



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN MALAYSIA

The Methodist Church in Malaysia is joyously celebrating the 140th Anniversary of Education and Ministry.

It is with great happiness that I note our Mission Schools are also marking their own anniversaries. Some of our Methodist Schools across the nation - in the Peninsula and in Sarawak - have celebrated their centennial anniversaries over the past few decades.

The history of our Schools reflects the legacy of those who laid the foundation through selfless sacrifice—individuals like William Oldham, Sophia Blackmore, Emma Shellabear, Daniel Moore, Balderstone, Pykett, Kensett, Horley, James and Ethel Hoover, Preston Peach, Ada Pugh, Samuel Abraham, John and Muriel Pilley, Mabel Marsh, Eklund, Kesselring, and countless others who gave of themselves for a noble cause.

Following in their footsteps, individuals such as J. A. Supramaniam, S. S. Pakianathan, Ho Seng Ong, Goh Hood Keng, E. S. Lau, Lau Kuok Ding, Athimuthu, Doraisamy, Peter Lim, G. S. Arumugam, Teerath Ram, Yong Chee Seng, and Rasammah Bhupalan, to name just a few, played vital roles in further strengthening and advancing our Methodist Schools.

In those early years, it was said that school staff would donate one month's salary to support the growth of the school - a time when salaries were modest, and bonuses were unheard of. Yet, they made this sacrifice willingly.

For our Methodist Schools to continue thriving and providing quality education, it remains essential that the staff continue to make sacrifices. The pioneers knew nothing of the future, but they came and made great sacrifices for us. If they could do so, why can't we, in turn, sacrifice for our fellow Malaysians today?

Methodist mission schools have played a crucial role in shaping Malaysian society, offering quality education to children from all walks of life. Methodist institutions have established themselves as revered centres of learning, renowned for their excellence and commitment to the highest standards of education. Even during the difficult days of World War II and the Japanese Occupation, our educators stood firm, unwavering in their commitment to providing education. Through our Schools and the Church's social initiatives, the Methodist Church has continued to play an integral role in nation-building, instilling the values of faith, service, and education.

Today, we are blessed to have 70 government-aided Methodist mission schools, 8 Wesley Methodist Schools, the Pilley Institute in Sibul, a Vocational School in Sitiawan, and the Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) which has campuses in Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

I pray that the core values and ethos of our Schools remain steadfast. The respect for human dignity and the worth of each person, the active participation of the Board of Governors (BOG) and Board of Managers (BOM), the involvement of chaplains, chapel services for Christian students and teachers, the teaching of Bible Knowledge to Christian students, Christian artifacts, and commemorative

plaques of milestones, as well as school Christian fellowships, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, the observance of Good Friday, dedication services for new buildings, and fund-raising activities must all continue for the well-being of our Schools. School badges and songs are symbols of pride and should remain as enduring representations of our Schools' ideals.

I would like to introduce the concept of *One School, One Vision* for our Schools and Boards to embrace. This concept represents the unity and shared purpose between the school and its broader community. My hope is that this phrase - *One School, One Vision* - will bring a strong, singular focus on a common goal that drives both educators and students alike. It means that everyone - students, teachers, parents, and the community - are aligned and working toward the same vision: fostering holistic growth, promoting values-based education, and making a positive impact on society.

I envision this phrase as a symbol of collective dedication, underscoring the importance of collaboration in building a shared future. It also highlights the commitment of both the school and its community to nurture the minds and spirits of students, supporting each other as we work together to achieve common educational and ethical goals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia, the various Pejabat-pejabat Pendidikan in the different districts and States, the Boards of Managers and Governors, the administrators and educators in our Schools, as well as all school staff, parents, and students (past and present) for your continued support. I extend my thanks to the Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia and the State Governments for the funding allocated to our mission schools. I humbly urge that further funds be allocated to ensure the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of our school buildings, tables and chairs, and educational facilities.

May our Schools, along with our dedicated educators and students, be richly blessed. May God's grace shine upon all our anniversary celebrations and the efforts we make to ensure the success of our Methodist Schools.

When our Schools thrive, Malaysia prospers.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar

Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia
Chairman of the Methodist Council of Education

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