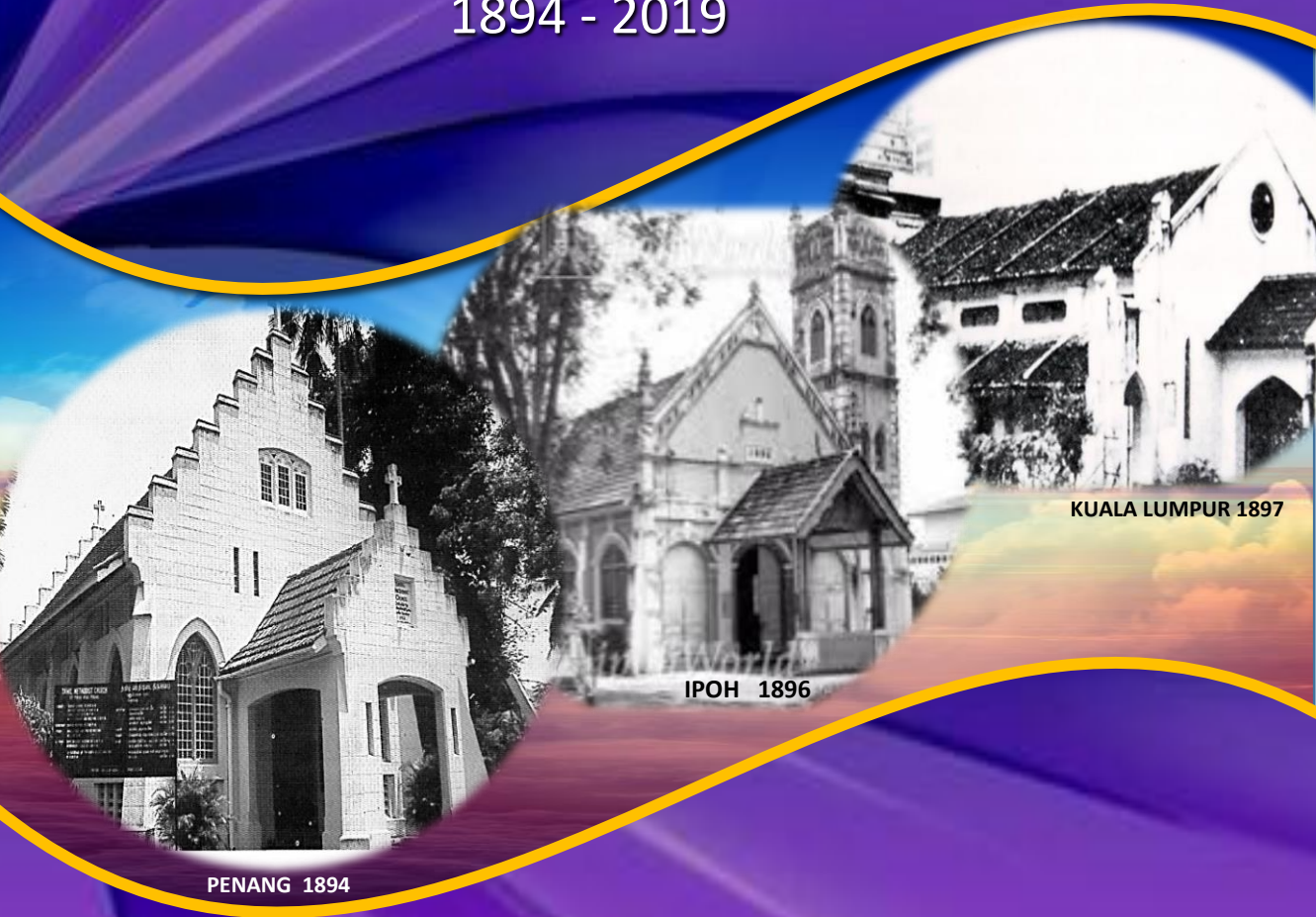


The spread of the
Tamil Methodist Churches
in *Malaysia*

1894 - 2019



Rev. Victor J. Vethamani

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Tamil Methodist Churches
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This book is dedicated to all who laboured to
build God's Kingdom through the
Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia

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First Period: Before 1900

3 Local Churches Formed

1. Penang	1894	22
2. Ipoh	1896	30
3. Kuala Lumpur	18/6/1897	40

Second Period: 1900 – 1968

20 Local Churches formed

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7. Teluk Intan	1916	79
8. Sungei Petani	1918	86
9. Alor Star	1924 *	96
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19. Banting	1953	175
20. Tanjung Malim	1959	182
21. Tamil Settlement	1960	190
22. Cha'ah	1964	200
23. Kluang	1964	209

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1 Local Church formed

24. Port Klang	1/1/1974	218
----------------	----------	-----

Fourth Period: 1977 – 1999

14 local Churches formed

25. Kepala Batas	23/2/1980	228
26. Prai	21/4/1981	235

27. Sungai Pelek	21/8/1983	241
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31. Alor Gajah	12/2/1989	268
<i>TMC Sagil</i>	<i>14/1/1990 #</i>	
<i>TMC Asahan</i>	<i>15/1/1990 #</i>	
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	<i>Conference decision)</i>	
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37. Jelapang	30/6/1996	305
38. Shah Alam	15/2/1998	310

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39. Jerai		
<i>Jasin/Asahan Circuit</i>		
<i>Conference decision)</i>		
40. Semenyih		
41. Puchong		
42. Subang Jaya		
43. Kayu Ara Damansara		
44. Lahat Baru		
45. Bercham		
46. Selayang		
<i>Asahan/Sagil/Tangkak Circuit</i>		
<i>Conference decision)</i>		
47. Cheras		
48. Kapar		
49. Bahau		
50. Ulu Tiram		
51. Pusing		
52. Asahan/Tangkak/Sagil/Jasin Circuit		
<i>Conference decision)</i>		
53. Gateway Kelana Jaya		
54. Paloh		

16 Local Churches formed

11/3/2000	320
<i>from 2002 # (As per 2001</i>	
3/1/2004	324
2/1/2005	329
5/2/2005	334
19/2/2005	340
19/1/2008	344
19/4/2008	349
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17/3/2012	362
23/2/2014	366
15/3/2014	370
7/2/2015	373
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And on to Kuching

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writing this book has taken more than three years and it is only by the amazing grace and mercy of God that it is finally completed. I may receive appreciation but He alone deserves the glory. He is the One who made the history of TAC happen and graciously helped me to express it in words.

I express my sincere thanks to the following:

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2. **Pastoral Roll Research Team**
The Pastoral Rolls of all the 54 churches were completed with the help of a team comprising of Rev. John Kovilpillai, the late Mrs. Jean Kovilpillai, Mrs. Saras Victor, Mr. Santhosh Victor, Mrs. Vijayatara Jayaraj, and Mr. Steven Sekhar. They came to the Archives Room both at our TAC headquarters as well as at the PJ Methodist Headquarters.
3. **Roll of Local Lay Leaders and LCEC Chairpersons**
Letters were written to all the churches requiring information but the response was slow. Mr. Santhosh Victor single-handedly communicated with the local church pastors and got the needed details.
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A team of three faithful people, comprising of Rev. Samuel Manokaran, Mrs. Saras Victor and Mr. Santhosh Victor, brought their laptops and worked in the TAC Archives Room. They copied relevant data from the Methodist Journals (MAC, TPAC & TAC), which then became the source material for the writing of the local church history.
5. **Editors**
A team of twelve helped in the work of editing and they were: Dr. Joanna Joseph, Ms. Jessie Vadiveloo, Mrs. Flora Justin, Mrs. Vijayatara Jayaraj, Mrs. Janet Tevaraji, Mrs. Saras Victor, Mrs Amutha Manymuthu, Mrs. Rachel Josiah, Mrs Patricia Rajahser, Mrs. Sarah Veerasingam, Mrs. Uma Raju and Ms. Rajes Paul.
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Abbreviations used in this book:

AEC	Area Executive Council
BCE	Board on Christian Education
BOAH	Board on Archives and History
CFM	Christian Federation of Malaysia
FGBMF	Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship
GOH	Gift of Hope
JCWW	Joint Committee for Women's Work
KL	Kuala Lumpur
LCEC	Local Church Executive Committee
LPTI	Local Preachers' Training Institute
MAC	Malaya Annual Conference
MMM	Malaysia Missionary Movement
MIF	Methodist Intermediate Fellowship
MSF	Methodist Seniors Fellowship
MW	Methodist Women
MYF	Methodist Youth Fellowship
MYAF	Methodist Young Adults Fellowship
PMYF	Provisional Methodist Youth Fellowship
PD	Port Dickson
PJ	Petaling Jaya
SMAC	Singapore Malaya Annual Conference
STM	Seminari Theoloji Malaysia
TAC	Tamil Annual Conference
TEE	Theological Education by Extension
TMC	Tamil Methodist Church
TPAC	Tamil Provisional Annual Conference
TRAC	Trinity Annual Conference
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
WSCS	Women Society of Christian Service

Foreword by Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik



The Methodist Church in Malaysia family extends warmest congratulations to the Tamil Annual Conference for this significant book that captures the gracious saving and unfailing work of our Sovereign God in our midst for the past 125 years.

This second volume written by the Rev Victor J Vethamani with his usual trademark competency, covers the span of 1894 to 2019, aptly and symbolically captured this year by the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the very first Tamil Methodist Church - TMC Penang. For each of the current 54 churches in the TAC, the author has painstakingly and adeptly, included the History of the Local Church, the Pastoral Roll, and the Roll of Local Lay Leaders and Local Church Executive Committee Chairpersons. The help of other unnamed pastors and members in making this volume possible is most appreciated.

This opus is not only important for archival purposes, but more significantly it points to the glorious truth of our faith declared in ^{NIV} **Hebrews 12:1** - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The “author and perfecter of our faith”, the Lord Jesus Christ, is immutably faithful: everything that He has promised will come to pass. This is extremely crucial for the disciples and followers of Jesus because it is on His faithfulness that our hope of eternal life and ministry rests. He will honor His promise that our sins will be forgiven and that we will inherit the kingdom of God eternally, included are the faithful on our rolls!

This book attests to the sovereignty and authority of the God Who is on His *throne*. This attribute states God’s reigning over His entire creation. The 125 years of our TAC history has seen the proven reality of this sovereign God Who is all-knowing and all-powerful. In spite of human deviations and disobedience in the life of the Church, God has neither lost the plot nor control. He continues to fashion outcomes to accomplish His will and purpose of salvation, being absolutely free to do what He knows to be best – even for the next 125 years if necessary!

We worship a holy God, Who calls His people to be holy – just like Him. This is the attribute that completely sets Him apart from creation and created beings. It refers both to His magnificence and His perfect moral purity. Like the prior generations of God’s people called Methodists, we are to *“throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles”*.

This book verifies that very important part of God’s character that the apostle John wrote as “God is love.” God holds the well-being of His creatures and creation as His primary concern. To study the life of Jesus is to see love in action. The incomparable sinless and benevolent One willing and ready to be the sacrifice on the cross for the sins of others is the ultimate act of love. God’s love is not a mere love of emotion but of volitional action.

This book reminds us of the importance of eternity and the message of eternal abundant life – that will outlast time and this dimension of our present life that will pass away. The Scriptures and our spiritual ancestors remind us that God always has been and will forever be, because God dwells in eternity. As time is His creation, God can see the end from the beginning, and that is why He is never surprised by anything. If He were not eternal, God’s promise of eternal life for those who follow Jesus would have little value. Hence, when there is a clash of what is of eternal value versus what is from a fallen temporal world, believers are to *“run with perseverance the race marked out for us”*.

Let me once again congratulate the Tamil Annual Conference for the successful completion of this substantial writing project which also adds to the total history and thanksgiving of the Methodist Church in Malaysia.

“Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever”. Amen.

Rev Dr Ong Hwai Teik
The Bishop
The Methodist Church of Malaysia

Foreword by Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon



The publication of this book, *Spread of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia: 1894 to 2019*, is an important milestone in the history of Tamil Methodism in Malaysia. Like the way the ancient biblical patriarchs marked their journey with altars (Gen. 12:8; 26:25), so also this book serves as an altar of remembrance and worship as the 125th anniversary of Tamil Methodism is marked with gratitude and thanksgiving.

This book serves the Tamil Methodist community and others in fulfilling the following purposes:

Information

In this single book are pertinent facts about the 54 local churches that are part of the Tamil Annual Conference. Just as the Bible contains genealogies, lists of priests, kings and other individuals, this book also has lists of pastors and lay leaders. Just as the Bible records historical narratives, so this book also provides helpful summaries of the key events and people in the history of each local church. Thus, it provides valuable facts that help readers gain an over-all picture as well as fine details of what has been going on in the churches. This will be a valuable resource book that will aid future researchers to find needed information in a handy volume.

Insight

History is not just a collection of facts. It provides a narrative that is woven through the information – of repeated themes, times of growth and stagnation (and the possible reasons why), chronic challenges, and aspirations and hopes that linger through the years. Behind the facts is the faithful hand of the Lord, who works with His people in aiding and blessing them. In Psalm 78, we read about the history of God’s dealings with His people, especially during the Exodus. This was liturgically woven into the worship of Israel and was an important reminder of the character of God and His relationship with Israel. The current generation is committed to tell the next generation about how God had led His people and dealt with them mercifully – “so that the next generation would know them (God’s acts and laws)...and they in turn would tell their children” (Ps. 78:6). The expected result was that the new generations will “put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands” (Ps. 78:7).

History tells His story, and His story is also our story, by the grace of God. Thus, historical records are a way of discovering the character and the ways of God.

Obviously, this book does not tell all. While numerous names and events are mentioned, they are based on real people who, if they were to tell all their personal stories and experiences, would help us to gain deep insights about God and how He relates with His people. The historical accounts in this book are like photographic snapshots in time that can be fleshed out with accounts of the victories and failures, joys and sorrows, disappointments and aspirations of the people who worshipped, lived and served in the churches. We can imagine some of these things. Perhaps, one day, when the Lord returns and establishes perfect rest, we will have the opportunity to hear all the stories – and thus gain wonder and awe as we realise God’s character and His ways.

Inspiration

History also inspires. The writer of Hebrews lists for us heroes of faith in the history of Israel (Heb. 11). Some of them were well-known, such as Abraham and Moses. Others were not so famous, like Jephthah. Others remained anonymous though their wonderful deeds and witness were remembered. The purpose of such historical re-telling is to inspire the present generation of believers. The heroes of the past become a “great cloud of witnesses” who cheer us on our way (Heb. 12:1). A book like this will serve to inspire us if we read it with the right perspective and faith. It gives us hope that God is not finished with us yet, and that He “who began a good work” in us “will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6). We can realise that the past has a future because the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

This book is published by the Board of History and Archives of the Tamil Annual Conference and authored by Rev Victor Vethamani. It is not easy to collect the material such as that found in the book, for it requires determination, perseverance, and patience as information is hunted down and gaps are painstakingly filled. It is indeed a labour of love, and Rev Victor must be commended for producing this valuable book.

May the Lord use this book to provide helpful information and insights and inspire the present and future generations to be faithful and useful to Him, and thus bring glory to Him.

Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon
Methodist Church of Singapore

Foreword by Rev Dr Dennis Raj



It is indeed marvellous that God's work among the Tamil Methodist Churches has been recorded so as to be remembered by future generations to come. Although it has been an arduous and uphill task, for me it needed to be done so that we can always:

1. Give God all the Glory.

The key reason for this book is to give God the Glory and Honour that is due to Him alone. In Matthew 16:18, we read Jesus saying, "... I will build my church'. When we see the work that He has done in our midst, it is clear that He alone has done it. Generations can come and go but He alone is the Groom who nurtured and continues to build up His bride which is His church. This book is surely a testimony to the fact that God's work has been so abundantly visible in all our local churches.

2. Learn to trust God's goodness and faithfulness.

Surely God's hand can be seen in action in all the ministries that the churches developed in their midst. It was by His spirit that all the ministries flourished and have grown to what they have become today. Most, if not all the churches were severely short of the needed resources but held on unto God's promises by faith. Hence, it needs to be a lesson to all of us that God is able to do much more than what we can ever ask or imagine. He is a trustworthy God who will never fail us if we are keen to obey Him at all times.

3. Remember all those who worked hard with much zeal and commitment.

We live in a very consumeristic world that seeks to get as much as they can in return for a little. This is so much in contrast to our forefathers who gave much and expected very little in return. Their blood and sweat have become the foundational layers of what the current generation is standing on now. Although many have gone on to the Lord, we need to remember and recognize their selfless contribution. We also need to learn from the priorities that held them together and also from the selflessness that they exuded .

I wish to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate Rev Victor Vethamani, Mr Steven Sekhar and the members of the Board on Archives and History for a job well done. Although there may be omissions or even minimal errors; it has been a noteworthy effort.

In His Grace,

Rev Dr Dennis Raj

President

Tamil Annual Conference Methodist Church of Malaysia

Foreword: Mr. S Selvaraj, TAC Conference Lay Leader



Many years ago, when I was going through a difficult stage in my life, I needed someone to talk to. Without a moment of delay or doubt, the first name that popped up in my mind was that of Rev. Victor Vethamani. I did not know him well. I grew up in Tamil Methodist Church, Lahat Road, Ipoh while he was from the TMC Kuala Lumpur. But over the years, through my interactions with him in meetings and conferences, I had found him to be a man of character, integrity and fiercely independent in stating his views and opinions without fear or favour. I admired him for his honesty. He was my natural choice for my need at that moment. I am very thankful for the time he gave me,

I have also enjoyed his ‘Lent Meditations’ which he has been writing for many years. I had used his publication every year and was richly blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, through his insights and expositions. He is also a great preacher and a Bible teacher.

I consider it a great honour that he wanted me to write this foreword.

I cannot remember the person who said, “Those who forget their history are doomed to repeat the mistakes that they had made!” I am indeed happy that the Board of Archives and History (BOAH) of the Tamil Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, under the able leadership of Brother Steven Sekhar, had commissioned the writing of this second history book entitled, “Spread of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia: 1894 to 2019” by Rev. Victor Vethamani.

There could not be a better person to do it!

He has done a thorough research of the 125 years of our history and written about the stories of all the 54 churches in our Annual Conference. He has also captured the names of the faithful Pastors and the Lay Leaders and LCEC Chairpersons, over the same period.

Over the years, our churches have seen a tremendous growth – 54 Local Conferences! Pastors and the Laity have contributed to this immense growth. The great role played by the Indian Missionary Pastors, during the 60s and 70s, cannot be ignored. God used them to empower local lay leadership and were responsible for many of our youths to find their call in serving the Lord full-time.

At the same time, God had used many of our lay people as great supporters of our clergy in the ministry. I can vividly remember people like the late Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam, Mr. D.R. Daniel, Mr. Rajaram, Mr. Sam Supramaniam, Mr. K. Pandian to mention a few!

I believe that all of us who take serving God seriously, must read this book and make it available to our future generation too! (I Cor.15:58).

Mr. S. Selvaraj, TAC Lay Leader.

PREFACE

“Spread of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia 1894 to 2019” is commonly referred to as the second history book of the Tamil Annual Conference. The first history book was entitled, “40 Years of TAC”, which covered the period 1976 – 2016. This second book has a longer history and covers 54 local Tamil Methodist churches in Malaysia.

This second book, just as the first, is tied together with a celebration. This year we celebrate 125 years of God’s amazing faithfulness to us as an Annual Conference. The history of these 54 churches are each a testimony to God’s grace. The church is not built on human wisdom and strength, but rather despite the many weaknesses and shortcomings commonly seen in our churches.

It is hoped that as we review history, we would be humble and learn valuable lessons. We should not sit in judgment and focus on past failures, but rather rejoice at the many achievements that God has made possible. This should inspire and build faith in us to attempt greater things for the Lord.

Many have worked hard to make this book become a reality and I am grateful to each one of them. I know that without their help and the prayers of many, all my attempts would have been futile. More than all these, it is God who enabled and ensured the completion of this book. To Him alone belongs all glory and honour.

Rev. Victor Vethamani
November 2019

INTRODUCTION

The inspiration to write the book “Spread of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia: 1894 to 2019” first came to me when I laid eyes on the book “Methodist Schools in Malaysia” by Dr. Ho Seng Ong more than thirty years ago. I desired to do something similar for the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia. I realized then that this would be a mammoth task that needed more than human effort. Two Bible texts gave me confidence. First, Proverbs 3: 5, 6, “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight.*” The second I Peter 5: 7 “*Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.*” (I Peter 5: 7). So with this inspiration and confidence, I set out to write this book about three years ago.

The Purpose of this book is basically two-fold: firstly, to record what has happened over the years in the Tamil Methodist churches in Malaysia. This includes names of people and events. Secondly, to show that this history is really an account of what God is doing through His people, despite their limitations and weaknesses. He is doing this to fulfil His purposes and for the glory of His Name.

The book covers a period of 125 years and it is about the history of the 54 Tamil Methodist churches. The starting point is 1894, following the year of the formation of the first Tamil Methodist Church in Penang. After the early Methodist missionaries came to Singapore in 1885, their next stop was Penang. Over the years, along with the Western missionaries, others from India and Sri Lanka planted the seed of the Gospel among the Tamil people in Peninsular Malaysia.

The Content: The book, which is about the spread of the 54 Tamil Methodist churches in Malaysia, is broadly divided into five time periods. The First Period, “Before 1900” shows three local churches established. The Second Period, “1900 to 1968” shows the local churches that were formed up until the formation of TPAC in 1968. The total number of local churches at that time was 23. The Third Period, from 1969 to 1976, a total of eight years, shows the TPAC period. During this period, there was only one local church added. The Fourth Period, from 1977 to 1999, shows the period leading towards the new Millennium. Another 14 local churches were formed, bringing the total to 38. Finally, the Fifth Period, 2000 to 2019. This period shows another 16 local churches established, bringing the current total to 54. Although in number, a total of 55 local churches were formed in the Tamil Conference, Sagil and Asahan became part of a circuit.

Celebrating Church Anniversaries: Another special feature in our Tamil Methodist Churches is the manner of celebrating church anniversaries. These anniversaries do not necessarily imply the year the local church became a Local Conference. Some look back to the time when the ministry began in their local church, e.g. Tamil Settlement Ipoh looks back to 1908; they became a Local Conference in 1960. Some look back to the erection of their church building, e.g. TMC Sitiawan. The church was built in 1918 and dedicated in early 1919. The

local church celebrated their centennial anniversary this year, based on the dedication of their first local church building. They became a Local Conference in 1953. TMC Kuantan celebrates their church anniversary, looking back to 1938, when their first Sunday Worship Service was held on 28 August 1938. They became a separate Local Conference, after TPAC was formed in 1969.

Accuracy of the Content: Most of the data concerning the local church history and Pastoral Roll is from the Methodist Journals (MAC, TPAC and TAC). Extracts were taken, mainly based on the Appointments read at the Annual Conference and the DS's Report. Sometimes, the Appointments read, did not take place the following year for different reasons. Also, the DS report does not have all the events that take place in the local church. To address this difficulty, the Pastoral Roll was sent to all the pastors concerned for verification. The local church's history was sent to the pastors and the leaders of the local church. They were asked to look for accuracy and whether any additions were required. This exercise was fruitful, as some pastors and lay leaders gave their input. Having said this, there will no doubt be some parts of this book that will need correction. Hopefully the later editions of this book would address this.

A man before the 125 Years: Rev. C. W. Underwood, though his lifetime does not come within the period covered in this book, was an early missionary from Sri Lanka. "He was anxious to seek out Tamil labourers in the tea estates of Perak, tea having preceded rubber as Malaya's produce. He came from the American Board of Mission in Jaffna early in 1887. Very sadly, he died of pneumonia on 3 February 1890 while preparing to attend the wedding of his daughter in Jaffna." Heralds of the Lord" by T.R. Doraisamy, p.6. Underwood's life and ministry raises this question, "What if he did not die as prematurely as he did? He came to Malaya, even before Penang Church was formed in 1894. There are many other "what ifs?" in history that will make us ponder on possibilities.

The overlooked and unsung Heroes: When a history that spans 125 years and covers 54 churches is written, it is inevitable that many names, thought to be significant by some, may not be included in this book. There are also many other names and faces not captured in the pages of this book, simply because what they did was not noticed or recorded. God knows them all and will reward them according to their deeds. But these whose names and what they did are written not to exalt any individual, but to bring glory to God.

Rev. Victor Vethamani
November 2019



Tamil Methodist Churches

First Period: Before 1900

1. Penang 1894
2. Ipoh 1896
3. Kuala Lumpur 1897

PENANG

The Early Years

The Methodist Mission in Penang began when Bishop J.M. Thoburn in April 1891 appointed two Canadians, Rev. Daniel D. Moore and Rev. B.H. Balderstone. **Rev. D. D. Moore** was appointed over both the English and Tamil congregations. In **1894 Simon Peter and P.F. Gnanamuthu** founded the Tamil Church in Northam Road. In **1895**, Rev. Simon Peter was ordained a local deacon and Mr Gnanamuthu was granted a local preacher's license. The Full Membership Roll was 37. In **1896**, the church shifted to Datuk Kramat Road. This resulted in increased attendance because the new place was very close to the Tamil quarters. With the arrival of **Rev. & Mrs J.F. Pykett**, the work was further strengthened. The Pyketts knew the Tamil language well and loved to work among the Tamils. The church had a total of 45 Full Members and this increased to 57 in **1897**.

The others who served as pastors include: **Rev. J.M. Hoover, Rev. J. David, Rev. V. Devasagayam, Rev. D.M. Toomey, Rev. J.A. Supramaniam, Rev. S.S. Pakianathan, Rev. Y.J. Jesudasen, Rev. James Pearce, Rev. V. Devasahayam, Rev. V. Samuel, Rev. J.A.P. Oswald, Rev. Kingham Joseph, Rev. Simon James Arthur, Rev. J. Milton David, Rev. S. Ratnasamy, Rev. KJ Timothy** (See Pastoral Roll).

Note: From 1894 to 1932, the church moved twice before finally coming to Perak Road. The present site of 24,500 square feet was purchased in **1932** for \$ 4220. The corner stone was laid by Bishop Lee on 3 December **1934**, and on Easter Sunday **1935**, he dedicated the building.

In **1938**, when **Rev. Fred David** was the pastor, a five day Religious Education School was organised by Miss Dorothy Moreton in Penang, and this saw a registration of 90. The pastors of the Presbyterian and Anglican churches cooperated in organising this. In **1955**, **Rev. E.J. Ponniah** taught Tamil classes in the Penang A.C.S. and also carried a full load of school work in the Methodist Afternoon School.

The Post 1957 Years Celebrating Silver Jubilee

In **1957**, when **Rev. V.A. Subramaniam** was the pastor, there was a complete renovation of the parsonage at a cost of about \$3,000. **Miss Kathleen Clancy** gave able assistance to the women and youth of this church. The church had a total membership of 125 and Full Membership of 60. In **1959**, with Rev. V. A. Subramaniam as the pastor, a special service marking the **Silver Jubilee** and rededication of the newly redecorated sanctuary was officiated by Bishop Amstutz.

The Boys' Brigade was started by Mr. Joseph Devasagayam and he gave strong leadership to the 40 member strong Boys' Brigade ministry. This 4th Penang Company drew many young Tamil boys to the church. Captain S.C. Mani, as he was fondly known, came as a 12 year old boy to the church at the invitation of Mr Devasagayam in **1952/3**. In 1963 he accepted Christ as his Saviour and eventually became a member of the LCEC, representing the Boys' Brigade.

This is the first Tamil Boys' Brigade with all Tamil boys mainly from the labour quarters. From the church there were about ten boys. Mani says that about 15 boys accepted Christ through this ministry and about seven of them became pastors. The Boys' Brigade gave support to all church functions. He sadly noted that this ministry had declined in recent years due to a lack of support from pastors and a lack of committed Officers.

In **1960** Miss Grace Paul, one of the four trainees from the Ipoh Tamil Methodist Seminary, completed the six month training course. She conducted bible study and social service projects among people in five separate areas on Penang Island. She served the church for nearly forty years bringing God's Word to those who could not attend regular church services. She was a great help in the Church School ministry.

In **1966**, during the tenure of **Rev. I.R. Chelladurai**, there were major repairs to the church and parsonage. The church roof was repaired and the whole building was re-painted. The fence surrounding the church compound was re-built. A new electric organ was purchased. In **1967** the Full Membership was 112.

Celebrating 75th Anniversary:

In **1968**, while celebrating its **75th Anniversary**, the District Superintendent and local church pastor **Rev. I.R. Chelladurai** noted that the membership of the church had not grown, and gave various reasons for this. They noted that many young people had left the island to settle elsewhere and very few Tamil Methodists came on transfer to Penang. In **1971**, there was no appointment of a resident pastor. Rev. I.G. Sunderarajan initially helped but his commitment to the Kedah Circuit, made it difficult for him to continue. Retired Minister Rev. K.J. Timothy helped in the rites of Holy Communion, Baptism, Burial etc.

Giving Birth to TMC Prai and Major Property Development

From **1976 to January 1979**, **Rev. Chellaraj Fenn** was the pastor. During this period, many lay members became active in the church. The ministry in Prai was also initiated. From January to June **1979**, the church was without a pastor. A layperson Mr John Oorjitham, took charge of the worship services and kept the church going.

From **June 1979 to December 1982**, **Rev. Simon Chandran** was the pastor. There was a surge of activity in the church. The church football team emerged champions in the Inter-Church Football competition in 1980. Penang's Outreach Prai became a Local Conference on 21 April 1981. The church again underwent major roofing and ceiling repairs under the able guidance of Steward on Finance and Treasurer, Mr C. Natkunasingham. The preliminary work on transepts on either side of the main building was begun. It was, however, completed when **Rev. David Tharmakan** was pastor (January 1983 – August 1990) at a cost of RM 120,000. The extension was officially opened and dedicated by **Bishop C.N. Fang** on 18 May, **1986**. Full Membership in 1986 was 220.

In **1992**, the Nibong Tebal Outreach Point was taken over from Perai Church during the tenure of **Rev. John Kovilpillai**. Mr Subramaniam was appointed as Church Worker there. Dato' Dr Peter C. Vanniasingham provided effective lay leadership for more than two decades. He gave generous financial contribution to the property maintenance and development.

Centennial Celebration and Vision for the Future

During the tenure of **Rev. Victor Vethamani**, the church had its **Centennial Celebration in 1994**. It was the first Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia to do so. Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Paul, Ms. Grace Paul and Mr. and Mrs. V. Yesaiah were recognised for their long and dedicated service. During this period, the need for added facilities for the local church was strongly felt. A Building Committee was formed under the able leadership of Mr Manasseh Manoharan.

At this juncture the Church formulated a **Ten-Point Vision for the Future:**

1. **Financial Stability:** To grow in the grace of giving cheerfully and sacrificially, and to have enough financial resources for the total church programme.
2. **Evangelism Thrust:** To establish more Tamil Methodist Churches in the island of Penang through effective outreach.
3. **Missionary Fervour:** To be involved in mission work through prayer, finance and by sending out missionaries.
4. **Property Development:** To plan for maximum use of the present church land, with the aim of putting up buildings that will have all the facilities needed for effective church programmes.
5. **Community Involvement:** To be involved in the community with the aim of eradicating social evils and helping the needy.
6. **Membership Growth:** To seek for the transforming power of Jesus to build Christian character (within the membership) that will enhance growth in witness (adding to the membership).
7. **Lay Mobilization:** Training of the lay and giving opportunities for participation in the total church programme.
8. **Literature Centre:** To set up a place where the church members and the community can have access to good Christian literature.
9. **Language Integration:** To keep alive the Tamil language, while continuing the use of English and to introduce the Malay language into our worship.
10. **Prayer Ministry:** Strengthen the Prayer Ministry of the church, in order to do God's work in God's way and with God's strength.

Source: Back Cover of the Centennial booklet 1994.

Bishop Denis C. Dutton, in his message in the Centennial Souvenir Programme states: "When my thoughts turn to the Tamil Methodist Church in Penang one name stands out, namely, Mr Ramanathan. Mr Ramanathan, once the mayor of Penang was a staunch Methodist. He was present at Port Dickson when that historic decision was taken to form the Tamil Provisional Annual Conference."

In **1995** the ministry among the **USM students** was started. The first Area Fellowship was conducted in Bandar Baru on 7 August. The Boys' Brigade First Founder's Day Celebration was held and it was a great success. The **MYAF** was started under the leadership of Mr Christian Kirubaisingam and a church library was set up.

On 17 November **1996**, the Full Membership was 175. The LCEC accepted the Building Committee's recommendation to put up a two-storey block, with a foundation for five-storeys. However, on the recommendation of the architect, Mr. Derrick David, the idea for a five-storey building was dropped on aesthetic grounds. The old parsonage and Fellowship Hall were demolished in February 1998. The new double-storey Building, named Wisma Shalom, which included the parsonage, hall, office and other ministry rooms, was built when **Rev. Robert Selvakumar** was the pastor. The Ground Breaking Ceremony was jointly conducted by Rev. A.E. Joseph (DS), Rev. Robert Selvakumar (local pastor) and Rev. Victor Vethamani (previous pastor) on **11 April 1999**. The Cornerstone was laid on 25 July 1999 by **Rev. P. Tevaraji**, the TAC President. The construction work commenced on **13 September 1999**. The **Wisma Shalom** building was completed and dedicated by Bishop Dr Peter Chio Sing Ching on 8 July 2000.

Focussing on Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rev. C. Jayaraj, the next pastor, focussed on discipleship with an emphasis on Small Group Ministry. In **2001**, the Air Itam Outreach was started under the leadership of Mrs. Pushpam Gurusamy. Outreach ministry at Batu Maung and Batu Feringghi were carried out "Manna's Square", which was the church library, was upgraded. A Christmas Evangelistic Concert "Touch of Love" was held at the MBS Penang with an overwhelming attendance of 350.

In **2006**, the Full Membership was 201. A family camp was organized in Cameron Highlands and about 130 members, including children, attended. The Prison Ministry and Migrant ministries among workers from Myanmar and Nepal were formalised. In the same year the outreach point in Bayan Baru was started on 5 February. Another high-point was that all the interest bearing loans were settled and RM 420,000 remained to be settled to TAC and the churches. A Christmas Open House was organized on 19 December at Bayan Baru and about 600 people attended. In **2007** "Good Deed Team" was formed to assist in the area of education, employment, social problems, finance, health and hospital expenses. The Street Ministry was started in partnership with the Harvest Assembly.

The church grew both spiritually as well as in numbers. This was further strengthened by the able lay leadership of Mr Michael Raja. The outstanding debt for the Building stood at RM220,000. Rev. Jayaraj, the local church pastor, was elected as the Conference President in November **2008**.

Rev. Joseph Yesupatham took responsibility as the pastor from January **2009**. On 22 February the same year, the Methodist Senior Fellowship was formed. Street Ministry was replaced by "Kawan Ministry" in reaching out to the Indian community. In **2010** the first Open House Christmas Celebration was held and it was a big success. The Full Membership was 248.

Major Sanctuary Repair and Emergence of New and Young Leadership

In **2011**, the electrical and flooring of the sanctuary were in dire need of repair. Funds were raised and at the end of **2014**, RM 100,000 were collected. In **2015** the LCEC decided in faith to go ahead with the project and the estimated cost for the renovation works was RM 244,388. While the renovation work was in progress, the Sunday worship was held in the Wisma Shalom from 12 July 2015. The first Sunday Service in the renovated sanctuary was held on 20 December 2015. A Thanksgiving/Dedication Service for the renovation was held on 9 July **2016**. During Rev. Joseph Yesupatham's tenure, there was a new surge of youths coming forward to take the reins in church leadership. During this period, Mr. Sham Kumar from Penang was the Northern District Lay Leader. **From January 2016, Rev. Jeremiah Thomas** became the pastor. His emphasis has been on reconciliation and church unity.

Celebrating 125 Years of God's Faithfulness

In **2019**, Rev. Jeremiah Thomas became the pastor with Mr. Elemperu Valuthi Kuppuppu as the Lay Leader and Mr. Gunalan Samuel as the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 258. All the Agencies are doing well and their membership is as follows: MYF (25), MYAF (32), MSF (30) and MW (45). A Bible Study is conducted on Fridays at 8pm. and about 30 attend. There are 8 Cell Groups meeting fortnightly on Tuesdays. As for the Church School: In the Main Church there are 50 children and 15 teachers; in Bayan Baru, there are 15 children and 3 teachers and in Padang Tembak, there are 15 children and teachers from the Mother Church take turns to help Ms. Seetha Devi to teach.

Their Outreach ministries in 2019 are as follows: The Bayan Baru Outreach is coordinated by Mr Raymond Silvanathan. It has 10 families regularly attending the Sunday worship services. Most of the children attending the tuition classes are from non-believing families. Ms Seetha Devi coordinates the Padang Tembak Centre. They are in contact with 7 families. They conducted healing service, prayer walk, Christmas Celebration and community carnival. They provided provisions and school uniforms to the families in need.

Conclusion: TMC Penang is 125 years old and for a long time they have had a vision to establish another local church in the island. This is yet to materialize. However, TMC Penang was involved in establishing TMC Perai as a local church in 1981 in the mainland. The Full Membership of TMC Penang began with 37 in 1895 and in 2019 it is 258. Though the cost of building Wisma Shalom in 1999 took a big toll on the church financially, they have settled all loans and the added facilities are a great blessing for the church's ministry. The Church, in view of their expanding ministries, has requested for a church worker from the Annual Conference.

TMC Penang was formed as a local church in 1894 and is the oldest Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia. They celebrated their 125th Church Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Service and Dinner on 5 October 2019. Present at the Celebration Service was Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik, the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. Also present was Rev. Dr Dennis Raj, the President of the Tamil Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia.

Many pastors and lay people have sacrificially contributed towards the growth of this local church. But all this was made possible by the Lord Jesus who said: “I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16: 18). All glory and honour belongs to Him alone.

Sources

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC
2. Short History of TMC Penang by Rev. V.A. Subramaniam
3. TMC Penang Souvenir Centennial Celebrations 1994
4. Church Souvenir Program Dedication of Wisma Shalom, 2000
5. Church Souvenir Program, Church Renovation Dedication Service 2016
6. First Local Conference Report 2019

Pastoral Roll

May 1893 – Feb 1897	Rev. Simon Peter
Feb 1897 – Oct 1897	Pastor P. F. Gnanamuthu (Supply)
Oct 1897 – Oct 1899	Pastor Job Gnanasigamony
Oct 1899 – Nov 1902	Rev. Jesudason Y.J.S
Feb 1903 – Feb 1905	Rev. Samuel Apparavoo
Feb 1905 – Jan 1909	Rev. David J
Jan 1910 – Jan 1916	Rev. V. Devasagayam
Jan 1916 – May 1917	Rev. James A. Supramaniam
May 1917 – July 1917	Pastor K.S. Vanniasingam
July 1917 – Feb 1918	Pastor Prakasam V.G.
Feb 1918 – Feb 1919	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
Feb 1919 – Feb 1920	Rev. Y.J.S. Jesudasen
Mar 1920 – Jan 1924	Rev. V. Devasagayam
Jan 1924 – Feb 1926	Rev. Phillips S.A.
Jan 1926 – Feb 1927	Rev. V. Devasagayam
Mar 1927 – Jan 1931	Rev. V. Samuel
Apr 1931 – Jan 1934	Rev. Y.J.S. Jesudason
Feb 1934 – Jan 1936	Rev. T.M. Kurien
Feb 1936 – Jan 1938	Rev. Joseph Kingham
Jan 1938 – Aug 1946	Rev. Fred David
Sept 1946 – Dec 1948	Rev. Simon James Arthur
Jan 1949 – Feb 1951	Rev. J. Milton David
Jan 1955 – Dec 1955	Rev. S. Ratnasamy
Jan 1956 – Dec 1960	Rev. V.A. Subramaniam
Jan 1961 – Dec 1962	Rev. KJ Timothy
Jan 1963 – Dec 1964	Rev. S. Rethinasamy
Jan 1965 – Dec 1970	Rev. I.R. Chelladurai
Jan 1972 – Dec 1975	Rev. John Kovilpillai
Jan 1976 – January 1979	Rev. Chellaraj Fenn
Jun 1979 – Dec 1982	Rev. Simon Chandran
Jan 1983 - Aug 1990	Rev. David Tharmakan
Dec 1990 – Nov 1993	Rev. John Kovilpillai
Dec 1993 – Dec 1998	Rev. Victor Vethamani
1999 - 2001	Rev. Robert Selvakumar
2002 – 2008	Rev. C. Jayaraj
2009 - 2015	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2016 onwards	Rev. Jeremiah Thomas

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1936 - 1960	Mr. S. Thillaimuthu	
1965 - 1970	Mr. D. S. Ramanathan	Mr. D. S. Ramanathan
1972 - 1989	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1989/90	Mr. Manasseh Manoharan	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1990	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1991	Mr. Peter Nagaiah	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1992	Mr. Manasseh Manoharan	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1993 - 1995	Mr. P. Thomas	Datuk Dr. P. C. Vanniasingham
1996 - 2001	Mr. P. Thomas	Mr. Manasseh Manoharan
	Mr. Joseph Selvaraj (2001)	Mr. Michael Raja (2001)
2002 - 2004	Mr. Joseph Selvaraj	Mr. Michael Raja
2004 - 2015	Mr. Shamkumar	Mr. Michael Raja
	Mr. Winson Savastion (2015)	Mr. Gunalan Samuel (2015)
2016 - 2018	Mr. Winson Savastion	Mr. Gunalan Samuel
2019	Mr. Elempuru Valuthi	Mr. Gunalan Samuel



18-5-1986- Bishop
C.N. Fang dedicating



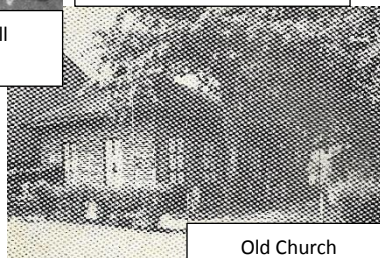
TMC Penang Church Wing



TMC Penang Football
Fellowship 1982



Methodist Women



Old Church

IPOH

The Beginnings

In the **1800s**, the Tamils were found widely settled in Perak. They had come from India and Ceylon for employment, mainly in the sugar cane and rubber plantations and also in the railways. Amongst them were those who had become Christians in their homeland. The South Indian Tamils were mainly from the District of Thirunelvely whilst those from Ceylon were from the Jaffna Peninsula.

Rev. C. W. Underwood - the First Foreign Tamil Minister to Malaya

In **1889**, Rev. Oldham brought Rev. C.W. Underwood, a Ceylon-Tamil Christian worker, from the American Board in Ceylon. He sent him to Perak to survey and assess the needs of the Tamils there. Rev. Underwood is the very first foreign Tamil minister to reach out to the Tamils in Malaya. He reported back that there was a great potential for opening work amongst the Tamils in Perak.

The First Five Tamils on the Full Membership Roll

In November 1894, Rev. T.W. Stagg, the first Methodist missionary arrived in Ipoh from Singapore. Out of the Christian Tamils, he formed his first Full Membership Roll for the Tamil work. There were five – Mr. A Sabapathy, Mrs. Ann Sabapathy, Mr. J.V. Lambert, Mr. Swamadason and Mr. W. Samuel. Rev. Stagg, after a brief ministry, returned to his homeland due to his wife's ill-health.

Rev. Horley Laid Strong Foundation for the Tamil Work in Perak

It was only when Rev. William Edward Horley arrived to take over the Mission station in August 1895 that rapid development of mission work in Perak began to take place. He was instrumental in laying the foundation of the English, Chinese and Tamil work in Ipoh and its surroundings. **In 1896, when the Ipoh Church was established, Rev. Horley was the Pastor of both the Tamil and English congregations.** He had the assistance of Pastor Paul Kuppusamy and Mr. J.V. Lambert in doing evangelistic work among the Tamils. In 1899, as a result of open-air worship services conducted in various towns around Ipoh, 16 adults were baptized, of whom 4 were Tamils.

Parsonage for the Tamil Pastor of a Church With Fluctuating Membership

From **1900 – 1905, Pastor Paul Kuppusamy** continued to assist Rev. Horley. There was a break in his duties when he went on leave to India to get married. In 1902 there was an influx of 60 members who joined the Tamil congregation, bringing along with them letters of introduction from their churches in India. Following that, two lay preachers were employed to assist Pastor Kuppusamy. In 1903, a parsonage was erected for the Tamil pastor in the church compound. The Full Membership of the church at this time was about 105 and it was considered the fastest growing congregation at that time. However, the membership of the church was always fluctuating, for many of its Tamil members returned home to India after some time.

Consolidating Ministry with Missionaries and Lay Pastors

The Tamil congregation, during the early period, was blessed with missionaries and also had the help of Tamil lay pastors. These lay workers were able to remain with the congregation for at least four years. In this respect, the contribution of missionaries like Rev. Horley and Rev. Leuring, together with Pastors **G. Gnananantham (1906 – 1907)**, **Simon Peter (1908)** and **Job Gnanasihamoney (1909 – 1910)** is noteworthy.

The Growing Church Faced Influenza Epidemic

Rev. Edward Isaac served the Ipoh church for seven years (1911 – 1917). It was a period of consolidation as he laid firm foundation for the propagation of the Word amongst the Tamils in Ipoh. Bishop Emeritus T.R. Doraisamy described him as a worker who served “loyally, faithfully and with great courage.” Next, **Rev. Ponniah Paul (1918 – 1921)**, moved the work further with diligence. But sadly, during the 1918 influenza epidemic, 14 members died in 12 days. However, by 1921, the Tamil congregation recovered satisfactorily and was in a stable condition.

Facing Economic Depression

From 1922 to 1926, **Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai** ministered to the congregation with fervour. However, during the last year of his stewardship and into the tenure of **Rev. M. V. Nitchingham (1927 to 1929)**, the dreaded economic depression also hit Malaya. Large numbers of Tamil workers in the plantation sector were affected, some of whom were members of the Tamil-speaking congregation. In spite of the double setbacks of ill health and economic challenges, steps were taken to restore the church.

The Teacher-Preacher Pastors

From 1930 to 1931, **Rev. S.S. Pakianathan** became the first teacher-preacher to be posted to the Tamil congregation. He was assisted in 1931 by Rev. Fred David, another teacher-preacher. Rev. S.S. Pakianathan resigned his teaching profession and took up full-time ministry in 1931 and became the leading figure of Tamil work, while Rev. Fred David carried on with the ministry of the church. Together the two set about rebuilding the congregation. The parsonage was demolished and rebuilt during this time. **Rev. Fred David** was the Pastor-in-charge from 1932 – 1937, till he was transferred to Parit Buntar as a Principal of a school.

The Second World War Years

Rev. J. Milton David took charge in 1938 and served till 1941, when the Second World War broke out. From 1942 – 1945, according to oral history, the Lahat Road Tamil speaking congregation met in the Tamil Settlement Methodist Church. Rev. J. Milton David and Mr. John Appaduray, who later was ordained Elder, ministered to the congregation.

Two Congregations One Pastor

The Lahat Road and Tamil Settlement churches were served by the same pastor from 1908 till the end of the Second World War. The first common pastor was Rev. Simon Peter (1908) and the last Rev. Milton David (1938 – 1941).

However, both the churches functioned independently, having their own Ministry Agencies and Committees. During this period, they were managed by one pastor under one LCEC. The Ipoh Church traces its beginning to 1896, while the Tamil Settlement Church traces the beginning of their ministry to 1908. The Tamil Settlement congregation was formally organised as a Local Conference on 6 November 1960. However, over the years, these two congregations had several joint programs for their children and youths.

Recovering from the War Years with Pastor-Teachers

The war had its toll on the church and there was a decline spiritually and morally. There was a drop in church membership. It was a time to rebuild. By God's grace, the church came back on track, with the timely posting of **Rev. S.S. Pakianathan** back to Ipoh. With his wide experience and foresight, he helped restore the church during his seven year tenure (1946 – 1952). During this time, much emphasis was placed on youth work and the Tamil MYF was formed in 1948, under the inspired leadership of Mr. D.R. Daniel.

Rev. Paul Athimuthu (1953 – 1957) continued to build the church. As a gifted preacher, he gave much time in spite of his teaching job, to promote the Gospel amongst the Tamil people. The pastoral charge was then passed on to **Rev. S.J. Ponniah** (1958 – 1959), who was the last of the pastor – teachers to serve the church.

The 1960s saw growth in church membership and with it the need for more full-time ministers. The need was acute and required the recruitment of ministers from India and Sri Lanka.

Rev. M. Thangamuthu (1960 - 1963), with an aptitude for Indian music, brought a new spiritual dimension to worship. His caring nature contributed much to the spreading of the Gospel in the church outreach programs, especially amidst the people in the estates.

In 1963, Miss Genie Othites, a missionary from the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, gave assistance to the Tamil Church in Lahat Road during the first eight months of the year. The return of Miss Janet Chinniah from study in Ceylon, in October, was a blessing to the Tamil work in the Ipoh area.

Rev. E.J. Thoraisingam (1964 - 1967) continued the work of the previous ministers effectively. In 1965, the first Outreach work began in Kinta Valley.

Return to Recruitment of Pastors from India/Sri Lanka

Two Indian Missionary recruits followed: **Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts (May 1967 - 1968)** and **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj (1969 – September 1970)**. The Klebang Outreach was started in 1970. Then, **Rev. Chellaraj Fenn**, a missionary from the Church of South India, took charge from **October 1970 to 1975**. Rev. Fenn helped to reorganize and up-date the church membership records.

Property Matters

TPAC was assigned the Kesselring Bungalow and the land on Lot 29123 & 9223s in 1971. The Kesselring Bungalow housed the Northern Malaysia Youth Centre cum Library for the Tamil Churches in the region. At that time, the Anglo-Chinese Secondary School required the land space between the ACS Principal's quarters and Kesselring Bungalow, to erect an Indoor Stadium (Dewan Teerath Ram). They negotiated with the Tamil Church and built a Christian Education Centre for the Tamil church in 1974 in exchange for the land.

Ministry among Children and Women

Miss Joyce Parkins, an OMF missionary from England, was the Christian Education Coordinator providing training for the Church School teachers. A local, Miss Jayamany Ratnam, was employed as a Woman Worker by WSCS-TPAC and assigned to Tamil Methodist Church Ipoh.

Rev. James Solamadan was the next Pastor from **1976 – 1977**. He encouraged the LCEC to seriously consider building a new parsonage to replace the old one which was built in the 1930s. This came to reality in 1982. Then it was **Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah**, a missionary pastor from Sri Lanka, who served from 1978 – 1979. He was the last of the foreign missionaries to serve in this church. Both the Pastor and his wife who were more inclined to old Tamil lyrics, led the congregation to worship the Lord. It was during this period that young people began to take up leadership in the LCEC

The Beginning of Outreach Ministries

Rev. Jacob David was the Pastor from **1980 – 1982**. He initiated work in Kampung Chepur (Tasek) and Menglembu as outreach points. He also started the church prayer cells on Mondays. The new parsonage was built for RM 70,000 and was **dedicated on 23 May 1982 by Bishop C.N. Fang**. The first church van AAR 765 (Datsun C 20) was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Kimis for the church outreach ministry.

Start of Neighborhood Bible Study Groups

Rev. A.E. Joseph, the Pastor from **1983 – 1986**, brought revival with the charismatic form of worship. With this, changes were noticed in the members' personal life. A collection of revival songs were bound in plastic folder for use during worship. He also initiated the Neighborhood Bible Study Groups in seven areas: 1) Jelapang, 2) Lim Garden/Cherry Park 3) Buntong 4) Teluk Kurin 5) Taman Silibin/Taman Rishah 6) Kampong Simee/Canning Garden and 7) Kampong Tai Lee. He also introduced the Pastor's monthly Newsletter which carried Bible Quiz competitions. There was a marked increase in the offerings, tithes and pledges. Church Prayer Cell was held every Friday in the parsonage from 7 pm to 9 pm. Mr. Louis Martin was assigned as a part-time local church worker to Kg. Chepur.

Assignment of Lot 3564 and Ministry extension

Due to the efforts of **Rev. Noel Arputharaj**, who was the next Pastor (1987 – 1988), records regarding the assignment of Lot 3564 (10326) to the Tamil church was brought to light. The said property was then fenced-up. In February 1987, the workers' quarters caught fire and the church van AAR 765 was also damaged beyond repair. The same year also saw the organizing of the 1st local church Children's Camp from 15 – 18 May and the starting of Klebang and Kinta Valley Preaching Points. A new Ford Econovan ABJ 3386 was purchased in 1987. A second van (Ford Econovan ABM 1296) was bought in November 1988, to be used mainly for their outreach points. In that same year, Rev. Noel was elected as the first TAC Full Time President.

Fire Destroys Ipoh Wesley Church Igniting New Developments to the Tamil Church

Rev. P. Tevaraji took charge from **1989 – 1994**. The church embarked on a Multi-Purpose Hall Project on the vacant Lot 3564. But on the 23 February 1992, a fire broke-out and completely destroyed the Wesley Church building. The Tamil Church, which was also using their sanctuary as their place of worship, then began to use their Christian Education Centre (Church Hall) as their new place of worship. The Building Committee and the LCEC then decided not to carry on with the Multi-Purpose Building Project but to build a sanctuary of their own. This included an extension to the existing hall with a gallery to house about 500 people. It was built at a cost of RM364,617. The Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on 11 April 1993 and was conducted by Rev. P. Tevaraji, who was the DS and also Local Church pastor. He also laid the cornerstone on 4 July of the same year. The completed church building was dedicated on 20 August 1994 by Bishop Denis C. Dutton. The final cost of the church building with furniture and fittings and extensions to the existing church hall amounted to about RM 450,000. With the help of YB Dato Seri Samy Vellu (Minister for Energy, Telecommunications & Posts), the State Government gave a grant of RM 100,000.

Ministry at Outreach Points Consolidated

A house at Jelapang, Ipoh, was purchased for RM 25,000 in 1990 and was dedicated as Rumah Methodist Jelapang on 1 February 1992. The Jelapang and Chepor (Tasek) Preaching Points were recommended to become a separate Local Church Conference in 1994. Following that, Meranti Lapan, Bercham and Pusing Outreach Preaching Points were established. In 1994, Mrs. Shanti Ratnam, a member of the church was employed to do full-time social work in the Jelapang area through CARE MALAYSIA.

The Centennial Year

During the tenure of **Rev. John Kovilpillai (1995 – 2000)**, the Jelapang/Chepor (Tasek) preaching points were constituted as a Local Church Conference on 30 June 1996 with 118 Full Members. The main church building at Lahat Road was air-conditioned at a cost of RM 48,000. A morning-prayer session on Sundays from 8.30am to 9.00am was started in the church since September 1995.

At the 1996 Annual Conference Session, the resolution to name TMC Lahat Road as TMC Ipoh was accepted. From the 9 – 13 May 1998 a combined VBS together with TMC Tamil Settlement and the Holy Spirit Anglican Church was organized. Also on 18 October 1998, the MSF was formed. In the year 2000, plans for the Multi-Purpose hall were redrawn under the leadership of Mr. Thevaneyan David.

Rev. Peter Devadason was the Pastor from **2001 – 2003**. The leadership for the Multi-Purpose Hall project was handed over to Mr. R. Steven, the Building Chairman in 2003. On 7 March 2004 the Ground Breaking Ceremony was conducted by Rev. M.G. Thana Raj, the Perak District Superintendent. On 2 May, the Corner Stone was laid by Rev. P. Tevaraji, the TAC President. The work was completed, costing RM 1.3 million.

Rev. A.E. Joseph was reappointed as the pastor here (**2004 – 2008**). On 5 June 2005, the New Multi-Purpose Hall was dedicated by Bishop Hwa Yung. On 19 April 2008, **Bercham Outreach became a Local Conference**. **Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)** the next Pastor served from **2009 – 2012**. In **2009**, Pastor Paul Mani came on board and was given the task to build the ministry in the Pusing area. The Hall Extension Project, which was started on 8 July 2012 for a sum of RM 102,000, was completed in October the same year. On 1 November, the Cornerstone was laid by the TAC President, Rev. C. Jayaraj at the Pusing Lot.

Rev. Vinsant Rayar was the Pastor from **2013 – 2017**. In February **2013**, a shop-lot at Pusing Mewah was purchased for RM 349,000. Also, in September the same year, a new van was purchased for Pusing ministry for RM 98,000. On **7 February 2015, Pusing was organized as a Local Conference**. In the same year the Lighthouse Preaching Centre was started in the “Little India” part of the town. This was done to mainly reach out to the Indians in Simpang Pulai area. Charles Abraham’s meetings and a program on 21st Century Evangelism by Rev. John Ganapathy were conducted.

Rev. Samuel Periathamby became their new Pastor in January **2018**. His task was mammoth, for he was also the pastor of TMC Prai and the Northern DS as well. After serving one year in Ipoh, he was transferred to Johore Baru.

In 2019 Rev. Seenivasagam David was appointed as the next pastor. The Full Membership is 496. Currently there are 8 Cell Groups and Simpang Pulai is their Outreach. They have 40 members in the MYF, 33 members in MYAF, 83 members in MSF and 76 members in the MW. There are 50 children and 13 teachers in the Church School. Work started on 21 August on The Christian Education Hall Renovation / Extension. The total cost of the project is estimated at RM 800,000. Upon completion of the renovation / extension, there will be one Mini Hall attached to the Church Building. The side wing would be used for Sunday Worship Services. The wider open area would be for the church fellowship.

There will also be 6 class rooms, 1 new kitchen, 2 new toilets for men and women, 1 store room and 1 new Baptism Pool. The Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on 1 September by the Retired Minister Rev. P. Tevaraji and the Local Church Pastor Rev. Seenivasagam David. It was conducted after the Family Sunday Service.

Conclusion: TMC Ipoh is the second Tamil Methodist Local church to be established in Malaysia. It is now 123 years old. It has a very long and eventful history. God has been faithful and His gracious hand has raised many faithful pastors and lay people to build this church. Several Outreaches that were started have now become local churches. Several servants of God have been raised by this local church and sent out to become pastors and church leaders elsewhere. Though much has happened, as John Wesley would say, “The best is yet to be”. The Lord will surely take TMC Ipoh on to greater heights, as they look to Him for direction and strength in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SOURCES:

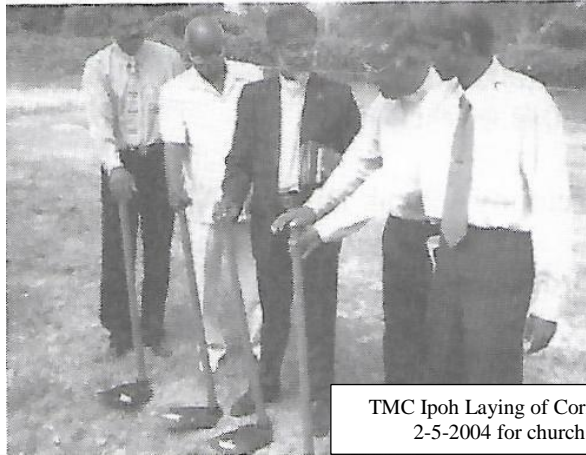
MAC/TPAC/TAC Journals
Local Church Souvenir Programs

PASTORAL ROLL

1896 - 1899	Rev. W.E Horley
1900 – 1905	Pastor Paul Kuppusamy assisted Horley
1906 – 1907	Pastor G. Gnananantham
1908	Rev. Simon Peter
1909 – 1910	Pastor Job Gnanasihamoney
1911 – 1917	Rev. Edward Isaac
1918 – 1921	Rev. Ponniah Paul
1922 – 1926	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1927 – 1929	Rev. M.V. Nitchingham
1930 – 1931	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1932 – 1937	Rev. Fred David
1938 – 1941	Rev. Milton David
1942 – 1945	War Years No Record
1946 – 1952	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1953 – 1957	Rev. P. Athimuthu
1958 – 1959	Rev. S.J. Ponniah
1960 – 1963	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1964 – 1967	Rev. E.J. Thuraisingam
1967 May – 1968	Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts
1969 – 1970 Sept.	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1970 Oct. – 1975	Rev. Chellaraj Fenn
1976 – 1977	Rev. James Solamadan
1978 – 1979	Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah
1980 – 1982	Rev. Jacob David
1983 – 1986	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1987 – 1988	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1989 – 1994	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1995 – 2000	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2001 – 2003	Rev. T.D. Peter
2004 – 2008	Rev. A.E. Joseph
2009 – 2012	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2013 – 2017	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2018	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2019	Rev. Seenivasagam David

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
N/A		Dr. Paranjothi
1967 - 1968		Rev. Prabhu Dass Roberts
N/A		Mr. T.S. Navaratnam
N/A		Mrs. E.G. Muthiah
1968 - 1976		Mr. Samuel Dasson
1977	Mr. Charles Amarasuriya	Mr. Samuel Dasson
1978	Mr. Charles Amarasuriya	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1979	Mr. Charles Amarasuriya, Mr. S. Gnaniah	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1980	Mr. S. Gnaniah	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1981	Mr. S. Gnaniah, Mr. A.V. Manikam	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1982	Mr. A.V. Manikam	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1983	Mr. A.V. Manikam, Mr. Robert Gnanarajan	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1984	Mr. Robert Gnanarajan	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1985	Mr. Robert Gnanarajan	Mr. R. Steven
1986	Mr. Jothi Pandian	Mr. R. Steven
1987 - 1988	Mr. Jothi Pandian	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1989	Mr. Jothi Pandian, Mr. George P. Chelvam	Mr. T. Tharmapal
1990- 1992	Mr. George P. Chelvam	Mr. T. Tharmapal, Mr. R. Steven (1990)
1993	Mr. George P. Chelvam, Mr. Salomon Thanggiah	Mr. R. Steven
1994 - 1996	Mr. Salomon Thanggiah	Mr. R. Steven
1997	Mr. Salomon Thanggiah, Mr. Tharmapal	Mr. R. Steven
1998	Mr. Tharmapal	Mr. R. Steven
1999 - 2000		Mr. R. Steven
2001 - 2005	Mr. Salomon Thanggiah	Mr. R. Steven
2006	Mr. R. Victor	Mr. R. Steven
2007 - 2013	Mr. Moses Jayabalan	Mr. R. Steven
2014 (6 months)	Mr. Rajamannar	Mr. R. Victor
2014 (from June) - 2015	Mr. Rajamannar	Mr. Daniel Devadass
2016 - 2017	Mr. Rajamannar	Mr. Solomon Asirvatham
2018	Mr. Rajamannar	Mr. Moses Jayabalan
2019	Mr. Louis Martin	Mr. Moses Jayabalan



TMC Ipoh Laying of Corner Stone
2-5-2004 for church hall



New Church Foundation 4-7-93



TMC Ipoh Church Hall
Dedication 5th June 2004

KUALA LUMPUR

Pre-Malacca Street Era 1896 – 1899

When God led eight young men to gather for prayer and Bible Study in **1896**, the foundation was laid for the formation of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur. The eight were: Dr E.T. McIntyre, Messrs Daniel Poore, R.S.V. Muthuthamby, J.A. Barnabas, J.S. Appadurai, Arianayagam, S. Sittampalam and Rasiah Knight.

The First Congregation, Location and Pastor

The congregation of this church first met at the junction of Batu Road (now Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman) and Java Street (now Jalan Tun Perak). **Friday 18 June 1897** saw the official opening of the church. **Dr W.T. Kensett**, a medical missionary, was appointed the first pastor of the church. He engaged Mr. Vedamanickam, a teacher, to assist. In 1899, the Tamil congregation bid farewell to Dr Kensett, who left for America on furlough.

The Malacca Street Era (1900 – 1961)

From **1900 – 1916**, **Rev. Samuel Abraham** was the pastor. On **11 March 1900**, the building of the Episcopal Church at Kuala Lumpur was completed and dedicated by the Presiding Elder Dr. W.G. Shellabear and assisted by Dr. B.F. West. Rev. S. Abraham, was also needed in the school. **In 1904**, freed from school work, he became full time pastor of the KL Church. There were 61 Full Members. Ministry extended to the Prison, Kuala Kubu, Rawang, Kajang and Seremban. **In 1908** worship services began at Brickfields and Batu Road. Prayer meetings were held for the Tamils working at the Central Railway workshop. Rev. Abraham died at the age of 53 and for his contribution was worthily called the Tamil John Wesley by his colleagues.

From 1917 – 1927 Rev. J.A. Supramaniam was the pastor. He was both pastor and an educator. It was during his ministry that the **Tamil Church in Sentul** was established. During this period, the local church was blessed by the ministry of outstanding servants of God like Sadhu Sunder Singh (**1922**), Bhagavathar Vedanayagam Sastriar (**1924**) and Dr. E. Stanley Jones (**1926**). There was a strong children's ministry under the leadership of Dr. (Miss) Gladys McIntyre. There were 200 children enrolled with an average attendance of 150.

The Malacca Street Parsonage and the Church Hall below were completed and dedicated by Rev. Horley in **1923**. The Parsonage cost \$7,800. The Official Board agreed to the naming of the Church Hall in memory of the late Rev. Abraham, when they were informed that the Abraham family had contributed \$500 towards the building of the Church Hall.

The church was affected by the Floods of 1922 and the church organ was damaged. There was another flood in 1926. This time the organ was salvaged by the timely intervention of Rev. Supramaniam and Mr. Sinniah the sexton.

The Tamil Youth Group, known as the **Epworth League** was formed in **1923** with Miss L. Stuckey as the first President. Dr. E.T. McIntyre and Mr. D. V. Kandiah were the Advisors. The executive committee of this youth group was then called the “Cabinet.” In **1924** the **Sentul congregation** became independent from the mother church with a fulltime pastor.

The **Rev. S.S. Pakianathan** served as the pastor of this church at three different times. Firstly, from **1928 – 1929**. Secondly, from **1932 – 1933**, during which time he was assisted by Rev. J.V. Ayadurai and Rev. S.A. Philips. At the third period, **1938 – 1946**, he was assisted by Rev. J.D. Asirvatham. Rev. Pakianathan saw the church through the troubled period of World War II. While serving as the pastor, Rev. Pakianathan was also heavily involved in the setting up of the Pakianathan Seminary in Ipoh for the training of Tamil Workers. Apart from this, he was also instrumental in initiating the publication of the “Light of Salvation”, a Tamil periodical of the Malaya Annual Conference in **1934**.

Other pastors who served during this period include: **Rev. S.M. Thevathasan** (1930 – 1931), **Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai** (1934), **Rev. P.L. Peach** (1935) and **Rev. J.S. Arthur** (1935 – 1937). Following the Second World War, the shortage of suitable local pastors was acutely felt. The KL Church began looking to recruit pastors from India and Sri Lanka. **Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar** from Sri Lanka became the first of such pastors (1947 – 1948). Other pastors who served during this period include **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** (1949 – 1952), **Rev. V.A. Subramaniam** (1953 – 1954) and **Rev. E.J. Ponniah** (1955 – 1957). **Rev. B.C.D. Mather** was the second of the expatriate pastors to take pastoral appointment at the KL Church. He was on contract for three years (1958 – January 1961). He served from January 1958 – September 1960. “Rev. Paul Athimuthu graciously accepted the Bishop’s call to fill the KL Tamil Church pastorate in October in addition to his duties in Tanjung Malim Church and School.” (MAC Journal 1960 p. 53).

The Brickfields Era (1961 onwards)

A new era began when the new church site in Brickfields of 1.225 acres was obtained on 22 November **1958**. The Ground Breaking Ceremony was conducted by the District Superintendent Rev. H. Haines and the Service was conducted by Rev. Mather on 16 July **1959**. The Foundation Stone was laid by Rev. S.S. Pakianathan on Saturday 22 January **1961**.

On Sunday 16 April of the same year, the final worship service was held in the old Church at Malacca Street. The cost of the new Church and its additional buildings came to about \$200,000. The first service in the new Church was held on Sunday 23 April 1961.

With the departure of Rev. Mather back to Sri Lanka, **Rev. W. Denver Stone** from the West Virginia Conference, USA, became the next pastor of the church from January 1961. He served till he was transferred to Sumatra in July 1962.

The Abraham Memorial Hall and Parsonage at 197 Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad were dedicated by **Bishop Amstutz** on **6 May 1961** and assisted by the District Superintendent Rev. Ho Seng Ong, the most senior Asian Pastor Rev. J.V. Ayaduray and Rev. W.D. Stone. In **1962**, **Rev. Jacob Paul**, who assisted Rev. Denver Stone, took pastoral charge from **July 1962 to April 1964**. Missionary Miss Janet Cooper was also appointed to help. Rev. Jacob Paul was transferred to Klang Tamil Church in April 1964.

Rev. T. Thangaraj was the pastor from **May 1964 – July 1965**. **Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts** was the pastor for two years, from **August 1965 – April 1967**. **Rev. T. Thangaraj**, having completed his studies, returned to pastor the church from **May 1967 – April 1970**. He also gave lectures on Social Studies at the University Malaya. The Sentul pastor, **Rev. John Kovilpillai**, covered KL Church from May to June 1970.

When **Rev. Jacob Paul** returned after his studies, he took pastoral charge from **1 July 1970 – 1973**. He had a strong Bible Study group, which supported a missionary in Kashmir. The Deeper Life Mission in 1971, with Dr. Sam Kamaleson, saw God doing great things in the lives of many. Since Easter 1971, a very active and enthusiastic Bible Study Group met once a week. Miss Ruth Beckett, an O.M.F. Missionary, on secondment to our Conference, was involved in Church School Teachers' training in Kuala Lumpur and other parts of our country. Her contribution to improve the quality of Church School teaching will be long remembered. The Church was affected by a major flood for the third time in its history in January **1971**. **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj**, the last of the foreign missionaries to pastor KL Church, served from **1975 – 1976**.

Outreach Work Gained Momentum

Outreach work was part of the activity of the church from the time of Rev. Abraham. In the 1960s, the Tamil Sunday School was conducted in the afternoon mainly to cater to the children in the nearby quarters. In the 1960s, when Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts was the pastor, weekly visits were made to Mary Estate in Batang Berjuntai on Saturdays. Due to the lack of facilities, Church School was conducted in a Hindu temple and under the shade of trees. At that time, this ministry was made possible by an American OMF missionary of Greek origin, Miss Genie Orthites. Transport was provided for this ministry by the KL Church men, who took turns to drive. Among them were Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam, Mr. Cecil Victor, Mr. I. Ponnuthurai, Mr. Daniel Doraiappah, Mr William David and Mr. Benjamin Niles. Others who went to minister included Ms Grace Vethamani, Jeevam Selvaretnam, Esther Samuel, Jeyamalar Samuel and Annathai Doraisamy.

Post Missionary Pastors Period – 1976 onwards

Rev. V. John Kovilpillai became the first local born pastor to be appointed to the KL Church in **1976**. He was the pastor from **1 September 1976 till 1990**. Rev. Kovilpillai was elected TAC President in November 1976. He had the dual responsibility of heading the Tamil Annual Conference as well as the KL Church.

In **1981**, from June to December, Rev. S. Duraisingam was the Assistant Pastor. From 1982 to 1985, Rev. Victor Vethamani was the Assistant Pastor. In **1984**, the first Preaching Class was conducted by him. From 1986 to 1988 Rev. Peter Jebasekaran was the Assistant Pastor. From **1989** there were two worship services – Tamil at 9.00 am. and English at 10.30 am.

During Rev. John Kovilpillai's tenure, several **Outreach Points** were started. Couples were put as coordinators and this proved to be very effective. Many of these Outreaches have since become Local Conferences:

1. **Ulu Klang:** Ministry was started in the 1950s. The coordinators included, Mr. & Mrs. Muthu Thaver, Mr. & Mrs. John Ponnampalam and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ngo. It became a Local Conference on 11 December 1994.
2. **Sungei Way/Subang:** work started in 1975 with Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Rajaram as the coordinators. It became a Local Conference as TMC Petaling Jaya on 11 May 1986.
3. **Batang Berjuntai:** Work here was done as early as 1926 but restarted by KL Church in the 1960s as well as in 1980s. In 1976, all the members joined TMC Bukit Rotan.
4. **Kampung Sri Pinang:** Work started here in 1981 with Mr. & Mrs. David Chelliah as the coordinators. They were incorporated with TMC Petaling Jaya and became members of that local church.
5. **Rawang:** Work began in 1981 in the home of Mr. & Mrs. G.J. Thanaraj . Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ananthan were coordinators. It became a Local Conference on 1 November 1992.
6. **Sungei Besi/Serdang:** This ministry was started in 1987. The coordinators included Mr. & Mrs. G.M.M. Mutu, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ananthan and Mr. & Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai. It became a Local Conference on 7 January 1995. They are now known as TMC Serdang.
7. **Bangi/Semenyih:** Work started in October 1984. Coordinators for this ministry included, Mr. & Mrs. G.M.M. Mutu and Mr. & Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai. It became a Local Conference on 3 January 2004.
8. **Kampung Kayu Ara:** Started in 1986 with Mr. & Mrs. P. Iyadurai as the coordinators. On 1 June 1995 the membership of this Outreach was transferred to TMC Bukit Rotan. They became a Local Conference on 19 February 2005.
9. **Selayang:** This Outreach was started in 1987 with Mr. & Mrs. A. Subramaniam as the Coordinators. It became a Local Conference on 9 April 2009.
10. **Cheras:** The first Outreach to be created as a Satellite Church, together with the members of TMC Sentul church. They became a Local Conference on 27 March 2010.

Rev. Peter Jebasekaran was the pastor in charge from 1991 – 1992. In **July 1991** the Annexe extension of the Abraham Memorial Hall was completed. The unveiling of the Commemorative Tablet was by Bishop Rev. Denis C. Dutton and the Official Opening Ceremony was by Rev. V. John Kovilpillai.

In **1991** the Methodist Seniors Fellowship was formed. From April 1992 till 1994, Rev. Emanuel Rajahser was the Assistant Pastor. In **1992** the Church was fully air conditioned and the sound system upgraded

Rev. James Solamadan was the pastor in **1993**. In that year Ms. Emily Singam came forward to serve as the church's first missionary. She was sent to Jordan. **Rev. David Tharmakan** served as the pastor for one year in **1994**. He was also then the President of the TAC.

Ministry help to TMC Bukit Rotan

In the early **1970s**, the pastor of the KL Church was also appointed as the pastor of TMC Bukit Rotan. Along with the pastor, members of the KL church made trips to Monmouth Estate (the sanctuary at Bukit Rotan was in an unusable condition). Help was extended to teach Church School, conduct sewing classes, hygiene and family planning. The Union Biblical Seminary students were also given practical exposure in ministry under the supervision of the KL Church pastor. The students included, Mr. Gabriel Jabanathan, Mr. P. Tevaraji, Mr. Simon Chandran, Mr. S. Duraisingam and Mr. Peter Jebasekaran. Mr Victor Vethamani helped in 1975/76 before going to the seminary. As in the 1960s, several KL Church men helped to give transport on Sunday afternoons.

Rev. P. Tevaraji was the pastor from December **1994 till 1998**. **From 1995 to 1999**, Rev. M.G. Thana Raj was the Associate Pastor. Area Fellowship meetings and Bible Study were encouraged. He was elected Conference President in November 1998.

Rev. Victor Vethamani was pastor from **1999 – 2007**. He was assisted by Rev. M.G. Thanaraj (1999), Rev. Dennis Raj (2000 – 2003). Rev. Timothy Krishnan (2004) and Rev. T.D. Peter (2004 – 2007). In **2000** an Anti-Dadah/HIV/AIDS Program was organised by the local church with Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir as the special guest.

The year **2004** was significant:

- ✓ Children's Church Ministry was started
- ✓ Worship service time changed: Tamil service at 8.15 and then to 8 am
- ✓ English service at 11.15 am. Coffee Fellowship 9.30 – 10.00 am
- ✓ Church School/Bible Study/MYF from 10. 00 – 11.00 am
- ✓ Telegu and Nepali Worship service began in February
- ✓ Indonesian Worship Service was conducted in the premises
- ✓ Small Group Ministry began with Mr. Jason Olivo as the first coordinator
- ✓ Alpha Course was conducted

Rev. M.G. Thanaraj was the pastor for one year in **2008**. At this time the church had **Rev. E.C. Gnanasekhar** from India as the Associate Pastor. Due to visa difficulties, his wife could not be with him. Thus this arrangement could not continue.

Rev. Justin Clarence took charge as the pastor from **2009 – 2017**. He was assisted by Rev. Ruben Kanagalingam (2009), Rev. Edwin Rajamoney (2010 – 2012), Rev. Samy Dass (2013 – 2016) and Rev. Herbert John (2017). Some of the highlights of this period include:

- Ulu Pudu Outreach Point launched 2009
- Outreach work in Pantai Dalam launched 2011
- Brickfields Community Football Program 2010
- The Million Leaders Mandate Leadership Course 2010
- RM 1 million for Building Project received through Prime Minister Dato Seri Najib 2013
- Mission Trips and ministry to the Penans in Miri began 2013
- Miss Jayam Devadason, a member of this church ‘bequeathed’ her house to TMC KL on 10 January 2014
- Reading through the Bible (24 hours) was held during the Lent Season

In **2017** the Church celebrated its 120 Years’ Anniversary. The Church embarked on a Discipleship Study program for the adults with an average attendance between 60 to 70 members.

In **2018**, **Rev. Herbert D. John** became the Senior Pastor of this church with Rev. David Abraham as his Associate. Among other happenings included the Annual Bible Camp that was done for the very first time. In **2019**, Rev. D.B. Laurence was appointed as the Associate Pastor. Very sadly, Rev. Laurence suddenly passed away on 31 January 2019. He served the local church that had sent him for the fulltime ministry for one month. Rev. Herbert continued as the sole pastor of the church. Mr. John Ananthan the Lay Leader and Mr. Augustus Jeremiah the LCEC Chairperson, are giving able support.

In **2019** the Full Membership is 580. They have 12 Small Groups. The Church Kindergarten has 56 children, 3 classes; 4 teachers, 3 assistant teachers, 1 cleaner and principal. There are 3 Trainee teachers from the Methodist College. The Church’s Mission involvement is very commendable. Their budget for 2019 is RM353,200. They are supporting 13 Mission Workers. Their commitment to MMM is RM60,000. They have 140 students in the Church school with an average attendance of 90 to 100. MYF has 59 members, MYAF has 41 members, MW has 58 members, and MSF has 90 members. The Social Concerns ministry is strong with their Learning Centre meeting on Saturdays from 10.30 am to 3pm. Apart from the church members, there are outside volunteers, including some Methodist College KL students. These students participate to fulfil their community service requirements.

Those who became Pastors from this Local Church

The following were sent to become pastors from this local church: Rev. Victor Vethamani, Rev. Emanuel Rajahser, Rev. Hendry Ponniah (home church is Sitiawan), Rev. D.B. Laurence and Rev. Raymond Raj Ponnuthurai.

Lay Leadership to the Annual Conference from the Local Church

The KL Church had and still has a major role in the ministry of the Tamil Conference (TPAC and TAC). The first Office for TAC was in the KL Church. Key lay leaders like the Conference Treasurer (Mr. Sam Supramaniam, Mr. Cecil Victor), Finance Chairman (Mr. E. V. Nesaratnam, Mr. P.S Nagaratnam, Mr. J.D. Rajaram, Mr. Anthony Row and Mr. Augustus Jeremiah) Mr. V. Tharumaraj (Conference Secretary) and Mr. A. Chelvarajasingam (Chairman Salary Review Committee)

Today the KL Church is 122 years old. The church continues to grow and impact the lives of many. God has been faithful and the church continues to look for doors of opportunity to serve the Lord.

Sources:

1. Methodist Journals

MAC, TPAC, TAC

2. Books

Three Pioneer Pastors – compiled by Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam
Celebrating 120 Years (1897 – 2017) Pictorial History

3. Souvenir Programs

- a. Dedication Service of TMC KL in Brickfields in 1961
- b. TMC KL Outreach Ministries (Blue)
- c. Walkathon in aid of Sg. Way Subang Church Project 1985
- d. 85th Anniversary 1896 – 1981
- e. Dedication Service of Abraham Hall Extension and 3 storey annex 1992
- f. Celebrating 50 Years in Brickfields 2011
- g. 100 Years Celebration 1896 – 1996

4. Other Resources

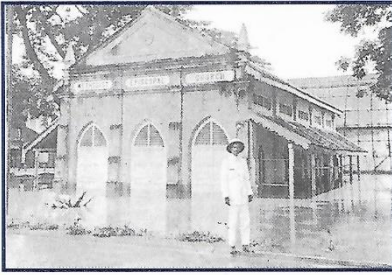
- a. Correspondence Files
- b. Local Church Newsletter
- c. Personal Interviews

PASTORAL ROLL

1897 – 1899	Rev. W. T. Kensett
1900 – 1916	Rev. S. Abraham
1917 – 1927	Rev. J.A. Supramaniam
1928 – 1929	Rev. S. S. Pakianathan
1930 – 1932	Rev. S. M. Thevathason
1932	Rev. S.A. Phillips
1933	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1934	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1935 – 1937	Rev. J.S Arthur
1938 – 1946	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1947 – 1948	Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar
1949 – 1952	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1953 – 1954	Rev. V.A. Subramaniam
1955 – 1957	Rev. E.J. Ponniah
1958 (Feb.) – 1960 (Sept.)	Rev. B.C.D. Mather
1960 (Oct. – Dec.)	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1961 – 1962 (June)	Rev. Denver Stone
1962 July – 1964 April	Rev. Jacob Paul
1964 May – July 1965	Rev. Dr Thangaraj
1965 August – 1967 (April)	Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts
1967 May – 1970	Rev. Dr Thangaraj
1970 – 1974	Rev. Jacob Paul
1975 – 31 August 1976	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
September 1976 – 1990	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1991 – 1992	Rev. Peter Jebasekaran
1993	Rev. James Solamadan
1994	Rev. David Tharmakan
1995 – 1998	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1999 – 2007	Rev. Victor Vethamani
2008	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2009 – 2017	Rev. Justin Clarence
2018 onwards	Rev. Herbert D. John

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

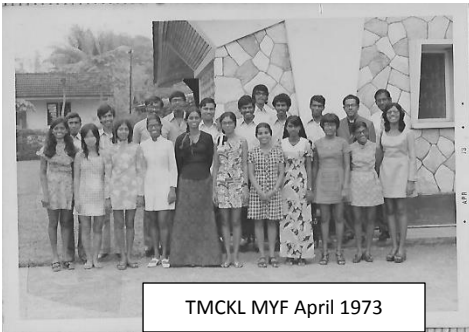
Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1951	Mr. J.A.P. Oswald	Rev. P. Athimuthu
1952	Mr. J.M. Pakianathan	Rev. P. Athimuthu
1953 - 1954	Mr. J.M. Pakianathan	Rev. V. A. Subramaniam
1955	Mr. J.M. Pakianathan	
1956	Mr. J.M. Pakianathan	Dr. E.S.R. Alfred
1957 - 1959	Mr. H.V. Ponniah	Dr. A.E. Duraisamy
1960	Mr. A.T. Balraj	Mr. J.A. Doraisingham
1961	Mr. A.T. Balraj	Dr. A.E. Duraisamy
1962	Mr. A.T. Balraj	Mr. H.V. Ponniah
1963	Mr. Cyril Samuel	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam
1964 - 1965	Mr. E.R.A. Joseph	Mr. A.E. Navarajasingam
1966 - 1969	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Mr. A.E. Navarajasingam
1970 - 1976	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Mr. J.D. Rajaram
1977 - 1978	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Dr. K.T. Pillai
1979 - 1983	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Dr. S.W. Pakianathan
1984	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Mr. Jayaratnam
1985 - 1988	Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam	Dr. D.M. Thuraiappah
1989	Mr. Jayaratnam	Dr. D.M. Thuraiappah
1990	Mr. Muthu Thaver	Dr. D.M. Thuraiappah
1991	Mr. Cecil Victor	Dr. D.M. Thuraiappah
1992 – 1999	Mr. Cecil Victor	Mr. Anthony Row
2000	Mr. Cecil Victor	Mr. Gopal Sundaram
2001 - 2003	Mr. Cecil Victor	Mr. Anthony Row
2004	Mr. Gopal Sundaram	Mr. Anthony Row
2005 - 2009	Mr. Gopal Sundaram	Mr. Walter Sandosam
2010 - 2014	Mr. John Navamani	Mr. Walter Sandosam
2015 - 2017	Mr. John Navamani	Mr. Steven Visvalingam
2018	Mr. John Ananthan	Mr. Steven Visvalingam
2019	Mr. John Ananthan	Mr. Augustus Jeremiah



The Church under floods in 1922. Rev. J. A. Supramaniam outside the Church.



TMCKL Easter 1983



TMCKL MYF April 1973



TMCKL M.W.

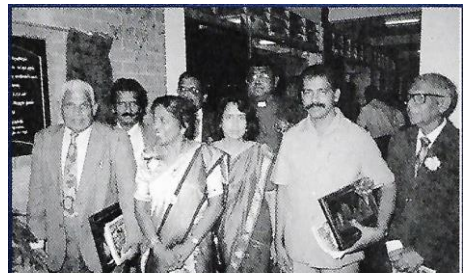
TMCKL Office and Kindergarten staff 80's



TMCKL Carol party 1919



TMCKL 1972 Bible Study



TMCKL At the dedication ceremony of the Annexe Extension and the Abraham Memorial Hall 25-4-1992 part 2



Tamil Methodist Church

Second Period: 1900 – 1968

4. Melaka	1908
5. Klang	1908
6. Seremban	1909
7. Teluk Intan	1916
8. Sungei Petani	1918
9. Alor Star	1924 *
10. Sentul	1924
11. Bukit Rotan	1926 *
12. Raub	1927 *
13. Johore Bahru	1929 *
14. Sungai Siput	1929 *
15. Taiping	1930
16. Kuantan	1938
17. Kampar/Gopeng	1952
18. Sitiawan	1953
19. Banting	1953
20. Tanjung Malim	1959
21. Tamil Settlement	1960
22. Cha'ah	1964
23. Kluang	1964

MELAKA

The Beginnings

In **1904**, Mr P.W. Tambyah was one of the founder members of the Tamil Church in Malacca under the leadership of the Shellabears. Mr Doraisamy was described as the ‘first official member’ of the Tamil Church in Malacca. During the early years, the Methodist Church in Malacca was made up of four congregations – Chinese, English, Baba and Tamil speaking. There was no proper church building for worship services. Initially worship services were held in people’s homes. In 1904 a generous local resident, Mr Tan Keong Keng, donated No. 142 Heeren Street to be used as a school and church.

Four Culturally Diverse Groups Begin Under One Roof

When the Methodist Church was built in **1908**, it was shared by four culturally-diverse groups of people - Chinese, English, Baba and Tamil speaking. The Dedication Service was conducted by **Rev. William F. Oldham**. Thus 1908 marked a new era and TMC Malacca had their Centenary Celebrations in 2008. Some of the early pastors who served TMC Malacca include: **Rev. Samuel Abraham (1918)**, **Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai (1927 - 1932)**, **Rev. Edward Isaac (1932 – 1935)**, **Rev. Milton David (1936 - 1937)**, **Rev. Kingham Joseph (1938 – 1940)**, **Rev. J. V. Ayaduray (1941 – 1945)**, **Rev. S.J Arthur (1945)**, **Rev. N. G. Manickam (1946 – 1949)**, **Rev. V.A Subramaniam (1950 – 1954)** and **Rev. V.A. Chelliah (1955 – 1959)**.

In **1954**, with the completion of the new Wesley Church at Tranquerah Road, the **Wesley and the Straits-born congregation members shifted** to their new premises. From **1960 to 1962 Rev. Peter David** was the pastor. Financially, the church was strong. In **1961** Rev. Peter David helped the church to improve on their giving through his prayers and sermons. However, due to his age and health, he was unable to visit the estates regularly.

The Reality Check

The District Superintendent, Rev. Wong Hoon Hee reported “Four Tamil Churches are under my charge and not one yet can support its own pastor... unless we are going to have trained full time ministers who will fit into the churches and members who will sacrifice more in their giving, the future will remain the same as it was in past years.” (MAC Journal 1961, p. 50)

In **1962** the ministry in the Estates were not so good. Sagil, Asahan, Bertam, Merlimau, Jasin Lalang, Jasin Rim and Sungei Bahru estates were visited.

From January **1963 to 1964 Rev. John Abraham** was the pastor. In **1963**, the defunct Church School was revived by the able Mr. David Rajaram with Miss Betty Dossan as his assistant. He organised a successful Church School Worship Service conducted by the children. Regular Worship Services were held in Sagil and Bukit Asahan by the local Lay Preachers and Holy Communion Service was conducted once a month by the pastor.

