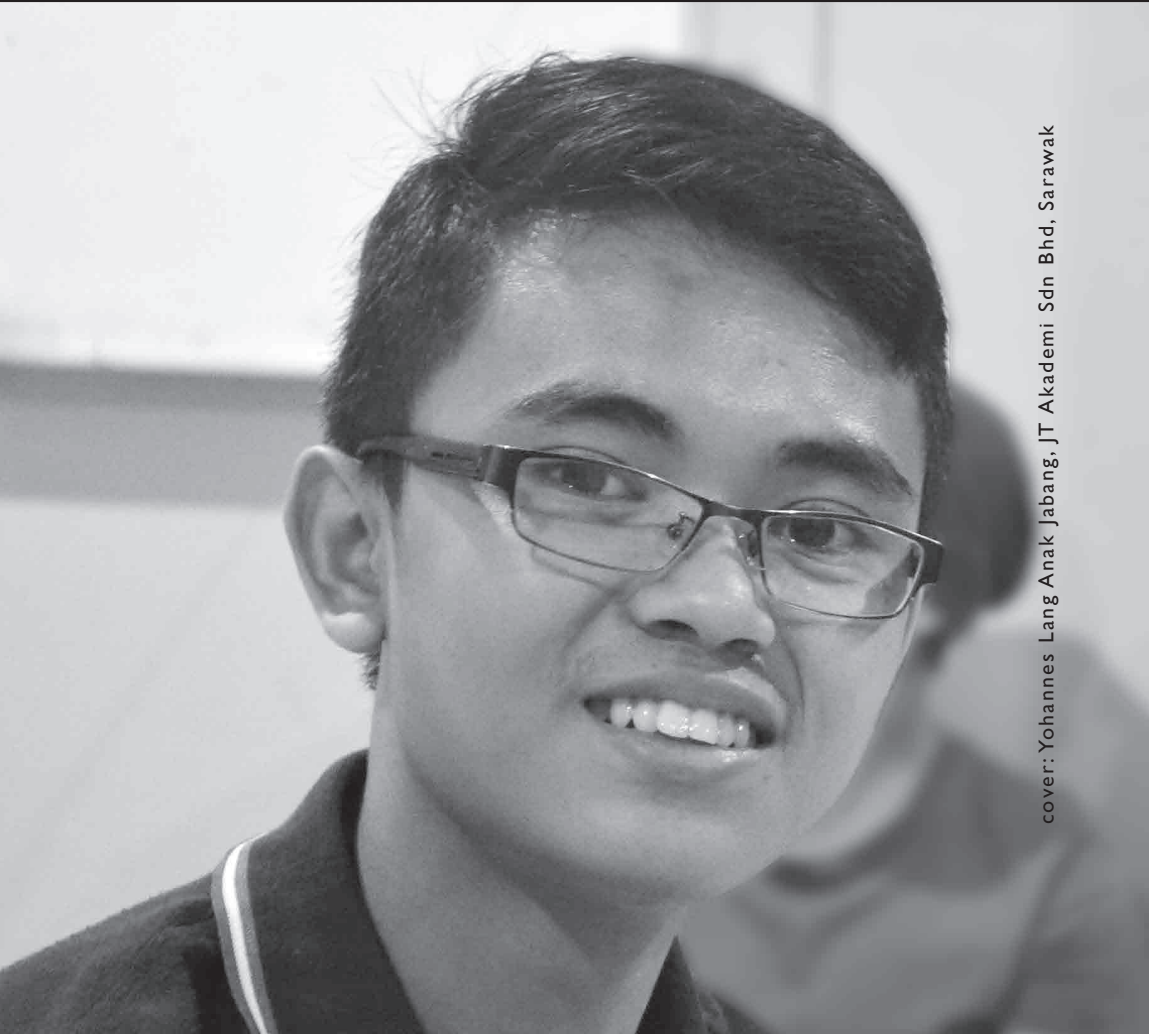




“To be Brother’s Keeper.”

This is one of our National Conference’s mission. How well do we know those across the South China Sea to be such a one? What pressing national issues should we be deeply concerned about and work at? We take a look at these questions in this edition.

Brother's Keeper

A perspective of an East Malaysian (EM), coming to West Malaysia.

P2



Having lived in Malaysia (for most us - all our lives!), **how hard can it be to 'relocate' within East and West Malaysia?** This is a small step to help each other understand what one might face when relocating across the South China Sea. 2 staff share their observations...

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE DIFFERENT IN WEST MALAYSIA?

a. Everything moves faster.

People, vehicles, development, economy. Traffic jams are normal, cost and standard of living is high. They also talk faster.

b. Deadlines

EMs view due dates as flexible.

c. Stereotyping

We have more than 80 ethnics groups. But in WM, people will think you are a Chinese if you are not an Indian or Malay. If you are none of the above, then you are a foreigner (lain-lain).

