



Reaffirming Our Commitment

Picture taken during Kem BM Intervarsiti (more on page 4)

Reaffirming Our Commitment

[Reflections from 1 Chron. 29]

What a sight it must have been!

After charging his son, Solomon, with the blueprints for the temple and exhorting him to be devoted to the Lord and His commandments (1 Chron. 28:9-21), David turns towards the entire assembly and reveals the resources needed for the building of the temple (1 Chron. 29:1-2). Besides that, David had also reached into his own 'personal possessions' for the cause of the temple (v3-5). David's example resulted in the leaders contributing from their own personal wealth (v6-8).

What was so amazing is that the people gave willingly and rejoiced at the privilege of giving! (v9)



Re-Establish the Basic Truth

At the end of the offering ceremony, David prayed a public prayer, thanking God for all that He had provided. The prayer was a short course in theology – that God was still the one behind all of it! **It was because of God and His blessing that the people were able to give so lavishly.**

This is the basic truth that David reminds us of – that God is the one at work. The truth that sets the foundation of our commitment to the work is that FES is a movement that God moves and sustains. The key to seeing this, aside from the staff that God has called to the work, is the support, friends and partners that He brings to journey alongside.

Recapture the Vision

The vision of the work is built upon the foundation of our commitment. David's prayer in 1 Chron. 29 isn't just thanking God but it is also a prayer that intercedes for the people and Solomon to keep their hearts on the Lord and be

utterly devoted to His commandments – this was also David's 'vision' for his people and his son.

FES' vision is 'to inspire students towards holistic growth in Christ and to empower them to live out the gospel.'

The act of reaffirming our commitment must involve recapturing the vision that have been set. J. Samuel Escobar, a former general director of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Canada writes that while **vision can be articulated in physical (or digital) form, relaying it involves people and it can only happen once the vision becomes something that takes hold of us in which we began to believe with all our heart and strength.**¹



¹ J. Samuel Escobar (2009), 'Vision and Continuity' in 'Vision and Continuity in Our Time, North Bridge Road, Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Singapore, Pg 19

Reaffirming Our Commitment

[Reflections from 1 Chron. 29]

This means that the vision cannot be merely words inscribed on the wall of the office or on the website. It must be a conscious belief that drives both the organisation and each staff. Perhaps it was David's belief in his vision that drove his giving and prayer.

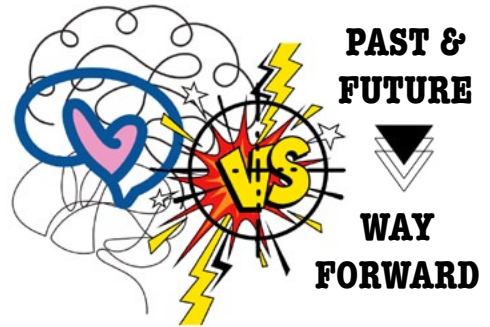
Realign Ourselves to the Mission

Of course, the vision is only one aspect of reaffirming our commitment. It is the mission that defines the organisation's existence. **Changing students for life that they will impact society, church, family and campuses is FES' mission.** Similarly, just like how David and the people of Israel gave to reflect the 'mission work' of building the temple, our plans and conduct must realign to reflect the mission that outlines FES existence.

Re-Envisioning the Work for the Same Battle

Chapter 29 ends with a bittersweet mood. It signals the beginning of King Solomon's reign but it also brings the curtain down on King David's. Change will happen whether the people like it or not.

Likewise, changes have definitely taken place, both in FES and in the student world. Yet the battle for the students remains and there is a need to re-envision the work. As Dr Oliver Barclay, a former chairman of the IFES executive committee, once warned that the **constant challenge is to go over the same ground in fresh ways with continual enthusiasm.**²

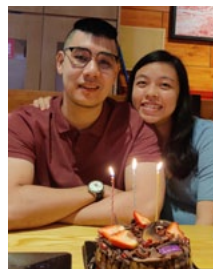


This is what it means to re-envision the work for the same battle.

Reaffirming our Commitment is not just holding on to the past or just forging forward only. Rather, it is holding both in tension together - looking back by re-establishing the basic truth and recapturing the vision as we forge ahead. We do this by realigning ourselves to the mandate and re-envisioning the work.

Student work at the end of the day is not the end but the beginning. The battle for them continues. This is our commitment to them!

² Oliver R. Barclay (2009), 'The Battle Today' in 'Vision and Continuity in Our Time, North Bridge Road, Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Singapore, Pg 24



Lyon Chua

Central Region Team Leader
with Monica, wife and
fellow staff.

Kem BM Intervarsity 21-23 April 2023

"Kami melihat bahawa umat Tuhan ditegur kerana mereka telah lupa dan lalai dalam tanggungjawab mereka mendirikan Rumah Tuhan. Hagai diutus untuk memperingati mereka.