In **1964** there were three regular and four occasional Preaching Points, managed by the pastor. There were monthly preaching visits to Sagil, Bukit Asahan and Terendah Camp Cheroh once in two months. Mr. Manoharan, who assisted the pastor in Bukit Asahan Estate, resigned on 31 October. Mr. D. John assisted the pastor in Sagil. He and his wife gave faithful service there. The pastor also visited Kuala Pilah, Segamat, Cha'ah, Kluang, Mersing and Seremban. Evangelistic meetings, called "Go to the People" were held by Rev. Reinoehl and his assistant Mr. Chelladurai. These meetings were held in Bukit Asahan, Sagil and Cha'ah. Mr. F.C. Dossan, a Local Preacher, accompanied the pastor to the estates. There were 46 Full Members and 34 children. There were 3 Adult Baptisms and 5 children.

Lone Congregation in the Old Premise

From **1965 to 1971**, **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was the pastor. In **1965**, the **Chinese speaking congregation moved to their new building** at Jalan Tan Chay Yan. From then onwards the Church was used only by the Tamil congregation. The Church land was spared Town Council's acquisition, though the vestry was eventually demolished by the Malacca Municipality in **1975**, while negotiations were still going on for an alternate site. Church leaders took great effort to ensure that the Methodist legacy was preserved in Malacca. The unique design of the church, combined with its proximity to the thriving hub of Malacca's historical sites less than a kilometre away, continues to draw tourists to the church. In **1965**, there was outreach work in: Bukit Asahan and Sagil Estates. Mr. & Mrs. D. John of Sagil Estate helped in this work as well as the Church Schools in these two estates. 60 Prayer Calendars in English and Tamil and 750 tracts and 60 booklets were distributed during this year. 50 copies of The Light of Salvation was subscribed to by Melaka-Asahan-Sagil Circuit.

In **1966**, the Full Membership was 89. A full-time pastor was appointed here from the beginning of this year and he was able to visit more estates in the Circuit. The work in Sagil Estate continued with the help of Mr. & Mrs. D. John. They helped in the worship services and also in the Church School. The work in Bukit Asahan estate seemed to have worsened. As a whole, the finance was weak in this Circuit. The parsonage in Melaka was surrendered to the Methodist Girls School (Secondary) for the sum of RM 10,000. This money would be with the Trustees, till the congregation was ready to build a new parsonage. **1967** Asahan Estate ministry was hampered due to a strike. In **1969**, Malacca, Bukit Asahan and Sagil Circuit Full Membership rose from 115 to 130. There were 53 members in Malacca town and the rest were from the estates and the surrounding towns. Once a month cottage prayer meetings were held regularly in the homes of the members. Christians from other denominations and even some Hindus attended these meetings. In **1970** the Full Membership increased to 140. There was an increase in attendance at worship services both in Bukit Asahan and Sagil Estates. In **1971**, the Full Membership increased to 150. The Lay Preacher, Mr. D. John who was in charge of Sagil Estate Church, was doing honorary work for more than 15 years.

From **1972 to 1986, Rev. Noel Arputharaj** was the pastor. In **1972** a new Church School was formed in Asahan Estate. The church was affected by the sudden death of the Local Preacher Mr. D. John of Sagil Estate. The finance in Malacca was low and for the first time in history, it organised a Church Dinner to raise funds for its projects. A total sum of \$3,800 was raised with God's help. The TPAC President, Rev. T.R. Doraisamy was present to grace this occasion. In **1973**, the Church faced a great challenge as the Malacca Municipality proposed to take over the Tamil Methodist Church. They did this for the extension of the newly-built Fire Brigade Complex and for the widening of the Jalan Gelanggang/Jalan Kubu Junction. The Municipality offered the church a piece of land in Bukit Bahru, about 2 miles away from Malacca, in exchange for their present site of Lots 25 and 26. This was without any compensation. The church negotiated with the Municipality for a more reasonable amount of compensation. On 6 October the church organised a Tamil Drama event under the patronage of the Chief Minister of Malacca and raised about \$8,000.

In **1974**, the Stewardship and Finance drive was launched in Malacca and its Circuit and the members contributed more this year. The Malacca church lost two important and active members this year: Mr. F.C. Dossan the Lay Preacher and Mr. P. D. Rajadurai. Regarding the proposal to take over the Malacca church by the Municipality: This proposal was finalised at a mutual discussion on 25 November 1974. The Municipality agreed to give a land measuring 18,000 sq. ft., in exchange for the church's site of 4,700 sq. ft., and also a compensation of \$10,000. According to the negotiation with the Municipal Commissioner and his Board, the church could continue to use the present building till 31 December 1975, but would have to give up the vestry by the end of February 1975.

In **1975**, the Full Membership was 109. There were regular weekly services in Sagil Estate and Asahan Estate. They were not able to start the Building Plans because, the sub-division of the land was not finalised by the Municipality. When they met up with the Municipal Secretary on 21 November 1975, they were advised to submit the building plans to the Malacca State Development Corporation. The Municipal Secretary assured them of his assistance, should there be any problem. Evangelist Jeevanandam from India, visited the churches in this District. His ministry greatly revived the churches. The church underwent various stages of restoration to ensure safety. The air-conditioning of the church helped to avoid the dust pollution and the noise from the adjacent roads.

In **1977** the Pastor, Rev. Noel, was ill for a few months. During that period, the members helped to carry out all the activities of the church, including the work in Sagil and Asahan. Rev. E. Suwito, the pastor of the Wesley church helped to serve Holy Communion.

In **1978** there was much concern over the delay in the Building Project. **1979** Mr. Daniel assisted the Pastor in the ministry in Asahan & Sagil. The Full Membership was 108. Bible Study and Prayer meetings were conducted. They met once a week in the homes of members. The Malacca Bible Study group was doing 1 Peter. MYF was formed in Malacca. There was an active MYF in Sagil.

In **1980** the Full Membership was 121. Mr. Daniel, who was assisting the pastor in Sagil and Asahan, was transferred to serve in Bukit Rotan and Batang Berjuntai. The members of Sagil helped the pastor to conduct services in Asahan. There were three Church Schools and a few church members helped to provide transport for the children.

In **1981**, Bible Study for young adult women was formed in Malacca. The church building was repaired and painted. A jumble sale was conducted to raise funds for the Church School and church Christmas party. Copies of "Our Daily Bread" were distributed to members. A church member in an Old Folks Home and a poor Hindu couple received monthly monetary help. The church helped to distribute food hampers to poor families in Jasin, Alor Gajah, Merlimau and Malacca Town during the Carollers' visit. The hampers were donations from the Lions and Lioness Clubs. Evangelistic meetings by Evangelist Victor Swamidas, Sister Joyce Samuel and Annamah Mathews were held in Malacca. All formal negotiations for another site or the retention of the present church building and site failed to bring any concrete reply from the Municipal authorities or the Chief Minister. A final attempt to speak to the Chief Minister on a personal level was made.

In **1982** the Full Membership was 120. The parsonage compound was fenced and the levelling completed at a cost of RM 6,000. In spite of their needs, the church helped the following projects: Cha'ah Church Building Fund, Cha'ah Church Van Fund, Alor Star Parsonage Building Fund and the Prai Church Building Fund. The land promised by the Municipality in exchange for the present parsonage was not given yet. The Building Fund with Methodist Headquarters stood at RM 41,785.08.

In **1983** the Full Membership was 120. Bibles donated by Mr. and Mrs. Caesar Wellington were given to all children during the Christmas party. The church contributed towards the Ministerial Training and Outreach work. From 1 July **1984** Pastor Thana Raj served as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 122. A video film was screened monthly in Malacca and Alor Gajah. Fasting and prayer on public holidays was introduced, apart from the regular Area Fellowship and Prayer meetings. A new Church School was started in Alor Gajah. The parsonage was in the Methodist Girls' School compound.

In **1985** the Full Membership was 121. The ministry of TMC Malacca included the outreach work in Alor Gajah, Jasin, Merlimau, Asahan and Sagil. Regular and weekly Bible study sessions were held in Asahan, Sagil, Alor Gajah and Malacca. There were 25 children in the Church School in Malacca town.

The Church School in Alor Gajah had 10 children with 3 to 4 Hindus joining the class occasionally. The Malacca Municipality conveyed to the church that the building will not be affected by the widening of the road. This meant that the congregation could worship at their present site. In **1986**, just before Christmas, the church underwent some minor repairs and repainting costing RM 2,500.

From **1987 to 1989 Rev. S. Duraisingam** was the pastor. In **1987** the Full Membership was 133. TMC Malacca lost 91 members when they were transferred into Asahan/Sagil Local Conference. But there was an addition of 46 members (18 adult baptisms in the Alor Gajah circuit ministry) and 28 were restored. TMC Malacca had outreach work at Alor Gajah, Muar, Sungai Udang, Solok Duku, Alor Village, Jasin and Merlimau. There were 37 youths, mainly in the Outreaches. In **1988** the Full Membership was 146. The Alor Gajah Outreach grew in ministry as well as membership. They had a membership of 55. The Church Workers Mr. Albert Simon and Mr. D. Rajendran worked tirelessly to build this ministry. TMC Malacca recommended Alor Gajah Outreach to be made a Local Conference.

In **1989 the Alor Gajah Outreach was formed as TMC Alor Gajah**. The new parsonage plans were submitted to the Municipality.

From 1990 to 1992, Rev. Stanley Sadagopan was the pastor. The Full Membership was 72. Worship service was at 9.30 am on Sundays. An average of 25 adults attended. About 60 attended on first Sundays when there was Holy Communion. The work of the church was greatly affected by the ill health of the pastor but the church remained active. The location of the church was causing problems for the members. The building is at the junction of traffic lights and it was difficult to find parking space for cars near the church. In **1991** there was a major renovation costing RM 61,000. In September **1992**, a porch was added to the church building. The cost of RM 13,000 was mainly paid by the late Mrs Miranda Rajadurai and the late Mrs Herbert Samuel.

From **1993 to 2000, Rev. Justin Clarence** was the pastor. In September **1994**, a new vestry costing RM 26,000 was built behind the church to replace the one demolished by the Malacca Municipality in 1976. This new addition finally provided a place for the Church School and also the pastor's office. In **1998**, the original wooden windows from 1908 that were repeatedly infested with termites over the years were replaced with aluminium frame-work and sliding glass windows at a cost of RM 15,000. From **2001 to 2004 Rev. Jevaratnam** was the pastor. The church was declared as part of "**Historical Zone C**" by the Melaka Government in **2003**.

The Church had come a long way since the missionary pioneers set the building in Kubu Road in 1908. From **2005 to 2006 Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the pastor. In **2005** the Full Membership was 72 and in **2006**, it was 71. The university and college students attended the worship service regularly.

Centennial Celebrations

From **2007 to 2010 Rev. M. Tankaraj** was the pastor.

In **April 2008**, being the centenary year, the church geared for restoration and renovation works. With the help of generous donors, the church was able to complete the floor tiling work. During the period of renovation that lasted for two weeks in April 2008, church services were held at the Wesley Methodist Centre hall in Jalan Tranquerah.

On 26 July the church had a special Thanksgiving Service. Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung delivered the Lord's Message, entitled "Renewing Our Promises". Also present was the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji. At the Service, Madam Ruby Gurupatham donated a single-storey bungalow to the church and the Conference. The keys were handed over by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gurupatham in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. P.D Isaac to the Bishop.

In **2009** the Full Membership was 71. The Church planned to put up an "Upper Room" at the vestry and a new building at the present parsonage site. It was also noted that one third of the members fell in the seniors' category. The DS noted that the Church in their effort to reach out was meeting twice a month in Pulau Gadong. In **2010**, about 40 – 50 gathered for Sunday Service. There were 21 members in the MSF and they actively participated in all the church activities.

Sunday Evening Prayer Meetings

From **2011 to 2014 Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar** was the pastor. In **2011**, repairs were done in the parsonage and initial work to restore the bungalow. Limited funds delayed the fencing of the property and the plans to add a floor at the office. Under the Christian Education Committee, Sunday evening Prayer Meetings were held in different homes near the Bukit Rambai area. The Church was encouraged by the fellowship, building of members and the presence of new seekers. The DS reported that it was the same set of people who continued to give leadership. In **2012** the Full Membership was 68. About 25 people attended the fellowship gatherings.

In **2013** the Church invited Rev. D.B. Kulothungan from India, to conduct meetings on how a Local Church can grow. He also visited the outreach work in Nyalas and Air Kuning and gave valuable input. The bungalow at Klebang was sold for RM 510,000. The Church and the parsonage were repainted. The Full Membership was 80. In **2014**, the Full Membership remained at 80. The ministry at Air Kuning and Nyalas was affected due to family commitments of the person who was assisting. The youths met and were guided by the Ministerial student Mr. Ezekiel Raj. Due to the lack of funds the project to fence and add a floor to the church office was delayed.

From January to June **2015, Rev. Mark Subramaniam** was the pastor. From July to December, **Rev. Anthony Panan** was the pastor. Mr. Ezekiel Raj was posted as a One Year Practical Student from July to December. The Full Membership remained at 80. In **2016, Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar** was the pastor. The church continued to have Cottage Prayer Meetings in the homes of the members. The Full Membership was 79.

In **2017, Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** was the pastor in charge. Ministerial student Mr. Joel Zechariah served here full-time for his Practical Work. The Full Membership remained at 79. From **2018, Rev. Vincen Dass** was the pastor. An average of 10 people attended the Friday Prayer Session. The Full Membership was 80.

In **2019**, Rev. Vincen Dass continued as the pastor. Mr. Immanuel Yowan is the Lay Leader and Datuk Dr. N. Rajagopal is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 84. The church has no Cell or Small Groups but Home Prayer meetings are organized. There are no Outreaches. The number of members in the Agencies are as follows: MYF (14), MYAF (29), MSF (20) and MW (27). There are 16 children and 3 teachers in the Church School. The average attendance for the weekly Friday Prayer and Bible Study has increased to 20-30.

Conclusion: When the local church building was built in 1908, there were members of four culturally different backgrounds - Chinese, English, Baba and Tamil speaking. Today the Tamil Church is the sole occupant of this church building. In 1969, the Full Membership of the church (which included those in the estates) was 130. The ministries in the estates developed and new local churches were formed. Today TMC Melaka has a Full Membership of 84. Placed in a town with a history that goes back to the time of the Portuguese, Dutch and the British rule in Melaka, it is not surprising that this church is surrounded by historical sites that draw many tourists. The local church is challenged to present an even more ancient Saviour, even Jesus Christ, to the unsaved in Melaka. This would surely build the church and bring glory to God.

Sources:

1. Centenary Celebration 1908 – 2008 Jeyapaul Samathanam Jesudasan
2. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC and TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1918	Rev. Samuel Abraham
1927 – 1932	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1932 – 1935	Rev. Edward Isaac
1936 – 1937	Rev. Milton David
1938 – 1940	Rev. Kingham Joseph
1941 – 1944	Rev. J.V. Ayaduray
1945	Rev. S.J. Arthur
1946 – 1949	Rev. N.G. Manickam
1950 – 1954	Rev. V.A. Subramaniam
1955 – 1959	Rev. V.A. Chelliah
1960 – 1962	Rev. Peter David
1963 – 1964	Rev. John Abraham
1965 – 1971	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1972 – 1986	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1987 – 1989	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1990 – 1992	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1993 – 2000	Rev. Justin Clarence
2001 – 2005	Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria
2006	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2007 – 2010	Rev. M. Tankaraj
2011 – 2014	Rev. Joseph Komar
2015 January – June	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2015 July – December	Rev. Anthony Panan
2016	Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar
2017	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2018 onwards	Rev. Vincen Dass

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1965 - 1973		Mr. P.D. Issac
1974 - 1981	Mr. Azariah Rajendran	Mr. P.D. Issac
1982 - 1986	Mr. Azariah Rajendran	Mr. Richard Dossan
1987		Mr. Richard Dossan, Mr. S. Doraisamy
1987 - 1995		Mr. S. Doraisamy
1996	Mr. John Jesudasan	Mr. S. Doraisamy
1997		Mr. S. Doraisamy
1998	M. E.V. Nathan	Mr. S. Doraisamy
1999		Mr. S. Doraisamy
2000 - 2003	Mr. E.V. Nathan	Mr. S. Doraisamy
2004	Mr. E.V. Nathan	Mr. E.V. Nathan
2005	Mr. Simon Mani	Dr. N Rajagopal
2006	Mr. Simon Mani	Datuk Dr. N. Rajagopal
2007 - 2008	Mr. Clement	Datuk Dr. N. Rajagopal
2009 - 2019	Mr. Emmanuel Yowan	Datuk Dr. N. Rajagopal



Mr. and Mrs. Thambiah one of the founder of the Tamil Church in Malacca in 1904



TMC Malacca church

KLANG

The Early Years

The Tamil Methodist Church in Klang was established in **1908** when 15 Tamil Methodists gathered to worship at what is now the Convent School at Jalan Tengku Kelana (then known as Rembau Street). The **Rev S.W.V. Arumugam**, a former clerk from Jaffna, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), served as the first pastor from **1914** until his death in **1932**. The Full Membership in 1914 was only 15. Rev. Arumugam ministered to the Tamil-speaking immigrants from India and Ceylon in Klang, Kuala Selangor and Banting. Young pastors from South India came and lived with him in Klang, among them was Rev Thangamuthu, Rev K.J. Timothy and Rev D. K. Gnananantham. Rev. Arumugam served as pastor for 18 years and reached out to the Tamils in the estates of Selangor.

Ministry Extends to Port Swettenham

Ministry was extended to Port Swettenham (Port Klang) and Kapar as early as **1917**. In **1930**, the work extended to Banting and Sepang. The present sanctuary in Jalan Sultan was dedicated in **1925** by **Bishop Titus Lowe**. The building cost \$5000. This sanctuary was shared by Tamil, Chinese and Wesley Methodist congregations. In **1938**, the Tamil Parsonage was built in Jalan Bukit Jawa at a cost of \$4000. **Rev J.S. Arthur** and his family were the first to occupy this parsonage.

Becoming a Self-Supporting Church

From **1950 – 1958**, **Rev. M. Thangamuthu** was the Pastor. In **1951**, the Full Membership was 62. In **1952**, all outstanding debts on the current account were cleared. Regular worship services were conducted in the out-stations and estates. Steady increase in the church finance was reported. The opening of a Tamil school at Kapar was brought about by the efforts of Rev. Thangamuthu. Mr. S. Ratnasamy of Tanjung Malim was appointed headmaster of this school. In **1953**, 11 children and 8 adults were baptised **and** the Full Membership was 64. The **Port Klang Outreach was organized**. In **1955** the Klang church building was extended together with the construction of the Chinese Methodist Education Centre. The church grew and became self-supporting with sound finance.

Kapar Outreach Organized

In **1959**, the **Kapar Outreach was organized**. In **1960** the church welcomed their new pastor the **Rev. V.A. Subramaniam** early in the year on transfer from Penang. The Pastor reported that eight Preparatory Members were received into Full Membership after 20 weeks of instruction. Six baptised adults were prepared for Full Membership. The Full Membership in **1968**, when the TPAC was formed, was 166. A Methodist Tamil Primary School was established in Kapar. In **1970** **Rev. Noel Arputharaj** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 138. In **1971**, there was a Church School in Seafeld Estate which was conducted by the young people of the church. The Full Membership was 137. In **1971**, **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was the pastor until 12 August that year.

Seafield Estate Outreach Ministry

From **13 August 1971 – 1974**, **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj** was the pastor. In **1972**, the parsonage was renovated at a cost of about \$ 3000. In August, the church conducted a VBS for the first time. In **1973**, the Full Membership was 171. In **1974**, an **Outreach Ministry was organized in the Seafield Estate** (present day Puchong). The Full Membership was 183. **Bishop T.R. Doraisamy** visited the church in January and again in September.

Outreach Ministry in Highlands Estate and Kampong Jawa

From **January to November 1975**, due to the shortage of pastors, ministerial student **Mr. Simon Chandran**, agreed to delay his return to India to continue his theological studies to give pastoral help. His ministry was a great blessing. The **Chinese Methodist Church moved out in 1976**, after constructing their own building nearby. During that same year, an **Outreach Ministry was organized in the Highlands Estate** (present day Bukit Tinggi). An **Outreach ministry was also organized in Kampong Jawa**. In **1977**, although the record showed Full Membership as 211, the actual number was 160.

Major Parsonage and Church Repairs

From **1978 – 1989**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the pastor. In **1978**, the newly formed choir enhanced the worship during the church services. Sister Amirthabai and Brother Samuel Ganesh Evangelistic Meetings were well attended. The church purchased a terrace house for RM 36,000 in Klang. In **1980**, the church finances improved and they wanted a pastor of their own. 8 adults and 5 children accepted the Lord and were baptized. The Full Membership was 220. In **1981**, the old parsonage was renovated and was brought to good condition. In **1982**, there were four Church Schools, one in Klang and the other three in Seafield Estate, Highlands Estate and Kampong Jawa. In **1983** the Full Membership was 267. An Easter Fair was organised to raise funds. A Church Retreat was held on 1 June and about 100 attended. There were three All Night Prayers. They spent RM 8000 on church repairs. In **1984**, the Klang Church School had 80 children with 6 teachers. A Church Retreat was organised on 15 May in Morib. About 120 attended. Brother Sadhu Chellapa was the special speaker and he spoke on the growth of the Church. It was a retreat that challenged its attendees.

Sole Occupant in the Church

From **1 January 1985** the **Wesley Methodist Church moved** to their own building, leaving the Tamil Methodist Church as the sole occupant of the sanctuary. In **1985**, the Full Membership was 287. There were four Church Schools. Outreach work was also done in **Harun Estate**. A worship service was started in **Shah Alam**. In **1986**, the Full Membership was 310. There were 21 members received on transfer. **Area Fellowships** were started on Thursdays in 4 places. Leaders were appointed and the pastor visited one Area Fellowship each week. Mr. C. Paul Arputharaj committed to fulltime ministry. In **1987**, the Full Membership was 338. They bought an overhead projector to enhance the worship sessions during church services.

80th Church Anniversary

In **1988**, the Full Membership was 377. In the Church School, Klang had 100 children, Seafield had 40, Kg. Jawa had 30 and Highlands Estate 30. There were a total of 15 teachers. The children were taken to Templar's Park for a picnic. The Young Adult Fellowship was formed. The Church celebrated its **80th Anniversary**. This was the first time the church celebrated its anniversary. In **1989**, the Tamil Worship service was at 8.30 am and the English at 10.00 a.m. A Church School teachers' training was held on the 7 - 8 March 1988. A Holy Spirit Seminar was held from 4 - 6 March 1988. The church bought a new Ford Econovan for about RM 29,000. This was a great help for the outreach work of the church. The Full Membership was 379.

Focussing on Missions and Missionaries

From **1990 – 1992**, **Rev. S. Duraisingam** was the pastor. In **1990**, there were two worship services, one in Tamil and one in English. Both the services were well attended. The Bible study was attended by about 70 people. In **1991**, the Full Membership was 374. The church had one main bilingual service in Tamil and English at 9.00 am. There was an English service every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10.45 am. About 40 people attended the Bible Study on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Twelve people were selected for a twelve-week course on Preaching and Teaching. In **1992**, the Full Membership increased from 374 to 407. Apart from supporting missionary Miss Usha Stanley, the church also supported two missionaries in India through India Evangelical Mission (IEM) and Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB). More than 10% of the total income of the church was spent on Missions. The church continued to support their missionary Miss Usha, who was with the Doulos ministry. Weekly services were held on Sundays at 5.30pm in the Outreach homes in Puchong and Alam Mega. About 15 adults attended these services.

Consolidating Ministry

In **1993**, **Rev. David Tharmakan**, the newly elected TAC President, was the pastor. He was also the pastor of TMC Port Klang. The Full Membership was 405. Ministerial student Mr. Sandireaseheran was posted here and he was a great help. From **December 1993 – 2000**, **Rev. C. Jayaraj** was the pastor. In **1994**, the Full Membership was 429. There were 7 Cell Groups meeting every Wednesday. Regular Friday Prayers were conducted and once a month All Night Prayer was also held. In **1995**, the Full Membership was 434. There was an LCEC Retreat conducted by Rev P. Tevaraji. There was also a Navigators Cell Group Leaders' Training in March as well as a Counsellors' Training conducted by Rev. Justin Clarence. The Christian Education Committee periodically organised sale of Christian books. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 395. Fifty members were transferred out and fifty were removed by Local Conference Action. In **1997**, there were 13 teachers and 84 children in the Church School. The MYF had 30 members and similarly with the MW. A monthly Newsletter was published by the Christian Education Committee. There were 15 Cell groups which met on alternate Wednesdays. The leaders came on a weekly basis for training of the lessons. There were two main Outreach ministries.

The **Puchong Outreach** was very vibrant. At the **Kapar Outreach**, the Children's Ministry was conducted at the Kapar Chinese Methodist Church. In **1998**, the Full Membership was 456. The Agape Fellowship (Senior Citizens) did hospital visitation, Home Prayer Meetings, Health Talks and Fellowship Programs. Tuition classes were also started at Kapar. In **1999**, the Full Membership Roll was 443. The Christian Education Committee conducted two Marriage Enrichment Seminars by Rev. P. Tevaraji and Pastor Suresh Sundram. About 30 people attended an Evangelism Training Seminar conducted by Rev. Kulothungan. The Puchong Outreach saw growth. Ministerial student Timothy Krishnan served at the church on weekends. In **2000**, the Full Membership Roll was 454

Old Parsonage Demolished New Building Dedicated

From **2001 till 2006**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the pastor. He retired in 2006. In **2001**, the Full Membership was 461. Rev. Jayabalan was the Assistant Pastor. After the Lent Services, regular Friday Prayer Sessions took place. About 20 – 25 attended. Special speakers were invited. In **2002**, the Tamil Parsonage was demolished to make way for a three-storey building that would house a Multipurpose Hall, a new Parsonage, Church Office and other facilities. Also in 2002, an Outreach Ministry was organized in **Bukit Cheraka**. In **2003**, Rev. Ruben Kanagalingam was the Assistant Pastor. In the same year, the dedication of the new building was in January by **Bishop Rev Datuk Dr Peter Chio** was a major milestone in the history of this church and the culmination of a decade-long dream. On 2 January **2005**, the **Puchong Outreach became a Local Church**. In **2006** Rev. John Mathuni, the Supply Pastor, assisted Rev Kovilpillai. The Kapar Outreach Ministry moved out of the Kapar Chinese Methodist Church to a building of their own. This was on the grounds of the Methodist Tamil Primary School, after the school had relocated. The Kapar Methodist Mission Chapel was renovated at about RM 80,000. The Building Dedication was on 8 October.

Beyond Centennial Celebration Full Membership Crosses 500

In **2007 and 2008**, **Rev. Elanko Kannan** was the pastor with Mr. Jeremiah Thomas, the seminary student. In 2007, the Full Membership was 428. The Kapar Outreach service was at 6 pm. with an average attendance of 40 – 50. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 439. The Church celebrated their **Centennial Celebration on 27 September**. In **2009**, **Rev. Dr. A.E Joseph** was the pastor with Church Worker Devarajah Balayah. The Full Membership was 508. In **2010**, the church theme was: "Year of Promise". The Full Membership was 516. The church published an Easter Newsletter. The MYF had a local camp. Mr. Edwin Mohan was sent to TMC Klang for ministry exposure. Local church member Mr. Kevin Paul Raj came forward for fulltime ministry. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 513. The Church had a one-day outing to Kundang. **The Church recommended Kapar to become a Local Conference. The recommendation was accepted at the 36th Session of TAC on 20 November 2011.** There was a Fund Raising Dinner for Kapar on 29 October 2011.

Giving Birth to a Local Church

From **2012 – 2017**, **Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the pastor. On 17 March **2012**, **the Kapar Outreach was constituted as a Local Conference**. In **2013**, the Full Membership was 510. There were four Cell Groups. The church started a Sports Ministry (football and badminton) and held their Family Camp at Bayu Beach Resort, Port Dickson from 20 – 21 April. In **2014** the Full Membership stood at 514. The number of Cell Groups increased from 5 to 8. The church took over the **Sentosa Outreach** ministry from TMC Shah Alam. TMC Klang was part of the Migrant Ministry Klang (MMK). Weekly Batam and Nepali services were held in the church. In **2015**, the pastor was assisted by retired pastor Rev. Joy Pandian. The Full Membership was 501. An average of 300 attended the Sunday worship services.

From Commercial to Church Land

In **2016**, the Full Membership was 511. The Alpha Course was introduced. The church had 7 Cell Groups and they used Rev. Victor Vethamani's book "Going On To Maturity. About 20 – 30 people attended the Sentosa ministry. Ministry among the Sri Lankans migrant workers was on Thursdays. Renovation was completed at the church house, which was occupied by the caretaker. The cost was RM 52,490. The Church Hall land title was converted from commercial land to church land on 17 November 2016. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 516. The Church had 5 Cell Groups and used the book "Little Foxes". They adopted 59 Myanmar children under GOH. Eight Nepalese were baptised. The average attendance at the Sentosa Outreach, which was held in a house, was 15. The MYAF was officially formed on 27 August 2017. The renovation of the church building was completed at a cost of RM 320,000 and the Rededication Service was held on 10 September 2017. The Federal Government gave RM 20,000 through the MIC.

From **2018**, **Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the pastor. In **2018**, the Full Membership was 513. Seven members were received as Full Members through Confirmation. The Church has 8 Cell Groups. The church adopted 61 Myanmar children through GOH. The Sentosa Outreach Ministry stopped as an Outreach and the ministry was done through the Cell Group. A Musical Celebration Night was held on 14 July 2018 under the theme: "Excellence in Worship." About 250 believers attended the service.

In **2019**, Rev. Vinsant Rayar continued as the pastor with Rev. Jeyarajah as the Assistant Pastor. Mr. Paul Raj is the Lay Leader and Mr. Achu Naidu the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 522. The number of members in each Agency is as follows: MYF (27), MYAF (20), MSF (34) and MW (30). There are 48 children and 10 teachers in the Church School. They have 2 Preaching Points, one in Setia Alam and another in Sentosa, Klang. There are 7 cell-groups: Taman Sentosa I (Mr. Anthony Louis), Taman Sentosa II – (Mr. Rajan), Kota Kemuning – (Mr. Achu Naidu), Bandar Botani, Baya Perdana & Bukit Tinggi – (Mrs. Jayanthi Jayaraj), Tepi Sungai – (Mr. Deva Dass), Shah Alam – (Mr. Jevanatham) and Palm Grove – (Mr. Edward).

Conclusion: What began as a gathering of 15 Tamil Methodists in Klang 111 years ago, has today grown to be TMC Klang with a Full Membership of 522. Initially the growth was very slow, in fact, after six years the Full Membership remained at 15. But by God's grace, the church reached out to the Indians in the nearby towns and estates. Slowly Outreaches were established, which resulted in new local churches being established. The members were nurtured through Bible Studies and Small Groups. The community was reached through strong evangelistic efforts. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, people were drawn out of darkness into God's holy light. Both the pastors and the lay people laboured earnestly and God gave the harvest. To Him alone belongs all glory and honour.

Sources:

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC and TAC
2. Local Church Souvenir Programme

PASTORAL ROLL

1908 – 1913	Lay Preachers
1914 – 1932	Rev. S.W.V. Arumugam
1919	Rev. Edward Isaac
1933 – 1934	Rev. Devasagayam
1935 – 1937	Rev. Ayadurai
1938 – 1941	Rev. J.S. Arthur
1939	Rev. D.K. Gnananantham
1942	Rev. V.B. Paranjothi
1942 Oct. – 1945	Rev. J.D. Asirvatham
1946 – 1947	Rev. Milton David
1948 – 1949	Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar
1950 – 1958	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1959	Local Preachers
1960 – 1961	Rev. V.A. Subramaniam
1962	Rev. D.A. Chelliah
1963 – 1965	Rev. Jacob Paul
1966 Oct. – 1968	Rev. Samuel Ratnasamy
1969 – 1970	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1971	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1972 – 1974	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1975	Mr. Simon Chandran
1976 – 1977 Sept	Rev. J.J. Retnarajah
1977 Oct. – 1989	Rev. James Solamadan
1990 – 1992	Rev. Duraisingam
1993 till Nov	Rev. David Tharmakan
1993 Dec – 2000	Rev. C. Jayaraj
2001 – 2006	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2007 – 2008	Rev. Elanko Kannan
2009 – 2011	Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph
2012 – 2017	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2018 onwards	Rev. Vinsant Rayar

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1977	-	Mr. Thilambalam
	-	Mr. Edward Chellaiah
	-	Mr. David Segaran
	Mr. Vethamanickam	Mr. Jebaratnam
1999	Mr. William	Mr. Jeyarajah
2000	Mr. William	Mr. Samraj
2001 - 2003	Mr. William	Mr. Achu Naidu
2004	Mr. Jebaratnam	Mr. Achu Naidu
2005 - 2007	Mr. Jebaratnam	Mr. Samraj
2008	Mr. Jeyarajah	Mr. Arthur Jeremiah
2009 - 2010	Mr. Achu Naidu	Mr. Arthur Jeremiah
2011	Mr. Achu Naidu	Mr. Achu Naidu
2012	Mr. Achu Naidu	Mr. Arthur Jeremiah
2013	Mr. Achu Naidu	Mr. Anandan
2014	Mr. Anandan	Mr. Achu Naidu
2015 - 2018	Mr. Achu Naidu	Mr. Paul Raj
2019	Mr. Paul Raj	Mr. Achu Naidu

SEREMBAN

Pastors of the Early Years

In **1904** Rev. Samuel Abraham of TMC Kuala Lumpur started Tamil work in Seremban. Land was acquired by the Methodist Church. In **1908** the work was established as a Local Church with Pastor G. Manuel as the Supply Pastor. In **1913** the Tamil Work came under the “Tamil District” with Supply Pastor R.S. Raj. In **1916**, the work spread to Port Dickson and Kuala Pilah under Brother A. Joseph. In **1919**, a new brick church building was built and dedicated by Bishop Bickley. Pastor Gnaiaiah Paul was the Supply Pastor. In **1920**, the pastor was **Pastor Daniel Sundram** and in **1924 Pastor D. Daniel**. From **1929 till 1935**, **Rev. M.R. Doraisamy** was the Pastor with Rev. J.V. Ayaduray as the Assistant Pastor. In **1937 Rev. John Devasahayam** was the Pastor. **From 1938 till 1940**, **Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar** was the Pastor. **From 1941 till 1945** preaching was suspended due to the Second World War.

Post Second World War Period

From 1946 till 1950 Rev. J.V. Ayaduray was the Pastor and **Rev. J.M. David** was the Pastor from **1951 – 1958**. In **1953** monthly worship services were held in Kuala Pilah and Port Dickson. In Tampin there was a small Tamil congregation and **Rev. Thambidorai** was in charge. The Tamil worship services were held in the Chinese Church. In **1955** Rev. J.M. David was also the principal of the ACAS. In **1957**, the lease on the Parsonage was extended to 66 years. In **1958** Rev. Milton David postponed his retirement leave. The Church building in Seremban was used by 3 congregations – Chinese, Wesley and Tamil.

From 1959 – 1965, Rev. J.A.P. Oswald was the Pastor. In **1959** the Full Membership rose from 60 to 79. There was a Church School at Kuala Pilah and at Lobak. The pastor also held worship services at Kuala Pilah, Labu, Port Dickson and Sepang (Sg. Pelek). Mrs. Catheresu (Rev. Oswald’s daughter) strengthened the Women’s and Youth work. In **1962** outstation work in Kuala Pilah, Port Dickson, Sg. Pelek and Labu was done regularly. **From 1966 – 1968 Rev. V.A. Supramaniam** was the Pastor. Rev. Sam Kamaleson preached in a Three Day Crusade.

Post TPAC

From **1969 to 1970, Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. The Full Membership in **1969** grew from 81 to 156. In **1970** the MW, under the leadership of Mrs. E.P. Thambirajah, raised RM 300 towards the painting of the Church. **From February 1971 to January 1975, Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah** from Sri Lanka was the Pastor. In **1971** the Full Membership was 139 and in **1975** it dropped to 118. Rev. & Mrs. Ratnarajah’s ministry impacted the spiritual life of the people and increased their giving. The church conducted a Food and Fun Fair and cleared a part of their old outstanding debt. In **1972** the Tampin services were held in the homes of four families. In **1973** the church organised a Food Sale to meet their financial need. In **1974** the spiritual awakening in the church brought an increase in the church attendance and finance.

The MW settled the parsonage's Assessment Bill. The Church School became popular in the town and children of non-members and from other faiths joined. In February **1975** Rev. and Mrs. Ratnarajah went on furlough. **Rev. Noel Arputharaj** covered from **February to May 1975**. From **June 1975 to 1977**, **Rev. C. Pandian** was the pastor. Mrs. E.M. Kulasingam helped to form a choir. In **1977** three needy families were helped with cash, children's uniforms, fees and exercise books. The pastor visited Kajang for ministry, where there were six Methodist families.

Church purchased a Terrace House

From **January – April 1978**, Ministerial Student on Practical Break Mr. Denison Jayasooria served. From **May 1978 – 1983** **Rev. Peter Devadason** was the Pastor. In **1981**, a terrace house was purchased in Seremban. The Government acquired the parsonage land for development and paid a compensation of RM 350,000. A special Tuesday service was initiated by Mr. Denison for the English speaking members in Kuala Pilah. Rev. Peter also started services in Tampin. Church Schools were started in Lobak and the one at Temiang was strengthened. The MW continued to help the church pay the parsonage assessment of RM 150 and other projects. In **1979** non-Christians saw the power of Christ through the church's healing ministry. Drug addicts and ex-convicts were guided and given shelter.

Ministry Challenges

The **Tampin** worship services which were held on the first Sunday of every month were discontinued, after a written request by the Lutheran church. They had stationed a full-time Lutheran pastor there recently. In **Bahau** – worship services were held on Thursdays until the St. Mark's Padre, Rev. Batten wrote a letter referring to the unofficial understanding that the churches decided not to compete. In **Kuala Pilah**, the weekly Tuesday evening services held in the Chinese Methodist Church was stopped after the Chinese pastor wrote to say that their church building could no longer be used. The **Prison Work** had to stop as it had changed to a drug rehabilitation centre. However, meetings in Bradwell Estate were initiated and pioneer work among the Hindus was started in Pajam.

Consolidating Ministry

In **1980** the Full Membership was 215. The Worship services at Seremban and Sungai Pelek were held at 9:30 am and 11:30 am. English Missionary Service was started on Sunday evenings. Evangelists from India, Mr. Gnaniah and Mr. Sam Jebadurai conducted Evangelistic Meetings. Lay Training was conducted by Mr. George Emmanuel, Mr. Kovalan, Mr. Dennison and Mr. Jayaraj. A.V.L. ministry led by Rev. Ronny Kon screened a film for the Local Church.

A working committee was formed with the aim of organizing a Local Conference in Sungai Pelek. About 8 youths attended the Youth Institute in Port Klang. The Building Committee deposited RM 21,500 with the T.A.C. An Adult Fellowship was formed.

In **1981**, the **Seremban Circuit** included Sungai Pelek, Tampin, Port Dickson, Bahau and Bradwell. The Full Membership was 208. A terrace house was purchased at RM 59,000 and was given for rent to clear the loan taken from the Trustees. The parsonage and land (leasehold land) was taken by the State Government for developing the Bus Station and Taxi stand. The sum offered by the District Office was RM 350,000. The church accepted this compensation, but under protest. Mr. Lionel Kulasingam and Mr. Daniel Iyakannu came forward for full time ministry.

Hosting Conference Youth Institute

In **1982** the Full Membership was 271. The whole church was involved in successfully hosting the Youth Institute which had 270 participants. In Tampin, a semi-detached house was rented and regular ministries were carried out. The church recommended **Sungai Pelek** to be organized as a Local Conference at the Second Local Conference. The recommendation was accepted at the 1982 Tamil Annual Conference. The Building Fund stood at RM 334,496.49. In **1983** the Full Membership was 182. Monthly services were held in Port Dickson, Tampin, Balong, Kuala Pilah, Conemera, Semenyih and Mantin. The church bought a piece of land in the Mukim of Rasa (Lots No. 275/3902 and 276/3902) for RM88,750 and this was consecrated by Bishop C.N. Fang on 4 April 1983. The church had approximately RM 270,000 with the A.E.C. of the Methodist Church. They had plans to build a multi-purpose hall, parsonage and Prayer Tower. **Sungai Pelek Outreach became a Local Conference on 21 August 1983.**

From **1984 – 1986 Rev. S. M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor. In **1984** the Full Membership was 181. In **1985** the Church School teachers had a training conducted by Mrs. Susan Sadagopan. In **1986** the Full Membership was 207. The Church School gave RM 50 to the Sarawak Iban work as a missionary gift. From **1987 to 1989 Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor. In **1987** the Full Membership was 232. The church had **six outreach points**: (a) Senawang Jaya and Rasah (b) Perhentian Tinggi Estate (c) Paroi Estate – New Point (d) Simpang Pertang/Bahau/Kuala Pilah (e) Port Dickson and (f) Tampin. They established neighbourhood Bible study groups. With a regular teaching on tithing, the church finance improved. The members were taught Christian values through the literature and tape ministry. Leadership was strengthened through: (a) A retreat for the LCEC (b) more lay people taking up the Lay Preacher's Course. (c) encouraging church elders to tithe and be involved in the outreach ministries. The building project to erect a parsonage on Lot 276 and a multipurpose hall on Lot 275 was discontinued because of practical problems with the land condition. Also, there was no pressing need for a parsonage. The titles of the lots were labelled "Residential" by the Land Office and "Community" by the Town Planners.

In **1988** the Full Membership was 240. A total of nine revival-evangelistic meetings were organised. Two members were honoured with titles - Mr. Victor Suppiah (P.J.K.) and Mr. Krishnan (P.K.L.). Area Prayer Cell Groups were initiated. The church gave for outside the local church causes: Bukit Rotan – RM

1,202; Kepala Batas RM 1,000 and Cha'ah RM 348. The church revised the plan to build only a hall on the two lots (lots 275 and 276 in Bukit Tembuk) and buy a house nearby for the purpose of a parsonage. In **1989** the Full Membership was 269. The church's decision to amalgamate the two lots into one for the building of a large hall was discussed and approved at the TAC Executive Board meeting on 30 September 1989.

Double-Storey Semi-Detached House for Parsonage

From **1990 to 1991**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1990** the Full Membership was 282. In **1991** the church bought a double-storey semi-detached house for RM 145,000 to be used as a parsonage. It was **dedicated by Bishop Denis C. Dutton**. The former parsonage was put up for sale. The church tried to build a hall on the land that was bought 9 years ago. They had RM 272,000 in their Building Fund. From **1992 to 1993** **Rev. Solomon Abraham** was the pastor. In **1992** the Full Membership was 243. Their four Outreach Preaching Points were: Tampin, Serting, Port Dickson, Simpang Pertang with Tampin being the largest of the four. After buying the semi-detached parsonage, the church sold their old parsonage. In **1993 the church booked a three-storey shop lot for RM 276,000**

From **1994 – 1999** **Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)** was the Pastor. In **1994** the Full Membership was 244. About 35 people from the Senawang/Loop Road/Seremban Jaya/Taman Jujor areas met on Wednesdays for Bible Study and about 35 people around Temiang/Templer and Lobak areas met on Thursdays for Bible Study. In **1995** the Full Membership was 271. There was a ministry in Port Dickson among the Indonesian workers and Sarawak soldiers. Payment was completed for the three-storey shop lot and the C.F. was received. **The building was declared open by the Conference President, Rev. David Tharmakan on 5 November 1995.**

The Spirit of Giving

In **1996** the Full Membership dropped to 217. The church helped TMC Tangkak purchase a building for worship. They also gave about RM11,000 towards Missions. In **1997** the Full Membership was 237. The youths gave RM15 a month for the needs of TMC Asahan and the MW gave RM 50 a month towards the ministry of TMC Asahan. The church sponsored the MMM ministry in Kuala Krai for the year 1997 and committed to contribute RM22,000 towards this ministry. The church set aside RM40, 000 for the church building project of TMC Tangkak. The church gave RM 400 per month towards the ministry of TMC Asahan.

In **1998** the Full Membership was 261. About 140 people attended the church's 15 cell groups on Tuesdays. With the help of ministerial student, Mr. Joseph Yesupatham, the work in Serting greatly improved. The ladies collected 1 cent, 5 cents and 'Pidi Arisi' to give towards Missions. The church gave RM12, 262 for Missions (10% of the income). They also gave RM 3, 653 for the Taiping building fund and set aside RM5,000 for the Tamil Settlement Tamil School Project. They

gave RM2,400 for the Asahan church to help them with their Conference Commitments and loaned RM28,000 to the Alor Gajah church to purchase a parsonage. They also purchased 6 short wave radios for the KHMU people of Laos to hear a Gospel broadcast.

In **1999** the Full Membership rose to 298. The MYF organised a football tournament and raised RM6,586.52 for J.E. Children's Education Fund. The church gave RM40,000 to T.M.C. Tangkak for their parsonage project, RM6,500 for the Eastern District Pastoral Support, RM50,000 as an interest free loan to TMC Ulu Klang, RM15,000 towards MMM, RM500 to an Orang Asli settlement to purchase instruments, RM1,150 for the Love Komerling Project and RM3,000 to STM.

Crossing the 300 Mark in Full Membership

From **2000 – 2001 Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. In **2000** the Full Membership was 291. The Church School had a training program with Ms. Leela Manasseh of India. The church supported Serting ministry by paying for the rental of a shop house. This building was **dedicated on 23 September 2000**. Ministerial students, Mr Reuben Kanagalingam, Mr Timothy Krishnan and Mr. Edward Devadason helped in the ministry. In **2001** the Full Membership was 324, crossed 300 for the first time. The church finance was good. 25% of their income went for needs outside the local church. A coordinator was appointed for the MSF ministry.

From **2002 – May 2008 Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor. In **2002** the Full Membership was 320. Evangelistic work was done in Sau Betong estate. The Social Concerns Committee spent more than RM6,000 to help the needy. In 2003 the Full Membership was 370. Children aged 13 – 17 were grouped as the Methodist Young Rangers (MYR). They were taught various topics on how to develop Godly character. In **2004** the Full Membership was 382. Ministerial students Mr. Kunabalan and Mr. Jeremiah Thomas served in this church. In **2005** the Full Membership was 392. Many Hindu families attended the worship services. The Church Prayer Day was once a month and about 80 attended.

Crossing the 400 Mark in Full Membership

In **2006** the Full Membership was 410, crossing 400 for the first time. Many foreign Indian nationals attending became members, after a 6 month period. A membership update was done and names of those who had left the church or could not be traced, were removed. One church member, Pastor James Kuttan was placed in Serting. This Outreach lacked leadership and finance to become a Local Church. In **2007** the Full Membership was 479. The Full Membership at Mahsang / Serting Outreach was 113. Port Dickson Outreach had 25 members. This Outreach was in existence for more than 40 years, but had not progressed. **Rev. Joseph Komar** took charge from **June to December 2008**. Church workers included Mr. James Kuttan and Mr. Sam Pakianathan. In **2008** the Full Membership was 475. The lay leaders together with Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar, kept the church united during their recent trying times.

Senawang Outreach

From **2009 – 2013 Rev. Sandireaseheran** was the Pastor. In **2009** the Full Membership was 479. The MW adopted the Mantin work as their “pet project”. The church adopted 43 children under the “Gift of Hope” child adoption program by MMM. They also sent 3 teachers to Myanmar for their Annual VBS. The church started their **third Outreach in Senawang** in July. An average of 70-80 people attended on Sundays at 7.30 am. The Mahsan Outreach had 104 members but their finance was not enough to become a Local Conference. More than 90% of its members earned less than RM1,000 a month. Members were also leaving in search of jobs.

In **2010** Pastor Richard Lawrence was appointed as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 464. The church adopted a missionary in Nepal and a Missions Centre in Myanmar. The Senawang Outreach celebrated its 1st anniversary on 15 August. The Port Dickson work moved into a new building in Lukut. In **2011** Mr. K. Saravanan, a Pre-Ministerial Candidate was posted here. Mr. Jonathan Arulanthu, a Pre-Ministerial Candidate, also helped. The Full Membership dropped to 402. One youth went to the Hatyai TEACH Centre, for a six month short term missions exposure program. The church supported one TAC ministerial student financially. It organised the “Easter Carnival” to raise funds for the family camp. The carnival made a profit of RM20,000. The church purchased a new 3 storey shop house which would be used for its Outreach ministry in Senawang once the renovation works were completed. They were expected to move into the new building by the end of November.

Double-Storey Shop-Lot for RM480,000 in Pekan Mahsan,

In **2012** the Full Membership was 406. They started the migrant ministry among the Nepalese. They supported the STM Tamil Library fund by giving a sum of RM5,000. Confirmation classes were conducted in all the outreaches and in the main church. Small Group meeting which is a potential for church growth was not tapped well because of the lack of leadership. The church purchased a double storey shop-lot for RM480,000 in Pekan Mahsan, Daerah Jempul, Negeri Sembilan.

LCEC Chairperson Commissioned Part-Time Church Worker

In **2013** Pre Ministerial Student Mr. Mohan Raj was posted here. The Full Membership was 403. A small group of about 5 to 10 Nepalese met in Senawang. In the Senawang Outreach, a Pro Tem Committee was set up and new members were seen in the church on Sundays. In Mahsan Outreach, follow up was done and Mr Henry Jeremiah, the LCEC Chairperson who gave good leadership. He was commissioned by the church to be a Part-Time Church Worker here.

In **2014 Rev. Raymond Raj** was the Pastor with Pastor Vijaiadass Vedanayagam as the Assistant Pastor. In 2014 the Full Membership was 343. Light house prayers were held at the parsonage every Friday. Bible study was conducted on Wednesdays by Rev. Raymond Raj and Pastor Vijaiadass in Senawang. The church spent RM15,000 to renovate, repaint and refurnish the parsonage. The local church rejoiced at the **formation of their Outreach in Bahau into a Local**

Church on 23 February 2014. In 2015 **Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar** was the pastor with Pastor Vijaiadass continuing as the Assistant Pastor. Mr. Timothy Raj was the weekend Practical Work Student at Senawang. The Full Membership was 378. The church was renovated and all the three churches shared the cost. TMC Seremban's share was RM78,000. One significant happening was the "Perinba Thiruvizha", an evangelistic meeting.

From 2016 onwards Rev. Joseph Yesupatham was the Pastor. In 2016 and 2017, the Full Membership remained at 375. The first Wednesdays were observed as a prayer day and an average of 30 people faithfully attended this prayer session. Six individuals served as local church evangelists and three members of the church completed their training programme at the Conference's School of Evangelism. There was a Preaching Clinic. Financial Support to MMM was RM25,000. Several individuals went on short term mission trips to Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and Kuching. Three young people served as full-time Missions staff in three various Mission Organisations within the country. In 2018 the Full Membership was 379. There were 10 local Church Evangelists.

In 2019, **Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** is the pastor. The Full Membership is 379. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (25), MYAF (24), MSF (40) and MW (38). There are 35 children and 6 teachers in the Church School. They have three Cell Groups – Seremban 2, Rasah and Ampangan. They have one Outreach in Senawang.

Conclusion: TMC Seremban is a model church for Christian giving. In the 1970s, there were occasions, when the church's financial condition was bad. The local women came to the rescue. They raised funds to meet specific needs. The church also organised food sales and held Food and Fun Fair in 1975 to help overcome the church's financial shortage. The youths gave RM15 a month for the needs of TMC Asahan and the MW gave RM 50 a month towards the ministry of TMC Asahan. In 1987 there were teachings on tithing and the church finance improved. In 1998 the ladies collected 1 cent, 5 cents and 'Pidi Arisi' to give towards Missions. In 2002 The Social Concerns Committee spent more than RM6,000 to help the needy. The evangelistic work of the church over the years is commendable, seeing the many Outreaches that were established. They bought buildings to establish God's work. In their weakness, God gave grace. Having been made strong, they reached out to help many needy churches. All glory goes to God for making this possible.

Sources:

- 1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC**
- 2. TMC Seremban Centennial Celebration 1908 – 2008**

PASTORAL ROLL

1908	Pastor G. Manuel
1913	Pastor R.S. Raj
1919	Pastor Gnaniah Paul
1920	Pastor Daniel Sundram
1924	Pastor D. Daniel
1929 – 1935	Rev. M.R. Doraisamy
1937	Rev. John Devasahayam
1938 – 1940	Rev. J.W.A. Kadirgamar
1941 – 1946	War Years
1946 – 1950	Rev. J.V. Ayaduray
1951 – 1958	Rev. Milton David
1959 – 1965	Rev. J.A.P. Oswald
1966 – 1968	Rev. V.A. Supramaniam
1969 – 1970	Rev. James Solamadan
1971 Feb. – Jan. 1975	Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah
1975 Feb – May	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1976 June – 1977	Rev. C. Pandian
1978 Jan. April	Pastor Denison Jayasooria
1978 May – 1983	Rev. Peter Devadason
1984 – 1986	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1987 – 1989	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1990 – 1991	Rev. James Solamadan
1992 – 1993	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1994 – 1999	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2000 – 2001	Rev. Joseph Komar
2002 – 2008 May	Rev. David Tharmakan
2008 June – Dec.	Rev. Joseph Komar
2009 – 2013	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2014	Rev. Raymond Raj
2015	Rev. Joseph Komar
2016 onwards	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1988 - 1991	Mr. Michael Vasu	Mr. James Guna (1988 - 2002)
1992 - 2001	Mr. Henry Jeremiah	Dr. Paul Chelliah
2002	Dr. Paul Chelliah	Dr. Paul Chelliah
2003 - 2008	Mr. Alex Mohan	Mr. Henry Jeremiah
2009 - 2011	Mr. Vijaya Varma	Mr. Henry Jeremiah
2012 - 2013	Mr. James Prakash	Mr. Henry Jeremiah
2014	Mr. James Prakash	Mr. C.A.Ranjit
2015 - 2018	Mr. S. N. Rajah	Mr. C.A.Ranjit
2019	Simon Gabriel	Mr. C.A.Ranjit

TELUK INTAN

The Beginnings

The Tamil Methodist work in Teluk Intan began in **1905** as one of the outreach and preaching points of TMC Ipoh. This continued until 1914. It was made into a “minor church” with Rev Kohlhoff as the Pastor. The worship service was held in the Teluk Anson ACS. Only in **1916**, was the Tamil work **organized as a Local Church with a Full Membership of 30**. The ministry was extended to Ratanui and Bagan Datuk Estates and became part of the church circuit. The work was among Tamils as well as the Telugus.

The Early Pastors

The early Pastors who served from **1917** include **Rev. Edward Isaac**, **Rev. L.A Samuel** and **Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai**. In **1919** an Epworth League was formed and it had 55 members in the Senior Group and 22 in the Junior Group. There were 67 children in the Church School. From **1921 – 1923 Rev. S.S. Pakianathan** was the Pastor. In **1921** the site for a new parsonage and church costing \$3,500 was donated by the Sabapathy family. From **1924 – 1927 Rev. M. R. Doraisamy** was the Pastor. By **1927** the church and its circuit had a Christian community of 800 (450 Telegus and 350 Tamils).

The New Church Building

Mr S. Sabapathy supported and helped in the growth of the Tamil work in Teluk Anson. Unfortunately, he went to be with the Lord in December 1918. Nevertheless, his wife Mrs Sabapathy carried his passion. She promised \$5,000 to erect a new church. Later she purchased a new site for \$3,500.00 and presented it for the building of a new church in Teluk Anson. In **1936** the foundation stone for the church was laid by **Bishop Rev Edwin Lee**. The church building cost \$6,780.00 and was **dedicated on 5 April 1936** which was Palm Sunday. However, there were insufficient funds to purchase any other furniture. Hence, the old benches were used. The Communion Railing, Communion Table and pulpit were given by Mr P. Gnaniah.

The Other Early Pastors

From **1928 to 1958** the following served as pastors:- **Rev. Edward Isaac** (1928 – 1929); **Rev. M.J. David** (1930 – 1935); **Rev. V. Devasahayam** (1936); **Rev. D. John** (Supply in 1937); **Rev. V.B. Paranjothy** (1938); **Rev. Kingham Joseph** (1939 – 1941); **Rev. J.D. Asirvatham** (1946 – 1951); **Rev. John Abraham** (1952) and **Rev. A.G.J. Rasanayakam** (1953 – 1958).

The Challenging Years

The years **1934 to the late 1940's** were very challenging. The church neglected the work in the estates such as Ratanui Estate and the Bagan Datok area. The church records are silent on the reasons for the loss in membership. This tragic situation could have been due to war when many Indians were taken to Siam for forced labour. Another factor was that a large number of Indians went back to India. However, by the grace of God, from 1951 onwards the Church grew steadily in membership and in giving.

An Exemplary Member

In **January 1954**, the **DS, Rev. Athimuthu**, reported: “The church had a good year under the pastoral care of **Rev. & Mrs. Rasanayakam**. It will not be out of place to say that one devoted member of the Tamil Church is contributing \$50 every month towards the support of the church. If we had a few such members in other churches, we need not worry about the support of our churches. Rev. Rasanayakam visits Christian members in 15 estates.” Here we have an indication of the depth of commitment of the lay as well as the clergy. In **1955** the congregation, though small, was liberal in giving and took a keen interest in the work of the church. Rev. Rasanayakam was truly a Methodist circuit worker. He visited more than 20 estates in his itinerary. He spent ten days of every month ministering to the spiritual needs of the Tamil Christians who were scattered in all the estates.

Estate Fragmentation, Unemployment and Work Permit Restrictions

In **December 1957** Rev. Rasanayakam, after a faithful service of 23 years in Malaya, went to Ceylon on a five month holiday. During his absence no one could be found to do his estate work and so the work was neglected but it was revived after he arrived in September. He reported 116 Full Members, 149 Preparatory Members, 2 adult baptisms and 10 infant baptisms. Also, in **1958**, the church was affected by the fragmentation of estates and transfer of members. The Full Membership in **1958** was only 60.

Rev. K.J. Timothy was the Pastor from **1959 – 1960**. After this **Rev. V.A. Chelliah** was the Pastor from **1961 – 1979**. He served the church for 18 years. Rev. Chelliah had the added responsibility of serving both the General Conference and Annual Conference as the Secretary. In addition, starting from the **late 1960's and early 1970's**, unemployment and work permit restrictions affected the church members living in the estates. Since **1973**, many young people started leaving the estates seeking jobs in bigger towns like Kuala Lumpur. Even though from **1975** onwards there was positive church growth, the young people continued to move to other towns for jobs and studies. From **1980 – 1981** **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor. In **1981**, the film “Jesus” was screened to expose the non-Christians to the Gospel. From **1982 – 1985** **Rev. Jacob David** was the Pastor. In **1982**, the church had a retreat for the LCEC. In **1983**, a major evangelistic meeting was held and many Hindus attended. In **1984**, concerted effort was taken to teach tithing and how the church could be a witnessing community. In **1985**, a new Church School was started in Nova Scotia Estate.

Reaching Out More to the Estates

In **1986** the Full Membership was 83. The church updated its membership records. Mr. Selwyn Anamtham was the Church Worker and the church fully met his expenses. The Church School ministry went on well with 50 children and 6 teachers.

Mrs. Alice Selwyn gave good leadership and organised a teachers' training. The church had outreach ministry in 6 places: Bidor, Bikam Estate, Sungkai, Sengai Estate, Bonapdana Estate and Ulu Bernam Estate. All these places were visited on a weekly basis except for Bonapdana which was visited monthly.

Strengthening Children and Youth Ministries

In **1987** the Full Membership was 95. Two families were baptised in January. Organ or piano music was sadly missing in this church. The Church school ministry in Teluk Intan, Nova Scotia and Torkington Estate totalled 63 children. A VBS was conducted in November 1986 for 5 days. About 76 children accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. The MYF grew from 6 to 16. In **1988** Church Worker Mr. A. Selwyn served the church. Full Membership was 106. The Christian Education Committee started a Tamil Class for those who could not read and write Tamil. About 14 attended the class.

New Parsonage

In **1985** there was an urgent need to replace the dilapidated parsonage built in 1931. Once the Trustees signed the Parsonage Building Plans, the old parsonage was demolished in 1987. The new parsonage was erected in the old site in 1988 at a cost of around RM 50,000. It was dedicated by the then, TAC President Rev John Kovilpillai on 9 October 1988. The cost of the building was RM 46,000. The church was short of RM 8,000

From **1989 – 1992 November, Rev. Justin Clarence** was the Pastor. He began his ministry in January **1989** and the Full Membership was 97. The average church attendance was about 50 – 60 members. In **1990** the Full Membership was 93. The Outreach work in Sabak Bernam and Sungkai was encouraging. In **1991** the Full Membership was 87.

Strengthening Outreach Work

From **1992 December – 1997, Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor. In **1992** the Full Membership was 88 and in 1993 it was 87. The Common Toilet Project was completed in July. In **1993** about 50 members attended service. The church had outreach ministries in Bidor, Sungkai, Sabak Bernam and Ulu Bernam. A second-hand van was bought. In **1994** the Full Membership increased to 101. The pastor went for a refresher program in New Zealand for three months. Ministerial Student Mr. Dennis Raj was very helpful when the pastor was away. 20 youths were received into Full Membership through Confirmation on 8 May 1994. MYF meetings were held fortnightly under the guidance of the pastor's wife Mrs Susan Sadagopan. In **1995** the Full Membership was 114. There was outreach work in three areas - Bidor-Sungkai, Tapah and Ulu Bernam. Supply Pastor Seenivasagam ministered in the Tapah and Bidor/ Sungkai area and he developed the work there. There were about 35 resident members in the Tapah/Bidor/Sungkai area. In **1996** the Full Membership was 101. In the absence of a worker for Tapah/Bidor/Sungkai areas, the church transferred the Tapah ministry back to TMC Kampar.

There were two Church Schools - one in Teluk Intan and one in Sungkai. The Teluk Intan Church School met at 8am and had 20 children and 5 teachers. The Sungkai Church School met fortnightly on Sunday afternoons with 15 children. Five teachers went there on a rotational basis with two teachers going at any one time.

80th Anniversary Celebration

The **80th Anniversary Celebration/Thanksgiving Service** was held on **7 September 1996** at 6pm. and was attended by 250 people. It was followed by an Anniversary Dinner which was attended by about 320 people. The **Bishop Datuk Dr. Denis C. Dutton** and the **TAC President Rev. David Tharmakan** graced the occasion. Former members and former pastors with their families came from far and near. In **1997** the Full Membership was 91. There was outreach work in two places – fortnightly in Sungkai (on Sundays and 10 – 15 adults attended). In Ulu Bernam, worship services were conducted once a month in the home of a member. Regular visits were made to Sabak Bernam.

Some years earlier, TMC Teluk Intan had allowed the Chinese Methodist Church to build a parsonage in its compound. Later, the Chinese Methodist Church bought a piece of land and built a multi-purpose hall to be used as their sanctuary and pastor's residence. When the Chinese Methodist Church moved out in 1997, TMC Teluk Intan bought over the former Chinese Methodist Church parsonage for RM 5,000. They planned to build a hall where the Chinese Methodist parsonage stood but the plan did not materialise. This building was converted to be the church's Christian Education Centre.

From 1998 – 1999 Rev. Dennis Raj was the Pastor. In **1998** the Full Membership was 82. All LCEC members were actively involved in the ministry. In **1999** the Full Membership was 95. Weekly services were held in Sungkai and Bidor. In **2000 Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 94. Worship Services were well attended, with an average of 65 members at Teluk Intan and 14 at Sungkai Outreach. Area Fellowships were conducted in five different places.

In **2001 Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor and the Full Membership was 94. Cell Groups were held fortnightly in two places in the homes of members- Teluk Intan on Fridays and Bidor/Sungkai on Thursdays. There was outreach work in Sungkai. In **2002 Rev. Abraham Selvanayakam** was the Pastor till August, when he resigned. From September 2002, **Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 101. Financially the church was stable and the lay leadership was strong. These factors helped the church to sustain its ministries, even though there was a frequent change of pastors.

Migrant Ministry

From 2003 – 2011 Rev. Joy Pandian was the Pastor. In **2004** the roofing above the pulpit was changed. It was noted that the youths were leaving the town in search of jobs elsewhere. However, there were a few youths who came forward to take up leadership.

In **2005** the Full Membership was 106. Migrant ministry among the Tamils was carried out at Seberang Estate. In **2006** the Full Membership was 116. Five Cell Groups met twice a month in Teluk Intan and 3 Cell Groups met once a month in Bidor, Sabak Bernam and Langkap. Migrant ministry among the Tamils was conducted at Seberang and Rubana Estates. Two of them received Christ and were baptised. Free tuition classes were also given.

Serving Through Tuition Classes and Medical Camp

In **2007** the Full Membership was 123. There were five Cell Groups and they studied Rick Warrens Purpose Driven Life. 80% of the church members attended the cell groups. A Bible Rally at local church level was held. A Medical Camp, with the help of Gethsemane Medical Team from Kuala Lumpur, was held in the Seberang Estate. The long standing Quit rent arrears of RM 3,422 was settled. An application to change the status from “Bangunan” to “Rumah Ibadat” – from residential to religious was forwarded to the land office. In **2008** the Full Membership was 121. The church reached out through tuition classes in Seberang Estate and Pengkalan Chepa. The Medical Camp was used as a tool for evangelism.

Facing Crisis

In **2009** the Full Membership was 116. Tuition classes were conducted in three areas in Ulu Bernam. In **2010** the Full Membership was 121. There were four adult conversions. The church thanked the Conference and TMC Tamil Settlement for the monthly financial aid. The Church employed Ms. K. Annammah as their church worker. A motorbike was bought for her use through donations. The application to change the land status was approved. A premium of RM 1,000 was needed to be paid and the annual quit rent was now RM 40. In **2011** the Full Membership was 113. Ms. K. Annammah continued as the church worker. Nepali ministry was started and 2 Nepali brothers were baptised. The Ulu Bernam ministry was stopped from July 2011. The church was going through a major division among the members. Five families stopped attending the church. Attempts were made by the TAC Exco for reconciliation. Finances were very tight. The Conference extended a sum of RM 10,000 as a loan to help with the tight financial situation. The pastor, Rev. Joy Pandian retired in that year.

In **2012 Rev. Ruben Rajandurai** was the pastor. New ministries were started in Langkap and Benta Estate. The Bidor Sungkai ministry was done by Ms. K. Annammah. In **2013** the Full Membership dropped to 92. **Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor-in-charge and he was assisted by Ministerial Student Mr. Vincen Dass. VBS was conducted for five days in the month of May by Mr. & Mrs. A. Selwyn. About 50 children participated. The church was affected financially due to members leaving for other churches.

In **2014 and 2015, Rev. Stephen Gunaraja** was the Pastor. The parsonage was refurbished. Ms. Annammah was the Church Worker in the Bidor Outreach. In **2015** the Full Membership was 96.

From **2016 to 2018, Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the Pastor. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 96. The church had its Centennial Celebration on Sunday 9 October 2016. In conjunction with the occasion the church was refurbished. A new LCD projector was installed. Some dilapidated parts of the sanctuary building were repaired. All the old pews were gradually replaced. The church building received a fresh coat of paint giving it a new look. The condition of the roof was a concern too. In **2017** the Full Membership was 90. There were Cell Groups in three places on Wednesdays. A friend of the church donated a new PA system for usage in the church. The Pro Tem Committee in Bidor functioned well for a year but could not continue due to lack of leadership. Mr. Seemon Daniel from Bidor committed himself for fulltime ministry and was posted to TMC Mentakab. The youths were actively involved in all church activities. A Fund Raising Dinner was carried out to raise funds for the repair of the leaking roof. The church raised RM 11,202.78.

Sanctuary Roof Leak Repaired

In **2018** the Full Membership was 90. The Cell Groups met in two areas on Wednesdays. After much hard work over several years, sufficient funds were raised and the repair work on the church roof leak started. A new PA system was installed in Bidor. Seven youths were added into Full Membership through Confirmation. There were talks that the Perak State Government was considering to declare the church a heritage building. However, the church did not receive any written confirmation.

In **2019, Rev. Stephen Gunaraja** was once again appointed the Pastor-in-charge. Mr. Jack Kennedy was appointed Church Worker to assist him. The Lay Leader, Mr. Yesupatham passed away on 4 October. The LCEC Chairperson is Mr. James Daniel. The Full Membership is 98. The church has one Outreach in Bidor. There are four Cell Groups, three in Teluk Intan and one in the Bidor Outreach. The number of members in the Agencies are as follows: MYF (20), MSF (19) and MW (19). There are 20 children and 3 teachers in the Church School.

Conclusion: God's faithfulness is evident as we see the 103 years of history of TMC Teluk Intan. The then TAC President Rev. C. Jayaraj, in his message in the Centennial Souvenir Program rightly stated: "You are small but do not be discouraged. God in His grace gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isaiah 40: 29). Press on in unity and love. God in His time will surely ignite a revival in your midst. There will be great growth when you faithfully seek Him." In the work of the Lord, the best is always yet to be.

Sources:

1. Mr. James Daniel, *Teluk Intan Centennial Celebration Souvenir Program*
2. 21st Session of TAC Souvenir Program 1996
3. Methodist Journals MAC, TPAC and TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1915	Mr Kohloff
1917	Rev. Edward Isaac
	Rev. L.A. Samuel (4 years)
	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1921 – 1923	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1924 – 1927	Rev. M.R. Doraisamy
1928 – 1929	Rev. Edward Isaac
1930 – 1935	Rev. M.J. David
1936	Rev. V. Devasahayam
1937	Rev. D. John (Supply)
1938	Rev. V.B. Paranjothy
1939 – 1941	Rev. Kingham Joseph
1946 – 1951	Rev. J.D. Asirvatham
1952	Rev. John Abraham
1953 – 1958	Rev. A.G.J. Rasanayakam
1959 – 1960	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1961 – 1979	Rev. V.A. Chelliah
1980 – 1982	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1983 – 1985 July	Rev. Jacob David
1985 Aug. to 1988 Dec.	Mr. A. Selwyn
1989 – 1992 Nov.	Rev. Justin Clarence
1992 Dec – 1997	Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan
1998 – 1999	Rev. Dennis Raj
2000	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
2001 Jan to Sept	Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan
2001 Oct till 2002 Aug.	Rev. Abraham Selvanayakam
2002 Sept. till Dec.	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2003 – 2011	Rev. Joy Pandian
2012	Rev. Ruben Rajandurai
2013	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2014 – 2015	Rev. Stephen Gunaraja
2016 – 2018	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2019	Rev. Stephen Gunaraja

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2003 - 2008	Mr. Balan Kurup	Mr. N.V. Krishnan
2009 - 2019	Mr. M. Yesupatham	Mr. James Daniel

SUNGAI PETANI

The Beginnings

The Tamil Methodist Church Sungai Petani was part of a large circuit spreading over the state of Kedah. Pastors from Bukit Mertajam travelled to conduct house meetings or services in members' homes. The first among them was **Rev. J. J. Jesudason** beginning in **1906**. A church congregation was formed in **1918** with about thirty members. Rev. J.J. Jesudason was succeeded by **Rev. Edward Isaac**, then followed by **Pastor S.A. Phillips**, **Rev. Devasahayam**, **Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai** and **Rev. Kingham Joseph**. Later, in **1938** a Church Worker, Mr. R. Zacharias ministered. He was followed by **Rev. K.J. Timothy**, a visiting Pastor to Sungai Petani. He served from 1940 – 1949. He was the first resident pastor who served during the war years.

Church Building Dedication

The present church land was purchased in **1936** for **\$2,400**. On **14 November 1937**, the **cornerstone** of the new building was laid by **Bishop Edwin F. Lee**. The Church building was completed and **dedicated on Easter Sunday, 17 April 1938**. Prior to this, the members met in homes and shared premises with the Chinese Methodists at a shop-lot in Jalan Merbau. **From 1950 – 1964 Rev. D.K. Gnananantham** was the Pastor. It was during this time that the present parsonage was constructed and dedicated by Bishop H. B. Amstutz on 2 January 1959. The parsonage was a gift of the Methodist churches and friends in the U.S.A.

First Sungai Petani Company Boys' Brigade

In **1960**, the **1st Sungai Petani Company Boys' Brigade** movement was established through Mr. P.W. Juby. The Company had more than 100 boys, both Indians and Chinese. Some became Christians and served as Elders and Pastors.

The resident pastor, Rev. D.K. Gnananantham gave permission to Mr. Juby to establish the B.B. in the Church. He became a member of the TMC Sungai Petani. The church supported with personnel as officers and provided the church building and the grounds for their activities. The Pastor was the Chaplain of the B.B. and the church hall was known as the B.B. Hall. The B.B. was an arm of Evangelism for the Church. The uniform, the band, the badge, classes, drill and camping were great attractions for the boys. National and District programs in the form of Pesta B.B. etc. provided opportunities for boys to participate in competitions, social activities etc. The B.B. raised their own funds and did not depend on the Church.

Pastoral Transfer Causes Crisis

From **1965 to 1966**, **Rev. K.J. Timothy** was again the Pastor. The DS Rev. Wong Hoon Hee reported in 1965 that Rev. Timothy suffered heavy financial loss of over \$2,000 in hospital bills. He further mentioned: "I do hope the Conference can start an insurance scheme for pastors to prevent the tragedy for ever."

From **1967 to 1968**, **Rev. Noel Arputharaj** was the Pastor. It is to be noted that until 1966, the Pastoral Appointment for Sungai Petani was under the Kedah Tamil Circuit.

In **1969**, **Rev. E.J. Thoraisingam** was appointed the Pastor. The members of the LCEC resigned en bloc, after their appeal to retain Rev. Noel Arputharaj for a period of six months to establish a place of worship (a church building) for Kepala Batas was turned down. The church lost some prominent members permanently. The Full Membership in 1969 was 74.

Revival and Restoration

From 1970 to 1974 Rev. I.G. Sunderarajan served as the Pastor. The church experienced revival and the LCEC began to function again. The pastor was instrumental in bringing the church members together again. There was a steady growth with the emphasis on outreach work. The **Youth Centre** was built and dedicated by the TPAC President Rev. T.R. Doraisamy in **1970**. The church hall was subsequently extended to include a Conference Room and Pastor's office. In 1973, Mr. Devadas Ratnam, a Ministerial Student was posted here.

Reaching Out to the Estates

From 1974 – 1975, Rev. Paul Athimuthu was the Pastor. Since the Tamil Christian community was small, the Anglicans and Lutherans were also encouraged to attend the worship services. Bible classes and Church Schools were held in the neighbouring Estates by Mrs. Rosalind Rajahser with good results. In **1975**, the pastor with some lay people, regularly visited Batu Pekaka Estate, Kuala Ketil, Kepala Batas and Harvard Estate. Two Bible Women, Mrs. Rosalind Rajahser and Mrs. Annamah David worked tirelessly to develop the work in the Harvard, Bedong, Kuala Ketil and Kepala Batas areas. They were instrumental in bringing many Hindus into the Fellowship.

The Birth of a Local Conference

From May 1976 – April 1977, Rev. David Tharmakan was the Pastor. In 1976, Mr. A.E. Joseph, a Ministerial Student, was also posted here. Rev. Tharmakan was succeeded by **Rev. P. Tevaraji** from **May 1977 – 1981**. Rev. Tevaraji intensified the work in Kepala Batas and Jerai. Also, during Rev. Tevaraji's tenure, **Kepala Batas was organised into a local church in 1980**. 36 members were transferred out to make a total of 45 Full Members to make this Outreach a Local Conference.

One notable thing was that Rev. Tevaraji opened the parsonage to 3 school going senior boys. Two of them became Christians. One of the boys, Mr. Devadass, was instrumental in eventually bringing 18 of his family members to Jesus Christ. Three of them are currently serving as pastors in TAC. They are Rev. Ezekiel Raj, Rev. S. Krishnan and Rev. Jayabalan.

From 1982 – 1983 Rev. S.M. Sadagopan was the Pastor. Church school ministry was held in Sungai Petani, Kuala Ketil and Harvard Estate. The Full Membership in **1982** was 89. The Youth Fellowship was not functioning because many youths had left the town seeking jobs. However, the Harvard Estate MYF continued to function.

From 1984 – 1988 Rev. Peter Devadason was the Pastor. In **1987** the Jerai Chapel, an outreach of the Church, was established in Sungai Toh Pawang. This chapel was officially opened by Dato Dr. Peter Vanniasingam and dedicated by the DS Rev. David Tharmakan. Mr. Elijah Bala was employed as Church Worker in 1987 to do the ministry and he served till the middle of 1991. The building was in use till 1995, after which the church was relocated to Bedong Indian Camp. In **October 1987**, the Church purchased a van for the outreach ministry for RM 22,000. The Church also purchased the Jerai Church building and a house in Bandar Baru for a sum of about RM 130,000.

From 1989 – 1991 Rev. M.G. Thana Raj served as Pastor. The Full Membership in **1989** was 134. There were notable blessings in the worship and Bible Studies. More people attended the worship and about 25 attended the Bible Studies. A unique feature of this church was its “Asrama Methodist which caters to the needs of estate children and ministers to them.” (Journal 1990 p. 108). In **1991** the Full Membership dropped to 110. Twenty members were transferred out and a few were unaccounted for.

From May 1992 – May 1993 Rev. Joseph Komar became the Pastor. In **1992** the Full Membership was 128 and became 177 in 1998. Rev. Joseph Komar took over from Rev. Thana Raj from December 1991. Mr. David Raman helped in the Kuala Ketil and Jerai Outreach as Church Worker. Regular worship services were held in Jerai on Saturdays at 7pm, Kuala Ketil on Saturdays at 7.30 pm. and Sungai Petani on Sundays at 7pm. Area Fellowship meetings were held in six areas. The extension of the Hall was completed and was renamed, “Rev. Noel Arputharaj Hall.”

From June 1993 – 1994 Rev. Hendry J. Ponniah was the Pastor. In **1993** the Full Membership was 129. The MYF ministry was combined with the Boys’ Brigade. In **1994** the Full Membership was 138. Five Area Fellowships met fortnightly on Wednesdays.

Ministry Expansion with Property Purchase

From 1995 – 1997 Rev. N. Rajan was the Pastor. In **1995** the Full Membership was 151. Four adults were baptised by Confession of Faith. Jerai service was held on Fridays at 7pm. Mr. Samuel Periathamby responded to the call for the Full Time ministry. In **1996** the Full Membership was 150. Being centrally located, many of the district activities were held here. A special musical program was arranged on 26 November 1996 to raise funds to buy musical instruments and the response was good. Young adults were leaving elsewhere for employment. 13 members were transferred out. The church purchased the following: (a) Land with a wooden house on Lot 197 Bukit Semeling, District of Kuala Muda, Kedah (b) Property on grant No. 19875 Lot No. 13488, Mukim Sg. Petani, Daerah Kuala Muda for RM 32,500. TMC Penang gave a short term soft loan of RM 10,000. In **May 1996**, another terraced corner house with a small piece of land was purchased in Bandar Baru, Sungai Lalang, for the Bedong outreach ministry.

The house was officially opened by Datuk Paul Money Samuel and also dedicated on **28 November 1998** by Rev. Victor Vethamani, the resident Pastor and the DS for the Northern Malaya District. Datuk Paul had generously helped out in the initial payment for the house.

Faithful Service of the Veterans

Mr. David Raman, the Lay Leader and Dr. Daisy Arianayagam, the LCEC Chairperson, gave many years of faithful service. There was a need for young and committed lay leadership to emerge. In **1997** the Full Membership was 150. A worship Seminar was held with Rev. A.E. Joseph as the main speaker on 9 May 1997. A local youth camp was held from 7 to 9 February and 21 youths attended with Ministerial Student Mr. Dennis Raj as the speaker. There were two classes in the Church Kindergarten with 40 children and two teachers. Mr. David Raman selflessly stepped aside to encourage younger leadership.

In **1998**, **Rev. Victor Vethamani** was the Pastor for one year. He covered this church while still being the resident pastor in Penang. He was assisted by ministerial student Mr. Seenivasagam David, who stayed in the parsonage in Sungai Petani. Rev. Victor conducted Bible Studies on Tuesdays except on the third, when the LCEC met. Full Membership was 177. Nine members were received through conversion. There was a significant increase in giving. A Church School Teachers' Training was conducted by Mrs. Saras Victor. 12 teachers attended.

The Bedong Church was officially opened by Mr. John Paul and dedicated by Rev. Peter Devadason on Saturday, **28 November 1998** as **The Bedong Methodist Home**. The TAC gave an outright donation of RM 5,000 and a loan of RM 15,000 for the project. The rest of the money of RM 60,000 was raised by SP and Jerai members. The Church building had provisions to house the first Supply Pastor Easudass Joseph as of 1 January 1998. A church van was donated by Madam Annamal Samuel (mother of Datuk Paul Money Samuel) and her family.

From 1999 – 2003 Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph was the Pastor. The ministry in Jerai was consolidated. The ministry was conducted in an old Tamil school building in Harvard estate. But the building was brought down to make room for estate development. Worship was then conducted in the wide corridor of the labour line with gas lamps (no electricity). **The Jerai Outreach became a Local Conference on 11 March 2000** with 78 members. The occasion was graced by the TAC President, Rev. P. Tevaraji and the Conference Lay Leader, Mr. Peter Palaya.

From 2004 – 2012 Rev. Doraiseelan John was the Pastor. The church continued to experience tremendous growth in membership averaging 10% every year. The growth was mainly due to the emphasis on evangelism by the pastor. Credit also goes to the hard work of Miss Elizabeth John, the Church Worker and the members of the local church and Kuala Ketil outreach.

In **April 2004**, a shop lot in Taman Batu Pekaka was purchased for RM 80,000 and renovated for an additional cost of RM 70,000. The building was dedicated by the TAC President, Rev. Tevaraji on **12 June 2005**. It was named **Tamil Methodist Community Centre, Kuala Ketil**. The ministry expanded to Malau.

Major Renovation for a 75 Year Old Sanctuary

In **2010**, the Full Membership was 213. About 75 children attended the Church school in Sungai Petani and Kuala Ketil. A new van was purchased for RM 98,000. In **2011** Small Group ministries were conducted fortnightly in 15 places. Mr. Sharvin Stephen Michael committed himself for full-time mission work. At the end of October **2012**, the 75 year old Church was renovated and restructured with wings on both sides. The extended sanctuary has a seating capacity of 250 people. The entire project, including fence, PA system etc. cost RM700,000. The church received a Government grant of RM 80,000 through the MIC.

From 2013 – 2015 Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria was the Pastor and he was assisted by Mr. Steven Johnson the Church Worker. Mr. Steven Johnson concentrated on Kuala Ketil Outreach ministry from August 2013 and served till February 2014. A new area called Paya Nahu was identified for evangelism work. The work is ongoing. In **2013**, Mr. Solomon Jacob, the Conference MSF President, persuaded Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria to appoint a coordinator for the MSF. On 17 November 2013, Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria gathered the seniors in the church after church service and Mr. Sam Munusamy was named as the President. In **2014**, Madam Rebecca Perumal was the President and served till end of 2016. In 2016 Mr. John Daniel became the President for 2017-2018 and continues as the MSF President. Cell Group ministry was held in seven areas on alternate Wednesdays. The Church library was reactivated.

Strategy for Effective Ministry

From 2016 – 2018, Rev. Jeremiah Thomas, the pastor in Penang was the Pastor-in-charge. During this period, Church worker Solomon Thangaiyah served the church. In **2016**, there was a door to door evangelism cum training by Pastor Devarajah Balayah from 9 to 12 June. There was a Congregational Meeting at Kuala Ketil Outreach on 7 October, initiated by Mr. David Raman. The purpose was to create a strategic framework for their outreach work; formation of preaching point at Taman Keladi, Kuala Ketil and Kulim. Also, on 5 November a MOU was signed between Kulim Wesley and TMC SP regarding the use of Wesley Methodist Church as the base for Kulim outreach. In **2017** the Full Membership was 231. A Leadership Training for the TMC Sungai Petani members and the sister churches in the district was held on 14 and 15 January. The guest speakers were TAC Lay Leader, Mr. S. Selvaraj and Associate Lay Leaders, Mr. Samuel Peter and Mr. Guna David. A total of 48 people attended the training. There was Deliverance and Revival Meetings at Kulim from 16 to 18 June 2017 with the help of Prayer House for all Nations from KL.

In **2018** the Full Membership was 224. On 14 April the Young Adults organized a talk on Marriage, Singles, Separated 'Singles' & Parenting. They targeted 3 separate groups all at the same time. The guest speakers were Rev. & Mrs. P. Tevaraji, Pastor P.P. Abraham and Mr. Jacob P. Korinthiar. An in-house Church School Teachers' Training was held on 18 August. It was the first time for such a training to be conducted for those from Kuala Ketil and Kulim outreaches.

In 2019, Rev. John Simson became the pastor of the church with Mr. Anthony Dass assisting as the Church Worker in Kuala Ketil Outreach. Miss Elizabeth John is the Lay Leader and Mr. John Daniel is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 221. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (14). MYAF (15), MSF (10), MW (25). There are 85 children in the Church School.

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Kulim Ministry: The work in Kulim began in **1939** by Rev. K. J. Timothy who was resident in Parit Buntar. In **1946, Rev. Rasanayagam** took charge of this ministry. He lived in the parsonage in Kulim. The work progressed and in **1953**, Rev D.K. Gnananatham reported that weekly Sunday services were conducted in Kulim. This ministry was slowly neglected because the families were spread out in the estates within a radius of 40 miles. Beginning from **November 2004** the work was resumed by **Rev. Doraiseelan John**, Mr. David Raman and Mr. Jacob Paul K. Regular services were conducted at the Anglican Church in Kulim and there were also house meetings. The church worker Mr. Aruldas Manuvel began visiting some people beginning of 2005 but he passed away after a couple of months. The church handed over Kulim ministry to TMC Kepala Batas on **25 September 2007**. In **2015**, Ms Elizabeth John was posted as the Church Worker to Kuala Ketil Outreach. Together with Mr. Ezekiel Katrivelu they visited new contacts in Kulim. The LCEC discussed the formation of the Kulim Outreach. Meanwhile, Mr. Nyanapragasam who had difficulty climbing stairs, was unable to attend when his previous, Independent Church moved to a 2nd floor building. In November 2015, he requested that a ministry be started at his house. About 2 weeks later, Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria had the first service at Mr. Nyanapragasam's house. Thus the Kulim ministry was resumed with new people. At present, Rev. John Simson conducts weekly services on Thursdays.

Kuala Ketil Ministry began in the late 1950s. In December **1991**, Mr. Barnabas Baskaran was appointed Church Worker and placed in Kuala Ketil. The Conference gave a monthly subsidy of RM 250 towards his salary. He was absorbed as a Supply Pastor by the Conference and transferred to TMC Tamil Settlement in Ipoh. There was no substitute for him. The ministry expanded to Sungai Tawar estate during the time of Rev. N. Rajan in **1997** at the home of Mr. Subramaniam. The ministry and the number of people attending the services began to grow. In 2003, Mr. Isaac Nathan was placed here for his One Year Exposure Program, before going to the seminary.

Kuala Ketil Outreach: The local church purchased a shop house for RM 80,000 with the help of Datuk Paul Money Samuel and family. The building was renovated into a beautiful chapel for RM 70,000. Mr. Moses Raman personally helped in the supervising of the renovation work and contributed much to the progress and development of the extension work. The building was named ‘Tamil Methodist Community Centre’ with the approval of the Majlis Daerah Baling. The chapel can accommodate about 100 people to full capacity.

The Methodist Hostel was first established during the time of Rev. Peter Devadason in **1988** with 4 boys taking up residence in the Youth Centre. The hostel closed down in 1991 after seeing through 7 boys who completed their secondary education with the help of the church. The Methodist Hostel was re-established in **2007** with 8 boys during the time of Rev. Doraiseelan. He provided spiritual training and discipline for the boys and his wife, Mrs. Selvi Doraiseelan cared for the boys by cooking their meals. In **2009**, five remained and completed their SPM examination. A number of church members provided free tuition for the boys. Due to the church building extension project, the Youth Centre that housed the hostel was used as the place of worship. Therefore, this initiative was put on hold temporarily. There has been no progress after this, since there were no volunteers to take it up.

Church Kindergarten: During Rev. I.G. Sundararajan’s tenure and after the completion of the Youth Centre, the **Sharon Kindergarten** was started and sustained during his time. After that, The **Methodist Kindergarten** was re-established in **1985** in the Youth Centre and continued till 2005. In **2006** it was discontinued due to poor response. There are no plans to resume this.

The ***Single Mothers’ Home*** was started with the help of the Nehemiah Project of the TAC. The starting of the Single Mothers’ Home in Sungai Petani was initiated by Rev. Doraiseelan John in 2011. This Home empowered some of these single mothers with children who stayed there for a while. The Dedication Service of this Home (Address: 179B, Jalan Bakar Sampah, 08000 Sungai Petani) for the Glory of our Lord was conducted by the TAC President, Rev. C. Jayaraj on 3 August 2013 at 11 a.m. This Home was closed down in August 2018.

