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**Scripture Engagement
& FES Malaysia**
What is *Selah*?

K.O.W. Updates in Timor Leste ^{p11}

cover: Students Together On Mission Partnership (STOMP) 2019 @ Sarawak

Scripture & Engagement SELAH

P2

“THE ‘DANGEROUS’ BYWAYS OF TRANSFORMATION!”

The voices of lament rise!

The lack of appetite for the Word.

How do we invite generations to “eat His Word”? To chew? To digest?

To find life and life changed?!

.... AN EXPOSE

The shifting sands of time have exposed a raw neglect and need amongst us who pride ourselves in the study of Scripture. We often elect ourselves as guardians of the Word of God, yet end up being very Pharisaical, clinical and heartless about it. In wanting our young to honour and love God, many have often taken the “life” out of studying God’s Word. Leading it down the road of a very dissected, dry and draining study, it does nothing much except to add head knowledge to an already pressured, weighed down life.

In countering the culture and staying true to the heartbeat of God, prophetic voices have called for the change of language from ‘study’ to emphasize Scripture ‘engagement’! The difference?!!! **An invitation to enter and be a participant in a road to discovery and transformation. The Word is not only studied and exposed; it studies us and urges us to live it out.**

“More than that, the Word of God which is “alive”, enters into the contexts of our lives ~ with search lights on; with God’s heartbeat on its sleeves; oozing with a clarion call to salt the earth, arrest decay and heal the land with the people in it!”

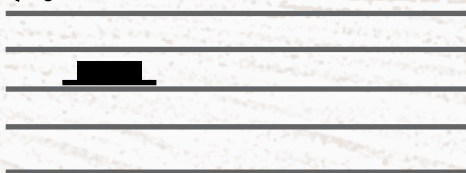
.... AN EXPEDITION

The true expedition of journeying with God’s Word~ is that it is an all-terrain adventure! The Word waters our lives in trouble, in temptation, in terror, in triumph; inviting us to truth, trust, troth and tenacity.

Scripture engagement is the ‘Dangerous’ journey we take of never being the same again! Transforming journey it indeed, is!!

It takes us on an expedition of bringing our questions to God; living our questions that arise from the Word; wrestling with God and His Word. And we know who wins every time we wrestle! The outcomes of real engagement? U-turns in life! Yielding our living, as we surrender to His Lordship over all of our life.

This happens... only when... we weave “Selah” into our lives. **“Selah” ~ responding pauses!** Selah moments can be peaceful examinations, or war room battles; but they are an intentional wrestling with God and His Word. Selah unleashes the wheels of transformation. A pilgrim’s progress!!



Scripture & Engagement SELAH

.... AN EXAMEN

Selah is an excellent way of not ignoring nor remaining silently unresponsive to our God, as He speaks. We live so much of our lives on the run, that we **often do not take note of who we are becoming.** We change and we deteriorate, but we **lapse in updating our pictures of ourselves.** Selah invites us to an examen of our conscience. A review of what has been in our living ~ our thoughts, our actions, our words. It happens in solitude ~ One on one, God and us. Just like Moses, Elijah, the Psalmist and the rest of the gang!

Weaving Selah into our hurried lives is another counter-culturally, prophetic thing. *"Be still and know I am God."* (Psalm 46:10) *"Search me, God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."* (Psalm 139:23-24)

The Psalmist echoes again and yet again that 'stepping out of the traffic' and allowing God to meet us on the canvas of examen in our hearts... is freedom! Freedom to change. Freedom to start anew. Freedom to surrender again to His Lordship. Weekly as we review our week. Monthly as we press meaning into our month. Annually as we savour the masterpiece that our year was.

.... AN EPIC

Therefore, Scripture Engagement is a holistically life-transforming pilgrimage~ an epic of sorts! Without Selah moments, our story would be minus the reflective, life-altering byways. We enter the Word, we leave with it fusing into our living.

.... Yes, we want to lead every generation onto a 'dangerous' road. One where God meets them and they are never the same again! We must! Otherwise, we live toothlessly without a bite, nor a roaring wave of transformation.

by, **Miss Annette Arulrajah**
IFES East Asia Regional Secretary



Focussing On **CENTRAL** Time Out from Busyness

Two students share their take on Selah Retreat organised by Central Region last October.



