



FES Chairman
On United Witness

Team Leaders
Challenges in the coming 2 years

K.O.W. in Timor Leste
4th year and counting!

Introducing a New EXCO member

cover: Borneo Tertiary Students Camp's clocking in (see center spread)

“... that they may be one as we are one”

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:22-23)

.....

Jesus’ prayer in the upper room, in the presence of his disciples, recorded for us in John 17 focuses on a prayer for the unity of his disciples and all who would become his disciples thereafter (v20). I have often asked myself whether his request was granted and indeed whether we (and the church as a whole) are living out the answer to that prayer.

Most of us when questioned about our faith are often asked **“if Christians are supposed to be united, why are there so many denominations and differences in doctrine and practice amongst the various Christian churches and groups?”**. The optics suggest otherwise but I believe despite the differences we see, Jesus’ prayer was not in vain – it has been answered and granted by his Father and is being lived out every day in the way we relate to our fellow Christians across denominational boundaries. The key is to consider more deeply the meaning and dimensions of the “complete unity” in the sense that Jesus intended.

“Unity” vs “uniformity”

First, I should clarify that “unity” is not necessarily “uniformity”. To state the obvious, it is not necessary for all the members or people in a group to believe exactly the same things and to adopt exactly the same practices in every aspect in order to be called “united”. One often hears the phrase “unity in diversity” as a rallying call to diverse people in a group to be united in achieving a common cause because in some unifying aspect they can feel “as one” to work together notwithstanding their differences. The unity of the voters in Malaysia in our historic May 9 election this year is a case in point.



“Spiritual” Unity

Secondly, looking at the whole prayer of Jesus itself in John 17, clearly the unity sought can be said to be one of “spiritual” unity – **to be one in our**

commitment as disciples of the Lord while living in a fallen world. We are called to an identity of belonging to God and not to the world (v6) and though in the world are not to be “of the world” (v14) and are “sent into the world” (v18). In fact church history proves that many denominations were born out of a desire to call out true disciples from established churches to be united to live out our mission to the world, in fulfilment of Jesus’ prayer.

This spiritual unity, **transcending our denominational and local church boundaries causes us naturally to gravitate towards other disciples when God brings us together in a particular setting.** This could be in the workplace where we pray with other Christian colleagues or in

fes ethos: UNITED WITNESS

the case of FES in the campus setting where, as fellow students and disciples of our Lord Jesus we find this spiritual unity expressed in the life of a Christian Fellowship meeting in campus.

"Unity in the Faith"

Thirdly there is also a need for doctrinal unity or "unity in the faith". For this we move from Jesus' prayer in John 17 to Paul's exposition of this in Ephesians 4:1-12. In verse 3 Paul acknowledges there is already a "unity of the Spirit" existing amongst the believers and so he exhorts them to maintain this spiritual unity through the "bond of peace" seeing that there was "one body (of Christ) and one Spirit... one hope... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all..." (v4-5). Based on these fundamentals Paul explains that we are to build each other up using the spiritual gifts given to us "until we all reach unity in the faith" (v13) and achieve spiritual maturity. This is interesting. While acknowledging that **there was already a spiritual unity existing amongst the believers in the church of Ephesus** (part of which was to have "one faith"), **this "unity of the faith" was also something which was progressive and dynamic** and for which the church could grow into maturity.



United Witness

This brings me to the fourth point about God calling us **to journey together as fellow disciples of our Lord in such spiritual unity, leaving our denominational doctrinal differences aside when serving God in an inter-denominational environment God may has placed us in for His purpose and kingdom.** This is something that FES has embraced and encourages all CFs to embrace for the sake of a united witness for the gospel in the campus. This is to me a very real expression of the answer to Jesus' prayer in John 17. One day when the perfect has come (1Cor 13:10-12) we will be fully complete in the "unity of the faith" but till then let us work and serve together as one in answer to our Lord's prayer.