The Semeling Outreach was started in July 2018 with the Korean Methodist missionaries. Rev. Paul Sang-min Lee and his family were in Malaysia for more than 4 years doing ministry among the Tamil people in the Semeling area. In June 2018 they decided to work with TMC Sg. Petani. Mr. Jacob Paul Korinthiar helped with this ministry. An MOU was signed on 22 October between Korea Methodist Church Tamil Ministry at Semeling and TMC SP on mission partnership to develop the Semeling Tamil work.

Conclusion: The church ministry in Sungai Petani goes as far back as 1906. Many pastors and lay people worked hard for the establishment and extension of God's Kingdom in this region. From the mid-seventies Mr. John Paul and Mr. David Raman together did house visiting, personal evangelism and prayers in Sungai Toh Pawang, Harvard Estate, Kepala Batas, Kuala Ketil and Sungai Petani. Due to their faithful ministry many Outreach Points were formed and two became Local Conferences. Even after the age of 70 years they continued their ministry. These two faithful servants are considered the pillars of TMC Sungai Petani. They were passionate because they experienced the love of Jesus and were deeply committed to Him. They gave their best in serving Him. They have finished their race and the torch is now passed on to the present leadership, to carry the light of Jesus to all people.

Sources:

1. Raman, David – History of TMC Sungai Petani
2. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1906	Rev. J. Jesudason
1917	Rev. Edward Isaac
1918 – 1922	Pastor S.A. Philip
1923 – 1932	Rev. V. Devasahayam
1933 – 1935	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1936 – 1937	Rev. Kingham Joseph
1937 – 1939	Pastor R. Zacharias
1940 – 1944	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1946 - 1949	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1950 – 1964	Rev. D.K. Gnananantham
1965 – 1966	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1967 – 1968	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1969	Rev. E.J. Thoraisingam
1970 – 1974	Rev. I.G. Sundararajan
1974 – 1975	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1976 May - 1977 April	Rev. David Tharmakan
1977 May – 1981	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1982 – 1983	Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan
1984 – 1988	Rev. Peter Devadason
1989 – 1991	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1992 – 1993 May	Rev. Joseph Komar Peter
1993 June – 1994	Rev. Hendry J. Ponniah
1995 – 1997	Rev. N. Rajan
1998	Rev. Victor Vethamani
1999 – 2003	Rev. A.E. Joseph
2004 – 2012	Rev. Doraiseelan John
2013 – 2015	Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria
2016 – 2018	Rev. Jeremiah Thomas
2019	Rev. John Simson

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1963 - 1967	Dr. K. K. Mathen	K.K. Koshy
1968 - 1971	N/A	N/A
1972 - 1980	John Paul	S.A. Sinniah
1981 - 1989	John Paul	Dr. Daisy Ariyanayagam
1990 - 1996	David Raman	Dr. Daisy Ariyanayagam
1997 - 1998	Dr. S. Sathiamurty	Dr. Daisy Ariyanayagam
1999 - 2002	David Raman	Dr. Daisy Ariyanayagam
2003 - 2004	Davaraj Andrew	Dr. Daisy Ariyanayagam
2005 - 2008	Davaraj Andrew	Alexander David
2009 - 2012	Jacob Paul K.	Alexander David
2013 - 2014	Elizabeth John	Richard David
2015 - 2017	Jacob Paul K.	Richard David
2018	Richard David	Richard David
2019	Elizabeth John	John Daniel



TMC Sungai Petani Leaders in 1989



TMC Sungai Petani Old Church



Boys Brigade with Rev. D.K. Gnananantham and Paul Juby



TMC Sungai Petani New Church

ALOR STAR

Background

The Tamil Methodist Churches in Alor Star, Sungei Petani and Kepala Batas were all under one circuit spreading over the state of Kedah. After the Second World War, Mr. Eliathamby played an important role in the purchase of the land at 36A Jalan Kanchut, Alor Star. A house was located and services were held once a month. The present site had a double storey wooden house. The owner sold the land to the church for \$16,000. The money came from the Conference, either in 1945 or 1946. After the War, the building was renovated for worship with money collected. At this time, only the Tamil Methodist Church used the sanctuary for monthly services. Since the building was used only once a month, Mr. Eliathamby invited the Chinese Methodist Church Lay Worker to stay in the building. The Chinese Methodist Church brought Miss Tan, a lay pastor to occupy the upstairs portion of the building.

Extensive Ministry by Bus

From **1949 to 1964 Rev. D.K. Gnananantham** was the Pastor-in-charge of the North Kedah circuit of the Tamil Methodist Churches covering Alor Star and Sungei Petani. Church Schools and Youth meetings were held at Bukit Merah, Jitra and Baling. The Pastor's ministry included several estates and hospitals. There were 56 Full Members and 87 Preparatory Members. His work scattered over 70 miles, and he had no form of transportation except the regular buses

The District Superintendent Rev. Gunnar J. Teilmann Jr. in December 1957 reported: "There is no harder working pastor to be found in all Malaya than Brother Gnananandam. When he was completely blind in one eye and had only 20% vision in the other he continued to preach and to visit his people."

In 1964, Rev. D.K. Gnananantham was appointed Pastor for the Kedah Tamil Circuit, comprising of Alor Star, Kulim and Sungei Petani. Pastor S.J. Manickam was the Supply Pastor. From **1965 – 1966, Rev. K.J. Timothy** was the Pastor. In **1967 Rev. Noel Arputharaj** took Pastoral charge and in **1968** it was **Rev. John Abraham**.

A Youth for the Fulltime Ministry

From **1969 – 1970, Rev. E.J. Thoraisingam** took charge. In **1969**, the Full Membership was 71. The members were scattered over a radius of 70 miles in the rubber estates and padi fields. The Church paid its benevolence of \$400 in full. Their pastoral support was only \$100 per month. Their Annual Income was only \$3,162.80 cents. An HSC student, Mr. Jacob David, came forward for fulltime ministry. There was no WSCS or MYF.

Tight Finances - So Happy to Share Pastor

In **1970**, the Full Membership was 64. After paying the Conference dues and pastoral support, there was not much left for ministry. The Pastor preached every other Sunday. In his absence, the lay helped. Regular cottage meetings were held. A WSCS was newly organized. The church would progress if they had a pastor of their own, but the members indicated that they could not afford a pastor fully. Therefore they were quite happy to share their pastor with Sungai Petani.

Help From the Ministerial Students

From 1971 – April 1974, Rev. I.G. Sunderarajan was the Pastor. In **1971** there was a decrease in membership (62) and finance. They expressed the need for a pastor of their own. In **1972** A Parsonage Fund was set up. Full Membership was 83. In **1973** Full Membership was 83. Mr. Lawrence Francis, a ministerial student helped organize the MYF, which had a membership of 20. Mr. Devadass Ratnam, another ministerial student, continued the good work. Weekly cottage meetings were held with good response.

From May 1974 – 1975 Rev. Paul Athimuthu was the Pastor. Full Membership was 74. The pastor took charge on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, while Mr. David Tharmakan covered the rest of the Sundays. Mr. Tharmakan also conducted weekly cottage prayer meetings, which were well attended. Weekly Bible study was held and regular visits made to the outlying areas as far north as Padang Besar. In **1975** the Full Membership was 76. **The Boys Brigade** under Mr. Peter Gnananatham was doing very well. The new arrangement of having worship services on Fridays gave the pastor Rev. Athimuthu more time to work in the outlying areas.

From January **1976** to January 1979, Rev. Chellaraj Fenn was the DS and stationed in Penang. He administered the Holy Communion for TMC Alor Star and Sungai Petani when Pastors Simon Chandran and A.E. Joseph were student pastors. He administered Holy Communion in Alor Star till Rev. Tevaraji was made pastor-in-charge and given authorization. From January to April 1976, Mr Simon Chandran was the student pastor. From June 1976 to May 1977 Mr. A.E. Joseph was the student pastor

New Seminary Graduates Take Charge

From **June 1977 till May – 1981 Rev. P. Tevaraji** was the Pastor. He stayed in the Wesley parsonage from Thursday to Saturday. He used to cover Padang Besar, Kangar, Arau and Jitra. The Church School was very active with Mrs. Ruth Peter as Superintendent. Mr. Rishyakaran, an engineer by profession, was very helpful in the youth ministry. The young people carried out many activities.

In **1979** the Full Membership stood at 80. Mrs. Annamal Swamikan, the Bible Woman, helped with the Church School and Estate ministry. It was noted that the work was growing and the church needed a pastor of their own – a resolution to that effect was sent to the Conference in 1979. In **1980** the Full Membership was 83. The Church had two Church Schools. A bus was hired for \$45 a month. Jitra and Arau were their Outreach Points.

From June to December 1981, Pastor Victor Vethamani, a new graduate, was appointed the Pastor. The Full Membership was 82. The pastor stayed in one room at the Wesley Alor Star parsonage. Worship service was started in Jitra from 26 June 1981. Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Meetings were held regularly. There were five Church Schools. Mrs. Swamikan was involved in four of them. The first Church School was started in Jitra. Mr Daniel opened his house to have this ministry every Friday at 9.00 am. About 20 – 25 children actively attended this. Jitra Outreach worship service started on 26 June 1981. They gathered every week at Mr Daniel's, Mr Isaac David's or Mr Pandian's house.

From **1982 – 1985, Rev. S. Duraisingam** was the Pastor. In **1982** the Full Membership was 80. Weekly services were held at Jitra and monthly services at Arau. The church received a subsidy of RM300 from the Conference. In **1983**, a choir comprising of 20 young people was formed to enrich the worship. A youth, Mr. Alfred Samuel, applied for the fulltime ministry. In **1984** the subsidy received was RM 100. In **1985** the Full Membership was 79. From 1 March till June Mr. A. Selwyn, a Church Worker, gave pastoral leadership. The church was without any appointment for 2 months. During this time, the DS Rev. Tharmakan took care of the weekly worship services and other pastoral needs of the church.

From **1 September 1985 – 1990, Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was appointed Pastor-in-charge. Pulau Langkawi was also visited and worship services were held once in two weeks. In **1986** the Full Membership was 76 and rose to 83 in **1987**. As there was no one to take up the Church School ministry, this ministry did not function. But 'Children's Day' was observed. In **1988** the Church School was revived. They met on Fridays at 4pm. They had 15 children. MYAF was newly formed in July 1988. About 8 gathered regularly. They started three ministries on an experimental basis - English Reading Library, Tamil Reading Library and Video/Cassette Library. The Langkawi Outreach was initiated by Mr. and Mrs D. Daniel and Mdm. Santhosham Pakkianathan. They visited the needy and conducted the service twice a month. The Padang Besar, Arau, Jejawi and MADA Estate outreach work started as Mr D. Daniel encouraged a group of people to follow him in his own van to minister among the people there. They visited these places every Friday except on the 1st week.

In **1990**, the Full Membership dropped to 59. The church faced a crisis from March 1990 when some key leaders resigned and one left the church. They then had a completely new LCEC with young leadership. The DS and local church pastor, Rev. Devadass Ratnam noted: "...A shaking up from complacency has resulted and members are more conscious of their Christian lives and open to the Word of God."

From 1991 to 1993, Rev. Joseph Komar was the Pastor. In **1991**, the Full Membership was 59 and rose to 69 in **1992**. The church supported three young people for mission work. Two were with Youth With A Mission (Mrs. Jennifer Dharam and Mrs. Lorinda Alexandre) and one with Operation Mobilization (Mr. Edward David).

A believer, not a member of the church, donated a rent- free house for the pastor. The MYF and WSCS were not officially functioning. In **1993** the Full Membership rose to 79. MYF was officially formed in July. Outreach work continued in Padang Besar, Langkawi and Jitra. A place was rented for Prayer Cell and worship.

From 1994 – 1998 Rev. James Solamadan was the pastor. In **1994** there were twenty children in the Church School. A Tamil class was conducted for the children. A new Econovan was donated to the church by a believer from Kuala Lumpur. In **1995**, a monthly pastoral subsidy of RM 585 was received from the Conference. The church paid up all its commitments. In **1996** the Full Membership was 97. Though the church had 11 added through Confirmation, yet there were 11 removed through transfer. A Building Committee was formed with Mr. David Swamikanoo as the Chairman. The LCEC decided to put up the parsonage on the land allocated for them in the church compound. They had about RM 65,000 in the Building Fund.

In **1997** no services were held in Langkawi as the members had moved out. The church had about RM 71,000 in the Building Fund. In **1998** the MYF could not function from the beginning of the year because some key members of the group had moved outstation for study and work. But later, with the return of some youths, about 10 met regularly. The Full Membership was 86. It was 94 the previous year.

Finally a Parsonage of Their Own

In **1999, Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor-in-charge. Pastor James Ravindaren was the “Minister on Trial”. The Full Membership dropped to 77. This was due to the removal of 17 members through Local Conference Action. These members had moved out and settled in other towns and were worshipping in other churches. Their removal/transfer was made with the consent of the affected members. **From 2000 to 2002 Rev. A. James Ravindaren** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership rose to 86. Increase in membership was mainly through Confirmation. The church finally bought a building for their parsonage for RM 145,000. In **2002** the Full Membership rose to 92. There were two Cell Groups, one in Alor Star and the other in Kangar. The pastor played a vital role to restart the MYAF in the church. About 20 active church members took great efforts to organize multiple programmes in the church. The Church School conducted VBS at SJKT Paya Kemunting. Around 100 children including non-believers joined the VBS. This was a great achievement by the Church School.

Pastor’s Resignation Causes Major Church Crisis

In **2003 Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Anthony Panan assisting. A Korean Church in Penang came forward to help Kangar Outreach with the rental. The Korean Church considered Kangar Outreach as its Missions Project. In **2004 Rev. John Mark** was the Pastor till 1 September.

The Church went through a major crisis during his tenure and following his resignation from the Conference in early September. About 32 members of the Jitra Outreach withdrew their membership. Following them were a host of new converts, about 17 of them, who were waiting for baptism. Due to Rev. John Mark's resignation, the members who withdrew their membership started to worship independently. The Northern District pastors helped to conduct the worship in Alor Star, Kangar and Jitra. Rev. Mark Subramanyam, who was studying at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) Penang, also helped. The Korean Church in Penang continued to help the ministry in Kangar by contributing RM300 a month.

Few but Faithful

From **2005 – 2006 Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. The Full Membership in **2005** dropped to 69 as many members had withdrawn their membership in 2004. Participation in ministries was encouraging as all the remaining members joined hands in prayer to build the church again. In early 2006, Rev Barnabas resigned from the Conference due to personal reasons. Rev. Ezekiel and Ministerial Student Mr. Jeremiah Thomas, sacrificially helped to serve the church until the end of the year.

In **2007 Rev. Ezekiel Raj** was the Pastor and he was assisted by Pastor Stephen Gunaraja. The Full Membership was 78. New musicians and worship leaders were trained. VBS was conducted in Alor Star and 43 children attended. From **2008 – 2013 Rev. Stephen Gunaraja** was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership ranged from 43 in 2010 to 51 in 2011. There was a combined Vacation Bible School with Tamil Methodist Church Jerai in Jerai. The parsonage was repaired and the Conference gave a loan of RM 5,000. It was sold in **2009** for RM 200,000. During this time the pastor had a spinal bone medical condition and was on leave for two months. The church leaders and Northern District pastors took up the responsibilities to conduct the worship services. There were three active Cell Groups. In **2011**, the Kangar Outreach was blessed by the presence of a couple from India, Mr. & Mrs. Arun Jeritta, both PhD students at Unimap Perlis. They were a great help for the pastor in the ministry. Some students from the university started coming for the worship service. It is to be noted that TMC Alor Star have had students come to attend their services even before 2011. Though there was a shortage of lay leaders, which meant the pastor had to do more work, the local church acknowledged the contribution of the previous Lay Leader, Mr. Thamaraiselvam, who helped in developing the Kangar Outreach. Mr Paul Krishnan and Mr. and Mrs Arun helped the pastor to preach in the chapel and in Cell Groups during his absence. The pastor being single was able to accommodate and he worked hard. In **2012** the Jitra Outreach was closed due to the shortage of members. In **2013**, there were three active Cell Groups. The pastor, in his seven years of ministry, did much to improve the church.

From **2014, Rev. E. Kunabalan** was the Pastor. From 2014 to 2016, he was assisted by Church Worker, Mr. Ben Richard. From 2017 onwards he was assisted by Church Worker, Mr. Joshua Raj.

In **2014 and 2015**, it was reported that there was no Children's Ministry because there were too few children in the church. The Full Membership in **2016** was 53 and remained 53 in 2017. It increased to 61 in 2018. Mr. Ben Richard, the Church Worker, resigned from the ministry in 2016. Rev. Stephen Gunaraja, though on Voluntary Location, still helped the church.

In **2017**, there were three active Cell Groups. In **2018** the MYF organised Easter carolling, through which the youths spread the gospel to 19 non-believers' families. The church bought a parsonage for RM 390,000 in September. The attendance at the worship services increased.

In **2019**, Rev. Kunabalan is the Pastor. Mrs. Rosaline Gopal is the Lay Leader and the pastor, Rev. Kunabalan is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 61. There are 10 members in the MYF and 13 in the MW. The church still has no Children's Ministry because there are too few children. They are encouraged to work with the children they have. They have two Cell Groups.

Conclusion: The history of TMC Alor Star began in earnest at the end of the Second World War. Mr. Eliathamby played an important role in the purchase of the land and a house for the ministry. The work was first part of the North Kedah region as a Sungai Petani – Alor Star Circuit. The work grew and both Sungai Petani and Alor Star were established as individual Local Churches, often sharing the same pastor. Along with the many pastors and lay leaders was the faithful Mrs. Annamal Swamikan, the Bible Woman, who helped with the Church School and Estate ministry. Another faithful servant of God for many years was Mrs. Dora Thamboo who helped in the services by playing the piano. She also was looked upon as a mother-figure by many members and was a great encourager to the pastors. The church had faced many challenges and several members had moved on to other places and churches for various reasons. But those who stayed on have been faithful to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ. The work is steadily growing and by the grace of God and the commitment of the people, we will see the glory of God in TMC Alor Star in the days to come.

Sources:

1. Article by Mrs. Dora Thamboo
2. Article by Mr. Eliathamby
3. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC
4. Feedback Letter from the LCEC of TMC Alor Star"

PASTORAL ROLL

1925 – 1926	Rev. J.J. Jesudason
1927	Rev. V. Devasahayam
1928 – 1933	No information
1934 – 1936	Pastor C.M. Chacko
1937	Rev. Kingham Joseph
1938 – 1941	Pastor R. Zacharias
1942 – 1945	War Years
1946 – 1948	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1949 – 1964	Rev. D.K. Gnananantham
1965 – 1966	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1967	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1968	Rev. John Abraham
1969 – 1970	Rev. E.J. Thoraisingam
1971 – 1974 Apr	Rev. I.G. Sunderarajan
1974 May – 1975	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1976 Jan to Apr	Mr. Simon Chandran
1976 May	Mr. David Tharmakan
1976 June – 1977 May	Mr. A.E. Joseph
1977 June – 1981 May	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1981 June to Dec	Pastor Victor Vethamani
1982 – 1985 Feb	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1985 Sept – 1990	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1991 – 1993	Rev. Joseph Komar
1994 – 1998	Rev. James Solamadan
1999	Rev. A.E. Joseph
2000 – 2002	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2003	Rev. A.E. Joseph
2004 Jan. to Aug	Rev. John Mark
2005 – 2006	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
2007	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2008 – 2013	Rev. Stephen Gunaraja
2014 onwards	Rev. E. Kunabalan

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
Mr Peter Nyananantham	Mr Paul Peter David
Mr Paul Peter David	Mr Peter Nyananantham
Mr D. Daniel	Mr Ronald Stanley
Mr Noah Raman	Mr Daniel
Mr P. Muthiah	Mr Moses
Mr Paul Krishnan	Mr P. Muthiah
Mr Thamaraiselvam	Ms Rachael
Mdm Roseline	Rev Stephen Gunaraja
	Rev Kunabalan 2014- present



TMC Alor Setar children's church camp 2002



Confirmation Alor Setar

SENTUL

The Beginnings

There were no Tamil worship services for Methodist members living in the Sentul area until **1921**. Those who needed a Tamil worship service had to go to TMC KL, then situated in Malacca Street. Many found it difficult to travel. Thus TMC KL opened a Mission Hall in Sentul – a rented shop house. Mr. W.V. Nithcingham was the person in charge of the worship service and other related work. At this time a plot of land was acquired with the intention of constructing a Church Building. With this development, Sunday worship services, a Sunday school and Women's Work were carried out. Mrs. Abraham from the KL Church held Bible Classes for the women in Sentul. She also gave sewing lessons.

Worship Services in a Railway Quarters Home

From **1923 until 1925**, worship services were conducted at the Railway Quarters, in the home of **Mr. S.J. Davies**, a Railway Officer. He took charge of the worship services and his home was the temporary church. Those who attended the services were mostly South Indian Tamil Christians. The worship services were made meaningful by the enthusiastic singing. Until the end of **1924**, Mr. Davies was in charge of the small but growing congregation. After he left for India, the worship services were held in the homes of other members, with the help of Mr. S.M. Rajamoney.

New Church Building New Pastors

In **1926**, a church was built on a plot of land along Sentul Road in the New Railway Housing Scheme Area. A parsonage was attached to this new church. The first Pastor to this new church was **Rev. L.A. Samuel**. He was in charge until **1929**. He travelled to the surrounding estates for his evangelistic work. Mrs. Blasdell, Mrs. Urech and Mrs. L.A. Samuel assisted in the work of the Women's Society.

From **1930 to 1932**, **Rev. S.A. Philips** was the Pastor. Ministry in the estates continued. The Church School, Youth group and the Women's Work progressed. The new church made of brick was completed in **1933**. The old building was used for Church School classes, youth meetings and women's work. The pastor and his family continued living in the wooden parsonage attached to the old church.

Rev. N.G. Manickam was the next Pastor and he served from **1933 until 1935**. **Rev. S.A. Philips** was re-posted to Sentul in **1936** and he served for two years. From **1938 – 1939**, both **Rev. Philips and Rev. Paul Athimuthu** served together. In **1940**, Rev. Paul Athimuthu took over as the sole Pastor.

Through the Second World War and Beyond

During the Japanese occupation, **Rev. Ponniah** looked after the Church with the help of Local Preachers and Exhorters. After the War, **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was appointed Pastor in **1948**. From **1949 – 1950**, **Rev. M. Thangamuthu** was the Pastor.

He was a Tamil classical song composer and singer. He did a lot of evangelistic work in and around Sentul. From **1951 – 1952**, **Rev. J.A.P. Oswald**, the Principal

of the Methodist Boys' School, Sentul, was appointed the Pastor. In spite of the demands from his school duties, there was progress in all the different areas of the church ministry. From **1953 to 1955**, **Rev. John Abraham** was the Pastor. The church membership grew and the church building was renovated and extended. During this period, a new parsonage was underway and completed.

Going out to Minister

From **1956 to 1959**, **Rev. C.A. Watson** was the Pastor. He took along some youths to the Ulu Klang area and conducted Church School and Youth meetings. In **1959**, **Rev. Peter David** was appointed the Pastor. During this time there were many youth activities as the pastor was very popular with the youths. **Rev. S.A. Andar** became the resident Pastor from **1960 to 1966**. In **1960**, Mr. Koilpitchai, the Secretary of the Christian Literature Society of India, preached to a packed Church on 10 November. Many orders for religious books were made with him. In **1961**, the Church School had 65 children. About half the children were non-Christians. The Church School was conducted successfully under the guidance of Mrs. J.W. David. Five children were baptized. The MYF was revived and functioned well under the leadership of Mr. T. Victor. After Rev. Andar, **Rev. Peter David** returned as Pastor for a short period of seven months. From **1967 to 1971**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor. He did much evangelistic and social work. The church grew. In **1969**, the Full Membership was 114. In **1970** Rev. John took some youths of TMC Sentul to help him at TMC Bukit Rotan. He was also the pastor there.

From **1972 – 1974**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1972** the Full Membership was 129. He was also the pastor of TMC Tanjong Malim and went there twice a month to hold services. The church bought a new Yamaha electronic organ at a cost of about \$2,500 with the help of the WSCS. In **1973** the Full Membership was 129. A Church School was organised at the beginning of the year and there were about 30 children and 3 teachers. Miss Ruth Beckett conducted a training course for the teachers. In **1974** the Full Membership was 151. The WSCS bought furniture for the parsonage costing \$700. In **1975** the Full Membership was 179. From February **1974 – 1976 June**, **Rev. Eddie Thoraisingam** was the Pastor. He was then followed by **Rev. John Kovilpillai**, also in **1976**, for two month, in July and August.

Choir Ministry Extended to Other Churches

From 1976 September – 1982, **Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor. He brought revival to church music and worship. He was instrumental in building a strong choir, which was well known for its singing and the church was called as the "Singing Church." In **1977**, the choir sang in TMC Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Tanjung Malim. In **1978** the Full Membership was 180. Outreach work was carried out at the Ampang New Village. The local MYF successfully hosted the Conference MYF Youth Institute in Sentul. The church came forward to meet the whole salary of the pastor.

In **1979**, the church choir presented a special programme called ‘Christ and the Unstable Man’ in Kuala Lumpur, Seremban and Ipoh. In **1980**, the church presented their third Musical Presentation entitled, ‘The Word Became Flesh’ in Kuala Lumpur, Seremban and Ipoh. In **1981**, they had outreach work in Ampang, Puchong, Mindel and Sungai Way Subang. The Church Choir presented their fourth Musical Programme called ‘At Calvary’ in September. In **1982** the Full Membership was 195. The Trinity Annual Conference had through the Trustees handed the management of the playground leased from the Railways to the Tamil Church. The land adjoining the Sentul Parsonage was handed over by the Grace Methodist Church to the Sentul Tamil Church.

Two Youths Respond for the Fulltime Ministry

From **1983 to September 1985**, **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor. Two youths, Mr. Justin Clarence (1984) and Mr. Devarakam John (1985) responded to the call, to fulltime ministry. In **1984** the Full Membership was 206. Sunday worship service was at 9 a.m. and Friday Prayer Service was at 7:45 pm. The pastor revived the defunct Youth group at the end of 1983 with a Bible Study. The Plan for Church Extension was sent to the Town Planners on 9 July. The church Building Fund had about RM 100,000. In **1985** the Full Membership was 213. Rev. Devadass was the pastor till September. The MYF met on alternate Sundays in the church and about 15 youths attended. The Church School met on Sundays at 8:15 am in the M.B.S. (Primary) classrooms. A Young Adult Fellowship was organised. The proposed Church extension plan was not approved. The Building Fund had RM 121, 220.21.

Mission Support and Sending out Missionaries

From **October 1985 to 1991** **Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan** was the Pastor. In 1986, the Full Membership was 261. Sunday Worship Service was at 9:30 am. Bible Study was conducted for new believers, youth and church members. The MYF grew from 5 to 40 members. The church had a programme to help the poor and the needy by giving small loans. The Church identified Selayang, Batu Caves, Gombak, Serdang and Ampang as possible Outreach Points. The Building Plans were delayed as the Government wanted a portion of the land for road extension. They were then informed that the land was not required. In **1987** the Full Membership was 308. The pastor conducted systematic Bible study and about 30 – 40 persons attended. The Youth Bible Study was on Tuesdays. Video tape ministry was also started. The church spent about RM 2,580 on transport for the Church School children. Nine areas were identified for Cell-Groups and 13 persons were trained to take charge. A 35 member choir played an important role in assisting the worship. The church staged a variety concert to raise money for the Church Building Fund. The youth bible study group collected about RM 950 towards Missions and donated RM 100 each to two missionary organisations. Tithes increased from RM 21,000 to RM 39,000. Work on the Church Extension Building Project started in October 1987. The total cost of construction was RM 248,322.50. The extension included a new Church Hall and Toilet rooms adjoining it. The Parsonage was enlarged to provide a Dining Room.

In **1988** the Full Membership was 335. The pastor trained worship leaders to lead in the prayer and praise. The Church Extension programme was successfully completed and the building was dedicated to the glory of God on 23 April, 1988 by the Conference President, Rev. V. John Kovilpillai. The total cost of the project was RM 278,121.20 and money raised through donations and the giving of the members was RM 194,684.84. The pastor identified leaders and trained them for the Cell Groups. There were 9 cell groups and 17 leaders were trained. About 50 persons attended the Bible Study. The total cost of the Church Extension and Church Hall was RM 283,000.

In **1989** the Full Membership was 370, in **1990** it was 412 and 414 in **1991**. The church launched its first English Service on 15 September 1991. The Tamil Worship Service was at 8:30 am and the English Worship Service at 10:30 am on Sundays. The **church celebrated their 60th Church Anniversary on 11 August 1991** with an Anniversary Service. Bishop Dr. Denis C. Dutton graced the occasion and brought the Lord's Message. The Gospel Team went on a Ministry Tour to Kuantan and Tanjong Malim. During the Christmas Season of 1990, they ministered at Subang Parade.

Growing in Prayer, Worship and Study of God's Word

From **1992 – 1995**, **Rev. Daniel Pupalarajah** was the Pastor. He emphasized on prayer and worship, together with the study of God's Word. In **1992** the Full Membership was 437. A hostel project was initiated by the Social Concerns Committee. The church supported missions work in Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal in addition to the Sengoi Mission Work, Andaman Island Mission work and Individual Evangelists. To expose members to missions work, they were sent to Pakistan, Thailand, Medan and to the YWAM programme in Penang.

In **1993** the Full Membership was 464. A Junior Band, a Young Adult Fellowship and a morning watch at 5:30 am was started. The Building Plans were altered as required by the authorities for a 2 storey building and submitted for approval. In **1994** the Full Membership was 421. The church sent Miss Daisy Korinthiar as a missionary. The Building Plans for the 2nd Phase was rejected. In **1995** the Full Membership was 470.

From **1996 – 1998**, **Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor. He enhanced the worship and the music ministry of the church. He visited the church members regularly and related well with the youths. In **1996** the Full Membership was 496. The church sent out 10 missionaries to serve both locally and overseas. The Kajang and Old Klang Road Home Fellowships met fortnightly. Attendance varied from 10 to 12 people. The church bought a second van to help in the many ministries of the church. The church organised a Praise and Worship concert in which most of the district churches participated. In **1997** ministerial student Mr. Samuel Periathamby assisted. The Full Membership was 443.

The following were serving as missionaries of the church: Peter V. and Puspa (M.M.M.), Daisy Korinthiar (M.M.M.) Dass and Rani (Y.W.A.M.), James Maniam (Y.W.A.M.), Edwin and Shanti (M.M.M.), Shanti Latimer (Local Church Prayer coordinator), James Kumar (M.M.M. Coordinator). The church also contributed RM 2,000 monthly towards the work of missions. The church bought two units of condominium apartments in Sentul Perdana as investment for the purchase of property for worship in Ampang and Batu Caves. In **1998** Ministerial Student Mr. Samuel Periathamby continued to serve. The Full Membership was 449. The church continued to support mission work with RM2000 each month.

From **1999 – 2005, Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1999** the Full Membership was 403 (29 members removed by Local Conference Action). In **2000** the Full Membership was 417. The leaders were concerned that those who were confirmed did not show interest in the church after their Confirmation. The MYF faced some problems and were not meeting regularly. The pastor and the elders met the youths and resolved the issue. Mr. Aldrin, the ministerial student, helped the youth group. The church donated their second van to TMC Jerantut after spending about RM6,000 to repair the van.

In **2001** the Full Membership was 332. The church was concerned that many children did not attend the Church school, but chose to attend other nearby churches for convenience. In **2002** the Full Membership was 354. PMR, SPM and STPM students were honoured with cash gifts for their good performance. In **2003** Supply Pastor Reuben Rajandurai served from 1 August. The Full Membership was 373. The MYF was reorganised on 23 February and met fortnightly. They had 25 members. The condominiums purchased at Sentul Perdana were completed and the church took possession.

In **2004** Supply Pastor Reuben Rajandurai continued to serve. The Full Membership was 372. **M.S.F. was organised on 25 July.** Mr. N. Pandian was elected the President. There were 8 Cell Groups and more than 50 families attended. The condominiums were dedicated on 4 July 2004 by the Conference President Rev. P. Tevaraji. One unit was occupied by the Senior Pastor and the other was rented out. With the pastor moving to the condominium there was more space for ministry in the church. In **2005** Rev. Reuben Kanagalingam served as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership on 5 October was 405. The church was air-conditioned but still lacked basic facilities like a hall and meeting rooms. Bible study was conducted before the Sunday morning service.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

From **2006 – 2017**, for a period of 12 years, **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor. In **2006** the Full Membership was 374. The reduced number was due to the membership updating exercise. The Missions Committee supplied 300 bibles for an Indian village. New Ministries included Indian Christian Business Fellowship from June. This was held on alternate Fridays and about 5 to 10 attended.

The 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations: In 2006 three major events took place - Dynamic Life Conference from 28 – 30 July, Father Heart of God from 1 – 3 September and Thanksgiving Service and Dinner on 19 November. In **2007**, the Full Membership rose to 407. Weekend ministerial student was Mr. Kunabalan. The Missions Committee raised RM 5,649 for the purchase of bibles for Indian Villages. There were 55 children in the Church School in the main church, 15 in Kepong and 10 in the Ampang Outreach. There was a hospitality room at the old parsonage building. The church began ministry in Kepong with Mr. Joel Kumar as a worker.

Ministry Personnel Strengthened

In **2008** the following were the local church workers: Pastor Joel Kumar, Sis Sarah Nadarajah, Mr. Peter Anthony and Mr. Victor Alagesan. The Full Membership was 420. The church supported mission work in Orissa, Myanmar and Nepal. Orang Asli visits were done. Social Concerns ministry included the setting up of a Tuition Centre. The Christian Education Committee organized a library. There were three outreaches: Kepong (under Pastor Joel Kumar and 20-30 attend), Ampang (covered by Miss Sarah Nadarajah and 30 attend) and Cheras a (Joint Outreach with TMC KL).

The Joy of Giving Birth to a New Church after 80 Years

In **2009** the church added Ms. Shanti Latimer (Intercession) to their ministerial team. The Full Membership was 402. They helped to build a church in Orissa for RM 11,000 for the tribal people. Cheras was recommended to become a Local Conference in just 3 years. In **2010** the Full Membership was 346 after it was updated to 337 at the Second Local Conference. **The formation of Cheras as a Local Church on 27 March 2010, is the first for the Sentul church after 80 years of history.** The Sentul church faced the challenges of an economic and property boom in Sentul.

Involvement in the Social Needs of the Community

In **2011** the church had the assistance of ministerial student Mr. Ronald Rohendra Rao and Mr. Edward Maniam as a church worker. The Full Membership was 316. Through the “My Daftar Campaign” the church helped people with problems of Red IC, no IC and no Birth Certificates. The impact was tremendous to the extent that the Batu Caves Hindu Temple Committee asked the church’s help. Also, a Tamil Newspaper published an article about the church’s involvement in this project.

Development around the Church Poses New Challenges

In **2012** Mr Yesudass joined as Church Worker. The Full Membership was 328. The church considered giving up the present location and negotiated with YTL for an alternative site in Sentul itself. This is to be fully built with a church and ministry facilities. This was made known to the TAC leadership. In **2013** the Full Membership was 357.

Evangelism was done in Karak, Ampang and Kirubai areas. In **2014** the Full Membership was 364. Rev. Devadass underwent a triple bypass heart surgery on 20 January. He was on recovery leave till 31 May. There was some work among the migrant Sri Lankans. There was an urgent need for a fulltime worker in the Karak area. The church spent RM40,000 to upgrade their P.A. system.

In **2015** the Full Membership was 361. The Sri Lankan migrant ministry was organized. The Ampang Outreach work was done in two areas – Taman Cahaya and Bukit Belacan. The church contributed RM71,620 towards the Nehemiah Project of the TAC. The church strongly requested for a full time Assistant Pastor. In **2016** the Full Membership was 369. In **2017** the Full Membership was 349. After faithfully serving the Sentul church for 12 years, Rev. Devadass Ratnam retired at the end of the year. The Ampang work continued to grow with the placement of Mr. Clarence James as a worker.

Returning to Serve the Home Church

In **2018**, Rev. Justin Clarence was appointed the Pastor. Rev. Justin, who was sent for ministry by the Sentul Church, returned with much experience. In **2018** the Full Membership was 349. There were 10 active Small Groups and they met every first and third Tuesdays.

In **2019**, Rev. Justin Clarence is the Pastor. The Lay Leader of the local church is Mr. Mohan Moses and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Guna Arulalan David. The Full Membership is 318. The church has one Outreach Point in Ampang with 60 adults and 13 children. Mr. Clarence James is the Church Worker placed there. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (18), MYAF (21), MSF (63) and MW (57). There are 51 children, 5 teachers and 4 helpers in the Church School in Sentul and 14 children, 4 teachers and 3 helpers in the Ampang Outreach. The church has 4 Life Groups in Sentul, Ampang, Setapak and one MYF Group.

Conclusion: TMC Sentul was started because there was a need for the people in Sentul to have a Tamil worship service. Today the church has grown tremendously and is serving not only her members and those in the Sentul vicinity, but through the work of missions, they have reached out to many parts of the world. The church has produced the following pastors: Rev. Justin Clarence, Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert), Rev. Francis Loh (ELCM) and the late Rev. Francis Lawrence (TRAC). The church needs more in number, both in their pastoral team as well as their lay leaders to enable and ensure greater impact within the local church as well as in the society at large. This would then make the church to keep on moving to greater heights for the glory of God.

Sources:

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC
2. Local Church Souvenir Programmes
3. Local Church Feedback

PASTORAL ROLL

1926 – 1929	Rev. L.A. Samuel
1930 – 1932	Rev. S.A. Philips
1933 – 1935	Rev. N.G. Manickam
1936 – 1939	Rev. S.A. Philips
1940	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
War Years	Rev. Ponniah
1948	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1949 – 1950	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1951 – 1952	Rev. J.A.P. Oswald
1953 – 1955	Rev. John Abraham
1956 – 1959	Rev. C.A. Watson
1959	Rev. Peter David
1960 – 1966	Rev. S.A. Andar
1966	Rev. Peter David (7 months)
1967 – 1971	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1972 – 1974 Jan.	Rev. James Solamadan
1974 Feb. – 1976 June	Rev. Eddie Thoraisingham
1976 July – Aug.	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1976 – 1982	Rev. David Tharmakan
1983 – 1985 Sept.	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1985 Oct. - 1991	Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan
1992 – 1995	Rev. Daniel Pupalarajah
1996 – 1998	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1999 – 2005	Rev. James Solamadan
2006 – 2017	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
2018 onwards	Rev. Justin Clarence

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1930's	N/A	Mr. Ghandi
1950's		Mr. Kulasingam
1971		Mr. K.Pandian
1972 - 1984	Mr. James Thanasamy	Mr. K.Pandian
1985 - 1986	Mr. Manickam	Mr. K.Pandian
1987 - 1992	Mr. James Thanasamy	Mr. K.Pandian
1993 - 1994	Mr. James Thanasamy	Mr. Paul Packianathan
1995	Mr. James Thanasamy	Mr. Samuel Peter Gunalan
1996	Mr. James Thanasamy	Mr. Philomon Paul <i>(Vice Chairman) 95/96</i>
1997 - 2001	Mr. Philomon Paul	Mr. Samuel Peter Gunalan
2002 - 2003	Mr. N.Pandian	Mr. Samuel Peter Gunalan
2004	Mr .A.E.David	Mr. Samuel Peter Gunalan
2005	Mr. Mohan Moses	Mr. Samuel Peter Gunalan
2006 - 2012	Mr. Mohan Moses	Mr .A.E.David
2013	Mr. Chandran	Mr. Mohan Moses
2014 - 2019	Mr. Mohan Moses	Mr. Guna Arulalan David



TMC Sentul church front



TMC Sentul LCEC Group Photo - 2019

BUKIT ROTAN

The Early Years

The Tamil Methodist ministry in Bukit Rotan goes back to the 1920s. It is reported that **Pastor L.A. Samuel**, who served as the Pastor from **1939 to 1959**, organised Church school classes, youth meetings and worship services. He started a Tamil Vernacular School where he taught in the mornings. He held services in several estates and conducted open-air worship meetings. He baptised 83 converts and solemnised 76 Christian marriages. Travel was difficult, often on bullock-cart and there were tigers on the prowl. (Source: "In God's Light" biography of LA Samuel p. 8).

Church Building Needs Urgent Repair

In **1969**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai**, the pastor of TMC Sentul, was the Pastor in charge from May. The Full Membership was 38. In **1970** Rev. Kovilpillai visited twice a month along with a group of young people from the Sentul Church. The church building needed to be rebuilt and the congregation raised RM 500. The parsonage was rented for a monthly rent of RM 15.

Young Ministerial Students on Practical Breaks

From **1971 – 1973**, **Rev. Jacob Paul**, the pastor of TMC KL, was the Pastor in charge. The Building Fund amounted to \$ 1,671.30 at the T.P.A.C. Office and \$1,500 at the Methodist Headquarters. In **1972** TMCKL was actively involved in Bukit Rotan and they in turn carried out outreach work in Bukit Belimbing Estate. For the first time, three young people from Bukit Rotan attended the National Youth Institute – Daniel, Chandran and Simon. The Conference President, Rev. T.R. Doraisamy, initiated and kindly provided funds for them to attend the Institute. From **1 May**, Mr. Gabriel Jabanathan, a ministerial student, for his one year field work, was stationed in Monmouth Estate. He was instrumental in bringing new life to the church. Miss Ruth Beckett, an O.M.F. Missionary on secondment to the Tamil Conference, was involved in Church School Teacher Training.

In **1973**, this congregation made up of a small group of rubber tappers (membership 56) gave a total of \$1,816.51 for all causes. There were two outstation Church Schools run by them. Ms. Ruth Beckett continued to help train the teachers. Their Building Fund stood at around \$ 9,000. Mr. Gabriel Jabanathan brought to the church and the community a new impetus of the Spirit. Mr. P. Tevaraji, another ministerial student, ably continued to build and develop the work.

From **1974 – 1976**, **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj**, the pastor of TMC KL, was the Pastor in charge. The Full Membership was 68. Mr. Tevaraji completed his field work on 30 April 1974 and Mr. A. Simon Chandran, another ministerial student, began his field work on 1 May 1974. With the assistance of TMC KL, the Monmouth Estate Chapel was equipped with 12 pews and 1 pulpit.

The congregation enthusiastically cooperated in the renovation and extension of the Chapel and the repairing of the attap roof of the Bukit Rotan church building. The Building Fund stood at \$ 10,922.41 as on 30 September 1974. A Vacation Bible School was held for the first time in December 1973. Miss Beckett was a great help in training and preparing the teachers. In **1975** the Building Fund stood at RM 13,080.46 as of 30 September 1975. Efforts were made to secure the renewal of the land lease for 99 years. While continuing as an employee of the government, Mr. Victor Vethamani gave himself to the ministry in Bukit Rotan during the weekends.

From **1977 to 1978**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai**, the pastor of TMC KL, gave Pastoral leadership. Mr. S. Daniel, a Church School product from Bukit Rotan conducted regular Sunday worship services and Bible study classes. In the month of May, Mr. S. Duraisingam, another ministerial student from UBS India on one year practical break, served in Bukit Rotan. He and Mr. S. Daniel were actively involved in Estate Evangelism and visitation. In **1978** the Full Membership was 183. Mr. S. Daniel went to Johor Bahru for theological studies. Mr. Peter Jebasekaran, a prospect for ministerial training, assisted.

Youths Leaving For Job Opportunities

From **1979 – 1983** **Rev. David Tharmakan**, the pastor of TMC Sentul, was the Pastor in charge. In **1979**, the Full Membership was 128. The church found it difficult to get sufficient Church School teachers because of young people leaving for work in Kuala Lumpur. There was no news from the Trustees regarding the renewal of the lease for the Bukit Rotan land. The final plan for the building of a chapel in Monmouth Estate was already submitted.

In **1980** the Full Membership was 72. This lively congregation had the ministry of Rev. David Tharmakan who was also pastor of the Sentul congregation and the Conference Youth Director. The church WSCS hosted the first District WSCS Conference. Plans for a Chapel and Community Centre at Monmouth Estate were submitted to the authorities. The chapel at Monmouth Estate was arranged by the Local Council to be built by the Public Works Department according to approved plans.

A Local Called for Ministry

In **1981** the Full Membership was 78. Mr. Daniel Samikanu, a local lay worker helped in the outreach work in Bukit Rotan and in Batang Berjuntai. TMC KL supported this worker and the local church provided the transport allowance. The weekly bible study was attended by more Hindus than the church people in Elmore Estate. Plans submitted for approval for the new church building was held up at the Land Office for quite some time, pending the conversion of the land from Agricultural to Residential. This conversion was now approved.

They now waited for the approval of the Building Plan. RM 10,000 grant was given by the State Government to put up a Chapel at the Monmouth Estate. When plans were submitted to the Public Works Department, who were to put up this building, they found that the cost would be approximately RM 30,000. The District Officer applied to the State Government to increase the grant to RM 40,000.

Chapel at the Monmouth Estate

In **1982** the Full Membership was 79. Though the lease for the church land was extended for 66 years, the building plan was not passed yet. Several trips to the Kuala Selangor District Office and the office of the Assemblyman did not bring any solution. The Building Fund with Methodist H.Q. stood at RM 60,694.41. As for the chapel at the Monmouth Estate, with the church building just four miles away in the Bukit Rotan town, it was felt that it would be better to renovate the chapel with the RM 10,000 grant from the government rather than build a new and much bigger one as originally proposed. In **1983** the Full Membership was 82. The Building Plan was redrawn because the Town Council had taken 10 feet of the church's land for road widening.

From **1984 – 1985, Rev. Devadass Ratnam**, the pastor of TMC Sentul, was the Pastor in charge. In **1984** the Full Membership was 82. The final Building Plan documents for the church and parsonage on Lot 1, Sec. 2, Jalan Bukit Rotan, Kampung Rotan, District of Api-Api/Ijok were signed and submitted for approval. In **1985** the Full Membership was 86. The church was told verbally that the plan for the church building had been approved but was not informed officially. The amended plans were signed for the proposed church and parsonage.

From **1986 – 1987 Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan**, the pastor of TMC Sentul, was the Pastor in charge. In **1986**, the Full Membership was 84 (Damansara 21 and Bukit Rotan area 63). The church spent about RM1,200 to renovate the Chapel at Monmouth Estate and to extend the back to construct a sitting room, a bedroom and a kitchen for the worker to stay. Damansara was the church's Outreach where worship was conducted on Sundays at 7.30 pm. For the Bukit Rotan congregation, the worship services were conducted in the chapel at the Monmouth Estate. The Building Plan for the church and parsonage in Bukit Rotan were approved by the government. In the process of waiting, the lease for the land was renewed. In **1987** the Full Membership was 119. There were about 15 children in the Church School. They met in Nicol Garden Estate and there were six in Monmouth Estate. A kindergarten was started with the help of Rev. Kovilpillai and there were 10 children. The teacher was paid RM 250 salary and the rental was RM 100. The total construction cost for the Bukit Rotan Building Project was estimated at RM 105,000

Bukit Rotan Building Project

From **1988– 1990**, a new graduate **Pastor Arulandu**, took charge. The church in the Bukit Rotan town was to be the centre for the circuit covering members from the Kuala Selangor area, Bukit Rotan town, Monmouth Estate, Batang Berjuntai and Tanjung Karang. The Building Plans for the sanctuary and parsonage at the Bukit Rotan town were finally approved and tenders were called and the contract signed.

In **1988** the Full Membership grew to 146. Bukit Rotan congregation was one of the oldest churches in Selangor but was without a proper place of worship for many years. The present Building Project was initiated about 16 years ago and the people waited patiently and the Lord has blessed them with a beautiful church and parsonage. The total cost of the project was RM134,460. The money collected over the years was RM102,000. The balance amount to be raised was RM32,460. This balance was reduced to RM15,000 with the help of Rev. V. John Kovilpillai and Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam. The church applied for a loan of RM 15,000.

Looking Towards Kapar, Kuala Selangor and Tanjong Karang

In **1989** the Full Membership dropped to 128 because 28 members in Damansara were transferred to the Kuala Lumpur Outreach in Kg. Pinang. The pastor arranged for four bible classes in Bukit Rotan, Sg. Yu, Monmouth Estate and Batang Berjuntai. The church settled the Building Fund loan and received RM 10,000 from the Government. In **1990** the Full Membership was 120. Kapar was identified as a possible Outreach, together with Kuala Selangor and Tanjong Karang for future ministry.

Membership Dips

From **1991 – 1993 Rev. David Paul Raj** was the Pastor and he began his ministry from 1 December **1990**. The Full Membership was 131. Bible studies were conducted in Monmouth Estate (about 15-20 people attend on Fridays at 7.30pm) and in Batang Berjuntai (about 10-15 people attended on Wednesdays). In **1992** the Full Membership was 131. The church had an outreach ministry in Batu Belah. About 25 Hindus attended the meetings on Thursdays. The church was strong in the area of social concerns. They stored food to help the needy. Co-operative sale of cooking oil at a low price was started for members. In **1993** the Full Membership dropped to 98. The local authorities required 60 feet of the church's land for development purposes. The church asked for compensation.

Damansara Outreach Point Added

From **1994 to 2000 Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor. In **1994**, the Full Membership was 85 with about 70 in regular attendance. In **1995** the Full Membership remained at 85. From July, the Damansara Outreach Point of TMC KL was handed over to TMC Bukit Rotan. An Outreach ministry was started in Sekinchan. Though a small rural congregation, this church has ambitiously launched into three major projects: (a) Church Building Extension (b) Purchase of a van and (c) Purchase of a P.A. system. In **1996** the Full Membership rose to 143. At the Damansara Outreach, ministerial student Mr. Jevaratnam served. The

Full Membership was 43. The church bought a van. In **1997** the members in Damansara looked for a new place of worship as their present place might be taken over for development purposes. Student pastor Mr. Joseph Yesupatham served here. Though small and rural, the church had a vision to put up a new building costing RM600,000. In **1998** the Full Membership was 182. They started a Children's Worship Service.

In **1999** the Full Membership was 172 and in **2000** it was 176. The MYAF committed themselves to establish the Batu 16 Sungai Buloh Outreach ministry. The Damansara Outreach was blessed with a Church Building costing RM152,000 through the help of a loan from Mr. Anthony Row. Ministerial student Mr. Anthony Panan, gave encouragement and leadership in Damansara.

Sungai Buloh Outreach

From **2001 – 2002 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 179 and in **2002** it was 182. From **2003 – 2008, Rev. P. Sandireaseheran** was the Pastor. In **2003**, the Full Membership was 192. Though there were plans to make Kampung Kayu Ara a local church, it was deferred. In **2004** the Full Membership of TMC Bukit Rotan rose to 213. There were 7 Cell groups in Bukit Rotan and 5 groups in Kayu Ara. Sungai Buloh was declared as an Outreach of TMC Bukit Rotan. In **2005** the Full Membership was 127. A plan to upgrade and extend the church building was submitted at a cost of RM170,000. Until the church renovation work was completed, that is from April 2008 to March 2010, the congregation worshipped in a Chapel in Caledonia Estate which was given by the Estate Management. The Sungai Buloh Outreach co-ordinator was Mr. Jesudass Sinnappen. Regular attendance for Sunday service was about 15 people. There were Cell Groups in Kg. Baru Sg. Buloh/Mah Seng (Subang) and Bandar Baru (Sungai Buloh).

Thoughts of a Campus Ministry

In **2006** the Full Membership was 133. The extension work on the church building at RM170,000 was given a grace period of up to November 2006. In **2007** the Full Membership was 137. The church worked towards establishing a Campus Ministry. Some students from the University Selangor (Unisel) in Batang Berjuntai were ferried on Sundays to the church. The building plans were approved on 11 October 2007 and work on the RM170,000 church extension Project was to begin soon. In **2008** the Church worship services in Bukit Rotan was at 9 am. There was an average attendance of 85-100 people. The Sungai Buloh service was at 6 pm. with an average attendance of 25-30 people. The Full Membership was 146. The Small Groups met in Kuala Selangor, Bukit Rotan, Batang Berjuntai and Sungai Buloh and an average of 10 people gathered in every group. The Church School which met in Sungei Buloh at 5.30pm, had 7 children and a teacher. The church started an evening Church School in Kuala Selangor where 15 children met every Tuesday at 8 pm. The MSF in Bukit Rotan was formed on 13 April 2008. The church embarked on putting up a new worship sanctuary. The project took off in April 2008. The Caledonia Chapel was situated in the Caledonia Division (Batu Arang) of the Kuala Lumpur Kepong Group of

estates. It was given for their use in 2004 and the church has congregated in this chapel for worship since May 2008. In **2009 Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 141. Many ministries of the church were affected because of the delay in the completion of the building project (Sanctuary). The Full Membership was 137. The new building work completed in March 2010 at the cost of RM350,000 including the fittings. The worship in the new building took place on Easter Day April 4, 2010.

New Sanctuary Dedicated

From **2010 to 2012, Rev. S. Jevaratnam** was the Pastor. In **2010** he was assisted by Supply Pastor S. Selvaraj. The Dedication Service of the new sanctuary was held on 25 July **2010**. They also had a Fund Raising Dinner after the Dedication Service. Pastor S. Selvaraj, with his experience, gave able leadership and settled a number of unfinished businesses. In **2011** the Full Membership was 136. Ministerial student Mr. Samuel Manokaran Jacob served for a year. The church formed a Pro Tem Committee for Sungai Buloh Outreach. In 2012, he was assisted by Rev. David Tharmakan.

Reconciliation Service

From **2013 to 2014, Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 132. In **2013** it was 133. There were challenging situations between the church leadership and the pastors due to the Building Project. In view of this, a reconciliation service was held on 8 September 2013 between the church and three former pastors, namely Rev. Sandireaseheran, Rev. Anthony Panan and Rev. Jevaratnam and their families. This is commendable for the church leaders acknowledged and did the needful to keep the unity of the church.

Single storey corner terrace house a “gift”

A single storey (corner terrace house) was given as a “gift” to the church by Mr. Balraj (a member of Bukit Rotan). In **2014** the Full Membership was 156. The Friday ministry was affected after the pastor fell ill but it still continued. Rev. David Tharmakan had a bypass surgery and was on leave for about two months. The church had a successful Fund Raising Dinner to raise money to buy a van. It was also to pay back all the loans they took for their Building Fund.

From **2015 to 2017, Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor. In **2015** Rev. S. Krishnan was appointed to help Rev. A.E. Joseph. The Full Membership was 158. From **2016 – 2018**, Lay Pastor Jeyaseelan John was appointed to help the pastor-in-charge. In **2016** the Full Membership was 159. There were plans to develop Tasek Puteri into an Outreach Point by 2017/2018. In **2017** the Full Membership was 154.

In **2018 Rev. Vinsant Rayar**, the pastor of TMC Klang, was the Pastor in charge. Lay Pastor Jeyaseelan continued to help. In **2018** the Full Membership was 142. The church planned to start a Preaching Point/Outreach ministry at Bestari Jaya & Tasek Puteri.

In **2019**, **Rev. Jonathan Jesudas**, is the Pastor-in-charge. He is assisted by Lay Pastor P.P. Abraham. The Full Membership is 142. There are a total of 7 Cell Groups in these places: (a) Taman Bukit Rotan, (b) Kuala Selangor, (c) Shah Alam & Kapar, (d)Bestari Jaya, (e)Tasik Puteri, (f) Sg. Buloh, (g) Kota Damansara. They have one Outreach work in Sungai Buloh and one Preaching Point in Tasik Puteri. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (21), MYAF (42), MSF (28) and MW (37). There are 40 children and 7 teachers (inclusive of helpers) in the Church School.

Conclusion: TMC Bukit Rotan has a long history going back to the 1920s. In those days travel was difficult (bullock cart) and dangerous (tigers could be following). Much has changed since then. From a Full Membership of 38 in 1969, after 50 years it is now 142. There were three Church Buildings: first was dedicated in 1929, the second in 1988 and the third in 2010. The ministry has expanded, reaching out to the surrounding towns and estates. The active Cell Group ministry is an indication of the church's keenness to provide spiritual nurture to the members. This, together with active agencies and Children's Ministry, shows the bright future of this church.

Sources:

1. "In God's Light" LA Samuel
2. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1926	Pastor Devasahayam
1927 – 1929	Pastor Rajamoney
1930 – 1934	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1935 – 1938	Pastor Isaac Manickam
1939 – 1959	Pastor L.A. Samuel
1960	Pastor D.D. Abraham
1961 – 1963	Pastor D.A. Chelliah
1964 – 1970	Pastor D.D. Abraham (<i>Part Time</i>)
1969 – 1970	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1971 – 1973	Rev. Jacob Paul
1974 – 1976	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1977 – 1978	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1979 -1983	Rev. David Tharmakan
1984 – 1985	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1986 – 1987	Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan
1988 – 1990	Pastor Arulandu
1991 –1993	Rev. David Paul Raj
1994 – 2000	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2001 – 2002	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2003 – 2008	Rev. P. Sandireaseheran
2009	Rev. Anthony Panan
2010 – 2011	Rev. Jevaratnam
2012 – 2014	Rev. David Tharmakan
2015 – 2017	Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph
2018	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2019	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1939 - 1940	Mr. Peter Asirvatham	N/A
1941 -	Mr. Samikannu	N/A
1955 - 1960	Mr. Sundram Manickam	N/A
1973 -	Mr. John	N/A
1987 - 1992	Mr. George Samikannu	Mr. Christopher Yesupatham
1993	Mr. George Samikannu	Rev. David Paul Raj
1994 - 1995	Mr. George Samikannu	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
1996 - 2000	Mr. Sinnappen	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2001	Mr. Sinnappen	Mr. Anthony Das
2002 - 2003	Mr. Tamil Chelvam	Mr. Anthony Das
2004 - 2009	Mr. Sargunawaran	Mr. Anthony Das
2010 - 2012	Mr. Anthony Das	Mr. Jesudass Sinnappen
2013 - 2014	Mr. Raymond	Mr. Jesudass Sinnappen
2015 - 2017	Mr. Jesudass Sinnappen	Mr. Anthony Das
2018	Mr. Anthony Das	Mr. Jesudass Sinnappen
2019	Mr. Thavethu Rajan	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas

RAUB

Unclear Beginnings

The ministry among the Tamil Methodists in Raub dates back to **1927**, but no detailed records are available. From **1938 to 1947**, **Rev. M. Thangamuthu** was the Pastor. On 31 December 1940 the Full Membership was 22. From **1942 – 1945** there are no reports because of the Second World War. In **1948** **Rev. K. J. Timothy** was the Pastor. The Statistics Report does not mention Raub as a separate local church. In **1949** Raub is mentioned in the Statistical Report but no figures were given. In **1951** there were 32 Full Members. From **1952 to 1954** **Rev. G.D. Thambidorai** was the Pastor. In **1952** the Full Membership was 30 and in **1954** it was 39. In **1955**, **Rev. Chelliah** was the Pastor.

West Pahang Circuit

From **1956 to 1962** **Rev. S. Ratnasamy** was the Pastor. In **1956** the Full Membership was 69. From **1957** Raub was part of the **West Pahang Circuit** of the MAC. In **1958** the Full Membership was 55, and in **1959** it was 57. In **1959**, Bentong was separated from Raub and joined the congregation in Mentakab. In **1960** the Full Membership of this Circuit was 64, in **1961** it was 59 and in **1962** it was 60. The members were spread from Kuala Lipis to Mentakab, a distance of about 110 miles. The pastor had a difficult task of covering the area every month and Miss Mitchell's car was a great help.

Raub with Cheroh, Bentong and Kuala Lipis

From **1963 to 1965** **Rev. John Abraham** was the Pastor of the West Pahang Tamil Circuit which included Raub, Bukit Dinding Estate, Cheroh Estate, Sabai Estate, Edensor Estate, Bentong and Kuala Lipis. In **1964**, the Full Membership was 70. Rev. Abraham's work was like the "Chaplaincy". He made periodic visits to the different places and conducted prayer meetings or worship services. In **1965** the Full Membership was 74. Church Schools were held in Raub, Cheroh, Bukit Dinding and Kuala Lipis with a total enrolment of 65. The people were from the lower income group so provision of items such as used clothing, flour, and milk powder were given. Yet the people gave sacrificially. The giving was as follows: 1962 – RM602, 1963 – RM853, 1964 – RM1294, 1965 – RM1362. Mr. Edward Pachymuthu came into the Circuit and provided able leadership as the Official Board Chairperson.

In **1966**, **Pastor Joseph Devasagayam** was the Pastor. There was work among the Tamil women and children in Raub and in the surrounding estates. A WSCS was formed. The Full Membership was 73. The pastor and laymen cleared the 2 ½ acre hill behind the parsonage and planted hill paddy. The proceeds from the harvest was for the Building Fund for the construction of a multi-purpose building on the hill. A successful Variety Concert was organised in September to boost this Fund.

Indian Missionary Pastor

From **1967** **Rev. Donald M. Smith** gave Pastoral leadership. In May, Raub welcomed **Rev. & Mrs. Francis Sunderaraj** and their daughter Maliga from India. Since the departure of the Smith family, they gave pastoral leadership to both the Tamil and English congregations. They initiated a Tamil and English congregation, a Tamil class and an Intermediate Youth Fellowship. The Full Membership was 88. In **1969** **Rev. A G. J. Rasanayakam** was the Pastor. In **1969**, the Full Membership was 25 and in **1970** it was 37. Rev. Rasanayakam covered Raub, Cheroh and Kuala Lipis. He met with an accident at the end of October 1970, and his left hand was fractured. He was excused from attending the Conference. Part of Raub's parsonage was used to house the Wesley Kindergarten at a monthly rent of RM 40.

Low on Finance

In **1971 and 1972**, the Pastor was **Rev. S. A. Andar**. The Full Membership was 58. The District provided the pastor with a Honda motorcycle. The pastor preached twice a month in Kuala Lipis, 38 miles away and twice a month in the Cheroh and Gali Estates. He was ably assisted by Mr. Shanthosham, a lay preacher. There were 4 Church Schools. In **1972** the Full Membership was 63. The women and youths ran a Merdeka Stall and raised funds to clear debts and boost the Church Funds. In **1973 and 1974** **Rev. E. J. Thoraisingam** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 69. The MYF met weekly in the Cheroh Estate Chapel. The church spent RM1,100 towards the renovation of the parsonage. Evangelistic meetings were held at the Dewan Jubilee, Raub with the Bagavathar Vethanayagam Sastriar on 10 & 11 July and on 12 July at Kuala Lipis. TPAC President, Rev. T.R. Doraisamy visited the Raub church on 25 February and the children of the Cheroh Estate welcomed him with the traditional Tamil Dance 'Kummi'. In **1974** the Full Membership was 69. The members of the churches in Raub and Kuala Lipis attended the Evangelistic Meetings by Dr. G. D. James from May 27 – 31. Rev. S. A. Andar who served this circuit as pastor, passed away on 21 March 1974. Mr. S.M. Sadagopan served from 1 May. Irregular members came back to church.

Theological Students Help

In **1975** the Full Membership was 66. The Raub Circuit was served by three theological students: (1) Mr. S.M. Sadagopan – from October to November 1974, (2) Mr. Vincent Jeyaraj – from January to April 1975 and (3) Mr. Jacob David – from May to September 1975. The Raub Circuit had four Preaching Points which were Kuala Lipis, Cheroh Estate, Sg. Bilut Estate and Jerantut. There were two MYF groups, one at Cheroh Estate and the other at Raub. They worked hard to earn about RM500 to send about 10 youths to the MYF Institute at Kuantan. From May **1977** **Pastor Jacob David** served the Raub/Lipis Circuit. Mr. Anthony Row, a ministerial student, served for seven months.

Raub/Lipis Circuit

From **1978 to 1984** **Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the Pastor of the Raub/Lipis Circuit. In **1978**, the Full Membership was 78. The Cheroh Estate Building Repair Fund

stood at RM195. In **1980** weekly services were held in Raub and Cheroh. In **1981** the Full Membership was 92. In **1982** there was a revival and 11 people were brought to faith. In **1983** the Full Membership was 100. Mr. Timothy Ria Rajah helped. Worship services were held in the MGS Primary School. The church was self-supporting.

From 1985 – December 1992 Rev. Daniel Poopalarajah was the Pastor of the Raub/Cheroh Circuit. In **1985** TMC Mentakab, being themselves a year old as a local church, reached out to Bentong, which then became their Outreach Point. In **1986** the Full Membership was 99. In **1987** and **1988** Mr. K. Jayabalan was placed as the Outreach Worker. The Full Membership was 150. There were nine cell groups organised in the Raub and Cheroh area. They had a “Prayer Tower” but only a few came to pray. On 1 May a one-day Teachers’ Training was organised. A total of 20 participants came from Raub, Cheroh, Kuala Lipis and Budu Estate.

Five Outreaches of Raub

The following Outreach Points came under the Raub Local Conference: (a) Cheroh – 10 miles (b) Kuala Lipis - 40 miles (c) Budu Estate - 25 miles (d) Benta Estate - 20 miles (e) Selborne Estate - 30 miles (f) Dura Estate - 50 miles. The Estate Management in Budu gave the church a small building in the estate to be used as a chapel. Renovations were made and the building was dedicated as the Budu Methodist Chapel on Monday 8 June 1987 by Rev. John Kovilpillai, the Conference President. The land approved for the building of the Tamil Methodist Church was fenced and funds were raised for the building. In **1988** the Full Membership was 165. The church continued to use the parsonage for worship services and other activities. They decided to put up a larger building with various other facilities at a cost of RM150,000. The Management of the Cheroh Estate did not give permission to rebuild the church in Cheroh. The members became weary of waiting. The Cheroh members met in the home of a member.

In **1989** the Full Membership was 175. Building plans for a church in Raub was submitted to the Raub Town Council for approval. The church raised RM25,000 towards the RM150,000 Project. The pastor Rev. Daniel Poopalarajah met with a bad motor accident on 21 April 1989. He was on medical leave for two months. The lay members assisted in all areas of the church work.

Cheroh Became a Local Conference

In **1990** the Full Membership was 88. The Worship Service was at 9 a.m. in the parsonage and about 70 attended. The Church Worker Yesudason was beaten up by some persons while returning from ministry. He was badly hurt and a leg was broken. The Fraser’s Hill Service was started on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m. and about 10 attended.

The Church school had 35 children. **52 members were transferred to Cheroh, when they became a Local Conference in January 1990.** In **1991** the Full Membership was 75. The church Building Plan was not approved by the D.O. The pastor offered his parsonage hall to be used for the Sunday worship.

The number of worshippers increased and they decided to renovate and extend the parsonage hall. The total cost was about RM15,000. The church raised about RM5,000 and appealed for RM10,000 from the Conference. In **1992** the Full Membership was 77. They had prayer huts at the back. The Raub Town Council rejected the church's sanctuary project. The Parsonage Hall was renovated and extended to accommodate about 150 people. The well-furnished sanctuary cum parsonage was dedicated on 21 November 1992 by Rev. David Tharmakan.

Raub Bible School

From **December 1992 to 1995**, **Rev. C. Paul Arputharaj** was the Pastor. The Church Worker was Mr. Ezekiel Govindarajoo. In **1992** the Full Membership was 100. There were six Outreach Points. In **1994** the Full Membership was 106. A program "Raub Bible School", attracted leaders from Raub, Cheroh and Lipis. 15 took part in this, which aimed to train lay leaders. The Budu Estate Management gave a new building for worship in the estate. The main service continued in the Kuala Lipis Wesley Church. They had a huge arrears of – RM4,750 and wanted a review of the Conference Commitment Fund for Raub. They had about RM5,000 for their Van Project. In **1995** the Full Membership was 71. They had a Fund Raising Dinner which brought in RM10,000.

In **1996** **Rev. Jayabal David** was the Pastor. In **1996** the Full Membership was 61. Missions work among the Orang Asli was done in Sg. Kelang. The church van was beyond repair and they needed to buy a good van. The WSCS contributed RM1,000. An understanding with regards to the land demarcation was established. The parsonage was used as a church and was shared by the MGS Primary, TRAC church and TAC. In **1997** the Full Membership was 61. **Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. The pastor went in the church van daily as early as 5 am to bring members to church and send them home. A chapel was built for the Orang Asli people and the TAC President, Rev. David Tharmakan, dedicated it. The earlier van was sold and a newer van bought. 3 non-Christians and 36 Orang Asli were baptized. The church applied to the Majlis for a separate entrance. They intended to construct a church by itself on their huge land instead of their present annex.

Kuala Lipis Came Under Cheroh

From **1998 to 2000**, **Rev. Elanko Kannan** was the Pastor. In **1998** the Full Membership was 63. The D.S. came on second Sundays, to conduct the Communion Service and the LCEC meetings. The church established a Death Fund and thus the cemetery was regularly attended to. A new access road for the use of TMC Raub alone was constructed. The Government gave RM2,000.

The ground in front was levelled and made ready for the new church building. There was a leadership crisis due to the sudden exodus of key LCEC members. In **1999** the Full Membership was 58. The members from the Kuala Lipis outreach were removed as they came separately under TMC Cheroh. Some leaders left looking for jobs. Finance was low as some members were not tithing. In **2000** The Full Membership was 59.

From **2001 to 2004 Rev. Moses Jayaseelan** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 57. The Building Project was initiated and pledges received. Raub organised the First District Family Day Games Carnival and about 300 adults and children participated. The TAC President attended the Closing Ceremony, together with Rev. Francis Sunderaraj the former pastor of Raub and Cheroh. In **2002** the Full Membership was 61. The Gethsemane Prayer Tower was dedicated. In **2003** the Full Membership was 68. A second hand van was purchased from TMC Kuantan. Many young people left for further studies or work elsewhere. In **2004** the Full Membership was 72. The Worship Service time was changed from 8 am to 9 am from August 2004. Five new families were added into the church.

From **2005 to 2008 Rev. Samuel Periathamby** was the Pastor. In **2005** the Full Membership was 66. Sunday Worship Service was changed back to 8 am. In **2006** the Full Membership was 74. 27 people received baptism on 11 April 2006. In **2007** the Full Membership was 83. In **2008** the Full Membership was 82. The Cell Group Ministry was held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in 6 different places. About 15 people were trained to lead in this ministry. From **2009 to 2010 Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the Pastor. In **2009** the Full Membership was 88. A VBS was held with about 80 children, of which 80% were non-Christians. The church altar was renovated for RM5,000. The church finance had a surplus of RM7,154. In **2010** the Full Membership was 87.

Children's Ministry Touches Non-Christian Parents

From February **2011 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the Pastor and he was assisted from March onwards by Mr. Joseph Ambrose, a ministerial candidate. The Full Membership was 86. Rev. Jonathan came once a month to preach, conduct the Holy Communion service and to chair the LCEC meetings. Mr. Joseph Ambrose was stationed in Raub and carried out all the church ministries. They received as donation items: A Yamaha P.A. system with speakers, a speaker stand, a rhythm guitar, a guitar amplifier and hymn books. They also received RM2,000 from Dato Ng Yen Yen, the Member of Parliament for Raub. In **2012 Rev. Joy Pandian** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 92. The Hindu children who came to the Church School sang songs and prayed for their parents at home.

Building Construction Disrupts Church Programme

From **2013 to 2018 Rev. Doraiseelan John** was the resident Pastor for six years. In **2013** the Full Membership was 100. There was a lack of men's participation in the church. In **2014** the Full Membership was 111. There was a change among the men and they gathered monthly in the homes for prayer. The LCEC prayed for 15 – 30 minutes before their meetings. Through the Social Concerns Committee, the floor of an Old Folk's home was cleaned and the grass cleared. The building construction disrupted the normal programmes of the church. They used the facilities of the Orang Asal church in Raub. The church renovated the church/parsonage located at Jalan Cheroh at a cost of RM150,000. The church raised funds through a Dinner Project.

The Conference gave them the 2014 Dedication Sunday Offertory and some money from the Development Fund. Work completed included the sanctuary, a hall for fellowship, a public toilet, a baptismal pool, an extensive corridor, a veranda and a concrete roof for the parsonage.

Road Works around Church and Parsonage

In **2015** the Full Membership was 116. The Dedication Service of the building was held on 26 April. The approach road was tarred. The church thanked Mr. Amarjeet the District Council Engineer who made this possible. Some extra funds were used to tar the road that goes to the parsonage. The wall around the canteen was erected by church members. The roof of the canteen was elevated to prevent leakage. The church financially supported Cheroh with RM500 from July. The church and parsonage renovation was completed on 26 April 2015 at a cost of RM250,000.

In **2016** the Full Membership was 115. There was a seminar on “The Status of Gangsterism in the Indian Community” by ASP Jonathan. A “Mentor Mentee” program was conducted for the church school. In **2017** the Full Membership rose to 121. A garage was built for the school teachers with parking charges and a wall around the canteen. In **2018** there was a membership update and the non-attending members were visited and notified of their responsibility. Full Membership dropped to 103. The Prayer Tower was rededicated on 19 August 2018 by the TAC President Rev. Dennis Raj. The roof timbers of the parsonage were changed due to a termite attack.

As of **2019**, **Rev. V. Vijaiadas** is the Pastor. The Lay Leader is Mr. Pratahp and Mr. Kalaiselvan is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership of the church is 103. There is no Outreach nor Cell Groups. There are 12 members in the MYF and 24 in the MW. The newly formed MSF and MYAF have members as follows: MSF (34) and MYAF (16). There are 30 children and 4 teachers in the Church School.

Conclusion: TMC Raub was part of a larger Circuit, which included Cheroh and Bentong. In 1985, Bentong became an Outreach of Mentakab. Cheroh became a Local Conference in 1990. Accordingly the Full Membership decreased. In 1989 it was 175 and in 1990 it was 88. The church is in the process of consolidating their ministries. The fact that they have built the Agencies, especially in this year is an indication that they are serious about their effort to build their church. With God’s enabling power they can look ahead to brighter days of church growth for the glory of God.

Sources

Methodist Journals MAC, TPAC and TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1938 – 1947	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1948	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1952 – 1954	Rev. Thambidurai
1955	Rev. Chelliah
1956 – 1962	Rev. Samuel Ratnasamy
1963 – 1965	Rev. John Abraham
1966	Pastor Joseph Devasahayam
1967	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj (8 months)
1967	Rev. Joseph Devasahayam
1968 – 1970	Rev. A. G. J. Rasanayagam
1971	Mr Samuel Ratnasamy (briefly)
1971 – 1972	Rev. Andar
1973 – 1974	Rev. E. J. Thoraisingam
1975 May – Dec	Mr. Stanley Sadagopan
1976	Mr. Anthony Row
1977	Pastor Jacob David
1978 – 1984 June	Rev. Sunderaraj
1984 July to Dec.	Rev. Samuel (six months)
1985 – 1992	Rev. A.P. Daniel
1992 Dec – 1995	Rev. C. Paul Arputharaj
1996	Rev. Jeyabal David
1997	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
1998 – 2000	Rev. Elanko Kannan
2001 – 2004	Rev. Moses Jeyaseelan
2005 – 2008	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2009 – 2010	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2011	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2012	Rev. Joy Pandian
2013 – 2018	Rev. Doraiseelan John
2019	Rev. Vijaiadas Vedanayagam

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2005 - 2009	Mr. Gabriel	Mr. Francis
2010 - 2013	Mr. Manikam	Mr. Francis
2014	Mr. Manikam	Rev. Doraiseelan John
2015	Mr. Manikam	Mr. Kalaiselvan
2016	Mr. Thevasagayam	Mr. Kalaiselvan
2017 - 2019	Mr. Prathap	Mr. Kalaiselvan

JOHORE BAHRU

Unclear Beginnings

Up to the point of writing, there is no clear data as to when exactly the Tamil Methodist ministry in Johore Bahru began. Records show that during the early years the church growth was so slow that the DS thought of possible joint ministry with the Presbyterian Mission (MAC Journal 1952 January). The Tamil congregation was under **Rev. George Stephens**. He appealed for help from the Singapore churches to serve his local church as well as conduct religious work among the pupils of his school.

Slow Beginnings in the 1950s

In January 1953 it was reported that the church did not have a suitable place for worship service. The membership was small and there was a lack of interest in the work of the church. The **Rev. V.A. Chelliah** did what he could under distressing circumstances (DS Theodore Runyan). **In 1957**, Rev. Stephens, conducted Sunday worship services in his school – the Union English School. There were 22 Full Members. Rev. Stephens, a Full Member of the Annual Conference, requested for Location but was willing to serve as a supply pastor till a suitable pastor was appointed.

Smallest Congregation with a Membership of 5

In 1961, **Mr. B.A. Thangaraj**, a trained young man from the Ipoh Seminary, worked with Rev. Stephens. Wesley Seremban kindly provided his house rent for ten months. **Rev. Rasanayagam** was a willing worker but was greatly handicapped by lack of transport. Yet, by bus and on foot, he covered a wide circuit in Johore. (MAC Journal 1961 p. 50). **In 1969** the District Superintendent reported Johore Bahru as the preaching centre without a local conference. The services were being held at the Johore Tutorial College till the end of October 1969. The **1970 TPAC Journal**, reported Johore Bahru as: “Smallest of all the congregations in this District with a membership of 6 adults and 12 children...” There was no WSCS, Sunday School, MYF or Official Board.” **In 1971** the adult membership was five.

Help from Singapore

In 1972, regular Sunday services were conducted with the help of a layman Mr. Philip Jesudoss from the Short Street Church. Only on the 2nd Sunday of every month, did the pastor go to conduct Holy Communion Service. The Church paid Conference Commitments in full. **In 1973**, laymen from the Tamil church in Sembawang, Singapore, helped in conducting worship services. **In 1974**, under the leadership of the dedicated layman from Short Street Tamil church, Mr. Philip Jesudoss, the church made remarkable progress in attendance and stewardship. Some began to tithe. **In 1975**, the Full Membership increased from 10 to 14. Attendance at Sunday service varied from 20 to 25. Members began tithing and even children paid pledges from their pocket money.

Mr. Philip Jesudoss gave pastoral help. Five days of evangelistic meetings were held with Evangelist Jeevananthan from India. In **1977**, Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts of Singapore gave pastoral guidance and supervision. Singapore took this work as its outreach programme from **1976 – 1978**. This arrangement could not continue due to an immigration policy concerning preachers.

Johore Bahru Receives More Ministry Attention Locally

In **1979**, Brother Daniel and the District Superintendent made a few visits to this church. In consultation with Rev. Dorairaj of the Tamil Bible Institute, Johore Bahru, Miss Kirubah Samuel was requested to help with the church services. Mr. Solomon Abraham, a student from Trinity Theological College, Singapore, did his practical work and took charge of worship services. This however was not possible in 1980, due to his work load. Miss Kirubah continued to help with the church services. Rev. Noel conducted the Holy Communion Services.

Help from Pastor in TMC Kluang

Pastor AE Joseph, the Pastor at TMC Kluang, started his ministry from **June 1981**. Worship services were held every Sunday in the Wesley Church. The pastor conducted one worship service a month and the lay people helped on the other Sundays. From **July 1982**, **Pastor Solomon Abraham** started his ministry. In **1984**, with the increase in church attendance and giving, the church was able to take Miss Kirubah Samuel as the Church Worker. The TAC WSCS gave a subsidy towards her allowance. Revival meetings by Brother Sadhu Chellapa were well attended and appreciated. The average church attendance in **1985** was 13. Outreach work was done by Miss Kirubah in Masai, Pasir Gudang, J.K.R. Quarters and the Sungei Tiram Rubber Estate.

Rev. Victor Vethamani, who was stationed in Kluang, took charge from **January 1986**. He conducted the worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, while Kirubah the other two Sundays. Holy Communion Service was every 4th Sunday. Bible Study was started and held on Saturday nights in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andy. There was a church picnic and about 40 went to Kota Tinggi waterfalls on 8 April. A Combined Easter Sunrise Service with the Wesley and Chinese Methodist churches was held. For the first time an all-night prayer was held on 7 June. About 20 attended and found it very meaningful. The Tamil Settlement Musical Band conducted a meaningful musical service in February.

First Time a Resident Pastor

Rev. Emanuel Rajahser took charge from **January 1987**. He was also the pastor of the Kluang church. The worship services were held alternately on Fridays and Sundays. A choir was formed. Fasting and prayer was held every week on Thursdays. Due to poor response, the WSCS stopped meeting. At the outreach ministry in Pasir Gudang, services were held twice a month. In **1988**, for the first time the church had a resident pastor, when Rev. Emanuel Rajahser was appointed the sole Pastor of Johore Bahru. A man with a big vision, he brought a new sense of identity and confidence. He personally trained his members to do the various ministries.

A New Rented Premise Saw Church Growth

The Church moved to a new premise for their weekly worship service. This was made possible by a very generous donor. About 50 – 60 people attended services and the number was increasing. There were **five cell-groups** where weekly Bible Study and prayer sessions were conducted. The WSCS was revived with the assistance of Mrs. Jean Kovilpillai, the Conference WSCS President. About four families met at the Pasir Gudang Outreach. Four evangelistic meetings were held and there was good response from the members. The church experienced good numerical growth with an addition of 30 new members. There were also 17 Affiliate Members and 40 Preparatory Members. However, as both the place of worship and parsonage were rented, a major part of the church income was spent on rental of properties.

Reaching out to Pasir Gudang and Kulai

In **1990**, worship services were held on Sundays at 6.30 pm in a rented place. An average of 70 adults attended the worship service. Outreach ministries were held in Pasir Gudang and Kulai. The weekly service in Pasir Gudang was held on Fridays in the homes of members. There were about ten families. They met on Tuesdays as a Prayer Cell. The work in Kulai began this year. Worship services were held every Tuesday in the homes of members. The Full Membership grew from 78 to 126. The addition was mainly from transfers. The majority of the members were from the various Tamil Methodist Churches in the country. Attendance in the worship service was poor due to the nature of work of the members.

The Church saw significant growth when Rev. Rajahser became the sole pastor of the church but was greatly affected by his transfer due to his ill health. **Rev. Sadagopan**, as the District Superintendent covered Johore Bahru from **December 1991**. Mr. David Rasahpandy, a seminary student, also helped from **January 1992**.

Move to a shop-lot in Taman Perling

In 1993 Rev. S. Duraisingam was appointed the Pastor. Under his able leadership, both the membership as well as the church attendance increased. About 80 – 90 people attended the worship service. The Church shifted to a shop-lot in Taman Perling. This was the fifth time in the history of the church where the place of worship was changed. The church's Full Membership was 116. In Saleng, a wooden chapel was constructed costing RM 3,000. The Church Building Fund reached RM 45,000.

Finally a Place of Their Own

In 1994, a double-storey corner shop-lot was purchased at a cost of RM 288,000. The church raised RM 68,000. TAC Churches gave soft loans totalling RM 80,000. An AEC loan of RM 107,000 was taken. TAC adopted this Church Building as a Conference Project for the year.

Rapid Expansion in Ministry and Growth in Membership

In **1995** about 100 people attended the bi-lingual service every Sunday at 9.00 am. The Full Membership was 138. The new church building was dedicated by Bishop Dr. Denis Dutton and declared open by the Conference President Rev. David Tharmakan on **4 December 1994**. In **1996** an average of 120 people attended the worship service. The Full Membership was 169. The MYAF was officially formed on 11 February 1996. The Church paid a monthly instalment of RM 2,300 towards the AEC Building Loan. In **1997** about 120 – 150 people attended worship services. Full Membership stood at 179. There was a vision to organise a separate worship service for Saleng, Senai and Kulai from January 1999. In **1998** the Full membership was 175. The Church completed paying the AEC Building Loan of RM 100,000 and all the soft loans were also settled. The Church launched the Parsonage Building Fund which had RM 35,000.

In **1999** the Full Membership stood at 181. There were two worship services – 8.30 am in Skudai where 80 – 100 people attended and the other in Saleng at 10 am where 40 – 50 people attended. Saleng had a Full Membership of 66, which made up 1/3 of the total church membership. The local Conference on 18 September and the District Conference on 23 October unanimously recommended Saleng to be formed into a Local Conference from 1 January 2000. The Annual Conference unanimously accepted this proposal on 26 November 1999. This however did not take place.

Major Crisis with Resignation of Pastor

The Local Church went through a major crisis due to the resignation of Rev. S. Duraisingam. The first six months of **2000** was a period of uncertainty. The **Full Membership dropped from 181 to 48**. A total of 134 members were removed by Local Conference Action. **Rev. D.B. Laurence** took charge and served as Pastor from **1 July 2000** till the end of the year.

A New Pastor a New Beginning

Rev. C. Paul was appointed Pastor from **January 2001**. Once again the church saw an increase in membership and church attendance. The Full Membership rose from 49 to 139. 11 members were added through Confession of Faith, 52 were transferred in and 29 came from other denominations. Ulu Tiram was now the church's only Outreach with 35 Full Members. In **2002** the church's Full Membership was 219. Church Worker Pattian assisted the Senior Pastor. Ulu Tiram's Outreach membership was 53 and Kulai Outreach had 42 members. Tamil Methodist Church Kuantan financially supported the Ulu Tiram ministry and similarly the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur supported Kulai. The Full Membership further grew to become 240 in **2003**. The church organised a very successful "Fire Conference". There were 240 participants from churches all over Malaysia.

Pastor's Resignation Causes Another Crisis

The local church suffered another crisis with the resignation of Rev. C. Paul, effective **31 August 2004**. **Rev. Victor Vethamani**, while continuing as the Senior Pastor of the Kuala Lumpur church, was also appointed Pastor of Johore Bahru from **1 September 2004**. He quickly reorganised the church and managed to arrange for a Local Church Conference on 4 October 2004. Pastor John Mathuni, who was stationed at Ulu Tiram and Mr. Edward Subramaniam, the local church lay leader played vital roles in keeping the members together and in the rebuilding of the church.

A Motherly Care for a Hurting Church

The remaining congregation took time to pray for healing. In this the Local Church appreciated the work of senior member Miss Harriet Sinnathamby. She was a tower of strength and supportive of the ministry during both crises periods. The Southern District moved that her significant contribution be recognised at the following Annual Conference Session.

Decreased Membership Causes Financial Challenges

Rev. Mark Subramanyam was the Pastor in charge in **2005**. The average attendance in Skudai's worship service was about 50. Full Membership at the end of 2004 was 104 and in June 2005 it was 116. The financial position of the church was in a very bad state. The Conference sent RM 10,000 to help pay the pastor's salary. Other commitments included paying the Supply Pastor, the rentals in Ulu Tiram and Kulai and the monthly loan for the van. The church had two outreach ministries in Kulai and Ulu Tiram. Apart from financial constraints, the church was also affected by divisions. In **2006**, the average attendance was 70 in the Skudai worship service, about 25 at the Kulai Outreach and about 35 in Ulu Tiram. The Conference's monthly subsidy, together with donations from the Tamil Methodist churches of Kuala Lumpur, Tamil Settlement, Sentul and Petaling Jaya, helped the church to partly settle the previous year's outstanding payments. The church still had another RM 17,000 to settle.

Slow but Steady Move towards Recovery

Rev. Jonathan Jesudas took charge as Pastor in **2007**. He had the assistance of Church Worker Solomon Thangaiah. The average attendance at Skudai was 80 and there were always new comers to the worship service. The Full Membership in June 2007 was 122. The finance improved and the church managed without Conference subsidy. The church also settled the outstanding debt of RM 38,000. TMC Sentul and Petaling Jaya were appreciated for their financial support. The church launched a Parsonage Project – to buy a double storey house costing RM 159,437.25. They raised RM 68,000. **Rev. Dennis Raj** took charge in **2008**. The Full Membership was 222. This increase came about because 45 members from TAC and 24 from non TAC churches were transferred in. The church recommended Mr. Devarajah Balayah for fulltime ministry. The membership grew steadily and in **June 2009** was 253.

Ulu Tiram Outreach Grows

Rev. Dennis Raj, the pastor in charge, left for the UK for his doctoral studies in **October 2010**. The formation of the Provisional MYF in Ulu Tiram marked the first stage of their effort to become a Local Conference. The parsonage building after much delay was now completed. **Rev. Silvester Louis Martin** became the next Pastor and served from 2011 to 2018. He was assisted by Pastor Salomon Thangaiah and Church Worker Mercy Rani. New Outreach work was started at the Gelang Patah area. A combined Thanksgiving and Confirmation Sunday was held after a break of nine years. A total of 270 members attended. Full Membership stood at 279.

