

聆聽心跳
heart+beat

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paya lebar
methodist church

Together In God's Mission – Aldersgate Convention 2010

上帝圣工共承担 - 2010 年雅德门大会

By Andy Toh Photos by Phillip Lam

Reflection on the Aldersgate Programme held at PLMC on 21 & 22 May 2010



1885 - 2010

Together in
God's Mission



The Methodist Church
in Singapore



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT

The memorable heart-warming experience of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, was celebrated together with the thanksgiving of God's blessings to the Methodist Church in Singapore for the past 125 years.

It was on 24 May 1738 at Aldersgate Street in London, that Wesley had his life turned

around. Quoting his unforgettable words, "In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ; Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Now Wesley had a definite worthwhile message for the world – salvation and forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ which produce holiness and happiness, which in turn prepare us for heaven.

(pp 102, *Strangely Warmed*, TRAC Board of Discipleship & Nurture, ARMOUR Publishing Pte Ltd, 2005)



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METHODISM IN SINGAPORE

It was on 7 Feb 1885 at Tanjong Pagar dock that Bishop Thoburn and a few others arrived and preached some time later at the Town Hall where the first congregation of 23 members was established. The message was based on

Zech 4:6 “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit.” It was a great sermon and reminder that all the blessings we received came to us through God Himself. As Bishop Solomon writes, “God is therefore the very Source,

Means and End of all our blessings ... let us declare this truth not only in our language but also in our lives.”
(The Episcopal Letter No. 25, Jan-Apr 2010)

The Aldersgate Dialogue with Bishop & Annual Conference Presidents

雅德门大会 – 会督与年议会会长们的对话

Emphasising on the celebration theme, “Together in God’s Mission,” the Bishop and the three Annual Conference Presidents revealed fresh dimensions on the challenges and opportunities of The Methodist Church In Singapore in the years to come during the dialogue held on 21 May.

Rev Dr Chong Chin Chung (CAC President) outlined the hindrances and areas we need to overcome that we may stay connectional.

Rev James Nagulan (ETAC President) reminded us that God and God alone remains the focus and reason in all we are and do.

Rev Dr Wee Boon Hup (TRAC President) challenged us to move beyond our comfort zone with a “centripetal force” reaching out to the worlds of those around us (not necessarily geographical).



Bishop Dr Robert Solomon insightfully provoked and challenged us on our conventional system in the Methodist organisation, with the intention of bringing God’s Kingdom to a greater and deeper measure.

The moderated question and answer section that followed allowed queries and responses to be exchanged, all with

the sole intention that we may be of one heart, one mind and one body in Christ.

All the 300 participants truly appreciated and enjoyed the “meet the ministers session”. Indeed, such dialogues should be encouraged, enabling Methodists to continually explore and experience the heart of God and His Kingdom.

Together In God's Mission – Aldersgate Convention 2010

The Combined Aldersgate & 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

125周年感恩及雅德门崇拜

In the spirit and appreciation of the event, 950 Pastors, members and friends of The Methodist Church gathered on 22 May (Sat) to praise God. Among the distinguished guests were Rev John Buxton (a UK Missionary who was our Pastor in the 1960s) and his wife. The Service began with a Parade of Banners, with every of the 44 Methodist Churches, 15 Methodist Schools and 5 Methodist Agencies represented, followed by the Processional of Pastors.



The Wesley Soli Deo Gloria Ensemble and the Combined Choir from Wesley Methodist Church and Paya Lebar Methodist Church led the enthusiastic worshippers to loudly and wholeheartedly praise God. The liturgy, led by the Presidents of the 3 Annual Conferences, expressed once again our distinctive Methodist connectionalism. The insightful sermon was delivered by our Bishop Dr Robert Solomon, who emphasised that Jesus is always praying

that we may be one in Him. He threw a spanner for us to ponder on our church growth patterns in the years to come.



The worshippers were also treated to a short drama presentation depicting the arrival of Methodism in Singapore, succinctly put up by the ACS (International) Drama Group. And in response and declaration of God's blessings to us, the worshippers sang the 125th Anniversary Hymn "Together in God's Mission", which was specially composed for the occasion by our Bishop and Dr Michael Burkhardt. From the reverberating rendition of the song, we were convinced that it was not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit that all these things took place.

All were also blessed to witness the commendation of Long Service Awards



to six pastors who have served in the ministry for more than 25 years. The standing ovation was an expression of thankfulness towards God's faithfulness.