Mr. Chew Phye Keat

FES Executive Committee Chairman
Elder of PJ Gospel Hall

Focussing On CENTRAL

It all began here... In the Central Region

It is a very fluid region whereby the need to be flexible is crucial because of the changes happening within the staff team and in the Christian Fellowships it serves. It went through many difficult seasons and challenges. But all these have only strengthened the region, by the grace of God!

THESE COMING 2 YEARS IN CENTRAL REGION...

1) Students will be confused as to why Christian Fellowship (CF) needs to exist

More and more students will find it hard to see the difference between a church and a CF. The demands of the Klang Valley churches might drown reasons for the CF.

2) Conflict between Plurality and Singularity

Students will begin to think that it is better to have more Christian groups in campus rather than just one CF but what they will fail to see is the binding factor - **a community that is UNITED in witness**. A picture of what heaven would look like.

3) Intellectualism or Knowledge

Each of us has a void that needs to be filled and that void is a relationship with God. “*Relationship with God*”, this term has become so vague; something you cannot measure whereas intellectualism or knowledge can be. So this may seem like an easy way out to replace a relationship with God with intellectualism or knowledge.

4) “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”

The Central region is growing! There are more and more sparks of fellowships in new campuses, some we have never even heard of before! How much more can one staff handle?

AND SO, I DREAM OF A REGION...

1) with **more workers**, who can be part of inspiring and journeying with students.

2) where students will not only **love the Word** to gain knowledge but to really **KNOW God** and have a relationship with Him, to be able to **cling on to Him for dear life** and be **real and honest with Him at whichever point they are at**.

3) where students (and staff) **know clearly why there is a need for CFs to exist** and that the student witness in campus will be strengthened. I dream that the students will realise how important and significant it is for them to be part of this prophetic movement because they will become the new generation of leaders for the churches.

4) where there is **no need for competition, but that the church and CF will complement each other** for the wider Kingdom of God.



Beatrice Leong with Gabrielle
(left), Kae Ee & Annabelle.
Home state: Perak
Ex-staff (2008-2018)
Served as Central Team Leader
since September 2015.

Focussing On SARAWAK

Heart Matters

I have a dream that students will activate their faith in every aspect of their lives. That they will make their lives living letters to their communities in everyday living, as a response to knowing and loving Him.

You yourselves are all the endorsement we need. Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it. (2 Cor 3:2-3; The Message)



Head: filled with knowledge from their reading and studying the Bible, or through sermons - should not only be stored as knowledge of Who God Is but to respond to Him out of this knowledge.

HEART: that moves them into action.

This generation is exposed to the challenges of a fast paced lifestyle and changes in technology. We need to adjust to this. When we talk about creativity in Bible study, the students are more advanced as they can get information in many creative ways. So again, the heart matters. How much time do we spend in conversation with them?

Instead of running faster to be on par with their technology, why don't we slow down, pull them back through our physical presence with them?



Peter Paris

Sarawak Team Leader since 2008
Hometown: Lawas, Sarawak

We need to fill the empty spot in their hearts with **face to face conversations about their everyday lives**. As such we need more staff in Sarawak so that our presence in all the campuses will be more personal. I find this is very hard as the Sarawak team is stretched with limited personnel and resources.

Another challenge is to see **local churches in Sarawak take up a “God’s Kingdom” mindset in partnering with FES to minister and serve the students**. Over the years, we have been trying to make our work known to the local churches in Sarawak. I believe one day, we will have a good partnership with them.

CELEBRATING...

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WORDILICIOUS INVESTIGATORS JONAH

@KANGAR CHINESE METHODIST CHAPEL

5-6TH OCTOBER 2018

Something familiar and yet something new, the story of Jonah coming alive and the God of Jonah convicting the hearts of the students in Perlis.