Full Membership further grew to 308 in **2012**. Church worker Mr. Shanmugam helped until June 2013. Bible Study from the mother church was telecast live to Ulu Tiram and Kulai. Friday prayer was attended by about 40 people. The Anbin Peruvilla Christmas program was started to help the needy by giving school supplies and groceries. The first was in 2012 at Ulu Tiram, the second was in 2015 at the Temenggong Flats, Kulai and the third was in 2017 at MYDIN Taman Pelangi, Johor.

Giving Birth to TMC Ulu Tiram

In **2013** through the Multimedia Ministry, they telecast all worship services, Bible study sessions and special services. 9 new converts were baptized. One couple, Pastor Joshua Subash & Miss Grace Anisha, committed for fulltime mission work. The Pulai Jaya two storey terrace house was sold for RM 185,000. The new parsonage was renovated for RM 55,000 and was dedicated by the Southern District Superintendent Rev. A. James Ravindaren on 14 July 2013. The church employed a fulltime Evangelist, Mr. Devasitham, who served from 2013 till 2018. Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Subash committed for fulltime mission ministry with MMM. Then the church launched Meetpar – their own Youtube TV Station. The CD Ariyanumeh was launched in **2014**. It was the first song production of TMC JB. **The Ulu Tiram Outreach became a Local Conference on 15 March 2014.**

In 2015 Mr. Kelvin Paul Raj (One Year Practical Student) assisted from June – December 2015. With the formation of Ulu Tiram into a Local Church, the membership stood at 227. The Gelang Patah Outreach was launched on **1 March 2015**. About 50 – 60 attended the worship service. A new PA system was purchased and the total revamp exercise cost about RM 24,000. At this time, Mr. Steven Vimal went as a ministerial student. There was a Nationwide Prayer Drive, the first was in **2016** when there were 8 members. In the second Drive in 2017, there were 7 members. The third Drive was in 2018 and it was to Putrajaya after the General Elections and there were 8 members. In **2017** The Full Membership on 1 January 2017 was 270. A new ministry among the Orang Asli community was started at Kampung Orang Asal, Gelang Patah. This ministry is still under the TMC JB Mission Team.

In **2018**, Mr. Lourdinathan helped as part-time Local Church Evangelist. The church identified and accepted two local lay preachers and they were Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Jeevananthan. The Full Membership was 287 and on 31 December 2018 it was 295. The church has ventured into a second Tuition Centre for poor children in Kangkar Pulai. A new 3 storey shop lot building was purchased for Kulai Outreach for the sum of RM 400,000. It is to be noted that Rev. Dr. Eddie Thoraisingam has helped in the ministry of the church since 2000.

For **2019**, **Rev. Samuel Periatnamby** is appointed the pastor-in-charge. Mr. Vivegar is the Lay Leader and Mrs. Thiruselvi Thomson the LCEC Chairperson. The current Full Membership is 289. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (28), MYAF (40), MSF (26) and MW (28). There are 40 – 45 children and 9 teachers in Skudai and 35 – 40 children and 9 teachers in Kulai.

A new ministry has begun in Kangkar Pulai, as the church's latest Preaching Point. Worship services are on Wednesdays and about 30 attend. Tuition is taught for about 25 children. New people continue to come. Two new Small Groups were started in Taman Tan Sri Yaacob & Kangkar Pulai. There are two Outreaches – in Kulai and Gelang Patah.

Rev. Silvester first opted for Voluntary Location but resigned from the Methodist Church with effect from 10 February 2019. This came as a result of his transfer out of Johore Bahru. 13 members withdrew their membership.

Conclusion: This local church has a long history of ups and downs. It had humble beginnings, and is the only Tamil church that had thoughts of a possible union with the Presbyterian Church. It experienced two major crises, with the resignations of Pastor S. Duraisingam and Pastor C. Paul. Johore Bahru being near Singapore has a constant flow of people seeking employment and settling in that vicinity. The church has more than survived the crises, she continues to grow. The Lord, who helped them through, would surely take them on to greater heights for the glory of His name.

Sources:

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC
2. Feedback from Local Church

PASTORAL ROLL

1963 – 1965	George E. Stephens
1968	Rev. Gunnar J. Teilmann
1976 – 1977	Rev. Prabhu Das Roberts
1978 – 1980 May	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1980 June – 1981	Dec Rev. A.E. Joseph
1982 July – 1985	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1986	Rev. Victor Vethamani
1987 – 1992 March	Rev. Emanuel Rajahser
1992 April – Dec	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1993 – 1999	Rev. S. Duraisingam
2000 July – Dec	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2001 – 2004 Aug.	Rev. C. Paul
2004 Sept – Dec	Rev. Victor Vethamani
2005	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2006 – 2007	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2008 – 2010	Rev. Dennis Raj
2011 – 2018	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2019	Rev. Samuel Periathamby

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2000		Pastor Isaac Nathan
2001 - 2002	Pastor Devarajah Balaiyah	Pastor Isaac Nathan
2003	Pastor Devarajah Balaiyah	Mr. Lazarus / Pastor C. Paul
2003	Pastor Devarajah Balaiyah	Pastor C. Paul
2004	Mr. Edward	Pastor C. Paul
2005	Mr. Edward	Pastor Mark
2006 - 2007	Mr. Gilbert	Pastor Jonathan
2008	Mr. Gilbert	Rev. Dennis Raj
2009	Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Edward
2010	Mr. Jesudas	Mr. Gilbert Pastor Silvester Louis
2011 - 2013	Mr. Jesudas	Martin
2014	Mr. Jesudas	Mr. Jesudas Pastor Silvester Louis
2015 - 2016	Mr. Jesudas	Martin Pastor Silvester Louis
2017 - 2018	Mr. Vivegar	Martin
2019	Mr. Lourdinathan	Mr. Geevanathan

SUNGAI SIPUT

The Earliest Records

At the 30th Session of the Malaysia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in Singapore from 6 – 11 January **1922**, Sungai Siput Tamil Church is mentioned in the Appointments Report with A. Devadason as the Supply Pastor. The Full Membership recorded then was 38. A Tamil School is also mentioned in Sungai Siput on page 29 of this Report. This is the earliest record up to date that we have. In **1949**, the March MAC Journal's Statistical Report mentions the Full Membership as 95. The activities of the Ipoh Church were often extended to Sungai Siput.

Supply Pastors and Elders Bring Revival

In **1952**, the Full Membership was 76 as mentioned in the Statistical Report under Sungai Siput – Kuala Kangsar Tamil Circuit. No further information is available on the church. In **1953**, the Pastor was **Rev. A. P. Paul** and the Full Membership was 40. In **1954**, the Full Membership was 52. The Sungai Siput Circuit was under the Supply Pastors who were trained in the Tamil Preachers' Seminary in Ipoh. In **1955**, Rev. A.P. Paul resigned from the Conference in April and Rev. S.A. Andar, the Circuit Supply Pastor, took charge. His good work enabled the church to contribute \$170 towards the Conference Benevolence. In **1956**, the Church rose to new heights of accomplishment under the pastoral care of Rev. V.A. Subramaniam. The Church School and M.Y.F. were revived. There were weekly Sunday services instead of fortnightly.

The Post-Independence Era

From **1957 to 1959**, **Rev. S.R. Jebamoney** was the Pastor. In **1957**, there were 53 Full Members and 62 Preparatory Members. 11 children and 2 adults were baptized. They gave \$180 for the Conference Benevolence. In **1958** the Full Membership was 46 and 37 in **1959**. After 1922, there was a rise in membership and it reached 95 in 1949. Then it began to drop and finally in 1959, the membership was one less than what was recorded in 1922. It dropped from 38 (1929) to 37 (1959).

Ministry in Kati Estate, Kuala Kangsar and Lintang

From **1960 to 1962**, **Rev. John Abraham**, was the Pastor. He ministered as far as the Kati Estate and to the north to Kuala Kangsar, and also to Lintang, east of Sungei Siput. In **1961** the pastor conducted two Sunday services a month in Sungei Siput and spent another Sunday visiting the Kati Estate. In **1962**, the Full Membership was 45. The Tamil church was small and weak and did not have a resident pastor. In **1963**, **Rev. K.J. Timothy** was the Pastor. The Full membership was 39. In **1964**, **Rev. Eddie Joseph** was the Pastor and the Full Membership was 31. In **1965** and **1966**, **Rev. S. Ratnasamy** was the Pastor. In **1965** the Full Membership was 39. Attendance improved and a Woman's Society was started.

In **1966** the Full Membership was 36 and in **1967** it was 44. While waiting for a pastor to be supplied to Sg. Siput, pastors who served TMC Ipoh were given the added responsibility to give pastoral care for Sungai Siput as well. In **1968**, Mr. B. A. Thangaraj (Local Preacher) was the pastor.

Expatriate Pastors' Ministry

From **1969 – July 1970**, **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj**, a missionary from India was the Pastor of TMC Ipoh. He was also appointed as the Pastor of TMC Sg. Siput. From August **1970**, he was on Study Leave. The DS reported, "At present no services are held at Sg. Siput, Kati Estate etc. Services will be revived in the new year." From **1971 – 1975** **Rev. Chellaraj Fenn**, also from India, was covering Sg. Siput from Ipoh. In **1971**, the church showed tremendous improvements. They had regular Sunday services. The worship services in Kati were in the evening. The renovated Sungai Siput church building was re-dedicated on 17 September **1972** by the TPAC President, Rev. T.R. Doraisamy. The Full Membership was 34. In **1973**, there was a Church School with three classes. Its enrolment was 35. The teachers of two classes were from the Ipoh Church, but after a Teachers' Training conducted by Miss Joyce Parkins, a missionary from OMF, the teaching of these two classes was taken over by local MYFers.

In **1974**, the Full Membership was 44. There was a small but vibrant MYF, which **hosted the 1974 Youth Institute** in Sg. Siput from 15 to 19 April. Rev. Chellaraj Fenn was the Dean of this Institute. They purchased the school land adjoining the Church land for \$ 11,000 with loans from the TPAC and Ipoh Church. In **1975** the Full Membership was 33.

From **1976 – 1977**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1977** Mr. C. Jayaraj, a ministerial student, was posted to Sg. Siput area from May 1977 till April 1978. The Ipoh Town Church youths conducted a two-day retreat in Kati Estate on 27 and 28 of May 1977.

From **1978 to 1979**, **Rev. J. J. Ratnarajah** from Sri Lanka was the Pastor-in-charge. In **1978**, the Full Membership was 43. The Church School had 3 teachers and 10 pupils. Worship services were held regularly in both Kati Estate and Sungai Siput. Communion Service by Rev. Ratnarajah was conducted monthly on the 1st Sundays in Sg. Siput and the 3rd Saturdays in Kati Estate. After the ministerial student Mr. Jayaraj, Pastor Stanley M. Sadagopan served as Supply Pastor.

The Beginning of the Ministry of Local Pastors

From **1980 to 1982**, **Rev. Jacob David** was the Pastor-in-charge. The congregation met for worship on Sundays at 5pm. According to the pastor, the attendance was good. The laity conducted the worship on Sundays when the pastor could not be present. The Kati Estate service was conducted on Fridays. There were three Church Schools - one in Sg. Siput, one in Kati and one in Kota Tampan. 'The Cross and the Switch Blade' film was shown in Kati Estate. In

1981 Mr. Peter Jebasekaran, a ministerial student, helped this congregation from **May – August**. The church was repaired for about RM3,000. Sg. Siput has a church building. The old school building was rented out to a person to run a private school. He cultivated the entire church land for his personal benefit. Kati Estate however was without a chapel and the Estate management was not willing to give a piece of land for this purpose.

Attempts to get a land outside of the Estate also failed. In **April 1982** the church was painted. The Full Membership was 42. The total giving of the church amounted to RM1,600. They paid the pastor only his travel allowance.

From 1983 – 1984 Rev. A.E. Joseph was the Pastor. In **1983** about 20 converts (from Kati Estate, Batu Dua and Kg. Chepor) were baptised near Sauk by Rev. Jacob David and the arrangements were made by Rev. A. E. Joseph. The Full Membership of this circuit was 68 (Sg. Siput 27 and Kati Estate 41). From **1984** onwards, the church was called **Sungai Siput, Kati Estate and Kuala Kangsar Circuit**. For the first time the church received a resident pastor in the person of **Rev. David Paul Raj**. He was posted on Assignment (MOT) and so Rev. A.E. Joseph was still the pastor-in-charge. This brought excitement, enthusiasm and a new awakening in the church. There was a Church School in Kati Estate with 40 children. The new pastor reorganised the whole LCEC. Tithing was emphasized. With the appointment of a pastor, the church received a monthly subsidy of RM 350 from the Conference towards the pastor's salary and paid the other RM 30 on its own.

Beginning of Locally-Trained Pastors

From **August 1985 – 1988 Rev. David Paul Raj** took pastoral charge. In **1985**, with its own pastor, the church saw growth in many areas. Every Sunday, there were three services - Sg. Siput, Kuala Kangsar and Kati Estate. The outreach areas were Chenderoh, Batu Dua and Moly Estate. The pastor and members faced much opposition in the outreach areas. The church completed fencing the compound. In **1986** the Full Membership was 108. The pastor used two lay people in his outreach ministries: Mr. Paramanathan and Mr. Rajendran. Miss Lilly assisted in Kota Tampan. The pastor was keenly involved in the social ministry, mainly to drug addicts at Pusat Serenti. The pastor reported that four Sikhs had come to the Lord. The Church School ministry was reorganised and had about 60 children and 6 teachers. CEEFI materials were used to teach the lessons. The teachers received training and Mrs. Hilda David, the pastor's wife, gave good leadership. In **1987** Sg. Siput /Kati/Kuala Kangsar Circuit had a Full Membership of 114. New ministries were started in **Sg. Krudda Estate** in early June and weekly meetings were held on Tuesdays at 6.30pm. The meetings were held in a home. Ministry in **Beng Lee Estate** was started in July. **Kota Tampan** ministry near Lenggong, was first started among children and was followed by home visitation. The Kati Estate urgently needed a place of worship. The District Office was approached but this was not successful because there was no land available. In **1988** the Full Membership was 115. A Charity Dinner was held on **7 May 1988** to raise funds for the Parsonage Building Project. Datuk Samy Vellu was the Guest of Honour. A sum of RM5,600 was raised through the dinner.

Property Development and Land Matters

The **Parsonage was built on Lot. 176 and dedicated on Saturday 8 October 1988** by the Conference President Rev. John Kovilpillai. The estimated cost was RM 25,000, but finally came up to RM 35,000. The church was thankful to Datuk Samy Vellu who gave RM25,000 from the government allocation under the Prime Minister's Department. The **Land Lot 176 was declared as a Joint Property**. The church requested the Trustees to take action to restore it as the Tamil Church property.

From **1989 – 1993, Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor. **Mr. David Rasahpandy served as the ministerial student**. In **1989**, the Full Membership was 106. In Kati Estate, a small chapel was built on government land, because the previously used building was demolished. The change of workers affected the church in every area. It was hoped that with a posting of a trained pastor, the situation would improve. In **1990**, the Full Membership was 95. The membership in Kati Estate was decreasing due to transfers of its members. This affected the ministry. The neighbouring pastors helped to serve Holy Communion. In **1991**, the Full Membership was 86 and in **1992** it was 113. The church bought a van. The church experienced a revival. The pastor worked hard and the church responded well and worked towards being self-supporting. In **1993**, the Full Membership was 103. The church invested wisely to support the mission program, by planting durian, papaya, rambutan and banana trees. The idea was to give 50% of the income for missions. The chapel in Kati built on government land was demolished. However the estate management gave an alternate place for worship. On a sad note, the members in Kati were moving to other towns. But the church in Sg. Siput was active. There was a dispute in Sg. Siput regarding the Cemetery Land which the Property Committee looked into.

In **1994, Rev. David Jeyapal** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 112. The DS reported that the church was affected by the transfer of the previous pastor, though Rev. Jeyapal put in much effort to serve God faithfully. Some key people had moved out of Kati to other places. There was also a ministry done among inmates of Pusat Serenti. The church received RM15,000 from the Government. There was a lack of leadership. Worship services in Sg. Siput was at 9 a.m. and in Kati Estate it was 1 p.m. In **1995, Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Doraiseelan John. Rev. Doraiseelan served here till 1999, first as Supply Pastor, then as Approved Supply Pastor and then as Ordained Approved Supply Pastor. The MYF was inactive for about a year. The church planned to build a new sanctuary costing RM 200,000 to seat about 250 people. A fund-raising dinner was organised on 4 March 1995. The honoured guests were Bishop Denis C. Dutton and Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works. In his speech, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu promised to donate ringgit for ringgit up to RM100, 000. From **1996 to 1997, Rev. David Rasahpandy**, the pastor of Taiping, was the Pastor in charge of this Circuit. Pastor Doraiseelan John continued as Supply Pastor. In **1996**, the Full membership was 93.

The Church School met on Sundays at 8 a.m. and the attendance had dropped to 30 regulars. The reason for the drop was the free tuition and computer classes that were being provided for Tamil children by a Tamil group at the same time in town. In **1997**, the church launched into a major Church Renovation and Extension Project. This began as a project just to repair and renovate the existing sanctuary but when it was finally completed, they had practically built a new sanctuary. The total cost of the renovation and extension was RM34,696. The Building Fund had RM5,684 and RM6,500 was raised from church members. The rest came from Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu (a personal donation of RM5,000) and from friends and well-wishers. The building was extended by about 10 feet. A new ceiling was put up and bricks replaced the wooden walls.

Membership Growth Brings Increase in Cell Groups

From **1998 to 1999 Rev. Doraiseelan** was the Pastor. In **1998**, the Full Membership grew to 134. Cell Groups were conducted in 5 areas – Taman Tun Sambanthan, Jalong Camp, Foong Lee/Sg. Karuda, Sg. Siput Town and Kuala Kangsar. In **1999**, the Full Membership rose to 144. There were 4 cell groups at: Taman Tun Sambanthan, Foong Lee/Sg. Karuda, Sg. Siput town and Kuala Kangsar. In **2000, Rev. Moses Jayaseelan** was the Pastor. This church had established good contact with the community and worked with about 30 non-Christians. They were strong in the area of evangelism. Full membership was 140. Bible study and prayers were held on Fridays and about 30-40 gathered for a time of study and prayer. The church had 3 cell groups in the past and due to leadership crisis it dropped to one. On 26 April 2000, the church formed its MYAF. They had 15 members. From **2001 to 2003, Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. In **2001**, the Full Membership was 118. They had four Cell Groups in: Sg. Siput Town, Sg. Siput Taman, Kati and Kuala Kangsar. In **2002**, the church was financially able to fulfil its commitments. In **2003** the church was painted and the PA system was upgraded.

In **2004 Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** was the Pastor-in-charge, followed by **Rev. S. Jayabalan** in **2005**. The Full Membership was 137. Two Cell Groups functioned. Three Church Schools were conducted in three different places: Sg. Siput, Kati and Jerlun. The Outreach in Jerlun (later named as Kuala Kangsar Outreach), which was started this year, showed positive results. In **2006 Rev. D.B. Laurence**, the pastor of Tamil Settlement Ipoh, was the Pastor-in-charge. About 60 people attended worship in Sg. Siput and 20 in Kuala Kangsar Outreach. In **2007 and 2008 Rev. Joseph Yesupatham**, the pastor of TMC Kampar/Gopeng, was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 148 and in **2008** it dropped to 139. The church identified Karai as a migrant mission field and looked for ways to build a ministry there. In **2009 Rev. Silvester Louis Martin**, the Assistant Pastor of Tamil Settlement, was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 131. Cell Group meetings were held in 8 places.

Long Serving Resident Pastor

From **2010** onwards, **Rev. Isaac Nathan** has been the Pastor here. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 125. This number fluctuated and finally in 2018 it was 139. In **2010**, the Annual Income was RM39,649.95 and Expenditure was RM34,716.80. They started a Youth Service, but after a few years, some youths went outstation for work and studies and the number attending this service dwindled. This Service was eventually discontinued. In **2011**, the church improved in the area of giving and lay involvement in the ministry. They also made their presence felt in the community. In **2012**, six Cell Groups were functioning. The Preaching Point at Batu Lima was growing well. The church purchased a new van – AHV 2013 for RM95,000

In **2013** the Cell-Groups were held in seven places on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, using Rev. Victor Vethamani's Small Group materials. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 106. The church went through a renovation project which caused much excitement among the members. Preaching points continued in Sauk, Kuala Kangsar, Salak and Batu Lima estate areas. In **2015**, the Full Membership was 115. Four Healing and Deliverance Meetings brought many Hindus to the church. Two active Outreaches were in Batu Lima Estate and Salak Baru. Major renovation to their building helped the church to look forward to do other projects in the adjacent land. The parsonage needed repairs.

In **2016** the Full Membership was 125. Cell Groups functioned in seven areas. Evangelistic and Healing Services were conducted and many unbelievers attended. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 130. The cell groups met in Sg. Siput, Dovenby, Kuala Kangsar, Kati, Sauk, Batu Lima Estate and Klebang. They purchased another van, AKU 8518 for RM129,000. In **2018** the Full Membership was 139. Worship Services were as follows: (a) Sg. Siput 8 a.m., (b) Kuala Kangsar 7:30 p.m., (c) Batu Lima Estate 7:30 p.m., (d) Sauk 7:30 p.m. on Thursday (e) Grik 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The Grik ministry was handed over to Rev. Rasahpandy in August 2018. The church installed 10 units of air conditioners in the sanctuary. They also bought a new van.

In **2019** Rev. Isaac Nathan continues as the pastor here for the tenth year. Mr. Louis Arasamy is the Lay Leader and Mr. Richard Santana Dass is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 136. The membership of the Agencies are as follows: MYF (10), MYAF (10), MW (14) and MSF (10). There are 22 children and 3 teachers in the Sungai Siput Church School and 7 children and 1 teacher in the Sauk Church School. The church has a total of 4 teachers. There are 8 Cell Groups in the following places: a) Sauk, b) Kati, c) Kuala Kangsar, d) Salak Baru, e) Sungai Siput, f) Batu Lima Estate, g) Dovenby and h) Klebang. The church has three Outreaches a) Kuala Kangsar, b) Sauk and c) Gerik. They have one Preaching Point in Batu Lima Estate. In April they purchased 26 new (Nyatok) wooden pews, 5 (Nyatok) wooden chairs for Pastors, 2 coffee tables and one Table for Holy Communion. The total cost was RM 77,000. In August they purchased a new Sound System (Behringer) 16 channel Powered Mixer and 4 Behringer Speaker at a cost of RM 6,800.

Conclusion: TMC Sungai Siput has a very long history but unfortunately at the point of writing, we are unable to say exactly how long. Our research shows the church to be more than 97 years old. In the early years, the pastoral care came from the pastors stationed in Ipoh Lahat Road, Ipoh Tamil Settlement and even Kampar/Gopeng. Though with limitations and challenges, the church reached out with the Gospel from Sungai Siput to the neighbouring towns as well as estates. The current situation is encouraging, with various forms of ministry. Hopefully all this would lead the church to share the love of Jesus Christ to more people, resulting in both church growth and glory for Jesus Christ.

Sources

1. Methodist Journals – Malaysia Conference, MAC, TPAC, TAC
2. Rev. Isaac Nathan

PASTORAL ROLL

1921 – 1924	Pastor A Devadason
1926 Dec. – 1929	Rev. J.D. Asirvatham
1930 – 1931	Rev. James S Arthur
1932	Pastor A. Paul Gnaniah
1933	Pastor P.E. Ponniah
1934	Pastor S Kovilpillai
1937 – 1938	Pastor S. Kovilpillai
1939 – 1940	Rev. S.K. Jebamoney
1941	Pastor Comfort Raj
1946	Pastor D. Vedamony
1949 – 1950	Rev. S.R. Jebamoney
1952	Rev. S. Sundararaj
1953 – 1955 Apr	Rev. A.P. Paul
1955 May	Rev. S. A. Andar
1956	Rev. V.A Subramaniam
1957 – 1959	Rev. S.R. Jebamoney
1960 – 1962	Rev. John Abraham
1963	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1964	Rev. Eddie Joseph
1965 – 1966	Rev. Ratnasamy
1967	To be supplied
1968	Mr. B.A. Thangaraj
1969 – 1970	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1971 – 1975	Rev. Chellaraj Fenn
1976 – 1977	Rev. James Solamadan
1978 – 1979	Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah
1980 – 1982	Rev. Jacob David
1983 – 1984	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1985 – 1988	Rev. David Paul Raj (<i>Aug. – Dec. 1988</i>)
1989 – 1993	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
1994	Rev. T. Jeyabal David
1995	Rev. Joseph Komar
1996 – 1997	Rev. David Rasahpandy
1998 – 1999	Rev. Doraiseelan John
2000	Rev. Moses Jayaseelan
2001 – 2003	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
2004	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2005	Rev. S. Jayabalan
2006	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2007 - 2008	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2009	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2010 onwards	Rev. Isaac Nathan

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2001 - 2002	Mr. Richard Subramaniam	Mr. Rajendran
2003	Mr. Rajendran	Mr. Abraham Lincoln
2004 - 2006	N/A	N/A
2007	Mr. Richard Subramaniam	Mr. Lourdinathan
2008	Mr. Lourdinathan	Mr. Rajendran
2009 - 2010	Mr. Louis Arasamy	Mr. Rajendran
2011	Mr. Louis Arasamy	Rev. Isaac Nathan Jayaseelan
2012 - 2013	Mr. Louis Arasamy	Mr. Sujendran
2014 - 2015	Mr. Louis Arasamy	Mr. Richard Santanadass
2016 - 2017	Mr. Santanadass	Mrs. Angelina Moorthy
2018 - 2019	Mr. Louis Arasamy	Mr. Richard Santanadass

TAIPING

The Early Years

Rev. Samuel Abraham from TMC Kuala Lumpur (1900 to 1916) and **Rev. Edward Isaac** from TMC Ipoh (1911 to 1917) travelled to conduct worship services in Taiping. In 1905, **Rev. Horley** got a piece of land along Jalan Panggung Wayang from the British Government. A wooden building with an attap roof was built here for worship services. The Tamils met at 8.00 am, the Chinese met at 11.00 am and the Wesley service was at 5.30 pm. In 1930 **Rev. Job Gnanasihamony** was involved in the Tamil Outreach work in Taiping. He was followed by **Rev. Milton David**, **Rev. Joseph Kingham**, **Rev. Ratnasamy** and **Rev. S.M. Rajamoney**. The change of the state capital of Perak from Taiping to Ipoh in 1937 affected the local church. As the Government Officials moved to Ipoh, so did many church leaders.

The Second World War Years

During the Japanese occupation from 1940 – 1942, the church building was occupied by the Japanese Army. All the church pews were taken and scattered all around Taiping town. Rev. N.G. Manickam together with Mr. G.D. Richard collected these pews one by one, carrying them on their shoulders. Although beaten by the Japanese soldiers they managed to salvage some of these pews.

Rev. N.G. Manickam pioneered outreach work in the Pondok Tanjong and Selamat Estates. He asked the managers in these two estates for a piece of land to build chapels. His request was granted and two chapels were built with the help of donations received. During this period there were only 9 families in the Taiping church namely Rev. N.G. Manickam, G.D. Richard, J.B. Manuel, Kulanayagam, Mrs. Kingham, Chelliah, Thambipillai, Benjamin and Edward Dawson.

Strong Lay Input

The Sunday service was at 9.00 am. The first MYF President was Mr. Peter Johnson Richard. When the name Methodist Episcopal Church was changed to Wesley Methodist Church the Tamil congregation objected. Rev. N.G. Manickam with Mr. G.D. Richard, Mr. Aria Ratnam and Mr. J. B. Manuel approached the Bishop on this matter. The Bishop acted on it and the original name was reinstated. Mr. J.D. Rajaram, Dr. J.W.G. Kovilpillai and Miss Flora Knight helped with the ministry in the estates. Tamil and tailoring classes were also held. Mr. A. Wilson conducted the Sunday school and taught songs in the two chapels on alternate Sundays. Mr. A. Wilson managed to get two big church bells from the Norwegian Christian members through Dr. Alf Oden Hansen, a missionary doctor. In 1956, TMC Taiping was moved from the Perak District to the Northern Malaya District.

Acquiring Land at Jalan Tembusu

The All Saints Anglican Church Taiping had a piece of land designated as a dwelling place for the propagation of the gospel. This was at 14 Jalan Tembusu on which stood an old parsonage.

In **1979** when the land came up for sale, the then TAC President Rev. John Kovilpillai and Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam, the Chairman Board on Finance pursued this matter and in **1984** the property was purchased.

Hosting the Third TAC Youth Institute

From 1977 to 1979 Rev. Jacob David was the Pastor. In **1978** there was one Church School in Taiping, with 18 students and 1 teacher and another in the estate with 35 students. The MYF had 20 members and the WSCS 16 members. Prison ministry was carried out too. **In 1979**, the local MYF under the able leadership of Miss Susan Ebenezer, hosted the 3rd Conference Youth Institute from 2 - 6 April. This was held at the Treacher Methodist Girls' School Taiping. The Conference Youth Director Rev. David Tharmakan wrote in the Souvenir Program, "Taiping hosted the very first Youth Institute in the year 1964..."

Consolidating Ministry

From January to May 1980 Miss Saraswathy Suppiah, the Conference Field Worker, was appointed to take charge. **Mr John Millason** was appointed next from June 1980 and he served till May 1981. The frequent change of pastors caused a lot of unhappiness in Taiping. The Full Membership was 112. The Worship Services were held in Taiping (Sundays) at 9.30am, in Selamat Estate (Sundays) at 4.00pm and Pondok Tanjong Estate (Fridays) at 4.00pm. Rev. N.G. Manickam who had retired helped in administering the Holy Communion. The church spent RM 600 for a bus to bring the children to Church School and another RM 120 a month on rental for the parsonage. Mr. Jayakumar Velayuthan came forward as a candidate for Full-time Ministry. **Pastor Denison J. Jayaratnam** took charge of the church from June 1981. The Worship Service day and time at Pondok Tanjong was changed to Tuesdays at 7.30pm. A new Church School in TRP Estate was started as an outreach work of Selamat Estate. Prayer Fellowship was started in Pokok Asam by Mr. P.P. Abraham. A new typewriter costing about RM 1,600/- was donated in memory of Rev. & Mrs. N. G. Manickam. About RM 3,200/- was spent to equip the church office. A Mini Van was purchased at a cost of RM 12,136.50. Although about RM 8,982.35 was by loans, a rubber tapper earning just RM 200 a month, gave her gold jewellery valued at RM 2,650, towards this purchase. The members pledged their one month's salary for this project. The parsonage was a rented house.

In **1982** there were 8 conversions. A Boys' Home ministry was started and carried out by Mr. Joseph Benjamin, Mr. Tommy and Mr. Simon Kumar. The Welfare Home meetings were conducted by Miss Grace Malar and Mrs. Rose Dennison. There were special meetings with the following speakers: Sis. Amirthabai (India), Rev. Devadass Ratnam, Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan and Rev. Roy Durban (England).

Rev. Simon Chandran was appointed the Pastor in January **1983** and he served till **30 September 1987**. Both the church attendance and giving increased considerably. In **1984** the Full Membership was 127. The church became self-supporting.

A number of Cell Groups were initiated. About 25 to 30 prisoners attended the meetings that were held in the Taiping Prison. The response was also encouraging at the meetings held in Parit Buntar. As such, the LCEC requested the Annual Conference to hand over the Parit Buntar parsonage to the Taiping Church.

In **1985**, the Full Membership was 124. Six families were baptised and added to the church. In **1986** the Full Membership was 146. Mr. John Kanniah, a Church Worker assisted the pastor. Worship services were held in Nibong Tebal as well with good attendance. The outreach work was strengthened with the appointment of Mr. John Kanniah. Due to leadership problems, no elections were held for the MYF for 1986/87.

Pastor's Resignation Adversely Affects the Church

In **1987**, the Full Membership was 131. There were four Outreach Points – Pondok Tanjong, Trong, Nibong Tebal and Parit Buntar. There were 30 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. **On 21 July 1987, the two Outreach areas of Parit Buntar/ Nibong Tebal were declared a local church** by Rev. John Kovilpillai, the TAC President. The church received RM 250 as subsidy from the Annual Conference for the Church Worker stationed in Parit Buntar/ Nibong Tebal. During this period there was growth in number and finance. Unfortunately, **Pastor Simon Chandran tendered his resignation from the Conference** with effect from 1 October 1987. His resignation affected the church very much as many members chose to leave the church and follow him.

In **1988**, **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was appointed the Pastor. The Sunday worship time was changed from 10 am to 6.00 pm with effect from 1 September 1988. This was at the request of the Wesley Church. About 30 people attended the service. A Monthly Newsletter was produced to keep in touch with the members and friends. There were two outreach areas – Trong and Pondok Tanjong. The WSCS and Church School did not function for a year. The Finance: Total income for 1988 was RM 28,182. 12 and the Total expenditure was RM 25, 898. 56.

Church Experiences Reconciliation

From **1989 to 1993** **Rev. C. Jayaraj** served as the Pastor. In **1989** the Full Membership was 88. The Church School, MYF and WSCS were re-established. There was a slow but steady growth in attendance, participation and fellowship. The Prayer Cell met regularly. Healing slowly took place. The Pastor was in charge of two churches - Taiping & Nibong Tebal.

In **1990** the Full Membership was 97. Cell Group ministry was introduced. Rev. Jayaraj brought reconciliation to the church. Though some youths met together in 1991, there was no formal MYF. The WSCS hesitated official formation to avoid paying dues. Though the estate ministry was affected due to industrialisation and migration to towns, the church continued to show concern for the Tamils in the estates. Worship services continued to be held in Selamat estate and Pondok Tanjung chapels. Church School classes were held in Taiping and in the home of a church member in Trong. Church family camps were held in Cameron Highlands and Lumut.

From 1992, Tamil Methodist Church Taiping was placed under the Perak District. In 1993 the prayer ministry was intensified with All-Night, Saturday morning and Chain prayers. The Pastor also sent a Monthly Newsletter to the members. There was a vibrant group of leaders who helped mobilise the ministries during this time-Mr & Mrs Manickavasagam, Mr & Mrs Jayabalan, Mr & Mrs Paul Durai, Mr & Mrs John Seeni, Mrs. Shanti Chandran, Mrs Janu Charles, Mr.Arthur Sundram and several others.

In 1994 **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was appointed the Pastor. The Full Membership was 81. Sunday Service was at 6.30 pm. Church school ministries were held in Taiping, Selamat Estate and Trong. MYF met under the guidance of an adult counsellor. The WSCS met occasionally. The Estate Outreach was affected because the people were constantly moving out.

New Church Building

From 1995 to 2001 **Rev. David Rasahpandy** was the Pastor. In 1995, the Sunday Worship had an average attendance of 30. There were three outreach areas under “Selamat Ministry” – Selamat Estate, Temerloh Estate and Trong. There were two Church schools, one in Taiping and another in Temerloh Estate. In 1996, there were three Cell groups in three different areas on three different days. The church raised RM 10,000 to develop the Jalan Tembusu land. In 1997 Area Fellowships were conducted weekly- on Mondays in Simpang and Fridays in Kamunting. The Building Fund stood at RM 57, 000. The church struggled with finance. The churches in the Perak District contributed RM2,000 to help pay the Conference dues. In 1998, there was one cell group in Kamunting. Outreach work was done in Selamat Estate, Pondok Tanjong Estate and Trong. The Building Fund stood at RM 112,000. In 1999 the Full Membership was 104. The Building Fund stood at RM180,000. The **Ground Breaking Ceremony** for the New Church Building was held on 30 May 1999. The Corner Stone was laid by the Perak DS, Rev. Hendry Ponniah. The first Sunday worship service was held on 20 August 2000 at 9.00am. The Dedication of the sanctuary cum parsonage by Bishop Dr. Peter Chio Sing Ching, was held on Sunday, 8 October 2000 at 5.00pm. Until 13 August 2000, the worship service was held in the Wesley sanctuary at 5.30 p.m. From 20 August 2000, the service was held at 9.00am in the newly built church building. Average attendance was 60 adults and 20 children. The Full Membership was 112. The MYF was revived and the youths helped the pastor in the outreach ministries. The MW was formally organised on 18 August 2000. The MYAF was also formed.

In 2002 **Rev. P. Sandireaseheran** was appointed as the Pastor and he was assisted by Pastor Reuben Kanagalingam. The Worship service time was changed to 9.15 a.m. The finance was a challenge at this time - the Income was RM18,763.80 and Expenditure was RM20,695.27. In 2003, **Rev. James Ravindaren** was the Pastor and was assisted by Mr. John Simson (ministerial student on one year practical break). The church upgraded the parsonage. The Church Finance improved. Only a few leaders came forward to serve.

In **2004 Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** was the Pastor. There was a Bible Study & Prayer on Fridays at 8.00pm. The Church School was inactive. Six people accepted Christ. There was Migrant Ministry conducted in Pondok Tanjong

Lack of Finance Hinders Ministry

From **2005 to 2006, Rev. S. Jayabalan** was the Pastor. Selamat Estate worship was restarted. Bible Study was conducted in the homes. Four attended Saturday morning prayers. Church School was restarted with 6 children. There was a shortage of teachers. The MW met for prayer on Sundays. The Christian Education Committee set up the Library and the Wesley Church donated 46 books. Provisions were given for the Indian Migrant Workers. New outreach work was started in Bagan Serai. Selamat Estate work was restarted. The church had a huge debt but managed to bring it down to about RM 11,000.00. TMC Tamil Settlement helped to repay the AEC loan. The Conference Commitment was also in arrears. In **2006**, the Church School lacked suitable material for teaching. Welfare work and educational talks were done. There was scope for evangelism in the estates surrounding Bagan Serai and Parit Buntar.

Ministering to the National Service Campers

From **2007 to 2009 Rev. John Mathuni** was the Pastor. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 96. The church ministered to the Christians in the National Service Camp located in Selama. Members accompanied the Pastor when he went for this ministry once a month. There was an increase in giving. Though the AEC loan was settled with the help of TMC Tamil Settlement, the TAC Commitment Fund was still in arrears. In **2008** the Full Membership was 100. The increase of 10 members was mainly through transfers. Finance continued to be a challenge. In **2009** the Full Membership was 104. Selamat Estate ministry continued although many members had moved away from there. Tuition in Kampong Aman attracted 30 children. VBS was held. The MW trained their capable women to be preachers. The MSF was officially formed.

Celebrating 60 Years of Being a Church

In **2010, Rev. D. B. Laurence** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 89. Finance improved. Outreach work continued in Selama and Selamat estates. Cell Group, Fasting & Prayer and Music Class ministries were carried out. **From 2011 to 2012 Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the Pastor.

In **2011**, the pastor was assisted by Student Pastor, Mr. Jerad Tamilselvam and Church Worker, Mr. Louis Martin. Full Membership was 88. There was one Cell Group and prayer ministry every Friday. They organized a Banana Leaf Dinner and raised RM 15,700 for the purchase of a van. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 93. The church celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Dealing with a Spirit of Retirement

In **2013 and 2014** Church Worker Solomon Thangaiah was the pastor. In **2013**, there was an addition of 7 members through transfers from other TAC churches. Most young people left to study or work in bigger towns.

The DS reported that the “spirit of retirement” was felt in this town. All were slow and relaxed and this was reflected even in the ministry. The church finance improved and they paid all their commitments to TAC. In **2014**, the church had one Preaching Point in Selamat Estate. VBS was conducted. There was a great need for new leaders to emerge.

Going Forth Reaching out to Bagan Serai

From 2015 to 2016 Rev. David Rasahpandy was the Pastor and assisted by Full-Time Church Worker Mr. T. Tharmapal, who served till 2018. In **2015** they had a successful Fasting Festival in October. The Church School had 25 children. Mr. Asudas met Nepalese workers in their hostel on Tuesday nights. New work was started in Bagan Serai. In **2016** a Fasting Festival was held in June. The new work in Bagan Serai moved to a shop lot. **From 2017 onwards Rev. J. Isaac Nathan** has been the Pastor. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 108. There was only one Cell Group. Youths helped in Bagan Serai outreach every Sunday. The Church was active only on Sundays. Financial giving had dropped. In **2018** the Full Membership was 110. Bagan Serai Preaching Point gave up the rented premises and gathered in homes. A small number of 8 members play a key role in providing leadership. The Church was active only on Sundays. There was poor participation for week-day programmes in the church.

In **2019, Rev. Isaac Nathan**, the pastor of TMC Sungai Siput, has been appointed the Pastor-in-charge with retired Pastor Rev. S. Krishnan as the Resident Pastor. Mr. P. Dass is the Lay Leader and Ms. Sarah is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 107. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (11), MYAF (5), MSF (20) and MW (15). There are 7 children and 1 teacher in the Church School. They have one Outreach and two Cell Groups.

Conclusion: The history of this local church spans more than a hundred years. There were times when the church was excited, seeing membership growth and acquiring property. Frequent change of pastors and often not having a resident pastor due to a shortage of pastors has affected the growth of the church. It is not easy for a church that is located in a town known for its spirit of retirement to see growth but the church is still pressing on to build the new area of ministry at Bagan Serai. By God’s grace they will grow, as they seek to build His Kingdom for the glory of His Name.

Sources:

1. 21st Session of TAC Souvenir Program, 1996
2. A Brief History of the Tamil Methodist Church Taiping by Rev. N.G. Manickam
3. History by Mr. A. Wilson in the Parsonage Dedication Service Souvenir 8 October 2000
4. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, and TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1930	Rev. Job Gnanasighamony
	Rev. Milton David
	Rev. Joseph Kingham
1935	Rev. Ratnasamy
1941 – 1945	Rev. N.G. Manickam
1946	Rev. S.M. Rajamoney
1949 – 1976	Rev. N. G. Manickam
1977 – 1979	Rev. Jacob David
1980 January – May	Miss Saraswathy Suppiah
1980 June – 1981 May	Mr. John Millason
1981 June – 1982	Pastor Denison Jayaratnam
1983 - 1987 Sept.	Rev. Simon Chandran
1988	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1989 – 1993	Rev. C. Jayaraj
1994	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1995 – 2001	Rev. David Rasahpandy
2002	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2003	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2004	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2005 – 2006	Rev. S. Jayabalan
2007 – 2009	Rev. John Mathuni
2010	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2011 – 2012	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2013 – 2014	Pastor Solomon Thangaiah
2015 – 2016	Rev. David Rasahpandy
2017 onwards	Rev. Isaac Nathan

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2012	Mr. Jayabalan	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2013	Mr. Jayabalan	Mr. Kumaresan
2014 - 2015	Mrs. Janu Andrew	Mr. Kumaresan
2016 - 2017	Mr. A. E. Asudass	Mr. Kumaresan
2018	Mr. P. Dass	Mrs. Liza Lawrence
2019	Mr. P. Dass	Ms. Sarah

KUANTAN

The Beginning of the Ministry

In June **1938** **Rev. S.M. Pandian** arrived in Kuantan. He administered the Holy Communion to both the English and Tamil congregations. The first Sunday Worship Service was held on **28 August 1938**. Rev. Pandian, after receiving his Deacon Ordination, was appointed the pioneer Pastor of TMC Kuantan. Thus began the history of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuantan. In the early years, both the worship service and Church School were held in the Chinese Hokkien Association. The Church grew from 4 families to 18 families in **1941**. The worship services continued through the war years until Rev. Pandian left for Perak in **1943**. Soon after the World War II, late in **1945**, Rev. Pandian, getting information that the Army Camp at Jalan Gambut, where the present Church and School is situated, was moving away to the 9th Mile Jalan Gambang, then approached the District Officer and managed to acquire the present site for the Church and School. The family moved to stay at the army barracks as a temporary parsonage. Worship services were held in the army barracks.

Church moves through Challenges and Presses on

In **1947**, Rev. S.M. Pandian left for Johore and **Rev. D.K. Gnananantham** arrived in Kuantan. He stayed in one of the wooden barracks since there was no parsonage. At the beginning of 1951, Rev. Gnananantham left for Kedah. From **1951 to 1955**, there was no resident pastor and so pastors from Raub (**Rev. Retnasamy and Rev. Thangamuthu**) came once a month to hold Holy Communion services. From September **1956 to 1957**, **Rev. John Abraham** was the Pastor. He made quarterly visits to Kelantan and Terengganu for the Tamil work. In **1957** there were 30 Full Members. In **1958 and 1959**, **Rev. S. Ratnasamy** was the Pastor. In **1958** the Full Membership was 74. Rev. Peter David was active in outstation visitation in East Pahang, especially at Pekan. In Jabor Valley, Jeram Kuantan, Semambu, Athara and Kuala Reman Estates he led in the distribution of powdered milk to labourers. Tamil members in East (Kuantan) and West Pahang (Raub) were challenged at the beginning of the year to contribute RM 30 and RM 50 monthly, respectively for the support of the pastors. In **1959**, **Rev. S. Ratnasamy** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 72.

Working in unity with the Wesley Church

From **1959 to 1962**, **Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the Pastor. In **1959**, he started Church School in the nearby estates. There was an enrolment of some 380 students. In **1960**, the Tamil work was launched along new lines. It was thought wise not to establish a separate Tamil Quarterly Conference. The Kuantan 'Wesley' Church had two congregations (Tamil and English), served by two pastors, but united in one organized Quarterly Conference with one set of officers, including a Treasurer. They made a common appeal for an 'every member pledge' for the budget of the church for 1961. This system financially strengthened the Tamil work.

In 1961 Pahang was divided into two sections, namely East and West Pahang.

In the East, Kuantan was the centre of the work. There was an addition to the Tamil work here with a new MYF and five new Church Schools in the neighbouring estates which totalled 240 children. In both the new MYF and in the new Church Schools only a few were Christian children. In **1962** there were 7 Church Schools with a total of 318 children. The Tamil MYF was the largest Tamil speaking MYF in Malaya and was placed 5th among all the Malaya MYF's in attendance. Rev. Yesusegayam's visit in May and the visit of the Trinity College Caravan in July were extremely helpful to the Tamil work. The English and Tamil speaking congregations were under one Quarterly conference for several years. The attempt here was to encourage the support of the English speaking congregation for the Tamil work which was mainly in surrounding estates. The various efforts to establish a separate Tamil congregation in the town failed because of lack of sufficient support from the Tamil people. The Tamil work was supported by the church for a number of years. In **1963** Mr. K Isaac was sent early in the year to manage the Tamil work around Kuantan in Jeram Estate, Bukit Ubi Road, Semambu Estate, Jabor Estate, Transit Quarters and Jeram.

Model for Malaysian Methodism

In **1964** and **1965**, Mr. B. A. Thangaraj, a Tamil Evangelist, conducted three Church Schools, cottage prayer meetings, MYF and lyrical preaching in the estates. In **1965** both the English and Tamil congregations continued under one Quarterly Conference. They were ministered by Rev. David H. Hilton and Mr. B. A. Thangaraj. The lay too worked together. The DS, Rev. Craig S. Wilder, saw this as a 'model' for Malaysian Methodism.

Separate Local Conference

From September **1966** till **1968**, **Rev. K.J. Timothy** was the Pastor. Mr. S. Selvaraj was posted in January **1969**. **TMC Kuantan became a separate Local Conference on 21 January 1969**. The Full Membership of the church was 38. When Mr. Selvaraj left for studies to India in April 1970, **Rev. I.G. Sunderarajan** served for a short period from May **1970**. Then **Rev. Eddie J. Thoraisingam** was the Pastor from **1971 to 31 January 1974**. Worship services were conducted in Kota Bahru and Mentakab. A kindergarten was started in Sri Jaya. The Conference MYF Institute was hosted by TMC Kuantan in 1971. In **1972**, Rev. Eddie Thoraisingam was appointed the first DS of the newly formed Eastern Malaya District. Before this, Kuantan was part of the Central Malaya District.

35th Church Anniversary

In **1973**, there was an increase of 12 members and the Full Membership was 79. There were Church Schools in Jeram, Semambu, Tanah Puteh, Bukit Ubi and Kuantan Town. Through the generosity of one friend of the church, a free bus service was provided every year to enable children from the estates to get to the Town for the Centralised Christmas Party.

The church started a monthly Service at **Kota Bharu**. There were about four families. Ministry was started at **Sri Jaya**, a fast developing small town with many Tamils about 38 miles south of Kuantan. Many of them were retrenched from the estates in Kuantan. The church has acquired a land and had a hall for a monthly rent of \$70 to start work among the children. The church celebrated its 35th Anniversary with Tea and a Thanksgiving Service. The Anniversary Cake, in the shape of the church, was cut by the oldest member of the church Mr. G. Gabriel. The Conference President Rev. T.R. Doraisamy delivered the Anniversary Address. A strong protest was launched against the decision to designate Kuantan Church and Hall as SMAC property.

First to Respond to Fulltime Ministry

In February **1974**, **Rev. James K. Solamadan** became the Pastor. Mr. A.E. Joseph was sent from this church as their first candidate for the full-time ministry. In **1975**, the church hosted the Conference Youth Institute once again. **From 8 May 1976 to 1981 Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan** was the Pastor. The Church became a Missionary Church and reached out to Jerantut, Jenka and Mentakab. In **1977** the Full Membership was 88. The WSCS organised sewing class for women in Jeram Estate and also paid the bus fare for a needy boy to go to school. In **1978** the Full Membership was 96. Kemaman and Jerantut were new Outreaches. The Youth Choir went to Singapore on a singing mission. The Sunday school conducted a VBS from 24 July to 2 August. In **1979** the MIF won four converts for the Lord. The regular Christian nurture helped the church to reach the unreached. In **1980** apart from meeting their own commitments, the church gave liberally to Missions. Almost RM 1,500 a year was given to Missionary Fellowship and Evangelistic work. The Full Membership was 135. In **1981** the church resolved to reopen the issue of the Kuantan Church property. The Full Membership was 142

Reaping the Harvest in Plentiful

From **1982 to 1986 Rev. C. Pandian** was the Pastor. In **1982**, he started new outreach work in Karak, Bentong (125 miles), Kuala Lipis/Budu Estate (160 miles), Kemaman, Dara Lamsoun, Pekan and Maran. Two new Local Conferences were formed in Mentakab and Jerantut. The Full Membership was 152. In **1983** the Full Membership was 187. A total of 134 adults and children were baptised in the Outreach areas during the period January to 20 November 1983. On 20 November, 14 were baptised at Jerantut. A number of preachers from India ministered in these areas and this was one of the reasons for spiritual revival. In **1984** the Full Membership was 379. There were 194 adult baptisms. 190 were received on Confession of Faith. The church spent RM 8,000 on outreach and evangelism and this was 35% of their total budget. The church property issue remained unresolved. The Parsonage/Land issue needed attention. In **1985** the Full Membership was 236 and there were 36 baptisms. Another outreach work was established at Maran. This church reached out to the north to Semambu (6 miles), Jeran (9 miles), Kemaman (40 miles), and Kerteh (65 miles) both of these are in Terengganu. To the south to Taman Tas (8 miles), Gambang (20 miles) and Lam Soon (60 miles). To the east to Maran (50 miles).

Losing a Servant of God in Tragedy

In **1986** the Full Membership was 260. Rev. Pandian's untimely death on **22 May 1986** was a shock to all. Due to lack of information and in the absence of proper records the exact number of converts, baptised persons and contacts were not available. **Rev. Emanuel Rajahser** served as the Pastor from **3 July to 30 December 1986**.

Celebrating Fifty Years of Ministry

From January **1987** to November **1989**, **Rev. Stanley Sadagopan** was the Pastor. In **1987**, the Full Membership was 165. There were 85 children and 9 teachers in the Church School. Mr. R. Yesudason was their Outreach Worker (till November 1992). In Maran, for the first time 8 adults and 19 children were baptised. The church used the Wesley church for worship services on Sundays. The weekday use of the church was restricted because the Wesley Church had programs. Though there were many baptisms in the past, there was no proper follow-up and the church lost track of a number of them. In **1988**, the Full Membership was 170. Sunday worship was at 7.30 am. and about 110 people attended. Area fellowship was organised in one area. MYF met on Sundays at 10 am. They raised money to support the Sengoi Christians. The Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 27 August. About 200 attended. In **1989**, the Full Membership was 172. The Outreach work in Maran did not progress. There was a lot of opposition from the non-Christians in the District.

From **December 1989 to June 1994**, **Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor. A worship team was formed and a music band was organised. The pastor, together with the worship team ministered in many churches. In **1990**, the Full Membership was 164. Sunday Worship Service: 8 am. Taman Tas Worship was held on Sundays at 7 pm and about 15 adults attended the worship. Since the response for Bible Study was poor the pastor incorporated it into the regular prayer meetings. A monthly Bible Competition was conducted by the pastor. There were 58 children in the Church School and they met on Sundays at 10 am. The MYF had 27 members. **1991** the Full Membership was 191 in **1992** it was 203 and in **1993** it was 205. The D.S. Rev. Devadass Ratnam met the pastor and Building Committee to discuss the problem of land ownership and encroachment. **In 1994**, Rev. Joseph was the pastor till June 1994, and then he left for his studies. **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was Pastor-in-charge from July to November 1994. In **1994**, the Full Membership was 208. Pastor Segaran was posted as Supply Pastor in August 1994. The church was generous and they adopted TMC Cheroh and sent RM200 monthly for a period of time. They pledged to donate RM15,000 for 1 room in Wisma TAC. Progress was made with the Land problem, when representatives from the Trustees met with 4 representatives from the church to sort out matters. It was decided to research into earlier records after which decisions reached would become official. The Land problem with the school was amicably resolved. (Property Report page 132)

Moving Out To Sing and Share for the Lord

In **1995**, **Rev. Peter Devadason** was the pastor-in-charge with Supply Pastor K. Segaran. The Full Membership was 203. Sunday Worship was at 8 am. The average attendance was 180. Time was limited as they had to make way for the Wesley Congregation by 10 am. The worship team ministered in the Northern District at the warm invitation of its DS, Rev. Victor Vethamani and the pastors there and also in certain Perak District churches. A Junior Church was conducted for children below 6 years during the service in the Kuantan church. Door-to-door tracting was carried out by the Evangelism Committee. Eight members of the missions committee visited the Kuala Krai Kelantan Missionary Field. The church bought a new Ford Econovan – CAF 608. Pastor Segaran served till November **1995**.

From December **1996 to 2000**, **Rev. C. Paul Arputharaj** was the Pastor. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 217. There were 8 Cell Groups that met on Tuesdays. There was Outreach work in Maran, Gemang, and Pekan. The second church van, a Ford Econovan, CAS 2712 was purchased in 1996. In **1997**, the Full Membership increased by 14 and was 229. An annex to the parsonage was constructed. In **1998** the Full Membership was 251. Ministerial student Mr. Edward Devadason was posted here. The church celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

In **1999** the Full Membership was 240, an increase of 15 through conversions. The Church Theme was: “Theology and Kneology.” The church had their first Foreign Mission trip to Thailand. Every quarterly, the Christian Education Committee released the official church magazine – “The Rising Eagle”. In **2000** the Full Membership was 262. There were 21 new members in this church and 7 were adults. Mr. John Simson, a ministerial student, served from January to May. Rev. Paul served till end of December 2000. The church had 2 vans. A double storey bungalow was purchased for RM100,000. Trips to Kuala Kerai, Orang Asli, Sri Lanka and India were arranged. A manse/bungalow was purchased from the Council of Education. (*Board on Property report pg. 245*)

From **2001 to 2008** **Rev. Justin Clarence** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 262. The church gave RM10,000 towards the mission work among the Orang Asli in Paka Terengganu. Renovations were done to the new parsonage and restoration work in the house at B-398 Jalan Gambut. The Trustees were notified of the encroachment and renovations by School Hostel. The MSF was formed. In **2002** the Full Membership was 248. Children’s classes were conducted at Kampung Padang (Outreach Point). The church gave RM600 monthly support to TMC Ulu Tiram. The Conference Youth Camp was organised for the third time in Kuantan. The third church van Kia Pregio, CBJ 261 was purchased. The church supported the following programs and ministries: (a) Appeal for Jerusalem churches - RM700; (b) Cheroh church building request - RM2,000; (c) UluTiram Ministry support – RM5,400; (d) Missionary Christmas gift (MMM) – RM1,500 and (e) MYF Youth Convention – RM1,000.

In **2003** the Full Membership was 242. Outreach ministries were conducted in Paka, Kuala Krai, Lepar Hilir/Pekan. There were Care Groups in Taman Tas and Mahkota Jaya. Missions Support Ulu Tiram – RM3,600; IEM RM500; Scripture Union India – RM200. A new van was purchased and the parsonage was repainted. The church celebrated its 65th Church Anniversary with breakfast for members.

Realizing the dream of their own Church Building

In **2004** the Full Membership was 254. There was Outreach work in Kampung Wawah. In **2005** the Full Membership was 241. There was a monthly Friday worship in Kuala Terengganu. In **2006** the Full Membership was 252. The Methodist Women contributed RM5,000 and the MYAF contributed RM20,000 for the Building Project. The church began its Building Project costing RM400,000 after waiting for 68 years to have their own building. A church hall costing RM400,000 was to be constructed on a 2 acre parcel of land (former parsonage area) which has a commercial status. The Plans were approved on 1 March 2006 and the ground breaking ceremony was held on 10 September 2006. In **2007** the Full Membership was 194. The MW raised RM10,000 for the Church Building Fund. In **2008** the Full Membership was 187. The new church building was dedicated on 13 April 2008.

From **2009 to 2012 Rev. Samuel Periathamby** was the Pastor. In **2009**, the Full Membership was 202. The church van went through a major overhaul and there was also a major renovation work done at the parsonage. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 197. The youths were actively involved in the church: leading praise and worship, ‘Orang Asal’ ministry and Sri Jaya outreach ministry. Prayer and Orang Asal ministry was held in Kg. Wah Wah with 30 – 35 children attending regularly. A local member, Mr. Saravanan, committed for the full time ministry. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 217. The Church School building was renovated from a wooden to a concrete structure. In **2012**, Mr. David Retnam, a Pre-Ministerial Candidate, was posted here. The Full Membership was 211. There was Outreach work done in Sri Jaya and Lepar.

From **2013 to 2015, Rev. D.B. Laurence** was the Pastor. In **2013**, the Full Membership was 215, in **2014** it was 210 and in **2015** it was 204. Cell Group ministry was conducted in Taman Tas and Taman Impianku. New Cell Groups were started in Taman Cenderawasih and Taman Fairmont/Indera Mahkota.

In **2016, Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Vincen Dass as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership dropped to 199. In **2017, Rev. Vincen Dass** was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 194. From **2018** onwards **Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria** was again the Pastor-in-charge. In **2018**, the Full Membership rose to 206. Six youths attended the Youth Missions Camp in Songkhla, Thailand.

In **2019**, Rev. Jevaratnam continues as the pastor. Mr. Danasamy is the Lay Leader and Mr. Robert Selvaraj is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full membership of the church is 212. There are three Cell Groups, named as follows: 1) Hebron Cell Group 2) Gethsemane Cell Group and 3) Bethel Cell Group They have outreach work in Sri Jaya (Preaching point) and Kg. Wah Wah (Orang Asli). The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (37), MYAF (40), MSF, (28) and MW (30). The Church School has 34 children and 5 teachers.

Conclusion: The Tamil Methodist ministry in Malaysia started in Penang, where the very first Tamil Methodist church was established in 1894. It was only after another 44 years that the first Tamil Methodist pastor in the person of Rev. S.M. Pandian came to Kuantan in 1938. In spite of the late start of the Tamil Methodist ministry here, God has blessed this church. TMC Kuantan has played a major role in not only building the Tamil Methodist ministries in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, but also in the total mission of TAC. Their mission emphasis has helped them to reach people beyond our nation. Like all our other churches, TMC Kuantan is experiencing God's blessings as well as facing different challenges. They need God's grace to stay humble and overcome the challenges to continue to build TMC Kuantan and bring glory to God.

Sources:

TMC Kuantan 70th Anniversary Souvenir/Mr. David Pandian
Methodist Journals MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1938 – 1947	Rev. S.M. Pandian
1947 – 1951	Rev. D.K. Gnananantham
1951 – 1963	Rev. S. Sundararaj
1966 – 1968	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1969 – 1970	Pastor S. Selvaraj
1970 – 1971	Rev. I.G. Sundararajan
1971 – 1974 Jan.	Rev. Eddie J. Thoraisingam
1974 Feb. – 1975	Rev. James Solamadan
1976 – 1981	Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan
1982 – 1986 May	Rev. C. Pandian
1986 July to Dec.	Rev. Emanuel Rajahser
1987 – 1989 Nov.	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1989 Dec. – 1994 May	Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph
1994 June – Dec	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1995	Rev. Peter Devadason
1996 – 2000	Rev. C. Paul Arputharaj
2001 – 2008	Rev. Justin Clarence
2009 – 2012	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2013 – 2015	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2016	Rev. S. Jevaratnam
2017	Rev. Vincen Dass
2018 onwards	Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1969	Mr. Gabriel Muthusamy	Mr. Victor Murthy
N/A	Mr. Gabriel Muthusamy	Mr. G. I. Vethamanickam
N/A	Mr. E. A. R. Murthy	Mr. G. I. Vethamanickam
N/A	Mr. S. Plaindran	Mr. Plaindran
2014	Mr. Danasamy	Mr. Danasamy
2015	Mr. Ranjit	Mr. Danasamy
2016	Mr. Danasamy	Mr. Danasamy
2017 - 2019	Mr. Danasamy	Mr. Robert

KAMPAR/GOPENG

The Beginnings

Mr. Gnanamuthu Moses, a pioneer of TMC Kampar recollects, “The ministry in Kampar was started in **1952**. It began with only ten members, and I happen to be the only one who is still a member.” During this initial period, some from the surrounding estates and mining areas became members. The church had the services of Lay Preacher Mr. Kandiah, a teacher at ACS Kampar. At that time, the worship service was held at the Chinese Methodist Church Kampar for two years. The MAC Journal mentions **Pastor D. Vethamony** as the first Pastor of the church.

The Early Pastors

From **1960 to 1961**, **Rev. V.A. Chelliah** was the Pastor. From **1962 – 1963**, Supply Pastor V. Seenisamy was in charge. In **1964** **Rev. K.J. Timothy** was the Pastor-in-charge and from **1965 to 1970** the Pastor-in-charge was **Rev. D.K. Gnananantham**. In **1970** the Full Membership stood at 48 and they were from Tapah, Kampar, Malim Nawar and Gopeng. There were no resident pastor, and pastoral care came from the pastor in TMC Tamil Settlement Ipoh. He was given \$ 50 as transport allowance. There was need for a separate pastor.

Strengthening Children’s Ministry

From **1971 to 1977**, **Rev. V. Seenisamy** was the Pastor. In **1971** there were fortnightly services in Tong Wah Estate. A new Church School was organised with an enrolment of 35 children. There was another Church School in Malim Nawar with 38 pupils. Cottage meetings were conducted. The Full Membership increased to 55 and in **1972** it was 53. The total enrolment of children in the three Church Schools was 100. In **1973**, besides the worship services, regular home prayer meetings were conducted. The total enrolment of Church School children was 123. Two of the Church Schools were conducted in Kampar and Tong Wah Estate. The WSCS met the transport expenses for the Church School. The Full Membership stood at 41. There was a slight drop in the membership as some members had returned to India. In **1974** the Full Membership was 42. There were three Church Schools with 107 children. The pastor and his wife taught in all these Church Schools. They used the Lutheran Church materials. The pastor made regular visits and conducted house Prayer Meetings in all the homes. Distance was a major hindrance to the ladies coming together for meetings.

Worship at Wesley Methodist Kampar

From **1978 to May 1979**, **Rev. C. Pandian** was the Pastor. From **June 1980 till November 1981**, **Miss Saraswathy Suppiah** was appointed Conference Worker in charge of the circuit. She was stationed in Gopeng. Apart from Kampar and Gopeng, the Circuit included Tapah, Malim Nawar and Perak Hydro, Temoh, Kota Bharu Estate, Mynalpy Estate and Kinta Tin.

The Full Membership in **1981** was around 50. Weekly worship services in Gopeng and Kampar were held in the home of the Amarasuriya's and at the Wesley Methodist Church Kampar respectively. Twenty-five young people were confirmed as Full Members of the church by the DS Rev. James Solamadan on 22 February 1981. An Outreach was started at Tong Wah Estate by holding an evangelistic meeting. The church raised RM1881.50 for the Building Fund through a dinner.

Five Young Women Step Forward to Serve God

On **1 December 1981**, Mr. Selwyn Anantham was appointed as Church Worker. He served till **May 1984**. **Rev. Jacob David and Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan** were the Pastors-in-charge. Five young women – Miss Julie Anamah, Mrs. Sakthi Albert Simon, Miss Gomathi Ambross, Miss Rachel Veny and Mrs. Christina Balasubramaniam committed for the fulltime ministry. In **1982** the Full Membership was 79 and in 1981 it was 50. Three Hindu families were converted and added to the fellowship. Two families left to join a different denomination. In **1983**, the updated Full Membership stood at 94. The church's prayer team conducted prayer sessions in the outreach places. The land application was rejected and a fresh application was made. The church continued to request for a pastor of their own.

From **1 June 1984 – 1985**, **Rev. Peter Jebasekaran** was the Pastor. In **1984** the Full Membership stood at 103. There were 76 children in the Church School ministry. Two youths gave themselves for the fulltime ministry. From January **1985**, the church became self-supporting.

Four Recommended for Lay Preaching Course

In **1986**, **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. With the help of Mrs. Betsie Komar, the pastor's wife, the church witnessed growth in the children's ministry. There were a total of 80 children with 13 teachers. Church School was conducted in six different places. Mrs. Komar conducted a teachers' training programme, and they met once a month for prayer, evaluation, lesson-planning and audio visual preparation. Mrs. Komar also helped to train Church School teachers in the other churches in the district. For the first time four active lay persons were recommended for the Lay Preachers' course: Mr. Segaran, Mr. Parthiban, Miss Vimala Embrose and Mr. Alakeason.

Moving into Deliverance Ministry

From **1987 to 1992**, **Rev. Hendry Ponniah** was the Pastor. The Full Membership in **1987** was 108.

In **1988**, there were four weekly worship services – Gopeng, Kampar, Malim Nawar, Tapah. There were six Church Schools in the circuit, 8 teachers and 82 students. In **1989** the Full Membership was 131. Once a month, the members gathered in Kampar for Holy Communion Service. There was an emphasis on personal evangelism and deliverance ministry. Several people were saved through these ministries. People were attracted to the ministry when they saw signs and wonders.

Owning a Parsonage

In **1990**, the Full Membership was 139. The Lay Leader was Mr. Segaran and LCEC Chairperson was Mr. M. John. By God's grace, the church bought a parsonage in Kampar and they raised funds for it. In **1991**, the Full Membership was 144. The work among the Sengois progressed well. 16 people were ready for baptism. The pastor moved into the spacious parsonage. This was the church's first property. In **1992**, the Full Membership was 144. Mr. James Ravindaren gave himself for the fulltime ministry.

Ministry in Bidor/Sungkai/Tapah

From 1993 – 1997, Rev. Elango Kannan was the Pastor. In **1993**, the Full Membership rose to 157. Mr. K. Segaran gave himself for the fulltime ministry. The church had a weekly ministry among the Sengois. About 20 people, including two Sengois were baptized. Tithes and pledges increased significantly. The church became self-supporting. In **1994**, there were seven cell groups meeting in seven different areas under committed lay people. The Church School helped in the Sengoi ministry. In **1995**, the Full Membership was 155. The Tapah Outreach area with 14 members was transferred to the Teluk Intan Outreach of Bidor/Sungkai. A 10% down payment was made for the Building Project. The church raised the rest of the money, including the renovation expenses. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 167. Area Fellowships were held in three places and the pastor was in charge. In the absence of an Outreach Worker in the Tapah/Bidor /Sungkai area, Tapah work was transferred back to Kampar by the Teluk Intan Church.

Building Project in Kampar Town

The church made all the financial arrangements to purchase the block of three buildings with one entrance at the price of RM 350,000. A problem arose when the Perak State Government was not prepared to approve the sale and transfer to the Church. The local church made an appeal to the Perak State Government. In **1997, Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor with Rev. Mark Subramanyam as the Assistant Pastor. As the supervising pastor, Rev. Sadagopan went to Kampar only on a few days in a month and whenever needed. All programmes and activities of the church were conducted by Rev. Mark in consultation with Rev. Sadagopan. Kampar worship service was on Sundays at 3.30 pm, in the Kampar Wesley Church premises. Gopeng worship was on Sundays at 8.00 am, in a shop-house owned by the Anglican Church. Malim Nawar worship was on Thursdays at 5.45 pm and Tapah the worship service was held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings. The second application for the purchase of the 3 shop-houses was submitted to the office of the Pengarah Tanah & Galian. It was also rejected. The church made a third attempt.

From **1998 – 2002, Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. In **1998**, the Church finally purchased the 3 shop-lots in Kampar town. The Full membership was 158. In **1999**, the church worked hard to raise funds to do a major renovation on the 3 shop-lots. The Full Membership was 169.

In **2000**, the Full Membership was 184. Worship service in Air Kuning was held every alternate Tuesday at 7.30pm in the house of one of the members. About 3 families attended regularly. A VBS was held from 4 – 6 September at the Kampar Tamil School from 8.00 am – 12.00 noon. About 72 children participated, of which 40% of them were non-believers. In **2001**, the Full Membership was 184. In **2002** Bible Studies were done through Cell Groups and there was an extended time of prayer on Thursdays at 7.00 pm.

Major Renovation of the Three Shop-Lots

From **2003 – 2004**, **Rev. S. Jayabalan** was the Pastor. In **2003** the church embarked on a major renovation of the three shop-lots. The church was involved in the Migrant Ministry. In **2004**, the church was involved in the Vietnam ministry. The church finally completed the renovation work of the 3 shop-lots. The ground floor was rented out, to help settle the loans secured.

Dedication of Church Building

From **2005 – 2008**, **Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** was the Pastor. In **2005**, there were 6 cell groups and the participation was encouraging. The Church library was expanded and the Daily Devotional Material “Our Daily Bread” was distributed. Financial help as Social Concerns was rendered through the payment of medical bills and bus fare for school children. Social Concerns offering was taken on the 3rd week. It was noted that some focus was needed on the UTAR campus. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 215. In **2007**, the Church building was officially dedicated on 22 September 2007 by Rev. P. Tevaraji, the Conference President. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 220. Concern was expressed as people were moving to bigger towns for education and employment purposes. This affected leadership development.

LCEC Mission Trip to Thailand

From **2009 to 2012**, **Rev. David Abraham** was the Pastor. In **2009** the Full Membership was 214. Outreach Ministry was started in Tapah Road and it showed positive growth. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 196. There was a significant dip in the giving of tithes. Apart from the Myanmar Child Adoption, the church also adopted 2 children from the Bondo tribe in Orissa, India. The presence of the TAR University and the restoration of Kampar town presented the church with a different ministry scenario. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 201. The LCEC went on a mission trip to Thailand TEACH Centre. In **2012**, the membership was 185. Three cell groups functioned. 5 adults were baptised. Orang Asli ministry was stopped temporarily. Orissa Missions Fund too was stopped for the moment. Tithing increased dramatically (exceeding RM 10, 000). The church celebrated its 60th Anniversary on 11 August 2012.

In **2013**, **Rev. Jeyarajah** was the Pastor with Mr. Sargunawaran as Part-time Supply Pastor. Rev. Charles Abraham’s Evangelistic Meeting was held on 16 May and around 500 people attended. Many non- believers were healed and delivered from the evil one. There were four active cell groups. Most of the church leaders were young, educated and spiritually motivated. It was noted that there was a great scope for Campus Ministry.

Focussing on Mission

In **2014**, **Rev. Stephan Gunaraja** was the Pastor and Mr. Sargunawaran continued to minister. Rev. Stephen Gunaraja travelled from Teluk Intan and Mr. Sargunawaran travelled from Klebang, Ipoh to minister. On Fridays prayers were held simultaneously in Kampar, Malim Nawar and Gopeng. There was prayer for missions every Saturday morning. The women organised “Esther Prayer” every Wednesday. Church School Teacher Training was held in February and VBS in July

In **2015**, **Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor-in-charge and Mr. Sargunawaran continued. The Full Membership dropped to 152. VBS was held and many non-believers’ children attended. The cemetery problem continued to be an issue. From **2016 – 2017** **Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the Pastor. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 153. In **2017**, Rev. Seenivasagam David continued as pastor in charge and Rev. S. Krishnan (retired) was Assistant Pastor. Full Membership was 158. A Three-Day VBS was organised. 55 children attended, of which 50% were non- Christian children. In **2018**, the Pastor in charge was **Rev. David Rasahpandy** and Rev. S. Krishnan continued to assist. The Full Membership was 156. The church bought a new van.

In **2019** **Rev. Stephen Gunaraja** is the Pastor. The current Full Membership of the church remains at 156. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (12), MYAF (16), MSF (46) and MW (25). There are 75 children and 6 teachers in the Church School. There are also 5 Cell Groups. They have one Outreach in Gopeng.

Conclusion: Though the church has a long history extending to over sixty years, the exact date of its formation as a local church is not known. The church faced many challenges that slowed the growth. Most of the time, the church had to share their pastor with another church. The church had a Full Membership of 48 in 1970 and reached its highest of 220 in 2008. One of the high points in this local church’s history is the purchase of the three-storey building in Kampar town in 2008. The location is strategic and much can be achieved with focussed ministry, and much prayer and commitment.

Source:

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC. TAC
2. 60th Church Anniversary Souvenir Programme

PASTORAL ROLL

1952 – 1953	D. Vethamony
1954 – 1959	Pastor V. Seenisamy
1960 – 1961	Rev. V.A. Chelliah
1962 – 1963	V. Seenisamy
1964	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1965 – 1970	Rev. D.K. Gnananatham
1971 – 1977	Rev. V. Seenisamy
1978 – 1980 (May)	Rev. C. Pandian
1980 (June) – Nov. 1981	Miss Saraswathy Suppiah
1981 Dec – May 1984	Mr A. Selwyn
1984 June - 1985	Rev. Peter Jebasekaran
1986	Rev. Joseph Komar
1987 – 1992	Rev. Hendry Ponniah
1993 – 1997	Rev. Elango Kannan
1997	Rev. Sadagopan
1998 – 2002	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2003 – 2004	Rev. S. Jayabalan
2005 – 2008	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2009 – 2012	Rev. David Abraham
2013	Rev. Jeyarajah
2014	Rev. Stephen Gunaraja
2015	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2016 – 2017	Rev. Seenivasagaam David
2018	Rev. David Rasahpandy
2019	Rev. Stephen Gunaraja

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1952 - 1964	Mr. Jesudason	Mr. Gnanamuthu
1965 - 2002	N/A	N/A
2003 - 2006	Mr. Ahsokhan	Mr. Gnanamuthu
2007 - 2008	Mr. Murali	Mr. Ramesh Ramanathan
2009 - 2011	Mr. Ansen	Mr. Murali
2012	Mr. Ansen	Mr. Thiban
2013 - 2015	Mr. Ahsokhan	Mr. Thiban
2016 - 2019	Mr. Thiban	Mr. Paul Raj

SITIAWAN

The Early Years

The ministry in Sitiawan started as early as **May 1907**. **Pastor Gnanamuthu** made numerous visits and held open-air meetings in different places such as Lumut and Pangkor. In **1910**, a five acre land (near the present Sitiawan aerodrome) was acquired to build a Tamil Methodist Church. The church was built in 1918 at a cost of \$2,300 and was **dedicated in early 1919**. This set the church on a journey to experience God's amazing faithfulness.

Pre-World War II Period

The Tamil Methodist Church building was shared by the Chinese congregation from the 1920s and the Wesley congregation from the 1930s. In **1921**, under the leadership of **Pastor Edward Isaac**, the membership grew from 44 to 70. But the growth slowed from **1922 to 1924** because many estate workers returned to India when rubber prices slumped. **Pastor Paul Ponniah** worked faithfully and there was some progress. In **1925**, **Pastor Devadason** was sent to take charge of the Tamil Circuit in this region. The Tamil church was shared by the Hokkien speaking Christians who moved from Kg. Koh Pioneer Church. In **1929**, a Chinese parsonage was built next to the Tamil church. At the same time, the existing Tamil parsonage, which was in bad condition was rebuilt. In **1938**, the Tamil Methodist church was also shared by the English speaking Christians. They held monthly English services under Rev. Eugene McGraw. In **December 1941**, the British demolished the Tamil Methodist church and the two parsonages to make way for an aerodrome for a military defence program.

Post World War II and Formation of Local Conference

In **1948**, missionary worker Miss M. Dirksen negotiated with the government to allocate two acres of land (the present Tamil Methodist Church, Sitiawan land) to build a new church. This land was in replacement of the five acres occupied by the Tamil Methodist Church near the aerodrome prior to the Second World War. Compensation from war damage was given to the Tamil Methodist Church and channelled towards building the new church. Additional funds were raised by the Wesley, Chinese, Tamil and Anglican members. Finally, a new church was built for all three congregations; Tamil, Chinese and Wesley amounting to \$30,000. The church was **dedicated by Bishop Raymond L. Archer on 27 December 1953**. **The Tamil Methodist Church Sitiawan was also formed as a Local Conference in 1953** (Local Church Building Dedication Souvenir Programme 4th December 2011 p.33).

In **January 1955**, the DS reported:, "Mr. Jebamoney has been at work during the past year seeking to revive Tamil work in the Sitiawan area which was discontinued several years ago because of lack of support." This was again reported in the January 1956 Journal p. 51 "Sitiawan Tamil Work which was discontinued several years ago has been organised this year and the work is carried on satisfactorily."

The Tamil, Chinese and Wesley parsonages were built in **1955** at a cost of \$27,500. The \$14,455.76 from the war damage claim to compensate the loss of the Tamil and Chinese parsonages, together with the additional funds raised by the Wesley, Chinese and Tamil members, helped build these three parsonages. They were identical in size and construction.

Fragmentation of the Estates Causes Drastic Drop in Church Membership

From **1956 – 1958**, **Rev. D.A. Chelliah** was the pastor. In **1957**, the church membership decreased drastically due to the fragmentation of the estates. Many members left the plantations and moved elsewhere. However there was a growing number of Christians in Pundut. In **December 1957** under the leadership of the pastor, there was gradual improvement. He visited the neighbouring estates once a month using an auto-cycle bought with the help of the school and church members. In **December 1958** the Full Membership was 21.

In **December 1959**, the District Superintendent reported: “The greatest increase among Tamil churches has been at Sitiawan, where several Hindus have been baptised and the membership raised to 27...” Also an Education Centre was built near the Tamil Church by the Chinese members. The Centre provided extra space for all the three congregations to conduct various programs. In **December 1960** **Pastor C.A. Watson** with the assistance of a Trinity College student, Mr. Joseph M. Devasagayam, organised new Sunday schools. In **December 1961**, the Full Membership was 117 as compared to 100 the previous year. Mr. K. Isaac, after his training in the Pakianathan Seminary, was a great assistance to the pastor. Mr. Eddy Joseph returned to the District and worked for two months in Sitiawan at mid-year. In **December 1962** Rev. C.A. Watson left on a Crusade Scholarship and **Rev. Jebamoney** was appointed to Sitiawan in August, but Rev. Jebamoney passed away ten days later. Mr. I. Robert Chelladurai manned the pulpit. Though appointed at the end of 1962, **Rev. A.G.J. Rasanayakam** could not take appointment until **28 February 1963**. A church building was built in Pundut, on Madam Ellammah’s land with the consent of her family members. It was **dedicated by Bishop Lundy in 1963**.

Celebrating Twenty Years of being a Local Conference

From **1965 – 1977**, **Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the pastor. In **1970** the Full Membership was 122 and eventually in 1974 the number dropped to 96, when an update was done. Services were held on Sundays at Sitiawan and Pundut. Services were held every fortnight at Harcroft and Cashwood Estates. During this period Church Schools were held in 5 places with a total number of children ranging from 240 – 270. In **1971** Rev. Sundararaj left for India following the sudden death of his father. The ministry was carried on by the Official Board and Mrs. Ruth Sundararaj. In **1972**. There were 35 members in the MYF and they were a great help to the pastor. In **1973** the church renovated and painted the parsonage. Based on the fact that the church was made a Local Conference in 1953, the **church celebrated its 20th anniversary on 27 October**. In **1975** Rev. John Kovilpillai spent a week in Sitiawan for Evangelistic meetings.

Post TAC Years

From 1978 to 1981 Pastor Seenisamy was the pastor. In **1978** the Full Membership was 69. It increased to 88 in **1980** and 96 in **1981**. The five Church Schools continued but with fewer numbers: 134 children and 5 teachers. The church had a small choir. In **1979**, most of the members lived away from the town and the pastor had to visit the estates to conduct services in the homes and schools. In **1979** the church had four Church Schools. These schools were run by the pastor and his family members.

Becoming a Self-Supporting Church

From 1982 to 1987, Rev. P. Tevaraji was the pastor. A revival was seen during this period. Work was done in Cashwood, Harcroft, Walbrook, Kg. Pundut, Pundut Estate, and Sitiawan Estate. In **1982**, a Bible Study was started on Tuesdays in Pundut. The Full Membership was 135, compared to 98 the previous year. This increase saw 19 confirmed, 11 converts, 9 restored and one received on transfer. Full Membership hit a historical mark of 154 in **1983** and eventually in **1987** it rose to 214. The Church School was conducted in six places and had 92 pupils with 11 teachers. Monthly newsletters were released to keep people informed of the church activities. From July **1985** the Church became self-supporting. A new Church School was started in Kampong Sitiawan. Special speakers included Mr. James Santhosham, Mr. Mohan Lazarus, Dr Pushparaj and the Arumainayagam couple. Outreach ministry was carried out in at least five places: Taman Manickavasagam, Walbrook Estate, Ayer Tawar, Wellington Estate and Kampong Columbia. The church, after long deliberation decided to sell the land in Kg. Sitiawan for \$25,000 and channelled the money to the Air Tawar Building Fund.

Becoming Sole Occupants of Church Premise

As the membership of the Chinese and Wesley church grew, a larger worship place was needed. From **1985**, to overcome the space constraint, the Wesley members began holding their Sunday Service at the Methodist English School Hall, and eventually moved into their own church in Kg. Selamat, Sitiawan in **2002**. However they continued to utilise the Education Centre and the Chinese parsonage at the Tamil Methodist Church **until 20 June 2007**. The Tamil Methodist Church compensated them with RM 50,000 to vacate the premises and in return they donated RM10,000 to the new church building.

Multipurpose Hall with Added Facilities

From 1989 to 1994, Rev. T. Devadason Peter was the pastor. In 1988 the Full Membership was 215 and it increased to 264 in 1994. In May 1991 a two day VBS was conducted. The Pro Tem Committee in Pundut functioned well. However, the giving of the church was not sufficient for it to be proposed as a Local Conference. The church built a multipurpose hall at a cost of RM 75,000.

It had a fellowship hall, pastor's office, administration office, library and three classrooms. The Church also carried out tuition classes for needy students and provided boarding for participants of church programmes. In 1993 the church bought a piece of land in Ayer Tawar to build a hall which seats **250** people. Dedication was on 24 October 1993.

The church received a new van as a gift from the FGBMF. A kindergarten was also functioning. The church received a grant of RM 26,000 from the Government for the Ayer Tawar building. **In 1995, Rev. Jeyabal David** served as the pastor for a short period. The church continued to progress. The Full Membership was 259. A new Building Committee met on 2 February 1995 to look into the possibilities of building a bigger church.

From 1996 to 2002 Rev. Sandireaseheran was the pastor. In 1996 the Full Membership was 246. There was growth in the outreach programmes. Sketch drawings of the renovation project were presented to the local church on 30 March 1997 for approval. It was also on this day that the church officially launched the Fund Raising Project among its members. With the church members' approval, the church then proceeded to engage an architect to draw the final plans for submission to the Majlis Daerah Manjung. After four years, the church finally received the Certificate of Fitness for the multi-purpose Hall. The Pantai Remis Outreach ministry began when a few people gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. Daniel in **2000**. The idea of building a new and bigger sanctuary continued during Rev. Sandireaseheran's leadership. In fact, members began donating and raising funds towards the proposed new building as early as 1997.

Options to Expand Seating Capacity in the Church

From 2003 to 2009, Rev. James Ravindaren was the pastor. In January **2003** the Full Membership was 239. Tremendous growth was seen in the Sitiawan church and also in the Pundut, Ayer Tawar, and Pantai Remis outreaches. At the Building Committee Meeting on 24 February 2003, there were three different proposed plans in building the new church. Plan A – the existing church would be demolished to make way for a larger church building. Plan B – an extension building would be added to the existing church building to maintain and to preserve its heritage. Plan C – to build a separate building while maintaining the existing church building. It was later decided that the plan to build an extension to the existing building would be a better approach. The Ayer Tawar Chapel was dedicated by the TAC President, Rev. P Tevaraji on **5 March 2005**. The church Full Membership reached an all-time high of **274 in 2006** and then rose to 316 in 2009. Pundut church was renovated in **2007** by the believers in Pundut to provide more space and comfort. Four worship services were conducted in Sitiawan, Pundut, Ayer Tawar and Pantai Remis. There were two Cell Groups. In 2009 the building plans were approved. The President officiated the ground breaking ceremony.

Church Extension Project Completed

From **2010 to 2012**, **Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the pastor. In **2010** the Full Membership in June was 278 and in 2012 it rose to 307. A youth service was started. The Property Chairman reported “The church has embarked on a Church Extension Project for RM 775,000. The building is estimated to be completed in six months and the cost may escalate to approximately 1.35 million when completed.” (Journal 2010 p. 230). The Building Project had a shortfall of RM 360,000.

The Church and Parsonage Building Projects were completed and dedicated on 4th December 2011. In **2012** the AEC loan was settled. **From 2013 to 2014**, **Rev. David Abraham** was the pastor. He was assisted by Rev. S. Krishnan. In **2013** the Full Membership stood at 311 and in **2014** it was 320, when nine adults were baptised. The church had three Outreaches – Ayer Tawar, Pantai Remis and Pundut. Revival meetings were conducted from 11 to 12 September with Pastor Peter Murgasu from India as the speaker. On 15 September, Rev. David Rasahpandy conducted an evangelistic meeting.

Sending Out Workers into the Harvest Field

From 2015 – 2018, **Rev. John Simson** was the pastor. In **2015** the pastor was assisted by Mr. Daniel Isaac, a fulltime Church Worker. In 2014 the Full Membership was 325, and in 2018 it was 293. A new Cell Group was started in the Ayer Tawar area. The church gave financial support to Pastor Ruben Rajandurai in the Bruas and Pantai Remis ministry. In **2016** Miss Susannah Ruben was recommended for fulltime missions and she is at Seminary Theoloji Sabah. Cell Groups met in 12 places with 10 leaders, with a total average attendance of 60 – 70 people. At the Outreaches, Pundut had 16 attending and in the other two, they had 15 members each. In **2017**, Mr. Vickneswaran (Vicky) joined full time missions work. In **2018**, there were area based Church Schools and these were conducted in homes. They met in five areas. The purpose was to reach out to the local children. There was a combined childrens’ gathering of all the areas on every 2nd Sunday. Mr. Jerry John was recommended for full time mission work with TAC. He completed 6 months Mission Field Assignment in East Malaysia and did a church assignment for three months in TMC Prai and then completed another three months in TMC Penang

In **2019**, **Rev. K. Segaran** was appointed as the pastor. The church is in the process of updating their Membership Roll and it is currently at 288. They have three Outreaches: Kg. Pundut, Pantai Remis and Ayer Tawar. The church has started Saturday morning prayer at 6.00 am and about 5 members attend this. They have nine Cell Groups. Free tuition is provided for 20 children. Care Cell Leader’s Training and Care Cell Group Meetings are held every alternate Tuesday and about 20 people attend. As their first church was dedicated in 1919, Rev. Segaran took the initiative to observe the 100 Years Celebration. This was held in 3 stages: Open Day (6 July 2019); Worship and Praise Night (27 July 2019); and Special Worship Service (17 August 2019).

Conclusion

The Tamil Methodist Church Sitiawan has journeyed a hundred years since their first sanctuary dedication in 1919. To capture the significance of this event, the church celebrated God's faithfulness with a Thanksgiving Service on 17 August 2019. The church also celebrated the fact that TMC Sitiawan is the home church for Rev. John Kovilpillai, Rev. Hendry Ponniah and Rev. Sandireaseheran. The church, no doubt, can look forward to reaching greater heights in the years to come.

