



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.

Having asked the question "What does living a counter-culture in our community look like?" in our previous issue, we now look at the hindrances and threats to living out that kind of life.

Warning of DANGERS Ahead

based on Revelations 2&3

The Call to the Churches

The Church is called to be the witness to the truth and salvation that Jesus Christ has provided for the world. She is to be the living testimony of the gracious presence of God and the actual, visible expression of the kingdom of God now being established in the world.

Setting the Church in the midst of the world is the only way the world can know and experience the power and grace of the gospel. But it also exposes the Church to the world. The hindrances and threats to the Church's witness are many and all too often see them in churches and Christian movements today.

Revelation 2 and 3 highlights some of these obstacles that were found in the churches that John addressed letters to. Although each letter was written to a particular church facing a specific situation, it also appears that they were meant for all the churches under his care. A common formula ends each of the seven letters to take heed of "what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Threat of Hostility

Two churches - Smyrna and Philadelphia - faced afflictions and the danger of being overwhelmed by a hostile environment. Notably they did not succumb to it but remained faithful. But hostility is all too real today although it may not be as intense as outright persecution. There may be two effects that could hinder the mission of the church.

One may be the subtle effect of withdrawing from an active, visible witness, giving in to the fear. The other may be giving in to discouragement with a feeling of powerlessness in the face of the daunting hostility ("I know you have little strength ... 3:8.) Both will hamper the witness to Christ in boldness and faithfulness.

The Danger of Compromise and Submersion

There is the opposite threat of being led into conformity to the surrounding environment. The churches in Pergamum and Thyatira were commended for their faith, perseverance, and



forging ahead...

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cont from cover page

service. Yet they had compromised their witness by being enticed into certain lifestyles and values of the society in which they lived.

This is an ever-present danger for God's people, to have their character and conduct subverted by deceptive teaching. This can come from outside the church or even from within. The false views can be so attractive and persuasive that we are subtly led to think it is an acceptable thing. After all that is what everyone in our society does.

The condition that allows this kind of sinful lifestyle to enter the church is the lack of vigilance to the teachings that are passed as biblical and Christian. It is also a condition of biblical illiteracy that cannot detect deceptive views and makes us prey to false teachers.

The Dangers of Losing our Saltiness

In different ways, the church in Ephesus and Laodicea were in danger of losing their very distinctiveness as God's people. In Ephesus, Christ decries the love that is missing in a church that had shown perseverance in hardships, hard work, and a firm stand against wicked men and false teachings. They have fallen from a great height! Whether it is love for God or people, grace and truth were the mark of the glory of Christ (Jn.1:14). Where love is missing, one vital part of the distinctiveness of the Church is lost. Both standing for truth and the practice of love are essential to the vitality of the Church.

In Laodicea, Christ's charge was the lack of passion and an indifference that was combined with a self-satisfied attitude of their condition. They were not aware of their wretched, poor and pitiable condition! They exhibited an arrogant self-sufficient thinking, not knowing that their lack of fire and lukewarm efforts indicated a serious condition of the heart. Or if they did, they did not care. They were very close to losing their existence as a church of Christ.

The letters to the seven churches can be read as warnings to us today, as local churches, Christian movements, and individuals. Yet the letters also highlight the rewards that await those "who overcome."...

"And above all it depicts a Christ who loves and encourages the Church to live out its witness in the world."

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*Reflections by,
Christopher Cheah
Lecturer at Seminary Theology
Malaysia & INTI College Subang,
FES Executive Committee Member*



Voices of the Students

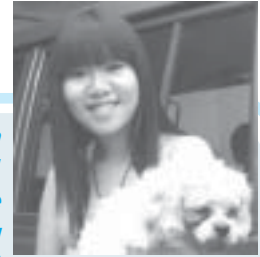
'What robs me from fully living for God?'

Different ones of us have different stance, this column gives space for students to express their views.

Cheang Ka Man

Medicine, Year 4

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKMKL)



Year 2005 - Spiritual Wilderness.

I had no motivation to spend time with God because of disappointments and sin in my life. Having been through a number of wildernesses, perhaps I will find the oasis as before? It did not come for a long time. Meanwhile, I read up on issues regarding social injustice to fill up my time and emptiness. I paid particular attention to the evolution of the Chinese race in Malaysia to understand why we behave in a way peculiar to the Malaysian Chinese. I am of Chinese descent, but was no less affected by the mindset of my own race. God dealt with me and on this issue in the FES National Conference 2005. I "met" Him again in a special way, and especially, the joy to discover anew His love for me. I was walking in the centre of His will all this while. And so I have discovered yet another truth- **I can be living fully for God even if it does not feel like it.**

To many, living fully means to have the love of God burning from deep within your heart, eagerly attending all the prayer meetings, witnessing to your course-mates, etc. These are all good, and I genuinely desire all these. Of course, we all know that our perception does not determine the truth.