"It really captures my heart to see how the Living Word of God penetrates to the deepest places of our lives in His own way." Karen Tham, Graduate Helper



Swedish Method - Another way of learning the Bible



Learning what Inductive Bible Study is before diving into Jonah chapter 1



Helping students to enter the Word via drawing



Studying the prayer of Jonah



Discovering the God of Jonah's Story



Seeing the Word in a new perspective

EVANGELISM TRAINING

@CORNERSTONE DOULOS

CHURCH, SUNWAY GEO

6TH OCTOBER 2018

"It was an insightful training that encouraged students, graduates and even staff to take an active role in this mandate given by God. The training has opened the eyes of many participants and given them much courage in engaging their friends".

Jeremy Tan

FES Staff and Coordinator for
the Evangelism Training

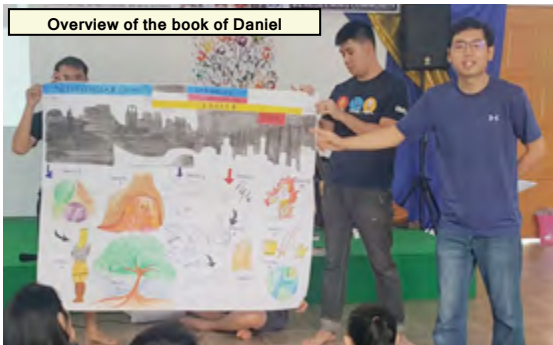


CELEBRATING...

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Overview of the book of Daniel



BORNEO TERTIARY STUDENT CAMP

@ BETHEL RETREAT CENTRE

19TH-24TH NOVEMBER 2018



Impromptu "Time Out"

On reaching out in campus



Reluctant to come initially, students return to their campuses after learning more about Daniel's God & faith. They were challenged to be part of nation building and saw anew the purpose of CF on campus.



Digging into the Word



Session on Nation Building



Students cooking "pangsu" for lunch



Sarawak laksa & fried rice for breakfast



Students performing cultural dance



Issues in our country

UP NEXT

CENTRAL

#ENGAGETHECALL

2nd March

NORTHERN

W.I. for

BM Group

9th/16th March

NATIONAL

W.I. Sabah

9th March

Kem BM
InterVarsiti

22nd-24th March

For more information,
please contact staff or email
info@fes.org.my

Focussing On **NORTH**

Going Deeper

DREAMS FOR NORTHERN REGION...

STUDENTS WHO KNOW

To see the rising up of a generation of students who know Biblical principles, are willing to wrestle with God over issues faced and are willing to act on something when God asks them to, no matter what the cost may be.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Some of the students I encounter lack a solid foundation and hence, when they face issues, they have no anchor. Others are looking for quick solutions to problems and are unwilling to wrestle with God over them. Often, students look at Facebook or Instagram posts and see only the “problem-free, perfect” lives of others. It is hard for them to face the reality of their own situations which are often less than ideal. And so, they sweep things under the rug instead of allowing God to deal with them. Yet others know what is right but are unwilling/unable to do the right thing because of materialism or fear of how others will perceive them or expectations of family, etc.

WRESTLE WITH GOD

OBEY GOD & PAY THE COST

CHALLENGES...

Owing to the **DIVERSITY OF THE STUDENTS** whom we serve and the **VASTNESS**

of the field, we need to think out of the box in terms of ministry. We serve students of mixed ethnicities, mixed language groups, differing backgrounds, studying in private or government institutions - some of whom are in very isolated areas with only a handful of Christians in their campus and no churches nearby. The twin challenges we face are understanding where the students are “coming from” and how then can we encourage them whilst also challenging them to grow deeper though we may not always be physically present with them.

As a **TEAM**, we are also learning **HOW TO COMPLEMENT**

one another and give our best inspite of our limitations. The challenge is in allowing God to stretch us and shape us both individually and as a team.