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACED BY EM STUDENTS COMING TO WEST MALAYSIA FOR STUDIES?

For those from rural areas especially, it would be **culture, cost of living and language**. Due to these reasons, most prefer to find someone who speaks the same language, which is Bahasa Malaysia and shares a similar culture.

a. Accommodation

It is a challenge to get hostel. Renting outside is more costly and there is also the additional transportation cost to travel to their campuses.

b. Church

Even though there may be many churches

nearby, finding a 'suitable' church can be challenging. Since we are used to living in a communal setting, we prefer churches with other EMs who share the same lifestyle and speak the same language.

c. Emotionally

Many WM think that EM is from another country. We are asked, "How did you come to Malaysia?"

Also since we are neither Chinese nor Indian, we get asked about food (halal and non-halal) because they think we are Malays.

It is very hard to talk about religion/beliefs in public. We would rather remain silent because if we speak up, more questions will be asked which makes us confused/angry/prejudiced.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

If we are rather silent/distance ourselves, it doesn't mean that we are anti-social but we are trying to pace ourselves and adapt to the new environment and culture. We are not used to asking for help from others or people we have just met because we are scared we will be a burden. So, we would appreciate it if you can **be patient with us**.

by, **Ms. Jane Jinap**
Part time staff,
Sarawak Regional
Office



Brother's Keeper

A perspective of a West Malaysian (WM), coming to East Malaysia.

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE **DIFFERENT** IN **EAST MALAYSIA**?

Who are the East Malaysians?

When we refer to EMs, we tend to mean native Sabahans and Sarawakians, whom we lump together as one group and mostly BM-speaking. EM includes about 24% Chinese and there are more than 80 different ethnic groups; many from mixed families who are English-speaking! We also make the mistake of thinking that all things Sabah and Sarawak are the same!

Income Gap

There is a great contrast between the very rich and the very poor and it is difficult for some EMs to travel home.

Community Life

EMs are full of life and mischief, yet often shy to speak up or ask help from others. They usually share their limited resources with those in need.

WMs tend to find safety among those who speak Mandarin or English. Language seems to be a huge barrier and hinder them from befriending native students.

Different Context

EM students cannot understand the constant bickering among the 3 major races in WM that to them is a WM problem!



WHAT ARE THE **CHALLENGES** FACED BY **WM STUDENTS COMING TO EAST MALAYSIA** FOR STUDIES?

Environment

Students cannot just take the bus home when homesick unlike in WM. **Public transport is scarce**. If you're based in the outskirts, car rental is costly to get away to town.

The vastness of the land and beauty of nature is **appealing to some** while **'boring' to others!**

In some places, we may stand out like a sore thumb, feeling more like a 'foreigner', **being stared at by the locals!**

Community

BM-speaking EM Christians are the majority here and so it is **difficult to fit in as a minority**. They speak too fast and in fact have their own Sarawak dialect. A conversation among themselves is a mixture of their native language, Sarawak dialect and BM! One word in BM can mean another in their respective native language which adds to the confusion!

Hence, it is easier to befriend someone of the same race/ethnic group who speaks English or Mandarin.

Focussing On CENTRAL ‘3 issues in our nation...’

We asked Central region what are the top 3 issues in our nation that Christians need to address? Six 1st year students say...

(Unloving/Judgmental/Integrity/ 5
Burnt out/Too comfortable) (out of 6)

Christian Character

Freedom of Opinion/ 5
Racism/Unity

Politics

3 Religious Rights

2 Corruption

1 Economy

1 Cults

1 Same Sex Marriage

“When you were a 1st year student, what were YOUR top 3 issues?”



Loke J-Lynn
Psychology
HELP University



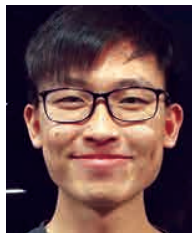
Kong Wan Ni
Psychology
HELP University



Calvin Low
Chemical Engineering
Monash University



Tey Wee Nee
Accounting & Finance
UCSI University



Lee Han
Contemporary Music
UCSI University



Sum Ji Yong
Foundation in Music
UCSI University

Focussing On SARAWAK

“Penggunaan Media di Laman Sosial”

Graduan berkata...



Saya bersyukur kepada Tuhan kerana telah lahir sebagai seorang warganegara Malaysia yang terdiri daripada pelbagai kaum dan negara yang aman, bebas daripada peperangan.

Steven anak Harry
Jurutera Mekanikal & Elektrikal
Graduan Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)

Disebalik semua ini, kita harus *berhati-hati dalam mendengar atau membaca sumber media yang ada*. Maklumat itu kadang-kadang tidak benar atau ditokok tambah bagi menjadikan cerita itu lebih menarik ataupun untuk menjatuhkan seseorang. Seharusnya maklumat yang kita dapati itu harus dikaji dahulu supaya apa yang kita peroleh tidak menjadi batu sandungan.