Ling Jia Pei
*Early Childhood
Education,
UTAR Sg Long*

Selah Retreat helped me as a talkative person

**to be still & acknowledge the
presence of God.**

I'm thankful that I was able to join this retreat after a busy time. At first, I felt it was difficult because I can't be quiet for long. However, I felt it was so amazing that in every session, I learnt something new through different Scriptures although they were familiar passages.

Selah retreat also reminded me to have quiet time with God everyday after my busyness, because it's God who gives me strength to face difficulties, and it's Him who will carry the yoke together with me. I will say "God is good, all the time" because He always will provide or guide you in His perfect timing.

...to have
quiet time
with God
everyday...

I am grateful to Jesus for giving me this opportunity to attend the Selah Retreat. This retreat has enabled me to leave behind my busy schedule and

**to focus and evaluate my relationship
with God.**

...sitting
alone and
being
quiet while
meditating
on the Word
of God...

The experience of sitting alone and being quiet while meditating on the Word of God with breathtaking scenery is something that I will never forget.

Arriving at Frasers Hill, I had a few major decisions to make regarding my service in church and CF but I thank God that I was able to leave that place with the right decisions and peace of mind.



Joses Shem
*Mechanical Engineering
UCSI University*

Focussing On SARAWAK

Selah: Pause & Reflect

UiTM Mukah had a half day Selah Retreat in campus for the first time last October. A participant says...



Nini Anak Abun
Pengajian Perniagaan

Program SELAH sangat menyeronokkan kerana dapat berkumpul dengan anak-anak Tuhan yang lain dan dapat menenangkan fikiran daripada segala kesibukan. Saya sangat bersyukur kerana program ini membuka jiwa saya untuk sentiasa dekat dengan Tuhan dan mengajak saya **untuk fokus sebentar; bercakap serta mendekati Tuhan**. Saya menyedari betapa jauhnya diri saya dengan Tuhan selama ini kerana saya lalai dengan perkara di luar. Di samping itu, hati saya sangat tersentuh sekali kerana saya dapat menggunakan masa yang singkat untuk membaca firman Tuhan dan mengeneipkan segala kesibukan. Bagi saya, program SELAH ini sangat bagus dan harus diteruskan kerana ia *memberikan manfaat kepada semua orang terutamanya yang sedang bergelut dengan kesibukan. Masa yang indah adalah apabila masa bersama dengan Tuhan.*

Fajar International College had their CF Camp last October. Students share about "Selah" during that camp.

After CF Camp, I know what is Selah. While doing Selah I could feel His presence. I felt so blessed. Selah also lets me feel that He is with me. And now, when I can't sleep, I'll do Selah. I feel like God wants me to have time alone with Him. Selah is a word that reminds us **to pause and reflect on Christ, in whom we find all treasures and knowledge. So we must take time alone with God and talk to Him.**



Noami Nai
Diploma in Human Resource Management

It was my first time getting to know and experience Selah even though I saw this word in the Bible. **'Selah-moments'** have been my way *to pause and reflect when I read and study the word of God; pause and reflect to spend intimate time with God.*

Selah moment **taught me to respond to the Word of God. It was also a reminder to cherish my time alone with God, to listen to Him and enjoy being in His presence.** This very impactful selah-moment hit me deeply and I was able to feel the overwhelming power of His love and moments with God that were transformative and life-changing. I believe that we will grow deeper in our faith through Selah.



Ellny Tracy Dell
Diploma in Human Resource Management

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Time for lament



Time for fun

CAMP CAMERON

12 - 31 August 2019

About 100 people came together for 20 days 19 nights, experiencing communal life of eating, playing, sleeping and sharing in their respective "families". The weather may be cold but at least our hearts were warm. It was such a blessing as students, graduate helper and staff took this time to stop and reflect at this "bus stop" to learn the different aspects of **"Give me life in Thy ways"**.



Let's finish the race



I won't let you down, bro!

JOHOR OFFICE SOFT LAUNCH

9 November 2019

A dream? 3 years ago we celebrated Southern Office's 10th Anniversary. We never thought of having staff based in Johor. The way God opened doors amazes us! Thank you Ray, Leta and Esmond for partnering God in changing the students for Christ, and Yuong Eng for overseeing the Southern ministry. We can only do this because students have played their part in this ministry together.