The Event did not end with the blessing of the Benediction but continued with a heart-warming, hand-shaking and mouth-watering fellowship where friends from various Chinese, Emmanuel Tamil and Trinity Annual Conference Churches were able to renew their connection.

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!

We wholeheartedly appreciate all leaders, staff and members who had gone out of their way to host this event at PLMC!

Our One Desire!

Global Day of Prayer 2010

By Jessamyn Tian

我们共同的渴望 - 2010 全球祷告日

As dawn broke on that first Pentecost more than 2000 years ago, the believers were “all [together] with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1, NKJV)....

Fast forward to Pentecost Sunday, 23 May 2010, thousands of believers in this city thronged the Singapore Indoor Stadium in obedience to His call to us, His people, to come together, pray and intercede for ourselves, our nation, and the world.

2010 is the fifth year that Singapore joins millions of believers in some 220 countries around the globe in Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) for the Biblical hope for Christ’s glory and the transformation of all nations. This year, there were five GDOPs held concurrently (English, Chinese, Youth, Children & Indian) in three locations. This year’s GDOP in English was also special because brothers and sisters from PLMC were out in full force



serving as ushers! Praise and thank God for all of them who served with gladness!



The theme for GDOP 2010 is “One Desire” – to honour God. The evening’s programme, a Concert of Prayer, was seamlessly woven around three strands of this One Desire theme, with different speakers bringing the Word in each of the three segments, followed by participation of the audience in prayer.

Our One Desire is to honour God by lifting Him up in all the earth. We do this...

First, by **Loving God**

- Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength always stems from a deep gratitude for His amazing grace towards each of us. Sharing on Isaiah’s encounter with



the Almighty God (Isaiah 6:1-8), the speaker emphasised that it is only as we see God for Who He is – glorious in His beauty and holiness; and yet, condescending to love us as we are – that we will experience

1. repentance before God (v 5);
2. restoration instead of judgment (v7); and
3. readiness to commit ourselves to Him and His cause whatever the cost (v 8).

- The speaker challenged us to continually behold Jesus in His perfect holiness and conquering love. As we encounter God in this manner, our response will be like that of Isaiah, and we will be cleansed, restored and consecrated once again. Truly, we love Him because He first loved us!

Second, by **Serving Our Neighbour**

- Lawrence Chua, Senior Pastor of Living Sanctuary Brethren Church, picked up from where the first speaker left off. He used the parable of a sinful woman who served Jesus while He was in the home of Simon (Luke 7:36-50) to illustrate the truth

that she – who had been forgiven much (because God loved her) – will respond with loving God much. Her love for God found expression in the extravagant worship and undivided devotion to Jesus.

- The speaker pointed out that sometimes, we lag behind in serving our neighbour because of our deficiency in seeing the poor and needy around us. Like Simon, Jesus' host on that day, we congratulate ourselves at having done a good job in serving others. We become self-satisfied and complacent. Holding on to such attitudes often breeds a critical spirit in us.
- When we do good to others out of pure motive, Jesus commends us. We are doing them to Jesus (Matthew 25:31-40). In the prayer segment that followed, Pastor Lawrence challenged us to reflect on our treatment of the poor, the needy, the marginalised, and the migrant workers among us; to confess our wrong attitudes; and to ask God to instill His compassion in us so that we may truly serve our neighbour.



the third strand of One Desire because God has graciously brought the many nations to our doorstep – referring to the migrant workers and expatriate community living and working in Singapore.

- Pastor Rick shared that God's destiny for Abraham is that in him, all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Sharing from Isaiah 49:5-6, Pastor Rick said God has covenanted to bless the nations. And He has destined that we, the Church, are to be that instrument of blessing (Isaiah 41:17-20; Matthew 28:18-20).
- Following the short exhortation, we paired off in twos and threes to pray for countries in the 10/40 window.

found myself responding in humility and repentance... I sensed His amazing grace sweeping over me, and I felt refreshed and rejuvenated as the service progressed. And as I looked around and saw the great company of believers engaging in fervent prayers throughout the evening, I was challenged to commit myself to having a more consistent prayer life, and I asked the Holy Spirit to help me. That evening, God began a new work in me – He rekindled in me a fresh longing to experience His power and presence daily in my life. He moved me from simply having a desire to pray, to wanting to engage in prayer as a matter of duty, to learning to delight in communing with the Father through prayer.

