



scene

September 2006
For Private Circulation Only

OUR MISSION:

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

In our first issue of the year we focussed on the call for Christians to be yeast where they are. Following that theme, we explored Revelations on the dangers that await those who take up that call (May issue). Yet we realise this journey is riddled with pitfalls, our frailty as humans means we will more often than not, fail or fall from time to time. Hence in this final installment for the year, we talk about what to do in those times.



-turns Allowed based on Isaiah 42-44

Sin, is there a cure?

Isaiah in chapter 42-44 addressed the twin problems faced by Israel. *Captivity* by the Babylonians because of *sin*, the deadliest of all sins, the rejection of the Lord. However this double plight will be matched by a double cure. Motyer in his commentary on Isaiah puts it, "Captivity will be ended by national liberation (42:18-43:22), and sin dealt with by spiritual redemption (43:22-44:23)".

What is most intriguing about these chapters is the response from the Lord with respect to Israel's ongoing sin of rejection and unbelief. In 43:22-24 we read:

*"Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob,
you have not wearied yourselves for me, O
Israel.*

*You have not brought me sheep for burnt
offerings,
nor honored me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with grain offerings
nor wearied you with demands for incense.*

*You have not bought any fragrant calamus for
me,
or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins
and wearied me with your offenses."*

God's response

What do you think will be God's response?

*"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for
my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."*

This is a staggering, amazing unexpected response. Motyer puts it well, "the God burdened and wearied by sins is the God who blots them out." Never to remember them again!

The evidence that demands a verdict

Similarly, in 43:26-28, Israel had no defence against the Lord's accusation of sin and rebellion.

*"Review the past for me, let us argue the matter
together;
state the case for your innocence.*

*Your first father sinned; your spokesmen rebelled
against me.*

*So I will disgrace the dignitaries of your temple, and I
will consign Jacob to destruction and Israel to scorn."*

God's promise

The verdict of judgement in v28 is thankfully not the last word for Israel. For in 44:1 we read,

*"But now listen, O Jacob, my servant, Israel,
whom I have chosen.*

*This is what the LORD says— he who made
you, who formed you in the womb, and who
will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my
servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.*

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and
streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on
your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

*They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar
trees by flowing streams.*

*One will say, 'I belong to the LORD'; another will call
himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on
his hand, 'The LORD's,' and will take the name Israel."*

**"the God
burdened and
wearied by sins
is the God who
blots them
out." Never to
remember
them again!**



forging ahead...

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Yet again, instead of judgement and condemnation we find promises of renewal (in the giving of the Spirit v3) leading to responses from Israel that lead to new life. (v4-5). What amazing grace and mercy!

The challenge

As we reflect on these chapters from Isaiah, we need to ask ourselves the question, "What prevents you and I from returning to God? What makes us continue in our sin and rebellion?"

Perhaps we feel that God has been unfair or unkind to us. He has not answered our prayers, neither has He protected us from evil, harm and danger. What then is the purpose of worshipping a God like that? Israel could have experienced this kind of reaction, after being so long in captivity in Babylon.

Or perhaps we have grown apathetic and lukewarm in our faith. Going through the motions of worship on Sunday and Bible study on a weekday. Yet God does not fully engage us. We are more alive watching World Cup football or for the sisters, more alive shopping when there is a good sale on. Israel could be guilty of this - offering burnt sacrifices but not the sacrifice of their lives and heart.

There are many reasons why we sin and rebel. Equally there are many good reasons for God to

"What prevents you and I from returning to God? What makes us continue in our sin and rebellion?"

judge us, condemn us and to give us up. But He never did and He never will. Consider Isaiah 44: 21-22 (NLT)

*"Pay attention, O Israel,
for you are my servant.
I, the LORD, made you,
and I will not forget you.
I have swept away your sins like the morning mist.
I have scattered your offences like the clouds.
Oh, return to me,
for I have paid the price to set you free."*

Let us make a U-turn. From our preoccupation with our needs, our wants, our desires. Let us make a U turn, from a man centred faith, to a God centred faith. Lest the Lord turn, this time in final judgement against us!