Sources

1. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC. TAC
2. Local Church Building Dedication Souvenir Programme 4 December 2011

PASTORAL ROLL

1954 – 1955	Rev. J.R. Jebamoney
1956 – 1958	Rev. D.A. Chelliah
1959	Pastor S.J. Manickam
1960 – 1962 (August)	Rev. C.A. Watson Pastor K. Isaac
1963 – 1964	Rev. A.G.J. Rasanayakam
1965 – 1977	Rev. S. Sundararaj
1978 – 1981	Rev. V. Seenisamy
1982 – 1987 April	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1987 Apr. to 1988 May	Rev. V. Seenisamy
1988 June to Dec.	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1989 – 1994	Rev. Peter Devadason
1995	Rev. Jeyabal David
1996 – 2002	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2003 – 2009	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2010 – 2012	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2013 - 2014	Rev. S. Krishnan
2015 – 2018	Rev. John Simson
2019	Rev. K. Segaran

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2001 - 2003	Mr. John Jayabalan	Mr. Joshua Subramaniam
2004	Mr. Paul Durai	Mr. John Jayabalan
2005	Mr. John Jayabalan	Mr. Paul Durai
2006	Mr. John Jayabalan	Mr. Joshua Subramaniam
2007 - 2008	Mr. Peter Perumal	Mr. Joshua Subramaniam
2009 - 2012	Mr. Peter Perumal	Mr. John Jayabalan
2013	Mr. Peter Perumal	Mr. Joshua Subramaniam
2014 - 2015	Mr. Peter Perumal	Mr. John Jayabalan
2016 - 2017	Mr. K. Daniel	Mr. John Jayabalan
2018	Mr. K. Daniel	Mr. K. Daniel
2019	Mr. K. Daniel	Mr. John Jayabalan



BANTING

The Beginnings

TMC Banting began as an Outreach of TMC Klang from the mid **1930's** when Rev. S. S. Pakianatham served as the DS. The Government-assisted Methodist English Primary School was opened on 12 January 1953. It was dedicated on 21 March 1953 by Bishop Raymond L. Archer. Rev. J.A.P. Oswald, the headmaster of the newly-formed Primary School, served as the Pastor of the church. Worship services were held in the school hall. The Church School was organized in May 1953 with the pastor as its superintendent.

US \$3000 Grant From New York

On 25 December **1954**, the first baptism, which was that of little Denison Jayasooria Jayaratnam was held. The MYF was organized in February **1955**. The first office-bearers were installed by the DS Dr. Hobart B. Amustutz. The first marriage conducted in this church was that of Mr. Israel Gnanamuthu to Miss Pakiathai Joseph on 12 September 1955. The church wanted to put up their own building. A US \$3000 (RM9000) grant was obtained through the New York Office of the Methodist Church in U.S.A. A Building Committee was then initiated, however, the building only materialized later. One problem was that the Chinese members at that time wanted to build their own church building in the town. After Rev. Oswald left Banting at the end of **1958**, three English Services were conducted by Mr. V.K. Vincent Daniel. Rev. M. Thangamuthu was only able to come once a month to conduct the Tamil service and administer the Holy Communion.

Church Building Designed by the Best

In **1960**, though the decision to erect a church building was taken earlier, it only came into being under the able leadership of Mr. Vincent Daniel. Others in the Committee were Mr. Daniel K. Jayaratnam, Mr. J. Thambidorai, Mr. Robert Selvaratnam, Mr. Tan Chet Wah and Rev. Thangamuthu. Mr. Vincent Daniel got the assistance of two professionals, who rendered their professional services free of charge, Mr. Minjoodt a leading K.L Architect who designed the building and Mr. Daniel Welch the local D.I.D. engineer. Mr. Minjoodt drew up the reinforced concrete plans required specially for unique cantilevered porch. The contractor Mr. Tung Kai Leong, when approached by Mr. Vincent Daniel in his capacity as the Principal of M.E.S, consented to build the church at the minimal cost of \$12,900. Mr. Tung acknowledged that he had prospered a hundredfold because he built this church building as a labour of love. The newly-built church was dedicated to God's glory on 4 February 1962 by Bishop Hobart B. Amstutz. The TPAC which was formed in 1968 and the Joint Liaison Committee assigned this church and two houses to TPAC. The Banting church is blessed.

Blessing from the OMF

In **1970** the church had the services of **Rev. William F. Harris**, an OMF missionary, fondly known as Pastor Bill Harris. He served as the full-time residential Assistant Pastor.

The Chairman, in his capacity as Principal of the school, persuaded those staying in the men's hostel to vacate to enable Pastor Harris and family to occupy the house. The OMF undertook full financial responsibility for the invaluable services rendered by Pastor Harris. He expanded the existing outreach work, which stretched from Sungai Linau Estate in Sepang and Prang Besar Estate in Kajang. There were many converts who later joined the church.

Hosting 8th National MYF Institute

In 1971 the TPAC Journal reported: "This is perhaps the only Church School in our conference which has 200 strong Church School children and which hires a school bus on monthly rental of \$60 to transport the children." In 1972, the 8th MYF Institute was held in M.E.S. Banting from 10 to 14 April. The Banting MYF played host under the leadership of Mr. Denison Jayaratnam, who was President of both the Conference and the local MYF. **Bishop T.R. Doraisamy** visited the church on 23 March 1975. Miss Molly Jayaratnam, the local MYF President was elected the first Selangor District MYF President. In August 1976, a Youth Missionary Conference was organized for the Selangor District MYF under the guidance of the local MYF advisor Mr. William Doraisamy. Some of those who attended this Youth Missionary Conference are serving pastors in T.A.C. A leadership cum Conference MYF AGM was hosted by the local MYF in October 1983 at Seri Pantai Morib. Mr. Arul Raj Solomon was elected the National MYF President and served for four years. Mr. Silvester Louis Martin David was also elected as the District MYF President and National MYF Vice President.

In 1977, **Rev. James K. Solomadan**, a local-born, became the Pastor. He later served as the Conference President. During Rev. James Solomadan's tenure as pastor of this church, the WSCS was formally organized and Mrs. Mercy Daniel was elected the first local President. Mrs. Mercy Daniel was the LCEC Chairperson from 1986 to 1990. In 1981, the church's Full Membership stood at 66. Miss Annamary Ponniah served as District WSCS President and was also the LCEC Chairperson.

Formation of the MAF

In 1986, **Rev Jeyabal David** was the Pastor. The Methodist Adults Fellowship (MAF) was inaugurated and formally accepted at the First Local Conference. The first President of this Fellowship was Mr. Melvin Wijayaratanam. In 1987, Mr. Abraham Ponniah who served as the local and District MYF President, heeded God's call for the full time ministry. The Full Membership now stood at 78.

Confirmation of Members by the Bishop

In 1990 **Rev. David Tharmakan** was appointed Pastor on his return from the USA after obtaining a Master's Degree. He was also the Selangor DS. Mrs. Mercy Daniel and Mr. I. Selladurai had the privilege of being part of the Malaysian delegation to the 16th World Methodist Conference held in Singapore from 23 to 30 July 1991. Mrs. Mercy also served on the Conference Board on Music & Worship, Social Concerns and Nomination Board.

Mr. I. Selladurai served as a District Lay Leader and Treasurer. Mrs. Elizabeth Selladurai too served as District WSCS President. Rev. David Tharmakan made possible the visit of Bishop Dr. Denis Dutton on the 6 September **1992**. The Bishop received and confirmed 15 new members.

New Initiatives

Rev. M.G. Thana Raj was the Pastor from **1993 up to March 1995**. His vision and desire was to instill and cultivate the earnestness and commitment for full time ministry among the young people. He started the Building Fund Project. He also started a Preaching Course to equip the members to proclaim the gospel effectively. He revived the outreach work in the Gadong area. In **1994** various new initiatives such as singing competition, guitar classes and other interesting events were initiated by him. The Church School ministries were also held in Sungai Sedu. **Rev. Vincent Jayaraj** took over from Rev Thana Raj as the Pastor-in-charge. In **1996 & 1997 Rev. Paul Maniam** was the Pastor. The church went through a phase of revival under his vibrant leadership. Many were ministered to and came to know the Lord. The church played host to the National Methodist Women's Convention at Buloh Perindu Morib and National MYF Convention held at the Methodist English School in Banting.

Playing Host to District Sports Carnival With 500 Participants

In **1998 & 1999 Rev. D.B. Laurence** was the Pastor-in-Charge assisted by Mr. Anthony Panan in 1998 and Mr. Samuel Periathamby in 1999 respectively. Rev. Laurence administered the Holy Communion and conducted LCEC meetings once a month. In **1999** The Full Membership grew to 81. From **2000 – 2005 Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor-in-Charge. He led the Church in the area of worship and administration. Mr. Edwin Selvanesan was elected the District MYF President and he served for six consecutive years. During his tenure as the District President TMC Banting hosted the National Youth Convention and it was held at the Dewan Jugra Banting. TMC Banting also played host to the District Sports Carnival that attracted more than 500 participants. During these years the Kuala Langat Inter-Denominational Fellowship was also revived on the initiative of Rev. Devadass Ratnam and Rev. Willian Singgam of the Anglican Church. For the first time TMC Banting organized a Church Family Camp at the Baptist Centre, Port Dickson. This was an eye opener for the church, as they realized that fellowship does make a difference and was important. The Church Family Camp has since become an annual affair. The church also purchased a new double-storey parsonage and a van. The P.A. system was upgraded and so were the musical instruments. The church was also air-conditioned. After a lapse of several years, the church produced another Pastor in Silvester Louis Martin David.

Mission Focus

From **2006 to 2012 Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria** was the Pastor-in-Charge. A humble and simple man of God, he served TMC Banting for seven years, thus being the longest serving Pastor. In **2009** the Full Membership was 88.

Rev. Jevaretnam was a mission minded Pastor who challenged the church to focus on missions with the first step of faith in adopting Bongi Island in Sabah. The church raised funds for the ministries in Bongi and also sent Rev. Jevaretnam to Bongi several times. Other mission involvement of the church included Nepal, Pale, Myanmar and the Orang Asli ministries in Bukit Cheeding. Myanmar services were conducted every Sunday evenings under the guidance and ministry of Rev. Alex Zhao Ming Tu attracting nearly 50 - 80 souls. It was indeed a fruitful ministry. This ministry was later discontinued as the migrant workers returned to Myanmar

Membership Growth Called for Larger Sanctuary

During this period, TMC Banting produced several leaders who served at the District and National level. Mr. Edwin Selvanesan was elected as the National MYF Secretary after which he was elected the National MYF President for three consecutive years, from 2008 to 2010. He was also elected as the Secretary and Vice President of the Persaudaraan Belia Methodist Malaysia also known as the General Conference Youth Council. In 2008 the Full Membership was 80. As the church grew in number, a Building Committee was formed under the leadership of Mr. Edwin Selvanesan. They looked into the possibility of a larger sanctuary. A temporary extension structure was erected to accommodate the growth of the church. The sanctuary then accommodated 300 people. This extension was done in faith as the church did not go on a fund raising drive. God provided the financial needs of the church.

In 2013 Rev. Raymond Raj Ponnudurai was the Pastor-in-charge and assisted by Ministerial Student Mr. Ronald Rohendra Rao. A tangible growth was seen as Sunday services were packed. There were ministries among the Sri Lankans in Telok Panglima Garang. Evangelistic work in Gadong and Dusun Durian was growing under the supervision of the Student Pastor. God was doing great things in these areas as every week more were attending the Sunday Worship Services.

Producing Outstanding Individuals to Serve the Community

The church has produced outstanding individuals such as Datuk Dr. Dennison Jayasooria, a recognized and respected person in the nation for his involvement in the area of social work. Mr. I. Selladurai who was selected as the “Tokoh Guru Negeri Selangor”. Many others are doing well in their own fields and bringing glory to God.

Concern for the Needy

In 2014 and 2015 Rev. John Sunder was the Pastor-in-charge. He was assisted by Mr. Ronald Rohendra Rao, a weekend seminary student. The growth in church was significant as Mr. Ronald reached out to the people in the estates nearby. From **2015 – 2018 Rev. Raymond Raj** was the Pastor-in-Charge once again. He was very active in social work especially among the orphans and widows. He was also overseeing the “Ray of Hope” Shelter Home. The church had almost 50 people from this Home attending the service.

Rev. Raymond Raj also steered the church into getting a rented building in Telok Panglima Garang for the Outreach Ministry which was being conducted in a member's home. The building was refurbished and the ministry continued at the new venue. In **2016**, for the first time, the Full Membership of the local church reached 100.

Growing Spiritually and Financially

In **2018 Rev. Ronald Rohendra Rao** was the Pastor-in-charge. He immediately got involved in all the ministries. He was familiar with the ministry, because he had previously served as a Student Pastor from 2013 -2015. Mr. Kelvin Paul Raj was the ministerial student on weekend practical work. Being young and vibrant, he was very active in home visitations and encouraging the members especially youths. This resulted in a significant growth in the membership. The church grew spiritually, financially and in numbers. In **2017** and **2018** the Full Membership went up to 118.

Currently, in **2019 Rev. John Mathuni** is the Pastor. As an experienced senior Pastor, he is doing his best to guide the church. Though Mr. G. Athimoolam Solomon was elected as the Lay Leader, this faithful servant of God was called home to the Lord on 14 October 2019. Mr. David Selvathasen is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 118. The number of members in the various Agencies is: MYF (14), MYAF (27), MSF (20) and MW (24). There are 26 children, 6 teachers and 1 helper in the Church School. There are however, no Small Groups. TMC Banting has one Outreach Point in Telok Panglima Garang.

Conclusion: TMC Banting began as a Local Church in 1953. Rev. J.A.P. Oswald, the headmaster of the newly-formed Methodist English Primary School served as the pastor of the church. Worship services were held in the school hall. The Church School was organized in May 1953 with the pastor as its superintendent. Here we see a close tie between the church and the school. It is significant to note that this local church has produced several teachers and head-teachers of caliber over the years. Many have served and are still serving the District and the Annual Conference. Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria is one who served the local church as a youth, the Annual Conference as a pastor and is currently serving the nation in matters concerning social well-being. God's enabling power has made all these possible. To Him alone belongs all glory and honour.

Sources:

1. TMC Banting
2. Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1953 – 1958	Pastor J.A.P. Oswald
1959	Rev. M Thangamuthu
1960	Rev. S.R. Jebamoney
1961	Rev. R. Butler-White
1962 – 1964	Rev. D.A. Chelliah
1965	Rev. Larry Cheah
1966	Rev. Paul Castor
1967	Rev. Samuel Ratnasamy
1968	Rev. Yeoh Oon Tian
1969 – 1971	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1972	Rev. Jacob Paul
1973 - 1974	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1975	Mr. Simon Chandran
1975 Dec. – 1977	Rev. J.J. Ratnarajah
1978 – 1983 May	Rev. James Solamadan
1983 June – 1984	Rev. Joseph Komar
1985 – 1987	Rev. Jayabal David
1988 – 1991	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1992	Rev. David Tharmakan
1993 – 1994	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1995 – 1997	Rev. C. Jayaraj
1998	Rev. D.B. Laurence
1999	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2000 – 2005	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
2006 – 2012	Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria
2013	Rev. Raymond Raj
2014	Rev. John Sunder
2015 – 2018	Rev. Raymond Raj
2019	Rev. John Mathuni

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Lay Leader

Mr. Daniel Jayaratnam
Mrs. Mercy Daniel
Mr. G.A Soloman
Mr. Arul Raj Soloman
Mr. Johnathan Thangavelu
Mr. G.A Soloman

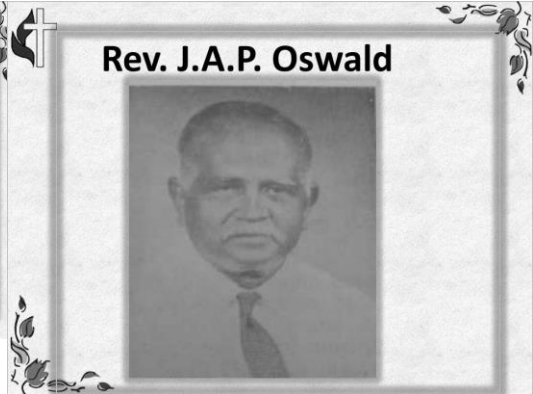
LCEC Chairperson

Mr. V.K.V Daniel
Mrs. Mercy Daniel
Ms. Annamary Ponniah
Mr. Melvin Wijayaretne
Mr. G.A Soloman
Mr. Arul Raj Soloman
Mr. Edwin Selvanesan
Mr. David Selvathasen



Mrs. Flora Jayaratnam

Founding member of TMC Banting -
Mr. Daniel K. Jayaratnam and
Mrs. Flora Jayaratnam



Rev. J.A.P. Oswald



The late Rev. Noel Arputharaj (TAC President 88-91) conducting a baptism ceremony



TMC Banting Group photograph – Dedication Service 4-2-1962

TANJUNG MALIM

The Pastors of the Early Years

As early as **1918**, some Tamil pastors laboured in Tanjung Malim and they include **Rev. Samuel Abraham, Rev. M.R. Doraisamy, Rev. J.A. Supramaniam, Rev. V.A. Chelliah and Rev. L.A. Samuel**. TMC Tanjung Malim was eventually organised as a Local Church in **1959**.

Pastor-Teacher

From **1959 to 1966**, **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was the Pastor. Concerning him, in **1961**, the DS Rev. Robert Lundy reported, "At Tanjung Malim, Brother Athimuthu has again managed to be pastor, principal, headmaster and manager, besides assuming his added duties this year as District Superintendent." In **1963**, Rev. Athimuthu reported that Sunday services were held in English in the morning and in Tamil in the afternoon. The Full Membership was 33 out of which, 15 were students. The church raised \$1,000 for the Boys Brigade's band.

From **1966 to 1970**, **Rev. S.A. Andar** was the Pastor. In **1969**, the Full Membership was 47. The church received a monthly subsidy of \$ 185.

Designated TPAC Property

"The Joint Liaison Committee also unanimously decided that the Methodist Church building and Parsonage be designated TPAC property. At the Local Conference, it was reported that the Church-Parsonage land was submitted to A.D.O. for assessment as 'school land', because of the existence of the special low rate of assessment for schools. No prior consultation with the TPAC appears to have been made on this. In order to forestall future trouble, it seems advisable for our Conference to take appropriate action" (TPAC Journal 1970 p. 44).

Struggle to Hold Weekly Worship Services

From **1971 to 1973**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1971**, the Full Membership was 57. A Food and Fun Fair was organised and they raised just over \$1,000. The church received the gift of a new organ through the efforts of one layman. In **1972**, the Full Membership was 55. Rev. Solamadan resided at Sentul and came to Tanjung Malim twice a month. The services on the other Sundays were conducted by laypersons and visiting preachers. In **1973**, services were held fortnightly, but with the posting of the ministerial student Mr. C. Pandian from 1 May, weekly services resumed. When Mr. Pandian completed his fieldwork on 31 October, the holding of weekly services was again a practical difficulty. The Full Membership was 53.

Struggle to Pay the Pastor's Salary

From **1 February 1974 to 1975**, **Rev. E. J. Thoraisingam** was the Pastor. In **1974**, the Full Membership was 62. Over RM 1,100 was raised by organising a church dinner. Most of it was spent to put up a new fence around the church and parsonage. The DS reported that the church owed the pastor Rev. Thoraisingam RM 532 in arrears of salary as at 30 September 1974.

Also, the church had not cleared the salary arrears of RM 659 to the late Rev. S. A. Andar. The leaders of the church assured the DS Rev. Jacob Paul that both the debts would be cleared by the end of the year. This matter was resolved. Bishop T.R. Doraisamy visited and preached on 21 April 1974. In **1975, Rev. Thoraisingam** was pastor of both Sentul and Tanjong Malim. The Full Membership was 65.

From **1976 to 1978, Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor. In **1977**, the Full Membership was 34. The MYF did very well under the able leadership of Miss Rose Cheng. They successfully hosted the 1st TAC MYF Institute. Miss Rose Cheng informed the church of her call to the ministry and the Local Conference recommended her for theological studies. The WSCS began with 10 ladies and attempts were made to activate the group from Kuala Lumpur. In **1978**, the Full Membership was 27. Worship Services were held on Sundays at 5 p.m.

Kindergarten Handed Over to TMC Tanjung Malim

From **1979 to 1981, Rev. S.M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor. In **1979**, the Full Membership was 29. The church took over the kindergarten on 8 October. The church thanked Mr. D.R. Daniel for his continual support. The kindergarten was handed over by the Secondary School to the Tanjong Malim Tamil Church. The DS was the Manager and the local pastor was the Supervisor. In **1980**, the Full Membership rose to 39. The evening worship service was discontinued due to poor attendance. Regular bilingual services were held. The problem of church land and school properties continued to be a source of irritation and unpleasantness. Though from time to time the church found short-term solutions, definite decisions were needed in the light of the appointment of non-Christian heads to the schools. In **1981**, the Full Membership was 40. The kindergarten was doing well with Rev. Sadagopan as the manager. Kindergarten accounts were submitted to the Local Church Conference.

Outreach Ministry in Sungai Gumut, Kerling and Slim River

In **1982, Rev. A. E. Joseph** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 38. Outreach work was done in Sungai Gumut, Kerling and Slim River. The Tamil School moved out of the church land and the building was given to the church. The Primary School lost 4 classrooms due to fire and therefore 4 classrooms from the Tamil School building were temporarily loaned to the Primary School. Two classrooms from the Tamil School building were used by the church as additional rooms for the Kindergarten. From **1983 to May 1986, Rev. Denison J.J.** was the Pastor. In **1983**, the Full Membership was 38. A Worship Service and Church School was conducted at the Sungai Gumut Estate. There was also a weekly bible study. The church negotiated for a separate registration for the kindergarten and spent about RM 2,900 for repairs. The kindergarten gave RM 690 in rental to the church. The church spent RM1,200 on repairs to the parsonage. The school used the downstairs of the parsonage as the Domestic Science Room and paid a rent of RM 70 a month. The church house was renovated for about RM 2,400 and rented out for RM 90 a month. The WSCS was officially organised on 16 October 1983 with 10 members.

“Jesus” Movie in Tamil Screened in the Kuala Kubu Estates

In **1984**, the Full Membership was 37. There were two Church Schools. The Town Church School had about 45 children and 6 teachers. The work of the Campus Crusade, the Operation Mobilization and Mr. John Devasekaran strengthened the MYF group. The Campus Crusade team conducted door to door witnessing and visitation. The film “Jesus” in Tamil was screened in the estates of Kuala Kubu Baru. Weekly Outreach meetings were conducted and about 10 attended. Student ministry was conducted for about 20 on Fridays. Tuition classes were organised for the Form 4 students. The pastor had a burden for the youth in the school. The kindergarten was registered as “Tadika Methodist”. There were 70 children and it was run well under the supervision of Mrs. Rose Denison.

In **1985**, the Full Membership was 37. The church spent RM 3,632.35 to replace the roof of the parsonage and purchased an organ for RM 2,850. Work started among the Orang Asli Christians. In Kuala Kubu Baru, a weekly ministry was held on Tuesdays in the Chinese Methodist Church Chapel. In **1986**, the Full Membership was 34. Rev. Denison was the pastor till the end of May. Regular worship services were held in Kuala Kubu Baru on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. In Slim River, fortnightly bible study was conducted on Wednesdays.

From **June 1986 to 1994**, **Mrs. Joy Pandian** was the Pastor. In **1987**, the Full Membership was 37. Bible study classes were conducted, one in Tamil and another in English. Another bible class for about 12 children was conducted in the Tamil School. Fortnightly Home Meeting/Bible Study was conducted in Kuala Kubu Bharu and a fortnightly Prayer Meeting/Bible Study was conducted in Escott Estate. The church altar floor was resurfaced for RM 2,800 and another RM 1,161 for piping, drainage and the septic tank. The parsonage ground floor was finally vacated by the School and the church planned to rebuild the parsonage. In **1988**, the Full Membership was 39. Since Pastor Joy Pandian was not ordained at that time, Selangor District pastors conducted the Holy Communion services. Cottage Prayer meetings were conducted on Wednesdays. The MYF met on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and the Junior Youth Fellowship met on Sunday evenings.

Quit Rent Issue

On 12 November **1985**, the Land Office raised the Quit Rent from RM 1,130 to RM 11, 009.80. The local church appealed to the Secretary of the Trustees stating that the place was used for religious purposes. For three years, there was no response from him.

In **1988**, they were informed by him that the Menteri Besar had approached the Primary School Headmaster and endorsed the grant of the church land as “the site of the school or that which is related to it and for no other purpose.” The Board on Property was shocked that the Trustee took it upon himself to transfer the land to the school without their knowledge.

The land on Lot No. 183 was purchased by the church on 20 August 1952 for RM 6,367 with the help of a loan from the Methodist Headquarters. The Board on Property protested to the Council of Trustees to restore the land to the Tamil Church. The Quit Rent remained unpaid (Board on Property Report).

Three Major Problems Related to Property

In **1989**, the Full Membership was 39. The MYF had 12 members and the MIF 8. The church donated 200 exercise books to the Tamil School and planned to donate 40 desks and chairs costing about RM 1,400. The church faced three major problems related to their property; firstly, it was with regards to the quit rent; secondly, it was to do with the Methodist Primary School's refusal to return the building allocated to the church and thirdly, it had to do with the fencing of the church property for security reasons.

In **1990**, the Full Membership was 47. Since most of the members lived in the estates, there was a need for a van. A van fund was initiated. The Tanjong Malim Methodist Church English (Private) School built on church land was defunct for nearly 20 years. The Tanjong Malim Methodist Tamil Primary School moved out of the church land 8 years ago and formed the Tanjong Malim Government Tamil School (Board on Property Report).

Active Student Christian Fellowship

In **1991**, the Full Membership was 52. There was an active Student Christian Fellowship functioning in Tanjong Malim and about 15 – 20 students from the Methodist English School (M.E.S.) met weekly. The church leaders helped conduct these meetings. The Methodist Schools occupied more than half of the land bought by the church for its purposes (Board on Property Report). In **1992**, although the Full Membership was 54, about 50% of them were staying outstation. Also, a few who gave good leadership were transferred out. In **1993**, the Full Membership was 57 and in **1994**, it was 48. The Outreach Points were in Kuala Kubu Bharu and Jernih Estate.

In **1995 and 1996**, **Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. TMC Tanjong Malim came under the Central District. In **1995**, the Full Membership was 46. The decrease was due to transfers. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 44. An outreach ministry was started in Rasa. A worship service was conducted and about 10 attended. The church decided to purchase a second-hand van for the ongoing ministries.

Ministry Affected Because No Resident Pastor

In **1997**, **Rev. Joseph Komar** (Jan – Mar) and **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** (from March) served as Pastors. Mr. Dennis Raj was the ministerial student. The Full Membership was 40. There were no bible studies and Prayers Sessions were not done regularly because there was no resident pastor. From **August 1998 to 2001**, **Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor. In **1998**, Mr. Jonathan Jesudas was the ministerial student. The Full Membership was 40. Kalumpang ministry was started. There was only one class in the Church School (Junior) with 9 children. The MW met when there was a need.

In **1999**, the Full Membership was 57. They conducted two weekly worship services, one on Sunday mornings at 9.30 a.m. and the other on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. The church lost all their outreach points because they had no resident pastor for a while. There was no MYF because the youths had all left for better opportunities. The garage was extended to park the van and the car. Netting all around the top of the church was done to prevent birds from nesting. They purchased a new van. In **2000**, the Full Membership was 53. Some Chinese Christians living nearby and lecturers joined in the worship services. The church ran the kindergarten to cater for the community.

The Quit Rent Issue: The State Exco had reduced it to RM10.00 per square meter but the Secretary of Trustees was not happy with it. The National Land Department had reduced it to RM1.00 only but it had not been implemented yet (Board on Property report). In **2001**, approval was given at National Level for all schools and churches to pay a token sum of RM1.00 per year. This was not implemented at local level. The quit rent was finally settled in 2004. On March 12, an amount of RM21,868.80 was paid. The church thanked Mr. Paul Devadason, the TAC Property Chairman, for his help.

In **2001**, the Full Membership was 45. The bible study cum prayer sessions were conducted on three days to cater to the needs of the various groups - for the youths on Sundays at 8:15 am, for the Tamil speaking group on Tuesdays and on Thursdays for the English speaking group. The Church School had three classes (Senior, Beginner and Junior).

In **2002**, **Rev. Hendry Ponniah** was the Pastor till 15 July. **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor from 16 July 2002. Church worker Mr. Tankaraj served from 16 July. The Full Membership was 38. The MW was organised on 11 August.

Reaching out to the College Students

From **2003 to 2005**, **Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 42. The church had two worship services every Sunday, at 8 a.m. the Tamil service and at 9 a.m. the English service. A coordinator was appointed for the MYF. The left wing room was renovated with new floor tiling and the walls were painted. It was used as the Pastor's office. In **2004**, the Full Membership was 42.

The response from the students from the Lembah Beringin College and the Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) for the Worship Service was encouraging. With thoughts to develop the Tanjung Malim land, an occupational survey was done. The English service helped to cater to the needs of the University and college students. In **2005**, the Full Membership was 45. Outreach work was done among the Nepali and the Bangladeshi people on Sundays at 2 p.m. The church helped the Orang Asli people through the SIB Church.

The pastor Rev. Jonathan Jesudas was on long medical leave due to a fall. At the request of the Central District Superintendent Rev. Victor Vethamani, Mr. P.P. Abraham helped to coordinate the speakers at that time. The church was thankful to Mr. Abraham.

From **2006 to 2008**, **Rev. Reuben Kanagalingam** was the Pastor. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 64. Though there was no organised MYF, the youths helped in the church ministry. The kindergarten facility was upgraded from chalkboards to magnetic white boards. The local church launched a Building Fund and raised a total of RM8,420. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 61. The kindergarten enrolment dropped further to 26. This was because many kindergartens were coming up in that area. Efforts were taken to improve the skills of the teachers. In June **2008**, the Full Membership was 72 but it dropped to 54 in September 2008. There was a bilingual service on Sundays at 9 a.m. There were 25-30 Hindu children in the Church School. Mr. Joseph Neelagandan helped to organise the MYF with 20 members.

Celebrating 50th Church Anniversary

From **2009 to 2011**, **Rev. Dr. John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor. In **2009**, the Full Membership was 61. The church held its 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 10 October. The whole church with the adjoining building was repainted. Drainage system was improved, the pews varnished and the fence rebuilt. There was a problem of water seeping into the walls of the building due to inadequate drainage system. Though they reported to the Majilis Daerah Tanjong Malim, the church rectified the problem at its own expense. The TAC Executive Board approved RM10,000 for the remedial works. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 60. The conflict between the school and church had seen new light as the church finally allowed the use of the ‘abandoned’ classroom block. It was renovated and a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was signed for the use. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 54.

In **2012 and 2013**, **Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph** was the Pastor. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 54 and in **2013**, it was 53. In **2014**, **Rev. John Mathuni** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 55. Telugu migrants attended the service. The church saw the great need of the poor in Tanjong Malim. They provided food packs to four families during Easter. Another five families continued to receive help till the end of the year. This was a joint effort between TMC Tanjong Malim and TMC Kuala Lumpur.

From **2015** onwards **Rev. David Tharmakan** has been the Pastor. In **2015**, the Full Membership was 55. The church started the Boys’ Hostel Project under the “Fund Raising and Investment” (FRI) of TAC. There were plans to expand this ministry. A Christian Fellowship was conducted in the school. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 52. Mr. Steven and Mr. Thinesh helped out in the Prayer Ministry in the pastor’s absence. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 53. The boys of the Boys’ Hostel were very talented and helpful in all areas of church life. Mr. Steven Vimal must be commended for his good work.

In **2018**, the Full Membership was 53. There was a Church School in Slim River which met fortnightly. Fifteen non-Christian children attended regularly. The pastor's son, Mr. Immanuel Tharumakan has come forward to commit to the fulltime ministry. He is the first to do so from this local church.

In **2019**, Rev. David Tharmakan continues as the Pastor. They have a Full Membership of 54. They have a small membership of six in the MYF and are finding it a challenge. They do not have any other Agencies functioning. They have one Church School in Slim River where there are 8 children and 3 teachers. There are plans for the Boys' Home Hostel to move to Sungai Pelek after this year. On 3 November, six adults and four children were baptized. For a small congregation, this is a very significant event.

Conclusion: TMC Tanjung Malim is strategically located between Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. Also, its proximity to the Methodist school and UPSI contributed to the ministry of this local church. Some students and lecturers attended the church and have both contributed and benefitted. Sadly, many young people have left the town to go elsewhere for better opportunities. This is one main reason the membership of this local church has remained low. This has also contributed to the financial difficulties of the church. Yet, they still have opportunities to reach out to the students as well as to the surrounding Indian population. Happily, the year is ending on a bright note with six adults and four children baptized on 3 November 2019. This is truly a much needed boost for the local church, to believe and attempt great things for the glory of God.

Sources:

1. Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC
2. Local Church 50th Anniversary Souvenir Programme, 10 October 2009



PASTORAL ROLL

1959 – 1966	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1966 – 1970	Rev. S.A. Andar
1971 – 1973	Rev. James Solamadan
1974 – 1975	Rev. Eddy Joseph Thoraisingam
1976 – 1978	Rev. David Tharmakan
1979 – 1981	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1982	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1983 – May 1986	Rev. Denison Jayasooria
1986 June – 1994	Mrs. Joy Pandian
1995 – 1996	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
1997 Jan to Mar	Rev. Joseph Komar
1997 Apr to Dec	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1998 Jan to July	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1998 August – 2001	Rev. David Tharmakan
2002 Jan to June	Rev. Henry J. Ponniah
2002 July to Dec	Rev. Tankaraj
2003 – 2005	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2006 – 2008	Rev. Rueben Kanagalingam
2009 – 2011	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2012 – 2013	Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph
2014	Rev. John Mathuni
2015 onwards	Rev. David Tharmakan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1994 - 1999	Mr. James Neelagandan	Mr. Abel Neelagandan
2000 - 2001	Mr. James Neelagandan	Rev. David Tharmakan
2002	Mr. James Neelagandan	Rev. James Solamadan
2003 - 2006	Mr. James Neelagandan	Mr. Seow Sow Feng
2007 - 2008	Mr. Asurajan	Mr. Seow Sow Feng
2009 - 2010	Mr. James Neelagandan	Mr. James Neelagandan
2011	Mr. Devadass Parabu	Mr. Rajaratnam@Wesley
2012 - 2016	Mr. Devadass Parabu	Mr. Rajaratnam@Wesley
2017 - 2018	Mr. Rajaratnam@Wesley	Mr. Rajaratnam@Wesley
2019	No Lay Leader	Rev. David Tharmakan

TAMIL SETTLEMENT IPOH

The Early Years

Some of those who came to Malaya from Thirunelveli in Tamilnadu, South India in the late 1800s, seeking possible employment, found their way to Ipoh. Most of them settled in Buntong/Tamil Settlement and some of them were already Christians. In **1908**, the first Tamil Methodist Church building in Tamil Settlement was built at the cost of \$800. It had only a wooden frame with slate roof and cement floor with no pews. Mr. M. Gnanamuthu was the first catechist. In **1912**, **Rev. Edward Isaac** became the first Pastor of this church. The church hall, where the old sanctuary was situated, was named after him. A lane nearby is also named “Lorong Isaac”.

Ministry of the Methodist Women and Bible Women

In **1930**, the WSCS was established by Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Ayaduray and Mrs. Kirubhai Pakianathan. The first President was Mrs. Lee. The Bible women played a major role in the ministry among women. Mrs. Lydia Nallathamby was the Bible Woman from 1934 – 1941. Then Mrs. Paripoornam Swamidian became the Bible Woman from 1946 – 1961 followed by Mrs. Ponnamal Samikan from 1971 – 1978. Mrs. Janet Paul (Chinniah) helped in the Women’s Work from 1962 – 1965.

From 1932 to 1937, Mr. S.M. Pandian served as a Catechist. In **1932**, **Rev. N.G. Manickam** was the Pastor responsible for the building of the parsonage. It was demolished in **1976** to make way for the third sanctuary.

“Rev. J. Milton David, pastor of the Tamil Church at Ipoh, has had one obsession this year – a new church for the Tamil Settlement. Over two thousand dollars have been subscribed. This amount, together with the grant from the Committee on Church Extension will enable the building to proceed at once...” (MAC Minutes 1940)

From 1938 to 1945 Mr. Suvi Kovilpillai served as a Catechist. On 11 February **1940** the cornerstone was laid for the *second* sanctuary, which served the people well for 36 years. It was built at the cost of \$3,800.00. **Rev. J. Milton David** worked very hard for this building to come up. It was dedicated on 27 October 1940 by the Mission Superintendent Dr R.L. Archer. Mr. Suvi Kovilpillai was then the catechist.

Youth Force

The youths played a vital role in the life of this local church. In **1941**, a group of young talented youths known as Bala Vinotha Sabha, together with Mr. J.V.K. Lambert and the church members, raised funds to build the porch for the second sanctuary. It was built on 30 April 1941. The effectiveness of the ministry among the youths is best seen in the number of Pastors and Conference Lay Leaders this local church has produced. It is significant that of the pastors, the following were elected **TAC Presidents**: Rev.David Tharmakan, Rev.P.Tevaraji, Rev.C.Vincent Jayaraj and Rev.Dr. Dennis Raj.

The **Conference Lay Leaders** include Mr. K. Pandian, Mr. Paul Devadason and Mr. Peter Palliah.

In **1950**, the Edward Isaac Memorial Hall was built mainly through the efforts of Rev. S.S. Pakianathan. For his fruitful ministry and to remember his sacrifice, dedication and devotion, the Ipoh Municipality was convinced to name the access road to the church as “Lorong Pakianathan”. During that period **Rev. G.D. Thambidurai** was the Pastor and Headmaster of the Methodist Tamil School in the church compound. The Edward Isaac Memorial Hall was dedicated by Bishop R.L. Archer on 12 August 1950.

Formation as a Local Conference

“On November 6, the Tamil Settlement Church in Guntong, near Ipoh, was organized into a separate quarterly conference. For some time it has been related directly to the Tamil Church on Lahat Road, but it has its own pastor, and has had separate youth and women’s organizations, and its own building. With the assignment of two Conference elders as pastors of the two congregations, discussions were begun looking toward the establishment of a separate organic structure. There was a remarkable demonstration of good feeling and the leadership of the Holy Spirit as the Official Board met on 2 October to make the decision. A small joint committee two days later sealed the arrangement.” (MAC Journal 1960 p. 46)

Moving Forward as a Local Church

Rev. John Abraham was the Pastor when the congregation was officially organized as a Local Conference in **1960**. “The establishment of a separate Quarterly Conference in Ipoh’s Tamil Settlement... has proven to be a wise move. One year ago the income for the combined church was \$9,585.67. This year, there was an income for the Town Church of \$8,362.30 and in the Tamil Settlement \$7,903.59, or a total of \$16,265.89. Increases in membership have been recorded in both places.” (MAC December 1961 p. 62)

Rev. K.J. Timothy, was the Pastor from **1962 – 1964**. In spite of reverberations in this congregation, there is a certain vitality about it and it continues to grow...” (DS Report MAC Journal 1964 p. 76)

Rev. D.K. Gnanantham, the longest serving Pastor, was in charge from 1965 to 1975. He continued to serve after his retirement. He is fondly remembered for his hard work and fatherly approach to ministry. He passed away at the age of 68 while still in service on 11 May 1975. Rev. Chellaraj Fenn was the acting pastor for the remaining months.

Pastor Seenisamy was the next Pastor from 1976 – 1977. The parsonage for the third sanctuary was built and dedicated on 31 August **1977** by Rev. V.A. Chelliah. The Foundation Stone of the sanctuary was laid on 3 July **1976** by Bishop Emeritus T.R. Doraisamy and dedicated by Bishop C.N. Fang on 2 October **1977**. The building cost was RM 167,460.

Rev. C. Pandian took charge from **1978 – 1981**. **Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan** followed and was the Pastor for three years from **1982 – 1984**. From September 1984 till February 1985, **Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the Acting Pastor, when Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan went for his Master's Studies in USA. During this period, pastoral care came through Mr. A. Selwyn, a Church Worker and member of the local church. Mr. Selwyn's ministry was effective and greatly appreciated. The next Pastor in charge was **Rev. S. Duraisingam**, a son of Tamil Settlement Church, who had his upbringing in this local church. He served for two years from **1985 – 1986**.

From **1987 – 1993**, **Rev. Victor Vethamani** took on the Pastoral responsibility. In **1992**, Ministerial student Moses Jeyaseelan served here. During his tenure the cornerstone of the church extension building to the third sanctuary was laid by the resident pastor Rev. Victor Vethamani on 20 December **1992**. The building was then dedicated by the **TAC President Rev. David Tharmakan** on 8 May **1993**. Also in **1993**, Ministerial student Mr. Robert Selvakumar did his One Year Practical Work here.

Rev. Joseph Komar was the Pastor from **1994 – 1995**. He was assisted by Supply Pastor Barnabas Baskaran. The construction of the fourth sanctuary started. The cornerstone was laid by the TAC President Rev. David Tharmakan on 8 January **1995**. Also in 1995, Ministerial student Jonathan Jesudas was placed here. The next Pastor was **Rev. Devadas Ratnam** from **1996 – 1997**. In **1996**, Ministerial student Samuel Periathamby completed his One Year Practical Work here. The **sanctuary was dedicated on 9 June 1996 by Bishop Denis C. Dutton**. The cost was RM 1.5 million and it can seat 1,000 people. This is the largest Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia.

Rev. Hendry Ponniah served for four years from **1998 – 2001**. In **1998** the Full Membership was 848. There were 14 Cell Groups. The church concentrated on building the Menglembu Outreach. They started two new Outreaches in Foothills and Kinta Valley. The Church School had 350 children and 43 teachers. They also had 4 Outreach Church Schools. In **1999** the Full Membership was 873. The MYAF membership increased to 64. In **2000** the Full Membership was 902. They also had crisis counselling. In 2001 Pastor Krishnan and ministerial candidate Mr. Stephen Gunarajah assisted the Senior Pastor. The Full Membership was 940. For their Lahat Baru Outreach, they paid 10% deposit of RM 36,000 to purchase 2 shop lots on 10 October 2001.

From **2002 – 2004** **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor. In **2002** Rev. Krishnan and Church Worker Padmanathan served together with Rev. Thana Raj. In **2003**, the DS saw the church as a “training ground for the members and the Pastors” and also “a caring church which blesses the district with prayers, leadership and finance.” In **2004** Pastor Francis Lee was placed on Assignment, together with Pastor M. Joseph a Church Worker. Seeing the need of TMC Penang, they sent some money to equip their office. They supported the Taiping Church as well.

Every Taman and Every Jalan

Rev. D.B. Laurence served for eight years from **2005 – 2012**. In **2005** the Full Membership was 1023. Rev. Tankaraj joined the pastoral team. The members were given teaching through the Cell Groups. Their target was a cell group in “Every Taman and Every Jalan.” VBS was well attended by about 416 children. Help was rendered to the Good Shepherd Home. They had started an Outreach in Gunong Rapat. They fenced the Pakianathan Quarters. In **2006** Gunong Rapat was being prepared to be a regular outreach. The church had 466 students and 43 teachers in 4 localities in their Church School ministry. There were about 100 non-Christian children. There was an LCEC Retreat with Rev. Joseph Komar as the Speaker. He spoke on leadership. In **2007** Rev. Jayabalan and Pastor M. Joseph assisted the Senior Pastor. The Full Membership was 1076. There was a Worship Seminar with Rev. Herbert John. About 75 participated, with those from Lahat Baru.

Centennial Celebration with a Daughter Church

In **2008** Pastor Silvester Louis Martin was one of the Assistant Pastors. The Full Membership was 1138. The church had their Centennial Celebration with the theme “Century of Grace”. There were 115 members in the MSF. **Lahat Baru Outreach became a Local Conference on 19 January 2008**. This was their first and only Outreach to become a local Conference. In **2009** the Nepali ministry grew rapidly under the leadership of Pastor Surai Lal and his wife. In **2010** an Outreach was started in Cameron Highlands with Sunday worship and Friday prayers. A new building was purchased to strengthen the Gunong Rapat ministry. They continued to provide help for the Methodist Tamil School Ipoh. In **2011** Rev. Laurence had the assistance of Rev. Jeyarajah and Rev. Dennis Raj as a Part time Pastor. The Full Membership was 1061. New work was started in Tanjung Rambutan. In **2012** the Full Membership was 1089. Gunong Rapat Outreach was lacking local leadership. The Church School in Tanjung Rambutan was reaching 60 with mostly non-Christian children.

Consolidating Ministry

Rev. Dennis Raj, the next Pastor, served for four years from **2013 – 2016**. In **2013** the Full Membership was 1080. Rev. Dennis, Rev. Segaran, and Pastor Noel Thangamuthu formed the pastoral team. They met for prayer every morning from 9.30 – 10.15 am. The members were encouraged to pray at the altar from 9.30 am to 3pm. There were morning prayers at 6am on Saturdays. There were 5 Outreaches: Gunong Rapat, Cameron, Kledang Mas, Tanjung Rambutan and ministry to the Nepalis. Pastor Ben Richard was appointed to take care of the Cameron Highland ministry. The Cell Groups used Rev. Victor Vethamani’s Small Group material. Ms. Sharon Tangarajoo and Mr. Roland David committed themselves for the Fulltime ministry. Mr Daniel Thangaraj was appointed fulltime Worker for the Cameron Highlands ministry.

In **2014**, Ms. Rachel Koilpillai was the fulltime prayer coordinator for the church. Through the Centennial Benevolent Fund (CBF) the church helped many needy families. In **2015**, Rev. Dennis, Rev. Segaran, Mr. Noel Thangamuthu, Ms. Annammah, and Ms. Rachel formed the Ministry Team. Fulltime worker Ms. Annammah gave good leadership in Cameron Highlands. The Tanjung Rambutan ministry was previously held in a rented house but they now moved to a shop lot. The Church School and worship service were attended by many Hindus. In **2016** the Full Membership was 1071. Kledang Mas functioned more like an evening Service and about 40 attended. Rev. Dennis Raj was elected as the TAC President in November 2016.

The present Pastor **Rev. Sandireaseheran** took charge in **January 2017**. In **2017** the Full Membership was 1056. The Small Groups met in 15 places on alternate Tuesdays. This ministry was used as an avenue to reach out to the neighbourhood. They organized a “Kid’s Camp”, Teachers Training and conducted a Children’s Worship Service. In **2018** the Full Membership was 1065. All Outreaches were showing signs of growth. Leadership was developed. Forty-five youths attended the Alpha Youth Program. The church and individuals contributed RM 68,775 towards purchasing Bahasa Malaysia Bibles for East Malaysian churches. A program on drug abuse was organized with “Agensi Anti Dadah Kebangsaan.”

In **2019 Rev. Sandireaseheran** continues as the Pastor-in-charge. New graduate Mr. David Retnam was placed here as Member on Trial. The Lay Leader is Mr. Samuel Peter and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. D. Vilson. The Full Membership is 1075. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (42), MYAF (100), MSF (220) and MW (170). There are 174 children and 29 teachers in the Church School. There are also 14 Cell Groups. The church has three Outreach work – in Kledang Mas, Gunong Rapat and Tanah Rata in Cameron Highlands. They also have outreach work among the Nepali migrants in Taman Rishah, Ipoh.

OTHER NOTEABLE MATTERS

Recognition from Ipoh Municipality

It is significant to note that two roads leading to the church have gained recognition from the Ipoh Municipality and have been named after two pastors who had served in the Tamil Settlement Church. The roads are known as Lorong Isaac and Lorong Pakianathan.

The Church and the Tamil School

The Methodist Tamil School in the church compound was started on 1 March **1948** by Rev. S.S. Pakianathan. His main aim was to give education to the children residing around the church.

Initially part of the parsonage, the church building and the shade of a mango tree were used as classrooms. The first headmistress was Mrs. D.B. Jesudass. The initial enrolment were 14 pupils and within a month it increased to 81. In **1949**, the school, along with church members, the public and the government, worked hard to build a school building in the church compound. In **1950**, the Edward Isaac Memorial Hall was built as an extension to the church. The school made use of it as well – it was divided into three classrooms. In **1993**, the church extension building, renamed as Edward Isaac Building, was constructed with three classrooms at the upper floor. The first floor was used as the school office and staffroom. In **1997** the enrolment increased to 320 pupils with 22 teachers and 5 staff. In **1998**, to cater to the increasing number of pupils, a three storey school building was built in Jalan Madras. It was the first Tamil School in the country that was constructed with steel structures. The construction cost was RM 1.3 million. With the completion of this building, the school moved out of the church premises.

Source: “Century of Grace – 1908 – 2008 Celebration Souvenir Book p. 27)

The Church and the Pakianathan Seminary

The **Pakianathan Seminary** was started by Rev. S.S. Pakianathan, the Principal of the Seminary. In 1950, he applied and obtained a piece of land in Jalan Wayang from the government. Four houses were built on the land as a training point for ministry. One house was used as a Theological Seminary and the other three to house the trainees and the school teachers. The teachers who served in the Tamil Methodist School obtained their training from the theological seminary. However, when the ministry came to an end, the houses were rented out. In 2007, a parsonage known as “The Pakianathan Illam” was built on the land for the Assistant pastors.

The students were taught practical preaching, lyrical singing in Tamil and spoken and written English. The male students became Supply Pastors in Perak District while the female students helped in the WSCS and Church School work of the Church. The untimely death of Rev. J.D. Asirvatham, the pastor from 1952 – 1954, was a great loss to the Seminary.

Rev. P. Athimuthu also taught in the Seminary. Rev. Pakianathan did the major share of the work in the Seminary, in addition to his work as editor of **Light of Salvation** (the predecessor of Berita TAC). The Seminary’s progress depended on the growth of the Methodist Tamil School. If there were more classrooms, then more men could be brought in as teachers and trained as preachers as well.

Conclusion: Though Tamil Settlement became a local Conference on 6 November 1960, the beginning of the ministry of this local church goes back to 1908. The rapid membership growth saw the need for several church buildings. But the Full Membership peaked in 2008 with 1138 members and after that has not gone beyond this figure. The church has given birth to one local church - TMC Lahat Baru. The church has produced four Conference Presidents (Rev. David Tharmakan, Rev. P. Tevaraji, Rev. C. Jayaraj and Rev. Dr. Dennis Raj). Three of the Conference Lay Leaders are from this church (Mr. K. Pandian, Mr. Paul Devadason and Mr. Pater Palaya). The church has also produced several pastors and lay leaders who are serving God's people elsewhere. In 2008, their theme for celebrating 100 years of ministry "Century of Grace", rightly captures God's role in all these – it has been His grace all the way. From humble beginnings Tamil Settlement Church has risen to great heights. But the best is still ahead, if the church would remain humble and totally committed to the Lord. Then all glory would rightly go to Him alone and the church would be blessed.

Sources:

1. MAC/TPAC/TAC Journals
2. "Century of Grace – 1908 – 2008 Celebration Souvenir Book p. 24" & MAC Journals
3. Local Church Souvenir Programs

PASTORAL ROLL

1908	Rev. Simon Peter
1909 – 1910	Mr. Job Gnanasigamani
1911 – 1917	Rev. Edward Isaac
1918 – 1921	Rev. Ponniah Paul
1922 – 1926	Rev. J.J. Kovilpillai
1927 – 1929	Rev. M.V. Nitchingam
1930 – 1931	Rev. S.S. Pakianathan
1932 – 1937	Rev. Fred David
1938 – 1945	Rev. J. Milton David
1946 – 1947	Rev. E.J. Ponniah
1948	Rev. A. Devadason
1949 – 1951	Rev. G. D. Thambidurai
1952 – 1954	Rev. J.D. Asirvatham
1955	Rev. D.A. Chelliah
1956	Rev. Peter David
1957 – 1961	Rev. John Abraham
1962 – 1964	Rev. K.J. Timothy
1965 – 1975 May	Rev. D.K. Gnananatham
1975 June – Dec.	Rev. Chellaraj Fenn
1976 – 1977	Pastor V. Seenisamy
1978 – 1981	Rev. C. Pandian
1982 – 1984	Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan
1984 Sept. – 1985 Feb.	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1985 – 1986	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1987 – 1993	Rev. Victor Vethamani
1994 – 1995	Rev. Joseph Komar
1996 – 1997	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1998 – 2001	Rev. Hendry J. Ponniah
2002 – 2004	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2005 – 2012	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2013 – 2016	Rev. Dennis Raj
2017 onwards	Rev. Sandireaseheran

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1963 - 1964		Rev. K. J. Timothy
1964 -1965		Mr. K. Pandian
1965 - 1969	Mr. T. Palliah	Rev. D.K. Gnananantham
1976 - 1977		Mr. M. Gnanasigamani
1977 - 1978	Mr. K. Jebamani	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
1978 - 1979		Mr. Thawamany Nathan
1979 - 1980		Mr. S.S. Pandian
1980		Mr. Paul Devadason
1981 - 1984	Mr. Y. Devaerakam	Mr. Paul Devadason
1985		Mr. Paul Devadason
1986	Mr. Y. Devaerakam	Mr. Paul Devadason
1987	Mr. Y. Devaerakam, Mr. M. Gnanasigamani	Mr. Paul Devadason
1988	Mr. M. Gnanasigamani	Mr. Paul Devadason
1989	Mr. M. Gnanasigamani, Mr. Paul Devadason	Mr. M. Pandian
1990 - 1991	Mr. Paul Devadason	Mr. M. Pandian
1991 - 1992	Mr. Paul Devadason	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
1993 - 1994	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
1994 - 1995	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj	Mr. Samuel Peter
1996	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj, Mr. G. Manicka Raj	Mr. Samuel Peter
1997 - 1999	Mr. G. Manicka Raj	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
2000 - 2001	Mr. G. Manicka Raj	Mr. A. Anbalakan
2002 - 2003	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj	Mr. A. Anbalakan
2004	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
2005 - 2009	Mr. T. Ratnam	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
2010	Mr. P. Manicka Devaraj	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
2011 - 2012	Mr. Samuel Peter	Mr. Thawamany Nathan
2013 - 2014	Mr. Samuel Peter	Mr. Samuel Peter
2015 - 2016	Mr. Thawamany Nathan	Mr. Samuel Peter
2017 - 2018	Mr. Thawamany Nathan	Mr. Vilson Daniel
2019	Mr. Samuel Peter	Mr. Vilson Daniel



CHA'AH

The Beginnings

Prior to 1964, Cha'ah and Kluang were under one Circuit (Kluang – Cha'ah). But in 1964, they were divided into two Circuits: (Cha'ah – Johor Labis) and (Kluang – Ayer Itam – Rengam). From **1964 –1966 Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the Pastor of Cha'ah – Johor Labis Circuit. The Full Membership was 89. There were 60 children in the Church School and 35 members in the WSCS. A piece of land (2 ½ acres) was purchased for \$ 4,200. The Trustees advanced this amount. This land was ideally situated between Cha'ah Town and the Johor- Labis Estate. In **1965 and 1966**, Mr. K. Isaac served as the Church Worker. In 1965, the Full Membership was 118. There was a special Evangelistic Meeting for 2 days with Rev. Sam Kamalesan as the Speaker. About 150 people including Hindus attended. Another Special Evangelistic Meeting for a week was held with Rev. Waldo Reinoehl with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Devasahayam. In **1966** The Full Membership was 105. About 120 people worshipped in an Estate Tamil School. The service was in the morning but changed to 6pm as schools in Johor were opened on Sundays. On the church land (2 ½ acres) there was a little house where the pastor stayed.

Cha'ah Grows in Number and Plans for Own Building for Worship

In **1967 Pastor Joseph Devasagayam** was in charge. He was stationed at Kluang and covered Kluang and Mersing Circuit. From **1968 to 1973 Rev. John Abraham** was the Pastor. In **1969**, The Full Membership was 133. A successful Evangelistic Meeting was held in April with Rev. Reinoehl, Rev. Prabhu Das and Pastor John Massillamony. The Management of the Johor Labis Estate gave \$ 2,000 towards the Building Fund. The church had a Goat Farm with a total of ten goats. In **1970** the Full Membership was 135. There was an Evangelistic Meeting in April. The Speakers were Rev. W. S. Reinoehl and Rev. Prabhu Das. The MYF was organized for the first time in April. With the financial help of Rev. Reinoehl and by the efforts of the church members, a worship centre was put up on the Church land. Worship services were held in this place from April.

Coconut Trees and Goats for added Income

A Farm Committee was organized to plant Coconut trees in the 2 ½ acres land. The church received a donation of \$ 180 from Rev. John Kovilpillai and they collected \$ 120 from the church members. With this money they ploughed and levelled the land and planned to have a work camp to plant coconut trees. The Building Fund stood at \$ 10,251.25, this included the donation of \$ 2,500 from the TPAC. The Board of Trustees applied to the Segamat Collector of Land Revenue to change the status of the land title from *agriculture to housing*, to enable the church to build a Church and parsonage on the land. In **1971** the Full Membership was 127. They had \$ 11,711.43 in the Building Fund. Singapore and Sentul WSCS and Dr. Paramjothy sent in donations to the Building Fund. Singapore WSCS gave \$ 510 and Dr. Paramjothy gave \$ 50 out of the \$ 630 received this year.

In **1972** the Full Membership was 138. In **1973 Rev. John Abraham**, in spite of his ill health, served faithfully till 31 October. The Full Membership was 118. TPAC gave a grant of \$ 3,000 towards the Building Project.

Input of Young Ministerial Students and Retired Pastor

In **1974** the Full Membership was 127. Mr. Jacob David, a seminary student, served the churches in Kluang and Cha'ah from 1 November 1973 till 31 April 1974. When he left, Mr. Peter Devadason, also a ministerial student served the churches. The Church school organised a VBS. Miss Ruth Beckett and Miss Saraswathy Suppiah conducted training for the Church School teachers. In **1975**, when Mr. Peter Devadason left at the end of April, the church was without a pastor till **Rev. William F. Harris** came in October. Rev. Rasanayakam helped in the Holy Communion services. The Full Membership was 84 with 81 Preparatory Members and 6 Affiliate Members. A "Lay Evangelism School" was conducted by Rev. Francis Sunderaraj and his team from 1-4 May. In **1977** Rev. William Harris left Malaysia in April because of immigration problems. **Pastor Devadass Ratnam** served from May 1977. The Gethsemane Chicken Farm attracted many supporters.

Young Graduate Ministers take on Pastoral Role

From May **1977 to 1980 Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor. In **1978**, the part conversion of the Agriculture land to Residential was approved. The Gethsemane Chicken Farm Committee was headed by Mr. K. Solomon. The church was grateful to Dr. Sam W. Pakianathan the Chairman of the Board on Social Concerns and the Executive Board for their support. In **1979** the Full Membership was 128. The Church library was functioning for the past one year. Books were distributed to members in Bekok, Paloh, and (Sun Meng) Chan Wing. A new Committee was formed for the Gethsemane Chicken Farm and it looked into the problems and needs of the Farm. The Building Plans of the Church was finalised. The estimated cost was RM 65,520. The Fund stood at RM 27,882.69. In **1980** Rev. Devadass Ratnam served till March. Mr. John Millason replaced him temporarily. **Pastor A. E. Joseph** arrived in June and served till May 1981. The Full membership was 113. Gethsemane Chicken Farm was closed due to the prevailing situation.

Church Moves into New Sanctuary and Expands its Ministry

From **June 1981 – 1988 Rev. C. Jayaraj** was the Pastor. In **1981** the Full Membership was 123. Bible studies were held at Claire 1 & Claire 11, Chan Wing and Bekok. The church donated RM 50 towards the 6 families whose homes were burnt down. The estimated cost of the new church building was RM 106,000. The Church received RM 10,000 from the government. The church applied for a loan of RM 30,000 from the Trustees and a further RM 31,000 was requested by giving a part of their land for mortgage. They raised RM 44,000. In **1982** the Full Membership was 150 when 27 members were restored. **The church building was completed and dedicated on Sunday 22 August.**

The WSCS raised RM 100 from the sale of rice. The Social Concerns Committee raised RM 3,171.29 from part time work and bought things that were needed for the Church. In **1983** the Full Membership was 160. Twenty youths attended the MYF Institute held in Brickfields. The Church settled RM 15,000 out of the RM 62,000 loan taken from the Trustees. TMC Sentul donated their organ to the church.

In **1984** the Full Membership was 175 with 15 received on Confession of Faith. There were 75 children in the Church School. Church School was also held in Yong Peng Estate & Chan Wing Estate. About 100 children attended the Church School retreat held on 13 July. About 15 youths attended the MYF Institute held in Batang Berjuntai in April and 10 youths attended the Leadership Camp held in Ipoh in August. WSCS contributed RM 200 towards the church Building Fund through "Rice Collection". The Social Concern Committee helped to clear the Tamil School field when the request came from the Parent Teachers Association. They also cleared the cemetery ground. Rev. Denison and Rev. Jacob David conducted training on Evangelism. In July, a revival meeting was conducted with Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan as the Speaker. TMC Cha'ah worshipped in the new Tamil Methodist Church which was built in 1982. The church struggled to pay the heavy loan commitment of RM 64,000 with interest accumulating. In **1985** the Full Membership was 194. There were 70 children in the Church school in Cha'ah. A retreat was held for the WSCS members and the Speaker was Mrs. Joy Pandian and Rev. Solomon Abraham. Rev. Victor Vethamani was the speaker for the Leadership Training Course organised by the MYF. Evangelistic work was carried out where there was not much opposition. In Chan Wing Estate, two evangelistic meetings were held. A seminar for two days was conducted by Rev. Denison Jayasooria for those interested in evangelism. The church thanked the Conference for granting permission to appeal to the various churches to help settle their loan.

Giving Increases and so did Help Given for Outside Causes

In **1986** the Full Membership was 199. Regular Sunday services were at 8pm. The Outreach work was temporarily suspended because of the opposition. Members reached out through personal evangelism. Regular weekly prayer meetings were held in the five outreach areas. Revival Meetings were held from 18 and 19 August with Mr. S. Selvaraj as the Speaker. A Kindergarten was started with an enrolment of 15. The pastor, chairman and few members of the Cha'ah Building Committee visited the churches in the TAC and managed to raise a substantial amount within 11 months. The debt in 1986 was RM 18,000. In **1987** the Full Membership was 221. The church focused on the Prayer Ministry. They had All-Night Prayers, Church Prayer Cell and on Sundays a few met at the prayer chapel on a hill for intercessory prayer. Outreach meetings were held in ten different places with a focus on Paloh. The church had 12 Outreach Lay Workers, 10 of whom attended the Outreach Lay Workers Conference in Melaka.

The church kindergarten had about 19 children with 2 teachers. The Church finance improved and they gave a total of RM 9,260 towards causes outside the local church. The church also settled the loan of RM 52,000 taken from the Trustees. The loan with the interest was paid up within 1 ½ years. In **1988** the Full Membership was 223. Four new families were won to Christ. The church was deeply concerned that many youths were moving out of Cha'ah for job opportunities. The church started a Banana Tree Cultivation on its 1 ¼ acres of land. The church spent RM 6,000 to renovate the kindergarten hall.

From **1989 – 1990 Rev. David Paul Raj** was the Pastor. In **1989** the Full Membership was 273 (50 members were restored). Within a year he was able to consolidate and reclaim some members. Outreach work was done in 8 areas including Segamat and Paloh. In Segamat a building was rented and dedicated on 19 May and in Paloh a building was rented and dedicated on 20 May. In **1990** the Full Membership was 238. On Sunday 30 September, 18 adults were received through Confirmation. Sunday worship was at 7.15pm.

In **1991 Rev. S. Arulandu** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 240. The Church School improved with the new Superintendent and new teachers. Cell groups were organised and they met regularly. The church had 166 in the Preparatory Roll. In **1992 Rev. Elanko Kannan** was the Pastor till June. When he was transferred with effect from 1 July 1992, the Kluang pastor Rev. Jeyabal David covered both Kluang and Cha'ah. In **1992**, the Full Membership was 215. The work in Segamat Preaching Point came under the Sagil pastor and church. The Southern District Conference resolved that the Segamat Preaching point of TMC Cha'ah be made a separate Local Conference in 1993.

In **1993 Rev. Jeyabal David** was the Pastor with Church Worker Mr. John Maniam. The Full Membership was 202. The following were the four outreach ministries: (a) Segamat, 30 people attended the service every Friday (b) Paloh, with two families meeting twice a month. (c) Yong Peng met twice a month (d) Gemas, 3 families were regularly visited. There were 5 Church Schools: Cha'ah, Segamat, Division 1, Paloh and Chan Wing Estate with a total of 80 children and 8 teachers. The church started a Van Project and also a Church Roof Renovation Project costing about RM40,000.

From **1994 to 1995 Rev. S. Duraisingam** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **1994** Mr. John Mark served as the Supply Pastor. The Full Membership was 234. The Outreach services continued as usual. In **1995** Pastor Moses Jayaseelan was placed on Assignment here. The Full Membership was 230. There were Four Area Fellowship Groups: (a) Cha'ah Baru. (b) Factory Division (c) Taman Damai (d) Army Camp. The Church School had 48 children in Cha'ah, 10 in Segamat, 10 in Yong Peng and 15 in Paloh. There were a total of 12 teachers. The church raised RM8,000 for their van project.

In **1996 Pastor Moses Jayaseelan** became their pastor. The Full Membership was 201. Special Meetings were arranged for 5 days in Cha'ah and Segamat with Rev. David Tharmakan as the Speaker. On Easter Sunday the church organised a procession around Cha'ah. The MYAF was officially formed on 14 July 1996. They had 40 members. RM10000 was raised for the Van Fund.

In **1997 and 1998 Pastor S. Jayabalan** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 244. There were outreach work/Home Fellowships in: Rompin, Bukit Tenang, Ladang Claire, Labis, Labis Guthrie, Ladang Chan Wing, Bekok, Yong Peng and Gemas. In Segamat, weekly house meetings were held in addition to the Sunday service. The church purchased a new van. A Fund Raising Dinner was organised on Easter Sunday and about 500 people attended. The Conference President, Rev. David Tharmakan graced the occasion. The church raised funds for the medical expenses of Miss Rita Devadass, a kidney patient. A total of RM 34,386 was received from churches. Another RM 40,614 was received from outside sources. This was great effort by the church. Miss Rita Devadass went to be with the Lord on 21 September 1998.

Focused Attention on Children's Ministry

In **1998** the Full Membership was 215. They conducted an all-night prayer on 31 August 98 and another on 20 October. Also, apart from having Area Fellowships in 7 places, there were Outreach meetings in the following areas: Yong Peng, Guthrie, Bekok, Claire, Labis, Tenang, Batu Anam, Gemas and Rompin. Area fellowship leaders meet with the Pastor twice a month. There were 60 children and 7 teachers in the Church School. To encourage effective learning they had introduced Report Cards and parents were invited to meet with the teachers. They also organised memory verse competition on the 26 September. MYF had 23 youths. MW had 22 members. MYAF had 18 members. The church replaced their sagging Church roof for RM 46,000 using steel purlins. In **1999 Rev. Abraham Ponniah** was the Pastor with Pastor Jevaretnam Sowria, as the Assistant. The Full Membership was 202. There were three Church Schools: Cha'ah had 50 students 7 teachers, Segamat had 10 students and 2 teachers and Yong Peng had 10 students and 2 teachers. A Senior Citizen Fellowship was newly formed and they met twice. A Merdeka Service was held on 31 August. About 60 people attended. There was a Prayer Walk on 1 October. Seven area fellowship groups participated and prayed for Cha'ah. In **2000 Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 211. They visited new areas and established contacts at Labis, Tenang Station, Bukit Siput, Taman Putra, Lam Trading, Selampur Estate, Batu 6, Taman Gemas Baru, Taman Gemas Jaya, Gemas and Rompin. In **2001 Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 203. The church requested for a pastor for themselves, as the demand for ministry was great.

Ministry among the Indonesian Migrants

From **2002 to 2005**, **Rev. David Rasahpandy** was the Pastor. In **2002**, the Full Membership was 204. In **2003** the pastor was assisted by Ministerial Candidate Mr. Jeremiah Thomas. The Paloh worship service was on Fridays at 8pm. The Full Membership was 214. There were 7 days of revival meetings, for which members fasted and prayed. The results of the revival meeting were very encouraging. In **2004**, Ministerial Student Mr. Steven Gunarajah assisted. On Tuesdays there was a ministry among the **Indonesian migrant workers in Muazam** at 7.30pm. About 45 people attended. Full Membership of Cha'ah was 215. In **2005** the Full Membership was 230. About 65 people attended the Muazam service. Due to work permits, some left and the number dwindled.

In **2006 and 2007** **Rev. John Simson** was the Pastor. In **2006**, Mr. Kunabalan, a student on one year practical assisted. The Full Membership was 230. About 265 believers attended the Sunday service. In the Segamat Outreach, many new families were coming. The Muadzam Shah Indonesian Ministry was now conducted once a fortnight among the 18 Indonesian migrant workers. In Yong Peng there were 3 families worshipping. Three cell groups were started for the purpose of evangelism in Paloh Town, Paloh Mill and Kempas. In **2007** the Segamat Outreach progressed well and Hindu contacts were established through Cell Group ministry. Four of them were ready for baptism. Mr & Mrs Saminathan gave good leadership. The Muadzam Shah Indonesian ministry was passed on to an Indonesian, Pastor Nelson. In Paloh, there was a full time worker and the work progressed well. The Full Membership was 187. The church has settled the AEC loan of RM 12,079.95. The church went through some struggles which affected their numerical as well as their financial growth.

Grand Easter Celebration Inviting the Public

In **2008 and 2009** Approved Supply Pastor Patmanathan was the pastor. In **2008** the Full Membership was 170. In Yong Peng 6 people were baptized. 6 Nepalese attended worship services. In **2009** the Full Membership was 166. From **2010 to 2013** **Rev. M. Joseph** was the Pastor. In **2010**, 11 youths were confirmed and 16 new members were added from other church fellowships. The Full Membership was 208. The MYF had 25 members and they were vibrant and participated in and contributed to all the church ministries. The Segamat Outreach moved to a new place of worship. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 183. The Small Groups met in 7 areas. In **2012** the Full Membership was 196. A special Easter Evangelistic Gathering was held at the church compound. Some 500 people, including those from other faiths, attended. The church started new pioneering ministry in Batu Pahat and in Bekok. In **2013** the Full Membership was 206. Easter Celebration was held in the church compound and 180 non-believers participated.

In **2014** **Rev. John Simson** was the Pastor-in-charge with Part Time Church Worker Pastor Jeyaseelan. The Full Membership was 207. The church declared Wednesdays as Evangelism Day. They met 20 unbelievers to share the Gospel through Personal Evangelism. Bekok house meeting began in August.

The church adopted 22 Myanmar children through the MMM Gift of Hope Project. One Lay Preacher was assigned to each outreach point to help in the preaching ministry. In **2015 and 2016 Rev. Steven Arumugam** was the Pastor. In **2015**, the Full Membership was 190. The church gave RM2,000 for the Nepal Disaster Fund. They started Orang Asli ministry in Bekok on 21 March. The Johore Sultan agreed to give RM100,000 for the church roof repair and renovation. They would do the repair and renovation when they receive the cash. In **2016** the Full Membership was 181. From **2017** onwards **Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 179. In **2018** the Church prayer ministry was on Tuesdays. Family Day Prayer was observed on Mondays. The church was going through spiritual transformation and prayer played a vital role in this. The Outreach ministry in Segamat was growing well and they continued to express the need for a fulltime worker. The Full Membership was 176.

In **2019**, Rev. Anthony Panan continues as the pastor for the third year. The Full Membership in January was 173. The Lay Leader is Mr. Yesupatham Govindan and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Gunasegaran Perumal. They have two Outreaches – Segamat and Yong Peng. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (8), MSF (13) and MW (24). There are 4 teachers and 25 children in the Church School.

Conclusion: TMC Cha'ah has a memorable history. They have faced many challenges, especially finance, but the members, especially the women, have creatively helped the church to rise up to the need. Very often they had to share their pastor with TMC Kluang, but when the pastoral needs arose, the lay people have helped the pastor-in-charge to discharge his duties. When there was a financial need, both within and outside the local church, the members gave sacrificially and generously. They laboured in the Paloh Outreach and today this Outreach is a Local Church of their own. Their Full Membership was 89 in 1964 and it is 173 in 2019. With the potential God has given them, and with their sincere commitment and Spirit led actions, TMC Cha'ah can rise to even greater heights for the glory of God.

Sources:

Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

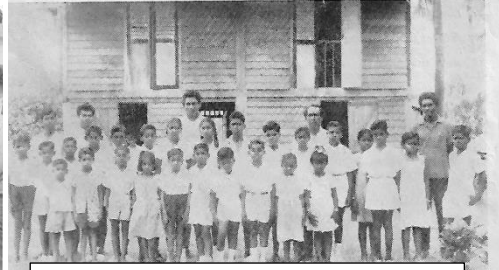
1964 – 1966	Rev. S. Sundararaj
1967	Pastor Joseph Devasahayam
1968	Rev. James Solamadan
1969 – 1973 Oct.	Rev. John Abraham
1973 Nov. – 1974 Apr.	Mr. Jacob David
1975 Oct. – 1977 Apr.	Rev. William F. Harris
1974 May – 1975 April	Mr. Peter Devadason
1977 May – 1980 Mar.	Pastor Devadass Ratnam
1980 June – 1981 Dec.	Pastor A.E. Joseph
1981 June – 1988	Rev. C. Jayaraj
1989 – 1990	Rev. David Paul Raj
1991	Rev. S. Arulandu
1992 till June	Pastor Elanko Kannan
1992 July – 1993	Rev. T. Jeyabal David
1994 – 1995	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1996	Pastor Moses Jayaseelan
1997 – 1998	Rev. S. Jayabalan
1999	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam
2000	Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria
2001	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam
2002 – 2005	Rev. David Rasahpandy
2006 – 2007	Rev. John Simson
2008 – 2009	Rev. Padmanathan
2010 – 2013	Rev. M. Joseph
2014	Rev. John Simson
2015 – 2016	Rev. Steven Arumugam
2017 onwards	Rev. Anthony Panan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1999	Mr. David Pandian	Mr. Gunasegaran
2000	Mr. Robert Nathan	Rev. M. Joseph
2001	Mr. David Pandian	Mr. Gunasegaran
2002	Mr. Gunasegaran	Mr. David Pandian
2003	Mr. David Pandian	Mr. Gunasegaran
2004	Mr. Gunasegaran	Mr. Rajasooria
2005	Mr. James Sankaram	Mr. Rajasooria
2006 - 2007	Mr. Gunasegaran	Mr. Rajasooria
2008 - 2011	Mr. Devadass	Mr. Samuel
2012	Mr. Robert Nathan	Mr. Samuel
2013	Mr. Robert Nathan	Rev. M. Joseph
2014	Mr. Robert Nathan	Mr. Rajasooria
2015 - 2016	Mr. Robert Nathan	Mr. Gunasegaran
2017 - 2019	Mr. Yesupatham	Mr. Gunasegaran



Church dedicated by Rishon C. N Fann



TMC Cha'ah's church school children and teachers, 1966

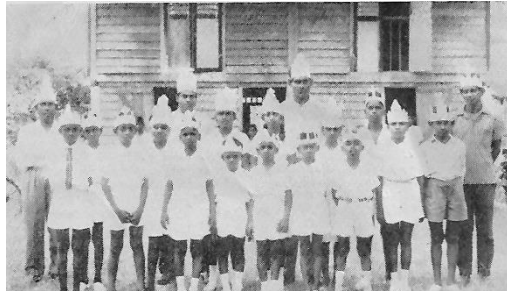
'சுலா ஆ' தமிழ் மெதடிஸ்ட் சபையின் ஓய்வுநாள் பாடசாலைப் பிள்ளைகளையும் உபாத்திமார்களையும் இப்படத்தில் காணலாம். இரட்சணிய திகை



Tmc Cha'ah's new church dedication on 22 08 1982



TMC Cha'ah's oldest church



TMC Cha'ah's Carollers.

'சுலா ஆ' தமிழ் மெதடிஸ்ட் சபையின் கோல் கோஷ்டி.

KLUANG

The Beginnings

The ministry in Kluang goes back to the 1950s when it was part of a larger region which included Cha'ah and Segamat. The Pastors who served in the early years include **Rev. S.M. Pandian, Rev. K.J Timothy and Rev. Subramaniam**. In those days there was no Anglican or Mar Thoma Church in Kluang and so the believers joined the Methodist Church. In **1963, Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the Pastor of this large circuit with his headquarters in Kluang. Weekly worship services were held at Kluang and Cha'ah and in several surrounding estates. The Sunday school and WSCS met regularly. In **1964**, the Full Membership for Kluang – Ayer Itam – Rengam Circuit was 97. This large circuit was divided into two, namely: “**Cha'ah – Johore-Labis Circuit**” and “**Kluang – Ayer Itam – Rengam.**” **Rev. S. Sundararaj** was the Pastor in charge. A piece of land (2 1/4 acres) was purchased for \$4,200. This land was ideally situated between the Cha'ah town and the Johore-Labis Estate in which the majority of the Christians lived.

The Early Years

In **1965 Rev. A.G. Rasanayakam** took charge from the first week of April, just in time for the Easter Services. The Kluang Circuit had Kluang as the center and the pastor covered Rengam, Layang-Layang, Batu Pahat and Mersing. The Full Membership dropped from 96 to 55 and there were 90 children. The reason for the drop was because the membership roll was not revised for a long time. Finance was a challenge. Regarding the purchase of land for a parsonage, the DS made three visits, each time to view a new site but all of them proved futile.

New Parsonage Purchased

In **1966**, the DS reported that the church was in desperate need of a strong and new leadership. The Full Membership dropped from 83 to 46 at the end of 1965 and by the end of 1966 it dropped to 40. As a result, the finance was further affected. The new parsonage was purchased for \$11,000 from funds contributed earlier by various sources. It was ready for occupation by the end of 1966. In **1967**, the Full Membership was 85. A young theologically-trained couple, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Devasagayam were stationed at Kluang from January 1967 and they took charge of Cha'ah, Kluang, Mersing Circuit. When TPAC was formed in **1968**, some members of the Kluang Tamil Church joined the English Methodist Congregation along with the pastor.

Church Reorganized

From **1969 to 1973, Rev. John Abraham** was the Pastor. He faced many difficulties but patiently reorganized the church. In addition to the regular Sunday services, he conducted cottage prayer meetings every Friday in the homes of members. He visited the neighbouring estates once a fortnight using his scooter.

In **1969**, the Full Membership was 38 and in **1970** it was 37. About 40 young people, and a few adults from Kluang and Cha'ah Tamil Churches attended the National Youth Institute held at Port Dickson from 9 – 12 April. This was the first time the youths of these two churches attended such an Institute.

In **1971**, though the parsonage was bought five years earlier, the transfer was not done till this year and the church had to pay \$100 for the lawyer. The assessment of the parsonage was not paid for the past three or four years and the pastor was served with a notice. As there was no money in the church, the pastor paid RM 300 from his own pocket. Out of 37 Full Members, all, except one or two, were under the low income group. They sent \$100 for the Conference Benevolence Fund. As Kluang and Cha'ah had the same pastor and the latter was bigger, very active and had a house for the pastor, it was thought it would be better for the pastor to live at Cha'ah and visit Kluang once a week.

British Military Camp Closed

In **1972** the Full Membership was 38. The closing of the British Military Camp caused several church members to be retrenched and move to different towns. This greatly affected the membership and the activities of the church. The few members who lived in the town area were of the low income group and thus the church underwent another year of financial strain. However, despite this, the church members came forward and contributed liberally. They promised to pay the debts and other Conference commitments.

Help of Ministerial Students

In **1973** the Full Membership was 37. Rev. John Abraham, in spite of his ill health, faithfully carried out his duties to the best of his ability till 31 October, 1973. In **1974** the Full Membership was 36. Mr. Jacob David, a ministerial student, took charge of the churches in Kluang and Cha'ah from November 1973 to April 1974. When he left, Mr. Peter Devadason, also a ministerial student, took charge of the churches. Both Mr. Jacob and Mr. Peter served well and the churches began to grow. After many years, the first Carol Party was held. The church had a debt of RM 2,234.20 on the parsonage, accumulated over the years. The church took steps on this matter and paid RM 750 towards the parsonage debt.

In **1975 and 1976** for about five months, when the church was without a pastor, **Rev. Rasanayakam**, a retired pastor, helped in the Holy Communion and other services. **Rev. & Mrs. William Harris** and family arrived in Kluang on 25 September 1975 and were warmly accepted by the congregation. In **1975** the Full Membership was 37. In **1977** Rev. & Mrs. Harris had to leave Malaysia due to immigration problems.

Regular Estate Outreach Work

From June **1977 to 1980**, Rev. Devadass Ratnam took charge of TMC Cha'ah and Kluang. In **1977**, the church started a Building Fund which stood at RM 15.

In **1978** Bible Study was organized in two new areas – Kahang and Air Bemban. In **1979** the Full Membership was 60. Work was done in Paloh, CEP Niyor, Ulu Remis, Rengam, Elaeis Estate and Ellar Estate. There was a monthly bible study conducted for Hindus in Rengam and Ulu Remis. The Building Fund stood at about RM 3,000 and the church prayed for a place of worship. The church worship service was held at the parsonage. In **1980** the Full Membership was 54. Rev. Devadass Ratnam left at the beginning of the year and Mr. John Millason replaced him. Regular Estate Outreach was carried out in Paloh, Rengam, Ulu Remis and a pioneer project was started in Bukit Benut.

Pastor A. E. Joseph was the Pastor in **1981**. The Full Membership was 51. Worship services were held every Sunday evening at the MarThoma Church. The Outreach points were at Rengam, Paloh, Kempas, Klebang Estate and Sri Lallang. A Church School was conducted in Rengam fortnightly with an average attendance of about 15 children.

From **1 July 1982 till 1985 Rev. Solomon Abraham** was the Pastor. In **1982** the Full Membership was 45. The pastor was in charge of the Kluang and Johore Bahru churches. Worship Service was at 6pm at the Mar Thoma Church. As a result of migration of the youths to Singapore and other places and the lack of capable youth leaders, there was no MYF. Definite plans were made to revive the MYF and volunteers came forward to help. The WSCS was formed with a membership of about 17. The Building Fund with AEC Methodist Headquarters stood at RM 8,778.59. (Board on Property report page 118)

In **1983** the Full Membership was 48. Worship services were held on alternate Sundays and Fridays at 5:30 pm at the Mar Thoma Church. The MYF was active under the guidance of Miss Ruth Ratnam. In **1984** the Full Membership was 55. The Worship services were held on two Sundays and two Fridays at the Mar Thoma Church. The English bible study met fortnightly. In **1985** the Full Membership was 57.

Moving into Koperasi Building in Sunrise Park

Rev. Victor Vethamani was the Pastor in **1986**. The Full Membership was 56. Worship services were held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 5.30 pm. The Holy Communion service was held at 5.15 pm. The Bible Study was revived to help overcome spiritual lethargy. The Church School was a great encouragement for the church, as it was restarted this year. In the past, the main obstacle was transport and an own place of worship. God had enabled them to overcome both these limitations. Classes were held fortnightly on Fridays at 3:30 pm with 4 classes with about 20 children. The church moved into their new place of worship in December 1985. They left the Mar Thoma church premises and moved into a rented place at the Kluang Koperasi Building in Sunrise Park.

Rev. Emanuel Rajasher was the Pastor in **1987**. The Full Membership was 55. Worship services were held on Fridays and Sundays. This arrangement was made in view of the pastor's commitment to the Johore Bahru church.

Rev. Vincent Jayaraj assisted in the Holy Communion service. The children's ministry was organized during the early part of the year and had an enrolment of about 32 children.

From **1988 to 1992**, **Rev. David Jeyabal** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 52. Outreach Ministries were conducted in two estates, one in Pakloh and the other in Ellar. The church sent 4 members for the Young Adults' Camp held in Penang. The church paid its TAC Commitment Fund in full. In **1989** the Full Membership was 81 and in **1990** it was 96. The church met for worship on Sundays at 5 pm. They had two large preaching points – Rengam and Layang – Layang. The members in Rengam joined the Layang-Layang members for worship on the first Monday of the month for Holy Communion. Layang-Layang had 25 Full Members and their worship services was held in the local Presbyterian Church. In **1991** the Full Membership was 95. The Outreach in Rengam / Layang-Layang had no place of their own to hold worship services. In **1992** the Full Membership was 96.

In **1993** **Rev. Peter Jebasekaran** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 100. The worship was enriched with the purchase of a drum set and an overhead projector. From **1994 to 1996** **Rev. Duraisingam** was the Pastor. Supply Pastor Paul Maniam was placed in Kluang from 1994 to 1995. The Full Membership in 1994 was 102 and in 1995 it was 87. The Worship service was on Sunday at 9.30 am. In **1996** Rev. Duraisingam was assisted by Ministerial Candidate Mr. Reuben Kanagalingam. The Full Membership was 91. Worship service was changed from 9.15 am to 8.30 am. The church applied for a piece of land from the State Government.

From **1997 to 2000** **Rev. Abraham Ponniah Selvanayakam** was the Pastor. In **1997** the Full Membership was 100 and in **1998** it was 106. The church bought a second van for ministry. In **1999** the Full Membership was 101. There were six Area Fellowships that met every 2nd and 4th Saturdays in Kluang. For the Outreach in Layang-Layang, a shop house was rented from 25 July for worship and other programs. In **2000** the Full Membership was 96. A single-storey house was purchased for RM70, 000 (Board on Property report).

Purchase of a 1 ½ Storey Building

In **2001** **Rev. C. Paul**, the Pastor of TMC JB, pastored here also and was assisted by Pastor Seenivasagam David. In **2001** the Full Membership was 111 (the growth was through Confirmation). From **2002 to 2005** **Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the Pastor-in-charge. There were 23 members in the MYF. Though a large number of these youths were residing outside Kluang, yet they organized some very exciting programs like 'Climbathon – Gunung Lambak' and they maintained the Shekinah, a music group.

In **2002** the Full Membership was 121 (the increase was due to transfers in). They purchased a 1 ½ storey building costing RM260,000. The church thanked all TAC churches that contributed towards their Fund and also thanked the Conference for their support.

Coin Box Project

In **2003** the Full Membership was 117. They started worshipping in the new building from 1 October. In **2004** the Full Membership was 121. Due to the closure of an oil mill in Layang-Layang, the attendance there was affected. However, work in Simpang Rengam was started with four families. The women raised funds for the church building through the coin box project. They also collected 10 cent coins for MMM. In **2005** the Full Membership was 121. The MSF was formed on 3 April with 18 members. They met regularly. Prison Ministry was carried out on Mondays.

In **2006 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas**, the pastor of TMC Johore Bahru, was the Pastor-in-charge. Church Worker Mr. Isaac Nathan assisted. The Full Membership was 115. The Layang-Layang Outreach was closed because the believers there had moved out. Although Rev. Jonathan could only come to Kluang to conduct the Communion Service and LCEC meetings once a month, he guided the church well. Pastor Isaac Nathan, the Church Worker, along with his wife gave good leadership.

Paloh Becomes Kluang Outreach

In **2007 Rev. Samy Dass** was the Pastor-in-charge with Church worker Mr. Isaac Nathan. The Full Membership was 131. The church building was dedicated on 15 September by the Conference President Rev. P. Tevaraji. The Conference Lay Leader, Mr. Steven Solomon, also graced the occasion. TMC Cha'ah, at its Second Local Conference, decided to hand over the Paloh ministry to TMC Kluang and the Kluang Church, at its Second Local Conference, accepted Paloh as their Outreach in 2008. An application for the plot of land No. PTB7373 was forwarded to the relevant authorities.

Training Young Leaders for Small Group Ministry

From **2008 to 2014 Rev. John Simson** was the Pastor. In **2008** the Full Membership was 147 and in **2009** it was 153. Ms. Mary served in the Paloh ministry. In **2010** Church worker Ms. Mercy helped and the Full Membership was 160. Ms. Mercy also gave leadership for the Paloh Outreach. An average of 40 people gathered for worship. In **2011** Mr. Kelvin Paul Raj (Pre Ministerial Candidate) and Mr. John Elijah (Church Worker) helped the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 167. There was a shortage of leaders to run the Small Group meetings. New young leaders were trained. In **2012** the pastor had the assistance of Mr. John Elijah, Mr. Victor Gunaseelan (Church Worker) and Mr. Jeyaseelan John (Part time Church Worker). The Full Membership was 168. Eight Small Groups met with an average attendance of 40.

In **2013** the same pastoral team continued. The Full Membership was 168. All agencies were inactive except for the Methodist Women. In **2014** the Full Membership was 169. The MYF and MSF were inactive this year as their members were mostly staying outstation. Another reason was the change of worship services due to the change of weekend holidays. The church lost a good worker, Mr. John Elijah who went to be with the Lord.