The fact is that I am living fully for God when I reach out to Him despite not feeling the burning sensation within my heart and, when I am fulfilling my duty as a student, as a family member, as part of my home church.

Reflecting on that experience, I felt robbed when I sulked during my quiet times instead of praising Him. How I have dreaded Sunday church services, where people will testify of God's goodness, while I felt left out. My unbelief robbed me of my joy and performance. It affected my function in campus, at home, and in church. However, I do acknowledge that a little distress is necessary for motivation, sometimes. I would like to encourage you and to remind myself to have faith that He will never forsake us in our journey through the wilderness.

When our spiritual self is not in tune with His by way of passionate prayer, then you can be sure you are never to receive spiritual revelation. A familiar scripture often quoted is **"Ask, and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you (Matt 7:7)".** The opposite is also true.

With the advancement of technology and the world moving rapidly, there are many ways that we can sway from God's teachings. Merely by interacting with people who are not of the same faith, in some way, contributes toward shattered relationships. We **tend to follow the non-believers** towards the wrong ways as we think that it's the happening way and forget the end result, which most of the time, is detrimental.

Relationships. We tend to focus more on our partners than God. I mean, it's not wrong if we get a partner of the same faith, we can have quiet time together but if not, there is a high possibility that the influence of the relationship may directly affect our personal relationship with God.

Without a balanced lifestyle, the tendency is to **focus more on academic** thus neglecting quality time spent for God, whether we realize it or not. While we can postpone praying, often we give our utmost towards our assignments because it would directly impact our grades.



Joshi Philip

Mechanical Engineering, Year 2

Univesity Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)

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Voices of the Students

Gan Ai Ching
Law, Final Year
Institut Perkim Goon (IPG), Penang

No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)

Me? Look back? Never! I prayed fervently for God to mold me. I was so eager to serve! Sure, my hands were on the plow and I was looking ahead. But I wasn't looking to Christ, I was too eager to get things done, and in my enthusiasm, I rushed ahead, relying on my own strength and foolish wisdom.

I told God that I would follow wherever He led, but when the road diverged and I was asked to tread the lonely path, I disobeyed. The human heart is deceptive indeed - I convinced myself that God didn't really say 'No'. I deliberately went 'deaf'.

Obviously, in the course of this battle between Self and the Cross, I lost. God, in His loving grace, took away that which was precious to me, my heartfelt desire. I was heartbroken. With the luxury of hindsight, though, I am thankful that He has done so. I wasn't looking back, but I was certainly delayed!

I couldn't serve properly unless I was thoroughly purified and refined, unless I was a living sacrifice. And to be a sacrifice, I had to surrender my ALL to Christ - hopes, dreams, fears, desires.

As Lillias Trotter so beautifully put it - 'The first step into the realm of giving is surrender - not manward but Godward: an utter yielding of our best. So long as our idea of surrender is limited to the renouncing of unlawful things, we have never grasped its true meaning.'

I was my own worst enemy in my walk with God, robbing myself with my own ideas of what was good for me - Eve's wisdom.

There is a satire: God found the devil sobbing and asked him why. Satan replied sadly that human beings were blaming him for the things they did, which he wasn't responsible for in the first place.

In truth, though, I think God should be the One weeping. Satan would just laugh, happy that he doesn't have to lift a finger, because we prevent ourselves from building the kind of relationship with God which He intends us to have.



“The first step into the realm of giving is surrender - not manward but Godward: an utter yielding of our best. So long as our idea of surrender is limited to the renouncing of unlawful things, we have never grasped its true meaning.”

continuation from Voices of the Students, p3

Peer pressure. We all want to be hip, happening and cool and yet fail to realize that it's only for a short term. Being cool would not matter when you're 30 years old or even blessed with a family.

Obsessions play an important part in swaying us away from loving God. Preferences such as sports and music may make us more focused towards that activity as it brings pleasure to the mind.

Sex? While sex should be for married couples, free sex is becoming a norm, thus forgetting one of the most important covenants of God. To the world, it may be right but in the eyes of God, it's something extremely wrong.

In conclusion, everything should be done in moderation with importance given towards our personal relationship with God. What is wrong should be totally forgotten or not even pondered upon. Therefore, personal relationship with Him is essential especially in this modern world.



