



scene

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For Private Circulation Only

OUR MISSION:

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

Fresh from the mandate we brought back with us from National Conference '05, the call for students to rise up as individuals and as a CF to 'infect' and 'affect' the community continues. This issue seeks the answer to the question, "What does living a counter-culture in our community look like?"

The POTENT LIFE

"... The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." Matt 13:34 (NRSV)

INVISIBLE SIGNIFICANCE

A computer virus can't be seen by the naked eye but wrecks havoc on my computer system when it's infected. It's amazing how something so small and seemingly insignificant can have such worldwide impact in our vastly connected world of the internet.

In our so called medically advanced world, we were still brought to our knees by the whole SARS episode and now there's the bird flu crisis. Who could imagine a whole epidemic started through a single sneeze? It's astonishing how something so hidden and invisible can affect so many lives.

Perhaps, if Jesus were to re-package our parable today he might say, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a virus..." and reworks what to many of us is an "evil" and "bad" metaphor to communicate to us the nature of the Kingdom of God and how it works hidden from our superficial way of looking at what's important in life.¹

The phrase "*mixed in with*" in the parable in Greek conveys the picture "hid in". A significant quality of the Kingdom of God is how eventhough it works silently and even secretly, its impact is no less significant. We begin by noticing the presence of God in our world, and later join Jesus and cooperating by "infecting" our worlds with this awareness and "affecting" our surroundings with the liberating good news of life with Christ in our words and actions.

¹ The picture "Yeast" was used to refer to evil or corruption in other places, cf. Matt 17:6; Mk 8:15; Lk 12:1; 1 Cor 5:6 but here Jesus turns the metaphor around and uses it for good!

PITFALLS IN PRESENT CULTURE

This whole way of viewing the Christian life is counter-cultural to what is commonly promoted in Malaysian Christianity today. Often when we hear the word "impact" we think of testimonies given by high profile celebrities, politicians, those who are "successful". Often, we also equate the work of the Kingdom with dramatic visible results of whole communities changed in a short period of time, mass conversions, or people flooding the altar call of a particular church concert. Now, all the above has been part and parcel of our Christian history and there's no denying that God is at work there also. We are not complaining about the above (as if there's no value in them).. an appropriate response is - we give thanks!

Worse is when we fall into the trap questioning whether we have any meaningful part to play in the course of God's ongoing mission here on earth, because not enough emphasis is given to hear the words of Jesus, "*...the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast...*". These words call us to see God at work where we might miss it.



forging ahead...

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POTENT HIDDENNESS

But the problem occurs when we miss God's hidden work of the Kingdom where we are at (usually not so impressive), or what we do (mostly unnoticed), or what we may dream of in the future (maybe unpopular). It would be sad to miss all the potential spaces where we could participate in his Kingdom expansion right before our eyes because of misplaced attention on what is significant. Worse is when we fall into the trap questioning whether we have any meaningful part to play in the course of God's ongoing mission here on earth, because not enough emphasis is given to hear the words of Jesus, "...*the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast...*". These words call us to see God at work where we might miss it.

During a meeting I had with 3 young men for what will be a pilot mentoring group, one of them, whom I'll call Robert, shared how excited and important this group is for him.

It would be sad to miss all the potential spaces where we could participate in his Kingdom expansion right before our eyes because of misplaced attention on what is significant.

He stressed on the value of relationships and serving out of community plus the need for accountability during these chaotic transitional times. He continued relating how during his first year, he was

invited by a mature Christian to spend time frequently to meet up to study the Scriptures together, share life and think about living for Christ and serving him in simple ways. This particular invitation and the changes he experienced by being part of this mentoring relationship deeply "infected" him on the values of intentional living and community. It also "affected" the way he sees himself today and how he seeks to honour God. **I could see it in the simple personal choices he makes** (like sacrificing sleep to go for a walk with his mom to spend time with her), **his plans for the future** (like settling down and building a family on Godly principles) **and his constant awareness** that he's not just an up and rising young adult who's going to make it in life - he's a Christ-follower who wants to make a difference.

Somehow, I can't help but be grateful that someone hidden somewhere out of sight from the media had spent time with Robert that led him to become this young mature Christian whom I see today. I believe this concerned Christian leader's contribution

to Robert's life ranks high on the Kingdom of God scale, equally with any best-selling author. He may not have reached the masses, but he reached out to Robert.