The pastor, a visionary, served 7 years in this church and established outreach ministries. The church building underwent renovation and they moved from the first floor to the ground floor for their worship services. (Board on Property report pg. 157)

From **2015 to 2018 Rev. John Mathuni** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2015**, Mr. Jeyaseelan John continued as Church Worker. The Full Membership was 168. The church raised RM42,000 to renovate the parsonage. A Combined Church Building Dedication, Thanksgiving and Confirmation Service was held on 6 September. 34 were received as Full Members. In **2016** Mr. Cengkuttan (Church Worker) served in TMC Kluang / Paloh and Mr. Joshua (Church Worker) helped in TMC Kluang / Renggam. The Full Membership was 193. The church renovated its parsonage at 27, Jalan Pinang, Taman Lian Seng, Kluang, at a cost of RM75,000. In **2017** the Full Membership dropped to 130. The **Paloh Outreach became a Local Conference on 18 March**. In **2018** the Full Membership remained at 130.

In **2019, Rev. Devaraj Balaiyah** has been appointed the pastor. Mr. Vengkitaraja is the Lay Leader and Mr. Aravin Raj is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership of the church is 142. They have 14 members in the MYF. MYAF is not formed yet, but Mr. Stephen was appointed the coordinator for this Fellowship in the Second Local Conference held in September 2019. There are 15 children in the Church School, of these 3 are non-believers' children. There are no Cell Groups, but the church has plans to start this ministry next year. They have two Outreaches, one in Simpang Renggam and the other in Layang Layang.

Conclusion: The ministry in Tamil Methodist Church Kluang goes back to the 1950s. Today the church has its own building where worship is conducted and a parsonage for the pastor. The Paloh Outreach was taken over by TMC Kluang in 2008 and in less than ten years, in 2017, it became a Local Conference. In 1965, the Full Membership of the Circuit was 55 and this year it is 142. They still have much to do to build this local church, and with God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, they can indeed achieve great things for the Lord and for the glory of His Name.

Sources:

Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1964	Rev. S. Sundararaj
1965 April	Rev. A.G.J. Rasanayakam
1966 – 1968	Pastor Joseph Devasagayam
1969 – 1973	Rev. John Abraham
1973 Nov. – 1974 Apr.	Mr. Jacob David
1975 June – 1976	Rev. William Harris
1977 June – 1980	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1980 June 1981 Dec.	Rev. A.E Joseph
1982 July – 1985	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1986	Rev. Victor Vethamani
1987	Rev. Emanuel Rajahser
1988 – 1992	Rev. Jeyabal David
1993	Rev. Peter Jebasekaran
1994 – 1997	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1998 – 2000	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam
2001	Rev. C. Paul
2002 – 2005	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2006	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2007	Rev. Samy Dass
2008 – 2014	Rev. John Simson
2015 – 2018	Rev. John Mathuni
2019	Rev. Devaraj Balaiyah

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
N/A	Mr. Issac Timothy	Mr. Issac Timothy
2006 - 2012	Mr. Vengitaraja	N/A
2013 - 2019	Mr. Vengitaraja	Mr. Aravin Raj



Tamil Methodist Churches

Third Period: 1969 – 1976

24. PORT KLANG 1974

PORT KLANG

The Beginnings

In **1907**, **Rev. Gnanasigamani** started an Outreach Ministry at the Quarantine at Port Swettenham. In **1915**, **Rev. Arumugam**, with the help of other lay members, collected money from the people of Klang, Port Swettenham and the nearby estates for the building of the church in Port Swettenham. The church was built by the Chinese congregation in 1915. In **1924**, the Tamil congregation, numbering 50, requested that church services be held in Port Swettenham itself. Previously they used to go to Klang to worship. **Rev. Timothy** was the first Pastor.

From **1932 – 1937** **Rev. L.A. Samuel** was the Pastor. In **1937** the existing church in Port Swettenham was given to the Chinese Conference but the Tamils continued to worship there. In **1944** the church was used as a slaughter house during the Japanese occupation. In **1947** Mr. Selvaratnam and the other members of the Tamil Congregation helped to repair the church and used it again as a place of worship. From **1952 to 1954** Rev. S. Ratnasamy was the Supply Pastor. In **1955** **Rev. M. Thangamuthu** was the Pastor. In **1956**, a portion of the private school land in Port Swettenham was sold to the Shell Company for \$30,000. Upon the request of Rev. J.V. Ayadurai an amount of \$10,000 was set aside for the purpose of purchasing a church land. Two lots, (Lots Nos. 7451 and 7453) at Barrowman Road, Swettenham were purchased for \$6,500 by Mr. G.S. Arumugam, while the balance of \$3,342 was kept in fixed deposit by the Trustees under the name of the Church Building Programme for Port Swettenham.

In **1958** the MAC Journal reported that a team of Church School teachers on bicycles conducted 8 Church Schools in the Port area and provided free milk to 150 undernourished children. The Supply Pastor was Rev. T. Devairakam. From **1959 to 1962**, **Rev. S.R. Jebamoney** was the Pastor. In 1961 the Full Membership was 51. Rev. Jebamoney preached on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays while the Lay Leader conducted the service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On 18 May **1959** it was resolved to loan the amount of \$3,342 to Kelang Tamil Church. From **1962 – 1964**, **Rev. Peter David** was the Pastor. In **1965** **Rev. Jacob Paul** was the Pastor. A sum of \$353 was given by the Tamil Klang Church for the renovation of the Church in Port Swettenham.

From **October 1966 to July 1967**, **Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. In **1967 and 1968**, **Pastor Samuel Ratnasamy** was the Pastor. The Tamils were not allowed to worship in the church building as they were unable to raise a further sum for the renovation. They began to worship in a small 15x30 sq feet wooden building which was used as an office by the Private Methodist School.

In **1969**, **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj** was the Pastor. The youths of the church met and elected the office bearers for the MYF of Port Swettenham (hereafter referred to as Port Klang). **Mr. Ganesan was elected as the first MYF President.** In **1970 and 1971**, **Rev. Noel Arputharaj** was the Pastor. In **1972**, **Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was the Pastor. On **18 April 1972**, the first meeting of the Building Committee of the TMC Port Klang was held and the following Office Bearers

were elected: Chairman: Dr. G.D. Dass; Secretary: Mr. A. Solomon and Treasurer: Mrs. Hope Albert. Upon the request of the Klang church, in **1972**, Port Klang church unanimously decided that it was not feasible for them to join the Klang church in a combined building project.

From **1973 to 1974 Rev. Francis Sunderaraj** was the Pastor. On **28 April 1973** the Council of Trustees accepted the recommendation that Lots Nos. 7451 and 7453 in the Mukim of Kelang be listed as TPAC property for the Tamil Church Port Klang. On **4 March 1973**, the WSCS was formed with 16 ladies. **Mrs. Violet Dass** was elected as the President.

On 1 January 1974, the Church received the Registration Certificate from Bishop T. R. Doraisamy. This is the date of the formation of Port Klang as a Local Church.

Also in **1974**, the Full Membership was 48. On 9 May, the church received the Income Tax Exemption Certificate for the Building Fund. On 12 July there was a meeting with Tan Sri Manikavasagam in connection with the Tamil Methodist Church Building Fund.

In **1975**, **Student Pastor Simon Chandran** gave pastoral care. On **28 September**, the church staged “Almaram” with the help of TV Malaysia actors and made a net profit of RM4,629. On **4 December**, the Town Council revoked the decision made earlier and withdrew its approval for the erection of a church building on Lots Nos. 7451 and 7453, as they had received an objection letter from the residents.

From **1976 to 1977, Rev. R.R. Ratnarajah** was the Pastor. On **28 November 1976**, Bishop P. Wertz and Mr. Henry A. Lacy took part in the church service. The Bishop gave the message and then gave a loan of US\$25,000 to the Church Building Project. On **18 December 1976**, the Board of Education decided to exchange Lot 3858 for Lot 7451 in Barrowman Road, so that the Tamil Methodist Church could carry out their Building Programme. On **12 May 1977**, Mr. C.A. Wellington offered his services to raise funds in the USA for the Church Building Fund.

From **1978 to 1979, Rev. James Solamadan** was the Pastor. On 10 October **1979**, the church bought a three-storey shop-house at 163, Jalan Tengku Badar, Port Klang. From **1980 to 1983 Rev. Paul Athimuthu** was the Pastor. In April 1980, the local church hosted the National MYF Institute. The Youth President at that time was **Mr. Steven Solomon**.

From **1984 to 1985, Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. By April **1985** the loan that was taken to purchase the shop-house was settled. From **1986 – 1987, Rev. Jeyabal David** was the Pastor. The 1986 Journal reported: “This is the only church where every member is a paying member.” In 1988, the Pastor in Charge was Rev. James Solamadan and assisted by Rev. Paul Athimuthu. The ministerial student serving was Mr. Justin Clarence.

From **1989 to 1990**, **Rev. Peter Jebasekaran** was the Pastor. From 1990 to 1991, Pastor Ramadason was placed on Assignment to Port Kelang. On 12 November **1990** the church purchased a terrace house for a parsonage at 66, Jalan Mata Kuching, Klang for RM 65,000. The Full Membership was 103.

From **1991 – 1992**, **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor. In **1991** the Full Membership was 97. Pastor Ramadason was placed on Assignment and began his ministry here on 1 December 1990. This was in addition to his assignment to Sungai Way/Subang. The Sunday worship service was held at 7.30 am. Every Friday, about 10-12 members met in a member's home in Palm Grove for Bible Study. Prayer meetings were held in the homes of members on Wednesdays and an Area Fellowship was conducted in Pandamaran. About 30 children attended the Church School and were divided into 4 classes with 6 teachers. A single storey terrace house was bought for RM65,000. In **1992** the Full Membership was 91. The parsonage was dedicated by the TAC President Rev. James K. Solamadan on 20 June that year.

In **1993**, **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor until January. In February **1993**, **Rev. David Tharmakan** was the Pastor and assisted by Ministerial Student, Mr. Dennis Raj. The Full Membership was 94. Rev. Tharmakan was also the pastor of TMC Klang. An overhead projector was bought to enhance the worship. The WSCS had 20 members and the MYF 23 members. The congregation worshipped in an old wooden building. The members felt that the church would grow better if they moved out. The church planned to buy a double storey shop lot.

In **1994** **Rev. David Paul** was the Pastor till June. The Full Membership was 85. **From July** the church had **Rev. C. Jayaraj** as the Pastor and STM student Mr. Robert Selvakumar. They gave RM 1,000 as donation and RM 10,000 as loan towards the TMC Johore Baru Building. They paid RM85,000 for a terrace house at 17G, Jalan Buah Bangkong, 42000 Port Klang. They needed a new place for worship.

From **1995 to 2002** **Mrs. Joy Pandian** was placed here on Special Appointment. From **1995 to 1996**, **Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor in charge. In **1995** the Full Membership was 104. The Area Fellowship was reintroduced and the response was very encouraging. A Candlelight service was held and the offertory received (RM1,138) was given to the Bethany Home. A choir was formed. In **1996** the Full Membership was 107. About 4-6 couples met fortnightly as the MYAF in the homes of members. The church bought a new van.

From **1997 to 1998** **Rev. C. Jayaraj** was the Pastor in charge and Mrs Joy Pandian continued on Assignment. In **1997** the Full Membership was 109. There was an Evangelistic Crusade from 15 – 16 November. The church contributed RM 6,075 towards MMM. The church also donated RM3,000 to Charity: RM1,000 to Miss Rita Devadass of TMC Cha'ah for Kidney treatment and RM3,737 to the North Korea Famine Relief through World Vision.

In **1998** the Full Membership was 102. The Church school teachers went for a training organised by the Scripture Union. The Christian Education Committee organised a Church Family Camp in P.D. from 5 – 6 June 1998. In **1999** the Full Membership was 99. The Church School adopted a boy in San Salvador under the Child Adoption Programme of World Vision, giving RM 50 a month. The church also gave monthly support for Bethany Home and ODMAL Services – RM100 each. For Missions, they gave RM 350 for the “Love Komerling Project”.

In **2000** the Pastor-in-charge was **Rev. Vincent Jayaraj** and Mrs. Joy Pandian continued on Assignment. The Full Membership was 99. From 29 October the worship service was held at the ground floor of their new premises. The Christian Education Committee organised a teaching session on “Defending our Faith against the Jehovah Witnesses”. From **2001 to 2005**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor in charge and Mrs. Joy Pandian continued on Assignment till 2002. In **2001** the Full Membership was 110. The Christian Education Committee organised a library and a Kid’s Corner. Ms. Marlin Rose from this church was working among the lepers in India through YWAM. In **2002**, Rev. John Kovilpillai was the pastor in charge and Mrs Joy Pandian served as Member on Trial. The Full Membership was 112. The church gave to various organisations: RM 5,000 per year for MMM, RM50 per month to OM Fund Appeal, RM 50 per month to Odmal Services and RM100 per month for missions. The Church School helped children in Luite, China through Love Leaf Programme. In **2003** Rev. Dr. John Kovilpillai was the pastor. The Full Membership was 114. The Music and Worship Committee composed the Theme Song for MMM’s 10th Anniversary.

In **2004**, Rev. Dr. John Kovilpillai was assisted by Pastor M. Tankaraj. The Full Membership was 108. The church worked with TMC Klang in the migrant ministry. For the development of the church land, a Building Committee was set up. Mr. Jayarajah, a member of the church, was recommended for fulltime ministry. In **2005** Rev. Kovilpillai was assisted by Church Worker Pastor Isaac Nathan. The Full Membership was 104. The church owned two terrace houses, one, the former parsonage, was sold in 2005 for RM130,000, whereby RM115,000 was loaned to TAC to offset the Rumah TAC loan (with AEC), while another was rented to Shekinah Home, Methodist Women’s Senior Citizens Home.

From **2006 to 2009** **Rev. Seenivasagam David** was the Pastor. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 103. The Christian Education Committee organised a “Jam Club” – learning new songs, discussion on topics like friends, fear, anger, rebellion and disobedience. The Property: Lot 244 and Lot 3858 were shared by CMC and TMC Port Klang. Fund Raising was on going to develop both the places. The parsonage (terrace house) was sold for RM130,000. The second house at Klang was put up for sale at a price of RM180,000. A portion of Lot 244/3858 at Port Klang was assigned to TMC Port Klang. (Board on Property pg. 191). In **2007** the Full Membership was 100. The church had two Small Group meeting in Bukit Tinggi (Preaching Point) and in Pandamaran. Their Church School drew many non-Christian children. Almost half the Church School children were non-Christians. The church was involved in mission work among

the migrant Indians. The church embarked on a RM1.5 million church Building Project. In **2008** the Full Membership was 100. An MSF Pro Tem Committee was formed on 13 April. In **2009** the Full Membership was 107.

From **2010 to 2013 Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor. In **2010** the Full Membership was 109, in **2011** it was 114 and **2012** it was 112. The church started the Saturday ministry to the children. Attempts were made to have new ministries but the people found it difficult to participate. In **2013** the Full Membership was 111. Retired pastors Rev. Victor Vethamani and Rev. Joy Pandian helped in the church ministry. The church had a ‘feeding the hungry’ ministry in Kapar. The church also had another challenging programme at Bukit Cheeding with TMC Banting among the Orang Asli people.

In **2014 Rev. John Sunder Raj** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 109. From **2015 to 2018 Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor. In **2015** the Full Membership was 106. The church was affected by the resignation of Pastor John Sunder. Rev. John Kovilpillai and his wife Mrs. Jean Kovilpillai helped the church considerably. When the pastor and his wife were away on a month’s visit to the United States, the LCEC managed the church quite well. Though the membership and finances were affected a bit, there was hope things will improve. In **2016** the Full Membership was 121. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held in homes. Christian Discipleship was done through the Sunday sermons. Taman Pendamar Indah 2 was considered for outreach. The church land matter was not solved. In **2017** the Full Membership was 98. Efforts were taken to reach out to people around Port Klang and the neighbourhood and this resulted in the forming of the Bukit Tinggi Outreach on 23 April 2017 at the new premises. They had weekly Sunday Evening services at 6pm in Bukit Tinggi. The Outreach work in Bukit Tinggi went on very well. A Football Fellowship for children in the flats and free tuition for children were held in Bukit Tinggi 2. Rev. John Kovilpillai, a senior retired minister was very strong and energetic. He took care of both the Port Klang and Bukit Tinggi ministries.

In **2018** Rev. John Kovilpillai was assisted by new graduate Pastor Ezekiel Raj. The Full Membership was 98. The Outreach ministry went on well in Bukit Tinggi. Sports Ministry was on Saturday mornings and about 10 children joined the football fellowship. It was ascertained that Lot 244 belongs to the Council of Trustees, (Secretary of the Methodist Church in Malaysia). The sale of the land to Shell Malaysia was concluded and the stamped copy of the settlement was received.

In **2019 Rev. Ezekiel Raj** has been appointed the pastor. Mr. Supramaniam Suppiah is the Lay Leader and Mr. Inderjit the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership of the church is 98. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MSF (15) and MW (15). There is no MYF or MYAF. The MYF had only 4 members and no one was willing to take up leadership in 2019. They formed a working committee for the year 2019. There are 30 children and 10 teachers in the Church School. They have one Outreach ministry in Bukit Tinggi. There are no Cell Group ministries.

Conclusion: The ministry in Port Klang goes way back to 1907. Then Port Klang was known as Port Swettenham. In the early years, the Tamil congregation used to go to Klang to worship. In 1924 they requested that church services be held in Port Swettenham itself. Then the MYF and WSCS were organised even before the congregation was formally organised as a Local Conference in 1974. The MYF in 1969 and WSCS in 1973. In 1924 the congregation numbered 50. At the time of the formation in 1974 it was 48. Currently the Full Membership is 98. With the zeal of their young pastor, and the power of the Holy Spirit, TMC Port Klang can look for greater things ahead for the glory of God.

Sources:

Methodist Journals – MAC, TPAC, TAC

PASTORAL ROLL

1924	Rev. Timothy
1932 – 1937	Rev. L.A. Samuel
1952 – 1954	Rev. Ratnasamy
1955	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1956	Pastor G.S. Arumugam
1958	Rev. T. Devairakkam
1959 – 1962	Rev. S.R. Jebamoney
1962 – 1964	Rev. Peter David
1965	Rev. Jacob Paul
1966 Oct. – 1967 July	Rev. James Solamadan
1967 Aug. – 1968	Rev. Samuel Ratnasamy
1969	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1970 – 1971	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1972	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1973 – 1974	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1975 till Nov.	Student Pastor Simon Chandran
1975 Dec. – 1977	Rev. R. R. Ratnarajah
1978 – 1979	Rev. James Solamadan
1980 – 1983	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1984 – 1985	Rev. Joseph Komar
1986 – 1987	Rev. Jeyabal David
1989 – 1990	Rev. Peter Jebasekaran
1990 – 1991	Pastor Ramadasan
1991 – 1992	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1993 Feb.	Rev. David Tharmakan
1994 till June	Rev. David Paul
1994 July	Rev. C. Jayaraj
1995 – 1996	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
1997 – 1998	Rev. C. Jayaraj
1999 – 2004	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2005 – 2006	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2006 – 2009	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2010 – 2013	Rev. Anthony Panan
2014	Rev. John Sunder
2015 – 2018	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2019	Rev. Ezekiel Raj

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1924	Mr. Peter	Rev. Timothy
1932 - 1937	Mr. John	Rev. L.A. Samuel
1952 - 1954	Mr. Samuel	Rev. Ratnasamy
1955	Mr. G.S. Arumugam	Rev. M. Thangamuthu
1956	Mr. G.S. Arumugam	Rev. J.A. Ayadurai
1958	Mr. G.S. Arumugam	Rev. T. Devairakkam
1959 - 1962	Mr. R.K. Edwin	Rev. S.R. Jebamoney
1962 - 1964	Mrs. C.A. Anantharajah	Rev. Peter David
1965	Mr. R.K. Edwin	Rev. Jacob Paul
Oct 1966 - July 1967	Mr. R.K. Edwin	Rev. James Solamadan
Aug 1967 - 1968	Mr. Wilson David	Rev. Samuel Ratnasamy
1969	Mrs. C.A. Anantharajah	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1970 - 1971	Mr. R.K. Edwin	Rev. Noel Arputharaj
1972	Mr. Samuel	Rev. Paul Athimuthu
1973	Mrs. C.A. Anantharajah	Rev. Francis Sunderaraj
1974	Mrs. C.A. Anantharajah	Dr. D.G. Dass
1975	Mrs. C.A. Anantharajah	Dr. D.G. Dass
1976 - 1983	Mr. Samuel	Dr. D.G. Dass
1984 - 1985	Mrs. Kanthimathy Leela Simon	Dr. D.G. Dass
1986 - 1996	Mr. Samuel Kovilpitchai	Dr. D.G. Dass
1997	Mr. Supramaniam	Dr. D.G. Dass
1998 - 2003	Mr. Supramaniam	Mr. Steven Solomon
2004 - 2019	Mr. Supramaniam	Mr. Inderjit



Tamil Methodist Church

Fourth Period: 1977 – 1999

25. Kepala Batas	1980
26. Prai	1981
27. Sungai Pelek	1983
28. Mentakab	1984
29. Jerantut	1984
30. Petaling Jaya	1986
31. Alor Gajah	1989
<i>TMC Sagil</i>	1990 #
<i>TMC Asahan</i>	1990 #
32. Cheroh	1990
33. Rawang	1992
34. Ulu Klang	1994
35. Serdang	1995
<i>TMC Tangkak</i>	1996 #
36. Bentong	1995
37. Jelapang	1996
38. Shah Alam	1998

KEPALA BATAS

The Beginning

The TMC Kepala Batas began as an Outreach of the TMC Sungai Petani. **In 1969**, there were 17 members in this Outreach. The meetings were held in members' homes. It was organised as a Local Conference by the Northern DS Rev. James Solamadan on 23 February 1980. This is the first Tamil Methodist Church to be organised as a Local Conference, after the formation of the Tamil Annual Conference in 1976.

The Early Years

At the time of the formation, there were 45 Full Members. **Rev. P. Tevaraji** was their first Pastor. Worship services were held on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the estate crèche. Prayer meetings were conducted twice a month by the members. The MYF had 15 members and the WSCS 16 members. There were two Church Schools with 36 children. They had no building and the local church asked the estate management for a piece of land. **In 1981**, Rev. P. Tevaraji continued as the pastor and gave two days in a week to Kepala Batas. Sunday worship service was at 10.15 a.m. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held fortnightly and Bible studies were conducted. The Full Membership was 47.

The Struggle to own a Building for Worship

From 1982 – 1983, Rev. Stanley Sadagopan was the Home Prayer Meetings were held on Wednesdays. Full Membership remained at 47. The church needed a building but since most of the members were estate workers, they were unable to buy one. In 1983 there was an attempt to purchase a piece of land in Kepala Batas. The cost of the land was RM26,000. A down payment of RM4,000 was paid by the local church in November 1982. Since they had more than RM 5,000 with the Area Executive Council, they appealed for a loan of RM17,000. This money was released, but was not forwarded to the lawyers in Butterworth. The balance of RM22,000 should have been settled by December 1982. Sellers agreed to a grace period of one month till 31 January 1983. This was later pushed forward to 28 February 1983. If the money was not paid by then, they stood to lose the RM 4,000 paid in advance in November 1982. The balance of RM 22,000 was not settled. This problem affected the church and its activities. Many boycotted the Second Local Church Conference.

From 1984–1988, Rev. Peter Devadason gave Pastoral leadership. Being in charge of TMC Sungai Petani as well, the pastor visited this church only twice a week i.e. on Sundays for worship services and Fridays for Cottage Prayer Meetings and home visitation. The church was handicapped because they had neither a building for worship nor a parsonage. The worship was in the estate crèche. Two attempts to buy a piece of land failed. **In 1985**, the church again tried to buy a piece of land. All related documents for the purchase of the land was sent to the Secretary of the Council of Trustees for study. **In 1986**, the members continued to worship in the estate crèche. Attendance dropped due to the discouragement of not having a church building of their own.

In 1987, worship services were held on Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Church participation increased and more members became active in the ministry. Regular prayer meetings were held in the homes of members on Thursdays. This provided for a time of fellowship and study. The church finally acquired a bungalow house in a half an acre of land at the cost of RM70,000. The church had only RM23,000 but within a short time the balance was raised. Many individuals in the district responded by donating to this good cause. The church took an interest-free loan of RM12,000 from church members Mr. Arthur and family. The church repaid the loan on a monthly basis. The church renovated the bungalow house with the help of Rev. Ezekiel Raj and Tamil Annual Conference assisted with a loan RM 20,000. This was also eventually repaid. **In 1988**, worship services were held on Sundays at 10 am. Church worker Mr. Elijah Bala helped the pastor in the ministry. On Mondays, regular bible study and prayer sessions were held. The church paid RM42,550 towards the loan taken from the A.E.C. There still remained another RM1,500 of interest free loan taken from a church member. The church spent RM1,707 on renovating the building. They hoped to put up a church building in the vacant land.

Persevering with Heavy Loan Payments

From 1989–1990, Rev. M.G. Thana Raj was the Pastor. He was assisted by Mr. Mark Supramanyam from 1 January 1989. The members were proud of their church building, for it showed their perseverance against all odds. However the payments on the buildings and fittings took a toll on the finances of the church. Rev. M.G. Thana Raj baptised 3 new believers on 21 October 1990.

From 1991 – 1992, Rev. D.B. Laurence was the Pastor. He was also the pastor of TMC Prai, and was stationed in Prai. Though they began as a rural church, the place of worship was situated within the town council area. Since the place of worship was in the housing area, they faced problems. They hoped that good neighbourhood relationships would soften the situation. There were 25 children and three teachers in the Church School. Sharing the pastor with another local church hindered church growth. The outlying areas and estates had a large Tamil population but there were few workers to reach them.

Received Financial Help to Cope

In 1993, Rev. John Kovilpillai, the pastor in Penang, gave Pastoral leadership from January – April. He was assisted by the Church Worker Mr. Jevaratnam. **Pastor N. Rajan** came to Kepala Batas on 1 May 1993. The MYF put up a programme in the Public Hall, ‘Rise and Shine’, with songs, dances and meaningful dramas. A new work was begun in Padang Serai. A family of six members were baptised. There was an immediate need of RM 8,000 to do major roof repairs and to accommodate the Pastor’s family. The church faced financial crisis, though they settled their Conference Commitment which was in arrears for two years. **In 1994**, the church received an amount of RM32,000 to renovate the worship premise together with other repair works.

Facelift for Church Building and Compound

From 1995–1997, Rev. Hendry Ponniah was the Pastor-in-charge. In **1995**, the church paid all the expenses for church renovations, their arrears and current commitments to the Conference and the District. The Church building and its compound got a new “facelift”. The place of worship was carpeted. A new fence and a brick wall were erected in front. The members were proud of their sanctuary. Ministerial student Mr. Dennis Raj did well to build the work under the able guidance of Rev. Hendry Ponniah. The DS observed that though the members’ enthusiasm increased, they lacked unity and leadership and there was a need for the members to be exposed to the other churches.

Kulim Outreach Handed to Kepala Batas

In 1996, Rev. Hendry Ponniah was assisted by Supply Pastor James Ravindaren. The local church focused on building the unity among the members. The church now had an overhead projector to help their worship service. There were 21 children baptised this year and this was due to the neglect in the previous years, due to the influence from other denominations discouraging child baptism. The church paid all its Conference and District dues. There was a regular gathering on Fridays for fasting and prayer and about 20 to 30 people attended. Kulim Outreach was handed over to Kepala Batas by Prai where there were 3 families. Church School was held on Saturdays and Sundays in Tikam Batu (11 children) and Kepala Batas (27 children). Six teachers helped in this ministry. The MYF met on Sundays and had a membership of 21 of which about 15 attended regularly. The WSCS met twice a month in the church and had 25 members.

New Leadership Emerged

The church launched into a building project called “Nehemiah Project”. They hoped to make further extension to the present worship hall and extend to the back of the church building, to provide for the pastor to stay. The church organized a dinner on 15 October 1996 to raise funds for this project. To foster fellowship, the church organized a picnic at Batu Ferringhi, Penang and a football game between the youths and the elders. Pastor James Ravindaren’s contribution to this church was very remarkable. The church grew in all areas and new leadership emerged.

In 1997, the young Robert Selvakumar was the Assistant Pastor. The church received a subsidy for pastoral support. The Kulim ministry was more of a preaching point than an Outreach. There were two Church Schools, one in Tikam Batu (Saturdays) and another in Kepala Batas (Sundays). Transport was a problem. The church pursued to extend to the back of their building and worship hall. They started a van project to overcome the transport problem. Though the church was marked by enthusiasm and zeal, the available resources and personnel were limited. **In 1998**, after a year of being an Assistant Pastor, **Rev. Robert Selvakumar** took charge of the church. He continued his emphasis on the teaching of the Word.

The church continued to receive subsidy for Pastoral support. There were plans to build a new sanctuary and the parsonage. The cost of the project was estimated at RM 200,000. The church organized a successful Fundraising Dinner on 22 August 1998. They still needed to raise another RM 150,000.

Plans to Renovate and Extend Church Building

From 1999–2001, Pastor Segaran was appointed the Pastor. The pastor's gifting in worship developed the church into a worshipping community, witnessing to the neighbours. The full membership was 101. Concerted effort was still lacking in the Kulim Outreach. The Church School had an enrolment of about 35 children, with five teachers. Ten adults participated in a Church School teachers training programme. In **2000**, about 60-80 people attended the weekly worship service. The full membership was 93. The drop in membership was due to members transferred to other places. Kulim was the only outreach point where a small team ministered twice a month. A survey of the church land behind the sanctuary was done. There were plans to renovate and extend the present church building. The giving was poor, though the church managed with the subsidy received from the Conference. In 2001, the "singing pastor" was busy helping to raise funds to purchase a van for the church's ministries. The full membership was 99. A Church School was started in Taman Keladi (Sungai Petani) and about 38 children (including non-Christians) attended. Gospel tracting was done in Kulim. With the pressure from the neighbours, the church considered buying a shop house for worship purpose. Three Area Fellowships were started.

Forced to Move to Rented Premise

members) and for Kulim on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm (weekly attendance: 20-25 members). In March, there was a special meeting on missions and two speakers from YWAM, Mr. Peter Vellupillai and Mr. John from India were invited to share and preach God's word. With the help of church members, individuals, sister churches and the Conference, the church bought a van. A Dinner was organized in order to raise funds for the van.

Youths Leaving for Education and Employment Opportunities

In 2009, the Full Membership was 116. There were 50 students in the Church **From 2002–2006, Rev. Edward Devadason**, the pastor of Prai, was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2002**, 13 children attended the Church School in Taman Keladi. A teachers' training program called AWANA was conducted on 13 April 2002 by Mrs. Lila Chelliah, in which TMC Jerai also joined. The fencing of the compound was done. Renovation work to the church building was done at a cost of RM60,000. In **2003**, five Cell Groups met regularly and the participation was good. The Christian Education Committee started a library. There were two Church Schools, one in Kepala Batas attended by 15 children and another in Tikam Batu with 24 children. The building was renovated and air-conditioned at a cost of RM65,000. Due to strong opposition from the Majlis Perbandaran, the congregation had to move to a rented premise. Appeals were made to the Majlis Perbandaran as well as other relevant authorities to provide a piece of land where a church could be built.

In 2004, three Area Fellowships were held on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. The Church School in Tikam Batu had 25 children and 4 teachers while Kepala Batas had 15 children and 6 teachers. A VBS was held from 23 to 24 of August and 55 children attended. A Church School Teachers' Training was held on 4 February and 10 teachers participated. In **2005**, the full membership stood at 108. The estimated value of the church building and land was RM450,000. The church decided to sell the property for about RM 600,000 and the money to be used to buy a suitable 3 storey building for worship and other ministries. In **2006**, the full membership was 113. The church continued to struggle with the sale of their property. Student Pastor Jeremiah Thomas worked very hard for church renewal and growth. He also helped in the ministry at TMC Alor Star.

Kulim Outreach Handed to Sungai Petani

From 2007–2012, Rev. **Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 116. Three days of evangelistic meetings were held with Rev Herbert John as the speaker. The Kulim Outreach was officially handed over by TMC Sungai Petani to TMC Kepala Batas on 29 September 2007. The worship services there were held on Tuesdays at 8pm. The average attendance was 12 to 15. A VBS was conducted by the Kepala Batas church from 16 - 18 April and 25 children attended. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 116. The worship service for Kepala Batas was on Sundays at 9am (weekly attendance: 70-80 School and they met on Saturdays at 2.30pm. A team from Korea visited the church in January and presented their cultural dance and music performance. The MYAF Kepala Batas was formed on 22 February 2009 and for the first time represented the church in the TAC MYAF Camp. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 131. Three revival meetings were held with Rev. Ezekiel Raj, Rev. David Rasahpandy and Rev. John Ganabathy as the speakers. The church had an Easter carolling by the MYF. In Kulim, 5 adults and 4 children were baptized. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 133. The church sold their land for RM450,000. Mr. David Krishnan committed himself for the full-time pastoral ministry. Education and better job opportunities caused the youths and young adults to go elsewhere.

In 2012, the Full Membership was 116. The youths hiked up Bukit Mertajam and broke into three groups in three separate places and prayed for the church, District and Conference. Easter carolling was done by the youths. Mr. and Mrs. Arul opened their house for Campus Student Fellowship and prayer meetings. About 15 to 20 people attended this fellowship. Financial help was received from the Conference.

From 2013–2014, Rev. **Reuben Rajandurai** was the Pastor. In **2013**, the church conducted Spiritual marking and territorial prayers three times. Focused evangelistic efforts were given to Kulim and Keladi. The Full Membership was 120. In **2014**, the church continued with its evangelistic efforts and was in touch with about 50 non-Christian families. The Full Membership was 127.

From 2015–2017, Rev. Samuel Periathamby was the Pastor. In **2015**, the young adults were the major financial contributors. The church purchased a property for RM547,500. The Sales and Purchase Agreement was dated 18 September. The Full Membership was 120. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 119. Mr. Joseph Ambrose helped as a Weekend Practical Work Student. Four couples attended the Marriage Counselling Training held in Taiping. On 28 February, the Local MSF was formed. Nine seniors attended the National MSF Camp. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 117. The church shared the Resurrection message to 11 families on Easter Sunday.

In 2018, Rev. Kunabalan was the Pastor-in-charge and Mr. Paul Davidshan, a Pre-Seminary Student, assisted. The Full Membership was 116. About 12 people faithfully gathered for prayer on Fridays. One member went to Thailand for a short-term Mission. The church purchased a new building for RM 547,500. The church has taken vacant possession of the property.

In 2019, Rev. John Simson is the pastor-in-charge with Pastor Solomon Thangaiah as the Church Worker. The Lay Leader is Mr. Arulmani Sigamony and Mr. Thomas Sowria the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 115. The new church building purchased in 2015 now has electricity and water supply. They are in the process of doing the MOT (Memorandum of Transfer) and calling for tenders for renovation works. The TAC Property Chairman, Mr. Steven Solomon, is assisting in this matter. The plan was to move after the MOT and renovation works but it is taking a longer time. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (23), MYAF (25), MSF (30), and MW (40). There are 5 children, 2 helpers and 1 teacher in the Church School. They have one Outreach Ministry which was started on 15 August 2019 in Sungai Dua. This is about 15 kilometres from Kepala Batas. They have one Cell Group.

Conclusion: TMC Kepala Batas was formed in February 1980 and is now 39 years old. At the formation, there were 45 full members. In 2019, their Full Membership is 115. Throughout their existence as a local church, they faced various challenges. Very often their pastor was also the resident pastor elsewhere, e.g. TMC Prai or TMC Sungai Petani or TMC Penang (1993) and even TMC Alor Star (2018). Finance is constantly a challenge. The church has been on the move for the past 40 years and hopes to be in their own premises as they enter their 40th year as a local church in 2020. They have pressed on in spite of all these limitations. With this fervour and the blessing of God, they will surely reach greater heights for the glory of God.

Source:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1980 – 1981	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1982 – 1983	Rev. M. Stanley Sadagopan
1984 – 1988	Rev. Peter Devadason
1989 – 1990	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
1991 – 1992	Rev. D.B. Laurence
1993 Jan. – April	Rev. V. John Kovilpillai
1993 May – 1994	Rev. N. Rajan
1995 – 1997	Rev. Hendry Ponniah
1998	Rev. Robert Selvakumar
1999 – 2001	Pastor K. Segaran
2002 – 2006	Rev. Edward Devadason
2007 – 2012	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2013 - 2014	Rev. Ruben Rajandurai
2015 – 2017	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2018	Rev. E. Kunabalan
2019	Rev. John Simson

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1980 - 1988	Mr. Devarajoo	Mr. Arthur Durairaj
1989 - 1990	Mr. Devarajoo	Mr. Jevaratnam
1991	Mr. Devarajoo	Mr. Arthur Durairaj
1992 - 1993	Mr. Peter Ivaru	Mr. Arthur Durairaj
1994 - 1998	Mr. John Marimuthu	Mr. Arthur Durairaj
1999 - 2006	Mr. Steven Gopal	Mr. Arthur Durairaj
2007 - 2008	Mr. Timothy	Rev. Vincent Rayar
2009 - 2013	Mr. Thomas	Mr. Thomas
2014 - 2019	Mr. Arulmani	Mr. Thomas

PRAI

The Beginnings

The ministry in Prai was initiated when **Rev. Chellaraj Fenn** was the pastor of TMC Penang from 1976 to January 1979. Prai became an Outreach of TMC Penang. It was organised into a Local Conference by **Rev. V. John Kovilpillai**, the President of the TAC on **21 April 1981**. The Northern DS, **Rev. K. James Solamadan**, presided over this meeting. **Rev. Simon Chandran** was appointed the first Pastor. The Full Membership was 38. Initially the Sunday worship service was at 6 p.m. and it was held in the home of Mr. Gnaniah, a church member. The church booked a semi-detached house for RM 83,000. A down payment of RM10,000 was paid. A WSCS and a Church School was formed.

Moving into the Semi-Detached House

From 1982 – 1990, Rev. David Tharmakan was the Pastor-in-charge. In **1982**, the church bought the semi-detached house and the Penang church was very helpful. The Full Membership grew to 40. The Sunday worship services were conducted at 4 p.m. In **1983**, the time for the Sunday worship services changed again and was held at 7.30 a.m. In **1984** the Full Membership stood at 47. Through evangelistic meetings, a number of non-Christians started to attend the services and there were a few conversions. In **1985** the Full Membership grew to 52. The church ventured into Kulim for outreach work. A group of young boys went every Wednesday for home meetings. The church paid RM 800 towards the loan taken from the A.E.C. They still had another RM 16,000 to settle, which they hoped to pay up by the following year. A sum of RM 1,000 was sent to the Prai church by TAC towards the payment of the loan.

Kulim Outreach

In **1986** the Full Membership continued to grow and became 56. Church Worker Pastor Bani assisted Rev. Tharmakan. Worship services were held on Sundays at 8 a.m. There was also a Youth Service every 1st Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. Except for the Communion Services, all the other services were conducted by Pastor Bani. Kulim Outreach had regular worship services on Sundays at 5.30 pm. This was held in the home of one of the members. They looked for a place for the worship service and Wesley Methodist Church Kulim was contacted. Due to lack of teachers, the Church School had some problems but Mr. P.P. Abraham took over and revived it.

Ministering to Children

In **1987** the Full Membership was 61. Rev. David Tharmakan and Church Worker Mr. Ramadason gave pastoral leadership. Tuition classes were conducted in the church for poor children by two of their members. Most of the students were from Hindu homes. A number of them accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour because of the good example set by the teachers. The Conference gave a monthly allowance of RM 250 for the Church Worker.

In **1988** the Full Membership was 54. The worship services were held on Sundays at 7.30 a.m. An average of 35 members attended. There was poor attendance for the Church School because Hindu parents prevented their children from attending the classes. Another reason was due to some children attending the free tuition classes provided on Sunday mornings.

Mak Mandin Outreach: Bible Study was conducted in the home of Mrs. Nyanammal on Sundays at 7 p.m. About 15 people attended the study and Mr. P.P. Abraham was the co-ordinator of the work. In **1989** the Full Membership was 60 and there was good lay participation and leadership. In September 1990, Rev. Tharmakan left for the US for his Masters studies. From November 1989, the church had the services of Rev. Mark Subramanyam who helped in some ministries and visitation.

First Resident Pastor

From **December 1990** **Rev. Laurence Belavendran** was posted to this church. In a short time he visited and ably consolidated the ministry. The work in Nibong Tebal/Parit Buntar was very encouraging. Rev. C. Jayaraj helped with the Communion Services and Mr. P.P. Abraham was the coordinator. In **1992** the Full Membership was 63. The church premise was becoming too small for the growing congregation. An extension programme was planned. The outreach work in Nibong Tebal/Parit Buntar was handed over to Penang on **1 June 1992**. In **1993** the Full Membership was 57. **Rev. D.B. Laurence** took full charge of Prai from December 1992, thus becoming the first resident Pastor of Prai.

Consolidating Outreach Ministry

From **1993 – 1994**, **Rev. N. Rajan** was the Pastor. In **1994** the Full Membership was 58. Worship services were held on Sundays at 8 a.m. The church had a Family Picnic at Batu Ferringhi. The church made new pews which were all donated by the members. **From 1995 – 1997** **Rev. Hendry Ponniah** was the Pastor. In **1995** the Full Membership was 69. The following were the Outreach Points: **Bukit Mertajam:** The new outreach ministry in this place was started on 8 January. The Conference President, Rev. David Tharmakan, was present at the inaugural service. The work in **Nibong Tebal** was integrated with the work in Bukit Mertajam. The worship service on Sundays was at 5 p.m. About 30 – 35 people attended. The ministry in **Kulim** was started on 13 July and they met every 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. The church bought a new van which helped the total ministry. The parsonage was renovated. The church looked for another place for the pastor to stay, as there were many practical problems. The church was supportive of the pastor's family needs.

In **1996** the Full Membership was 69. The membership had been stagnant for many years and the only significant increase was due to the 15 members who were transferred from Penang (Nibong Tebal Outreach) the previous year. The Bukit Mertajam worship was at first held in the Lutheran church building. After 3 months, they moved to the Front-line Community Centre. There were 24 adults and 20 children. The average attendance was 20. They needed a place of worship.

For the first time the church organized a Children's Camp from 13 to 14 September 1996. The main speakers were Mr. and Mrs. Louis Martin from Ipoh. In **1997** the full membership was 74. The pastor Rev. Hendry Ponniah, was given the unenviable task of building an Outreach Point (Bukit Mertajam), helping a young minister Pastor Robert Selvakumar (Kepala Batas) and at the same time looking after a church of his own (Prai). The church had a One Day Worship Seminar with Rev. A.E. Joseph on 8 May 1997. When the Bukit Mertajam ministry became an Area Fellowship, the church did not have any Outreach Point. In Prai the parsonage and the church worship hall were adjoined. This was inconvenient for the pastor's family. It also faced constant flooding.

Outreach Ministry was Inconsistent

From 1998 – 2000 Rev. Paul Maniam was the Pastor. In **1998** the Full Membership was 79. Outreach ministry was lacking. The Kulim ministry was started again but nothing concrete happened. The film 'JESUS' in Tamil was screened as an Outreach program. In **1999** the Full Membership was 84 and in **2000** it was 88. The church embarked on an extension programme for the sanctuary.

From 2001 – 2004 Rev. Elanko Kannan was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 68. Drop in membership was due to transfers out and removal of phantom members from the Roll. In **2002** the Full Membership was 68. The two Outreach Points in Kulim and Bukit Mertajam were restarted. Worship services were held fortnightly at Kulim. About 5 families attended. Weekly services were held in the homes of members at Bukit Mertajam. About 15 - 20 members attended. In Nibong Tebal there was a Prayer Meeting once a month with one family. A Building Project was launched for a two-storey building in the same premises for RM300,000. In **2003** the Full Membership was 90. Efforts were taken to renovate the present place at a cost of about RM70,000 – RM80,000. In **2004** the Full Membership was 89.

Church Building Extension

Estimated cost was about RM100,000. The Committee worked hard to raise the funds. The plans needed the approval of TAC and AEC before it could be submitted to the Local Council. In **2005 Rev. C. Jayaraj** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 94. Once a month, there was an English worship service. Baptism was given to 9 Nepalese on 3 July 2005. The total cost for the Extension Building project of the present premises was RM140,000. There was RM24,000 in the bank. Plans were submitted to the Local Council for approval.

Celebrating 25 Years of God's Faithfulness

From 2006 – 2012 Rev. Edward Devadason was the Pastor. In **2006**, for the first time the full membership reached the 100 mark. The church celebrated its **25th Anniversary**, commemorating 25 years of God's faithfulness. The celebration was held on 28 October 2006 at Suasa Krystal Golf Resort, Sungai Bakap.

In **2007** the Full Membership was 91. Monthly outreach ministry was conducted at Nibong Tebal. Rev. Victor Vethamani conducted a 3 session (3 days) Study on Biblical Covenant in July in the main church. There was a Church Family Camp to Hatyai in March. 43 members attended this. It was also a mission exposure trip and they visited Teach Centre.

In **2008** the Full Membership was 93. Nibong Tebal ministry officially started in the month of April. They ministered to about 5 families in that area. The service was held in Mr. Darshan Singh's house. The Corner Stone Laying Ceremony was held on 10 February by the President Rev. P. Tevaraji. Due to certain problems, this project was delayed. In **2009** the Full Membership was 91. The church adopted a Community Centre in Myanmar and sent RM300 monthly through MMM. It was a sad year because the church was robbed of its musical instruments, LCD and a computer.

Nibong Tebal Ministry functioned well with the assistance of the Church Worker Mr. Shanmugam. There were about 5 new families. Services were held fortnightly on Sunday at 7.30 p.m. in Mr. and Mrs. Darshan Singh's home. Around 15 - 20 people gathered for service fortnightly. In **2010** the Full Membership was 96. The church contributed RM350 per month to the Mission Community Centre in Myanmar. All outstanding work for the Building was completed.

Celebrating 30 Years with a New Approach to Ministry

In **2011**, the Full Membership was 101. The church ventured into student ministry, especially among the Polytechnic students. On 21 August, the youths and children planted 7 "Payung Indonesia" trees around the church premises and celebrated with the theme "My Green My Dream". On 1 October the **30th Anniversary Open House Celebration** was held on the church premises. Many outsiders and friends were invited. On **2 October, a Thanksgiving Service** was conducted. In **2012** the Full Membership was 104. The church took a new approach to ministry – establishing Ministry Teams (Evangelism, Social Concerns, Church school & Missions). Members were encouraged to have family altars in their homes.

From **2013 – 2018 Rev. Samuel Periathamby** was the Pastor. In **2013** the Full Membership was 102. Pioneering work was done in Taman Merak where the pastor and some leaders went every week. In **2017**, the evangelism team made regular visits and made new contacts in Lunas and Simpang Ampat. The church building was badly affected by flood in November.

In **2018**, Rev. Samuel Periathamby was transferred to and was stationed in TMC Ipoh. He continued as the pastor-in-charge of Prai for another year. Pastor K. Saravanan, a new graduate (graduated 2017), was appointed as Assistant Pastor and placed in Prai. Major renovation to the sanctuary was done, due to the damage caused by the flood.

The church renovation work was carried out from January 2018 till March 2019. The cost was about RM150,000. During this period the Sunday Worship Service was held at 5.00pm at the Prai Baptist Church, Chai Leng Park, Penang till March 2019. The Full Membership was 91. New contacts were made in Lunas and Simpang Ampat.

In **2019, Rev. K. Saravanan** was appointed Pastor of Prai. The Lay Leader is Mr. Regu Chander and the LCEC Chairperson is Dr. Emmanuel Jairaj. In March the church renovation was completed. A Thanksgiving Service was held on 11 March. God met all the financial needs and guided the church in the rebuilding of the new sanctuary. The Full Membership of the church is 97. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYAF (20), MSF (30) MW (25). There is no MYF. There are 17 children and 5 teachers in the Church School. There is no Cell Group or Outreach ministry.

Conclusion: TMC Prai is 38 years old. At the time of becoming a Local Conference, their Full Membership was 38. Their current membership is 97. This is of concern because the church has no Outreach point, Cell Group ministry or youth group. The youths in the church are few in number and many are away due to their education. The church is involved in evangelism, making regular visits to Lunas. They have made new contacts there. One major setback the church faced was the great flood of 2017. This disrupted the Church's ministry and added a heavy financial burden. But the church has come through by the grace of God and looks forward to brighter times ahead. Having a young pastor and young adults in church leadership, this would no doubt take place with the help of God.

Source

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1981 April	Rev. Simon Chandran
1982 – 1990	Rev. David Tharmakan
1991 – 1992	Rev. D.B. Laurence
1993 – 1994	Rev. N. Rajan
1995 – 1997	Rev. Hendry Ponniah
1998 – 2000	Rev. Paul Maniam
2001 – 2004	Rev. Elanko Kannan
2005	Rev. C. Jayaraj
2006 – 2012	Rev. Edward Devadason
2013 - 2018	Rev. Samuel Periatnamby
2019	Rev. K. Saravanan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1981 - 1987	Mr. G. Gnaniah	Mr. G. Gnaniah
1988 - 1993	Mr. Jacob Moses	Mr. Vincent Samuel
1994	Mr. Jacob Moses	Mr. A.E. Asudas
1995 - 1997	Mr. A.E. Asudas	Mr. Jacob Moses
1998	Mr. Jacob Moses	Rev. Paul Maniam
1999 - 2001	Mr. A.E. Asudas	Mrs. Ruby Robert
2002	Mr. A.E. Asudas	Mr. Victor Samy Muthu
2003	Mr. A.E. Asudas	Mr. Jacob Moses
2004	Mr. David Danabal	Mr. Jacob Moses
2005	Mr. A.E. Asudas	Mr. Jacob Moses
2006 - 2010	Mr. Jacob Moses	Mr. A.E. Asudas
2011 - 2015	Mr. Jacob Moses	Mr. Regu Chander
2016 - 2019	Mr. Regu Chander	Dr. Emmanuel Moses

SUNGAI PELEK

The Beginnings

Sungai Pelek was formed into an Outreach in 1952 by Rev. J. A. P. Oswald, a private school principal. Initially an English congregation, Sungai Pelek became an Outreach of TMC Seremban in 1959. Tamil work started in 1974. Miss. Yap contributed much towards work among the Tamils, especially in sending candidates for pastoral ministry such as Rev. Moses Kannaiah (the earliest), Rev. Elanko Kannan, Rev. Ong Sek Liang, Rev. Peter Palmer and Rev. Moses Jayaseelan

Formation as a Local Conference

It was formed as a Local Conference on Sunday **21 August 1983**, by Rev. V. John Kovilpillai, the TAC President. **Rev. Solomon Abraham** was appointed the first Pastor. Sungai Pelek came under the Southern Malaya District. In **1984 Rev. Stanley Sadagopan**, was the Pastor, while being the pastor of TMC Seremban. Seminary student Mr. Daniel Poopalarajah assisted. The Sunday service was at 9.00am. Rev. Sadagopan came once a month for the Communion Service. In Salak, the Sunday service was at 1.00 pm. Tumbok Estate Outreach had weekly services on Fridays. The MW and MYF were not organised yet. There were 20 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. There were two new Church Schools: one at the Home Division and the other at B.C Division in Sepang Estate. Evangelistic meetings were held in Sungai Pelek and Salak on 8 and 9 May. The speaker was Brother Sadhu Chellappa. Prayer cell was started in Tumbok Estate, Salak, Jendasam and Kampong L.B.J. Many tithed in Sungai Pelek and so finances were good.

1985 Rev. Daniel Poopalarajah was the Pastor from 1 July. Revival services were conducted every second Sunday, at 7.00pm. The purpose was to encourage believers to grow in their faith. Intercessory Prayer was held and about 10 members attended. The Christian Education Committee conducted Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Bible Quiz contests. Weekly bible study was held on Wednesdays, at 7.30pm. About 10 members attended. There were training programmes and 7 members underwent training in preaching, evangelism, leading worship service, bible study, prayer life and in other areas. In Tumbok, a Cell Group met for bible study and prayer, every Friday at 6.30pm. Average attendance was 15. The WSCS sent a small donation to the people of Africa. They distributed clothes and food for the needy and did hospital visitation. Tamil tuition class was started with the help of a retired teacher.

From 1986 to 1990 Rev. Solomon Abraham was the Pastor. Sungai Pelek came under the Selangor District. In **1986** the Full Membership was 78. Worship services were held on Sundays in two places: Sungai Pelek, at 9.00am and another at Salak, at 12.30pm. Outreach worship services were in 3 Estates: Tumbok Estate and Fermanagh Estate on Fridays and Sungai Linan Estate on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. They met in classrooms of an old private school.

In **1987** the Full Membership was 91. About 60 people attended the worship services in Sungai Pelek and about 25 in Salak. The Bible Study in Sungai Pelek was attended by about 10, and in Salak about 25. There was one new outreach work in Sungai Mahang Estate. They met once a week and about 10 attended. There were about 30 – 33 members in Salak. About 15 children attended Church School on Sundays. Eight volunteers went on a rotation basis to teach. The youths met on Sundays after the worship service.

A Youth for Fulltime Ministry

In **1988**, the worship services at Sungai Pelek were at 8.30 am. It was conducted in the old school building. About 55 attended. The Salak service was at 2.30 pm and was held in the community hall. About 20 attended. Outreach work was held in Fermanagh Estate, Sungei Linau Estate, Kubang and Salak. Mr. Moses Jayaseelan dedicated his life for the full-time ministry. Salak Outreach grew fast. There were more than 30 members. Bible studies were held in Sg. Pelek on Wednesdays and on Thursdays in Salak. The Church School had 15 children. 10 youth met fortnightly and 12 women met regularly in Sg. Pelek and Salak. There were two Cell Groups, one in the church building on Saturdays and another in a church member's home. They were well attended. In **1989**, the worship service time was changed to 9.00am in Sg. Pelek and 7.30pm in Salak. In **1990** mid-week prayer meetings were held in Labu Jaya. There were 3 Cell Groups: Sepang Estate, Labu Jaya and Fermanagh Estate. Not all tithed. Membership declined due to transfers. In **1991**, there were 14 children and 3 teachers in the Church School. The youths increased from 15 to 20. They had a Gospel band which led in the worship services. The Board on Education gave permission to the Sungai Pelek Church to build a parsonage on Lots 295, 297 and 299. The church planned to put up a multi-purpose building with a parsonage attached.

In 1992 and 1993 Rev. S. Arulandu was the Pastor. In **1992**, the Full Membership was 89. For the first time the Church School organised a VBS from 27 to 29 February. There was an Outreach at Salak Tinggi. Sunday worship was at 7.30pm. Bible Study was conducted every alternate Thursday. The local church wanted to put up a parsonage estimated to cost RM 45,000 and it raised RM 13,000. Plans were drawn and sent to the relevant authorities for approval. They realized that the lease on the land Lot 3473 & 23187 had expired. The church expressed dissatisfaction over the manner in which the Methodist property was handled. In **1993** the pastor started worship services in Tanjung Sepat. A three-day evangelistic meeting was held from 25 to 27 June. The church had RM 21,465 in the Building Fund.

Church Noted the Coming of KLIA in Sepang

From 1994 to 2000 Rev. D.B. Laurence was the Pastor. In July **1994**, MYF and MYAF were revived. In **1995**, about 8 Revival/Evangelistic meetings were organised. A Church Family Camp was held at Port Dickson in June with Mr. G.M.M. Mutu as the speaker. The local church band, called the Gospel Light Band, helped out in worship services and revival meetings. Clothes and provisions were given to the poor.

Application was made through the Trustees on 26 August 1995 to the Land Office to build the parsonage. Also, a van costing RM48,500 was bought by the church. It was noted, with the airport coming up at Sepang, the church had excellent opportunities for growth and outreach.

A Special Visitation of the Holy Spirit

In **1996** worship service was on Sunday at 10.00am. About 50 attended. There was a move of the Spirit and members were revived and there was great enthusiasm. Visions, dreams and prophesies were a common feature in the church. **An outpouring of the Holy Spirit was a significant experience on 23 June 1996.** Weekly bible studies were held and about 20 members attended. Prayers were conducted on Saturdays from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm and about 20 attended. Several evangelistic meetings were held. In **1997** two families accepted the Lord. A Church Family Camp was held in Port Dickson in August and about 70 members participated. In **1998** the Church School had an outing to Rumah Shalom on 31 August. There were 6 new converts and 11 adults were baptised. An Outreach was started in Nilai. Worship services were held there every 2nd Sunday. Prayer and healing services were conducted on Fridays.

Children and Missions

In **1999**, about 40 to 50 members attended the Friday prayer/healing service. About 30 members attended the training programme conducted by Pastor Kulothungan from India. In **2000** Rev. Laurence was pastor till June, and from July, **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor-in-charge. The weekend ministerial student assigned was Mr. Timothy Krishnan. There was a change in the worship service time, it was at 9.00 a.m. till June and 10.30 a.m. from July. The Full Membership was 108. There were 10 teachers and 45 children in the Church School. The children were taught about missions and they committed to send 10% of their total income for missions. The MYF organised a local mini-camp and attended a Leadership Training Camp in Banting.

Building Committee Set-Up

In **2001 Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor-in-charge, with Church Worker Mr. M. Joseph. The Full Membership was 99. A Family Camp was organised at the Glory Beach Resort. It was well attended. 11 people were baptised – 6 converts, 2 young people and 3 children. The land issue was settled. Nilai Outreach had a tremendous potential for ministry here. The Selangor District churches supported this project financially for 12 months. In **2002** Full Membership was 99. At the Nilai Outreach, the people met in a rented premise. The rent was RM 200 per month. They started an evening service and about 20 to 25 people attended. The Church School had about 10 -15 children. A Building Committee was set up to plan the development of the C.O.E. land. A sum of RM 49,749.45 was raised through a Fund Raising Pesta. The DS hoped the members would give priority to develop the Nilai Outreach rather than their building project.

The 21st Anniversary Celebration

From **2003 to 2014 Rev. Raymond Ponnudurai** was the Pastor. In **2003**, Full Membership was 105. There was an increase in tithing. Nilai Outreach mainly catered for migrant workers. 3 Nepalese and 3 Telegus were baptised. Local members were ministered to in another service. Church School had 40 children and 7 teachers. In **2004**, the local church theme was “Building ourselves in WORD, WORSHIP and WARMTH”. The Full Membership was 102. The LCEC had a Retreat. Church members Mr. David Annan did his Diploma in Christian Ministry and Mr. Thye Huat Lai his Master in Christian Studies at the Malaysia Bible Seminary. The 21st Anniversary Celebration cum Fund Raising Programme was held. The renewal of lease was done; the teachers’ quarters till 2063 and the church land till 2043

Ministering to National Service Trainees

In **2005** the Full Membership was 111. There were 30 children and 8 teachers in the Church School. A VBS was held with 38 children. There was a training of the choir. In **2006** the church had a Bible Rally. The MYF organised the Parents Day. Timbral dances were introduced at the worship services. Nilai Outreach Tamil Services had 20 members. In **2007** the Full Membership was 129. The worship service on Sundays was at 8.00 a.m. For the National Service trainees, the worship service was in Bahasa Malaysia at 11.00 a. m. Nilai Outreach service was at 5.30 p.m. An average of 30 – 40 people attended. Nilai Nepali service was at 2.00 p.m. Ministry among the National Service students was now 2 years old. Six Small Groups met regularly in Sungai Pelek and Nilai. The building at Lot 259 was already renovated. This was to be used as a community centre in the future. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 141. LCEC members gathered for a pre-service prayer on Sundays at 7.00 a.m. About 70 attended the Friday Prayer Cell. There were Four Cell Groups: Tumbuk, Sri Sg.Pelek, Nilai Spring and Cempaka. The Church School met on Saturdays from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. There were four teachers and 40 children. The **Ray of Hope Community Centre** was started to provide free medical and legal help for the poor in the community. The Nepali ministry was supported by a fulltime Nepali worker, Pastor Suresh. The church catered to the needs of the National Service Students (NSS). This was the third year. In **2009** the Full Membership was 144. Through the Social Concerns Committee, and with the help of volunteers, the church provided legal aid service to the community. They started a Home for the destitute. This year saw healing and restoration of relationships between the Conference and the local church.

Becomes Sungai Pelek/ Nilai

In **2010** the Full Membership was 146. A VBS was conducted for 3 days. The Christian Education Committee conducted a monthly Bible Quiz. The Ray of Hope Community Centre & Children’s Home was a great witness. Lives were touched. The support was good even from non-Christians. **From 2011 onwards, this church was named as “TMC Sungai Pelek/ Nilai”.** In **2011** the Full Membership was 145 in January and 122 in June. 33 names were removed from the membership for different reasons.

Ray of Hope's Multi-Faceted Ministries

In **2012**, Nepali service was temporarily stopped. Under the Ray of Hope Ministries, a new Boys' Home was opened on 8 April. The Christian Education Committee conducted a special program: "Renewal of Marriage Vows." In **2013** the Full Membership was 134. Ministerial Student Mr. Nelson Nadarajan was posted here for one-year Practical Work. Mr. David Retnam was assigned here for his Weekend Practical. The local church's new theme was "Dawn of a New Era". The Nepali worship service was stopped for lack of a Nepali ministry worker. The Ray of Hope's multi-faceted ministries included a Community Centre and a Children's Home for boys and girls. Also, a home for pregnant teenagers and single mothers was dedicated on **12 October**.

In **2014** Rev. Raymond was assisted by Lay Pastor P.P. Abraham. The Ministerial Student assigned was Mr. Kelvin. The theme of the local church was "Repentance from our inhibitions and fears". The Full Membership was 131. God graciously provided for the needs of the Ray of Hope ministry. They had difficulty in getting suitable workers for the Pregnant Teen and Single Mothers' Home. The pastor, Rev. Raymond was pursuing his part-time doctoral studies. The leadership was supportive. There was a need for more people to come forward to take up responsibilities. The church was financially sound

In **2015** **Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the Pastor for the first two months. **Rev. James Ravindaren** took over as the Pastor from March – December. He was assisted by Ministerial Student Mr. David Retnam and Lay Pastor PP Abraham. The local church theme was: "Year of Expectancy – Moving Forward." The Full Membership was 133. There were 7 Cell Groups and all functioned well. There was a Bible Rally in the local church and a seminar on the Second Coming of Christ. There was a drop in attendance in the Church School because of the absence of the children from the Children's Home. With the transfer of Rev Raymond Ponnudurai to TMC Banting, there was no direct involvement of the local church in the Ray of Hope Children's Home ministry. It was a tough year for the local church, with the change of pastors. Rev James Ravindaren helped to bring the people together

From **2016 to 2018**, **Rev. Vijaiadas** was the Pastor-in-charge with Part-Time Church Worker Mr. P.P. Abraham. In **2016** the Full Membership was 158. The church theme was: "Time to Take Possessions". There was a bible study on Ephesians conducted fortnightly in Sungai Pelek and Nilai. Cell Groups met fortnightly on Thursdays in: Tumbuk, Taman Sri Sg. Pelek and Taman Mawar (in Nilai). House meetings were conducted in Nilai Outreach areas. The church adopted 10 children under the Myanmar Child Adoption Programme. The Nilai Outreach worship time was changed to 10.00 a.m. The CMC and the TMC came to an understanding as to how to proceed with the building project. So the church decided to build a parsonage on that land. In view of that, the building plan was amended. The church received RM5,000 from the State Government. 10 new believers were baptised on 10 September.

Putrajaya Outreach

In **2017** the Full Membership was 161. The local church theme was: “My Presence shall go before you” (Ex. 33: 14). Cottage Prayer Meetings were held instead of Cell Groups. The response was very good. The Orang Asal in Dengkil were visited. A Bible study was conducted for the Orang Asal youths in Cyberjaya Valley. There was a drop in the Nilai Outreach attendance because some members had shifted out. The Putrajaya Outreach of TMC Subang Jaya was handed over to Sg. Pelek. Worship service was held every Monday. Mr. Thomas was the Church Worker for this ministry.

In **2018** a 24/7 Prayer was carried out during 14th General Election of Malaysia. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held instead of bible study. One Cell Group was held in Nilai. The Children Ministry was held on Sundays in Taman Cuepacs (Nilai). The children were from non-Christian families. The church, through the Council of Education, helped three Tamil Schools with RM8,000. Street feeding ministry was carried out during the Lent season. The church adopted 25 Myanmar children under the Myanmar Child Adoption Project. Outreach ministry was carried out in 3 places: (a) **Nilai**: A Pro Tem committee was formed to develop this Outreach. (b) **Putrajaya**: Worship Service held every 2nd Monday of the month. (c) **Dengkil**: House meetings were held in non-Christian homes. Mr. Thomas was the assigned worker for this ministry. Building matter progress was slow as both the churches had to ensure that their building plans complied with the requirements for submission for “Kelulusan Merancang”. The church bought 50% of the land from the Council of Education, at RM67,340.

In **2019**, **Rev. Doraiseelan** is appointed the Pastor-in-charge. Mr. Matthew is the Lay Leader and Ms. Selvamary the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 130. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (10), MYAF (Nil), MSF (13) and (MW) (15). There are 25 children and 2 teachers in the Church School. There are two Outreaches – one in Nilai and another in Dengkil. There is one Cell Group in Tumbok

Conclusion: Though this church was established as a Local Conference in 1983, the Tamil ministry in Sungai Pelek started in 1974. Over the 45 years of Tamil ministry, the church was served by various clergy and lay people. Spiritual nurture for the members came through bible study and Cell Group ministry. The church is involved in evangelistic and social ministries to reach the community with the love of Jesus Christ. TMC Sungai Pelek, needs to continue in their committed service and surely with the help of the Holy Spirit, they can rise to greater heights for the glory of God.

Source:
TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1983	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1984 – June 1985	Rev. Stanley Sadagopan
1985 July – Dec.	Rev. Daniel Poopalarajah
1986 – 1991	Rev. Solomon Abraham
1992 – 1993	Rev. S. Arulandu
1994 – 2000 June	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2000 July – 2002	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
2003 – 2014	Rev. Raymond Raj
2015 (Jan. – Feb.)	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2015 (Mar. – Dec.)	Rev. James Ravindaren
2016 – 2018	Rev. V. Vijaiadas
2019	Rev. Doraiseelan John

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1983 - 1984	Mr. Matthew	Dato Lim Tuan Sing
1985 - 1991	Mr. Matthew	Mr. Matthew
1992 - 2002	Mr. Matthew	Mr. Jacob Palmer
2003 - 2009	Mr. Matthew	Mr. David Anand
2010 - 2014	Mr. Matthew	Rev. Raymond Raj
2015	Mr. James Rajendran	Rev. James Ravindaren
2016	Mr. James Rajendran	Rev. V. Vijaiadas
2017	Mr. James Rajendran	Mrs. Selvamary
2018	Mr. Thumbarayan	Mrs. Selvamary
2019	Mr. Matthew	Mrs. Selvamary

MENTAKAB

The Early Years

TMC Mentakab, an Outreach of TMC Kuantan, was formed as a Local Conference on **9 February 1984**. **Rev. David Jayabal** was the first Pastor of this church and he served till June 1985. At the time of formation there were 66 Full Members. The worship service was held at the Chinese Methodist Church. The WSCS and the MYF functioned well. The Church was self-supporting. In **1985** the Full Membership was 58. The church reached out to Bentong, Karak, Tuan Estate, Bukit Dinding towards East and to Triang towards the South. The church did not have a place of worship. **Rev. Hendry Ponniah** was the next Pastor and he served till 1986. The area of ministry covered by this church was vast and remote. The MYF, WSCS and the Church School played an important role in the life of this church. The lack of a place of their own for worship and the distance from the estates hindered many people from attending the weekly worship.

Reaching out to Bentong and Estates

From **1987 to 1990**, **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. In **1987** the Full Membership was 53. Sunday worship services were held at 7.30am. Regular attendance was between 20 to 25 adults. They had outreach ministries at Bentong, Bilut Valley, Tuan Estate, Sungai Bertang Estate, Karman and Kemasul Estates and Semantan Estate. The church received subsidy from the Conference. There were about 15 children in the Church School with 3 teachers. The pastor conducted worship services and bible study in the Outreach areas. In **1988** the Full Membership was 54. Three adults and 10 children were baptised. In **1989** the Full Membership was 55. There were **4 strong Outreach Points**: (a) Bentong/Tuan Estate: Worship services on Tuesdays in the homes of members. Average attendance was 20 adults. (b) Karman/Kemasul Estate: Three families met together for worship once a fortnight. (c) Semantan Estate: There were four families and worship services were held in homes on a rotational basis. (d) Mentakab Estate: The lay people carried out the work here with the supervision of the pastor.

Weekly Worship in Bentong

In **1990**, the DS reported, "Rev. Joseph Komar has done good work. His travel takes him deep into the estates. He uses his car to transport members from the estates without which some will not be able to attend services. He has been a faithful servant of God even in difficult situations." The Full Membership was 66. There were 6 Adult and 6 Child Baptisms. In **Bentong**, about 20 people attended the weekly worship service, conducted on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the homes of believers. Although the work was started in 1984, it was only now that weekly worship services were held. The group was mostly made up of Affiliate and Associate members. The people were happy with the ministry and wanted an assurance that this ministry will continue without a break. There were three families each in the Sungai Pertang and Tuan Estates.

They were encouraged to attend the Bentong Service. The worship service for **Karman and Kemasul Estate** was held fortnightly in the homes of the members. There were 4 families. One person accepted the Lord in the **Sungai Kawang Estate**. Due to opposition, the church was instructed by the management not to have services in this estate. The pastor visited them once a month. Weekly services were held in the **Mentakab Estate**. The Committee on Evangelism was in charge of this work with the pastor's supervision.

No Money in the Bank

The finances of the church was affected when the church Treasurer left suddenly, leaving no money in the Bank. The church had to write-off about RM3,700.

Significant Membership Increase

From **1991 till 1994 Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor. In **1991**, the members were enthusiastic and worked at getting a place of their own for worship. They prayed and looked for a place to rent. In **1992**, the Full Membership was 64. There were three adult baptisms. The congregation was scattered. The members were of simple faith and gave what they could. They believed God and rented church premises which was fully equipped. The Outreach work in Bentong desperately needed of a fulltime worker. In **1993**, the Full Membership was 81. There were 12 Adult Baptisms and one Child Baptism. 8 were received into Full Membership through Confirmation. From December 1992, Supply Pastor S. Jayabalan served in Bentong. There were 5 Outreach Points. The church rented their place of worship and were blessed with a van. The DS described Pastor Jayabalan as a tireless and faithful worker. He was a man of faith with a pastoral heart. In **1994**, the Full Membership was 89. This was the highest number the church had in their membership. Nine people were baptised.

<p>In 1985 Tamil Methodist Church Mentakab, being themselves a year old as a local church, reached out to Bentong, which then became their Outreach Point. They recommended Bentong to become a Local Conference in 1994. Bentong became a Local Conference on 26 March 1995.</p>
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Finance and Morale of the Church.

From **1995 to 2000, Rev. Peter Devadason** was the Pastor. In **1995**, there were 40 Full Members. The drop in membership was mainly due to Bentong becoming a Local Conference. The average Sunday worship attendance was 35. The Sunday worship was at 8am. On Fridays there was outreach service in Ladang Sementan and Ladang Mentakab. In spite of frequent attempts to revive the outreach ministry in Triang, Menkuang, Mengkarak, Kemayang, Karak, Ladang Sungai Pertang, it was futile. The average monthly income was RM1,300. The church received a subsidy of RM400 from the Conference. The rental for the place of worship was RM350 and the rental for the parsonage was RM250. Spending RM600 monthly on rental, affected the finances and morale of the church.

Memorandum of Transfer

On 20 January 1995, the church applied to purchase a vacant lot no.230, GRANT NO. H.S. (D) 9230, P.T.1408, sized 520.24mp for RM60,000. The whole sum was settled and the Memorandum of Transfer went to the Registration office for change of ownership to the Methodist Trustees. An “L” shaped building, parsonage with 4 rooms attached baths and toilets, mezzanine floor for hostel on one side and a sanctuary in the size of 3 classroom which can be used as a kindergarten was designed and the plans were drawn. The construction was expected to cost RM95,000.

Possession of New Building

In **1996**, the Full Membership was 52. Eight were received through Confirmation. There were two conversions. Worship service was at 8am and was held in the home of Mr. Joseph, a church member. The pastor was staying in the home of Mr. Paul Elisha, a member of the church. The pastor moved to the new building from 17 November. The church was thankful to every individual, family and the churches which participated in the realisation of this RM150,000 building.

In **1997**, the Full Membership was 52. The church received a RM 450 monthly subsidy from the Conference. In **1998**, the Full Membership was 42. The Church School had 7 children with 1 teacher. In **1999**, there were 48 Full Members. There was one adult Baptism. The church School was active with 18 students and 3 teachers. The MW was the most active Agency in this church. In **2000**, the Full Membership was 40.

Leaving for Education and Employment

From **2001 to 2003**, **Rev. D. B. Laurence**, the pastor of TMC Bentong, was the Pastor. In **2001**, Ministerial Student Mr. Samy Dass assisted. The attendance for the Friday prayer was poor, only 2 – 4 attended. The church membership was dwindling, as many were leaving to major towns for studies and employment. As such, the leadership continued to have problems. The church was centrally located and so many district programmes were held in Mentakab. They faced difficulties in getting the Certificate of Fitness for the building.

Increase in Giving

In **2002** Mr. Samuel Periathamby was placed here on Assignment. Mentakab’s location was also in a rapidly growing semi urban township. The DS reminded the church of the many opportunities for ministry and that they should take advantage of them. In **2003**, Supply Pastor S. Krishnan was posted here. Sunday worship was at 9am. Around 40 to 50 people attended. The Building Plan was approved. Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) approval was sought for further action. The DS reported that about 75% of members give regularly. Giving for other causes by the church also improved. Though many were illiterate, they had a genuine desire to learn. Mrs. Saras Subramaniam, in her short life as a Christian, made an impact on the members and also in her family.

Low Church Membership

From **2004 till April 2009** Approved Supply Pastor S. Krishnan was the pastor. The Full Membership was 37. The church continued to pursue the CF for their building. There was joy in coming together to worship. In **2005**, the Full Membership was 37. Though the church was small, with their good facilities they opened the church for District functions. The CF matter was nearing settlement while the septic tank was being upgraded. The leadership planned to renovate the Parsonage too. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 38. After ten years of waiting, the authorities finally awarded the Certificate of Fitness for the sanctuary. They renovated the parsonage for the Pastor and his family to move in by end of November. The cost was RM40,000. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 37. Though Pastor Krishnan went through much trials and illness, yet he carried out very well all the ministries of the church by the grace of God. After much hard work, the church building and the parsonage renovation were finally completed. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 38. TMC Mentakab continued to be the venue for all district meetings. The pastor and the leaders were very supportive and faithful in arranging for all these meetings. The church is situated in the heart of the town and it has a great advantage to reach out to people in the vicinity. The pastor had made a lot of effort to motivate and encourage the members and build the total ministry of the church.

Upgrading Church School Ministry

From **May 2009 to 2012**, **Rev. Mark Subramanyam**, the pastor of TMC Bentong, was also the Pastor in charge of Mentakab. At the same time, Mr. Steven Arumugam was appointed as the Supply Pastor. The Full Membership in 2009 was 37. There was a good working relationship among the pastor, the leaders and the members, but there was a concern regarding church attendance and active participation in the ministries. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 35. The number in the Church School increased from 1 to 9 children. The Church School ministry was held on Saturdays at 7pm. Non-believer parents were also sending their children without reservation. There was no systematic bible lessons taught to the children according to their age and language. The pastor and leaders looked into getting the relevant material.

Serving The Community's Needy

In **2011** the Full Membership was 43. The church's community service and the support provided for mission work was commendable. Every month they supplied food items to the non-believers on a regular basis at Kampung Awah, Kg. Sangkang and to the people living along the Railway tracks. The church also provided school uniforms, bags, shoes and stationery for 70 school children on 12 November through an Independent Organization Hajjah Ainie Sahanam Project – MADE (Making A Difference Everywhere) from Kuala Lumpur. The church membership growth had been stagnant for a number of years. The pastor and leaders brought some new members to its fellowship.

In **2012** the Full Membership was 49. The youths continued to play an active role in building the ministry of the church, particularly in leading worship, music and Sunday school. Outreach work was started at 2 new places. Kg. Awah and Batu Lima. In both places regular Cottage Prayer Meetings were held. The work was going on well.

Bahasa Malaysia Ministry Started

In 2013 and 2014, Rev. Steven Arumugam was the Pastor in charge. He had already served TMC Mentakab the previous four years, assisting Rev. Mark Subramaniam. In **2013** the Full Membership was 52. A Bahasa Malaysia ministry was started for the Sabah, Sarawak Bumiputra and Indonesian migrants and they met on Sundays at 2pm. Outreach ministry in Kerdao was identified. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 52. It was noted that the worship service was attended by about 50% of the church membership. Many non-believers were visited in Kerdao, Kuala Krau and Sungai Tinggi areas. Kerdao was targeted to be made into an outreach soon. The church grew financially

Continued Concern for Those Leaving for Education and Employment

In 2015, Rev. Sandireaseheran, the pastor of TMC Rawang, was the Pastor in Charge. He was assisted by ministerial student Mr. K. Saravanan. The Full Membership was 52. Evangelistic work was done in Kg. Awah Estate, Kerdao, Sg. Tekal and Kuala Krau. The church supported 35 children under the Gift of Hope Project of MMM. There was a continued concern that youths were moving out for the purposes of studies and work.

In 2016 and 2017, Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria was the Pastor in Charge. In **2016** the Full Membership was 57 and remained at this number till 2018. In the Outreach ministry in Kerdao, monthly house meetings and weekly Church School and visitations were carried out among non-believers. Two families started coming to church. In **2017** they started a community project in Kerdao called Methodist Community Centre Kerdao. (MCKK). They rented a newly built shop lot at the ground floor for RM400 monthly. They planned ministries such as a tuition centre, music classes, health programs, seminars and youth programs to touch the community. The church donated RM300 towards one of the Myanmar Pastor's studies. The Bahasa congregation was very vibrant and active and they were able to lead worship services, praise and worship, Prayer and Home cells.

In 2018, Rev. Samuel Manokaran, the pastor of Jerantut, was the Pastor-in-charge. Church Worker Mr. Seemon Danial was stationed in Mentakab. Church School was held in three places – in Mentakab, Kerdao and Kg. Awah.

In 2019, Rev. Ezekiel Raj the pastor of Bentong, was appointed the Pastor-in-charge. The Church Worker Seemon continues to assist. The Full Membership is 57. Cell Group ministries are conducted in the homes of members. Kerdao is their only Outreach. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (5), MYAF (11), MSF (10) and MW (10).

Conclusion: TMC Mentakab is 35 years old. It began as an Outreach of Kuantan. At the time of the formation, there were 66 Full Members. Currently the Full Membership is 57. The membership went as low as 37 in 2004 and slowly increased over the years. The frequent change of pastors could be one reason for the slow growth. The church is located in the heart of the town and the church is looking for new ways to reach out to the community. The church is challenged to build TMC Mentakab for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. This, of course, is possible with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Sources:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1984 – 1985	Rev. Jeyabal David (<i>June 1985</i>)
1985 – 1986	Rev. Henry Ponniah (<i>July 1985</i>)
1987 – 1990	Rev. Joseph Komar
1991 – 1994	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1995 – 2000	Rev. Peter Devadason
2001 – 2003	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2004 – 2009	Rev. S. Krishnan (<i>April 2009</i>)
2009 – 2012	Rev. Mark Subramanyam (<i>May 2009</i>)
2013 – 2014	Rev. Steven Arumugam
2015	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2016 – 2017	Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria
2018	Rev. Samuel Manokaran
2019	Rev. Ezekiel Govindarajoo

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2015	Mr. Rajaynayagam	Mr. James Jernathanan
2016 - 2018	Mr. Zion	Mr. James Jernathanan
2019	Mr. Jacab Balan	Mr. Vinod Sam

JERANTUT

The Beginnings

TMC Kuantan reached out to Jerantut, Jengka and Mentakab when **Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan** was the pastor from **1976 to 1981**. TMC Jerantut was formed as a Local Church on **26 February 1984**. **Rev. Jayabal David** was appointed the first Pastor. At the time of the formation there were 88 Full Members. The worship services were held in a rented wooden building. The MYF, WSCS and Church School were organised. Jerantut began as a self-supporting church and there was growth.

The Early Challenges

In **1985** **Rev. Jayabal David** was in charge of Jerantut. The Full Membership was 66. The church had outreach work at Jengka Triangle, Sg. Mai and Teming. They started a Kindergarten. The church continued her witness in this area, inspite of opposition from other religious groups. In **1986** a Church Worker Mr. Timothy Ria Rajan and his wife served here. The ministry was tough as the roads were bad during the rainy season and it was impossible to reach some areas. The church extended their ministry to the Felda Schemes. The lack of a proper place of worship and a parsonage drained the finances of the church through rentals.

The Weakest in the District

From **1987 to 1990**, **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. In **1987**, Mr. S. Daniel served as the fulltime Church Worker. The Full Membership dropped to 40. There were 28 children in 3 outreach points – Teming had 7 children, Jengka 9 and Batu Balai 12. The members of this church were mostly estate workers and so their ability to give was less. The church's monthly income from pledges/tithes and offerings did not exceed RM300. Out of that RM220 went towards the rental of the Church Worker's house and the church building. TMC Jerantut was the weakest link of the 4 Local Churches in the District. The church lacked good leadership.

No Resident Pastor or Worker

From January **1988**, Jerantut was without a resident pastor or worker. Rev. Komar was also the pastor of Mentakab and as such his service to Jerantut was limited. Jerantut Sunday Worship services were at 4pm. In Jengka it was on Saturdays fortnightly at 7pm. Attendance was poor at these worship services. The monthly income was about RM 120 and RM 90 went towards the rental of the place of worship. There was no MYF, WSCS or Church School in Jerantut and in its outreach areas. The pastor and the Church Worker faced an uphill task of putting things right in Jerantut.

Growing Again With Fulltime Church Worker

In **1989** the church was blessed to receive a Fulltime Church Worker, Pastor S. Jayabalan as their pastor. With this new appointment of the pastor, the church grew in all areas. Sunday Worship services were held at 4.30 p.m. An average of 25 adults attended regularly.

The Full Membership was 60. From a monthly giving of RM 120, the church's monthly giving increased to about RM 450. The church managed to pay its Conference Commitment of RM 439. Bible Study was conducted on Tuesdays and an average of 10 people attended. They also had a time of prayer and fellowship. The Church School was held every Saturday. 25 children attended regularly. There were 18 MYF members. Weekly Bible Study was conducted for the young people on Sundays. These youths assisted in all the activities of the church. 20 ladies were involved in the WSCS. The ladies did home visitation to encourage one another. The Outreach Work in Jengka was done in a FELDA scheme. 12 adults attended worship service regularly on Fridays. Bible study was held on Tuesdays. In Padang Piol where there were two families home prayer meetings were held every Thursday. In Sungai Mai Estate there was only one family. Weekly home prayer meetings were conducted on Saturdays. In Batu Balai, Home prayer meetings were conducted for two families on Saturdays.

In **1990** the worship service was held at 4pm every Sunday and about 28 people attended. The worship service in Jengka was conducted on Fridays at 7pm. About 13 persons attended this service. The Full Membership was 53. Regular fasting and prayer meetings were conducted on Thursdays. About 12 attended this meeting. An early Sunday morning prayer was conducted at 5am and about 6 came regularly. Prayer meetings were also conducted in Batu Balai, Padang Piol and Sungai Mai. The Christian Education committee started a library with 60 Tamil books. The church did not have buildings of their own. A rented house was used for church activities and the Church Worker's family also lived in the same building.

Increase in Baptisms and Tithes

From **1991 to 1994**, **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was the Pastor-in-charge. Pastor Jayabalan continued. In **1991** much re-organisation was done to help the church grow. Attendance and giving improved and also the activities of the Agencies. Three people were prepared for baptism. Ten people left Jerantut in search of better jobs. In **1992** the finances slowly improved. The accounting system was reorganised and a new treasurer was elected. The Full Membership was 52. There were 5 adult baptisms. In **1993** the pastor was assisted by Full time Church Worker Pastor Yesudason Rajandurai. The rented house was found to be inadequate as the Sunday crowd was overflowing. They needed to either rent another place or buy a shop-lot for worship purposes. The Full Membership was 74. 19 children and 15 adults were baptised. 16 were received into Full Membership through Confirmation. They had four Outreach Points. In **1994** the Full Membership was 78. Six people were baptised. The Tithes increased from RM3,589 in 1993 to RM7,213 in 1994. They bought a second-hand van and it was very useful for the work of ministry.

Shop-House for Worship and Parsonage

In **1995 Rev. Devadason Peter** was the Pastor. Supply Pastor R. Yesudason continued. The Full Membership was 76. Sunday worship service was at 5pm. Average attendance was 40 adults.

There were weekly services at Jengka and Tong Kiat. There was noticeable growth in the leadership, fellowship, committees' activities, prayer life, giving, worship and witness. The church prayed, gave and were involved in the needs of the people of the community. The monthly rental for the building was RM90 and RM 150 for the Pastor's residence. The church received a monthly subsidy of RM350 from the Conference. The Menteri Besar gave permission to purchase an old wooden usable shop-house for RM40,000 at No.40, Jalan Sungai Jan. This was a corner lot with much space at the back. This was located, in the heart of the town and was near the bus stand. The TAC contributed RM20,000 as a grant from the Development Fund towards buying the shop-house.

From **1996 to 1998** the Pastor in charge was **Rev. C. Paul** with Supply Pastor R. Yesudason. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 79. There were 6 baptisms and 8 were received into Full Membership through Confirmation. Sunday worship was at 5pm in their own shop-house. The pastor stayed at the back. The people were excited and interested in the church. The Finance of the church was still a challenge, with the expenditure exceeding the Income. In **1997** the Full Membership was 79. The shop house, bought at RM40,000 was the place of worship as well as the pastor's residence. The church embarked on tearing down the old wooden building to construct a 3 storey building in the range of RM250,000. Mr. Alex Krishnan a new recruit, left Jerantut after 3 months. Jerantut was without a stationed personnel. In **1998** there were 23 children and 2 teachers in the Church School. They met on Sundays at 9.30 am. The Full Membership was 70.

Relating to Different Needs

From **1999 to 2002 Rev. Raymond Raj** was the Pastor. In **1999** the Full Membership was 59. An average of 50 adults and 20 children attended the Sunday service. The church was working on a Government gazetted land to build a Church, parsonage and Hall. In **2000** the Sunday worship service was changed from 5pm to 8am. The Full Membership was 62. In **2001**, an English Service was introduced on Sundays at 12 noon. About 6 adults met in the home of Mr. and Mrs Charles Chan. The Church building was found to be small and insufficient and they hoped to buy a shop-lot and renovate the present building into a parsonage. The gazetted land was yet to materialize. Kuala Lipis was their Outreach Point, where worship was held at 5pm in the Centre Point Hotel. About 8 – 12 adults attended. Financially TMC Jerantut was weak. The lay leadership worked together with the pastor. In July, the Pusat Serenti Drug Rehabilitation ministry was started and they ministered to 20 Indian and Chinese inmates.

In **2002**, apart from the Tamil service, the English service was held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. The Outreach Service at Kuala Lipis was at 5pm on Sundays. About 7 to 11 adults and 4 to 5 children attended regularly. Although the income was low, the work was growing. A proper place of worship would encourage more to come. Placing of a Church Worker would greatly enhance the work.

In **2003** **Rev. Mark Subramaniam** was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 83. There were 4 Adult and 3 Child Baptisms. About 50 people regularly attended the worship service. Kuala Lipis Service was at 4pm. The English service was held once a month on Sundays at 4pm. Minor renovations were made to increase the capacity of the church sanctuary. A friend of the church donated RM3,000 towards van maintenance. Giving and participation in church activities improved.

In **2004** **Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. Kuala Lipis service was at 5pm. About 15 people attended. On 2nd Sundays, there was an evening service at Benta. Worshipping in the various homes was not conducive. Distance and finances were also a problem. Permission was sought to use the Wesley premises for worship services. Finances had dropped. Many did not give their tithes.

From **2005 – 2006** **Rev. S. Krishnan** was the Pastor with Supply Pastor Ruben Rajandurai. The Kuala Lipis Outreach Service was held at 5pm. About 35 attended. The Full Membership was 85. The church planned to renovate their present building. The Kuala Lipis Outreach worshipped at the Wesley Church. About 30 attended the worship. In **2006** the Full Membership was 95. Two new families started to attend the service regularly. There were 7 families at the Kuala Lipis/Benta Outreach and four families at Sg. Jerik/Jengka area.