Voices of the Graduates

We caught up with 6 graduates and raked their take on campus days, working world, volunteer work and faith. Here's the condensed version of their muse.

Q1. What are your thoughts about campus life on hindsight?

- CL** Campus life is a journey that allowed me to learn more about myself, God and people. An invaluable experience that allowed me to make mistakes, learn from them, and continue to move forward with Papa's grace.
- SH** It is a time where convictions are shaped and time is your own (how you manage it is another issue).
- CP** The friends, the ups and downs, and the impact one could make in campus, you can't really find it anywhere else.
- JL** A place where students from all over come together for education, creating an opportunity for Christ's love to be shared, especially those who are away from home, feeling lonely or wanting to find out more about Christ.

Q2. How did/didn't campus prepare you for working life?

- LP** Campus life had prepared me to live independently. I've learnt to volunteer my time to do His work, though I have exams... it was in campus life that I started to serve and to share.
- CP** I was not adequately equipped to handle the stress, pressure and politics of the working world. However, the industrial training did a lot to help prepare me.



CL: Lau Chooi Li
USM Penang, 2003



LP: Chong Lee Pin
UPM, 2005



SH: Samuel Hong
UKM Bangi, 2004

CP: Colin Pal
MMU Cyber, 2003



JL: Ong Jo Lene
TARC KL, 1999



ET: Emmeline Tan
USM Penang, 2004



Q3. What are some of the struggles in integrating your faith in your working environment? How did you cope (coping)?

- ET** Lack of support from like-minded Christians in the same working environment makes it easy for me to just give in and conform to unhealthy working patterns and attitudes. However, I found such support in Headstart (a ministry of I-Bridge), which helps as a source of guidance and accountability and lighter moments.
- CP** Maintaining a steady relationship with God, in the world where almost every other person drinks, smokes, and sleeps around is the norm, trying to keep myself pure is hard enough, trying to show them that there is a better way to live life is even harder. I cope by having a small cell of church friends from my hometown church meet up together every alternate week to discuss our problems and pray for each other.
- SH** The struggles I face is the fact that people I work with are so much older than I. Their mindsets and hearts are so much harder to penetrate with the Gospel as compared to fresh young minds that are still untapped in campus.

Q4. How do you decide where to volunteer your time?

- JL** Since I was once upon a time a student, and campus life has been such a wonderful experience to me, I have no issue in putting aside some time (whenever I can).
- LP** I will volunteer my time whenever there's help needed (provided that I've the capability to do it) and things that I am passionate about.
- SH** I volunteer my time based on my convictions and the burden I have at the present time.

Q5. Describe a moment as a graduate-helper that particularly touched you.

- CL** During the closing of NC 2005, the view of students coming forward and crowding the altar, dedicating their lives to God to the expansion of His Kingdom in their respective campus, their pledge to be His enzyme, amazed me!
- ET** The fellowship of other similarly like-minded graduate-helpers meeting together to plan an event. The stupid, crappy humour of campus days was relieved, to my dire relief.



Voices from Sarawak

HOME COMING

Having been away in Peninsular for six years, **Raynel Edam**, shares of his ministry back in Sarawak.

In two months' time, I would have completed my first year ministry in Sarawak and my second with FES. During this period, I have learned to be more passionate about the ministry and more compassionate to the students around me. In the midst of this, I have also learned to rely more on God's grace and to seek Him more in the things I wish to pursue in doing His work. Yes, there have been ups and downs, but God's grace has always seen me through and it's only by His grace that I have been able to journey this pilgrimage alongside God and the students.

In February, I was thrilled and excited to start a Bible study group with the Politeknik students. The opportunity arose when they have cell group meetings every Friday in campus and they wanted something different. We took the opportunity to ask whether they are interested in having Bible study and they agreed! We have finished the book of Jonah and gauging from their expressions and participation, it was a joy studying the Word together. They are looking forward to the next book (probably from the New Testament) to study together. It is at times like these, that I will always seize the challenge and motivate the students to dig further into the Word of God. *Surely, our amazement of how the Word of God can teach us will never fade through time...*

I wish to see the ministry in Sarawak continue to grow, to change life and give life to the students.

Voice of Dexter Jagit an Advisor **PPK ICATS***

Shalom bagi saudara dan saudari dalam Kristus.

PPK adalah ladang baru bagi kami. Salah satu misi PPK ialah membawa pelajar-pelajar Kristian berkumpul dalam persekutuan Yesus. Di mana persekutuan ini diumpamakan seperti tubuh dan anggotanya. Bahagian tubuh ini tidak dapat hidup untuk diri sendiri tetapi melayani seluruh tubuh. Begitu juga kita tidak dapat hidup untuk diri sendiri tetapi melayani untuk seluruh tubuh Kristus.