*Reflections by,
Reverend Tony Lim
Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church*



Reverend (far right) with family.



Voices of the Students

'Breakthroughs' *We all needed them at different points in our life. Two such persons share how God left imprints of His work in their life during their time in campus.*



Angelina Ho Mei Yi
Engineering in
Agriculture & Biology,
Year 3
Univesiti Putra
Malaysia (UPM)

Here's an extract from my journal...

28/12/05; 2nd day of my 4th semester.
Yesterday during mamak time, we plan to start daily prayer.
Lakeside 1.30pm; Evening IK outing at Mc'D. Half of Mc'D filled with IK people!

IK stands for Ikatan Kristian, a registered Christian organization in UPM. Our president and vice-president realize the need for IK to be drenched in prayer. We started with just 8 people from the engineering faculty.

From that day onwards, God has been pouring His continuous blessings upon us.

Friendship camp was nearing and we were short of finance and firewood. Then, while we were still trying to get sponsorships and picking up sticks around UPM, God provided for all that we needed.

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Voices of the Students

Flora Ng Fon En
Medicine, Houseman Year 1
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sabah

Flipping through my dairy was exciting. Sometimes, I just could not stop laughing at my silliness, and at times I could still vaguely feel the warmth. Here's a page of it...

I have held some "rigid" perceptions towards certain things in life, and found myself being constantly challenged with the validity of those perceptions. A few examples would be:

- I could not figure out why a frail elderly man with 6 children, after staying in the ward for 6 weeks, had no one to visit him though the children were informed.
- A drug addict went back to drug because no one accepted him or wanted to employ him.
- An 8-year-old girl, abused by her uncle...

My world has been ideal. It hurts when this ideal worldview was challenged. I have chosen to be in denial, ignorance and avoidance before but realized I need to face it whether I liked it or not. So, I **changed**...

Changed to be able to accommodate the "impossible" that was happening around me...
Changed to become more compassionate.

And further convinced that there are so many things humans just cannot comprehend, and that there is an All Knowing God who is in control. Hence, I did not lose hope.

I am unsure from where and since when I have adopted this stance of *'as long as it is within my capability, however tough or time-consuming the task is, I have to do it myself'*.

What do you call it? Egoistic? Independent? Stubbornness? Kindness offered to me like a place to stay, a ride, a meal, made me feel 'pai seh' to accept.

Some people just need to learn to be loved. I was like that. As I allow myself to be loved and cared for, I became more loving and able to offer more of my concern and care.

I met great soulmates in my university life!!! **I learned to allow myself to make mistakes.** Brought up under a disciplined daddy, attending a Chinese school cum with my personality, I was programmed to make the least mistakes I can. False guilt cropped up whenever I deemed myself under performing. I was reminded not to be too hard on myself.

I recalled those days when we did things together. Went to ward to give out presents, channel some needy patients to appropriate welfare organization, went to lake side for Bible study and not forgetting places that we have visited together. Power of togetherness and unity is so great. It brings satisfaction and contentment.

5 years of studying in the Peninsular, seem too long to condense into words.

Some people just need to learn to be loved. I was like that. As I allow myself to be loved and cared for, I became more loving and able to offer more of my concern and care.

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It was through this camp also that unity between the mandarin speaking group and the english speaking group of IK was strengthened. Through prayer we were able to be united in truth despite our differences.

After that, more and more members realize the importance of prayer. **Some gather together in the library to pray while some gather in cafeterias.**

Praying together shows visibly the sharing of common concern. When one IK member's mum recovered from a thyroid operation, everyone rejoiced and was encouraged. Jesus, You're worthy to be praised.

Through prayer we were able to be united in truth despite our differences.

During mission awareness night, IK members brought 'food and drink items' to be given to an orphanage. After the wrapping session, we have had 5 big hampers. Instead of blessing 1 orphanage, God's provision enabled us to bless 2 orphanages.

