

Welcome New Students—2015



From Left: Alex Tan Eng Wai; Colin Wong; Daniel Hee; Elizabeth Khor; Hong Soon Loong; Jeremy Phua; Ravindren Arumugam; Rekha Lingam Limbu; Taeko Funaoka; Wong Sum Keong & Yap Chee Kai

Book Launch of Jesus The Storyteller



Book launch ceremony of *Jesus The Storyteller: Hearing the Parables Afresh Today* by Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong.

Rev Dr Lee Mee Onn installed as MBS Principal



Rev Dr Lee Mee Onn was installed as the fifth principal of MBS on 28 February 2015 at the Chinese Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to our newly-weds, David Wong Chee Aun (3rd year student) and Peggy.

Artist's Impressions of our New MBS Kundang Hostel Block



SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Making Sense of the Marketplace

16–18 July 2015 @ Charis Christian Centre
62B, Jalan Siput Akek, Taman Billion, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur

Course Leader Rev Dr Tony Lim (Course Advisor), Vice Principal
Dean, English Department, Malaysia Bible Seminary

Course Description This practical, discussion-led course is designed to challenge and inspire pastors/lay leaders to interact with people in the work place. It will develop their understanding of how senior business people manage their working worlds in a way which reflects and draws from Biblical teaching. The course begins with a first introductory lecture, looking at relevant Bible passages and drawing together some biblical principles for business. Thereafter, a key Christian business leader will be invited to spend about an hour engaging with us. This will be followed by an hour of group discussion.

At our sessions our invited Christian leader will discuss how his faith impacts his work. These sessions will also include an opportunity to ask questions and enter into detailed discussions with the leader about life, work and ministry requirements in the marketplace. At the end of the course there will be an opportunity to round up all that we have learnt.

The course is intended for church leadership who want to be equipped to minister effectively in this area. There will also be a community aspect to the course which many will benefit from, as we discuss ideas, share meals and explore this exciting area of ministry together.

Assessment Students will be required to submit a 500–1000 word research paper, putting together the learnings and experiences gained from the course, along with implications these will have for the student's future ministry.

FROM FRONT COVER, *IMITATING CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES*

with the Lord, persist in ministry and prayers, and not forgetting the needs of our alma-mater.

Since becoming the Principal of MBS, the first challenge I faced was the rejection of visa renewal for our foreign students. However with much coordination and earnest prayers from all concerned, thank God our appeal has been granted and all the students have had their visas renewed for one year. This indeed has been a trial for us to stand firm on faith in God. His

grace and mercy is sufficient. We hope to train many more nationals as well as internationals for the kingdom ministry, locally as well as abroad. With a grateful heart, I would like to thank all of you co-workers, brothers and sisters in Christ for your continued support of MBS for the past 37 years. In recent years our country has faced much political turmoil, air tragedies, as well as natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. This year with the implementation of the GST, threats from terrorism and so on, we are all

MBS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Extension & Modular Courses 2015

Old Testament Introduction II
by Dr Rick Griffith
6–9 July 2015 / 9:00am–5:00pm
@ MBS Kuang Campus

Christian Apologetics
by Rev David Graeig
13–17 July 2015 / 9:00am–5:00pm
@ DUMC, Petaling Jaya

Theology III
by Rev Ng Kok Kee
24 June–2 September 2015 / 7:30pm–10:30pm
(Wednesdays except 19 August)
@ DUMC, Petaling Jaya

Marriage & Family
by Dr Danny Goh
7–11 September 2015 / 9:00am–5:00pm
@ DUMC, Petaling Jaya

Preaching Conference
by Rev Michael Raiter
19–21 October 2015 / 9:00am–5:00pm
@ MBS Kuang Campus

Calling, Vocational Holiness & Spiritual Formation in the Workplace
by Dr Alex Tang
9–13 November 2015 / 9:00am–5:00pm
@ MBS Kuang Campus

more burdened in one way or another. However, let us continue to keep our guard and remember that crisis creates opportunity. Let us also be reminded that our treasures are kept in heaven as we invest in God's eternal Kingdom. MBS' new theme for this year is "Christ-like Leadership in Challenging Times." Thank you all once again for your love and support. May the Lord bless all of you and your family, as well as the ministry that he has given you, so that everything will work out for His glory, and for blessings to many. Stay connected. ■

THANKSGIVING & PROJECTION TOWARDS 2015

Imitating Christ's Leadership in Challenging Times

REV DR LEE MEE ONN // Principal



I recalled a conversation with the Founding Principal of MBS, our late Rev. Dr. Lukas Tjandra who had once said to me: "One day in the future, if there is a need in MBS for someone to take up the responsibility of Principal, you should accept the role with boldness."