Kami diperingatkan melalui renungan keadaan persekitaran mereka adalah dalam reruntuhan dan sudah tiba masanya untuk membina semula. Dalam segala cabaran ditempuhi, Tuhan telah berjanji bahawa DIA akan sertai mereka."



Because taking photo sitting down is too mainstream.

Camp coordinator bringing the camp to a close.



The camp's focus was on the book of Haggai.

Time out during camp to visit factory nearby.



Staff cooking for camp to make camp fees affordable.



Captured Moments

Table Talks @Southern Region

Southern Team met with students & advisors, exchanging ideas about CF to strengthen this partnership as we explore issues faced by them.



March : Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)

May : Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan (PIS)



April : Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai (UTM)



Up Next...

FES Sarawak 20th Anniversary (23rd Sept 2023)
@First Baptist Church, Kuching

Students Together on Mission Partnership (STOMP)
(23rd Sept - 2nd Oct 2023)

in loving
memory of



Dr Thomas Chung Kim Sun

16.08.42 - 28.04.23

Friend, mentor, advocate, resource person, humble, prayerful, generous, simple living, passionate preacher, ardent reader, genuine care... (and the list continues)

- This is WHO HE HAS BEEN to us and what he has MODELLED for us at FES.

He could have had so many things yet emptied himself. He could have been with family abroad yet chose to be where God called him and was single-mindedly focussed on preaching Christ and living for him.

Since the work began in Sarawak region, he has been on the Sarawak Regional Committee, cheering us on.

Indeed, he will be missed by us at FES!



What does our commitment reflect?

p6

by Willi Tien Yee Hong
[Universiti Teknologi Malaysia]

In 1 Chronicles 29, we witnessed the **remarkable commitment of King David** to build a temple for God (v1), which **reveals his deep love and reverence for God.**

David's attitude towards his commitment to God reflects his deep understanding of God's character and his relationship with Him throughout his entire life as seen below:

1) *Very Detailed* (v2)

Recognises that God is intimately aware of every aspect of his life.

2) *Sacrificial* (v3)

Sees God's sacrificial love and grace in his life.

3) *Willingness* (v5&9)

God appreciates and delights in David's willing heart.

4) *Abundance* (v7)

As a response to God's lavish blessings.

5) *Astounded* (v10-18)

David is in awe of God's greatness in his own life.

6) *Prayerful* (v19)

Surrenders these uncertainties to God in prayer.



Willi Tien

As students, it is crucial for us to reflect on our attitude towards our commitment to God. Do we view it as a burden or a routine? Let us instead emulate David's commitment, driven by love and worship. Our commitment should be motivated from an understanding of God's unwavering faithfulness, His unchanging nature, and His abundant love for us.

While I struggle to believe that God is aware of what I am going through, I hope to emulate David's faith, and know that God is with me all the time.

Let us take a moment to reflect on how God has shown Himself in our life. Then, let's reaffirm our commitment to God, driven by our love and worship for Him.





Renewing Our Commitment as a CF

p7

by Rayneld Edam

[Southern region Team Leader]

As a Christian student serving in a Christian Fellowship on campus, reaffirming our commitment means recommitting to the principles, values, and responsibilities of the Christian faith and the purpose of the Christian Fellowship (CF).

The Southern Table Talk (refer pg5), which took place over fellowship meals with three CFs: *UTeM, IK UTM and PIS, was planned with these concerns in mind. Apart from learning about the various challenges that these leaders faced, the meetings were intended to encourage and affirm them.

Campus **Christian Fellowships ought to function as a supportive and nurturing community.** In this context, reaffirming commitment involves the students' active participation in the activities and nurturing relationships with fellow students in an atmosphere of love, acceptance and encouragement.



* UTeM = Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka

IK UTM = Ikatan Kristian Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

PIS = Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan

By accepting this responsibility, members will find that CF is a place where support can be found and will be receptive to receiving guidance.

For students renewing their commitment to the CF, it is critical to emphasise:

- the CF's value to the campus community.
- the students calling to serve in leadership roles in the CF.

This will naturally include accepting the call to follow Christ and practicing the kind of leadership which includes mentorship and accountability. As students put the above into practice, they are living out Christian values, being an example, and using their gifts and talents to serve and lead the CF.



Rayneld Edam

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TO BE ONE OF

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(~RM 1,000 /year)

... 500 individuals who give **RM 167 /month**
(~RM 2,000 /year)

... 100 churches who give **RM 2,000 /year**

... 50 CFs who give **RM 200 /year**

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OUR CURRENT DEFICIT IS RM 177,421
AS OF JULY 2023



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