'YEASTING' OUR CAMPUS

Imagine in different forms and ways that this kind of thing is happening at campuses all over Malaysia.

Imagine:

Christians putting their energies in developing themselves personally and communally with others around the Scriptures and prayer.

Christian Fellowships sitting down and asking hard questions on how they could participate in God's hidden work rather than just going with the flow or stuck in a rut.

One by one Christians breaking out of a self-centered mode of existence and embrace a sacrificial attitude in relating to others.

Our programs cured from consumerism and infected with commitment towards mission.

People affected by God's unconditional love through acts of kindness and loving attention.

Leaders rising up and making a stand for justice and peace.

(Please add to the list ...)

OUR MALAYSIAN MANDATE

In the recent Christian Federation Malaysia 7th National Christian conference, the two questions of Bishop Hwa Yung stayed with me:

- i. Are we Christians counter-cultural in Malaysia?*
- ii. Are we REALLY committed to our country?*

I left the conference challenged that when we choose the road of counter-culture and commitment in the Christian walk here in Malaysia, it would mean for many of us first giving up our preoccupation with self-promoting celebrity-like visibility, and placing our confidence in methods marketed that almost (often unconsciously) takes God's mysterious presence out of the picture. It would mean creatively engaging in what seems to be the opposite (against what is popularly proven to work).

Jesus' words give me hope that recognizing his hidden ways ultimately works and has the final say... because all of it was leavened at the end. That's the hope that motivates us to choose the road most people don't want to travel! And this is the right road ahead for us (because that's how the Kingdom of God works)... let's walk this path together, I think we'll go far!

*Reflections by,
Pastor Sivin Kit
Bangsar Lutheran Church*





Voices of the Students

Tracy Chua
International Affairs, Year 3,
Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)



Saya secara peribadi bersyukur kerana pekerjaan Tuhan dalam kehidupan saya. Selain menyertai study saya dan keluarga saya, Dia juga memberikan saya peluang untuk melayaninya dalam Christian Fellowship. Berkat Tuhan melimpah dari hari ke hari dan saya semakin kuat di dalam Dia. Saya percaya Tuhan memberkati kita untuk memberkati orang lain dan hal itu yang saya alami sepanjang kehidupan saya di UUM.

Bagaimana menjadi agen perubahan dalam kampus? Saya percaya jawapannya adalah **"Boleh saja..asal kita siap untuk berubah"**. Adalah sangat penting kita mengubah sikap kita yang negatif dengan pimpinan dan campur tangan Tuhan.

Kerisauan utama pelajar Kristian dalam kampus adalah ancaman daripada pihak atasan universiti termasuk persekutuan yang terhalang dan perbezaan dominasi yang menjadi ukuran perpaduan atau unity. Perkara ini perlu campurtangan Tuhan dan kesatuan dalam doa setiap pelajar.

Oleh itu, saya percaya Tuhan menyeru anak-anaknya supaya siap menjadi agen perubahan yang akan maju selangkah demi selangkah dan menjadi saksiNya yang hidup di kampus seterusnya di luar sana. Dalam Yesus kita lakukan perkara-perkara yang besar. Amen?

"Jika anda berhenti untuk berubah, anda juga berhenti untuk berbuah". Ungkapan yang ringkas tetapi banyak menyedarkan saya.

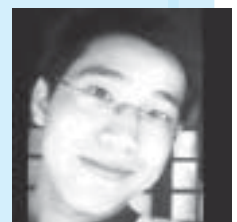
I came across an Australian named Adrian Young, who is part of the organization known as 'Christian Surfers' in Bali, Indonesia. They reach out to the lost among the surfing community of Bali, a rather unique community and in sociological terms would be coined as a "sub-culture". **As it takes one to know one**, the best person available out there to preach to a surfer is a surfer, a lawyer to a lawyer and, of course, **a student would understand, accept and reach out to students the way no one could**.

Through this meeting, the Lord spoke to me that I have an important purpose to fulfil where I am as a law student and leader of the Christian Fellowship (CF) in KDU. You see, sometimes I tend to wonder why I am in a college reading law as compared to fulfilling my dream of being in a seminary doing theology. From the day Adrian shared, I was convinced that God could do wonders through me and my brothers and sisters in college, just as He could with Billy Graham or Martin Luther.