At that point in time I did not put much thought on the matter. However last year when Dr. Jason Lim resigned from his position as Principal, I received a call from the Council Chairman of MBS requesting that I consider taking up the role of Principal. I had struggled and prayed over this request for 3 months and waited upon the Lord for His guidance. The Lord then encouraged me through Ephesians 3:20: " Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." With that I accepted the offer from MBS Council.

Being one of the graduands from the 2nd batch alumnus of the seminary, how could I by-pass the need of my Alma-Mater when there is such a need? When I was studying in the US, I had been invited by 6 churches to be their pastor. I had hesitated and finally declined their offer, particularly as I recalled the contribution of the late Rev Dr and Mrs Lukas Tjandra to MBS, as they had left Indonesia to come to Malaysia to serve in MBS. How could I then shirk my responsibility?

As the fifth Principal of MBS, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the

former Principals for their tireless work and contributions, which have led to the significant growth of the seminary. It is only when I become the Principal that I begin to realize the internal burdens as well as external challenges faced by them, particularly in the area of funding. I also appreciate their family members for their faithful supportive roles. May the Lord bless all of them for their services and sacrifices.

Sincere thanks to the late Rev Dr Lukas Tjandra who had responded to the 'Macedonian Call' of MBS. Through much hardship and challenges, together with Mrs Tjandra and their son Andrias, the whole family had submitted to God's leading. They were willing to accept the invitation of Malaysian church leaders to cross the seas to serve together with Rev Dr Tjandra who set up a firm foundation for MBS.

Sincere thanks to our first national Principal Rev Dr Lee Ken Ang, who had worked very hard and efficiently to build up the academic as well as the administrative architecture of the seminary. Deep gratitude to Rev Dr Tan Kim Sai for his caring and humble personality which strengthened the relationships between MBS and

churches. MBS had successfully purchased the Kuang campus and facilities during his term of office, with the help of supportive churches and individuals. Sincere thanks to our former Principal Dr. Jason Lim, who had led the relocation move from Klang to the present Kuang campus. Dr. Lim established a theological teaching center overseas, and has done much in promoting MBS' publication. Although this is his sabbatical year, he continues to serve as Researcher and Lecturer, besides taking charge of MBS' overseas programs. We are grateful for his continued contribution.

A hearty 'Thank you' to all the faculty members, for your dedication in training and equipping the students. I trust that God will use our alumni greatly in His service throughout the churches and nations. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all office staff, without whom a lot of work would not have been accomplished. We appreciate that although your salary is not high, you have chosen to serve with the seminary whole-heartedly. God bless you all faculty and staff.

Dear Alumni, let us remember our late Rev. Dr. Lukas Tjandra who had reminded us "To care for and support MBS". MBS Alumni are the ambassadors of Christ, the "recommendation letters" of MBS and also the soldiers of the cross! Thank you all for your support and encouragement. Let us continue to walk

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

Connect with Us! Visit our website—www.mbs.org.my—for the latest on MBS!

Partnering with Churches to Fulfill The Great Commision

REV DR TONY LIM // Vice-Principal, Dean, English Department



MBS will be celebrating its 37th Anniversary with a thanksgiving service on July 12th, 2015 at our main campus in Kuang. As such I thought it would be good for us to revisit our calling, vision and goals. Malaysia Bible Seminary (MBS) commenced its mandate, to partner with churches in Malaysia and to fulfil The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20), in 1976. It is the oldest inter-denominational bible seminary in Malaysia. Our vision is to train our students to preach and teach the Word of God, accurately, faithfully and with transforming power.

Over the past 40 years, God has used MBS to train numerous pastors, missionaries and lay leaders, both locally, and internationally. MBS has taught students from Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan, USA, Indonesia, Myanmar, India, Nepal, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In addition we have trained pastors and lay leaders from some of the largest churches in the nation, namely, SIB KL, DUMC, FGA, AOG churches, Brethren, Methodist, Syrian Mar Thoma, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anglican, and numerous Independent churches.

In recent years, MBS has started extension centres, initially at Damansara Utama Methodist Church, and most recently, at Love Cheras Community Pastors' Fellowship, with the setting up of the LCCS-MBS, School of Ministry.

The programs we run at these extension centres take place on weekday evenings. This makes part time theological training available to pastors and lay leaders who are unable to pursue full time training at our main campus.