Puji Tuhan! Sepanjang saya menjadi penasihat PPK, saya dapat melihat kerinduan mereka untuk melayani Yesus. Banyak perkara yang telah mendorong mereka untuk lebih sensitif dalam hal kerohanian. Selain itu, banyak aktiviti yang telah dijalankan dan ia sungguh mengembirakan.

Dorongan saya kepada pelajar, libatkan diri dalam membangunkan PPK. Berdoa supaya Roh Kudus memberi kuasa kepada anda dan meminta Roh Kudus memimpin anda di setiap hari. Mungkin anda bertanya bagaimana anda berkongsi tentang Kristus dengan sahabat-sahabat anda. Beritahu mereka bagaimana Yesus sudah mengubah hidup anda. Beritahu mereka bagaimana hubungan anda dengan Yesus bermakna buat anda.

Mari kita bersama-sama berdoa untuk semua pelayan kita supaya memberi kesan yang kuat dalam memajukan kerajaan Allah. Tuhan memberkati PPK di ICATS....



*PPK ICATS - Persatuan Pelajar Kristian International College of Technology Sarawak

Shalom,

Sebelum datang ke UiTM dan sah digelar pelajar UiTM, saya asyik tertanya-tanya bagaimanakah kehidupan saya di sana kelak. Tapi apabila saya kenangkan kembali saat saya pertama kali menjejakkan kaki ke UiTM hingga sekarang, saya boleh katakan "WOW and AWESOME". Banyak kesaksian yang saya lihat yang telah banyak membantu saya bertumbuh dalam iman saya sehingga diberi kepercayaan untuk memegang jawatan sebagai Presiden CF di kampus kami.

"... jadilah tiang yang teguh, bukan saja untuk meneguhkan iman diri tetapi turut membantu menyokong tiang-tiang yang lain... (kerana) saya dan kamulah yang menjadi tiang-tiang untuk meneguhkan gereja ini."

Saat melompat, menari, menyanyi, menangis, memuji, ketawa dan tersenyum dan semua ini adalah untuk Yesus kerana Dia banyak mengajar saya untuk menjadi penyabar melalui Injil yang telah disampaikan. *Sesungguhnya, melalui pengalaman sebagai alat Tuhan bukanlah sesuatu yang mudah, apalagi masih bergelar sebagai seorang pelajar.* Kadang-kadang terpaksa menyetepikan kepentingan diri sendiri dan terpaksa berkorban untuk orang lain. Masa memainkan peranan yang sangat penting dalam hidup saya dan di sini saya telah banyak belajar untuk menghargai masa.

Sesungguhnya, saya sangat gembira kerana mempunyai teman-teman seiman yang prihatin dan segala sesuatu perkara dapat dilakukan dengan jayanya dengan bantuan mereka serta Tuhan. Oleh itu, saya di sini ingin mengucapkan berbilang-bersang terima kasih kepada mereka yang telah banyak membantu saya bertumbuh dalam iman saya.

Akhir kata dari saya, jadilah tiang yang teguh, bukan saja untuk meneguhkan iman diri tetapi turut membantu menyokong tiang-tiang yang lain. Hal ini kerana satu perkara, saya dan kamulah yang menjadi tiang-tiang untuk meneguhkan gereja ini. Terima kasih.

If somebody asks me, "What my favourite Bible verse is" I will ask him or her to read **Psalms 27:1-9**.

Aldous Jeris
PPK Presiden
UiTM Kota Samarahan, Sarawak





Captured Moments

National Conference (NC), 28th Nov-3rd Dec 05 @ PeaceHaven After 6 long years, NC came back, more than full house. Thanks to your generous support in prayer, finance, kind & manpower, it came to be!



Day 1: It's "Hello"s all round!



The opening act: The baker & mad professor- 'A call to be en.Zymers!'



Group 'Chendering'; group names taken from small towns in M'sia - 'A call to be dispersed and serve.' Yup, that certainly requires willing feet.



The delegation from Japan.

The marching in parade - they came representing their campus. Among them are:



The graduates participants.



Kemayan ATC



Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, KL



Systematic College, KL (now known as SEGi)



Special remedy for tired legs.



(Due to space constraint) ...and the rest :)

Rewind, Pause & Play (RP²).

9th -16th Dec 05 Though a much smaller camp with 26 students, it was not less noisy. By the 3rd day, name tags were just formality!!



"Grrrrrr!!"



"You'll have to go through me first."

