressed by their commitment to serving and following Christ.

As we look toward joining the faculty at MBS our desire is to work alongside the church to encourage it to grow in maturity by helping in the equipping of godly and biblically literate leaders. We long to see the word of God take root in people's lives and bear fruit which transforms many.

We come to Malaysia not as leaders, but as servants and fellow pilgrims in the community of God.

Rog Senior has an MA in Aspects of Biblical Interpretation, with Distinction. He is currently a Ph. D. candidate in Theology. He also holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Manchester University, UK.

Jane Senior has an B. A. (Hons) Politics and Church History, Diploma in Mission and Theology



Welcome to Alumnus Mr. Tan Geok Hock

I AM looking forward to coming back to MBS though this time not as a student but as a lecturer. The earlier experience was thoroughly enjoyable for part-timers like me who progressed at our own pace. But alas all good thing must come to an end.

However I take comfort in the words of Isaiah: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" Events lead me to believe that God wants me to return to serve in MBS. There is every reason to trust that the forthcoming step of faith will be no less rewarding.

My one disappointment is that a couple of my teachers are retiring just as I join and so they would not be there to show me the ropes. It would have been interesting to labour alongside them. Filling their shoes will not be easy but I am reminded that the Holy Spirit is our ultimate teacher and God can overcome every obstacle.

MBS stirred in me a love for God's word and I hope to carry on that tradition. I will encourage students to approach the biblical text with

anticipation rather than hesitation, with open minds rather than preconceived ideas, relying on the natural sense rather than preconceived solutions and think outside our theological boxes. Above all I would like the learning process to be fun, as it was for me.

Geok Hock spent seven years in the airline industry and fourteen in the financial sector before God called him into full-time Christian work. After two years as a pastor, he decided to focus on teaching and he has been lecturing in his church bible college over the last four years whilst completing his studies at MBS and then at STM. He holds a Th.M. in N.T. Studies from SEAGST.

By Tan Geok Hock

GRADUATING STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (ED)

Bachelor of Theology

Santa Kumar Basnet
Kunasekar Palras a/l Samuel
Miun Amat
Lisa Sum Ching Yang

Master of Ministry

Jean Pathmavathy
a/p K. S. Victor
Ho Ah Chye
Choo Chee Choy
Iris Kim Jeong Min

Bachelor of Theology – MTS, Sabah

Nesson Bin Jauning
Jikran Bin Salleh Wang @ June
Jail Bin Mopilin
Dainus Bin Muda

Bachelor of Ministry – SIB, Sabah

Raifin Bin Dawat
Elias Bin Tabari
Liong Binti Tukdai
Jackat @ Jaikin Bin Kaatin

Master of Christian Studies

Pasang Dorje Sherpa

28TH GRADUATION SERVICE / DINNER



Council, Faculty, and Graduating Students



Choir's Presentation



God Bless MBS, Cheers!



Nepalese Song/Dance at Dinner



Dr. Tony Chairing and Pr. Sze Sze (left) Interpreting at Service



Graduation Dinner MC, Pr. Hilmy, and Interpreter Pr. Poh Seng (right)

From page 1 To-date Status Report of MBS Kundang Campus Development Project

In the mean-time, we will continue to look for buyers for the 5 double-storey terrace houses near to the present Klang campus. These are presently used as student hostels, especially for those with family.

All contributions for Building Fund shall be used towards the Kundang Campus project. The excess, if any, together with the sales proceeds from the sales of MBS' existing properties shall be used to repay any interest-free loans' and the balance shall be used to build up an Endowment Fund for the running of MBS in the coming years.

In view of the above plan and projection, MBS would need to appeal to co-workers, church leaders, brothers and sisters, as well as churches and organizations in Christ to give towards the Kundang campus project.

We would also appreciate any contributions by way of interest-free loans. We need the donation/loans quite urgently as building work is in progress, whereas S&P transaction takes time, and due payments need to be paid to the contractor and parties concerned, as payment schedules are pressing upon us.

In conclusion, as we look to the Lord for His provision, we also seek your generous and timely contribution; and may the Lord bless you abundantly in all respects.

The Principal,
Dr. Tan Kim Sai.

Congratulations to



Mr & Mrs Stanley Ding
(Lily Lim – Secretary of ED)

on the arrival of
their first born baby girl,
Daryn Ding
on 27 November 2009.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

MBS English Department will continue holding classes In Klang even after moving to the new campus at Kundang, Rawang, most probably sometime in August, 2010.

1st Semester Jan 11-May 27, 2010
Mid-Sem. Break: Mar. 15-19, 2010

MALAYSIA BIBLE SEMINARI – FIRST SEMESTER 2010

1st Draft

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	VOCAL	-	-	-	-
9.00 am		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I AK	OT INTRODUCTION I AL	HOMILECTICS II RS	
10.00 am		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I AK	OT INTRODUCTION I AL	HOMILECTICS RS	
11.00 am		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I AK	OT INTRODUCTION I AL	HOMILECTICS RS	
12.00 pm	ED CHAPEL	ED CHAPEL	FAMILY HOUR & CARE GROUP	11.50 am-12.30 pm COMBINED ED & CD CHAPEL	ED PRAYER HOUR
12.45pm	L U N C H B R E A K				
2:00pm - 5:00pm	CHURCH HISTORY I JM		SYNOPTIC GOSPELS TGH	PASTORAL THEOLOGY & MINISTRY TL	
7:45pm - 9:30pm		NT INTRODUCTION II TGH		GREEK I TGH	

MODULAR COURSE

COURSE	PROGRAMME	UNIT	LECTURER	DATE & TIME	VENUE
Joshua / Judges	B.Th/MCS/M.Min/Open	3U	Dr. Jesudason Jeyaraj	Feb 22-Mar 5, 2010 7.00pm-10.00pm	MBS, Klang
Theology I	B.Th/MCS/M.Min/Open	3U	Dr. Clive Chin	To be determined	DUMC, P. J.
OT Survey	B.Th/MCS/M.Min/Open	3U	Mr. Low Chai Hok	Feb 4, 11, 25 March 4, 11, 25 April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13 9.00am – 12.00 pm	DUMC, P. J.
1 Peter	B.Th/MCS/M.Min/Open	3U	Dr. Greg W. Forbes	July 5-16, 2010 7.00pm-10.00pm	MBS, Klang