Dalam menyuarakan pendapat terutama di laman sosial, kita harus berhati-hati jika ianya melibatkan orang kenamaan atau pemimpin negara. Walaupun kita mempunyai hak dalam kebebasan bersuara, tetapi sebagai orang Kristian *kita harus tahu mengawal batas dan tidak bertindak secara emosi*.

TYPE “AMEN”



AND CLICK “SHARE”

TURUN PADANG

Selain itu, kita lebih cenderung untuk “LIKE” dan taip “AMEN” isu popular di media sosial seperti melihat gambar orang sakit atau mereka yang memerlukan sokongan. Apa salahnya jika kita tukar kecenderungan ini dengan turun padang dan membantu mereka yang memerlukan supaya mereka lebih dihargai.

Sebenarnya banyak lagi isu di dalam Malaysia yang harus kita perhatikan, persoalannya

“apakah kita peka terhadap *isu-isu* ini dan bertindak bukannya secara emosi tetapi *melihat kepada hasil daripada tindakan yang dilakukan itu* bagi mencerminkan kita sebagai seorang Kristian yang matang.”

CELEBRATING...

**UP
NEXT**

NORTHERN

Graduate
Training on
the 1st May &
12th August

CENTRAL

Bible Study
Day @
Kuantan on
the 29th July

SARAWAK

My Campus
Mission Trip
on the 31st
August

Christian Voter Awareness @ Sarawak 14th January

19 students, 2 graduates, 5 FES staff and 4 trainers from Rise of Sarawak Efforts (R.O.S.E.) descended into FES office to kick off the region's first event of the year - the role we play in our community.

The students came expecting a lecture style bombardment of information but instead 'power' was placed back into their hands as they went through different scenarios, commonly faced at grassroots level.



R.O.S.E. Trainers introducing themselves



Understanding the voting process.



Learning to vote wisely



Students presenting their case



Committing the R.O.S.E. Team in prayer



Together we will play our part!

CELEBRATING...



Timor Leste Visitation Trip

Flying over to encourage and build, not just the
 Kernels of Wheat (K.O.W.) team but also our partners in Timor Leste.

15th-20th March



Capacity Building with Youth Vision Center (YVC)



K.O.W. Team studying God's Word together



Lyon being given the "Tais"
 (traditional weaving) by Mr.
 Theodoro, the director of YVC



Ameta, our
 newest intern.



Introducing the (expanded) K.O.W. Team

W.I RUTH@Central

25th March

Students in the East Coast came together to investigate
 the book of Ruth and be investigated by God.

There were many questions, impressions and discoveries
 made as they went through the book of Ruth.



Welcoming the students



Putting the Bible time line together



Ready to dig deeper into the Word!



Discoveries through activity

Focussing On NORTH

“For the healing and building of our land...”

Lee Huey Fern, a Penang Medical College
Final year student says...

“Often I find myself guilty of being too self-absorbed, not caring enough about my nation. Upon reflection for this article, there are 3 issues that I need to work on. Maybe something here resonates with you too. If so, won't you join me in committing these things to the Lord and by His grace, we'll be able to play a part in the healing and building of our land for His glory.”



Unity in diversity

Along with our nation's rich diversity unfortunately come prejudices, whether intentional or subconsciously picked up.

Whether it's the different denominations, or the many races, cultures, and religions in our country, let us free ourselves from the “Us vs. Them” mindset.

Learn about each other. Build bridges. Be quick to listen and slow to anger. Above all, let us remember that “...the greatest of these is love.”

Aku Anak Malaysia

Corruption. Poverty.
Law amendments. Education.
Yes, it is our problem.

Yes, we can do something about it. Vote. Volunteer. Stay and serve. Guard against apathy/indifference.

Be informed of current affairs. Seek the Holy Spirit for wisdom and discernment in separating the truth from lies. Maybe sometimes there's nothing else we can do except pray. Well, we often forget that praying is actually the best thing we can do. Let us be good stewards of this land that ultimately belongs to our Lord.

Hananiahs, Mishaels and Azariahs

We are scattered across various spheres of influence (our universities, families, social circles, etc.).

It is often easier to travel the wider road rather than being counter culture. **But having Christ in us should and must make a difference.**

Like Daniel's friends, we need to stand on God's truth and love, reflecting it around us. **He has placed us here for such a time as this. Let us not let it go to waste.**



Focussing On SOUTH

“Pressing issues & our role as Christians”



Rayneld Edam
Southern Regional Team
Leader

A Staff shares...

Our beloved country Malaysia - there are many pressing issues that grip us at so many levels. After talking to some of my students and graduates, here are some of my thoughts and reflection...