The 'X' breed of RP²



"Zzzzz"



"Aiyo, shy la. Everybody's looking at me"



Sending off - Campers praying for each other.



Sending of the 'disciples' - Take nothing except what's on you.

d'Nous Academy (d'Na) 8th-18th Dec 05

A historic moment as 2005 marked the end of one cycle (3 years) and saw a batch graduating.

The graduates



Participants of 2005



Upper Northern World Student Week Celebration, 13th March 06 @ Wesley Methodist Church, Penang

Every year we challenge our students and ourselves to "Enlarge our World, Enlarge our Hearts" by praying for concerns beyond us e.g. other nations, a small town and another campus. 40 students and graduates came together to pray for these.



Testing their knowledge of the countries they were praying for.



Prayer items were provided in the form of book marks.



A time of worship.



The staff team: with Yoke Yee logging out, Swee Kit helms the fort.



Fast Forward

Social Work Exposure and Embrace Program (S.W.E.E.P.)

12-25th June 2006

SWEPEP, a new 2-week internship program in partnership with Shelter, provides students with the opportunity to be exposed to professional social work.

The program has been designed to help students understand and appreciate those in-need through activities, provide knowledge in the area of social concerns while experiencing the work through the children's home attachment.

We hope to create a deep sense of awareness and compassion in the students, equipping them to be potential workers in social concerns or to be significantly involved in their communities.

Bazaar (Oasis)

June 2006

Infectious F's (Faith, Fellowship, Friendship) Camp

14-16th July 2006

Infectious F's will set out to get students to take a good look at their calling in campus, and to live a friendship evangelism life.

One of the focus in the camp this year is to help students identify with their friends who are seeking God and to be a seeker friendly community on campus.

We hope students will be inspired and prepared to live infectious Christian lives in campus.

The latest happening at Oasis will be a bazaar for students, in the spirit of flea markets or garage sales. Used items from clothes, electrical items, books, cute toys, and other bric-a-brac will be offered for sale at 'what-a-deal-just-take-it' prices.

Oasis has been the scene for hanging out sessions, Bible studies, cell groups, ping pong arena or simply a place to spend time cooling down before the next class. This year, many events have been lined up under 'Flavour of the Month'.

Through the bazaar in June, we want to raise awareness of the presence of Oasis and to draw in students to use it in ways which will truly give them an 'Oasis' experience. Refreshing, both physically and spiritually, through the place and the people there.



WORDilicious Investigators Year

2006

Declaring the year for Bible Investigation, we are challenging students to become WORDilicious Investigators (WI). By encouraging them to dig deeper into the inspired Word of God, we hope to inspire and get students excited about discovering Biblical truths for themselves as they conduct "investigations".

Calling for Bible study groups, equipping students to lead their own groups, encouraging students to get their own Study Bibles and demonstrating the many different and interesting methods of doing Bible studies, yes, this is a year to get back into the Word!

This WI year will culminate in a 1-day Bible conference in October. It will feature come-to-life sessions with Paul and Ruth, a 'Word' based carnival and a celebration cum prayer concert.



Pool Together

Be part of FES Malaysia's Ministry An Invitation

Many times, as the staff goes out and minister to students, or around a dinner table with friends or relatives, we are asked by concerned faces, "Is FES well funded or do you personally have enough?" It is times like these, we thank God for special individuals like you, giving faithfully because you believe in the ministry.

As the year enters its fifth month, we are encouraged by the two new staff who dared to partner with us as colleagues and amazed at different ones, both friends and strangers, eagerly coming alongside to help set up the Southern Regional Office. What we treasure too are prayer partners who faithfully remember us each time they open our prayer newsletters.

You are one person whom we hope to have, partnering with us faithfully, in the ministry and here are some steps on how you can be involved: -

Individuals who will avail themselves to pray:

~ for the students' witness in campus, the staffworkers, National & Regional Offices, upcoming events.

Our personnel needs

~ looking for fulltime staffworkers, lecturers to partner in the ministry, graduate-volunteers going into campus, office volunteers to help out with administrative work.

Finance (FES stands on the shoulders of its supporters)

~ to support the staff, the work, special projects & sponsoring students for their studies or camp fees

WHY NOT BANK INTO:

a) HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad
302-031398-001

b) Maybank
5625 3518 0523

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

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

FES Financial Standing (as of 1st April 2006)

Expenses	RM	202,500
Income	RM	135,550
Deficit	RM	66,950
Budget 2006	RM	1,018,500

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)

386-B, Jalan 5/59, 46000 Petaling Jaya. Tel:03-77829592, Fax: 03-77831663, Email: info@fes.org.my, Homepage: www.fes.org.my