As for dealing with UPM's authorities, God has indeed grant us His favour and favour among men. During my 4th semester, we only managed to get 1 official meeting approved and held it in a lecture hall. But the next semester was really a miracle. All

5 of our official meetings are approved and the venue is UPM's auditorium, which is considered a strategic location..

Lastly, I would like to end with a quote by Pastor Calvin Chong..."**Prayer is passion in serving God who gives wisdom in dealing with various issues**"



Voices of the Graduates

Three recent graduates took time off to share with us how they have been faring in their new environment.

Q1. What was the toughest moment upon graduation?

JY Tonnes of questions not answered, what to do, where to go.

JL 24 hours we now have seem to be shorter than the 24 hours as students. It was pretty tough juggling my career, my ministry and my family while relentlessly chasing after time.

PK Selecting a job.

Q2. What were some of the things you had to struggle with upon graduation? How did you cope?

JL There were so many things beyond my university education that I had to learn, especially practical technical proficiency. So I committed myself to do lots of research through reading and having dialogues with other seniors in the field. Praying that God gives me the patience and perseverance to withstand the test of time.

PK Sudden lost of a network of Christian friends because I don't have the time to join them for regular CF meetings. And in that, I lost the encouragement of seeing committed Christian friends who can encourage me to do the right thing and stay strong. I have tried to join them for activities that they do, like for dinners as it is an encouragement to see fellow believers.

Q3. What role did being involve in campus CF play in shaping you for the working world?

JY Learnt how to care and be concerned towards others, to make decisions and being responsible.

PK CF taught me my role as salt and light. I realized on becoming adults, in this society where morally right means just "not hurting anyone else", there really is no one who can stop us from behaving however we wish unless we have a higher standard that we adhere to.

Q4. What do you enjoy/don't enjoy about working life now?

JL Enjoy the financial non-dependence, expanding the scope of generosity at my own expense. Offering becomes closer to my heart because it is what I have earned and it is a joy to give back to my parents.

JY Enjoy the financial freedom, no pressure of exams and assignments. I do not enjoy the mundane working life.

Q5. Your name for God now?

PK God, my sustainer.

JY The greatness of God.

Q6. Hindsight wisdom to undergraduates?

PK This work pressure tells you that everything is urgent and pressing. Giving in to this feeling will snuff out one's desire to go to church or spend personal time with God, as you would feel that you want to have all the remaining time for yourself, especially Sundays.

JY Get through campus life with good friends, one that will support, advise and have fun with you.

JL A degree is not the end of the quest for knowledge, if we remain stagnant, we begin to 'decay'. That also applies to the knowledge of our God and of our faith. Always remember: critical thinking, independent intellect, and a renewed spirit.



PK: Peter Kong
Sunway University,
2005



JL: Jason Lee
Nottingham
University,
2005



JY: Jeffrey Yap
Universiti Malaya, 2005



Captured Moments

Camp Cameron, 8th-27th May

A total turnout of 79 students made it necessary to have six chalet families instead of five. While Camp Cam is a tradition, it was also a learning curve for the staff as many took up speaking at the main tract plus a chalet family was placed across the road!



Gotcha! In camp Cam, there are eyes EVERYWHERE.



Darshini gearing up for an audition for a shampoo ad.



Eyes EVERYWHERE? Aiyo....



They say playing with one eye helps get the girls' attention.



This year's leisure- (clockwise fr. top left): frame making, shoe rack making, calligraphy and hair styling!



Can we use the washing machine to do our laundry pleaseee....



Man in the mirror- 3 weeks of looking inward, upward and outward.