In campus, I see and hear a **great divide** even among Christian

students. **Racism** is rampant and for many, it's not

an issue, as long as they are not affected. **CF is a**

strategic place, to model unity and brotherhood.

However, this is not an easy task, as it forces us out of our comfort zone to reach out. Seeing less of ourselves and more of others is how Jesus ministered on earth.

Another issue that grips my heart - **the lack in nation building.** I admit that I have much to learn in this area but I sense that many of us are becoming *individualistic Christians*. **We are not moved or compelled by the reality of injustice and social decline.** Perhaps because we are divided and so we feel helpless to do anything. Perhaps we have become disillusioned by our country that we feel all effort is futile.

Lastly, let's learn to **humble ourselves and pray.** Some are saying that we are living in hostile times. It's not easy live out our faith when we are facing adversity yet this is our calling. Even with all these pressing issues, we are called to live out a counter culture life - to be salt and light.

aMoment with

COORDINATOR FOR Centre for Counseling and Spiritual Direction & Church Relations

Dr.
Loh
Kim
Cheng



Graduate of: UM
Joined Staff: Aug 1992
Served as FES Gen. Sec.: 2011-2015

1. What is your role as
Church Relations Coordinator?

2 major roles – **sharing our vision & ministry** with the local church; **working alongside** churches serving students, especially in the smaller towns.

How do you feel serving in these
3. capacities having **switched roles** from being a **GS**?

I have always seen **ministry as a calling** – whichever role the Lord calls me to for a specific time. It is a blessing to be given space to explore some things that I find joy in. Right now it's difficult to juggle many different tasks that come with both roles, and being part of a regional team.

2. Can you please explain what is the **Centre for Counseling and Spiritual Direction**?

More like “An Oasis On Our Journey” (AO3J), **engaging with students, graduates and staff facing important crossroads** in life.

An invitation to Pause and Ponder the Presence and workings of the LORD in our ordinary, everyday life – primarily through “Selah” retreats. Where needed, one can be referred to a counselor or a spiritual director/ companion. It is not a physical location per se.

con't. from page 3

Brother's Keeper

WHAT DOES IT MEAN **TO BE A BROTHER'S KEEPER** FOR EACH OTHER?

Put aside our pre-conceived ideas, stereotypes and prejudices and throw away the thinking that “West/East is better”.

Seize this wonderful opportunity to grow our hearts for each other.

Make time and space to get to know the other - their values, hopes and dreams, especially those who are different from us.

Learn to dream together for our nation, and to inspire one another in the faith.

by, **Dr. Loh Kim Cheng**
Coordinator for Church Relations &
Centre for Counseling and Spiritual Direction



400 participants
9 long houses

Interaksi Rumah Panjai

Part of the mission of NC is to be BROTHER'S KEEPER.

We considered having 180 West Malaysia students fly in to Sibul, stay in 6 days and then fly back. But we realise the unique opportunity for students to interact with the locals. Hence we included "Rumah Panjai Interaction" in day 2 of NC.

The word "Interaction" is specifically chosen as we want students to mingle and talk to the locals who will be our host. But with language and time limitations, what can we possibly achieve?

In many ways, this conference has involved many steps of faith as we work with limitations and unknowns. We anticipate challenges and make decisions taking into consideration information and resources available at that point. Just as having the conference over the Raya holidays might incur higher expenses and clash with many other conferences being organised, yet it is also providence that there would be more young people present at the long houses as it is a holiday.



**It is not a visit.
It is an interaction.**

As Scripture and national issues shape this NC, it is also a much needed exercise and discipline to discern what form it will take as the team continues to work in the next two months.

Will you pray and keep watch to keep us faithful and vigilant to why we felt led to have this NC in Sarawak? That God will do what He alone can - the transformation of minds and hearts of students, staff and graduate helpers of NC 2017 for His glory and honour alone.

We are thankful to God, for each of you who have given to FES and, NC specifically, in whatever ways you could – writing to ask, sponsoring in kind and financially and prayers. We are touched that you care.

- *Eu Pui*, NC 2017 Director

at the **Moment**

MOVE WITH THE MOVEMENT



THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THE MOVEMENT!

LET'S KEEP THEM MOVING. OUR DEFICIT AS OF 1 APRIL IS RM 49, 107

WHY NOT BANK INTO:

a) HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad - 302-031398-001

b) Maybank - 5625 3518 0523

**Kindly contact the office once the money has been banked in.*

OR send your cheque to:

Fellowship of Evangelical Students
P.O. Box 58, 46700 Petaling Jaya.

Please make cheque payable to
"Fellowship of Evangelical Students"

Want more information? Contact us! FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS
386-B, Jalan 5/59, 46000 Petaling Jaya. Tel:03-77829592, Fax: 03-77831663,



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FES Malaysia