



Repositioning the Team

Picture taken during staff
meeting in February 2023

Repositioning the Team

[Reflections from 1 Chro. 29]

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“The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God.” (1 Chro. 29:1)

We are called to be light in the world, shining the love of Christ and proclaiming His Good News to all. This call has not changed but the students and their world certainly has. The transition facing King David invites us to consider our own situation.

Posture

King David wanted to build a temple for God but this honour was given to his son Solomon. David accepted God's decree and set his heart towards preparing the needed resources. A good king would recognise the crucial preparation for eventual succession. David's final act gives clues of his priorities as he prepares the way for Solomon.

Today, the situation has changed but the focus has not. 1 Chronicles 29 is a powerful reminder of keeping our focus on God, particularly our worship. **In fact, all forms of ministry must be geared towards the worship of God.** All missions ultimately are to lead people to know and worship Jesus. The psalmist prays for God's blessings so that His ways and salvation may be known on earth (Psalms 67:1-2).

The temple was to be the visible reminder of the presence and worship of God. In the same way, may all our endeavours and emphasis bring honour and glory to Jesus, our Lord and King. **This is our first priority.**

Preparation

We prepare, as David has done, for the next generation of student leaders and staff workers. They are full of potential and with many giftings which need to be stewarded responsibly and faithfully. **The preparatory work involves both the tangible and intangible which includes the private and personal life.** It is not enough to be equipped with skills and knowledge if the heart is not wholly devoted to Jesus. Solomon's tragic end is a sober reminder of a heart that had turned away from God. God's servants must guard their hearts for they cannot serve two masters (Matt 6:24).

The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.



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How then should we serve? One indicator is our attitude towards possessions. David led by example in giving sacrificially out of his own possessions on top of national resources. It is costly to follow Jesus. May godly examples and good attitudes towards things at our disposal showcase God's graciousness and faithfulness. **In lavish giving of self, may we experience the surpassing joy and blessings that far outweigh any sacrifices required.**

Partnerships

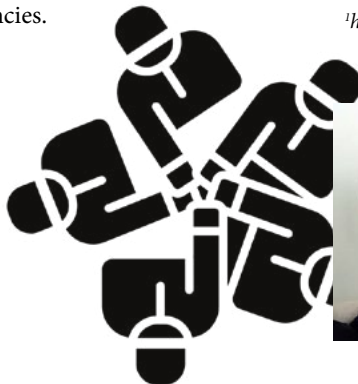
The Great Commission given to us cannot be achieved alone. David invited the people to give willingly. The Gospel work needs good and healthy partnerships for resources are scarce. Let us who share in the same desire, work in such a way that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together. We see emerging partners such as International Student Ministry (ISM) Malaysia and Christian Faith and Science Nexus in addition to long-time partnership with SU, TCF, GCF etc. FES is thankful and appreciates such partnerships with supporters, prayer partners, graduates and like-minded servants of other ministries and agencies.

Prayers

The spiritual awakening that happened recently in Asbury University¹ notably among the young showed deep spiritual hunger for God. Though often written off, young people will be the very ones God uses in advancing His kingdom. It is therefore our privilege to journey with these leaders of tomorrow. The Holy Spirit who is already at work in them before meeting us will continue to do so long after that to bring to completion God's holy work. Indeed, 'everything comes from you and we have given only what comes from your hand' says David. Amidst all human efforts, prayers re-orient us to rely on God's on-going work. Like David, we pray the Lord will keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of his people forever and keep their hearts loyal to God (v17-19).

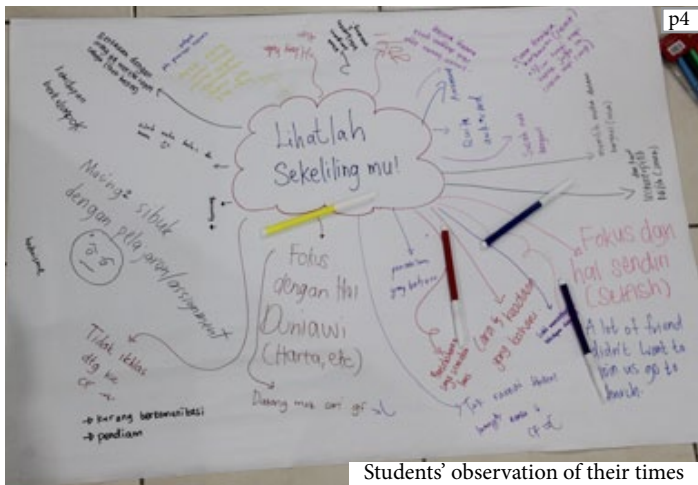
Solomon began construction in his fourth year and the Temple was completed 7 years later. The Kairos time we have with each generation of students in university campuses is limited to 1 to 4 years. It is a critical and urgent work. Pray with us!

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Asbury_revival



Yong Yuang Eng
Assistant General Secretary

Camp Reflection time -
Scripture and self



Students' observation of their times



CF Advisors & Staff get together@camp

Friendship, Evangelism, Support Camp (Central) 14-16 April 2023



Time well spent learning the importance of authentic community, building meaningful friendships and reaching out with the gospel!



Caring for others and allowing
self to be cared for too!