Inter-Varsity Tour Mission Trip (IVTMT), 8th-18th May

With IVTMT running concurrently with Camp Cameron, it was a challenge for the 5 staff to handle training, debriefing and relying mostly on public transport to East Coast. 13 students came to complete the survey on the impact of short term missions to small towns.



clockwise fr. bottom left: Team Pantai Cahaya Bulan On the bus to Gua Musang, with a couple they interviewed, explaining what their banner means.



clockwise fr. bottom left: Team Tasik Chini Preparation for Bible study with a group of youths, the Bible Study discussion, flower making for Mother's Day service at Kemaman Baptist.



clockwise fr. top left: Team Taman Negara Staff taking a snooze in the bus trip, chatting up a local, preparing an item for service.



clockwise fr. bottom left: Team Tasik Kenyir Time out with keropok lekor, a trip to the Kuala Terengganu museum, hanging out with the youths.



Captured Moments

Social Work Exposure and Embrace Program (S.W.E.E.P.), 12th -25th June

A first for Shelter and FES, a program not for the faint-hearted as we take a look at what social concern is. 12 students signed up as the pioneer batch.



Ice breakers cum arrival- What better way to start than garbage bag!



Visit to United Voice-Self-Advocacy Society of Persons with Learning Disabilities.



A sightless day - a simulation of how it feels to be blind.



At the launch of Shelter's drop in centre- the 'advertising team' all set to go.



Field trip - to Kajang prison.



The 'sandwich girl' in action.



Attachment at Shelter.



Three stoges.



Time out.

Infectious F's, 14th-16th July

A camp of back to basics as we explore what is Friendship Evangelism and how a seeker friendly Christian Fellowship looks like in campus.



Starting the fire for dinner.



The singing pastor - Ps Sivin.



Staff clowning around for a good cause.



"Eh, what do you think of that one over there?"



Michael taking the session seriously - on both knees.



QUIET time.



Books, books... booktable at the camp.



Wondering why is Li Moi holding her head?

Check out faces at camp!





Voices from Sarawak

PERINTAH YANG TERUTAMA?

Peter Paris

Apakah Perintah yang terutama? Dan Yesus menjawab, "...kasihilah Tuhan Allahmu dengan sepenuh hatimu, dengan segenap jiwamu, dengan seluruh akalmu, dan dengan segala kekuatanmu" (Markus 12:29-30).

Apabila saya renungkan ayat tersebut, Tuhan Yesus Kristus menuntut segala yang ada pada kita. Darpada hati, jiwa, akal, dan kekuatan. Tidak ada yang terkecuali. Seringkali kita bernyanyi... "Yesus ku menyintai Mu..." Tetapi adakah kita melakukan segala tuntutan seperti di atas untuk kita di samaertikan, menyintai Dia?

Persoalan ini sering saya tanyakan kepada diri saya sendiri. Dalam melayani pelajar di Kuching khususnya, sering menjadi kekhawatiran saya untuk tidak memberi dengan sepenuhnya dalam pelayanan ini.

Tetapi saya percaya bahawa, **jika sesuatu itu datang dari rencana Tuhan sendiri dan campurtangan Dia di dalam segala perkara, kita pasti dapat melihat hasilnya, kalau tidak sekarang, esok? lusa? atau bila-bila masa kita akan dapat melihatnya.**

Secara peribadi, 3 tahun FES berada di Sarawak, apa yang direncanakan pasti dilaksanakan atas campurtangan Tuhan Yesus Kristus sendiri.

Segala kemuliaan dan hormat hanya bagi Dia...

Begitu bersyukur sekali kerana Tuhan menempatkan saya di dalam persatuan Kristian dari zaman sekolah menengah hingga sekarang. Di situ saya mula-mula mengenal Tuhan dan bertumbuh di dalamNya (melayani di gereja).

Dahulu saya tidak berani berhadapan dan berkomunikasi dengan orang lain serta keluarga saya sendiri, sekarang saya berani untuk bersaksi, ketawa dan senyum untuk mengatakan kasih.

Begitulah kehidupan saya sebelum dan sehingga sekarang melayani di persatuan Kristian di sekolah dan kolej. Impian saya sekarang mahu melihat semua jenis dominasi Kristian akan bersatu dan keluaran 'jala' kepada pelajar yang lain.



Joshua Juan George Voice of a graduate helper

After leaving UNIMAS and having a career of my own, FES invited me to be a part-time graduate helper for UNITAR, Kuching. I decided that after years of receiving, it's finally my turn to give.