Grace Yoong

Northern Team Leader since 2016

Home state: Melaka

Focussing On **SOUTH**

Intentional Presence & Resettling In

CHALLENGES

Team Dynamics & Team Time

Leta and I will be re-locating to Johor in April 2019 with the intention of being closer to our students there, leaving Esmond in the Melaka office. Yuong Eng (Overseer for the Southern Region) will need to travel farther for meetings. Therefore, our team dynamics will change.

As a team we will **need to communicate better and be more intentional** so that we can make full use of our team time together. “**Team time**” would be something that needs to be cultivated and cherished in the coming season.

Family re-settling in

Personally for Leta and I, **it will be an uphill task of re-discovering our life pattern** in family, ministry, church and community in Johor. Naiomi will be starting primary school in 2020 and Serri will be 3 years old then. It is an adventure, yet we can't help but feel nervous and scared of what's ahead. May we find that God's grace is sufficient and that God goes before us.

DREAMS FOR SOUTHERN REGION

More presence with our students in Johor.

Our initial once a month visit wasn't enough. My dream is that both the Melaka and Johor office will be a blessing to students and staff.

With that, hopefully as the Melaka and Johor students' CFs grow, we can organize a Southern Event for them in the near future.



Rayneld Edam

with Leta, Naiomi (left) and
Serri (right)

Southern Team Leader since 2012
Home state: Sarawak

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

14-15 Sept 2018

“God of new beginnings”

A student shouted out her name for God during final session. This was in response to what she experienced throughout this camp of how God called her to rise from the shackles of her past hurts.

36 tertiary aged people attended **our first weekend camp** with the theme - “On Eagle’s Wings”. We wanted them to learn how to struggle intentionally with God in their relationships, to see that God is the Redeemer of broken relationships and just as He was able to carry the Israelites out of Egypt, He too is able to carry each and everyone of us. There were so many stories of brokenness and how it affected them emotionally and spiritually. A few of them felt “lighter” after the camp because they were able to let God deal with some of their inner hurts. What was meaningful about this camp is the team of hardworking and dedicated graduate helpers. Please keep praying for wisdom for K.O.W. to further journey with the students.



aMoment with **NEW! EXCO MEMBER** *Jaime Tan*

Having worked very closely with some of the FES staff when she was serving in INTI Subang CF and after that as a graduate helper, we want to welcome a new FES EXCO, Miss Jaime Tan!

Having previously gained experience from working in a relocation company, the consumer goods industry and non-profit organisations, Jaime is currently in the Human Resource Department of Ecolab, a company that helps make the world cleaner, safer and healthier.

Her dream? For FES to be present in every campus in Malaysia.

Her first task? **Reconnecting** those who may have lost touch with FES over the years to the current work of FES, and to **encourage** them to support the ministry and to **help out** in any other areas as time goes by.



Partnering TIMOR LESTE

Kernels of Wheat (K.O.W.) says... *4th year*

Students here struggle particularly in the area of broken of relationships in the family including hatred deep within. While we still emphasize on journeying personally with the students, we will continue the calling we introduced last year “+1”, a calling for each student to bring 1 student to know Jesus and journey with them on living the life of holiness and integrity.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS...

CHRIS To encourage the Christian students, especially the leaders, to live the life that they preach! Another challenge is when the students go back to their districts/villages, there will be a lot of temptations and it is important to encourage them stand firm.

THURSTON To discern carefully, to grow in maturity, to allow God to be our students' answer and saviour instead of trying to be their messiah, to be less anxious and working side by side with K.O.W. and God for His Kingdom.

HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER 3 YEARS HERE?

CHRIS The process of shaping and sharpening was a tough one for me but when I look back, I see God's promises - protecting my family, providing for me and leading the way. Thus, I really thank and praise God for what He has done. And humbly thanking all the supporters who continue to remember me in your prayers.

THURSTON I feel less stupid (haha!), sober about the reality of the devil's shackles on people's lives and astonished by God's Spirit working with us as He carries K.O.W. on His eagle's wings.