One for the record!



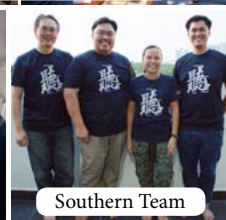
"Tea talk"



Students from Johor campuses



Graduates who journeyed with us



Southern Team



One of the three teams - Team Saratok



**Let's
Celebrate**



Teaching children and youth about the faith



S.T.O.M.P. SARAWAK (Students Together On Mission Partnership) 9 - 18 August 2019

A group of interdenominational students and staff from West and East Malaysia, went on an amazing journey in STOMP. They experienced life in the different long houses and got to know the environment, struggles, blessings and much more. Their motto? *"To expect the unexpected!"*



Bonding with the community



Hunting for dinner



Long house hospitality

Up Next

*Follow us on
Social Media*



@fesmalaysia



FES Malaysia

National

Kem BM Intervarsiti
17 - 20th January

Northern

IPG KPP Camp
7 - 9th February

Upper Northern Weekend
To be confirmed

Sarawak

High Tea with FES
15th February

Ngupi-ngupi Advisors
5th April

Central

CAP Games organised with SU
28th March

Focussing On NORTH

Selah takeaways

Northern Region had a Selah Retreat in May 2019. We asked two students who went (now graduated), what they learnt and what they are still practising.

THERAPEUTIC!

One word to describe the retreat - "therapeutic" (spiritually). The retreat may just be two days, but it definitely motivated and equipped me with one of the significant skills to experience time alone with God and that is "**to observe silence**". I may not have been practising it fully after the camp ("*don't judge ya, I am human too haha!*"), but at least the retreat constantly reminded me of how important it is to take a pause from our hectic life for God. **Therefore, I will catch my breath for a moment to speak and listen to God.** Speak here means not only to pray but also to reflect and thank God for what He has done for me. I believe it is vital in strengthening one's spiritual life and it helps me to stay humble throughout my life on earth.

I did a mini sketch (*above*) during one of the sessions - my form of expression on who God was during my college life. Based on the sketch, I call our God



as "Appa" meaning dad or daddy in Tamil. Actually God has always been playing the role of a father who showers me with unconditional love and everlasting grace. No matter good or bad, I know that I can count on my Appa, always being right by my side to listen and carry me to celebrate life.



Yashvindev Selvaraj

Psychology, Graduate of DISTED College

LISTENING

I learnt to listen. It is a new thing as throughout my journey of faith, I am used to receiving input from articles and sharings in church. **Learning to listen from God** is definitely not a natural thing for me as I would rely on something more tangible. Therefore, to 'listen' is a great challenge to me. Usually, I depend on my own experience to understand an event that happened to me. Now, I hope to constantly remind myself to 'live by faith, not by sight', and to constantly find a quiet time to 'listen' to what His plan for me is.



Khor Yi Wei

Physiotherapy,

Graduate of

AIMST University

Being Present

Selah is a time of pausing and being present.

This would sum up my own personal experience of Selah. Often time we don't pause to reflect on our life and its happenings though it is much needed.

Here are my three ways of Selah:

Being Present to **Self**

In 2015 we had an accident in Melaka. Our two month old daughter passed away. It was a difficult moment for us as a family. On my sabbatical, I went on a personal retreat with a close friend. He was there as my guide to reflect and have conversations with me as I processed my grief and made sense of the accident. Through this process (Selah), I grew in awareness of who I have become and allowed myself to embrace the pain of losing my daughter. **In order to make sense of our daily lives and not lose its meaning, we must learn to pause and reflect on our day.** Nowadays, practices such as the 'Daily Examen' helps me capture my day.

**Chronicles of God (CGK) journals are written by FES staff to encourage and help students read the Bible and reflect on it. Available in English, BM & Mandarin.*

Being Present to **God's Word**

CGK* journal has been a great tool for me to be present to His Word in these past weeks. My wife and I would read Scriptures, reflect and have conversations on the Scripture. I find it refreshing when we have another person to pause and be present to God's Word with. **Being present to His Word is an act of allowing God to speak to us through His Word.**

Being Present to **God's Prompting & Nudging**

Prior to moving to Johor, Leta and I would often spend time praying and have conversations, taking time to pause and seek God's direction. Our pauses and reflections have allowed us to hear God's voice through the encouragement of our colleagues, meeting up with students here and the availability of an office space in Johor.

