

WORKSHOP

A. Attending To The Needs Of Foreign Workers In Singapore

Dr Goh Wei Leong

Most of the time, we do not interact with them but foreign workers are seen sweeping our streets, at construction sites and being shuttled from different places at the back of trucks everyday. Many more provide their labour in the homes and their work is often unseen, taken for granted and overlooked. Their lives and backgrounds are unknown to us even though they dwell amongst us. Sometimes ignorance creates a sense of fear to make contact. Most of us may be at a loss to show our care for them. How can we begin to understand the lives of foreign workers in Singapore? How can one attend to their needs? What are the avenues for individual and church involvement in the ministry to the foreign workers?

B. The Church In Action:

Sharing The Love Of Christ With The Migrant Community

Dr Chris Cheah

"Unhealthy living conditions." "Growing number of migrant workers." Every one in four persons in Singapore are migrants and this number is set to grow as economy grows in the next few years. Singapore has hired some these migrant workers to alleviate the shortage of labour in menial jobs. Often they are overlooked and not given the rightful respect for their hard work. With this large number of migrants, where do they fit in the Singapore society? What is the role of the church and its congregation to meet the needs of these migrant workers? How can my church and I get involved in this ministry together?

C. Caring For The Families Of Prisoners

Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li

Some 10,000 ex-offenders leave the prison gates every year but most of them enter a 'second prison' as they have been stigmatized and unaccepted by the wider society for having committed crime. Often families bear the brunt of managing the household socio-economically while their spouses are serving time and after they have been released. Families and supportive friends play a key role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders to society. We need to care for the ex-offenders as well as their families, which have often been neglected. How can we, the Church walk alongside these families?

D. Dispelling Discrimination:

Towards An Acceptance Of People Affected By HIV/AIDS

Pastor Pax Tan

Senior Minister of State Dr Balaji has called for a greater attention to the worsening AIDS condition in Singapore last year. In the past few years, the number of people who have been inflicted has grown exponentially. In the first eight months of last year alone, there were 278 new cases diagnosed. Are people who have HIV/AIDS the modern equivalent of the lepers of Jesus time? The church needs to be an effective tool to end the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. How should we then respond with empathy without pity? As Christians in today's modern Singapore, how can we dispel the discrimination that has been placed on people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS?

SPEAKERS COSC CONFERENCE 2008



Dr Christopher Cheah is a medical doctor with public health training who works at the Ministry of Health. He and his wife Fung Fong have 3 teenage children and the whole family worship at Fairfield Methodist Church. As Fairfield's Chinese Ministries Coordinator, he oversees Fairfield's Mandarin and Cantonese speaking congregations, and her outreach ministries among migrant workers from China living and working in and around Chinatown.



Pastor Pax Tan is serving as Senior Director, Prison, Drugs and AIDS of Malaysian Care, a Christian NGO, serving the poor and needy. He is a graduate from Trinity Theological Seminary (1981) and Oxford Brookes University (1991). He is an Associate Pastor of Canaan Lutheran Church, Kajang-Lutheran Church in Malaysia.



Dr Wei-Leong Goh is a General Practitioner, is the founder and director of Linking Hands, a medical networking agency. Linking Hands connects Christian medical professionals and students to short and long term opportunities, crisis relief and student elective programmes.

He also chairs the Christian Medical & Dental Fellowship (CMDF) of Singapore where medical missions, student work, ethics and marketplace are growing ministries. He is the S.E. Asian regional general secretary of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA).

With the CMDF, new initiatives such as the Medical Missions Foundation were launched to raise funds for support of doctors and dentists in the field. He helped found and chairs a not-for-profit company HealthServe Ltd that reaches out to the fringe communities of foreign workers and commercial sex workers.

Wei-Leong currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Operation Mobilisation Singapore.



Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li is Senior Chaplain of Singapore Prisons Fellowship. A pastor with the Trinity Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Singapore, Ming Li began ministry among prisoners and recovering addicts since 1987. Ming Li holds a DMin degree in Spiritual Formation from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is married to Jeannie and has a daughter, Kimberley, aged 11.

WORSHIP LEADER



Helen Mottee Helen is an award winning songwriter/singer/ pianist from Australia who is currently working in Hong Kong. Her focus in song writing has been on social justice and humanitarian issues. One of her songs won the Sacred Song category and she was named the Songwriter of the Year. Helen is passionate about sharing the stories and songs that have come out of having her eyes and heart opened to the needs of so many in this world.
website: www.crossroads.org.hk



Rev Dr Daniel Koh Kah Soon a Methodist minister, is currently working full-time with Trinity Theological College. He teaches Church and Society, Pastoral Theology, Methodism, and Ethics. At TTC, he serves as the Director (English) of the Centre for the Development of Christian Ministry which organises evening courses for laity training. His wife, the Rev. Dianna Khoo is the pastor-in-charge of Trinity Methodist Church. Their daughter, Joanna, is completing her university studies.



Rev W P Ebenezer Joseph has been a Minister in the Methodist Church for 24 years and currently serves as President of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka (MCSL). In this role he is responsible for directing and strengthening the mission of the church, and has pastoral oversight of the ministers, evangelist and staff of the MCSL. The MCSL is the oldest Methodist Church in Asia and at present has over 30,000 members from all ethnic groups.