WHY DID YOU JOIN K.O.W.?

AMETA I made a promise in East Asia Regional Conference 2014! When I was a student, I never saw people do ministry in my campus or in other universities. I saw many students who lost their purpose in life especially in spirituality and I joined K.O.W. to help some of them.

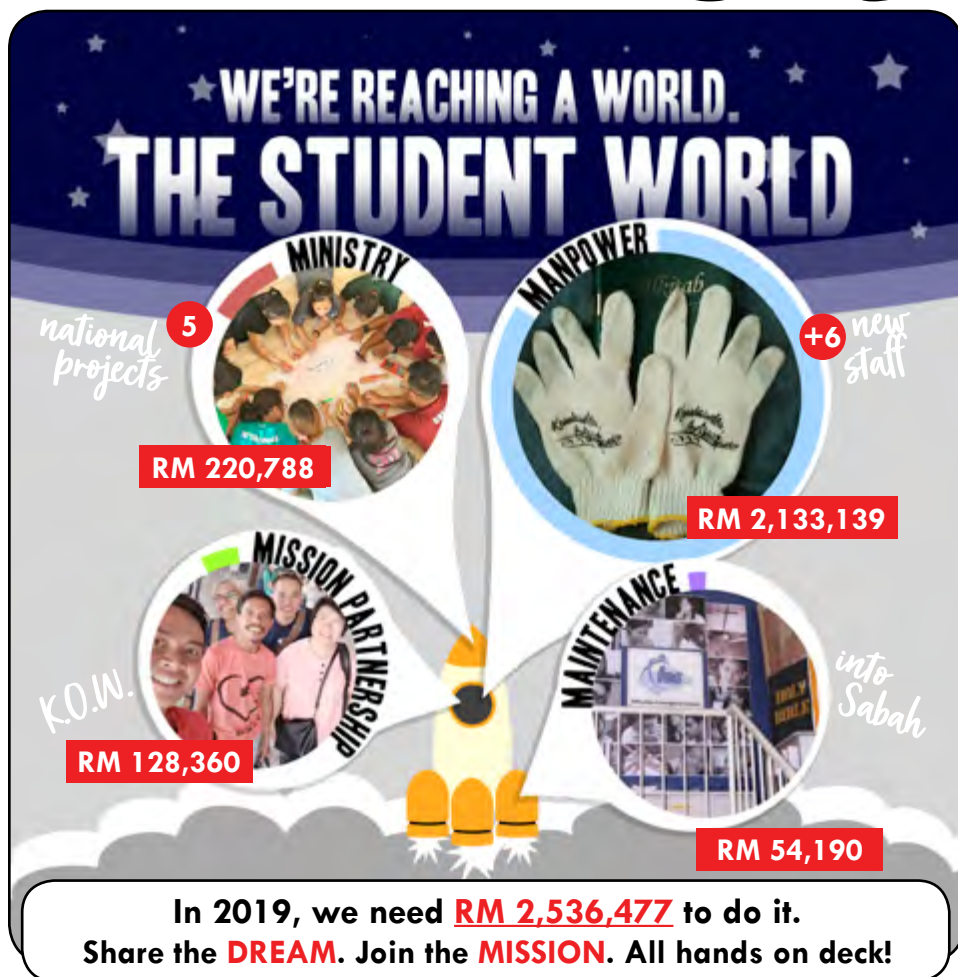
FAVOURITE MOMENTS IN K.O.W.?

Helping each other like brothers, laughter at every meeting, working together and hearing each other out.



top: Ameta, right: Thurston,
left: Chris (team leader)

at the **Moment**



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Please make cheque payable to
"Fellowship of Evangelical Students"

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

Want more information? Contact us! **FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS**

386-B, Jalan 5/59, 46000 Petaling Jaya. Tel: 03-77829592, Fax: 03-77831663,



info@fes.org.my



www.fes.org.my



FES Malaysia