Parsonage Purchased

From **2007 to 2011**, **Rev. Ruben Rajandurai** was the Pastor. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 101. Sunday worship was attended regularly by about 60 people. In **2008** the Full Membership was 106. A parsonage was purchased for the resident pastor in Jerantut at a cost of RM98,000. They took a loan of RM60,000 from RHB and made a monthly repayment of RM356. The pastor's theme was "Never again will my people be ashamed" and his vision: "Removing all obstacles and looking forward to progress well in all aspects". There was growth in membership and finance. In **2009** the Full Membership was 119. About 80 people regularly attended the Sunday worship. About 15 people attended the Kuala Lipis service on Sundays. The church grew both in finance and membership.

Sharing the Gospel with Boldness

In **2010** the Full Membership was 107. The Sunday worship service was regularly attended by about 80 people. The church identified "Kuala Krau" as their new outreach area. They started house meetings and regular visitation. The present church building was not able to accommodate all and they wanted to move to a new premise.

In August the church identified an acre of Government Land next to the General Hospital. On 14 August an appeal letter was submitted to YB Dato Lau Lee, the State Legislative Assemblyman of Jerantut. He agreed to give them the land and get a subsidy from the Government. The pastor shared the Gospel boldly and many accepted Jesus and were baptized.

In **2011** Rev. Ruben Rajandurai ministered here for the seventh year. The Full Membership was 105.

The church grew in the prayer ministry. A pioneering outreach work was started at Kuala Krau. It was situated 30 km between Mentakab and Jerantut. They were in contact with nine families. The pastor and members visited this place every alternate Wednesday for prayer and sharing. The pastor visited the families every 4th Wednesday. They planned to build a church building on the government given freehold land the following year upon receiving the Grant. Though they hoped to get it done by the end of the year, it did not materialize.

A Second-Hand Van Purchased

In **2012** Rev. Samuel Periathamby was the Pastor-in-charge with the new graduate Pastor John Sunder. The Full Membership was 107. A second hand Toyota Hiace van was purchased for RM29,900. TMC Jerantut recommended that the Kuala Lipis Outreach work be handed over to the nearby churches. This Outreach had only 6 members - 4 adults and 2 children. They were not regular to church and one couple travelled from Sungai Koyan to Kuala Lipis for Sunday service, a one hour journey of about 70 Kilometres. The income of the Outreach was very low and the monthly rental was RM200. The church applied to the Pejabat Tanah to extend the lease title of the land (old building). In **2013** Rev. **John Sunder** was the Pastor in charge. The Full Membership was 118. Kuala Lipis was very far from Jerantut. Their current place was not suitable for worship anymore. A shop-lot with a RM300 monthly rental was identified. This rented Building was dedicated on 24 November 2013 at 5pm by the Conference President Rev. C. Jayaraj.

In **2014** Rev. **D.B Laurence** was the Pastor-in-charge with new graduate Pastor Samuel Manokaran as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 119. Finance improved with an increase in the tithing. In November 2013, the church moved to a new shop-lot for their Sunday Worship. After many years, TMC Jerantut had a spacious and comfortable sanctuary for worship in, but there was no space for fellowship after the worship service. The place was just enough for the sanctuary, pastor's office and two rooms for the Church School ministry. As such the church fellowship was held only during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They put up a tent at the car park area. The price of their place of worship was RM950,000. The monthly rental was RM300. One infant was baptised.

Emphasis on Kuala Lipis Outreach

From 2015 to 2018 Rev. Samuel Manokaran was the Pastor. Church files and records were properly organized. New leadership emerged and outreach work was given emphasis. The Full Membership was 93. In **2015** there was growth in the finances of the Kuala Lipis Outreach. After more than 20 years, a Christmas celebration was held in Kuala Lipis. The gospel was shared to about 50 new contacts who attended the celebration.

In **2016** the Full Membership was 87. The church helped the needy through their Second Sunday Offerings. Regular Worship was held on Sundays at 5pm. A Friday Prayer and House Meetings were conducted by committed lay members. Five new converts were added to the Kuala Lipis Outreach. There was a concern that young people were leaving due to their work and studies.

In **2017** the Full Membership was 86. The church had a joint program with an NGO "PROJECT MADE" at the Tamil School. They reached 30 Hindu families. The old wooden Church building was demolished. At the Kuala Lipis Outreach regular worship service was held on Sundays at 5pm. About 20 attended. Four people received baptism in Kuala Lipis and the church reached out and helped the poor. Mr. Andrew Muthu was Co-ordinator for the Kuala Lipis ministry and he served well as a part-time evangelist. They also reached out to surrounding areas such as Padang Tengku (21 km), Benta (26 km), Selborne Estate (21 km). The church thanked the Conference Board on Evangelism for financially supporting the Kuala Lipis ministry. The church organized a Christmas celebration at the Kuala Lipis Tamil School for the first time. Nearly 200 new contacts attended the celebration. The Subang Jaya Chinese Methodist Church sponsored the Christmas program. The church launched a project to buy a van for the Kuala Lipis ministry. RM9,000 was pledged in faith by the members.

In **2018** four youths were received into Full Membership through Confirmation and the total was 82. About 27 people attended the Friday prayers in Jerantut. About 20 non-Christian families were visited at the Kuala Lipis Outreach. Two non-Christian families regularly attended the Kuala Lipis Outreach ministry. Nearly RM5,000 was collected for the Kuala Lipis Van Fund. After many years, the Jerantut church had a Family Day at the Jerantut Tamil School which was attended by 85 people. Home visitation was conducted with the church leaders and those who were not regular to church started to come and there was also an increase in giving. The Sungai Jan Land lease was extended for another 99 years by the Pejabat Tanah Jerantut. The existing parsonage loan with RHB Bank was settled with the help of TAC. The Conference gave a soft loan of RM59,501.75. The church paid the first instalment of the soft loan. The ownership of the parsonage was transferred to the Trustees from the individual's name.

In **2019, Rev. S. Jevaratnam** is the Pastor in charge with Church Worker Pastor Devasitham. The Lay Leader and LCEC Chairperson is Madam Gudhi Patrick. The current Full Membership of the church is 87. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (15), MYAF (40), MSF (16) and MW (42). They have two Small Groups and they have given the names Elijah for one and Elisha for the other. There are 25 children and 2 teachers in the Church School.

Conclusion: TMC Jerantut is 35 years old. When they were formed as a Local Conference, there were 88 Full Members. As of 2019, their Full Membership is 87. They have grown in terms of property ownership – they have two plots of land as well as a parsonage. The finance was always a challenge, especially with the youths being drawn elsewhere for their education as well as job opportunities. The church is putting a concerted effort in the Kuala Lipis Outreach. The good numbers in their Agencies show that this local church is active. These are indications that TMC Jerantut has potential to grow more, both numerically as well as spiritually and bring glory to God.

Sources:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1984 – 1985	Pastor Jeyabal David
1986	Pastor Timothy RIA Rajan
1987 – 1990	Rev. Joseph Komar
1991 – 1994	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
1995	Rev. Peter Devadason
1996 – 1998	Rev. C. Paul
1999 – 2002	Rev. Raymond Raj
2003	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2004	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
2005 – 2006	Rev. S. Krishnan
2007 – 2011	Rev. Ruben Rajandurai
2012	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2013	Rev. John Sunder
2014	Rev. D.B Laurence
2015 – 2018	Rev. Samuel Manokaran
2019	Rev. Jevaretnam Sowria

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1992 - 1993		Mr. S. A. Thomas
1994 - 1997	Mr. Ponnusamy	Mr. Moses Ponnिया
1998	Mr. Ponnusamy	Mr. S. A. Thomas
1999 - 2001	Mr. Moses Ponnिया	Mr. Ponnusamy
2002	Mr. Ponnusamy	Mr. Palanisamy
2003 - 2005	Mr. Ponnusamy	Mr. S. A. Thomas
2006 - 2007	Mr. S. A. Thomas	
2008 - 2009	Mr. Krishnan	Mr. S. A. Thomas
2010	Mr. N. Thomas Krishnan	Mr. S. A. Thomas
2011 - 2012	Mr. Palanisamy	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2013	Mr. Gunalan Ponnusamy	Rev. John Sunder
2014	Mr. Gunalan Ponnusamy	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2015	Mr. Gunalan Ponnusamy	Rev. Samuel Manokaran
2016 - 2018	Madam Gudhi Patrick	Rev. Samuel Manokaran
2019	Madam Gudhi Patrick	Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria

PETALING JAYA

The Beginnings

In **1975**, when **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj** was the Pastor of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur, an Outreach Project was started in the Sungai Way-Subang area with Mr. J.D. Rajaram as the coordinator. In **1976**, about 12 to 15 people were worshipping together on Sunday evenings at the Chinese Christian Church in Sungai Way New Village. In **1977**, a Committee was formed consisting of local persons to manage the affairs with **Rev. John Kovilpillai** as the Chairman and Mr. J.D. Rajaram as the Vice-Chairman. In **1979**, when the Chinese Church needed their premises to conduct an evening service there, an alternative place of worship was sought. The Sungai Way Wesley Methodist Outreach Church at No. 2, Jalan SS3/56 kindly allowed the use of their building on Sundays for 4 hours from 3pm to 7pm. At this time, a Committee known as the Local Outreach Executive Committee was formed. Mr. John Sunder became the Lay Leader and Mr. J.D. Rajaram the Chairperson.

Becoming a Local Conference

With the Full Membership at 45, the enthusiasm became so great that they decided to look for a church building of their own. The situation became acute when the Wesley Outreach church decided to have a worship service in Bahasa Malaysia on Sunday evenings. With great eagerness, ardent prayers and the support of the Mother Church in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, they purchased a bungalow at No. 14, Jalan SS3/46 at a cost of RM280,000. The **Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam** and a few others played a significant role in collecting funds. The Dedication Service was held on 9 April 1986 with Rev. John Kovilpillai, the then President of the TAC officiating the ceremony. **On 11 May 1986, the Outreach was declared as a Local Church** by the DS, **Rev. James Solamadan**. Thus was born the **Tamil Methodist Church Sungai Way-Subang**. The Full Membership soared from 60 in 1986 to 109 in **1987**. There were limitations – noise and traffic problems. Rev. John Kovilpillai was the first pastor. Mr. J.D. Rajaram was the first LCEC Chairperson and Mr. John Sunder the first Lay Leader. In **1988, Rev. Peter Jebasekaran** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 124. With a sense of ‘Mission Accomplished’, Mr. J.D. Rajaram went back to the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur.

Booking of a Three Storey Building

In **1989**, the mantle of Chairmanship of the LCEC fell on **Mr. Peter Palaya**. When complaints were lodged by the neighbour, Notice was served by the Local Authority (MPPJ) to stop worshipping in the residential area. When attempts to continue to worship here failed, the LCEC decided to sell the property and move to a more suitable place. With that vision in mind, the Building Committee led by **Mr. Jayaraj Christy**, tirelessly searched for a place of worship. With great fortitude of mind, they booked a new Three Storey Shop Lot at No. 56 Jalan USJ 10/1B, Subang Jaya, for RM518,000.

Sorting out Land Issue at Sri Sentosa

From 1 December 1990, Pastor Ramadasen was placed on Assignment till 30 June 1992. From July 1992 till November 1992, the Selangor District pastors took turns to conduct the Sunday Worship Service. **From 1993 – 1997 Rev. Roberts Pandian** was the pastor. On **16 April 1993**, the church moved to a rented shop lot at Subang Indah while their new church building at Subang Jaya was being constructed. Regular worship services and other ministries were started from **18 April 1993**. On the initiative and perseverance of Rev. Roberts Pandian, an outreach ministry was started at Sri Muda, Shah Alam in January 1994. During this time, a piece of land at Kampong Pinang/Sri Sentosa designated for religious purpose, was given to them by the Mother Church, TMC KL, but it was illegally occupied. When negotiations with the illegal occupants failed, they filed a case through the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Malaysia.

At a New Location with a New Name

In **September 1994**, **Mr. V. Jacob** became the Chairperson of the LCEC and subsequently the Chairman of the Building Committee. On 17 December 1994, they held the Candlelight Service in the newly completed building at Taipan, USJ. At the 19th Session of the TAC in 1994, it was announced that TMC Sungei Way – Subang be **renamed as TMC Petaling Jaya. The sanctuary was declared open by Rev. David Tharmakan, the TAC President and dedicated by Bishop Denis Dutton on 11 February 1995**. Although the church was well furnished and made conducive for meaningful worship, functions like weddings and funeral services could not be held. In **January 1995**, while the legal pursuit on the land issue was going on, they started a 2nd worship service in Sri Manja to cater for their members in the vicinity. Here they were later joined by a few families who had been worshipping in the **Kampong Pinang Outreach**, started by TMC KL and which was earlier coordinated by Mr. David Chelliah.

Outreach at Sri Muda Shah Alam Constituted as TMC Shah Alam

In **mid-1995**, with Mr. Peter Palaya as the coordinator, a group of people voluntarily moved to worship at the Sri Muda (Shah Alam) outreach church with the aim of building up the ministry there. In November **1997**, the High Court ruled in our favour and the illegal occupant vacated the site on 12 December 1997. Immediately, the Building Committee was reactivated. From **1998 to 1999 Rev. Joseph Komar** was the pastor. In **1998** the Full Membership was 206 and in **1999** it was 217. The Building Plans were submitted to Dewan Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur on 23 September 1998 for approval. Meanwhile the outreach church at Sri Muda, Shah Alam grew. On **15 February 1998**, this Outreach was constituted as a Local Conference by Rev. David Tharmakan, the TAC President and was **named as TMC Shah Alam**. This is the first daughter church of TMC Petaling Jaya. On **19 June 1999**, the Fund Raising campaign was launched by Rev. Joseph Komar for the new Church Building at Taman Sri Sentosa. The response was overwhelming.

Ground Breaking and Corner Stone at Sri Sentosa

From **2000 to 2008 Rev. Herbert John** was the pastor. Under the capable leadership of Mr. V. Jacob and the Building Committee, the **ground-breaking and laying of the Cornerstone Service was held on 3 September 2000.**

Present were Rev. P. Tevaraji, the TAC President and Rev. Herbert John, the District Superintendent and local church pastor. On 25 December 2001, they had their Christmas Service in the newly completed Sanctuary. On **11 May 2002, the new Sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop Datuk Dr Peter Chio Sing Ching.**

The Birth of TMC Subang Jaya

On **3 November 2002**, a second service was started in the sanctuary in Taipan, Subang Jaya for the convenience of the members around that area. A group of about 50 members began worshipping there. Later it was made an Outreach ministry of TMC PJ with a vision of planting another church. There was good leadership as well as financial support. On **5 February 2005**, a new Local Conference was constituted and named as **TMC Subang Jaya.**

Second Worship Service in English

In **2006**, the LCEC of TMC PJ decided to start a second service in the English language to cater for the needs of the younger generation, and for those not fluent in the Tamil language. This was also to act as a catalyst in reaching out to people of other races who lived around that area. At this time the church purchased a **new parsonage** in Sri Manja Court (F-5-8, Sri Manja Court, Taman Sri Manja, Batu 6 ½ Jalan Klang Lama, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor). It was dedicated on 29 April **2007** by Rev. P. Tevaraji, the TAC President. At the Desa Mentari Outreach, the neighbourhood was reached through free tuition classes for children, the Kid's Club and the Evening Worship Service. In **2008** Mr. E. Kunabalan was posted as the Weekend Practical Student. The Full Membership was 239. There were five Cell Groups and they met fortnightly.

Silver Jubilee Celebration marks Desa Mentari and Kelana Jaya Outreach

From 2009 – 2015 Rev. P. Tevaraji was the pastor. In **2009** the Full Membership was 241. There was an increase in tithing. In **2010** the Full Membership was 290. The church organised a Marriage Enrichment Seminar and a Bible Fest for the Cell Groups. Church School had 90 children and 6 teachers. A Two Day Family Camp was held at Port Dickson. An LCEC Retreat took place. In **2011** the Full Membership in June was 294. On **14 May 2011 the church celebrated its Silver Jubilee.** To mark the occasion, **Desa Mentari Education Fund was launched.** About 170 students attended the free tuition given at the, Desa Mentari Education Centre. An **Outreach ministry was started at Kelana Jaya.** The Junior Worship Team produced a Tamil CD. English worship service was held on Sunday evenings. In **2012** there were four worship services every Sunday – Tamil, English, Mentari Outreach and Kelana Jaya Outreach. More than 300 students received free tuition at the Desa Mentari Education Centre. Bible Knowledge Classes were held for Form 4 and 5 students.

In **2013** Ministerial Student Mr. Ezekiel Raj V. did his weekend ministry here. Messrs Isaiah, Paul Peter David and Veerapandian served as Local Workers. Cell groups met in 9 places. At the Kelana Jaya Outreach, a Pro Tem Committee was formed. A monthly Migrant Ministry was started at Lagoon Perdana. The English Worship Service attracted foreigners. In **2014** Messrs Isaiah, Paul Peter David, Veerapandian and Isaac served as local workers. Cell Groups met in 10 places. The church also participated in the Scripture Union Bible Quiz event. The ministry at Ray of Hope was financially supported every month.

KJOC Becomes Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya

In **2015** the Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre (KJOC) had a good family Camp at Broga. A property was bought for worship and ministry purposes at a cost of RM 1.2 million. Mr. Isaiah served as the local church evangelist and Mr. Paul Peter David and Mr. Veerapandian served as local church workers. Mr. Isaac helped in the church office. **From 2016 onwards Rev. James Ravindaren** has been the pastor. In **2016** Mr. Ezekiel Raj, the Weekend Practical Student and Mr. Isaiah, the Local Evangelist, helped in the ministry. Cell Groups met at 9 places. 7 people were baptised at the Desa Mentari Outreach. Revival cum Evangelistic meetings were held with Rev. C. Paul. About 150 attended. A **Taxi Driver Ministry** was started – a gathering of Christian taxi drivers from different churches every Monday. The MYAF organised a special “Renewing of Marriage Vows” program and 22 couples participated. The **Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre (KJOC)** worship service was held every Sunday at 9am. About 70 – 80 attended the worship regularly. They had 3 Cell Groups. Monthly Bible Study was conducted by Rev. Victor Vethamani on 2nd Fridays. A Preaching Class was also conducted by Rev. Victor Vethamani and 35 members registered. Communion service was on every second Sunday. In **2017** the Full Membership was 296. Mr. Ezekiel Raj V. continued as Weekend Practical Student. There were 8 Cell Groups. Monthly support of RM 300 was given to the Ray of Hope ministry. **On 26 February KJOC was organised as the Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya.**

Church Marches Forward with New Forms of Ministry

In **2018** the Full Membership was 298. The Weekend Practical Student was Mr. Timothy Raj and Mr. Isaiah the Local Evangelist assisted the pastor in the ministry. 20 people participated in the Postal Bible Quiz and National Bible Knowledge Quiz. 15 members were confirmed on 7 October by the Conference President Rev. Dennis Raj. Tract distribution and Street Feeding were held at Desa Mentari area. When there was water rationing in the month of March, the church rose to the need by giving free water to all the people. Many were blessed.

In **2019**, Rev. James Ravindaren continued as the pastor. Mr. Selvaraj Lucas is the Lay Leader and Mr. Dass Rajan is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership on 1 January was 283. The membership of the Agencies are as follows: MYF (31), MYAF (25), MSF (30), and MW (60). There are 80 children and 7 teachers in the Church school. At present Desa Mentari is their only Outreach.

The Taxi Driver Ministry continued with the gathering of Christian taxi drivers from different churches fortnightly on Mondays at 7.45 pm. Christian Taxi drivers are getting to know one another through this ministry. Help is also given to those who backslide. Desa Mentari Tailoring Class was started under the Social Concerns Committee. The Dunamis Prayer Group was formed. There are ten teams under this.

Conclusion: TMC PJ is a growing and witnessing local church. Through them, the Lord has brought forth three Local Churches: TMC Shah Alam, TMC Subang Jaya and Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya. All the Agencies and Committees are active and play important roles in the life of the Local Church. After thirty-three years of existence, this Local Church shows evidence of going on to even greater heights in the coming years.

Sources:

1. TMC PJ 25th Anniversary Celebrations Souvenir
2. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1986 – 1987	Rev. John Kovilpillai
1988 – 1990 Nov.	Rev. Peter Jebasekaran
1990 Dec. – 1992 June	Pastor Ramadasen
1993 – 1997	Rev. Roberts Pandian
1998 – 1999	Rev. Joseph Komar
2000 – 2008	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2009 – 2015	Rev. P. Tevaraji
2016 onwards	Rev. A. James Ravindaren

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1986 - 1988	Mr. John Sunder	Mr. J. D. Rajaram
1989 - 1992	Mr. John Sunder	Mr. Peter Palayah
1993	Mr. David Rajaiah	Mr. Peter Palayah
1994 - 2002	Mr. John Sunder	Mr. V. Jacob
2003	Mr. John Sunder	Mr. Jayapal Joseph
2004 - 2007	Mr. Isaac Perpathan	Mr. Jayapal Joseph
2008 - 2011	Mr. Isaac Perpathan	Mr. Edwin Soosai
2012	Mr. George Nesarajah	Mr. Dass Rajan
2013 - 2014	Mr. Edwin Soosai	Mr. Dass Rajan
2015 - 2019	Mr. Selvaraj Lucas	Mr. Dass Rajan



Dedication Service



Unveiling of Dedication plaque by the Bishop



Photo Launching of TMC PJ Church model

ALOR GAJAH

The Beginnings

TMC Alor Gajah began as an Outreach of TMC Melaka in **1984**. **Rev. Noel Arputharaj**, the pastor of TMC Melaka, took the initiative to conduct meetings in the homes of members. In **1986**, there was a spiritual revival after the Jesus Call's Ministry in Kuala Lumpur. This impacted the work at Alor Gajah. The work also grew with the help of the STM students and the pastoral care of Rev. Arputharaj. **The TAC President, Rev. Noel Arputharaj declared it as a Local Conference on 12 February 1989.**

The Early Ministry

In **1989**, **Rev. S. Duraisingam** was posted as the first Pastor with Church Worker Mr. Albert Simon (till April 1989). The Full Membership, which started as 55 in February, was 53. The lay people of TMC Melaka gave good support and in this Mr and Mrs D.A. Rajendran played key roles. Regular Church School, Women's work, Youth programs and outreach work were carried out. Since members were scattered in several estates and housing areas and with infrequent and irregular public transport, a van was purchased to transport members. Finance was a challenge because of the rental for the building for worship.

Finance a Challenge

From **1990 to 1992** **Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan** was the Pastor. In **1990** Candidate for ministry Mr. Robert Selvakumar was sent here for exposure. The Full Membership was 44. Worship services were held on Sundays at 6 pm. The church van was used to bring members from the outlying areas to the worship services in Alor Gajah town. 10 adults met weekly in the homes of members for bible study. This was followed by a time of intercessory prayer. There were 25 children in the Church School with 4 teachers. They met on Saturdays. The MYF had about 10 members and met fortnightly. They were fully involved in all the programs of the church. In **1991** the Full Membership was 40. The majority of worshippers were new enthusiastic converts. They were nurtured in the faith. The average monthly giving was about RM 700 and the money was used for rental (RM 250), pastor's salary (share of RM 250) and petrol for van (about RM 70). Since they shared their pastor with TMC Melaka, the DS noted that the church would only grow if they had a pastor or a Church Worker of their own. The youths formed the majority in the church.

Took Charge of Tampin Ministry

In **1992** Mr. Dennis Raj was the ministerial student assigned. The Full Membership was 38. The majority of the members in the church were young people and below the age of 25 years. Mr. Dennis Raj did a good job in all the weekly activities of the church and nurtured them well. For a rural community, the giving was good – an average of RM 800 per month for 38 members. Half the giving went towards the rental.

There was a sense of belonging and a burden among the members for soul winning and evangelism. Their resources were limited and the Indian population in Alor Gajah was very small compared to the other races. Some non-Christians showed interest in the church and there was a need for regular follow-up. TMC Alor Gajah was given the responsibility to take charge of the Tampin ministry, which was under TMC Seremban. House meetings were initiated in Sungai Udang and Masjid Tanah. Many became members of the Alor Gajah church. However, many moved to cities due to job opportunities.

The DS noted that there was an urgent need for a pastor or a Church Worker to be stationed in Alor Gajah. He further noted that the person posted must be stationed there for a minimum of three years. When there were frequent pastoral changes, the work was affected and the members were discouraged.

Two Outreach Ministries

From **1993 to 1996 Rev. Justin Clarence** was the Pastor. From 1993 TMC Alor Gajah was called **Alor Gajah/Tampin**. In **1993** Mr. James Ravindaren was sent here for his one-year Pre-Seminary exposure. The Full Membership was 72. About 40 people attended the worship service in Alor Gajah every Sunday at 4 pm. About 25 people attended the worship service in Tampin every Sunday at 9 am. The Outreach work was done in two places: a) in **Sungai Udang** about 30 people attended the service every Friday and b) in **Kuala Pilah**, about 15 people attended the monthly meeting. The Church School in Alor Gajah had 25 children and 3 teachers. In Tampin, there were 14 children with 5 teachers. The MYF in Alor Gajah had 18 youths and they met on alternate Tuesdays. In Tampin there were 12 youths and they met on Sundays after the worship service. The youths took turns to lead in the worship service. The WSCS had 12 members.

Pledging Towards the Building Project

In **1994** the Full Membership was 73. A Building Committee was formed and members of the church pledged towards the building project. In **1995** the Full Membership was 79. In **1996** Ministerial Student Mr. P. Raymond Raj was assigned here. The Full Membership was 79. There was a combined worship service in Alor Gajah at 9.30 am every Sunday. The members from Tampin would worship separately when they would have a suitable building. The MYAF was formed on 11 August 1996. They had 12 members

From **1997 to 1999 Rev. Barnabas Baskaran** was the Pastor. In **1997**, the Full Membership was 87. The Worship services were held in Alor Gajah at 9.30 am on Sundays and at 9 am in Tampin. In **1998** the Full Membership was 84. About 14 youths met weekly after the service. The church participated in a City-Wide Miracle Rally in the Tampin area. They purchased a new amplifier set, repaired and painted their van. After being in a rented premise for 12 years, the need to own their own place of worship was a great concern. It was a great challenge for the church because most of the members were dependent on the church van to bring them to the place of worship.

In **1999** the Full Membership was 79. Prayer group met every Tuesday at Tampin under the leadership of Mr. Vijaiadas. There were attempts to secure a land to build their own church and fund raising was done.

In **1998** the church, with the help of TMC Seremban, bought a low-cost house for a parsonage for RM32,000. In **2007** it was given for rent for RM200. In **2013** this property was sold for RM35,000.

Building of Their Own but Burden of Loan Repayment

From **2000 to 2003**, **Rev. R. Yesudason** was the Pastor. In **2000** the Full Membership was 71. They had Cell Groups at the following locations: (a) Tampin on Tuesdays (b) Sg. Udang on Wednesdays (c) Alor Gajah on Thursdays and (d) Masjid Tanah on Thursdays. Tampin Outreach rented a shop house for their activities. The Alor Gajah / Tampin Church finally secured a building of their own at a cost of RM77, 000. They celebrated Christmas service in the new building. In **2001** the Full Membership was 80. Bishop Datuk Dr Peter Chio and the Conference President Rev. P. Tevaraji, dedicated the church building and parsonage respectively.

Facing Finance and Leadership Challenges

In **2002** the Full Membership was 81. The church moved back to their former place of worship, after they had problems with their neighbours in Taman Sri Kelemak. Finance was a problem, though people gave well from the little that they earned. They tried their best to repay the loans that they took. The church also had leadership problems – one of the reasons why the MYAF and MSF could not be revived. Tracting ministry was done together with the Singapore church members. Ministry was also carried out with a team from Singapore at the centre for the handicapped in Melaka. In **2003** the Full Membership was 91. There was an increase in tithes and offertory. TMC Sentul helped with a monthly gift of RM350. Bible studies were conducted by the pastor and Mr. Vijaiadas.

Building Projects

A shop lot was bought in **2002** for RM77,000. In **2005**, it was put up for sale for RM 95,000. There were no buyers. In **2006**, it was again put up for sale at a revised price of RM 85,000. Since there were still no buyers, in **2007** the building was rented out for RM 300. The building was eventually sold in **2012** for RM 70,000. In **2013**, the church bought a double storey building for RM350, 000 under the name of three individuals from the church. The church thanked all the TAC churches for their contributions towards the Building Project through the TAC Dedication Sunday Offering and donations. The building was dedicated on 20 October 2013 by the TAC President Rev. C. Jayaraj

In **2004** Rev. Jevaratnam Sowria was the Pastor in charge. New graduate Pastor Samy Dass was assigned as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 93. Pastor Samy Dass did well under the guidance of Rev. Jevaratnam. There was a need for a more conducive place to worship as the present building was narrow and very often not enough for the congregation.

From **2005 to 2007 Rev. Samy Dass** was the Pastor. In **2005**, the Full Membership was 96 and remained the same in **2006**. The church worshipped at a shop lot for a rental of RM350. In **2007** the Full Membership was 105. The place of worship moved to Cheng in a shop lot for a rental of RM 400. This location was more central and enabled the church to be more effective.

From **2008 to 2009 Rev. Tankaraj** was the Pastor with Part Time Supply Pastor Vijaiadas. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 98. The MYF started a youth service on the last Saturday of each month. The DS noted that most of the LCEC members were women. In **2009** the Full Membership was 118. They organised an exposure trip to an Orang Asli Kampung in Taboh Naning Alor Gajah. In **2010 Rev. John Simson** was the Pastor with Part time Supply Pastor Vijaiadas. The Full Membership was 130. The church coordinated and participated in this exposure trip for Singapore ETAC MW and Pasir Panjang Methodist Church. It was for the purpose meeting with families in the Alor Gajah area.

Potential for Growth but Lacked Leadership

From **2011 to 2012 Rev. P. Sandireseheran** was the Pastor in charge with Part time Supply Pastor Vijaiadas. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 130. For Missions, the church supported an indigenous pastor. Retired pastor Rev. Tankaraj helped in the ministries of the church. The DS Rev. Sandireseheran observed that the church had great potential for growth, however, there was a severe shortage in male leadership as most of the LCEC members of the church were ladies. In **2012** the Full Membership was 149. The church gave financial support to two missionaries working among the indigenous people of Peninsula Malaysia. The church also financially supported the studies of their part-time Supply Pastor, Mr. Vijaiadas. In **2013 Pastor Vijiadass** was the Pastor in charge. The Full Membership was 133. The church supported Pastor Moses Jayaseelan's ministry expenses every month. Only the MW was doing well and was active in all church ministries. MYF was not functioning as most of their key youths were studying and working in Kuala Lumpur.

Joint Ministry with Singapore

From **2014 to 2016 Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor. In **2014** the Full Membership was 119. Rev. Tankaraj helped in the Small Group Ministry. Weekend ministerial student, Mr. K. Saravanan helped in the Tampin Outreach. In **2015** the Full Membership was 118. The church was involved in tract ministry and Personal Evangelism. This was done together with the Singapore Pasir Panjang Methodist Church. This joint ministry came as a result of a discussion between both the pastors of these two churches, Rev. Anthony Panan and Rev. Philip Abraham. For the Pasir Panjang Church, it was a mission project and for TMC Alor Gajah, it was an evangelism venture. The weekend ministerial student, Mr. Nelson Nadarajan served in the Tampin Outreach. In **2016** the Full Membership was 118.

In **2017 Rev. Vijaiadas**, the pastor of TMC Sungai Pelek, was also the Pastor here. Mr. Nelson Nadarajan was the Weekend Practical Student. In **2018 Rev. Vincen Dass**, the Pastor of TMC Melaka, was the Pastor here. Pastor David Retnam was the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 126.

In **2019, Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** is the pastor-in-charge with new graduate Pastor Roland David as the Assistant Pastor. The Lay Leader is Mr. Stevan Francis and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Robert. The Full Membership is 139. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (24), MYAF (14), MSF (9) and MW (16). There are 8 children and 3 teachers in their Church School. They have one Outreach ministry in Tampin and four Cell Groups.

Conclusion: After five years of being an Outreach of TMC Melaka, Alor Gajah became a Local Conference by themselves 30 years ago. From the beginning, finance was a challenge for this church. They did not have properties of their own and the earning capacity of the church members was low. They pressed on to have their own place of worship. Twice they had joint ministry with TMC Pasir Panjang of Singapore – once in 2002 and another in 2015. The fact that they have an Outreach in Tampin, four Cell Groups and strong membership in the Agencies is an indication that there is a bright future for TMC Alor Gajah. This church is now located in Cheng, a town in Melaka, which is fast developing and only a two hour drive away from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. We look forward to see this church grow and bring glory to God.

Sources:

1. TAC Journals
2. Souvenir Program TMC Alor Gajah Church Dedication on 20 October 2013

PASTORAL ROLL

1989	Rev. S. Duraisingam
1990 – 1992	Rev. S. Sadagopan
1993 – 1996	Rev. Justin Clarence
1997 – 1999	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
2000 – 2003	Rev. R. Yesudason
2004	Rev. Jevaratnam
2005 – 2007	Rev. Samy Dass
2008 – 2009	Rev. Tankaraj
2010	Rev. John Simson
2011 – 2012	Rev. Sandireaseheran
2013	Rev. V. Vijaiadas
2014 – 2016	Rev. Anthony Panan
2017	Rev. V. Vijaiadas
2018	Rev. Vincen Dass
2019	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham

CHEROH

The Early Years

Cheroh and Raub were one Circuit until Cheroh became a separate Local Conference on **17 January 1990**. **Rev. Daniel Poopalarajah** was the first pastor and he served from **1990 to November 1992**. The Full Membership at the time of formation was 52. Two members were transferred out and the Full Membership was 50. Sunday Worship services were held at 6.30 p.m and about 40 attended. The church met in a rented building. The MW had 16 members and met twice a month in the church and twice in the homes. MYF had 14 members and they met on Sundays at 5p.m. Church School met on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. with 15 children and 2 teachers. Social Concerns helped two families with provisions and found employment for one family member. A new organ was bought for RM650. The Evangelism and Membership Committee worked hard to bring back the inactive members. The church decided to support mission organisations with 5% of their total tithes.

The Cheroh Chapel

The church renovated the **Cheroh Chapel** on the Estate land. The management laid down certain conditions for the church to use this building and wanted the church to enter into an agreement. The Trustees helped study the conditions with legal help before signing it. In **1991**, the Full Membership was 48. They needed a fulltime worker.

Need for a Church Building

From **December 1992 to 1994**, **Rev. C. Paul** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 36, 31 and 35 in 1992, 1993 and **1994 respectively**. The church faced draining of resources by a great exodus of people to Bentong and Kuala Lumpur for work opportunities. In spite of this, the church's giving grew. In **1993**, the church was affected when about 20 members left elsewhere for jobs. They needed a church building. In **1994**, the Conference gave a grant of RM5,000 for furnishing and rentals. The Kuantan church gave RM200 monthly. In eager anticipation of growth, the LCEC brought a recommendation to purchase the building. If they had waited another year the price would have gone up even higher. The Local Conference supported this proposal. It would cost RM81,000 if they had bought it then. They were confident of raising RM21,000. The whole church was happy with the building and the idea. The pastor found it difficult to manage two churches and requested the Conference to give him at least an STM student.

In **1995 and 1996**, **Pastor Barnabas Baskaran** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 47 from Cheroh and 44 members were from Kuala Lipis Outreach. Sunday Worship Services were held at 6 p.m. The church rented a shop house for RM270 and the pastor's house rent was RM100. The people gave, now that they had a fulltime pastor of their own. A new identity emerged, being independent of TMC Raub. They now needed to fend for themselves.

A freehold vacant ¼ acre land was available at RM40,000. Upon signing the agreement, the 1/10 deposit of RM4,000 was paid. The vendor's lawyer requested the balance of RM36,000 to be settled before 24 January 1996 for the title to be changed to the Trustee's name. A two-storey building with the parsonage, church and hall on the 1st floor and a number of shop houses for rental on the ground floor was designed. The Conference adopted TMC Cheroh's building project for the Dedication Sunday Offering and also the 2nd Collection towards the Development Fund. The church requested that the giving of TAC Development Fund be extended till the project was realised. The following supported: TMC Seremban gave RM3,000, Dato' Dr. and Mrs. P.C. Vanniasingham RM10,000 (towards sanctuary), Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam gave RM1,000. Upon purchase of the land, they still needed RM100,000 to construct the building.

In **1996**, the Full Membership was 40 in Cheroh and 44 in Kuala Lipis. Pastor Barnabas was relieved from the extensive outreach work in Kuala Lipis to concentrate on Cheroh, while on his weekend from his study at STM. The 9 a.m. worship in Kuala Lipis took place at the old Wesley church building. Kuala Lipis had RM12,000 in its van fund; RM2,000 as church General Fund and RM20,000 with AEC as Mr. E.V. Nesaratnam's contribution to purchase land. There were two Area Fellowships. The Plan was to construct a double storey building with a mini-market on the ground floor (to train Tamil Christians in business), hall, rooms, parsonage and the church on the upstairs.

In **1997**, the Full Membership was 36. Meetings were held in Mr. D. Joseph's house as the RM120,000 double storey building was being constructed in the ½ acre RM40,000 land. Without a pastor of their own, the church managed with the services of Rev. Jayabal David.

In **1998**, **Rev. T.D. Peter** was the pastor. The Full Membership was 30. The building was near completion and the full payment was made. To complete, the church would need extra money. Many of the people had left Cheroh. Unless the pastor had an evangelistic calling to bring new souls into the Kingdom of God, he would not find much work to do in this very small church. He may even be depressed for the congregation was below the poverty line and often they struggled to tithe consistently. The new building would provide the needed premises and revenue.

In **1999 and 2000**, **Rev. Elanko Kannan** was the pastor with Pastor Reuben Kanagalingam. The Full Membership was 34. The dedication of their new double storey building by Bishop Peter Chio Sing Ching was on 25 October 1999. Outreach ministry was held in Budu Estate on Fridays. The pastor stayed 3 days in Cheroh and 3 days in Kuala Lipis. In **2000**, Rev. Elanko Kannan was pastor with Ministerial Student Mr. Ruben Rajandurai. In Kuala Lipis, the Sunday Services were held at 10:30 a.m. in a member's house in Sellborne Estate, which was 20km away. The church van was used to ferry members to and fro.

Church School was held on Sundays at 5.15 p.m. and there was only one class with one teacher. There were 8 students and there was a need for van transport. There were 4 MYF members who met on Sundays at 4.15 p.m. On Fridays at 5.30 p.m, 8 women met for MW fellowship. Three members met regularly for MYAF on Sundays at 4.15 p.m. Kuala Lipis had a van of its own and a vacant piece of land.

Challenge to be a Cross- Cultural Church

From **2001 to 2003, Rev. Moses Jayaseelan** was the pastor. In **2001**, the Full Membership was 26. The Certificate of Fitness was received. The church land and building had been fenced up for RM4,000. Funds were raised through personal friends and members to put this up. A Family Enrichment Seminar by Rev. P. Tevaraji was conducted and TMC Raub joined the programme. Cheroh was a small and struggling church. Nearly all the youngsters were away. People were moving to the towns all the time. The DS observed that the church may have to become cross-cultural and reach out to the various communities instead of depending on the Tamils.

Challenging Times

In **2002**, the Full Membership was 29. The MYF was not functioning; there were only two youths. Only the Church Extension and Development Fund loan of RM20,000 remained. The ground floor was to be used as a kindergarten the following year. Growth in Cheroh was expected to be very slow as people left for better prospects. Opposition from non-Christians made the situation even more difficult for evangelism. The church thanked God for the 3 families He gave them and the church is still communicating with them. Some leaders pledged to increase their tithes while others had not begun to give. Building (Mini Market) not used / no form of income / Kindergarten (feasibility) – (Board on Property pg. 201)

Declining Membership

In **2003**, the Full Membership of 22 remained till 2006. The ground floor was rented out for the Kindergarten for RM200 per month. They had begun repaying the Church Extension and Development Fund Loan. Membership continued to decline and efforts to evangelize had not been successful. The Indian population in Cheroh continued to decline but local leadership strongly felt they should continue as a Local Conference. The finance grew. The Local Conference resolved that they continue as a local church and requested that a worker be placed in Cheroh.

Difficult With or Without a Pastor

In **2004, Rev. D. B. Laurence** was the pastor-in-charge and was assisted by Pastor Pattiyan. The pulpit area was redesigned and carpeted. On 8 June 2004, Pastor Pattiyan had a stroke and was unable to continue on medical grounds. Finance was going down. Cheroh was not able to finance a worker on its own and was also not able to grow if there was no worker assigned.

From **2005 to 2008, Rev. Samuel Periathamby** was the pastor. Sunday worship services in Cheroh were held at 10.30 am. There was no MSF and MYAF. The MYF had Bible Study and fellowship at Jerantut (District Programme). The drainage of the church was repaired. In **2006**, the MYF had a membership of 16 and an average of 7 – 8 attended every Sunday from 12.30 – 1.30 p.m. Nine youths attended the Youth Convention. Twenty-five children attended the VBS in June organised by TMC Raub. 23 people were baptised on 11 April 2006.

In **2007**, Full Membership was updated to 35. The MYF had 8 members. Ministry among the Orang Asli was carried out. In **2008**, Mr. Samuel Manogran helped for two months (February and March) as a Pre-Ministerial Student. The Full Membership rose from 22 to 37. Cell Group ministry was started in 3 areas from the month of August. The purpose of the Cell Group ministry was to reach out to the neighbourhood and the surrounding areas. Fasting and Prayer was held every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m in the church and 5 to 7 members fasted and came to pray faithfully. The church conducted Bible Quiz twice and the whole church participated. The church ground floor was rented out since August for RM200. Financially, the church showed some improvement with a surplus of RM3,237.19. The LCEC members took the church ministry seriously and were responsible to their entrusted ministries.

Financial Help from TMC PJ

In **2009 and 2010, Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the pastor. The Full Membership in 2009 and 2010 was 34. Tamil and Malay bibles were purchased for members and new believers. The church bought a new grass cutting machine for RM830. They were grateful to TMC PJ for their financial help. With their help they were able to meet their financial expenses and had a surplus of RM2,753.82. The church moved from the 1st floor to the ground floor for worship from April **2010**. They had 6 children with 1 teacher in the Church School. There was only 1 class and it was conducted in Tamil. They planned to combine with the TMC Raub's Church School. The new place of worship was dedicated by the TAC President Rev. Vincent C. Jayaraj on 11 April 2010. The guest of honour was Rev. Dr. Peter Devadason the former Eastern DS who had diligently toiled in order to obtain a place of worship for the members in Cheroh. The church was grateful to the Conference for giving them a grant of RM10,000 for the renovation.

In **2011, Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the pastor and he was assisted by Ministerial Candidate Mr. Joseph Ambrose. The Full Membership in 2011 and 2012 was 34. The church took the responsibility in helping nine '**Orang Asal**' families with groceries in Batu Sembeling. Along with finance, the church also faced a leadership crisis. Evangelism work was lacking. The church needed reconciliation for unity. In **2012, Rev. Joy Pandian** was the pastor. The church lacked spiritual leadership and thus was unable to consolidate the relationships and the ministry of the church. A Leadership Training programme was conducted by Rev. Victor Vethamani.

From **2013 to 2018**, **Rev. Doraiseelan John** was the pastor. During this period, the Full Membership fluctuated from 31 in 2013 to 36 in 2018. In **2013**, although the members stayed nearby the church, many did not participate. Their excuses were concerning their work and tuition. Leaders did not participate regularly in church activities. They lacked self-motivation to come, learn and cooperate to work together. For a small church of only 31 members their problems were too many.

Health Clinic for all

In **2014**, Mr. Alex, a Myanmarese, was given baptism. A few contacts were taken to a banquet organised by FGBMF in which they heard the good news. The Mr. Sitharaman helped to arrange transport for the people and Mr. Jesudas also helped. The Missions Committee conducted prayers in a Myanmarese house located at the 12th mile. A health clinic was organised for women with many non-believers benefitting from the free Pap smear tests. The youths showed some changes after a long break. The parents played a vital role in encouraging them. Some members could not be active in church because they were working in Singapore. The change of worship time from 10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. was well accepted by the congregation. Lyrics and revival songs from Yezhuputal Geethangal were taught.

In **2015**, the church continued to struggle with finance. The internal squabbles affected their finances. They were supported by TMC Raub with a monthly contribution of RM500 from July 2015. The youths met at 9 p.m. as they were only available at that time. In **2016**, they managed to repair the roof damaged by strong wind. In **2017**, the church attended the combined health and crime in the Indian community programmes at TMC Raub. The Church School had 7 children with 2 teachers. The MYF had 7 members and they had monthly programmes. They built a fellowship porch at the side of the church and the members contributed towards the expenses. In **2018**, the Full Membership was 36.

In **2019**, **Rev. V. Vijaiadas** is the pastor. The Full Membership is 28. The drop in membership is due to transfer of members from Cheroh to Raub in December 2018. There are 3 members in the MYF and 8 in the MW. There is no MYAF or MSF. There are 7 children and 2 teachers in the Church School. There are no Outreaches or Cell Group ministries. The church has stopped receiving the monthly subsidy of RM 500 from TMC Raub since the end of 2018. The pastor reported that though the church is small in membership, they have participated in all the District and Conference programmes.

Conclusion: TMC Cheroh is at the threshold of turning 30 years old. The constant draw of her members to bigger cities for jobs and education has caused a decline in membership, decrease in finance and a lack of leadership. But the faithful few have pressed on to build from their very limited resources. They are blessed to have the Conference Chairman of the Board on Evangelism as their pastor. With his guidance and the help of the Holy Spirit, TMC Cheroh can hope for greater times ahead.

Sources:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1990 – 1992 (Nov.)	Rev. A.P. Daniel
1992 Dec. – 1994	Rev. C. Paul Arputharaj
1995 – 1996	Rev. Barnabas Baskaran
1997	
1998	Rev. Peter Devadason
1999 – 2000	Rev. Rev. Elanko Kannan
2001 – 2003	Rev. Moses Jeyaseelan
2004	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2005 – 2008	Rev. Samuel Periathamby
2009 – 2010	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2011	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2012	Rev. Joy Pandian
2013 – 2018	Rev. Doraiseelan John
2019	Rev. V. Vijaiadas

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1991 - 1993	Mr. N. D. Joseph	Mr. M. Joseph
1994	Mr. Subramaniam	Mr. Thevasagayam
1995 - 1998	Mr. N. D. Joseph	Mr. Subramaniam
1999	Mr. N. D. Joseph	Rev. Elanko Kannan
2000 - 2005	Mr. Subramaniam	Mr. Jesudas
2006 - 2013	Mr. Sitharaman	Mr. Jesudas
2014	Mr. Subramaniam	Mr. Jesudas
2015 - 2019	Mr. Sitharaman	Mr. Jesudas

RAWANG

The Beginnings

The Rawang Outreach Work of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur began in 1981 in the home of Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Thanaraj and Gunaseely. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ananthan were Coordinators of this ministry. It became a Local Conference on **1 November 1992** with a Full Membership of 49.

The Early History

In **1993** **Rev. David Paul Raj** was appointed as the first pastor of this church. Since he was also the pastor of Bukit Rotan, he came on alternate Sundays and Mr. David Rasahpandy, the ministerial student, helped conduct the services on the other alternate Sundays. The Full Membership was 45. The worship services were held at 9.30 a.m. every Sunday. Regular Bible study and prayer cell gatherings were conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Batu Arang and Kuang were their two outreach points. The lay members were involved in this work. A fresh application was made for a piece of land for the church land and they waited for the State Exco for approval. They had RM57, 000 in their Building Fund with AEC.

In **1994**, **Rev. Roberts Pandian**, the pastor of Petaling Jaya, was the pastor-in-charge. Mr. James Ravindaren, the STM Student assisted Rev Pandian. The Full Membership was 46. The Sunday Worship service was now at 10:30 am. The members were active and met every Sunday after service. The WSCS had 18 members. The Church School met on Sundays at 8.30 a.m. and there were about 30-40 children and 5 teachers. The church was at the final stage of getting a plot of land in Rawang (0.7 acres). RM 81, 000 was raised. The cost for a sanctuary which could seat 300 people was estimated at RM150, 000. The church also expressed the need for a full time or supply pastor.

Moving From the Housing Estate

From **1995 to 1996**, **Rev. A. E. Joseph** was the pastor. In **1995**, the Full Membership was 46. The church saw the urgent need for a separate place for worship and activities as the present place was in a housing estate which was very inconvenient. In **1996**, STM Student Mr. Dennis Raj helped. The Full Membership was 64. One reason for the almost zero growth was the absence of a resident pastor in Rawang. Worship services was at 8.30 a.m. with Holy Communion on Second Sundays. There were two Church Schools, one held in the local church (4 classes in Rawang with 4 teachers) and the other in Batu Arang (2 classes with two teachers).

From **1997 to 1999**, the Approved Supply Pastor, Pastor R. Yesudason was the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 76. The church embarked on a programme to purchase the present bungalow used for worship and other ministries of the church for RM250,000. In **1998**, the Full Membership was 77. The Outreach in Batu Arang had a Church School which was attended by mostly non-Christians and Catholic children.

About 32 children attended the Church School. Bible studies and Cottage Prayer Meetings were also conducted. The purchase of the present property was at its final stage where the Sales and Purchase Agreement would be transacted.

In **1999**, the Full Membership was 78. The Ulu Yam Baru worship service was started and they met on every fourth Tuesday. There were 2 Church Schools on Sundays, one held in the local church at 10.45 a.m. and the other in Batu Arang at 4.30 p.m. There are six teachers and about 70 children. Finally, the church bought the property where they were worshipping. The church tried hard with its limited resources to cope with paying the loans for its building project.

Three Outreach Ministries

From **2000 to 2001**, **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the pastor. In **2000**, the Full Membership was 77. The main reason for the drop in membership was that several members were removed by the action of the Local Conference. Mrs. Rhoda Peter was elected as the coordinator for the MYAF at the Second Local Conference. The worship place was painted. There were three outreach ministries – Batu Arang, Bukit Beruntung and Batang Kali. The bungalow which was used as a place of worship was too far inside the housing estate for easy access for members. Members who came by bus needed to walk a long distance and the church was not visible for the general public. No signboards could be placed to indicate that a Tamil Methodist Church was in existence in Rawang.

In **2001**, the Full Membership was 77. Two families were added after June and a few others were waiting to be baptised. Evangelism work was done in Bukit Beruntung and Cottage Prayer Meetings and Bible studies were conducted once a month. Through the Missions Committee, two members went on a Mission Trip to the Sengoi Community in Kampar. They joined the Perak district group. Regular assistance was given to an elderly couple to purchase provisions amounting to RM30 a month. A special offering was taken on the 5th Sundays for the Building project. The church paid RM15, 000 to the AEC. The church also purchased an electronic organ. The Batang Kali outreach ministry was unexpectedly stopped because the contact family had moved out without informing the church.

The main concern of the church was to pay the pastoral remuneration and the TAC cum AEC loans. The LCEC was sensitive to this and considered various ways to make prompt payments and it was a struggle. They received subsidies from three sources namely, TAC, the Sentul and Kuala Lumpur Tamil Methodist Churches. The church was slowly beginning to get financially stable as the giving from members improved. It was hoped that this would be sustained. Mostly consisting of young adults, the church could flourish if they knew their responsibilities and supported the church by their presence and financial support. Though a small church, they could become a strong one over time.

It was a joy to see some members from other Methodist churches moving to Rawang and Bukit Beruntung. If they could at least be affiliate members for the moment, the Lord's work in Rawang could grow without much strain. Emotional attachment to their churches of origin, kept the newcomers from taking local membership. It was hoped that this would change.

From **1 January to 15 July 2002, Rev. Hendry Ponniah** was the pastor. From **17 July 2002, Rev. Dennis Raj** was the pastor. STM student Mr. Edward Devadason helped Rev. Dennis Raj. The Full Membership was 85 with 12 members transferred in and 4 members transferred out. The roof and porch was repaired for RM 650. The water tank was replaced for RM 240. The church bought a second van for RM9, 500 disposing the old for RM 4,000. A fund raising dinner was organised on 15 June 2002 and they raised about RM 9, 000. Five more choir robes were tailored for RM160. The Christian Education Committee started a small church library. In addition to the Batu Arang ministry, the church started a new outreach in Bukit Beruntung on 12 June 2002 which was launched by Rev. James Solamadan, the Central District Superintendent. The church needed a new and bigger sanctuary to accommodate its congregation. Some newcomers did not choose to stay because of the present place. Rev. Dennis Raj brought new excitement to the ministry and Mr. Edward Devadason continued in the same spirit. The main concern of the church was to pay off the building loan.

In **2003 and 2004, Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the pastor- in- charge with Mr. Edward Devadason as the weekend ministerial student. In **2003**, the Full Membership was 75. The Sunday worship service was at 8 a.m. About 60 people attended and the space in the sanctuary was not sufficient for the congregation. The Church School was conducted in 3 places: Rawang (30 children and 4 teachers), Batu Arang (25 children and 3 teachers) and Bukit Beruntung (7 children and 1 teacher). Among other lessons, the children were taught how to tithe. The church ministry was hindered by their need to repay the building loan. The present place of worship, being in a house, did not attract people. Also, the church desired to have a pastor of their own, but their finances with the loan repayment did not allow for this.

Old Building Sold, New Building Purchased

In **2004**, Mr. Isaac Nathan was the weekend ministerial student. The Full Membership was 82. The old church premise was sold for RM355,000 and a new building was purchased for RM245, 000. The church settled the AEC loan completely and hoped to settle the outstanding TAC loan of RM21, 000 by the middle of the following year. The new worship place in a shop house was sufficient and very comfortable and it was dedicated by the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji on 4 September 2004. The church thanked Mr. Paul Devadason, the Conference Property Chairperson, for his counsel and help. The church reached out to their outreaches in Batu Arang and Bukit Beruntung through the children's ministry, prayer meetings, tuition classes, sewing classes etc. Mission work was done among the Nepali and Bangladeshi migrant workers in Bukit Beruntung.

Relationship Struggles Affects Church Growth

From **2005 to 2008**, **Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the pastor-in-charge. In **2005**, the Full Membership was 88. For the first time, the church had a pastor of its own. The church's finances improved and the loan repayments went on smoothly. The membership had grown and as of **September 2005**, they had 115 Full Members. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 110. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held on Thursdays at 8 pm. in the members' homes. About 30-40 members attended. The church experienced strained relationships which caused the church to go through much tension. More could have been achieved if there was unity in the church. In **2007**, the Full Membership dropped to 100. One youth attended the Oral History Program conducted in Sitiawan. Strained relationships caused some members to leave the church. Those who remained were united and focused in their work on the ministries of the church. Rev. Timothy Krishnan worked hard and gave his best to the ministry and his family rallied around him.

In **2008**, Mrs. Sarah Abraham became **TMC Rawang's first Church Worker** and was placed in Bukit Beruntung. The Full Membership was 107. The local church requested the Annual Conference to visit and give advice on the encumbrances that the vacant land had. The church planned to buy a parsonage and a van. From **2009 to 2010**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the pastor-in-charge and he was assisted by Pastor E. Kunabalan. Mrs. Sarah Abraham continued as Church Worker. The Full Membership grew to 113. Pastor Kunabalan, a young pastor, was musically talented and a good worship leader. There was concern over the vacant land that belonged to the church which was lying idle. Mr. Nelson Nadarajan came forward for fulltime ministry. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 114.

From **2011 to 2013**, **Rev. E. Kunabalan** was the pastor-in-charge. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 109. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 123. The DS reminded the local church that they were located in a strategic area where there are many Indians and they needed to reach out to these people. In **2013**, the Full Membership was 134. Lighthouse prayer meetings were held in Bukit Beruntung.

From **2014 – 2016**, **Rev. P. Sandireaseheran** was the pastor-in-charge and Mrs. Sarah Abraham continued as Church Worker. The Full Membership as at October **2014** was 105. Rev. Sandireaseheran was also the pastor of TMC Bahau. In **2015**, the Full Membership was 105. This year, he was also the pastor of TMC Mentakab. The Rawang church's efforts to buy their own parsonage did not materialise as they were unable to raise the needed funds. It was noted that less than 7% of the church's income was utilized for ministry. Most of it was spent on salaries, rental and utilities.

In **2016**, the pastor was able to give undivided pastoral care to the church. The Full Membership was 112. The church appointed a coordinator for the MSF. Majority of the church members were from the lower income group. However, they were sacrificial in their giving.

Mr. Jack Kennedy, a member of the local church, committed himself to be a full time Church Worker.

In **2017**, **Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the pastor- in-charge till August that year **Rev. David Abraham** took charge from September 2017 onwards. Mrs. Sarah Abraham continued as the Church Worker. The Full Membership was 113. The church raised RM 300 for the Conference's Social Concern project and donated RM 250 for the souvenir programme of the fund raising dinner. The church finances were stable and the giving was consistent. Yet, a significant number of members did not tithe. After having a fulltime pastor of their own, TMC Rawang had to share their pastor with TMC Selayang. The church organised Easter carolling. On 7 October, the church celebrated their 25th anniversary. There was a thanksgiving service followed by dinner. From **2018 onwards**, **Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph** was the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership in 2018 was 113.

In **2019**, Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph is still the pastor. Mr. Jacob Rao is the Lay Leader and Mr. Paul Moorthy is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 125. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (22), MYAF (24) and MW (31). They do not have an organized MSF. There are a total of 49 children (including those from the Outreach Points) and 9 teachers. The Bukit Beruntung Outreach Ministry has a Church Worker stationed at Bukit Beruntung. They have weekly worship service on Sundays, weekly Cell Group Ministry on Wednesdays and weekly Bible study and Prayer on Thursdays. There is a slight growth in attendance in all ministries. The Batu Arang Outreach is basically a children's ministry handled by the locals. They are looking into the possibility of developing this ministry. A study is being conducted on the prospect of dividing the whole parish into Cell Groups for 2020.

Conclusion: The Tamil Methodist ministry in Rawang began in the home of Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Thanaraj and Gunaseely, with the gathering of a small group of believers. This group grew over the years as the Outreach of TMC KL. When it was eventually formed as a Local Conference in 1992, there were 49 Full Members. They have journeyed as a local church for the past 27 years, faced many challenges and today have a Full Membership of 125. The church has plans to structure its membership into Cell Groups. They have good numbers in their Agencies and this is an indication that the church is active. With the Lord as their helper, they can grow and bring glory to God.

Sources

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1993	Rev. David Paul Raj
1994	Rev. Roberts Pandian
1995 – 1996	Rev. A.E. Joseph
1997 – 1999	Pastor Yesudason
2000 – 2001	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2002	Rev. Hendry Ponniah (Jan. to July)
2002	Rev. Dennis Raj (from mid-July)
2003 – 2004	Rev. Jonathan Jesudass
2005 – 2008	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2009 – 2010	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2011 – 2013	Rev. E. Kunabalan
2014 – 2016	Rev. Sandireseheran
2017	Rev. Timothy Krishnan (till August)
2017	Rev. David Abraham (from Sept.)
2018 onwards	Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1984 - 1997	N/A	Mr. Peter Naina
1998 - 1999	Mr. Michael Maniraj	Mr. Peter Naina
2000 - 2001	Mr. James Samypillai	Mr. Peter Naina
2002	Mr. Peter Naina	Mr. Peter Naina
2003 - 2005	Mr. Peter Karu	Mr. Peter Naina
2006	Mr. Peter Naina	Mr. Peter Naina
2007 - 2008	Mr. Paul Moorthy	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2009 - 2011	Mr. Paul Moorthy	Mr. Paul Moorthy
2012	Mr. Mattew Chandrasegaran	Rev. Kunabalan
2013	Mr. Jacob Rao	Rev. Kunabalan
2014 - 2016	Mr. Jacob Rao	Rev. Sandireseheran
2017	Mr. Jacob Rao	Rev. David Abraham
2018	Mr. Jacob Rao	Mr. Paul Moorthy
2019	Mr. Amuthan	Mr. Paul Moorthy

ULU KLANG

The Beginnings of the Methodist Community Center Ulu Klang

The Methodist Community Centre in Ulu Klang came as a result of the effort of Dr. Harry Haines, a missionary of the Methodist Church residing in Kuala Lumpur. He advised Miss Helen Lumis of the Women's Division of Christian Service of the possibility of obtaining land for a community service project at the New Village in Ulu Klang. An application for a piece of land in Ulu Klang was approved by the District Office of Kuala Lumpur on 25 July **1956**. The land, approximately 1.7 acres was given on a lease for 30 years. A second piece of land, approximately of one acre, was approved for the use of the Women's Division of Christian Service on April **1959**. A two storey building was built, which included a hall, two class rooms for the kindergarten and nursery classes and a worker's residence. It was dedicated and officially opened on 23 October 1957.

The Beginnings of TMC Ulu Klang

The Tamil Methodist Church Ulu Klang was birthed in and has her history tied together with the Methodist Community Centre in Ulu Klang. The Community Centre had various programs and activities to meet the needs of the Ulu Klang community. There was a kindergarten and a medical clinic. In the **1960's** Mr. Wilson David and his wife Mrs. Charlotte David conducted Church School for the Tamil children. Several were touched by this and eventually took membership in the church. The Ulu Klang Centre, located at 35 Jalan Embun, became an Outreach Point of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur. In **1969** worship services were started by **Rev. Dr. Thangaraj** but were discontinued for a while after his time as the pastor.

Discontinued Ministry Revived

In **1975** worship services were revived by **Rev. Francis Sunderaraj** and continued by **Rev. John Kovilpillai** from 1976. In 1982 **Rev. Victor Vethamani**, the Assistant Pastor of Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur, was stationed at the Centre, where his wife Mrs. Saras Victor was appointed Supervisor of the Community Centre. Rev. Victor, since staying at the Center, was able to oversee closely the spiritual programs of this Outreach Point. In 1986, when he was transferred to Kluang and Johore Baru, he and his wife left the Center.

The Fusion of Spiritual and Social Work

The Outreach work continued under the supervision of the mother church. The work among the youths and the women were consolidated. Several programs such as fasting and prayer, revival meetings, bible study, youth programs, Christmas programs and home fellowship were conducted. Lay members from the mother church were involved in the early years of ministry. Dr. Saro Pakianathan and Dr. Gnanam Thuraiappah helped in the clinic on weekday evenings. Among those who faithfully taught in the Church School were Mrs. Ambi Sandosam and Mrs. Rani Manoharan.

The Introduction of Outreach Coordinators

In **1986**, the work was further consolidated as lay members from the mother church such as Mr. and Mrs. Muthu Thaver, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ngo helped coordinate the ministry. Mr. and Mrs. John Ponnambalam were the youth counselors while Mrs. Helen Samuel helped with the music and choir. Mrs. Rosalind Rajahser coordinated the women's prayer ministry. **Rev. Peter Jebasekaran**, the pastor at the mother church, gave leadership for the various ministries.

From Lay Coordinators to The Charge of Assistant Pastor

From the **middle of 1992 to 1994** there were no lay coordinators. The total responsibility of the worship service and all other ministries of the Ulu Klang Outreach were well led by the Assistant Pastor of TMC Kuala Lumpur, **Rev. Emanuel Rajahser**. Members of the Methodist Churches who were scattered around Ulu Klang, Wangsa Maju, Melawati, Ampang, Cheras and the outskirts were encouraged to worship at the Ulu Klang Centre. There was a marked increase in attendance during the worship services. By **mid-1994** there were about 60 regular members attending the worship services and church programs.

Formation of the Local Conference

The Ulu Klang Outreach of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur was finally **constituted as a Local Conference on 11 December 1994** with **Rev. David Tharmakan** appointed as the first Pastor. The Full Membership at the time of formation was 52. There were two worship services every Sunday, Tamil in the morning and English in the afternoon. Rev. Tharmakan served till **1995**. **Rev. Joseph Komar** became the Pastor in **1996**. In March **1997** **Rev. Emanuel Rajahser** was posted as the Pastor.

Move to Dataran De Palma Ampang Signed

The Church felt the strain of being a paying tenant at the Methodist Centre and thus in May 1997, the Church launched a Fund for a new Church Building. In February 1999, the building at Dataran De Palma in Ampang was identified. On **10 March 1999** a Letter of Intent was signed between the Church and the Vendor of the property. The Sale and Purchase Agreement was signed on **19 April 1999**. On **11 July 1999** the church was shocked at the sudden demise of their pastor Rev. Emanuel Rajahser. **Rev. Victor Vethamani** was then appointed as the Pastor. He served till the end of 1999. On **12 December 1999** the church moved to its new location at Dataran De Palma in Ampang. The Full Membership was 88.

Rev. Joseph Yesupatham was appointed the next Pastor effective January **2000**. He served till **2003**. The Full Membership in **2000** was 99. The building at Dataran De Palma in Ampang was officially opened and dedicated to the glory of God on **10 December 2000** by the Bishop of the Methodist Church Malaysia, Bishop Datuk Dr. Peter Chio Sing Ching. Mrs. Juliet Ambigapathy Sandosam (Mrs. Ambi), a longtime faithful member of the church passed away on 29 December 2003.

Limitations at De Palma

Except for the Sunday Worship Services, other activities such as bible study, prayer meetings, choir practices, MYF activities could not be carried out freely due to restrictions and parking fees imposed by the De Palma Management Services. This building was located at a commercial center and this generally posed a problem to the members.

The Return to the Ulu Klang Methodist Center

The Tamil Annual Conference came forward to offer the local church the premises of the Methodist Community Centre Ulu Klang to be used for the total ministry of the church. The Tamil Annual Conference also required the church to pay a monthly rental of RM500. The local church was also required to manage the Kindergarten and the Hostel.

This offer was very timely. Apart from other constraints, the Church was beginning to feel the strain of settling the repayment of the building loan which stood at RM500,200. The other factor that prompted the members to move from Dataran De Palma was also to expand their social work and evangelism ministry within the surrounding community in the Kuala Ampang area. The members were briefed and consulted about the idea of moving back to the Methodist Centre and the majority were in favour.

In 2004 Rev. James Solamadan was the Pastor in charge with Rev. Elijah Bala as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 102. Through negotiations among the TAC, JCWW and TMC Ulu Klang, the church moved back to the Methodist Center. In **May 2004**, the shifting from Dataran De Palma to the Methodist Centre was carried out. The whole Center was then managed by TMC Ulu Klang for a monthly rental of RM 500 effective 1 June 2004. The pastor also moved into the center. The Conference advanced RM 20,000 to help in the initial expenses towards repair and renovations.

The first worship service at the Methodist Centre, Ulu Klang was held on **4 June 2004**. From **2005 to 2007**, **Rev. Elijah Bala** was the Pastor. In **2006** the Ground Floor at the De Palma Building was sold at RM450, 000. In **2007** the Mezzanine floor at the De Palma was sold at RM350,000. With this the Church managed to settle all outstanding loans.

A Note on the Stepping Stone Home

On **8 November 1998**, Mr. Johnson Rajahser, a member of the Ulu Klang Church, was moved to initiate a Centre that could care for, give advice and referral services for the needy children. Hence, the Stepping Stone Home was accepted as the social ministry of the Tamil Methodist Church, Ulu Klang. This home is located at Taman Seputeh off Old Klang Road, Kuala Lumpur. The church played a very significant role in guiding and shaping the Stepping Stone Home until it became a self-governing body under the Founder and Director Pastor Johnson Rajahser in **2007**.

The Church Marches on With Greater Responsibilities

A Management Committee was formed to oversee the running of the kindergarten, the hostel, workers and the parsonage. After moving to the Methodist Centre, once again the church grew with such activities as prayer meetings, bible study, choir practices, and MW, MYF and MYAF programs.

From 2008 till 2012 Rev. Samy Dass was the Pastor. In **2008** the Full Membership was 110. On **24 February 2008**, the members of TMC, Ulu Klang received another piece of shattering news that Rev. Elijah Bala had passed away. **From 2013 to 2016 Rev. Devarakam John** became the next Pastor. In **2013** the Full Membership was 97 and in **2014** it was 120. On 30 January 2014, Mrs. Devikarani Manoharan (Mrs. Rani Mano) a longtime faithful member of the church passed away. A “Barnabas Fund” was started to meet emergencies of needy families. A “School of Prophets” was started in June to train the members in the ministry. The DS reported, “Their biggest concern is that there will be a permanent settlement to the land issue at the Center.” In **2015** a Family Enrichment Seminar was conducted by Rev. Dr. Vincent Vasudevan and his wife. JCWW had requested the church to submit their requirements for the renovated building. In **2016** the JCWW informed the church of their plans to renovate both the parsonage and the three storey block.

Training and Equipping the Members

Rev. Dr. Joseph Komar took charge from January **2017**. In **2017** the Full Membership was 115. An Evangelism training was held in February **2018** with Pastor Selvaraj from India. A three-day renewal program was organized with Rev. David Rasahpandy. This was to get members involved in the ministry. Mr. Edward Maniam, a member and a worker of the local church, visited homes of new seekers to share Christ. There was a Church Family Camp organized at the Cheefoo Methodist Centre in Cameron Highlands and about 100 members participated. The Full Membership in **2018** remained at 115.

In **2019, Rev. Dr Joseph Komar** is the pastor. The Full Membership is 116. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (24), MYAF (26) and MW (33). There is no MSF. There are 31 children and 9 teachers in the Church School. There are three areas where Small Group Ministry takes place and each group has a name: (a) Imanuel – Ampang and Ulu Klang; (b) Messiah – Gombak, Selayang and Jalan Kuching and (c) Almighty – PJ, Cheras and San Peng. The church is also involved in a social ministry in a squatter area in Kg. Pandan on Saturdays.

On 17 October 2019, an MOU was signed with the GCMW that TMC Ulu Klang can stay at the Ulu Klang Methodist Center for another twenty years, with a love gift of RM 2000 per month for its usage

Conclusion

The Tamil Methodist Church Ulu Klang was the Outreach of TMC Kuala Lumpur. They grew out of the Ulu Klang Community Center. **On 11 December this year the church will be 25 years old.** The Lord, through His abundant grace, has led TMC Ulu Klang these past 25 years in a marvellous way. Now the surroundings of the church has changed with notably the busy highway. The church is challenged to see new ways of making its ministry relevant to the present community where she is located.

PASTORAL ROLL

1994 Dec. – 1995)	Rev. David Tharmakan
1996	Rev. Joseph Komar
1997 (March) – 11 July 1999	Rev. Emanuel Rajahser
1999 (July – December)	Rev. Victor Vethamani
2000 – 2003	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2004	Rev. James Solamadan
2005 - 2007	Rev. Elijah Bala
2008 – 2012	Rev. Samy Dass
2013 – 2016	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2017 onwards	Rev. Dr Joseph Komar

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1995	Mr. Edward Soloman	Mr. Devadason Rajamoney
1996	Mr. Devadason Rajamoney	Mr. Eric C. Manual
1997	Mr. Paul Pakianathan	Mr. Devadason Rajamoney
1998	Mr. Paul Pakianathan	Mr. Sunthar Raj
1999	Mr. Selvaraj	Mr. Sunthar Raj
2000	Mr. Paul Pakianathan	Mr. Sunthar Raj
2001 - 2002	Mr. Sugumaran	Mr. Sunthar Raj
2003 - 2005	Mr. Gavin Gandhi	Mr. Rannet Prabakaran Mano
2006 - 2008	Mr. Sugumaran	Mr. Rannet Prabakaran Mano
2009 - 2010	Mr. Gavin Gandhi	Mr. Joshua Danaraj
2011 - 2019	Mr. Gavin Gandhi	Mr. Rannet Prabakaran Mano



TMC Ulu Klang church activity



SERDANG

The Beginnings

TMC Serdang began as an Outreach of TMC Kuala Lumpur. It was initially known as Sungei Besi/Serdang. This ministry was started in 1987 when Rev. John Kovilpillai was the pastor. The coordinators included Mr. and Mrs. G.M.M. Mutu, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ananthan and Mr. and Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai. They became a Local Conference on 7 January 1995.

The Early Years

In **1995**, **Rev. P. Tevaraji** was the pastor-in-charge and Rev. M. Thanaraj the Associate Pastor of TMC Kuala Lumpur. They were also appointed the Pastor-in-charge and Associate Pastor of this newly formed TMC Serdang. The seminary student Mr. James Ravindaren was assigned to assist during the weekends. Worship service was in the evening with plans to shift to the morning. For the first year, the Kuala Lumpur Church supported them by paying the rent for the premise for worship.

Reaching out to the University Students

In **1996**, Rev. P. Tevaraji as well as Rev. M. Thana Raj continued as pastors and Supply Pastor Segaran helped to give pastoral leadership. Worship services were held on Sundays at 9 a.m. The average attendance was about 70-100 people. The Full Membership in 1995 was 63 and rose to 70 in 1996. The 10% increase was primarily due to transfers from other churches. Since the Supply Pastor Segaran was in training on weekdays, no concerted effort was made to evangelize. However, the Committee on Evangelism reached out to the students in the nearby UPM. A few of the university students started to attend the church. The Church School met on Sundays at 8 a.m. There were eight teachers. A successful VBS was conducted for the children by Mr. Selwyn and his wife Alice.

Reaching the Children through Church School

Through the efforts of the Church School Superintendent Mrs. Hannah Jacob, children from non-Christian families in the Rumah Panjang Balakong area attended the VBS. One of the Hindu students even received the best student award. There were 22 MYF members. The church embarked on a project to raise funds to purchase a van for the ongoing ministries of the church. A Fund Raising Dinner event was held in UPM.

In **1997**, **Rev. Segaran** was the Pastor. The Full Membership dropped to 59. This was due to the following reasons: withdrawals – 6, transferred out – 3, and removed by Local Conference action was -2. The Church School comprising about 40 children was served by 5 teachers. A training session was held for teachers. New books were bought for the children. They met on Saturdays at 4 p.m. The church bought a new 15-seater van for the ongoing ministries of the church. The van was used to fetch the children for the Church School ministry and members for the Sunday worship service. Members took turns and drove the van with dedication and commitment.

Serious Financial Challenge

In **1998**, the Pastor-in-charge was **Rev. Emanuel Rajahser** who was serving with Supply Pastor Segaran. The attendance at the Sunday worship was not very encouraging. The Full Membership further dropped to 52. There were 5 withdrawals and 2 transfers. In **1999**, the Pastor-in-charge was **Rev. James Solamadan**. He was assisted by ministerial student, Mr. Jonathan Jesusdas. Worship services were on Sundays, at 10 a.m. The Full Membership further dropped to 49. The Church School met on Sundays at 8.30a.m. There were 26 Students and 6 teachers. There were 9 members in the MYF. The Church faced serious financial crisis and was grateful to the Conference and TMC Kuala Lumpur for giving a monthly subsidy. This situation arose due to the renting of a shop lot, which incurred the church difficulty in paying the rent. The church needed a resident pastor. There were great opportunities for outreach ministries especially among the university students. Rev. Solamadan tried his best to cope, but the demands were just too much for him, being the pastor of Sentul as well.

Plan for Purchasing a Building

Between **2000 and 2001**, the Pastor-in-charge was **Rev. N. Rajan**. Worship services were held at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Average attendance was 35. In **2000**, the Full Membership was 64. Finance was tight and the church struggled to make ends meet. One of the causes for this was that the church was situated in an expensive locality, but they managed. In an effort to purchase their current building, the Building Committee had a fund raising dinner on 7 October 2000. With the intention of starting an outreach point, worship services were started at Kajang Utama/Bangi. Worship services were conducted three times a month on Sunday evenings and three families from this area attended. The church embarked on the purchase of a building (3 storeys) that cost about RM500, 000. The church considered relocating to the outskirts of Serdang to get a cheaper place. They were unable to service loans. Even paying the rental for the present building was a struggle.

No Church Building or Parsonage

From **2002 to 2003**, **Rev. Joseph Yesupatham**, the pastor of TMC Ulu Klang, was the Pastor-in-charge. From the time of its formation, the church struggled with finance. The church did have RM16,000 in the Building Fund. The ministry continued and there were 20 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. In **2002**, the Full Membership was 58. The worship service was held on Sundays at 8 a.m. with an average attendance of about 50, including children. There was RM32,498.86 in the Building Fund as of 24 April 2002. The church received a monthly subsidy of RM400 from TMC KL and RM500 from the TAC. The Church School met on Saturdays at 6p.m. with 25 children and 3 teachers. The church did not have a resident pastor, a place of worship or their own parsonage. RM1,400 was paid as rental for the place of worship. They were unable to cope with the cost incurred.

From Morning to Evening Worship

In **2003**, the Full Membership was 58. The worship time changed from the morning to evening at 5p.m. This change brought a positive response from the people. About 70 people including the children attended the services. The Church School met on Sundays at 3p.m. There were 25 children with 3 teachers. There were 16 members in the MYF.

A Building for Worship of Their Own

From **January 2004 to September 2006**, **Rev. Dennis Raj**, the pastor of TMC Semenyih, gave Pastoral leadership. In **2004**, the Full Membership was 52. The church did not tap on the resources of the surrounding Tamil people and the university students. In **2005**, the Full Membership was 64 and two new converts were added to the church. Church School had 10 students, 3 teachers and 2 helpers. The church bought a building for the purpose of conducting worship services. It was dedicated by Rev. P. Tevaraji on 9 January 2005. They were prompt in paying for the building. There was a great need to have a pastor of their own but they had a financial constraint. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 76. The Church School ministry had really grown, having 40 children, 7 teachers and 7 helpers. There were 20 members in the MYF. It was noted that the church had a good Lay Preaching Team.

Cost of Frequent Change of Pastors

From **October 2006 to April 2007** **Rev. Elijah Balasubramiam**, the pastor of Ulu Klang, was the Pastor. He was unable to continue due to ill health. From **May to September 2007**, **Rev. Victor Vethamani** was the Pastor and from **October to December** in the same year, **Rev. Dennis Raj**, who returned from his studies, was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 66. The church just maintained its ministries due to the frequent change of pastors. The Lay leader, Mr. Steven Arumugam, did well to keep the ministry going. The giving needed to improve especially in the area of tithing. A youth, Samuel Jacob Manokaran came forward for fulltime pastoral ministry.

Increase in Membership and Finance

From **2008 to 2011**, **Rev. Samy Dass**, the pastor of Ulu Klang, was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2008**, the Full Membership increased from 5 to 72 in September. There was also an increase of 40% and 11% in tithes and offering respectively. In **2009**, the worship service was changed from 5p.m. to 10a.m. on Sundays. The Full Membership grew to 93. There was also an increase in the tithes as well as the offering. They also had RM7,000 in the fixed deposit. The change in the worship service time brought better attendance and the finances improved. The Church School was re-organized and progressed well. The seminary student John Sunder was vibrant and passionate and he was a great blessing. With the support of Rev. Samy Dass, the church progressed. The church sent another individual, Mr. Steven Arumugam, for the pastoral ministry. He was assigned to TMC Mentakab.

Medical Camp Helping the Poor

In **2010**, the Full Membership was 90. The church finance improved and the fixed deposit amount increased to RM 12,950.32. The highlight for the year was the local church Social Concerns' Committee programme held on 31 August. The TAC Social Concern Task Force, with the Conference President, Mrs. Jasmine Adaikalam and Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria as Consultants were present. There was a Medical Camp with doctors in attendance. About 100 non-Christians attended. People were registered under the E-Kasih programme and hand-outs were given to about 70 poor people. In **2011**, the Full Membership was 111. The Church School had 27 Students and 7 teachers.

Adjoining Shop-Lot Purchased

In **2012**, **Rev. Edwin Rajamoney**, the Associate Pastor of TMC Kuala Lumpur, was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 112. The finances continued to improve and they **purchased the adjoining shop-lot for RM190,000**. The Annual Conference gave RM25,000 as a grant and RM25,000 as a loan.

Church Administration Re-Organised

From **2013 to 2014**, **Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was appointed the Pastor in charge. In **2013**, the full membership was 97. The Church School had 30 students and 4 teachers. Pastor P. P. Abraham, who was assigned as Part-time Lay Pastor, re-organised the church administration and guided the LCEC to function effectively. He facilitated good financial practices. 11 adults were baptized through the Sg. Besi cell group. The Sg. Besi Cell group was converted into an Outreach with 7 new families. They met on Mondays (about 25-30 people). This was an exciting development. Of the RM150,000 taken from the Conference as an emergency loan, they paid back RM67,000. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 96. The Church School had 30 students and 4 teachers. Special meetings were held on Mondays with invited speakers. Many new believers came to hear God's word. Regular monthly support was given for one family and needy families were supported with cash when the need arose.

From **2015 to 2017**, **Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)**, was the Pastor-in-charge. Rev. Devarakam was also pastor of TMC Ulu Klang from 2013 – 2016. He was Associate Pastor in TMC KL in 2017. In **2015**, the Full Membership was 86 as at June. The Church School had 20 Students and 5 teachers. MYF had 15 members. The church started Children's Ministry at Equine Park. New families were visited and the Word of God was shared in those homes. 10 non-Christian children attended the Church School. The church resolved to change its name from TMC SG.BESI/SERDANG to **TMC SERDANG** from 2016. They did this because there was no more ministry carried out in Sg, Besi. Also, the church building was located in Selangor.

Taking in New Identity

From **2016** the church was known as **TMC SERDANG**. The Full Membership was 80 in June. The Church School had 30 students and 6 teachers. Regular home visits were made to the homes of the 25 non-Christian children attending the Church School. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 77 in June. The church continued to face financial constraints. In **2018**, **Rev. Samy Dass** returned as the Pastor. The Full Membership remained at 77. A VBS was conducted and 57 children participated. 57% of the participants were from non-Christian homes. The Church School met on Sundays from 8.00 a.m. to 9.30a.m. There were 37 children, of whom 21 were from non-Christian homes. An area of concern was the inability of the members to commit their time for ministry due to work and family commitments.

In **2019**, **Rev. David Abraham**, a retired minister, has been posted as the resident pastor of this church. As he comes with experience, and without the added responsibility of pastoring another church, TMC Serdang can look forward to consolidating their ministries. The Full Membership is 85. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (18), MSF (30) and MW (32). Currently, there is no MYAF. There are 35 children in the Church School, with 4 teachers. They have 2 Cell Groups but there is no outreach work at the moment.

Conclusion: The Full Membership when formed as a Local Conference in 1995 was 63 and it rose to 112 in 2012. But generally the Full Membership had been rather stagnant. In 2018, it was 77 and in 2019 it stands at 85. The church had financial constraints from the time of its formation. By God's grace, they have bought a van after the formation and two buildings within a span of 9 years for worship purposes, one in 2005 and another in 2012. The church has stopped receiving subsidies from the Annual Conference and TMC KL. The Church School ministry has been stable. The church has sent one youth and one adult for the Pastoral ministry. The church has much to thank God for and there is indeed much more work to do. They have to seriously work towards establishing Outreaches. With continued commitment and perseverance, and with God's favour, TMC Serdang is set to bring greater glory to God.

PASTORAL ROLL

1995 – 1996	Rev. P. Tevaraji
1997	Pastor Segaran
1998	Rev. Emanuel Rajahser
1999	Rev. James Solamadan
2000 – 2001	Rev. N. Rajan
2002 – 2003	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2004 – 2006	Rev. Dennis Raj (<i>till end of Sept.</i>)
2006 Oct. – Apr. 2007	Rev. Elijah
2007	Rev. Victor Vethamani (<i>May to Sept.</i>)
2007	Rev. Dennis Raj (<i>Oct. to Dec.</i>)
2008 - 2011	Rev. Samy Dass
2012	Rev. Edwin Rajamoney
2013 - 2014	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2015 – 2017	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2018	Rev. Samy Dass
2019	Rev. David Abraham

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1995	Mr. Barnabas	Mr. Barnabas
1996	Mr. Steven Arumugam	Mr. Barnabas
1997 - 1998	Mr. Barnabas	Mr. Steven Arumugam
1999	Mr. Steven Arumugam	Mr. Barnabas
2000	Mr. Steven Arumugam	Mr. Jacob Manokaran
2001 - 2004	Mr. Barnabas	Mr. Steven Arumugam
2005	Mr. Jacob Manokaran	Mr. Steven Arumugam
2006	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah	Mr. Steven Arumugam
2007	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah	Mr. Barnabas
2008 - 2009	Mr. Steven Arumugam	Mr. Barnabas
2010	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah	Rev. Samy Dass
2011	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah	Mr. Satgunawaran
2012 - 2017	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah	Mr. Elango Benjamin
2018	Mr. Nhanam	Mr. Elango Benjamin
2019	Mr. Nhanam	Mr. Timothy Yesaiah

BENTONG

The Beginnings

In **1985** TMC Mentakab, being themselves a year old as a local church, reached out to Bentong, which then became their Outreach Point. After nine years of ministry, they recommended Bentong to become a Local Conference in **1994**. **Bentong became a Local Conference on 26 March 1995**. In **1995** **Pastor S. Jayabalan** was appointed the first Pastor. The Full Membership was 51 with an average attendance of 45 for the Sunday morning service. There was a worship service at Lurah Bilut on Mondays at 7 pm. On Wednesdays there was fortnightly worship at 7.30 p.m. in Karak or Tuan Estate.

Initial Developments

Church School in Bentong was after service on Sundays at 10 am. and at 7.30pm on Fridays in the Bentong Estate. The MYF met on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. and the church elders met at the same time as well. The MW met on Saturdays at 6.30 p.m. The Cell-Groups met in homes at 7.30 p.m. on Thursdays. Rev. Daniel Poobalarajah conducted a Two Day Leadership Seminar. Many preachers were invited to speak. A VBS was held for 80 children, of which 50 were Hindus. Each family in the church gave RM10 towards the work of Missions. On Thursdays 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., the pastor was at the church for counselling. The parsonage rental was RM 270 per month. The place of worship, which was upstairs of a shop house, was given free for use. The average income of the church per month was RM1,800. The boom in industry, the numerous factories, the housing schemes, highway to K.L. have helped the town to have a facelift which was useful to the church for more people to come.

In **1996** the Full Membership was 57. The worship service which was held upstairs in a shop house was given without any payment for 3 years. They had to be relocated and so moved to an old unused bungalow in the Council of Education's land, by the kindness of the Wesley Church. There was Fasting and Prayer on Fridays at 7.30 pm, Mondays in Lurah Bilut at 7 pm, Tuesdays in Taman Jaya, Wednesdays in Karak, Thursdays in Desa Damai and Saturdays at Taman Jaya Area Fellowship. The Church School in Bentong had 15 children and Bentong Estate, 17 children. MYF was on Sundays at 4 pm with 15 members. MW, with 16 members, met on Sundays at 4 pm. The church bought a piece of land for RM35, 000 and transferred it to the name of the Trustees on 20 June 1996. They took a loan of RM12, 279.35 with the AEC on interest. At this time key LCEC members moved to other towns for jobs.

From **1997 to 1999** **Rev. N. Rajan** was the Pastor. In **1997** the Full Membership was 63. The church gathered in an old wooden house in the Methodist Education Land on Sundays at 9 am. Bible Study was held on Thursdays. Outreach Points were active in Karak, Bilut and Ladang Bentong. The Church School had 15 children and 3 teachers. They planned to build the Prayer Tower and double-storey church cum parsonage when RM112,000 was deposited with the Trustees to sign the Agreement. In **1998** the Full Membership was 70. Outreach ministries were conducted regularly at Bilut, Bunos Jaya, Bentong Estate and Budu Estate.

The new building was near completion. Majilis Daerah wanted to bring down the Prayer Tower. The architect informed that they were willing to give RM10,000 as compensation. In **1999** the Full Membership was 73

In **2000** **Rev. Peter Devadason** was the Pastor. Pastor Pathmanathan served from January to May 2000 and he resigned. Mr John Simson, a ministerial student, was posted to do his practical work from June to December 2000. Service was conducted in Bilut at 7:30 p.m. The Full Membership was 75. Evangelistic Meetings were held in Karak, Bukit Dinding, Camp Sul and Batu Lapan. The church lacked musical instruments. They rented out the upstairs of the shop house for RM 500.

From **2001 to 2004** **Rev. D.B. Laurence** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 74. The Church building was redone to comply with the plans. The church applied for Certificate of Fitness. The building was to be used as a parsonage. The Van was repaired and maintained. Their request to use the Chinese Methodist Church premises was denied. All programmes were well attended except for the Bible Study. The church needed an OHP and keyboard and they were donated by well-wishers. In **2002** the Full Membership was 93. The church bought a second hand drum set. In **2003** the Full Membership was 110. The church purchased an amplifier set / drum set / bibles etc. Their building was put up for sale with the aim to sell the property at market price and buy a double storey shop house (Board on Property Report). In **2004** the Full Membership was 118. Conflicts in the leadership affected the church growth and resulted in a drop in their finances.