Rev Ebenezer Joseph also serves as Chairperson of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka and Co-Secretary of the Congress of Religions. He is passionate about peacemaking and reconciliation, and has been recognized with a Peace Award from the National Anti-War Front for his work in promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations. He is also concerned with actively promoting work against displaced people, those marginalized in estate sectors (made up of people working in plantations, mainly tea and rubber, in Sri Lanka) and people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Rev Ebenezer Joseph was one of the Plenary speakers at the recent Micah Consultation held in Genting, Malaysia last October 2007.



Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang Swee Lian is an Associate Professor and Head at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. She is also Director of the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography and Regional Editor (Asia) of Women's Studies International Forum. Her research and publications focus mainly on gender issues, labour migration flows (particularly within the Asia-Pacific region), as well as urbanization and heritage conservation. Besides articles in international journals and book chapters, her publications include the co-edited volumes Gender Politics in the Asia-Pacific Region (Routledge, 2002; with Brenda S.A. Yeoh and Peggy Teo) and Asian Women as Transnational Domestic Workers (Marshall Cavendish, 2005; with Brenda S.A. Yeoh and Noorashikin Abdul Rahman). She also occasionally does consultancy work for various ministries and statutory boards, including most recently, the National Heritage Board and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Breaking Down Barriers:

The Church for the Marginalised

COSC CONFERENCE

18 ~ 19 APRIL 2008 (Fri & Sat)

VENUE:

**WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, WESLEY HALL
5 Fort Canning Road Singapore 179493**

Breaking Down

Barriers:

The Church for the Marginalised

OBJECTIVE:

To create an awareness for the marginalised people and to consider ways which we can express our Christian compassion and care for their well-being.

KEY VERSE:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your GOD?

(Micah 6: 8b)



COSC CONFERENCE 18 ~ 19 APRIL 2008 (Fri & Sat) PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1 FRIDAY, 18 APRIL 2008

**VENUE:
WESLEY HALL, WMC**

- 7.30pm – 8.00pm **Registration**
- 8.00pm – 8.10pm **Welcome & Prayer**
by Rev Dr Wee Boon Hup,
TRAC President
- 8.10pm – 8.45pm **Worship & Concert**
by Ms Helen Mottee
- 8.45pm – 9.30pm **Plenary 1:
The Biblical and Wesleyan
Perspective of Social Concern**
by Rev Dr Daniel Koh, TTC
- 9.30pm – 9.40pm **Announcement & Closing**
by Rev Gabriel Liew

DAY 2 SATURDAY, 19 APRIL 2008

Morning Schedule

(Morning session at Wesley Methodist Church)

- 8.30am – 9.00am **Registration**
- 9.00am – 9.10am **Welcome & Prayer** by
Rev Melvin Huang, Pastor-In-Charge,
Wesley Methodist Church
- 9.10am – 9.40am **Worship & Concert** by Ms Helen Mottee
- 9.40am – 10.30am **Plenary 2: Concern for the
Marginalised**
by Rev Ebenezer Joseph, President,
Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
- 10.30am – 11.00am **Teabreak** at Wesley Plaza
- 11.00am – 12.00pm **Workshops: (Choose One)**
- 12.00pm – 1.00pm **Lunch** at Wesley Plaza

After lunch, Conference to be continued at YWCA Sophia Cooke Ballroom, L2

Afternoon Schedule

(Afternoon session at YWCA Sophia Cooke Ballroom, L2)

- 1.15pm – 1.30pm **Worship** by Ms Helen Mottee
 - 1.30pm – 2.30pm **World Café "Shaping our Futures
through Conversations That Matter"**
Peter Pang, Facilitator
 - 2.30pm – 3.45pm **Migrant Singapore: Past & Present**
by Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang
Panel Discussion by
Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang,
Dr Goh Wei Leong and Dr Chris Cheah
 - 3.45pm – 4.15pm **Concert** by Ms Helen Mottee
 - 4.15pm – 5.00pm **Final Challenge** by
Rev Ebenezer Joseph, President,
Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
 - 5.00pm **Acknowledgement** by Mr Leow Kim Liat,
TRAC BOSOC, Chairperson
- Closing** by Dr Tan Tee Khoon,
General Secretary, FES Singapore

REGISTRATION

Christian Outreach & Social Concerns Conference 2008

[Rev/Mr/Miss/Mrs/Dr] - please delete accordingly

Name: _____
[Please Print]

Address: _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ (Home) _____ (Office)

_____ (Mobile) _____ (Fax)

Email: _____

Church: _____

Occupation: _____

Workshops: Choose one & rank according to interest (1,2,3&4).

- Workshops:** A. Attending To The Need Of Foreign Workers In Singapore *Dr Goh Wei Leong*
 B. The Church In Action: Sharing The Love Of Christ With The Migrant Community *Dr Chris Cheah*
 C. Caring For The Families Of Prisoners *Rev Chiu Ming Li*
 D. Dispelling Discrimination: Towards An Acceptance Of People Affected By HIV/AIDS *Pastor Pax Tan*

- Fees:**
- ♦ Working Adults: \$20.00
 - ♦ Non-Working Adults: \$10.00

Closing date for registration: **13 April 2008**

Date: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Please fill up the registration form. Make a cheque payable to **"Wesley Methodist Church"** and indicate behind the cheque – **COSC Conference Fee** and send to *Ms. Rosalia Mahendran, Wesley Methodist Church, 5 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179493*. For any inquiries, please call Ms Christine Pillay at 68379211 or email her at christinep@wesleymc.org.

Organised by TRAC Board of Outreach and Social Concerns, Wesley Methodist Church and Fellowship of Evangelical Students