We value the ongoing and continuing partnership we have with existing churches and organizations. However we also seek new partnerships. We would be pleased to visit you to discuss how MBS can walk and work with your church/organization, to fulfil the plans and purposes of God for your congregation. ■

Church Reformed, Always Reforming

FRANKLIN MORAIS // Co-Ordinator for Extension Programs



I have never forgotten my first contact with Malaysia Bible Seminary (MBS). It was way back in 1984, and I had just enrolled in a Certificate of Biblical Studies. At that time, MBS' premise was situated at Luther House, Petaling Jaya. It is almost after thirty years, but I can still remember how I was simply stunned by the expository teaching of Low Chai Hock, when he taught me in my very first class, Old Testament Survey. It was pure joy for fourteen weeks. It gave me an appreciation for digging deep into God's Word, which has never left me, and in fact, has only grown stronger.

Imagine my great surprise and joy, when the thought of joining MBS was mooted by Rev Dr Tony Lim (then Dean of the English Dept., and now, Vice-Principal of the seminary) some years ago. And again, now, when I began to pursue the matter earnestly, last year. It is my privilege now to serve with Rev Dr Tony Lim, Vice-Principal. I can still recall way back in 1981, how he used to transport me to church on his trusty two-wheeler from MBS' then premises in OUG, where I lived, and back home.

So it was with a sense of coming home to a familiar environment and community, that I stepped into the role of Coordinator of Extension Programs, for the English Department of MBS, effective 8th June, 2015, in the spanking new premises of the seminary

in Kundang, Kuang, Rawang. This mandate resonates with me. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was made afresh to me in a significant way as I worked out the last four years in a private tertiary institution of higher learning in Kuala Lumpur, teaching undergraduates, master's students, school students, school teachers, and even corporate people, the principles and application of psychology, counselling and organizational leadership.

The Reformation's rallying cry of 'ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda', had become intensely personal to me for the past four years. I began to retrospect my walk with the Lord all these thirty-eight years as 'pre-reformation', and 'post-reformation' gospel! Indeed, Christ has become sweeter and sweeter to

me, and this current position with its responsibilities has fitted in so very nicely! What a joy, and privilege, to serve the Body of Christ in Malaysia by promoting and developing theological education among churches.

As my very first MBS Master of Ministry class lecturer, Mr Tan Kong Beng (now Executive Secretary of Christian Federation of Malaysia) reflected way back in 1999, living theologically is presupposed only by grasping right theology. It has been my privilege to have learnt from stalwart Christian leaders in Malaysia such as the Rev Dr Tan Jin Huat of Seminari Theologi Malaysia, Rev Ooi Chin Aik of MAP, Lecturer Emeritus (MBS), Rev Loh Soon Choy, Rev Dr Daniel Ho, Senior Pastor of DUMC, and Vice-Chairman of MBS' Council, and Dr Tan Kang San (ASIA CMS, formerly of OMF M'sia). Indeed, I have stood on the shoulders of giants, and the horizon still shows a harvest which is plentiful, with many more workers who must be trained for the cause of Christ, and His gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe (Rom 1:16). ■

Report on LCCS–MBS SOM

LCCS–MBS SOM TEAM

Praise be to God! After one year of meetings between the leaders of Love Cheras Community Services and Malaysia Bible Seminary, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the school of ministry known as Love Cheras Community Services–Malaysia Bible Seminary School of Ministry (LCCS–MBS SOM) was signed on 19th January 2015.

The new principal of MBS, Dr Lee Mee Onn, signed on behalf of MBS and Ps Looi Kok Kim, the Executive Secretary of LCCS signed on behalf of LCCS, witnessed by Dr Tony Lim and Bro Franklin Morais representing MBS and the pastors of LCCS. The signing was held in the church premise of Abundant Life Church in Cheras where the LCCS pastors were having their monthly meeting. Certainly, it was a milestone for both MBS and LCCS. For MBS, it was their second theological studies extension centre, besides the first one in Damansara Utama Methodist Centre (DUMC). For LCCS, it was the fulfillment of their vision of leadership servant leaders who are undergirded by theological foundation.

The MOU for the LCCS-MBS SOM is a five year plan under which the students

will be rewarded with a Diploma of Christian Studies sanctioned by MBS once they have completed the ten modules comprising four compulsory subjects taught by lecturers from MBS and six electives taught by instructors approved by both MBS and LCCS. The module is a mix of six Saturdays of four-hour sessions (2pm to 6pm) and a three full-day session. The first module was launched on 21st March 2015. Ps Barnabas Poon from MBS led the student orientation program prior to the commencement of the class which was taught by Rev Pax Tan, a well-known leader in community services. The first batch of fifteen credit students were taught on *Community Services by the Local Church*. They were enthralled by the rich experiences and superb teaching of Rev Pax Tan. Their assignments on doing the community services and reporting on them are

just natural for them as they have been serving the communities for several years already.