My first time sharing in front of students felt like a Fear Factor episode as it has always been my greatest fear to speak to people regarding the Christian faith. It is because there are areas in my life that I'm not proud of. During my preparation, I was convicted of my sins and guilt overwhelmed my heart. It brought me to my knees and I asked God to take these feelings away, and the answer I received was a gentle whisper - keep going.

When the moment came, I did my best to deliver the message and the students responded positively. I also found the answer my heart yearned for. In the midst of increasing inner turmoil, He proved that He's the only Person to run to, the only One who can be depended on and most importantly, He won't let me down. I know that I brought calamity upon myself when I decided to disobey, and as a result I had to go through trial after trial. But I understand now that God allowed it to happen to draw me away from my pride, selfishness and my sins.

I identified myself with the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50. God cancelled the bigger debt in my life and I'm forever grateful and appreciative because of what Jesus did on the cross. Currently, God is helping me to rebuild my cracked foundation and I believe He will continue to do so as I draw closer to Him. I know I received much inspiration from the students and I hope to continue encouraging them to live for God, through good and hard times.



Priscilla Andrew
CF president
Inti Kuching



Voices of the Staff

Lee Yew Kong, our youngest staff pen his thoughts on staffwork.



“ Can you hear my voice
Through the fibres of this paper?
Does it resonate in your mind
And in your ears quiver?
It is eager and confident,
Robust and strong:
Like a good tenor perhaps.
(Though in reality it is a bass)
I am excited! To serve
In this ministry to students.
Possessing much potential:
Their life either to Give or Throw Away.

Can you hear my voice
Through the page that you now thumb?
Does it catch your attention
More than the breakfast crumb?
Listen closely, 'cos it dims in decibels.
I whisper and I choke
And I'm often overwhelmed

And I whimper at the fact
That lives are in the balance.
It's a tough and tiring act.
For me, it's not easy being a student
When a student I am not
Yes, it's often fun and games
But I wish for Packer and Stott.

Can you hear my voice?
You must have good practice by now!
Speak too, please, to me:
I long to hear you somehow.
Beseeching you to uphold
Us in constant prayer
We long to hear your voice too
Telling us you care.
Telling us this ministry
Must, it must go on.
That the lives we are touching
Are heaven's song.

Can you hear my voice?
It fully fails to compare
To the Voice that commands awe
From everyone, everywhere.
Glory to God in the highest
And goodwill on earth to men
May God bless us both for hearing
And obeying His voice. Amen. ”



In memorium

Dearly Beloved, Sorely Missed.

We pay tribute to Ms. Rosie, a faithful supporter and friend to SU/FES and Shawn, a TARC CF exco.



**Rosie
Cheah
Siew
Hoon**
(Age 73;
Departed
01.03.06)

“I will always remember Rosie for the fun person that she was. Time spent with her was always a good time.” Ms Elsie Cherian

“A gusty lady who loved the Lord and followed the Great Commission of evangelizing to the lost souls. Through her practical love and concern, many of her friends are now believers.

She had a generous heart towards mission work and Christian organizations. Without fail, she would give generously. SUFES has benefited much from her, not forgetting that she was a counselor to Scripture Union ladies staff.

Thank God that He had given to us a person like Rosie into our midst, an example for us to emulate and follow.” Ms Esther Lee



**Shawn
Yap
Swee
Kee**
(15.09.87-
25.03.06)

The boy who said, “Life is beautiful” all the time. Rowen Cheah

Lived life to the fullest, always will stay in our hearts. Miss you. Jasmine Choo

An extraordinary boy who never fails to cheer us with his jokes and laughter. Regina Yan

Continue laughing in heaven. Though we mourn now, we celebrate your life now marked by death.

You were our resident laugh-a-holic. I hope heaven laughs along louder and longer than we did here.