At KDU, we come together to pray every Tuesday and Thursday for the entire college as well as each others needs'. Over the years, we have indeed seen how God's mercy and grace unfold through the pages of the prayer book. I believe many in the college have also been saved through the earnest prayers.

The CF serves as a group where all of us "odd ones" could just stick together and have everything in common. Aside from the weekly CF meetings where we come together to worship and learn of the Almighty God, we hope, through our daily fellowship in the cafeteria or gatherings, to display deep love, both for God and men.

We also hope to be good examples to our peers, according to the Word, the Light. FES came up with the shirt 'Legacy Live' recently, encouraging us to leave behind a legacy in our campus'. **I hope that one day when I look back, I would praise God that I used the 'best years' of my life to obtain treasures for myself in heaven, rather than just a big yellowish paper** (that turns yellowish and yellowish each year).



Nicholas Hor Sien Pin
Diploma of Law (Australia), Year 3,
Kolej Damansara Utama, PJ



Voices of the Staff

Staff shares their hopes and dreams stepping into 2006...

"To be in touch with the times and the courage to respond for His namesake."
- Yuong Eng



"My dream is for the students to have their faith deepened as they study the Word."
- Grace

"New grounds to be taken, mountains to be climbed; A heart aflamed yet fearful, will find its step in the God of Triumph!"
- Annette



"More campuses to be explored, More lives to be inspired!"
- Lian Chui



"My God of the big and small, will give me joy and strength for the whole year!"
- Karyn



"Be able to impact students' life, shining for Christ." - Thomas



"To grow in depth and maturity for myself and students."
- Lee Ang



"To learn and unlearn, taking time to response."
- Li Moi



"To be inspired by His Word in my life."
- David

"Embracing each season, in His time..."
- Darshini



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Voices of the Staff



*"To have more FAITH than before,
To inspire and be inspired,
To walk even closer with Him."*
- Joshua



*"To be bold, resolute and
unashamed of the Word of
God in our lives at colleges
and universities."* - Michael



*"Grace and
peace."*
- Yoke Yee

*"Divine
Expectations..."*
- Chun Chung



"Taking bolder steps."
- Rayneld



*"2006... more
courage and
passion."*
- Eu Pui

*"To see at least
four more
colleges in
Kuching establish
their own CF."*
- Peter



*"And I will say that,
'You are good, and
all the miracles
You've done have
brought us joy.*

*For we are changed
and all the hopes we
have we place in You
right now."*
- Kim Cheng

*"Looking forward to
journeying on with
the Ever Faithful
God."* - Swee Kit



Voices from Sarawak



*Mr Phua,
theme speaker*

YOUTH MINISTRY SEMINAR (YMS)

*2-3rd September 2005
by Sarawak Staff*

YMS was attended by 80 persons who came from various levels of youth ministry such as teachers, church youth leaders and full time workers. Mr. Phua Seng Tiong, our theme speaker was spot on in challenging the participants through the aptly titled theme talk, "Legacies of Faith". He shared from his own experience of being involved in this ministry, which has challenged the youth workers to keep pace with this information technology generation.

A smaller crowd of 40 persons were divided into different topics for discussion. The workshops engaged the participants into a round of brainstorming, thinking through the issues faced by youth workers and giving a response.



We pray that through this seminar, the youth workers, especially in Kuching, will be more sensitive and renewed in spirit, in bringing this generation closer to God.

Sarawak Staff

Voice of Correine Loretta Ambrose Labang a Sarawak Graduate Helper

Shalom!

After my graduation, I felt very lost. I went to church every Sunday and that was it. Deep in my heart I felt the emptiness, longing to do things for God and for people. Working together with FES, I felt there is an avenue where I can do this.

Being involved with FES is a great blessing to me. Why? I am blessed with so many beautiful people working for JESUS, and they are talented, humble and never tire of working for JESUS.

Knowing the vision and mission of FES has really changed the way I see people, especially our young friends. "Changing the World - One Student at A Time", yes, one student at a time, bringing Christ to them, can make this world a better place to share with.

The FES staff are also extremely friendly like we have been friends for a long time. The love and the courage they showed us have really inspired us and make us want to commit even more. Personally, I have learned so much about being a Christian through FES.

My hope for FES is that more and more young people regardless of their race and church, will be united in CHRIST.