Yes, God uses our surroundings to speak to us at times, if only we are present to His prompting by pausing and reflecting.



Rayneld Edam
Southern Team Leader

fes vision

**"To inspire students towards holistic growth
in Christ and to empower them
to live out the gospel."**

To be storytellers of STORIES of REAL people— begin at the grand STORY (biblical narrative) - about a GOD who is personal and involved in the lives of His people.

The story of a GOD who loves and cares. About God's redemptive work in our broken and sin marred world. Amazingly it is a STORY that invites us and our individual stories to be part of this GRAND STORY.

In Jesus, God has showed us what it means to be real and have meaning as human beings in this world. He has shown this in the way He lived, giving us a pattern of what it means to be fully alive and free as human beings. And it gets better, the story does not end there for God is redeeming not just individuals but people of all tongues and tribes. And we are invited to be part of this grand plot.

Every life, every family, every work and every relationship can be redeemed and restored in Christ. That is the meaning of resurrection. So, while we wait for that glorious Day, we will wrestle and strive hard in all that He has given us— family, vocation and service to others— that best reflect this Hope in Christ's return.

Every 4 years,
staff discern
critical areas
to call forth,
specific to the
generation we
serve at the
tertiary level...

#1 Knowing God

#2 Engaging the Word

#3 Being Witnesses for Christ

#4 Redeeming Community

#5 Rebuilding Negaraku

#engagethecall
2018-2021

TIMOR LESTE

Kernels of Wheat (K.O.W.) updates



(LtoR) Thurston, Ameta, Putri & Chris (team leader)

Strong Together

*“Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly
broken.” (Ecc 4:12)*

When we started the calling of “+1” in 2018, we were inspired by Andrew’s character in the Gospel of John. We asked ourselves how we can help students to journey with their friends and to be an impact in their campuses.

Since then, we can see the impact of the “+1”. Every meeting they will bring 1, 2 or 3 and some would stay for the next meeting. While some didn’t, it was that calling that helped students to understand and learn how to journey with others.

From one Bible study group to two, now we have three Bible study groups in three different campuses. Two have renamed themselves from Liafuan Moris* @ Bible study to “BiTE” in Universidade Nacional Timor Leste (UNTL) and “YES” in Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ). What is “BiTE” and “YES”? Stay updated with the next issue of NADI! The third and newest Bible study group birthed in 2019 was from Universidade Dili (UNDIL).

As we saw how “+1” grew the Bible study groups, we were amazed by God- how this calling is growing the IFES KOW TL team as well. This year we also have another local part time staff joining us. We remember praying for a lady staff back in 2017 because a large number of students are female. This year, God has opened the door for Putri Jesus to join the team!

Thank you for always remembering us in prayer and relentlessly journeying with us!

Tetun language:

*Liafuan Moris means Word Alive

**God bless you

Maromak Foo Bensa**,
KOW TL

at the **Moment**

VITAL STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 2020



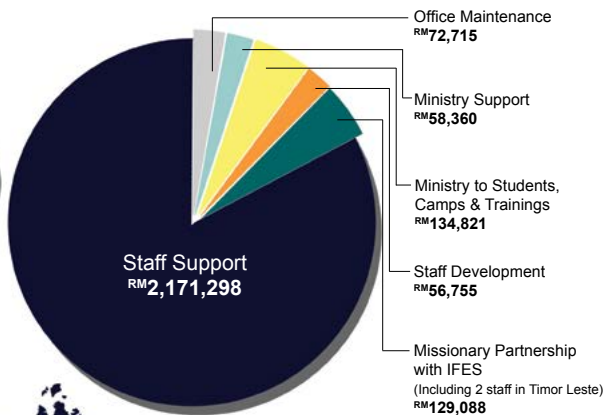
84
CAMPUSES

202



5
REGIONS
7 OFFICES
37 STAFF

Total needed
to keep going in 2020
RM 2,623,034



TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED TO BE PRESENT
TO STUDENTS IN SABAH REGION

RM 101,220

Be part of the movement and help keep it going!

HSBC Bank
Malaysia Berhad*

302-031398-001

Maybank*

5625 3518 0523

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"

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

Want more information? Contact us! FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS
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