Anna Tan



Fast Forward

National Christian Healthcare Students Conference (NCHSC)

25-27th October

With FES cheering the students on, this will be the fourth NCHSC run by healthcare students themselves. This is a dream come true as we see the different groups of healthcare students coming together to be challenged to use their gifts and skills for the society.

The camp's theme is "**Amazed or Dazed**". It explores the question of 'How does one be a godly healthcare provider and live by God's Word in their pressure-filled environment'.

Borneo Tertiary Students Camp (BTSC)

27th November - 1st December

It is a privilege to host it for the second time. We hope that each student will have an encounter with God, and have the **Endurance** (the camp's theme) in the Christian faith – keeping fit and running with the cost in mind.

A camp for students to cheer each other in the faith as they exchange stories and renew their first love for God. For some it may be a wake up call to get out of the rut in their walk with God. Issues on relationships with family and friends, as well as their role in campus will be addressed.

d'Nous Academy (d'Na)

8-17th December

"A thinker's camp? Nerd's camp?" These were some responses when it first came to be in 2003. Armed with a vision to forge a generation of young thinkers - d'Na is excited to run its 1st stage again with a new batch of eager learners.

Students as young as 15 years old are encouraged to sign up, with one condition – a desire to understand God's truth for their lives. 11 days, 8 officers and about 30 campers will come together to listen, study and meditate on the Bible.

One will not go home without being stretched in their thinking; touched by God as they allow their hearts to be engaged in society's needs and a spirit of humbleness cultivated.

Legacy Live

23rd September

'Legacy Live' is constantly 'flashed' on the specially made navy-green T-shirts worn by the students as we raise the question – 'What legacy do we leave behind upon graduation?'.

As we challenge students to reach out to their friends, **Friendship Evangelism** remains the best way to do so.

This training helps students to think through their friendships so that they can tailor make the gospel.

WORDilicious Investigators

7th October

Since the beginning of the year, the conversations in FES offices and camps have been "Who can pronounce the phrase 'WORDilicious Investigators' the fastest?!"

This year is designated to call students to investigate the Word of God for themselves. Bible study groups are strongly encouraged in campuses. We hope that the students will be excited about reading the Word of God.

This call culminates with a one-day event - A conference with characters from the Bible, such as Paul and Ruth, come to life narrating what they went through. Later a carnival draws us closer to the different events that happened in the Bible. It closes with a prayer and thanksgiving concert of how the Word has impacted and changed the students' lives.

Rewind, Pause & Play (RP²)

9-16th December

An annual joint-effort event with Scripture Union, this camp celebrates school-leavers in Malaysia and journeys with them as they contemplate, reflect and make decisions for their next chapter in life.

The call, right at the beginning, is for the campers to look within honestly and understand who they have become. It is also a place to learn about community living and setting the foundations to stay fit and faithful to God before entering tertiary institutions.



Pool Together

FES Financial Standing

(as of 1st Aug '06)

Expenses	RM	471,584
Income	RM	362,372
Deficit	RM	109,212
Budget 2006	RM	1,028,730

Some contributions options:

Writing a will?

Here are some initial steps to do so :

1. As the donor, you must have the intention to bequeath your property and must do so voluntarily.

2. You must mention in your will that you are bequeathing your property to the organization of your choice.

A sample clause : I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to xxx, a non profit organization, having its principal office at _____ the sum of RM_____, to be used for its general purposes.

3. As you make the will, it must be attested by two witnesses.

Your partnership has made a difference...

Looking back, nearly three quarters of the year has past by. And as we ponder at these months, many camps, events, projects including ministering in the field have been evolving among students in different parts of the country. In the midst of all these, what stays with us as we look back are faces ~ faces of students, whose lives have been ministered to, whose hearts have been changed.

As we give thanks to Abba Father, acknowledging His faithfulness and work in these lives, we are also thankful for you, your partnership in the ministry. Your contribution in different ways - being prayer warriors with us, giving to the many needs through volunteering, financially contributing to our funds ... has indeed made a difference in these young lives.

Let us continue pooling our resources together to make a difference for the many lives in our country's campuses.

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"

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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