FES Sarawak Graduate Volunteer Team (Correine, girl on far right)

" Bukan kuat, bukan gagah
tapi Roh Ku kata Tuhan,
Bukan kuat, bukan gagah
Tapi Roh Ku kata Tuhan
Gunung ini dipindahkan
Gunung itu disingkirkan
Gunung tinggi diratakan
Oleh Roh Ku kata Tuhan"

**"Tanpa
penyertaanNya,
apa yang
dilakukan pasti
sia-sia."**

"Siapakah yang Tuhan utus untuk menyertainya? Tuhan menjawab bahawa hadiratNya yang akan menyertai Musa. Dan hadirat yang sama itu juga yang Musa nampak apabila Tuhan lalu dihadapannya sehingga Musa hanya nampak belakangNya dan Hadirat itu juga yang bersama Musa sehingga membezakannya dengan orang lain". (Keluaran 33:12-23)

Sepanjang tahun ini, penyertaan hadiratNya sungguh nyata di dalam setiap yang dilakukan baik di dalam Pelayanan mahupun secara peribadi. Tanpa penyertaanNya, apa yang dilakukan pasti sia-sia. Kekuatan akal fikiran sendiri tanpa campurtangan Tuhan akhirnya akan pudar tapi dengan bersandar kepadaNya pasti akan diberi kekuatan yang baru.

**Peter Paris
Staff**



*"Carilah TUHAN selama la berkenan ditemui:
berserulah kepada-NYA selama la dekat!"
(Yesaya 55:6)*

Walaupun saya sudah dibaptis dari kecil, saya belum mengenal pengertian sebenar siapakah Tuhan Yesus. Pergi ke gereja atau sembahyang itu menjadi satu kewajipan sahaja.

Setelah saya 'dilahirkan semula' pada usia 17 tahun, saya begitu bersyukur dan perkara pertama yang saya begitu sedari ialah Yesus sebagai Juruselamatku.

Apabila menerima tawaran ke Politeknik, timbul kerisauan samada saya dapat terus melayani Tuhan? Saya bimbang tetapi bertekad untuk tidak melupakan Tuhan. Alkitab (bahasa Iban) adalah harta pertama yang saya simpan dalam beg.

Apabila berada di Politeknik, saya terkejut, gembira dan bersyukur bila mendapati ada IPCF (Inter-Poly Christian Fellowship) di sini. Persekutuan IPCF sangat memberkati saya. Selain pergi ke gereja, saya m e n d a p a t ketenangan apabila mengikuti aktiviti IPCF. IPCF sentiasa mengingatkan saya kepada Tuhan. Saya mulai sedar yang saya tidak akan dapat lakukan sesuatu dengan kekuatan sendiri melainkan dengan adanya pimpinan dan penyertaan Tuhan.

Alkitab penuh dengan petunjuk untuk hidup ini dan kita harus mengambil peluang yang ada untuk mempelajarinya.

Perkara yang paling ketara dengan adanya IPCF, saya sedar pentingnya keseimbangan keimanan dan pendidikan. Sememangnya tujuan kita mendapat ilmu ialah untuk memberi kemuliaan kepada-Nya, mengerti kebenaran-Nya dan untuk bekerja bagi Dia. Belajar memang penting tapi kita harus sedar TUHAN yang beri kekuatan dan hikmat berkat pada kita di saat memerlukan. Sebagai seorang pelajar...
"kuserahkan segala hidupku yang lalu kepada tanganMu, ku lalui hari ini dengan kuasaMu."

**Muna anak Geraji
Sijil Kejuruteraan Mekanikal (Semester Akhir)
Politeknik Kuching, Sarawak**

**"Kuserahkan
segala
hidupku yang
lalu kepada
tanganMu, ku
lalui hari ini
dengan
kuasaMu."**



Captured Moments

Staff Consultation, 15-19th August

Ever wonder what we do at the consultation as we plan for the year ahead? Here's some snapshots of how we raked our brains.

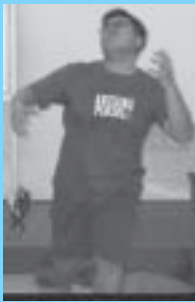


Methodology 1: Fishing for ideas.



When we can't agree, 'wrestle' for it.