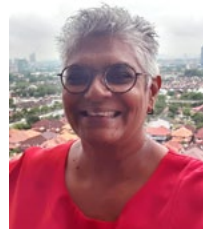


Celebrating
Annette Arulrajah
on her appointment as
Associate General Secretary



We want to congratulate our dear sister who has served as the Regional Secretary for IFES East Asia since 2017 and will be starting her new role as IFES Associate Secretary beginning 1 May 2023.

We asked her to share her thoughts with us as she embarks on this new journey...



I never ever imagined when I first became a staffworker here in Malaysia ~ that 35 years would pass by so quickly and that I would be **ENTRUSTED** to live this mission, in ever expanding fields beyond Malaysia. It has certainly been an adventure of faith and of growing up!

“Under the control of God, the ordinary instruments become extraordinary.”
(L.B. Cowman)

As I lift up my eyes to the horizon of the nations, I have dreams. I dream that each movement in our Fellowship will experience what it means to be **GOD’S MOVEMENT**, letting the Holy Spirit orchestrate our course, while we move in Him to reach out and usher in His kingdom wherever He calls. I dream, that we will live out our name in being a **‘FELLOWSHIP’** ~ holding together in humble generosity, even as we live out this mission. I dream too, that every pilgrim who ventures on this mission of nations, will **“LIVE TO BE FORGOTTEN, so that Christ may be remembered.”** (D.E. Hoste). May we live in the footsteps of the ‘Cambridge Seven’ who made Christ visible, not themselves!!

So, I embark on this last lap of my mission with students, knowing only my frailty and vulnerability; and **GOD’S MAJESTY and SUFFICIENCY**. May I be found faithful till the end!!

*Cheering you on in this next phase, from all of us -
FES EXCO, staff team, graduates of FES Malaysia!*



“Aram Ngetau”

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[Iban Language : Come Harvest Together]

by, **Peter Paris**

[Sarawak region Team Leader]

This year, FES Sarawak celebrates an important milestone - 20 years of hard labour from humble beginnings of responding to the “Macedonian call”.

20 years ago I had not heard of FES as tertiary ministry is mainly conducted by local churches and the well-known Scripture Union (SU). There were also only a handful of tertiary institutions in Kuching. **However, by 2002, FES Malaysia saw that many private institutions had been established and so, responded to the calling at that Kairos moment.**

Re-pioneering

We are now in the season of re-pioneering the work in Sarawak as a result of the pandemic. We want to prepare the way for the King of kings in the life of our students and in the CFs by equipping CF leaders in the campuses in Sarawak.

In 1 Chronicles 29:1-5, we learn from King David’s devotion to God, how he prepared the way for his inexperienced son, Solomon, by his offerings to build the temple. And this act inspired the people to respond, including Solomon.

Action speaks louder than words. We need courage to respond to God’s call - to prepare this generation of students to make a stand in campus, and take action themselves to re-pioneer their CFs, started by God through the faithful ones before them. **It is more than just owning the ministry. We need to willingly concentrate ourselves to God’s work.**

Invitation to partner

At this 20th anniversary, we are also reminded to see the harvest before us - it is plentiful, but we need to ask the one whom the harvest belong, our Lord Jesus Christ, to send the workers with different capacity and talent to take up the harvest knife and join in harvesting.

In the old days, indigenous farmers, harvested everyone's paddy fields by “gotong royong”. Moving from one to another until all the harvest is brought in. It ends with the “Harvest Festival”- **Gawai - which is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving, to the LORD of the harvest and the unity of the people who worked together for the harvest.**

That’s how we want to see the body of Christ work together for our ONE Master, the owner of the harvest, in response to His Great Commission.



Peter (right most in black t-shirt) on the occasion of Sarawak team’s farewell for Jane with Sarawak Committee, staff, graduates and students.





“So what are you doing here?”

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by, Chong Eu Pui
[Sabah region Team Leader]

The question (above) *is always present when meeting people and is also a question I ask myself constantly. This question has a familiar ring to it (hint: Elijah; but I definitely did not have his mountain experience). I can only answer – it is God who sent me here.*

The vision is simple to journey with students especially Sabahans in tertiary campuses, so that they see themselves as part of a wider student movement in Malaysia, as they strengthen their convictions about who Jesus is and that He is worth following, come what may. As they begin to see this, it is also with the hope that they will realise their unique roles as Christians here because there is so much to be undo and to rebuild. It is a rebuilding that only they can decide to take up and my role is to help them clarify and trust God when they make those decisions. It is a long road ahead to see its fulfilment.

My challenge to Sabahans who are working outside of Wilayah Sabah?

Come back and serve your people, sift through the good and bad experiences that you’ve gained and fuse it with your heritage to enrich the churches here. Come back and walk alongside the young ones who need many more local good examples as the time to do this is limited. We have lost much ground. And yes, consider entering politics to be the voice for all, not just your ethnic group. It is asking a lot, but our God is more than able to provide when we set our hearts to honour Him especially in the face of huge gaps and needs here.

FES Sabah

May God reposition FES Sabah, sending us Sabahan staff who share this vision and diligent to see it through, students who will be inspired to love Jesus and so serve as servant leaders in all fields in Sabah, and graduates who know it is time to seriously consider returning. It’s time to come home!



Eu Pui (left) with Noor Jana (student from UMS) catching up after church.

Thank you for this



So that we
can keep
doing this

For these



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