Two more course will be offered this year. The upcoming course is a three full day (16 to 18 July 2015) module. The course is entitled, *Making Sense of the Market Place*, and it will be facilitated by Dr Tony Lim. The final course for the year is a compulsory subject. From 19 September to 24 October 2015, Rev Ng Kok Kee, the President of Bible College of Malaysia (BCM) will teach on *Hermeneutics*. This is only possible because of the close relationship between MBS and BCM.

In closing, the LCCS MBS SOM is the fruit of the unity between theological institutions, in this case, MBS and the churches in Malaysia and in this case, the churches in Cheras; in realising the vision to raise up more theologically trained servant leaders to pastor the increasing numbers of churches to be established because of greater number of people turning to our faith in the days to come. ■

Welcome Back!

Our Academic Dean of English Department, Ms Allison Lee has returned after a sabbatical leave of nine months in the USA. We welcome her back!

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Updates from Nelly van Kampen in Gouda, Netherlands

Update on 5th May 2015: I arrived in the Netherlands on 26th April, accompanied by my friends Wim and Anke Poldervaart, who happened to be visiting me in Malaysia when I discovered I had cancer. I am now staying at the house of the Tramper family, where I was staying during Home Assignment last summer. It feels a bit like 'my own place' and that is good.

After having gone through more examinations and scans it became clear that my liver was so much affected by the

cancer that surgery is not possible. No good news! The treatment the oncologist is prescribing me now, is Chemotherapy, starting this coming Thursday. Once in three weeks I have to go to the hospital for half a day to get the treatment, and I have to take it 6x, so that will be till mid-September. I do not have to be admitted to the hospital, I can stay home. The question is if my body will tolerate the treatment and how heavy the side-effects will be. When it does work, the tumors will get smaller and less aggressive and my liver-function will improve.

Spiritually I feel as if I am passing through the desert: why did I have to lose my ministry at MBS, my home, my people in Malaysia, everything I loved so much and the people I have lived among these last years with so much joy? I just don't understand and gradually the weight of the loss is starting to become so painfully real. Will you pray for me:

- That I am able to trust God fully, whatever may happen.

- That the oncologist and the other medical staff will be able to treat me effectively.

- That my body will be able to tolerate the therapy.

- That, if necessary, I will be able to prepare for going home to be with Christ in a way that glorifies Him.

Update on 7th June 2015: Already quite a while ago since I sent my last update, so time to catch up with Malaysian friends. It is a Sunday afternoon as I am writing now and I am approaching the end of the second round of Chemo. The next one is due on June 17th.

Despite the still strong feelings of grief and loss, I do realize that there are many things to thank God for. Until now my body is coping remarkably well with the chemotherapy: I do feel a bit tired, but not too bad, and there is hardly any nausea.

So the side-effects are certainly not 'unbearable'. Even more: the oncologist was very positive about the results of the first round. My liver-function had improved and the blood values (how do you call that in English?) had also improved.

Last Thursday some elders of my home church came to my place to pray for me and to anoint me with oil in the name of the Lord (as the PJEFC-elders already did too). At the same time, in the church building, the congregation was meeting to worship God and to pray as well for God's healing hand upon me. I feel very, very privileged when I realize how many people are uplifting me in prayer, here in the Netherlands but also in Malaysia. Psalm 91 is speaking strongly to me these days: 'He

who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty'. When I was anointed, I felt that I could totally surrender myself into the hands of the Lord and nothing can do me any harm, not even cancer! It is the safest place to be. And now we wait and see what the Lord will do. He is a God of surprises.

In the meantime, if I have enough energy, I try to do something useful, to prevent me from getting 'theologically sloppy'. Before I left I was preparing a course on Hebrews for MBS, and now I just go on studying Hebrews. Maybe I never use it for MBS, but then I can still make it into a Bible study-course for the Dutch context. I enjoy doing it, as far as possible.

Quite a few people are visiting me and I look very much forward to having Litsa McClymont, a former OMF-colleague, for a few days, coming over from the UK. I am sure we will chat a lot about Malaysia!

Please pray and thank God for the things I mentioned above, pray also for MBS and pray that I will continually realize that He goes before me and I just have to follow Him on the unknown path. ■