When things get stressful, the hula's always handy. (Incidentally, he was the best hula-hooper around!)



A portrayal of how hard we worked - notice the grimace on his face.

A lot of times, we felt like this also - 'FEAR!'



Of course, laughing A LOT helped us to keep sane.

The face of intense concentration, "Fuyoh, dun play-play!".



And after voicing all our opinions, there was - "I will still work with you" hugs all around.



So after all the planning, will we be on target? Time will tell!



But one thing we all agreed, we will march on with our God, side by side, for the students!



Ps. Ezra.

Inductive Bible Study Training (Chinese), 22nd-28th July

Pastor Ezra from Taiwan was ushered to PJ, Kampar, Parit Buntar and Changlun for a series of training.



Ps. Ezra with the different student groups.



Time for refreshment and leisurely mingling.



Personal attention.



The booktable, not only provided a place to buy resources but also to catch up with each other.



Worship cum exercising their fingers before the session.



Fast Forward

Student Leadership Training (Sarawak)

10-12th February 2006

A call for all the student leaders in Sarawak to be challenged to live out the role of being Christian servant leaders in campus and to leave a legacy behind through the CF.

The legacy to be:

- Bible based
- Student initiated
- United witness.

Through this leadership training, we hope to see a firmer structure in the CF, better collaboration between the students, staffworkers and advisors and also to see the students rising up to own the CF.

Camp Cameron

8-27th May 2006

Camp Cameron, the annual three weeks camp with the theme "Give me life in Thy ways" (Psalms 119:37), is a wholesome camp with a comprehensive syllabus of both spiritual food as well as activities. By providing a family atmosphere within the chalets, reflection time, a 'Walk-through-the-Bible' series, leisure, camp specials and many more, students are presented with many opportunities to learn and be challenged in different ways regarding their faith.

Many who have gone through Camp Cam, as it is fondly known, can attest that it is a worthwhile once in a lifetime investment of their precious holidays.

Inter-Varsity Tour Mission Team (IVTMT)

9-18th May 2006

This year, IVTMT will continue its mission to revisit the places that we have gone in the past and **conduct surveys to collect information with regards to short term mission trip**. The states to be covered this year are Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Melaka.

Due to the timing of IVTMT this year which coincides with Camp Cameron and the states it has to cover, it will be conducted in three packages:

1. One main mission trip to be held concurrently with Camp Cameron.
2. Encouraging students to take it up as part of their campus mission trip.
3. Staff taking part in it by incorporating it into their holidays. The staff will conduct surveys on the towns that they visit in those states.

Sarawak Students' Mission Trip

8-18th May 2006

This mission trip will be a first for the Chermai students. As such, it will be an eye-opener experience. The objective of this mission trip is to challenge the students to look beyond their comfort zone and reach out to the needs of others. **We hope the students will learn to be witnesses for Christ no matter where they are through this experience.**



Pool Together

Thank you for your partnership...

At National Conference (NC) 2005, our God showed us the power of PRAYER bringing down many barriers & walls! We were constantly amazed at the abundant way in which He brought in STUDENTS to sign up for NC, way beyond our expected number! Then He poured in the extra FUNDS needed in order to accommodate these extras!

Often times, we see God's work hampered due to lack of PERSONS or FUNDS. Through NC, He showed us what He can do by moving many of you to give so that many students could hear Him speak to them as a generation for Christ! It did something to these students when they realized people believe in what God can do through them (students) and thus, giving so generously so that they (students) can hear!

You are ONE PERSON God wants to use to touch these young lives. More staffworkers are needed this year as we begin our third regional base in April '06. More funds are needed so that enough staff can be sent out into the field to be present with students. Our budget for next year is RM 1,018,500.00

Friends, we can't do it without you!

Looking forward to 2006...

- 7 more staff
- Southern Regional
Base in April

A budget of
RM1,018,500.00, so that
*"enough staff can be sent out into
the field to be present with
students."*

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or send your cheque to:

FES Malaysia, P.O. Box 58, 46700 Petaling
Jaya. Please make cheque payable to
"Fellowship of Evangelical Students"

Every Graduate Counts!

Remember YOU count. Our dream? 500 graduates who will give RM2,000 annually. Our call? Give all you can, when you can!! Our mission? We will do all we can for the glory of our Father.

Want more information? Contact us! FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS (FES)

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