The following quotes best sum up my experience at GDOP 2010 –

- Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God.
~ Oswald Chambers
- Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer.
~ Charles Finney
- There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.
~ D.A.T. Pierson



Third, by **Blessing the Nations**

- Rev Dr Rick Seaward of Victory Family Centre shared the Word in the final segment. He prefaced by saying that even if many of us cannot go to the nations beyond, we can still actively participate in

Reflections

I went to the Singapore Indoor Stadium out of a sense of duty - to write an article on this event for the Heartbeat. Physically exhausted from a hectic work week, I prayed and asked God to help me actively engage in the programme that evening.

Praise God – He is ever so gracious! God ministered to me as I joined the rest in the Stadium worshipping Him in songs. In the words of A.W. Tozer, "In worship, God imparts Himself to us."

God spoke to me and dealt with specific areas in my life through the Word that was shared by the three speakers. I

Chinese GDOP

By Wang Cui Fang

华语全球祷告日 王翠芳

“老年人哪，当听我的话；国中的居民哪，都要侧耳而听。在你们的日子，或你们列祖的日子，曾有这样的事么？” - 约珥书1：2



5月23日，我与活石40几位弟兄姐妹一同去参加了2010全球祷告会。在这个有220个国家一同认罪，祷告的日子，我深有感触，获益良多，非常感动。当天，来自不同教会的基督徒们齐聚在一起，一同向神祷告，祈求神的恩典和罪的赦免。

我相信，凡求主的名，就必得救，当我们认罪并转离罪恶时，神会看见我们的心，垂听我们的祷告，并回应我们的祈求。而且，我深刻地感受到神正在邀请他的儿女回到他身边。祷告的力量是强大的，圣灵时时刻刻的充满着我。

从出发到结束，这一路走来，我仿佛经历了许多，特别是当完全被圣灵



充满的时候，我毅然地做出了我人生中的一个重大抉择。我希望我能够参与教会的全职服侍，作为来自异国的新一代年轻人。我感谢神把我带到他的身边，原谅我一切的罪，赐给我新的生命，我还希望能够把这美好的福音传到我自己的国家甚至各地去，让更多的人应着神的大能而得救，被祝福。

“归向耶和华你们的神，因为他有恩典，有怜悯。不轻易发怒，有丰盛的慈爱。” - 约珥书2：13

这正是所有基督的跟随者的呼求。这不轻易发怒，有丰盛的慈爱的神的一天，这每一分每一秒都被圣灵大大充满的一天。我经历了，此生难忘。



Youth GDOP

By Clement Sim

青少年全球祷告日

Excitement was buzzing through the atmosphere of the Max Pavilion as youths, numbering over 3000, counted down to the start of the youth session of the Global Day of Prayer on 23 May. The session started off with a vibrant worship as different groups of youths dashed to the front of the stage with much enthusiasm.

As the music started to simmer, the first prayer point was given; repentance, taken from Acts 2:38-41. We were given three specific areas to repent from; immorality, idolatry and disobedience to authorities. From there, we went on to intercede for our generation, that they will be free from those three areas mentioned. I was deeply moved watching fellow youths from different churches all over Singapore intercede for one common purpose; that our generation will be set apart for His kingdom.

The session continued with a few other prayer pointers, as well as different people coming up to share their heart for this generation of youths. There were also different representatives from the congregation who were selected to go up to lead some prayer pointers.



For me, the next impactful moment that afternoon was what we were told to do towards the end of the session. We were told to write down areas that we want to surrender to God at the back of a poster, which was given to us at the entrance. We held the posters up while singing 'The Stand' by Hillsong. Some of the many different things written on the posters as sacrifices were time, choices, heart and talents. It was a powerful act of declaration, and I was very encouraged to see the corporate body of young believers lay down their lives in this manner.

At the end of the session, we were told to take out our handphones to send a message of appreciation to our leaders. That was something else that was commendable, due to the fact that

appreciating leaders isn't something that is widely practiced among the youths of the church nowadays. Also, we were given a prayer card with names of different churches and the leaders of those churches on it. We were instructed to pray for the church that was 'assigned' to us, as well as for the leaders of that church.

Overall, it was a heartwarming session. It was well thought through and I believe that many who went there were blessed by it. The culture of prayer should never cease in the church. It is my prayer that all the youths who went for the Global Day of Prayer would catch on to the heart behind it and bring it back to their churches, and incorporate it into their lifestyles.



PLMGSS Girls Learnt More About God at REW

By Yuen Cai Ying

巴耶利峇美以美女中学生在信仰强调周对上帝的认识



111 students from Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) indicated that they would like to accept Jesus Christ at the Religious Emphasis Week (REW) held from 30 - 31 March 2010.

Pastor Darick Yeo from Trinity Christian Centre was the main speaker for the REW service. He spoke on having the right conditions of heart to encounter God and making a difference in their generation.

A carnival, consisting of games based on "Don't forget your lyrics - Christian version", mini bible stories games, trading their heavy-hearted prayer requests for a heart of joy, Christian books and gift items, was set up in the canteen during the REW week.

We praise and thank God for all these girls. A 5-week follow-up programme

was conducted during their chapel sessions. Although the actual turnout of the girls was half of what it should be, the facilitators were able to spend more time with the girls and developed deeper friendships. The follow-up programme ended with a King's Banquet on 19 May 2010 to wrap up the sessions.

Testimony from a student:

"Thank you for teaching at REW. I learnt more about God."

Testimony from the facilitators:

"We saw the girls grow in their faith in God. They were quite reluctant to come for the first week. After some weeks, they began to tell other people about what they have learnt. Awesome!"

"It was amazing to see the girls begin to have a relationship with God."



Sonshine Kids Amazing Race

A Day of Learning, Fellowship & Pure Fun *By Lennard Teo*

阳光儿童极速前进竞赛 - 充满学习, 团契, 和乐趣的一天

On a sunny Saturday afternoon on 22 May, about 40 children and 20 adult coaches from our Sonshine Kids outreach ministry met in church before setting off on an Amazing Race. The journey to Changi Airport by the Circle Line route from the Serangoon MRT Station took about 50 minutes. It was exciting for many who had not taken the train to the airport before.

After arriving at Changi, we started the race. Four teams headed to Terminal 2, and four teams went to Terminal 3. At each terminal, the teams had to complete tasks at four locations, and then go to the other terminal to do the same at another four locations. With a total of eight locations between two terminals, the eight teams were only given 60 minutes to finish the race.

While our concern was for the overall safety of our children, the adult coaches were briefed about the expectations of their honesty and integrity in running a race, especially one like ours that did not have any marshals to check if teams were not bending or breaking any rules. Some of the older children were also given the responsibility to lead the teams they were in.

In Joshua 1:9, God said, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever



you go." On the week before the race, the older children learned how a leader like Joshua can lead effectively because he obeyed God's commands and was able to inspire people to follow him.

Although many of the adult coaches felt tired afterwards, the children had a good time of moving around the airport, finding clues, calculating numbers, answering questions, and making different poses for the camera. Before leaving the airport, they were all treated to a meal at the McDonald's Restaurant and it was a great ending to a day of learning, fellowship and pure fun.



That Which Is Safer Than Paintball

比彩弹射击更安全

By Jonathan Choy

On 16 May, a group of youths from our church met up with a group from Toa Payoh Methodist Church to have a friendly NERF® “battle”. NERF® is a type of toy which is created for safe indoor play.

The players, armed with their various NERF® blasters that shoot foam darts, made use of the compound of PLMC to play a variety of strategic, fast-paced, adrenaline-pumping, war-like games. It was not a game to see who would emerge the ultimate winner. Rather, it was a friendly encounter which saw players dodging darts that were flying towards them, running from the attackers or defenders, flanking the opposing team, and applying whatever “military strategy” they could have read

in books or learnt in the army. Girls and boys alike joined in the fun!

At the end of the day, even though our youths were greatly outnumbered and “lost” the battle, we all emerged winners with the friendships that were forged with youths from Toa Payoh Methodist Church. Said Reuben Goh, a youth from TNG, “I had a fun-filled day bonding with my newfound friends from TPMC and I look forward to meeting them again!”



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Jun 2010

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
5, 12, 19, 26	Sonshine Kids Outreach	19, 26	The Fundamental of Prayer (for New Believers) (Mand)
5, 12, 19, 26	Peranakan Fellowship	19	WSCS Fellowship Tea
2, 9, 16	IBS – How To Make Choices You Won't Regret (Mand)	20	Baptism Service (Mand)
5	Baptism Class 2 (Mand)	27	Confirmation Service
		29	LCEC Meeting

Sunday Services

- 7.30 am Peranakan Service (Sanctuary)
- 9.00 am Sanctuary Service / Living Stones Mandarin Service (Chapel)
- 10.30 am Filipino Fellowship (Conference Room)
Except every 1st Sunday of each month
- 11.00 am The Next Generation Youth Service, PLMGSS Concert Hall, Lor Ah Soo
- 11.15 am Celebration Service (Sanctuary) / Living Stones Mandarin Service (Covenant Chapel)

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