A Note on Kuala Krai Mission/Outreach

In **2004** the Mission Outreach at Kuala Krai with Rev. Yesudason the worker, was brought under the Tamil Methodist Church Bentong. On 11 April 2004, there was a Combined Easter Celebration with the Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker was Rev. D.B. Laurence, the District Superintendent and Pastor of TMC Bentong. About 70 Christian and non-believers both Chinese and Indians attended. In **2005** **Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor-in-charge with Rev. Yesudason as the Approved Supply Pastor. The Full Membership was 110. The old parsonage was put up for sale for a price of RM250,000. From **2006 to 2013**, the Pastor in charge was **Rev. S. Mark Subramanyam**. Rev. R. Yesudason was stationed in Kuala Krai. In **2006** the Full Membership was 107. The church was slowly recovering from the split that took place the previous year. Leaders and members were still struggling with the issue of regular tithing. Rev. Yesudason chose to go independent and leave the Tamil Annual Conference in December 2006.

In **2007** the Full Membership was 99. Outreach: They had 6 families attending the Sunday worship service regularly and moved out from their place of worship in a member's house to the CMC building. The MYAF was reorganised on 14 July and met once a month. They set up a library for the members.

There was a great improvement in tithing. In **2008** the Full Membership was 101. Help was given to a poor family to settle their electricity bills and help shift their household things to the church building in Sg. Marong. The Sungai Marong church building was rented out for RM200. The efforts to sell the property faced real obstacles. In 2007, only 12 members were tithing regularly. But till June 2008, 24 members were tithing regularly. They settled all outstanding debts of RM6,000. Prayer brought some breakthroughs in the Sunday Worship service and finances.

In **2009** the Full Membership was 102. Area fellowships were held in 5 different places on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They used Rev. C. Jayaraj's materials. In **2010** the Full Membership was 107. The church moved to a new building and it was fully furnished. An application to renew the leasehold land was submitted to the Bentong land office. In **2011** the Full Membership was 108. Rev. S. Mark Subramanyam who was also the pastor of TMC Mentakab came once a month to preach, serve Holy Communion and conduct the LCEC meeting. The church launched a new Building Project. They decided to purchase the present church building for RM530,000. The two percent earnest deposit of RM10,600 was made on 7 July 2011 to the vendor. The balance 8% of RM42,400 was to be paid once the Sale and Purchase agreement was signed.

The church raised RM70,000. By the grace of God, they sold the Sg. Marong church parsonage at RM200,000 to lawyer Mrs. Tin Chin Lee. The church applied for a loan from Bentong Maybank under the names of 6 individuals. The loan was approved. The church raised funds by selling the Golden Text Calendar at RM5 per copy.

In **2012** the Full Membership was 107. Fasting and Prayer and extended time of prayer were held every 4th Friday from 7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. In one of the Friday prayer meetings, the whole church was called to repent and reconcile with one another and the members did likewise. The church was thankful to the Conference for approving and advancing a sum of RM200,000 in order to settle the balance payment to the vendor for the purchase of the Double Storey Shop Office in Bentong. The church has refunded the advanced amount of RM200,000 to the Conference. The church was also grateful to the Conference for the grant of RM 50,000.

Migrant Ministry

In **2013** the Full Membership was 113. Migrant ministry was started mainly among the Nepalese at Benus. Ministry at the Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Karak was held every Friday from 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm. Three inmates attended the Bible study regularly. Bro G. Victor Jesudass helped in this ministry. Students Christian Prayer Fellowship met for prayer, singing and devotion on Fridays from 7.20 – 7.40 am at Sekolah Menengah Khai Mun, Bentong. 25 students attended regularly. There was no organised MYAF and many from this age group were in the LCEC.

They led in the Sunday worship, fasting and prayer meetings and cell groups. Seven of them preached and were used in the cell groups and worship service. The MSF was newly formed on 25 August 2013 and functioned well. The church purchased a 2 storey building for RM 530,000 under the names of 3 individuals from the church. The property was charged to Maybank. (Board on Property Report)

From **2014** onwards, **Rev. Ezekiel Raj** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 115. Ministries were started in Karak and Telemong. The ground floor was renovated for RM 60,000. It helped the older members to attend service without climbing the stairs. Pastor's Office and Prayer Rooms were also available. The church thanked the Conference for the grant of RM 5,000. There was still the concern for relationships to be healed. On a positive note, members who kept away have returned and this has helped to build the finances. The pastor did well to build and bring healing. The church completed its renovation and had the Dedication on 7 September 2014. The cost of renovation was RM 80,000

In **2015** the Full Membership increased to 153. The church was also growing financially. Many who returned have been supportive of the church. The building was renovated and Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai gave RM30,000 towards this. The pastor helped the congregation to look beyond their petty issues to greater things. In **2016** the Full Membership was 157. Weekly outreach ministries were conducted in Lurah Bilut, Karak, Telemong and Manjis. There was a need for a full time worker to look after Karak and Manjung, Lurah Bilut and Telemong ministries. In **2017** the Full Membership was 160. They had four coordinators helping the outreach ministries. In **2018** the Full Membership was 169. The church flooring and interior parts were renovated.

In **2019 Rev. Ezekiel Raj** is the Pastor of TMC Bentong for the sixth year. The Lay Leader is Mr. Victor and the pastor Rev. Ezekiel Raj, is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership of the church is 169. They have 8 Cell Groups : (a) Lurah Bilut (Mr. Soloman & Mrs. Mary Nalini), (b) Desa Damai (Mr. Peter James & Mr. Raja), (c) Bentong 1 (Mr. Daniel Thanaraj & Mr. Kesavan), (d) Bentong 2 (Mr. Victor & Mrs. Shanthi Dass), (e) Bentong 3 (Mr. Appu & Mr. Devadass), (f) Karak (Mr. Joel Rajoo & Mr. Raja), (g) Telemong (Mr. Yesudasan & Mrs. Shanthi), (h) Manchis (Mr. Devadass & Mr. Daniel Thanaraj). They have four Outreaches: (a) Lurah Bilut (Mr. Soloman), (b) Karak (Mr. Joel Rajoo), (c) Telemong (Mr. Yesudasan) and (d) Manchis (Mr. Devadass). The membership of the Agencies are as follows: MYF (26), MYAF (30), MSF (28) and MW (22).

Conclusion: TMC Bentong is 24 years old. They are a well-organized church with 8 Cell Groups and 4 Outreaches. They have their own building for worship. Their Full Membership has grown from 51 to 169. Their ministry is both in the Bentong Township as well as the surrounding Estates. Their steady growth in membership shows the effectiveness of the evangelism strategy, which the pastor attributes to the team work in the ministry. With God's grace and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, there is no doubt that TMC Bentong will rise to even greater heights for the people to be blessed and the Lord's Name to be honoured and glorified.

Sources:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1995 – 1996	Pastor S. Jayabalan
1997 – 1999	Rev. N. Rajan
2000	Rev. Peter Devadason
2001 – 2004	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2005	Rev. M. G. Thanaraj
2006 – 2013	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2014 onwards	Rev. Ezekiel Raj

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Years	Lay Leader	Chairperson
1995	Mr Kesavan	Mr Y. James
1996	Mr Devadass	Mr Kesavan
1997	Mr Raymond	Mr Kesavan
1998	Mr Raymond	Mr Kesavan
1999	Mr Raymond	Mr Kesavan
2000	Mr Kesavan	Mr Devadass
2001	Mr Kesavan	Mr Devadass
2002	Mr Kesavan	Rev. D.B Laurence
2003	Mr Raymond	Rev. D.B.Laurence
2004	Mr James Daniel	Rev. D.B.Laurence
2005	Mr James Daniel	Rev.M G Thana Raj
2006	Mr James Daniel	Mr Moses Muniandy
2007	Mr Peter James	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2008	Mr Peter James	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2009	Mr Peter James	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2010	Mr Peter James	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2011	Mr Peter James	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2012	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2013	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2014	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2015	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2016	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2017	Mr Victor Jesudas	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2018	Mr Peter James	Mr Kesavan
2019	Mr Peter James	Mr Kesavan

JELAPANG

The Beginnings

The Tamil Methodist Church Jelapang began as an Outreach of TMC Ipoh. The ministry began in **1982** when **Rev. Jacob David** was the pastor of the Ipoh Church. The follow-up work was carried out by **Rev. A.E. Joseph** from **1983 – 1986**. At this time Area Fellowships and Bible Studies were introduced. Others who ministered in 1986 were Mrs. Vethamani and Mrs. George. The ministry continued under **Rev. Noel Arputharaj** in **1987**. Mr. Louis Martin was appointed Co-ordinator of Jelapang ministry. He conducted Area Fellowship on Tuesdays in Jelapang and the same in Chepor on Wednesdays. There was Sunday worship service at Chepor. Mr. Louis served till December 1988.

The Outreach Ministry Develops

In **1989** **Rev. P. Tevaraji** became the pastor of the Mother Church. It was then that the Jelapang circuit was established as an Outreach. From **August 1989**, Mr. Solomon Thangaiah was appointed the co-ordinator for the Jelapang ministry. There was Tuesday evening worship service in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Maniam. During this time, the need for a building was strongly felt.

Ministerial Students/Church Workers/Supply Pastors

In **1991** Miss A. Gomathi helped in the work of evangelism. The following ministerial students were placed in Jelapang: Mr. Sandireseheran (1991), Mr. Abraham Ponniah (1992). In 1993 and 1994 Pastor Doraiseelan John ministered as Church Worker. From 1994 – 1996, Supply Pastor Ezekiel Raj served.

Rumah Methodist Jelapang

In **1990**, a house at 642, Jalan Tokong, Jelapang, Ipoh was purchased for RM 25,000 and dedicated as Rumah Methodist Jelapang on 1 February 1992. In 1994, Mrs. Shanti Ratnam, a member of the church, was employed as full-time social worker in the Jelapang area by CARE MALAYSIA.

Formation of the Local Conference

On **Sunday 30 June 1996** the Jelapang Outreach was organized as a Local Conference by **Rev. David Tharmakan**, the TAC President. He was assisted by the Perak District Superintendent **Rev. Stanley M. Sadagopan**. About 400 people attended the occasion. **Rev. V. John Kovilpillai**, the Pastor of Ipoh, was appointed the first Pastor of the newly formed Jelapang Church. The first LCEC Chairperson was Mr. Eklund John Samuel and the first Lay Leader was Mr. Krishta David. The weekly worship service was held on Sunday mornings in Jelapang (Holy Communion on 2nd Sundays) and Sunday evenings in Tasek (Holy Communion on 1st Sundays). The combined Full Membership was 118 (members transferred from the Mother Church).

Organizing the Ministries

The Area Fellowships met weekly in 5 different areas: Jelapang Tambahan Baru, Taman Silibin/Taman Rishah, Taman Kelebang Jaya, Taman Bertuah and Taman Mewah. The Jelapang and Tasek prayer groups met separately in their own places on Fridays. Church School was held in the mornings at 8.45 am while the Tasek Church School was held in the afternoons at 3.45 pm. Together they had a total of 65 children attending regularly. The MYF had 30 members - 10 in Jelapang and 20 in Tasek. The Jelapang group met on Sundays at 12.00 noon and the Tasek group met on Saturdays at 7 pm. Like the MYF'ers, the Methodist Women met both in Jelapang and Tasek on different days. A total of 12 ladies attended the weekly meetings. They waited for the approval from the Ipoh City Council for the building of a two-storey church and parsonage in the existing Jelapang church. The local church raised RM39,000 from its members.

Building Project in Progress

From 1997 – 2002, Rev. Ezekiel Raj was the Pastor. In **1997**, the Full Membership was 138. When the building project was in progress, the Jelapang worship was held in a shop-house in Taman Silibin. The Church School in Jelapang and Tasek both had a total of 60 children attending regularly with 8 teachers and 8 helpers. With the approval from the Ipoh City Council, the church started building the sanctuary cum parsonage. The cost was expected to be between RM180,000 and RM200,000. The church had RM120,000. Appeals were made to the TAC churches and friends.

Worship in the New Building

In **1998** the Full Membership was 155. The new church cum parsonage building project was completed. Worship service in Jelapang was at 8.45 am and Chepor at 6 pm on Sundays. About 120-130 people attended the worship services. The Church Schools in Jelapang and Tasek had 80 children. Prayers were held regularly in Chepor on Tuesdays and Jelapang on Wednesdays, both at 7 pm. In **1999** the Full Membership was 158. The church settled all their soft loans from their members for their building and started to settle the loan from the Conference Development Fund. The Church School had 55 children and 16 teachers.

In **2000** the Full Membership was 158. The youths of Chepor and Jelapang faced difficulty to get together due to transport problems. They got together once on the 4th week each month in the Jelapang church after service. In **2001** the Full Membership was 137. Bible studies were conducted on Tuesdays in Chepor and Wednesdays in Jelapang during the Area Fellowships. In **2002** the Full Membership was 148. The church P.A. system was upgraded.

Training for Ministry

From 2003 to 2007, Rev. K. Segaran was the Pastor. In **2003** the Full Membership was 152. The church purchased a keyboard. In **2004** the Full Membership was 143 and in **2005** it was 159. There were no Cell Groups. Evangelist training was held in Tasek and 20 members participated. In **2006** the Full Membership was 168. Chemor was targeted to be an outreach of Tasek. In **2007** the Full Membership was 156. New P.A. system was purchased for Tasek.

Two Youths Come Forward for Fulltime Ministry

From **2008 – 2009**, **Rev. David Rasahpandy** was the Pastor. In **2008** the Full Membership was 167. Mission work was done among the Orang Asli. Tasek appealed for a van. Kantan and Cherry Park ministry was started. In **2009** the Full Membership was 175. Mr. David Thanivel was sent to the TEACH Centre in Thailand for a two month exposure. Mr. David Thanivel and Mr. Edwin Mohan committed for the fulltime ministry.

From **2010 – 2012** **Rev. Padmanathan** was the Pastor. In **2010** the Full Membership was 153. 12 participants won at the District Level Bible rally. The church sought to be relevant to the society through various community projects. On 18 December, in a Christmas Get Together, they adopted a Tamil School in a Health Awareness Campaign. This was done together with the Lembaga Penduduk Dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN) of Perak. In **2011** the Full Membership was 153. The church received RM5,000 financial aid from the State Government. This was used to upgrade the musical instruments and for the purchase of a LCD projector and a laptop. Mr. Rajendran Paul was taken in as a Church Worker to help establish the ministry in the Tasek Outreach. In **2012** the Full Membership was 152. Mr. Louis Martin and Mr. Rajendran Paul were taken as Part-Time Church Workers here.

Talks by Government Agencies

From 2013 – 2017 **Rev. Jeyarajah** became the Pastor in charge, after Rev. Padmanathan left due to ill-health. Rev. Jeyarajah continued as Assistant Pastor at TMC Tamil Settlement. In 2013 the Full Membership was 151. In Chemor, members from the Social Welfare Department were invited to give talks to the church members and others. Members from Perkeso, Yayasan Bina Upaya, Yayasan Perak and Amanah Iktiar were also invited to speak. They have four Cell Groups and all have completed using all the four of Rev. Victor Vethamani's Small Group Bible Study material.

Tasek Outreach Purchase Own Building

In **2014** the Full Membership was 142. The Tasek Outreach members bought their own building with a view of becoming a Local Conference within a few years. In **2015** the Full Membership was 152. Five members went on a short term Missions trip to India. The church sponsored 128 bibles for China through Asia Harvest Missions. The building in Tasek was purchased and renovated without any loans. There was a need for a parsonage for the Jelapang church.

In **2016** the Full Membership was 153 and in 2017 it was 141. Worship services in Jelapang were on Sundays at 9.30 am. The Tasek worship service was on Sundays at 5.30 pm. 9 people participated in the "SU Bible Quiz" which the church organized. The Church frontage extension was done. A new 16 seater van was purchased for the Tasek Outreach. There was a crisis that threatened the unity of the church, but the matter was eventually solved.

Four Youths Committed for Fulltime Ministry

From 2018 Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail has been the Pastor. The Full Membership in **2018** was 147. The church promoted the National Bible Knowledge Quiz and six students participated. Four youths from the church committed themselves for the fulltime ministry during the National MYF camp. After much consideration and deliberation, the Pro Tem Committee in Tasek was dissolved. A small working committee, under the supervision of the Jelapang church, coordinated all the ministries of the church.

In 2019 Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail is the Pastor. The Full Membership is 157. They have two Agencies with membership as follows: MYF (22) and MW (46). They have no MYAF and MSF. There are 43 children and 11 teachers in the Church School. They have two Outreaches, one in Tasek and another in Chemor. They also have three Cell Groups in Jelapang, Tasek and Desa Rishah.

Conclusion: TMC Jelapang is now 23 years old. At the time of formation in 1996, the Full Membership was 118. In 2019, the Full membership is 157. The church is active in various forms of ministry, especially Christian Education, Evangelism, Missions and Social Concerns. The church is blessed to have their own building where worship and ministries are held. The members are spiritually nurtured through the efforts of the Christian Education Committee. The church reaches out to win souls through the Evangelism and Missions Committees. Their Outreach Points are being prepared to become local churches. The church is set for further growth to bring glory to God.

Sources:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1996
1997 – 2002
2003 – 2007
2008 – 2009
2010 – 2012
2013 – 2017
2018 onwards

Rev. V. John Kovilpillai
Rev. Ezekiel Raj
Rev. K. Segaran
Rev. David Rasahpandy
Rev. Padmanathan
Rev. Jeyarajah
Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
Jul 1996 - Jun 2009	Mr. A K David	Mr. Eklund John Samuel
2010	Mr. Eklund John Samuel	Mr. Eklund John Samuel
2011 - 2014	Mr. Eklund John Samuel	Mr. K. Eruthaiaraj
2015 - 2018	Mr. Eklund John Samuel	Mr. Dars Solomon
2019	Mr. Gnana Arokiam	Mr. Dars Solomon



1995-ல் ஜெல்பாங்கில் செல்வன் தர்மேந்திரன் ஞானஸ்ரீநாமம் பெற்றபோது அவரைப் பிடித்திருப்பவர்கள் பெற்றோர்கள் அருகில் மறைந்திரு ஐரன் வி. கோவிப்பிள்ளை, எசேசகியல் ராஜ்



நினைவலைகள்

1989-ல் சிப்போரிஸ், சிறுவர் பள்ளியில் கிறிஸ்மஸ் நிகழ்ச்சி

ஜெப உணர்யம் -- Prayer Ministry



1996-ல் சிப்போர் ஆராதனையில் விசுவாசிகள்

SHAH ALAM

The Beginnings

The Tamil Methodist Church Shah Alam began as an Outreach of the Tamil Methodist Church Petaling Jaya. In **November 1993**, the LCEC of TMC Petaling Jaya gave their full blessing for an Outreach to be started at Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam. With the initiative and perseverance of **Rev. Roberts Pandian**, the pastor of TMC Petaling Jaya, the Outreach was started at Sri Muda, Shah Alam in January 1994 in the home of Reuben and Mary.

Sri Muda Preaching Point

In **1994**, there were several significant happenings. On Sunday 17 April at 4.30pm, the Church School ministry began with 5 children. It was held weekly in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saminathan. On 15 May the Outreach moved to the Chinese Methodist Church, a shop-lot at No 6, Jalan 25/1. On 3 July a Working Committee was formed under the leadership of Rev Roberts Pandian and the Evangelism Chairman of TMC PJ, Mr. Isaiah. The Outreach was named **Sri Muda Preaching Point**. On 16 November, the ministry moved with the Chinese Methodist Church to their new premises. They graciously allowed the Tamil Church to continue their worship services on Sunday evenings.

Shah Alam Chapel

In **1995** there were further developments. On 26 February, the Committee shared a vision of becoming a Local Conference by the year 2000. Subsequently, the name was changed to **Shah Alam Chapel, TMC PJ**. On 16 July, the Church celebrated the first anniversary of being an Outreach. Rev David Tharmakan, the TAC President was the guest of honour and guest speaker. There were 150 people present including the Selangor DS, Selangor District Pastors and the Chinese Methodist Church Pastor, Rev Tan Kim Soon. On 23 December, many members of the Outreach were affected by the great flood of Sri Muda, Shah Alam. By God's grace, there was no loss of lives. Christmas and New Year services were cancelled.

Outreach Ministry Consolidated

In **1996** the Outreach work was further consolidated. On 3 August, for the first time in this Outreach, three adults and six children were baptized. The Full Membership reached 35, with an average attendance of 50-60 people. From 23 – 24 November, the first Church Family Retreat was held in Pangkor Island. In **1997**, the Outreach gained strength in number as another eight adults were baptized on 2 February. On 18 February, a barbecue fellowship gathering was organized by the Membership and Evangelism Committee in the house of the Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Peter Palaya. On 18 September, Mr. Peter Palaya proposed to the LCEC of TMC PJ that Shah Alam be formed into a Local Conference. This was accepted. On 13 November, Rev C. Jayaraj, the Selangor DS made the recommendation at the Annual Conference Session for Shah Alam Outreach to become a Local Conference. The Conference accepted this recommendation.

Formation of a Local Conference

On **15 February 1998**, the **Shah Alam Outreach** of the TMC Petaling Jaya was **formally organized into a Local Conference**. **Rev. Joseph Komar** was appointed the first Pastor. The Full Membership was 45. The Sunday worship service was at 9.30 a.m. with an average attendance of about 50 – 60 people. The Church School had 52 children with 8 teachers. Mr. Simon and his wife Mrs. Susie contributed greatly to the children's ministry. The MYF had 15 members and met weekly. The MW had 17 members and met once a month. The Christian Education Committee produced a Newsletter once in 3 months. A Church Camp was organised at Nube Centre, PD. On 1 May, with a new sense of identity, almost 50% of the church members participated in the Selangor District family Day program in Stadium Jugra, Banting.

In **1999**, **Rev. Moses Jeyaseelan** was the Pastor. Full Membership was 48. The Church School organized a forum for parents and teachers. An Evening Church School was started at the Kemuning area for about 30 children. In October the Church School organized a visit to Pusat Penjagaan Kanak-Kanak Cacat in Klang and was joined by other church members. There were 5 Cell Groups in 5 different areas. In July an evangelistic meeting was held with Rev. D.B. Kulothungan from India as the speaker. Mr. Edward played an active role in the music and worship ministry. The church formed a choir.

In **2000** **Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor and assisted by Mr. Samuel Periathamby, a seminary student. The Full Membership was 57. Bible Study was conducted on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in the homes of the church members. Prayer Cell was held on Fridays at 8 p.m. with an average of 4 people attending. Church School (Kiddy) Cell Group was carried out in 3 areas. Cottage prayer meetings and regular evangelistic and revival meetings were held. On Fridays healing ministry was started. The church made an annual commitment of RM2,000 to the ministry of MMM.

From **2001 – 2007**, **Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor. In **2001** the Full Membership was 67. The Cell Group Ministry was conducted in 2 places and some non-Christians participated. During this period Shah Alam church went through a season of transformation and reconciliation. The DS, Rev. Herbert John, commended the pastor Rev. Vinsant Rayar, who encouraged leaders to attend discipleship classes to further equip themselves for the ministry. In **2002** the Full Membership was 80. The church sponsored Mrs. Seventhi for a short term mission work in India. The church also supported the Palay ministry through a coin box project. Missions week was observed with 33 people participating in the distribution of tracts in the Sri Muda Pasar Malam. The church had a Provisional MYAF.

Fund Raising for Building Project

In **2003** the Full Membership grew to 92 and in **2004** it was 95. About this point of time TMC Klang offered a piece land located in Alam Megah to TMC Shah Alam. TMC Shah Alam accepted the offer and soon after the leaders of TMC Shah Alam proceeded to submit the building plans to Majlis Perbandaran Shah

Alam (MPSA). The church started raising funds for the building too. The amount collected stood at RM209,700. The church needed to raise another RM180,000 to complete the building. The parsonage and the place of worship were both rented. On 30 July, a Fund Raising Dinner was held at the TMC Klang New Hall and it was officiated by the Conference President Rev. P Tevaraji. In **2005** the membership for the first time crossed the 100 mark to 105 Full Members. Through the Social Concerns Committee, the church also helped the Dalla Methodist Church in Myanmar.

In **2006** the Full Membership was 114. The amended plan for the church was in progress. Resubmission was made and it needed clearance from the authorities. The Alam Megah building plan was formally approved with some conditions. The total amount collected up to 17 September was RM240, 947.34. The church Building Fund account at AEC remained at RM221,708.34. On 30 September, the MYF organised a musical event inviting other churches to participate. The purpose of the event, “The Battle of Bands” was to strengthen unity among the churches through worship.

In **2007 Rev. V. John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor-in-charge and he was assisted by Supply Pastor S. Selvaraj. The Full Membership was 112. Outreach work in Taman Sentosa in Klang was started by Pastor S.Selvaraj and the worship service was held in a member’s home. Small groups met regularly in three places: Alam Megah, Sri Muda and Klang Utama. The church was also involved in missions work in Medan. The youths organised a mammoth fund raising program entitled, “Mayakkum Malai”/“Enchanting Evening” which was held in Dewan Sivik. The church also gave RM1,000 for the Johor flood victims.

10th Anniversary Celebration

From **2008 – 2012, Rev. Segaran** was the Pastor. In **2008** the Full Membership was 127. Two small groups met in Alam Megah and Sri Muda. Bible study was conducted on Wednesdays at 8 pm. in Shah Alam on the 2nd and 4th week and in Sentosa on the 1st and 3rd week. In spite of the financial constraints to put up a new church building, the church took a bold step to rent a shop house to reach the unreached in Sentosa. On 22 June, a Family Enrichment Seminar was conducted with Rev. James Ravindaren as the Speaker. Many participated and benefitted. On 16 August, a baptism service was held at the Methodist Centre at PD. About 16 people were baptized. The church had their 10th Anniversary Celebration Service on 7 September.

In **2009** the Full Membership was 136. The building plans were duly approved by MPSA but the registration of the Alam Megah land continued with the respective government agencies. At this point of time mysteriously all the documents regarding the land went missing from the land office. The church was required to re - submit the documents all over again. The leaders even considered purchasing an industrial shop lot in Taman Sri Muda for worship. (Board on Property report pg. 247).

In **2010** the Full Membership was 138. The church received a financial grant from the Selangor government and it was very useful to pay off several outstanding dues. The church was paying rental for three buildings.

In **2011** the Full Membership was 111. The church received financial help from several churches to pay part of their loan. (District Ministries Report pg. 144). On 18 June, the church organized a “Soul Winning” dinner, and encouraged members to bring non-believers for this dinner fellowship at Sri Muda Hall. In **2012** the Full Membership was 118. The church paid rental for the church building, the Sentosa shop lot and for the parsonage. The Conference gave a subsidy.

From **2013 – 2014 Rev. Edward Devadason** was the Pastor. In **2013**, the Full Membership dropped to 99 as the names of dormant members were removed. A special thanksgiving service was held on 5 October to celebrate the church’s 15th anniversary. The Sentosa Outreach ministry was changed into a prayer ministry. The church had a concern for the college and youth ministry. The land matter in Alam Megah was still not resolved.

In **2014** the Full Membership further dropped to 89. On Good Friday, the church met and read the New Testament until Revelation Chapter 7. The Sentosa Outreach was handed over to TMC Klang. On 2 March the church organized a gathering at Rev Edward’s house with campus students as well as students from outstation living around the Klang Valley. The Theme was “Burger Night.” Three mission trips were made to the Orang Asli Settlement in Slim River in March, August and September. This was among the Methodist Sengoi believers. Each trip was for three days. The church was also a part of the Good Samaritan Street Feeding Ministry and supported it. While several members left the church, new people started coming. Efforts were taken to reach out to the youths and campus students. Several new leaders were enlisted.

In **2015 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the Pastor-in-charge and was assisted by Rev. Edward Devadason who was pursuing his further studies. The Full Membership was 86. The church worked in partnership with the YMCA KL, Good Samaritan Centre and Trinity Methodist Church PJ in the street feeding ministry, medical and worship service. The church was also involved in the Sri Lanka and Nepali ministry.

In **2016 Rev. A. James Ravindaren** was the Pastor-in-charge and Rev. Edward Devadason assisted. The Full Membership was 92. The Bible Achievers Club (B.A.C.) was held every Sunday to enrich the members in God’s Word and Christian doctrine. A major roof repair was done. Rats were a menace in the sanctuary and destroyed the P.A. system. The church considered moving to a more conducive place. From 22 August to 1 September, a team of 6 people went to Kerala and Tamil Nadu for village ministry.

Street Carolling in Sri Muda

In **2017 Rev. Dr John Kovilpillai** was the Pastor-in-charge and he was assisted by Mr. Paul Mohanraj, a weekend Practical Student. The Full Membership was 94. On 11 June, there was a grand Parents' Day celebration. The youths also organized a fun filled "telematch" for the parents at Kota Kemuning Park. On 11 December, for the first time a street carolling was done in the areas surrounding Sri Muda.

After waiting for many years, the application for the State land was approved on 6 October 2017. The area given was 0.229 acres and situated at Section 28, Taman Alam Megah, Pekan Hicom, Mukim Damansara, Daerah Petaling. Now the church and the Council of Trustees office had to wait for the plan and gazette notification. (Property report pg. 185)

From 2018, Rev. C. Jayaraj is the Pastor. Mr. Joel Zechariah was assigned here for his weekend practical work. The Full Membership was 92. Prayer was activated with about 20 -25 members gathering every Friday evening. The 24/7 prayer was also started. Ministry teams were formed to move out in evangelism, social concerns, hospital visitation and tracting. Evangelism training was given by Rev. Ezekiel Govindarajoo and worship training by Rev. Devadass Ratnam. The Alpha Discipleship Course was started in June and completed in November. About 60 members attended the course. A church family camp was carried out in Port Dickson from 5-7 October and about 65 members attended. A LCEC planning retreat was held in Rehoboth Villa in Morib from 7-8 December. The Church School was reactivated with about 4 children. Teachers training cum an introduction to the TAC Church School curriculum was done by Mr. Ponraj Navamani. The church leaders intensified their efforts to get the land title. The church was mobilised to pray for this need. Prayer on the assigned land was held monthly after the worship service. The church also sought the help of YB Xavier Jayakumar and CFM Secretary, Mr. Tan Kong Beng.

In 2019, Rev. C. Jayaraj continues to be the pastor. Cell groups have started to meet on alternate Wednesdays in Alam Megah, Sri Muda and Taman Sentosa. The youth cell group meets once a month. The Church School has an average attendance of 12 children. Free tuition classes have been started and about 8-10 children attend the classes on Tuesday nights. The church is currently helping 10 families in partnership with Shelter Home.

The church finally received its land survey plan and gazette (warta) from the relevant authorities on 18 July. Several leaders like Mr. Peter Balan, Mr Clarence James, Mr Jothirajah and Mr.Chelliah played important roles in the pursuit of this land matter. The church can now proceed with their building plans. The LCEC formed a building committee under the leadership of Mr.Chelliah, the Building Committee Chairman. Mr. S. Manoharan is the Lay Leader and Mrs. Grace Chelliah is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 92.

Rev. C. Jayaraj is giving good pastoral care and leadership. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (16), MSF (19) and MW (26). There is no MYAF. They do not have any Outreaches. They have 4 Small Groups. There are 12 children and 5 teachers in the Church School.

Conclusion: TMC Shah Alam began as an Outreach of TMC Petaling Jaya in 1993. After five years of being an Outreach, it was organised as a Local Conference in 1998. The Outreach ministry began with five children and at the time of the formation the Church School had 52 children. At the time of the formation, the Full Membership was 45. It steadily increased and reached 138 in 2010. After that the membership began to decrease and in 2015 was 86. Then it began to slowly increase and in 2019, it is 92. The church has to review their situation and prayerfully strategize for church growth. They may have to look seriously into starting Outreach Points. With the present leadership and with God's favour, the church will march on for the glory of God.

Source:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

1998	Rev. Joseph Komar
1999	Rev. Moses Jeyaseelan
2000	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2001 – 2006	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2007	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2008 – 2012	Rev. K. Segaran
2013 – 2014	Rev. Edward Devadason
2016	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2017	Rev. V. John Kovilpillai
2018 onwards	Rev. C. Jayaraj

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
1998 - 1999	Mr. Paul Saminathan	Mr. Peter Palaya
2000	Mr. Peter Balan	Mr. Simon Ambrose
2001 - 2005	Mr. Peter Palaya	Mr. Peter Balan
2006	Mr. Peter Palaya	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2007	Mr. Clarence James	Bro. Selvaraj
2008 - 2009	Mr. Clarence James	Rev. K. Segaran
2010 - 2011	Mr. Clarence James	Mr. Clarence James
2012	Mr. A. Chelliah	Mr. Elangovan
2013	Mr. A. Chelliah	Mr. Clarence James
2014 - 2016	Mr. A. Chelliah	Mr. Andrew Samuel
2017	Mr. Andrew Samuel	Mr. A. Chelliah
2018	Mr. A. Chelliah	Mrs. Grace Chelliah
2019	Mr. S. Manoharan	Mrs. Grace Chelliah



Tamil Methodist Church

Fifth Period: 2000 – 2019

39. Jerai	2000
<i>Jasin/Asahan Circuit</i>	2002 #
40. Semenyih	2004
41. Puchong	2005
42. Subang Jaya	2005
43. Kayu Ara Damansara	2005
44. Lahat Baru	2008
45. Bercham	2008
46. Selayang	2009
<i>Asahan/Sagil/Tangkak Circuit</i>	2010 #
47. Cheras	2010
48. Kapar	2012
49. Bahau	2014
50. Ulu Tiram	2014
51. Pusing	2015
52. Asahan/Tangkak/Sagil/Jasin Circui	2016 #
53. Gateway Kelana Jaya	2017
54. Paloh	2017

JERAI

The Beginnings

The ministry in Jerai, an Outreach of TMC Sungai Petani, began when home visitations were made in the early **1950s**. This area was largely made up of Rubber Plantations. In the early **1970s**, a team of lay members, led by the pastors, held regular worship services in the corridor of the labourers' quarters of the Harvard Estate, using gas lamps as there was no electricity. The people in the nearby homes listened eagerly to the Gospel being preached and the Outreach work began to take firm root.

Contribution by Bible Women

Weekly adult, youth and children's ministries grew out of the regular worship services. The work of two Bible Women, Mrs. Annamal David and Mrs. Rosalind Rajasher, is noteworthy. They were funded by the TAC Methodist Women and the local Church. Their efforts further strengthened the ministry, particularly among the women and children, in the area of prayer and counselling.

Need for a Bigger Place of Worship

Early in **1987**, TMC Sungai Petani put up a chapel with provisions to house a Church worker. This was on a piece of land along the main road to Alor Star in Sungai Toh Pawang. This land was given by a Christian family for a nominal sum of money. This chapel was officially opened by Dato Dr. Peter Vanniasingam and dedicated by the **DS Rev. David Tharmakan**. The Church appointed Mr. Bala as a Church worker and he served till 1991. This was done with their own funds. New souls were added to the ministry and the number grew. Once again, there was a need to find a bigger and more centrally located place of worship.

Rumah Methodist Bedong

In **1997**, a piece of land, with an old house on it was purchased in the Indian Camp in Bedong. Renovation work was completed in November 1998 and the house was officially opened and dedicated as **Rumah Methodist Bedong** on **28 November 1998** by Mr. John Paul PCK and Rev. Peter Devadason. The Conference gave a donation of RM 5,000 and a loan of RM 15,000 for the project. The rest of the money of RM 60,000 was raised by TMC Sungai Petani and Jerai Outreach members. The church building had space to house the first Supply Pastor Easudass Joseph from 1 January 1998. A church van was donated by Madam Annamal Samuel (mother of Datuk Paul Money) and her family for the Jerai ministry. The Full Membership of the Jerai Outreach was 78 with 38 Preparatory Members.

Tupah Waterfalls Baptism

On **4 January 2000**, a total of 21 people (adults and children) were baptized at the Tupah Waterfalls. This put the outreach ministry in Jerai on a strong footing. Two main areas were identified for preaching points: Gurun and Bandar Baru. In Bandar Baru, there was already a building and the prospects of a church being established there seemed very promising. As for Gurun, concentrated work would soon begin.

Ministry in Bandar Baru

Bandar Baru is a housing Estate located about 3 kilometres off Sungai Lalang, which is along the main road to Alor Star. There were five families from Jerai Outreach residing there. They had ardently prayed for a place of worship, so that ministry can be done among the local Indian population. The Lord's answer came in a miraculous way. A corner terrace house, with a big piece of land, came at a price that was below current value. One of the Church members residing in Kuala Lumpur came forward with one third of the cost of the building as a down payment. The remaining sum came from donations. The house was purchased in 1997 and Prayer Meetings were held regularly. The building was officially opened by Dato Paul Money Samuel and dedicated by the Northern DS Rev. Victor Vethamani on Saturday 28 November 1998.

Formation of Local Conference

Jerai was constituted as a Local Conference on 11 March 2000. The Full Membership was 77. The Full Membership on 30 July was 86. **Rev. AE Joseph** was the Pastor in charge and was assisted by Supply Pastor Easudas Joseph. Worship service was on Fridays at 7.00 pm. An average of 50 – 60 people attended. They lacked musicians. The Church School met on Saturdays at 4.00 pm. and had about 24 children and 4 teachers. The MYF had 21 youths who met monthly and whenever the need arose. However, they had difficulty finding a common time to meet. There was a need for transport, as the members were scattered. The MW had about 12 members. The church was actively involved in evangelism in Bandar Baru, Sungai Getah Estate, Bukit Jenum and Sungai Tawar. In **2001, Rev. James Ravindaren**, the pastor of Alor Star, was in charge and was assisted by Ministerial Student Mr. Timothy Krishnan. The Full Membership was 95. The Church School met on Fridays at 6 pm. and there were 21 children.

Rapid Membership Growth

From 2002 – 2013, Rev. Ezekiel Raj was the Pastor in charge for twelve years. In **2002**, the Full Membership was 96. The Church School met every Monday at 7pm whereas the youths met fortnightly. In **2003**, the Full Membership was 109. The church building was slightly renovated inside and air-conditioned at a cost of RM 25,000. In **2004**, the Full Membership was 107. Worship service was held on Sundays at 7 pm. A church library was started. The Church School at Bandar Baru had 34 children and 4 teachers whereas the Church School at Gurun had 11 children and 2 teachers.

In **2005**, about 70 attended the Sunday worship service. Full Membership was 104 after 12 members were transferred out. Outreach ministry continued at Gurun. A shop lot was rented for RM 350.00. About 30 members attended the weekly service. The church bought the adjacent land to the present building for RM 24,000. TMC PJ gave a gift of RM 15,000. In **2006**, the Full Membership was 123 and 19 adults were baptized. In **2007**, the Full Membership was 135. Weekly Prayer Meetings were held at three places.

In **2008**, the Full Membership was 140. There were six adult baptisms. Weekly attendance at the Sunday worship service at TMC Jerai was about 100 – 120. The Gurun Friday service was at 7.30 pm. with an attendance 15 – 17. There were three outreach areas – Bandar Baru, Gurun with Padang Lembu added on in 2008. In the month of August the church was renovated at the cost of RM 25,000. The whole area was fenced up. On 17 August a rededication service was held which was officiated by Rev. P. Tevaraji, the Conference President. The church could now accommodate about 250 people.

In **2009**, the Full Membership rose to 157. Tuition classes were conducted in Padang Lembu among the new contacts. Easter carolling was conducted by the youths. The government gave RM 30,000 for renovation work on the Bandar Baru House. The total cost for renovation was RM 80,000. A dinner was organised to raise funds for this at district-level. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 162. There were 5 adult baptisms. About 140 – 145 people attended the Sunday services. On 3 July 2010, a Van Project Dinner was held and RM 10,000 was raised from this dinner

Church Grows but with Concerns

In **2011**, the Full Membership was 160. There were 5 adult baptisms. 8 members were transferred in and 9 transferred out. There were 6 deaths. There were 45 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. There were Cell Group ministries in 4 different areas. Through the MIC, the church received RM27,000 for the renovation work in the Bandar Baru Outreach. The total cost of the renovation was estimated to be RM 100,000. There was a concern that young people were leaving for other places because of employment and education. There was also a lack of male leadership in the church.

In **2012**, the Full Membership was 158. Cell Groups were held in 6 places. Some families in Gurun who left the church now returned. The owner of the empty land at the back of the church gave permission for the church to use it for parking purposes. In **2013**, the Full Membership was 144. The Bandar Baru Outreach building became a reality after many months of waiting. There were Cell Groups in six different areas

Equipping for the Ministry

From **2014 onwards**, **Rev. E. Kunabalan** was the Pastor. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 149. In **2015**, more young adults took on leadership roles. The Full Membership was 148 and in **2016**, it was 147. It is noteworthy that the whole church prayed kneeling during the Sunday services. This practice continues till today. Cell Groups met at six different areas on Thursdays. Special leadership training was held for the LCEC members. Evangelism was done in teams and there were three teams. They met 30 families regularly. Evangelistic rallies by Pastor Peter Murugesu, Pastor Vijulal and Rev. John Ganapathy were held. The church organised a Blood Donation Campaign on 13 August. The Bandar Baru Outreach ministry was given the needed focus and as a result, saw growth.

The MYAF, in observing their special Sunday, distributed tracts and Christian literature to non-believers. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 142 and in **2018**, it was 128. Evangelism was done through cell groups and visitations. They contacted 22 new families. Evangelistic and Miracle Rallies were held in the month of February 2017.

In **2019**, **Rev. Kunabalan** is the Pastor for the sixth year. Mr. Matthew Mathi is the Lay Leader and Mr. Daniel Anthoni, the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 128. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (13), MW (15), MYAF (7) and MSF (20). There are 30 children with 6 teachers in the Church School. They have one Outreach in Bandar Baru. There are seven Cell Groups in the following places: 1. Padang Lembu, 2. Gurun 3. Harvard Estate 4. Bedong 5. Semeling 6. Sungai Lalang and 7. Bandar Baru.

Conclusion: TMC Jerai began as an Outreach of TMC Sungai Petani about twenty years ago. Their Full Membership at the time of formation as a Local Conference was 77. Their current Full Membership is 128. This is commendable, knowing that many youths are being drawn away to other places because of better employment and education opportunities. The church has still grown. They have an Outreach ministry in Bandar Baru and conduct seven Cell Groups. This shows that the church is purposeful and focused in their ministry. With God being their Helper, TMC Jerai can look forward to their church growing and bringing glory to God.

Sources:

1. Souvenir Program of the Dedication of the newly renovated church 3 August 2013
2. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2000	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2001 – 2013	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2014 – Present	Rev. E. Kunabalan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2000 - 2002	Mr. Joseph Moses	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2003 - 2009	Mr. Daniel Anthoni	Rev. Ezekiel Raj
2010 - 2019	Mr. Matthew Mathi	Mr. Daniel Anthoni

SEMENYIH

The Beginnings

In the **1980s**, a small group of believers met fortnightly in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richards in Kajang for Bible Study. The Richards were members of TMC Kuala Lumpur. Rev. John Kovilpillai was the Pastor of the TMC Kuala Lumpur and Rev. Victor Vethamani was the Assistant Pastor. Mr. Robert Ananthan was the Evangelism Chairman and Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Nesaratnam were the coordinators for this Outreach. Mr. Cecil Victor, the Lay Leader, was also involved in this ministry. The fulltime worker, Ms. Shanti Victoria, was a great help in the ministry in Kajang, Bangi and Semenyih together with Mr. Matthew.

The Expansion

From Kajang, the ministry extended to Bangi and the estates around Semenyih. Every third Tuesday of the month, ministry was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richards in Kajang. Every Friday Bible Study and worship service was conducted. Communion was also served. Every third Sunday of the month – the meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Samuel. Soon, these house to house meetings extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ignas Krishnan's house in Bangi. Later, the venue was moved to Connimara Estate. Worship services were held at the estate's crèche and Holy Communion was also served.

Blessed with own Building

From **1984 till 1994**, Mr. and Mrs. G.M.M. Mutu were assigned as the coordinators of this ministry. The ministry extended from Bangi to Broome Estate in Bangi. For a short period, a small group from Seremban came with Rev. Peter Devadason to minister. Mr. and Mrs. I. Ponnudurai took charge of the ministry in **1994**. With the kind help of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Richards, a building on the third floor of his clinic was given rental -free for this ministry in **1996**. As the ministry grew, the leadership of the Mother Church, TMC Kuala Lumpur decided by faith to purchase a property for this ministry even though it was still an Outreach. This is the present building located at No. 4454, Taman Tan Sri Manickavasagam, Semenyih which was bought for RM350,000. The building was **dedicated by the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji on 19 May 2003**.

The Formation of the Local Conference

In the same year of 2003, at the Second Local Conference of TMC KL on 25 September and the Central District Conference on the 28 September, the proposal to make Semenyih Outreach a Local Conference was moved and accepted. This proposal was then brought by the District Superintendent, Rev. Victor Vethamani to the 28th Session of the Tamil Annual Conference and it was accepted. The Tamil Methodist Church Semenyih was organised as a Local Conference by the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji on **3 January 2004**. **Rev. Dennis Raj** was appointed the first Pastor. Mr. Sinnapan was elected the Lay Leader and Mr. Samuel Raj the LCEC Chairperson.

The Early Years as a Local Church

From **2004 till September 2006, Rev. Dennis Raj** was the Pastor. In January **2004**, the Full Membership was 65 and in June of the same year it was 73. The Full Membership in **2004** was 76. The Worship services were held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The Church School had 24 children with 4 teachers. They met on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. The MYF had a membership of 25. Their weekly programme emphasis was on doctrine and Biblical teaching. The MW had a membership of 25 and met once a month. They actively participated in all District and Conference programmes. Household provisions were collected every week and distributed to the poor. The women visited three families and an Old Folks Home. They not only saw to their needs but also gave to outside causes. In **2005**, Mr. John Simson ministered as the Weekend Seminary Student. The Full Membership was 83. Area Fellowship was conducted every Wednesday at 8 pm. Efforts were taken to start an Outreach by visiting needy homes. The church adopted a 'Dalit' student in India under Operation Mobilization and gave RM900 that year.

Ministry Consolidated

From October **2006 Rev. David Rasahpandy** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 86. Rev. Gnanaraja from India spoke about the Seven Churches from the Book of Revelation for 3 days and Rev. Victor Vethamani taught on the Biblical Covenant for 3 days. In **2007** the Pastor in charge was Rev. Timothy Krishnan and Pastor Edwin Rajamoney was the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 101. Small group ministry was initiated in five areas. Two people attended training on Small Group leadership. Tuition classes were conducted to help needy students. There were 18 students. This ministry was started in April. The church bought a new computer. The church grew financially but had yet to settle the outstanding loan of RM180,000 to TMC KL. The repayment of the loan was ongoing.

From **2008 to 2009, Rev. Edwin Rajamoney** was the Pastor. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 105. Two leaders were sent for a short term mission trip to Komering in Indonesia. The building grant matter was actively pursued by the Trustees with the help of KL Church and Mr. Steven Solomon. Soon this matter was resolved and the grant is now with TMC Semenyih. In **2009** the Full Membership was 109. There were 4 cell group meetings. The church reached out to people living in Kajang, Bangi and Pajam .

From **2010 – 2013, Rev. John Mathuni** was the Pastor. The Full Membership in **2010** was 109. A new Outreach was started in Kajang (Sg. Chua) with 10 people. Contact was made with Lagenda College lecturers. The church received RM10,000 from the Selangor State Government. This was for the repairs and renovation of the church building and also for the installation of grilles for the church.

In **2011** the Full Membership grew from 109 to 117. They hosted the District MSF gathering for about 100 seniors. The outreach work in Kajang continued and about 3 or more families attended. The church launched a van project and appealed to other churches and individuals for help. In **2012** the Full Membership grew to 120. The church bought a new NISSAN URVAN van which was very useful for the ministry. In **2013** the Full Membership was 124. Discipleship was done through Bible Studies conducted by Mr. S. Selvaraj. About 20-30 people attended the Prayer Cell every Friday. Evangelism was actively done in Rinching, Dusun and Bunga. A VBS for Hindu children was held and 18 children started attending Church School. Kajang was identified as a joint outreach to be worked together and developed by the Semenyih, Cheras and Serdang churches. A Provisional Committee was set up and 10 – 20 people, apart from the Semenyih members, regularly attended. Rev. John Mathuni, the local church pastor, persevered under very trying circumstances, having suffered the loss of his wife during this time.

From **2014 onwards Rev. M. Joseph** has been the Pastor. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 117. A banquet dinner was organized on 19 June by the Kajang Businessmen Fellowship where six new believers committed their lives to Jesus and were added to the church. A short term mission trip was organized for 10 members to South Thailand (Teach Centre) to experience faith sharing. Indonesian and Myanmar services were conducted regularly every Sunday. The Selangor Government gave the church RM10, 000 for their building fund. The church has plans to buy a parsonage for the church.

In **2015** the Full Membership was 130. The church sent relief funds for the flood victims in Kelantan and the Nepal earthquake victims. There were six active cell groups in the church. The church requested for a piece of land at Eco Majestic from the Selangor State Government. One of the youths, Mr. Joshua Raj, committed himself for the full time pastoral ministry.

In **2016** the Full Membership was 138. The Kajang Outreach had regular services every Sunday at 6.30 pm and about 20 - 25 church members attended. A social awareness talk entitled “Crime in Malaysia” was organized for members. The Speaker was an Affiliate Member of the church, Mr. Joenathan, an ASP from Sentul IPD. The church school had 44 children and 7 teachers. A VBS was organized in September and 150 children attended, 40 of them were non-believers. Under a reward program, students who do well in their UPSR, PT3 and SPM were given cash prizes.

In **2017** the Full Membership was 140. The church received the approval letter from the Selangor State Government for their land application and was given a two-year time period to build. TMC KL presented them with RM 5,000 as a donation. The church hired a Project Management Consultancy called “Vinsi & Ventures” and started their church building Project.

In **2018** the Full Membership was 140. They organized a fund raising dinner for their building project and managed to collect RM83,410 through the sale of dinner tickets. They also raised another RM12,050 through donations, brick card and hamper sales.

In **2019**, TMC Semenyih is 15 years old. Rev. M. Joseph is the pastor for the sixth year. The Lay Leader is Mr. Francis and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr Balasundaram. The Full Membership is 147. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (28), MYAF (43), MSF (28) and MW (39). There are 30 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. The church is settling their building loan from TMC KL by paying RM300 monthly. The Fund Raising Project for their proposed new building is progressing well.

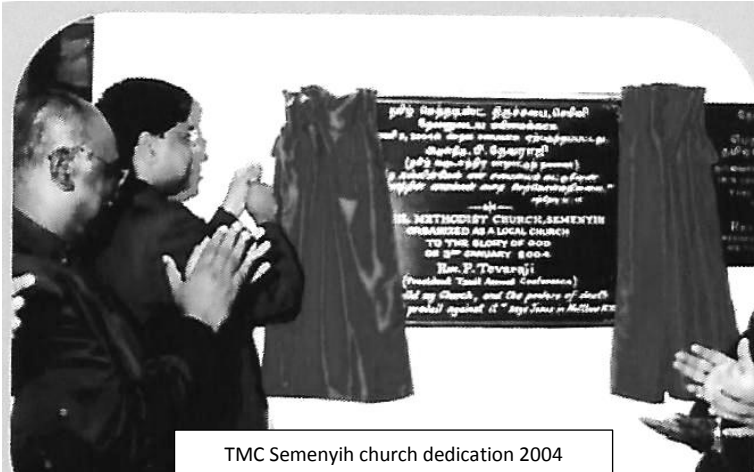
Conclusion: TMC Semenyih is now 15 years old. It has come a long way since becoming a local church in 2004. At the time of the formation as a Local Conference in 2004, the Full Membership was 65. This year the church has grown to a Full Membership of 147. The church has several opportunities for ministry all around her. The challenge is to use the potential God has given to minister. With prayer and commitment, the church can rise to greater heights for the glory of God.

PASTORAL ROLL

2004 – 2006	Rev. Dennis Raj (<i>till Sept. 2006</i>)
2006	Rev. David Rasahpandy (<i>Oct. to Dec.</i>)
2007	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2008 – 2009	Rev. Edwin Rajamoney
2010 – 2013	Rev. John Mathuni
2014 onwards	Rev. M. Joseph

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2003 - 2006	Mr. Sinnappan	Mr. Samuel Raj
2007	Mr. Sinnappan	Mr. Thomas Ratnam
2008 - 2009	Mr. Francis	Mr. Thomas Ratnam
2010	Mr. Francis	Rev. J. Mathuni
2011	Mr. Francis	Mr. Jheyaseelan
2012 - 2013	Mr. Vincent Lachu	Mr. Jheyaseelan
2014	Mr. Vincent Lachu	Rev. M. Joseph
2015 - 2016	Mr. Francis	Rev. M. Joseph
2017 - 2019	Mr. Joel Nickesh	Mr. Samuel Raj



TMC Semenyih church dedication 2004



TMC Semenyih church van dedication

PUCHONG

The Beginnings

The initial ministry in the Puchong area goes back to the time when **Rev. James Solamadan** was the pastor of TMC Klang. He was approached by Mr George Verghese, a member of the Mar Thoma Church, to start a Children's Ministry in the Seafield Estate. TMC Klang sent Mrs. Packiam Retnam to this estate to visit the homes and conduct Church School with the help of Mr. and Mrs George Verghese. Mr. Verghese approached Mr. Robertson, the manager of Seafield Estate, who was willing to allow the Tamil school to be used for the ministry. In spite of the objection from the headmaster of the Tamil school and a few temple authorities, the ministry continued with the support of Mr. Robertson and the three succeeding managers. Rev. Solamadan brought visiting preachers, friends from India and some leaders from TMC Klang every week to continue the children's ministry. Once a month Holy Communion service was held in the estate and a few accepted the Lord and were baptized. The average attendance of the Church School in the 1970s was about 50 to 60 children.

From Children to Youths to Adults

In **1980**, the Methodist Youth Fellowship of TMC Klang took responsibility of the Church School in Seafield Estate and continued the ministry. For a while the ministry was mainly concentrated among the children. In **1989**, Youth and Adult ministry was started in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Idicula who was working in the estate as a chief clerk. The adult fellowship was then shifted to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tamilarasan in Puchong.

Working towards Owning Property

In **1992**, TMC Klang applied for a piece of land from the Land Office in replacement for the land which they had been using for almost 20 years. After much delay and persuasion, the church was given a piece of land in Taman Alam Megah, which was given to TMC Shah Alam. In **1993**, permission was given by the Catholic Church in Castlefield Estate in Puchong to use their church for the ministry. However, the Adult Fellowship continued in the home of Tamilarasan and the Children's Ministry at the 14 Mile Puchong. This was the beginning of a full worship service. In **1995**, a shop lot was rented in Taman Sri Puchong. The work started growing and they shifted to another place in the same Taman in **1998**. **Rev. Jayabalan** was assigned to do the ministry in Puchong. In **2001** Mr. Stephen Gunarajah and Mr. M. Joseph committed themselves for the full time ministry and were enrolled for theological studies the following year.

In **2002**, the Puchong Outreach moved to Puchong Utama. They rented two floors in a building which was also used for the Children's Ministry. The average attendance of the children in the Church School was 35 to 40. There were about 50 to 60 people for the worship service. Rev. Reuben Kanagalingam served till **2004**.

Formation of the Local Conference

The **TMC Puchong** was **officially made a local Conference on 2 January 2005** with a Full Membership of 59. From **2005 – 2006, Rev. Vinsant Rayar** was the Pastor in charge and Rev. David Abraham was appointed as the resident pastor, supervised by Rev. Vinsant Rayar. In June **2005**, the Full Membership was 68. The total Income from January – June was RM36, 250.39, and the total Expenditure from January – June 2005 RM28,197.34. The Church School had 25 children and 7 teachers. The MYF had 16 members and the MW, 23 members. As for their evangelism ministry, they conducted worship service in Bukit Subang. The place of worship and the parsonage were rented and 80% of the church's income went on rentals. In **2006** the Full Membership was 78. The children from the Church School visited the Ostrich Farm in Seremban. Both the church building and the parsonage were furnished and they had a van. They rented a shop lot for RM900 which was expected to increase to RM 1,300.

Finally a Church Building of Their Own

In **2007 Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor-in-charge and Pastor David Abraham the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 72. The increase in rental saw the desperate need for a new worship sanctuary. The total church was involved in this search. In **2008 Rev. David Abraham** was the Pastor. The Church Worship Service was on Sundays at 9.30 am. The average attendance was 70. The Full Membership was 71. The church planned to start outreach work in Putra Perdana, Puchong. They had five Small Groups which met every Tuesday. Attendance was not encouraging. The church purchased two leasehold factory lots at a cost of RM 350,000 in September 2008. The lease expires on 16 August 2094.

In **2009 Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Jeremiah Thomas as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 74. In **2010 Rev. James Ravindaren** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Jeremiah Thomas continuing as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 76. The finance of the church was good with a significant increase in tithes amount (RM54,925).

From **2011 - 2015 Rev. Jeremiah Thomas** was the Pastor. In **2011** the Full Membership was 92. The pastor was involved in the prison ministry. The cost for renovations and fittings was approximately RM200,000. In **2012** the Full Membership was 94. The church moved into their own building and the sanctuary was dedicated on **18 February 2012**. There was a plan to start a Community Centre in Kampung Muhibbah, but decided not to, because other churches were already ministering there.

In **2013** the Full Membership was 91. The church members visited the Orang Asli settlement in Raub. The church was blessed with RM 66,000 from the Prime Minister's Department. In **2014** the Full Membership was 91. The church ministered among the women in Pangsapuri Enggang. Some efforts were taken to witness to the M people in Dengkil. The church supported Mr. Lopez and the the missions work in the Raub area.

In **2015** the Full Membership was 92. The church had a grand 10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 11 October. They started a weekly ministry at Pinggiran Bukit Jalil. The church conducted a VBS among the Orang Asal community in Raub.

In **2016** **Rev. D.B. Laurence** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Ronald Rohendra Rao as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 94. A Preaching Clinic/Seminar was held to enhance the leaders' skill in sermon preparation and preaching. A cell group was started in Bukit Jalil.

From **2017** onwards **Rev. Ronald Rohendra Rao** has been the Pastor-in-charge. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 95. They started home meetings and Cell Group ministry in the home of a Roman Catholic Church member in the Bukit Jalil Outreach. The church looked for a hall nearer to the flats to have special meetings. In **2018** the Full Membership was 99. The church was focussed on the Bukit Jalil ministry. The church looked at the possibility of starting a ministry among the migrants around the Puchong area.

In **2019**, **Rev. Ronald Rohendra Rao** continues as the pastor. The Lay Leader is Mr. Franches Ramasamy and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Sures Daniel. The Full Membership is 98. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (15), MYAF (20) MSF (22) and MW (24). There are 43 children and 6 teachers in the Church School. Thirteen of the children are from families of non-believers. Cell Group ministries are taking place in 7 localities. They meet on alternate Tuesdays at 8.30 p.m. They are doing evangelism through their Cell Groups as non – believers are joining in these gatherings. The response has been positive. Mr. Jayaprakash Jeyasellan committed himself for full time ministry. He will be going to STM for his studies.

Currently, the whole church is focussed on the Bukit Jalil Outreach ministry, which happens on Sundays at 4.00pm. They also do regular visitation there on Wednesdays at 8.00pm. A strong relationship is being developed between the church and the families and they are very open to the gospel. Many more helpers from the church have committed themselves to the ministry. They have started the Buki Jalil Youth Group and the response is very good. They have moderators to work with this group every Sunday at 4.30pm. When they meet, current issues concerning youths are discussed. The Bukit Jalil Outreach ministry has 15 Hindu families, 4 Christian families, 28 children, 15 youths, 10 moderators, 5 teachers, 3 helpers and 8 volunteers. They are facing a problem regarding the use of the Hall in Block C, due to some restrictions from the DBKL and the new management. Thus, the current meetings are conducted in one of the houses. The church has plans to rent a building.

Conclusion: TMC Klang took small steps to plant the seed of the Gospel in Puchong in the 1970s. This seed fell on good ground and slowly brought forth a harvest. Like in so many other places, the initial ministry was among the children. Even before TMC Puchong became a Local Conference, the children in the Church School numbered 40. In 1989 the ministry was extended to the youths and the adults. In 2005 they became a Local Conference with a Full Membership of 59. In 2012 they moved to their own building. Their current ministry focus is on their Bukit Jalil Outreach. The whole church is involved in this effort. They are taking an organized approach and seeing results. Though the evangelistic efforts of this church is bearing fruit, they need to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to achieve the full harvest and bring glory to God.

Source:

1. Church Dedication Service Souvenir Programme on 18 February 2012
2. TAC Journals
3. Feedback from the Local Church

PASTORAL ROLL

2005 – 2006	Rev. Vinsant Rayar
2007	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2008	Rev. David Abraham
2009	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2010	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2011 – 2015	Rev. Jeremiah Thomas
2016	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2017 onwards	Rev. Ronald Rohindra Rao

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2005 - 2007	Mr. Peter Moses	Mr. Peter Moses
2008	Mr. Peter Moses	Mr. Jayaprakash Jeyasellan
2009	Mr. Victor Subramaniam	Mr. Stephen Job
2010	Mr. Jayaprakash Jeyasellan	Mr. Asuthas
2011 - 2012	Mr. Jayaprakash Jeyasellan	Mr. Franches Ramasamy
2013	Mr. Stephen Job	Mr. Franches Ramasamy
2014	Mr. Sures Daniel	Mr. Stephen Job
2015	Mr. Sures Daniel	Mr. Franches Ramasamy
2016	Mr. Jayaprakash Jeyasellan	Mr. Franches Ramasamy
2017	Mr. Sures Daniel	Mr. Franches Ramasamy
2018	Mr. Sures Daniel	Mr. Stephen Job
2019	Mr. Franches Ramasamy	Mr. Sures Daniel

SUBANG JAYA

The Beginnings

On 3 November **2002**, TMC PJ started a second service at their former sanctuary in Taipan, Subang Jaya for the convenience of their members living around that area. A group of about 50 members began worshipping there. This was made as an Outreach of TMC PJ, with a vision of planting another church. This outreach was originally named as **Tamil Methodist Church, Taipan**. There was strong leadership and financial support. During this period a Pro Tem Committee was formed with Mr. Daveethu Jacob and Mr. M. Gnanadhas as co-ordinators. **Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor-in-charge from **3 November 2002 till June 2003**. In June 2003, Pastor Francis Loh, a student pastor, assisted Rev. Herbert D John and served till **January 2004**. From February 2004 till 4 February 2005, Mr. Silvestor Louis Martin, a Ministerial Student, assisted Rev. Herbert.

Taipan Outreach to TMC Subang Jaya

The Taipan Outreach of TMC PJ had a Full Membership of 68. It was constituted as a Local Conference on **5 February 2005** and was renamed as Tamil Methodist Church, Subang Jaya. **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** was appointed the first Pastor-in-charge and Pastor S. Selvaraj was appointed the Church Worker to assist. At the time of formation, there were 19 children in the Church School and the children chose a name for themselves - "Joyful Jewels." The MYF had 16 members. The youths were active in church ministry and choir. There were 10 members in the MYAF. Sunday Worship service was at 8 am.

Serving the Needy

The MW conducted a seminar on "The Socio-Economic and Legal Impact of Woman Headed Household in a Multi-Cultural Society". The aim was to help single mothers to run small home-based businesses. The Christian Education Committee set up a church library. The Missions Committee conducted a Medical Camp for the needy in Kampung Tropicana and helped 95 people. Also, a mission trip was organised to an Orang Asli Settlement at Slim River on 17 September 2005. The Social Concerns Committee conducted Hospital Ministry by visiting the sick. They helped the Stepping Stones Home by donating cash and provisions. In 2005 they supported 21 children through the MMM "Gift of Hope" Myanmar Child Adoption Project.

Search for Proper Worship Place

The church continued to use the first and second floors of the 3 storey building at Taipan, Subang Jaya. The Mar Thoma Church used the first floor for its service on Sunday evenings and gave a love gift. The Selangor State Government allotted **PT70873, Section 31, Hicom Gamuda**, to the Methodist Church in Malaysia on 16 August 2005. This land area of 1.2 acres was to be shared by TMC Subang Jaya and the Chinese Methodist Church (CMC). A submission of the Plans by TMC Subang Jaya/CMC Kota Kemuning was pending (TAC Journal Property Report page 191).

Missions and Social Concerns

In **2006 Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor-in-charge and Pastor S. Selvaraj continued as the Church Worker. The Full Membership was 68. The Church School had 26 children and 5 teachers. The children joined in the church's "Chain Prayer Programme." The Missions team made a trip to the Orang Asli Settlement in Slim River. The Social Concerns Committee continued their support of the needy families. They also made hospital visitations and conducted tuition classes at TMC Subang Jaya and Kampung Tropicana. These educational activities were headed by Pastor S. Selvaraj. The church was also involved in Migrant Ministry in Cyberjaya.

In **2007, Rev. John V. Kovilpillai**, a retired minister, was the Pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 72. The church continued its activities in the Migrant Ministry at Cyberjaya, ministry at Kampung Tropicana and missions work amongst the Orang Asli at Ulu Slim, Perak. Christian Education continued to conduct bible quizzes for its members. Social Concerns were supporting four needy families with food provisions, conducting hospital visitation and also organising a 24 hour prayer programme.

In Search of a Permanent Church Building

In **2008 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was the Pastor-in-charge. The ministerial student Mr. John Sunder helped on weekends. The Full Membership was 90. The average attendance at the worship service was 70-80. The Church School met on Sundays and had 6 teachers and 17 children. The church supported the Ulu Slim Orang Asli ministry. They also contributed RM5,000 to TAC's MMM ministry. The church raised funds to put up a church building and a parsonage on the Kota Kemuning land.

In **2009 Rev. M.G. Thana Raj** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 109. Five Cell Groups were formed and met at homes once in 2 weeks. Mission work was conducted amongst the Orang Asli at Ulu Slim, Perak. They also supported 17 Myanmar children through the Child Adoption Project. A member was sent on a short mission trip to Nepal. Postal Bible Quizzes were conducted and some members also participated in the National Level Bible Quiz. A total of 21 children attended Church School. They supported Juara Home and needy people with provisions. Social Concern also visited a HIV shelter and supported their work financially and physically. The Music and Worship team conducted Christmas carols. The 23 registered MYF members were actively involved in various church activities.

Moving On With Mission Emphasis

From **2010 to 2015 Rev. A. James Ravindaren** was the Pastor. In **2010**, the Full Membership was 112. The Church School had only 12 children but they were given good attention. The Christian Education Committee arranged for Rev. Victor Vethamani to conduct monthly Bible Studies on the Minor Prophets.

The Mission Committee had good work done among the Nepalese, Myanmarees and the Orang Asli. A Myanmar ministerial student, Peter Myo Zaw helped in the ministry. The church needed more space for its ministry. The Building Committee continued to work on the Kota Kemuning project.

Reaching the Indian community at Putra Heights

In **2011** the Full Membership was 111. They started an English worship service. In **2012** the Full Membership was 112. The Indian community at the Putra Heights and Puchong areas were helped through the Subang Jaya Love Centre's tuition and computer classes. Myanmar services were also started with the assistance of student pastor Peter Myo Zaw at Putra Heights

Kota Kemuning the Future Church Land

In **2013** the Full Membership was 117. The Evangelism Committee had the USJ 1 flats and Alam Megah flats as their target to reach the non-believers with the Gospel. The members visited the Orang Asal settlement at Kampung Tual, Raub twice this year. The church Building Committee commenced levelling the land at Kota Kemuning and fenced the future church land. Rev. James Ravindaren gave good leadership in spite of the added responsibility as the Southern District Superintendent. In **2014** the Full Membership was 122. An Esther Prayer was started, 30 minutes before every Sunday Worship service. Members took turns every week to lead in this prayer. A new outreach ministry was started at Putra Heights. The church was involved in two Orang Asal Settlements (Kg. Tual and Kg. Cherong) at Raub. In **2015** the Full Membership was 128. The church worked on developing the Kota Kemuning land to put up a building. They planned to have worship services at Kota Kemuning. The Myanmar ministry was discontinued in March. However, the Indian Expatriate service, which commenced in 2014, continued with an average attendance of 35 members. They met every first Saturday at 7.30 pm.

Kota Kemuning Outreach Launched

From **2016 to 2018 Rev. D.B. Laurence** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 128. The **Kota Kemuning Outreach** was launched on 15 May. They met at three different homes of 3 different churches. The Putrajaya Outreach was launched on 12 March by the TAC President Rev. C. Jayaraj. The first Communion Service was held on 13 June. The MYAF supported the Tebong ministry.

A Building Committee was formed to re-look and develop the church Building Plans for the Kota Kemuning land. The earlier Conceptual Plans began in June 2013.

In **2017** the Full Membership was 124. The Missions Committee visited the Orang Asli twice and did some maintenance of the facilities previously built at Kampung Tual, Raub. A mini VBS was also conducted amongst the Orang Asal children at Kampung Cherong, Raub. The church handed over the Putrajaya ministry to TMC Sungai Pelek at the end of 2017.

The Building Committee agreed to re-design the church Building Plan. The appointed architect was advised to revise the layout and design to fit within a budget of RM1 million. The pastor, Rev. D.B. Laurence had his hands full, for he was not only in charge of two local churches, but he was also the Conference Director of the Young Adults and the Conference Registrar.

Developing the Putra Heights Ministry

In **2018** the Full Membership was 131. A team of five, under the leadership of the Pastor, went to Kuching on a Mission trip. The church targeted Putra Heights as their outreach point. A biweekly Cell Group was held in one of the member's home in Putra Heights. Weekly tuition classes were held on Saturdays to help the needy Indian children from Puchong and Putra Heights. About 69 children registered for this tuition. Transportation was provided for these children to the tuition centre. About 15 volunteer teachers from the church as well as members from neighbouring churches are involved in this ministry.

Getting the Whole Church Involved

An evangelistic exposure trip to Kuching was also carried out and 5 members spent 5 days in this ministry. Six cell groups continue to meet once every 2 weeks to enhance their bible knowledge. 15 children attend the Church School and about 8 teachers take turns to guide these children. Through the effort of the Evangelism & Missions Committee and the Methodist Women, the church also extended their support to one youth to Sepulut and two youths to the South Thailand TEACH Centre. The MYAF and MYF are also actively involved in various church activities and a Family Camp was also organised by them at the Morib Gold Coast Resort for 3 days. Members enjoyed good interaction, fellowship and togetherness.

In **2019**, **Rev. C. Jayaraj**, the pastor of TMC Shah Alam, continues as the Pastor of TMC Subang Jaya. Pastor Timothy Raj, a new graduate, is appointed as the Assistant Pastor. The Local Lay Leader is Mr. M. Gnanadhas and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Jeeva Moses. There are 131 Full Members. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (16), MYAF (21) and MW (30). Help is extended to needy Indian community children from the Putra Heights and Puchong areas. Tuition classes are conducted with the help of 15 volunteer teachers. There are 69 registered children from families who are non-believers attending these tuition classes. The Outreach Ministry continues at Putra Heights by conducting services on Sunday evenings at 5.00pm. About 15 people including some non-believers attend. Friday bible study and prayer are held every week and bible study is also conducted every alternate Thursdays by Mrs. Janet Tevaraji. Also, there are seven Cell Groups meeting fortnightly. Bible quizzes are also held every Sunday to equip the members with the knowledge of the Word of God. The ALPHA programme was started with the help of Pastor Timothy Raj.

Conclusion: It is now 14 years since TMC Subang Jaya became a Local Church. At the time of their formation as a local church, the Full Membership was 68. In 2019 it is 131. They had about 26 visitors to their church Sunday service this year. The Building Committee is seriously looking into building a church at the Kota Kemuning land and the Conceptual Building Plan should be ready by early 2020. On the whole the church members and families of TMC Subang Jaya have been greatly blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible reminds, “...*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*” (Luke 12: 48b). TMC Subang Jaya has received much from the Lord, and as such, their responsibility now is to be a great blessing to many, for the glory of God.

Sources:

1. TMC Petaling Jaya 25th Anniversary Celebration 2011 Souvenir Program
2. TAC Journals
3. Response from the Local Church

PASTORAL ROLL

2005	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
2006	Rev. Joseph Komar
2007	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2008	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2009	Rev. M.G. Thana Raj
2010 – 2015	Rev. A. James Ravindaren
2016 – 2018	Rev. D.B. Laurence
2019	Rev. C. Jayaraj

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2005	Mr. Tamil Arasan	Pastor. S. Selvaraj
2006 - 2012	Mr. Tamil Arasan	Mr. M. Gnanadhas
2013 - 2014	Mr. Tamil Arasan	Mr. Daveethu Jacob
2015 - 2019	Mr. M. Gnanadhas	Mr. Jeeva Moses

KAYU ARA DAMANSARA

Events Leading to the Formation of Local Conference

The ministry in Kampong Kayu Ara, an outreach of TMC KL, started as early as **1986** with Mr. & Mrs. P. Iyyadurai as the Coordinators. Later, on 1 June **1995** the members of this Outreach were transferred to TMC Bukit Rotan. In **2003**, the DS reported that the TMC Bukit Rotan deferred the formation of the Outreach to become a Local Church till 2005. At the 29th Session of the Tamil Annual Conference held at the Ancasa Hotel in Kuala Lumpur in November 2004, this proposal was taken up and accepted. They were constituted as a Local Conference on **19 February 2005**. **Rev. Moses Jayaseelan** was appointed as the first pastor. Mr. Solomon John was elected the Lay leader and Mr. Iyyadurai the LCEC Chairperson. At the time of their formation in February 2005, there were 93 Full Members. In June there were 102 Full Members. There were 40 children, 4 teachers and 3 helpers in the Church School. The MYF had 30 members and the MW 32 members.

Tuition Classes for Children

In **2006** **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was the pastor-in-charge and Pastor P.P. Abraham served as a part time Church Worker. The Full Membership was 110. The Church School had 39 Children and 7 teachers. There were 32 members in the MYAF. The Education Centre at 110-B, Block G, Jalan PJU 1/3B, Sunway Mas, Petaling Jaya were used to conduct tuition classes for Standard 1 – 6 (10 students) and for Form 1 – 5 (13 students) on Saturdays from 11am till 3pm. The classes were conducted in English, Bahasa Malaysia and Tamil. The parsonage was rented.

Formation of MSF

In **2007** **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the pastor-in-charge and Pastor P.P. Abraham continued as the Part Time Church Worker. The Full Membership was 106. Sunday worship was at 8.30am. There was an average of 120 in attendance. The Methodist Seniors Fellowship was formed. The church built a new worship sanctuary and an Education Hall on a piece of land which was situated 100 metres from the present old church. It was dedicated by Rev. P. Tevaraji on 4 August 2007. The church was located away from the residential area and this affected the ministries of the church. Many of the members depended on the church van for transport.

Reaching Out to the Community

In **2008**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** was again appointed the pastor-in-charge. From 2008 to 2012 Pastor P.P. Abraham continued to serve, now as the Part Time Supply Pastor. In **2008**, the Full Membership was 115. The average attendance for Sunday worship was 145. The church built the pastor's office and completed fencing its perimeter. The church worked towards getting a piece of land for church purposes from the State Government.

The church was located on Government Forest Reserve land. It was surrounded by a nursery and was not visible from the main road. No public transport was available to the church. Even with all these limitations, the church reached out in love to the people in the surrounding areas. There was good leadership. In **2009** **Rev. Anthony Panan** was the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 120. The church needed a van because of the lack of public transport.

Youths Left for Tertiary Education

From **2010 to 2012** **Rev. Raymond Raj**, the pastor of TMC Sungai Pelek, was the pastor-in-charge. In **2010** the Full Membership was 126. Twenty-two people were received into membership through Confirmation. An English worship service was started in March and this service was at 7.30am, before the Tamil service at 8.30am. In the beginning, an average of ten people attended. However it was stopped due to poor response. In **2011** the Full Membership rose to 139 and in **2012** stood at 131. Though there were cell group ministries, it was a struggle as many of the youths left to go elsewhere for tertiary education.

Appeal for a Resident Pastor to Consolidate Ministry

From **2013 to 2014**, **Rev. Edward Devadason**, the pastor of TMC Shah Alam, was the pastor-in-charge. In **2013** the Full Membership was 131. The DS reported that the attendance for the worship service was good. The church had a major renovation program. The roof and the ceiling were changed. The church, through the Council of Trustees, formally applied for a piece of land from the State Government. The church strongly expressed the need for a fulltime pastor of their own. In **2014** the Full Membership was 130. There was no progress in the application of land from the State Government. Ministerial student Mr. Nelson Nadarajan worked fulltime and was diligent. The church continued to request for a fulltime pastor. Lay leaders helped in the church ministry.

In **2015**, **Rev. Samy Dass**, the Associate Pastor of TMC KL, was the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership was 134. Because of certain factors such as the location of the church, traffic problems, members' homes being spread out, the church struggled. They needed to find new ways of doing ministry for greater effectiveness. In spite of all these limitations, the church pressed on, for there was still much potential for growth.

Building Renovation to Create More Meeting Rooms

In **2016**, **Rev. Jonathan Jesudas**, the pastor of TMC Klang, was the pastor-in-charge. Ministerial student Mr. Mohan Raj was placed here to undertake One Year Practical Work. The Full Membership was 151. About 20 to 40 people attended the Friday Prayers. Tract distribution ministry was carried out. They ministered to three new families. One family was ready to receive baptism. The church decided to renovate the current building because there were not enough rooms for other meetings. In **2017**, **Rev. D.B. Laurence**, the pastor of TMC Subang Jaya, was the pastor-in-charge. The Full Membership dropped to 112. There was a need for a fulltime resident pastor.

Finally, a Resident Pastor

In 2018 Rev. Jonathan Jesudas was once again posted as the pastor-in-charge. This time he came as the resident pastor. The Full Membership remained at 112. The ministries were growing. There was Bible Study every Wednesday. Regular house and hospital visitation was carried out. Many individuals and families who were in need of prayer and support were visited. The church budgeted RM12,000 for Slim River Tenau mission work among the Orang Asal. One area of challenge was to get the members involved in church activities.

In **2019**, Rev. Jonathan Jesudas is the pastor with Mr. Paul Jeevan as the Lay Leader. The pastor is also the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership in January was 112 and at the time of reporting at the Second Local Conference it was 156. The membership of the Agencies is as follows MYF (30), MYAF (10), MSF (23) and MW (29). There are 20 children and 5 teachers in the Church School. The church does not have an Outreach Point.

Conclusion: TMC Kayu Ara/Damansara is 14 years old. They began as an Outreach of TMC KL and then the ministry was handed over to TMC Bukit Rotan. They have experienced various challenges over the years and by God's grace have prevailed. Their constant request for a resident pastor was finally fulfilled in 2018. It is important to note that they have a strong MYF (30 members), MSF (23 members) and MW (29 members). This augurs well for the church. With these strong numbers in their Agencies; and with prayer and dedication, they can take the church on to greater heights. This can be achieved, if they continue to persevere in the face of limitations and challenges by looking to the Lord for guidance and empowerment. Then, the Lord would ensure growth for the glory of His Name.

Sources:

1. TAC Journals
2. An article by Rev. P. Sandireaseheran, Pastor TMC Bukit Rotan (2003 – 2008)

PASTORAL ROLL

2005	Rev. Moses Jayaseelan
2006	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2007	Rev. Joseph Kumar
2008	Rev. John Kovilpillai
2009	Rev. Anthony Panan
2010 – 2012	Rev. Raymond Raj
2013 – 2014	Rev. Edward Devadason
2015	Rev. Samy Dass
2016	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas
2017	Rev. Laurence D.B.
2018 onwards	Rev. Jonathan Jesudas

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2005 - 2015	Mr. Solomon John	Mr. Aiyadurai
2016	Mr. Solomon John	Mr. Solomon John
2017	Mr. Solomon John	Mr. Abel
2018	Mr. Paul Jeeva	Mr. Aiyadurai
2019	Mr. Paul Jeeva	Rev. Jonathan Jesudass



LAHAT BARU

The Beginnings

The Lahat Baru Outreach ministry of the TMC Tamil Settlement Ipoh was started in **1983**, when Rev. Gabriel Jabanathan was the pastor there. It began with the Church School ministry, which was conducted in the home of Mr. Simon Chandran in Pengkalan Tin Mines, Lahat. The ministry then moved to a new location in Kg. Sri Aman, Menglembu, Ipoh where about 5 – 10 people gathered for worship. Over the years this ministry grew, as many pastors, Church Workers, Ministerial Students and Evangelism Chairpersons contributed to it. The LCEC endorsed its further advancement as more from the Tamil Settlement Church attended and helped in the Outreach activities.

On **20 June 1994**, a generator costing RM 500 was purchased, as the fellowship in this Outreach started only in the evenings at 5.30 pm. The ministry continued to grow. Then the LCEC that met on **26 February 1995** saw the need for a new place of worship, as the place in Sri Aman was unable to accommodate the people. On **28 August 1996**, the first worship service was held in the new premise at Bandar Baru Menglembu. The rental was RM 320. About 25 people gathered for worship. On **5 September 1996**, the attendance at the worship service rose to 60.

In **July 1997**, the first Area Fellowship was conducted in a member's house. From **12 – 17 August**, special revival meetings were held, with Rev. Roberts Pandian as the speaker. This was followed by evangelistic meetings with Mr. A Selwyn. On **24 May 1998**, the LCEC identified Kinta Valley as their new Ministry Point for Lahat/Menglembu Outreach. Tuition classes were started in Kinta Valley for 15 children. The church spent RM 120 per month to conduct this program.

Purchasing a New Premise at Bandar Baru Lahat

From **28 June 1998**, Tamil classes were conducted for adults and children at Kinta Valley. Six families faithfully attended the worship service there. On **11 April 1999**, the LCEC of the Tamil Settlement Ipoh decided on the purchase of a shop-lot at Bandar Baru Lahat for RM 223,000. On **6 February 2000**, the Lahat/Menglembu Outreach shifted to this new location. As more members began to attend, there was a need for expansion. So the adjacent shop-lot, which was initially rented for RM 1,200, was soon purchased from the developer. The Dedication Service was held on **27 February 2000** and the building was dedicated by the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji.

Pro Tem Committee Set Up

On **22 October 2000** the proposal for a fulltime pastor to be placed in Lahat Baru Outreach was made at the LCEC meeting. In **2004** the LCEC appointed leaders to begin administering the Lahat Baru Outreach activities. **2005/2006**, saw the beginning of accounts keeping by the Outreach Point itself. The Outreach was seen as being able to pay the pastor.

In **2007**, a Pro Tem Committee was set up. All the accounts, administration on income and expenditure were fully done by the Pro Tem Committee, with close supervision and guidance from the LCEC of the Mother Church. This was in preparation for the Outreach to become a Local Conference.

Formation of the Local Conference

Lahat Baru was organised as a Local Conference on 19 January 2008. **Rev. M. Joseph** was appointed as the first Pastor of this church. He served for two years. The Full Membership was 75. The Full Membership as at **30 June 2008** was 93. (An increase of 37 members, mainly by Confession of Faith and transfers in). At the time of becoming a local church, there were 60 children and 6 teachers in the Church School. It was held on Sundays from 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 am. Prayer before the Sunday service was held with 5 – 8 people gathering at the altar area. The MYF gathered for their programs on 1st and 3rd Sundays. They had 25 members. A youth counsellor or an elder of the church was present during their gatherings. The MW had 15 members and they also met on 1st and 3rd Sundays. There were three Cell Groups: Lahat/Batu Gajah, Menglembu/Pengkalan and Taman Impiana Adril, in Menglembu. There was also a Friday worship service and 15 – 20 people attended.

Crisis of 2010

In **2009**, the Full Membership stood at 104. There were five Cell Groups. In **2010**, **Rev. Silvester Louis Martin**, the Assistant Pastor of TMC Tamil Settlement, was also appointed the pastor here. In the same year, due to a crisis in the church, the Full Membership dropped to 72. Thirty eight people withdrew their membership. But, during this time, eight adults were added to the membership through baptism. Due to the ongoing crisis, the church did not have a properly constituted LCEC. So a ministry team managed the activities of the church till the LCEC was duly reconstituted on 23 May.

Reconciliation Service

From **2011 till 2012**, **Rev. David Abraham**, the pastor of TMC Kampar/Gopeng, was also appointed to be Pastor-in-charge here as well. During this period, retired pastor **Rev. S. Krishnan**, served here as the Assistant Pastor for two years. In **2011** the Full Membership was 89. The outreach work at Ladang Pinji showed good possibility of becoming a Preaching Point. Much effort was taken to bring back the members who had left, through visitation and prayer. By God's grace some returned. Six adults and three children were baptised. It was noted that many non-believers were coming to church. At this time, two members went for a mission exposure trip to Nepal. In **2012** the Full Membership was 92. The local church organized a Reconciliation Service, where the members were able to forgive and receive forgiveness over their past hurts. This they did to enable the church to grow again. It turned out to be a humbling and a very powerful healing event for the local church.

Members Leaving Affected the Leadership

From **2013 to 2014**, Rev. David Abraham was the resident Pastor here. In **2013**, weekly Friday Prayer was conducted and about 18 members participated. A 21 day fasting and prayer was observed in the church from 5am to 6am and about 18 attended. Another 40 days of prayer in the morning from 5am to 6am from Tuesdays to Fridays was held in September. Meanwhile, concern was expressed that potential young leaders were leaving due to marriage, work and studies. This caused a lack in leadership, with some having to hold more than one position in the LCEC. The outreach work at Kinta Valley was promising, though during the 2010 crisis, it had slowed down. The renovation which was done in late **2014** brought a new ambience to TMC Lahat Baru.

From **2015** onwards, **Rev. S. Jayabalan** has been the Pastor here. In **2015**, many initiatives were taken to improve the church's situation. One of the initiatives was to reach out to new people from Station 18, Pengkalan area with the approval of the LCEC. This evangelism effort was started around August 2015 as an outreach program every Sunday at 6pm. Friday Prayer was attended by about 40 – 50 people. There were four Cell Groups. 31 children attended and benefitted from the VBS, which was held in TMC Tamil Settlement. Also 20 children attended the Perak District Children's Camp in Sitiawan. In **2016**, the church focused on Station 18 ministry. Two days of evangelistic/healing ministry meetings were conducted. The church adopted 22 Myanmar children under GOH program. Three members attended the TAC Missions Conference in Port Dickson. A Social Concerns Seminar was conducted by Rev. Raymond Raj. Cooked lunch was distributed to the alcoholics and the homeless in the Menglembu area. The youths conducted a local level Youth Camp, with Rev. Vinsant Rayar as the speaker. The MYAF was newly formed. Church membership increased but finance had slightly decreased. New leaders came forward for the New Year and they needed training and exposure.

In **2017**, the Full Membership increased to 143. There were five Cell Groups that met regularly. The Men's Prayer Team met on Tuesdays and the LCEC met for prayer every 4th Thursday. There were about 30 registered children in the Church School. The church started a Nepalese ministry. They gathered at 7.30 pm every Sunday. Twice a month the pastor visited the Kamunting Prison. There was a church Bible study conducted on Fridays with an average attendance of 25 – 30 people. Ministry among the drug addicts was done by distributing food packets. The DS reported that the Church was not doing well in the area of finance. This to some extent had affected their work of ministry. The church requested financial subsidy from the Conference.

In **2018**, the Full Membership dropped to 139 due to deaths and transfer of members. The MSF was organised. The ministry at Station 18 was strengthened by regular meetings and tracting. Surveys were conducted to see the possibilities of establishing a new Outreach there. The Nepalese fellowship gathered at 7.30pm every last Sunday of the month.

The pastor made monthly visits to the Batu Gajah Prison for ministry. The church finance did not improve, so they received a subsidy from the Annual Conference. Also, the members were reluctant to take up leadership in the local church.

In **2019**, **Rev. S. Jayabalan** continues to be the pastor. This is his 5th year serving in TMC Lahat Baru. The Lay Leader is Mr. Hedved Santhiagu. The pastor is also the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 125. The number of members in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (27), MYAF (23), MSF (33) and MW (23). There are 23 children and 7 teachers in the Church School. They have one Outreach at Station 18. They also have five Cell Groups: Buntong, Impiana Adril, Badrishah, Lahat Baru, Batu Gajah and Metro Pengkalan in Batu Gajah.

Conclusion: TMC Lahat Baru began as an Outreach of TMC Tamil Settlement Ipoh in 1983. When they became a Local Conference in 2008, the Full Membership was 75. Relationships among the members soured in 2010, which resulted in 38 people withdrawing their membership. They worked hard to bring restoration. Another challenge they faced was the migration of youths seeking better work and study opportunities elsewhere. All these did not deter the people. Rather, they worked hard to build the church through involvement in the Cell Groups and other ministries. There is no doubt that this church will grow in the coming years for the glory of God.

Sources

1. Souvenir Program 19/1/2008
2. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2008 – 2009	Rev. M. Joseph
2010	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2011 – 2014	Rev. David Abraham
2015 onwards	Rev. S. Jayabalan

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSON

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2009	Mr. Simon Chanren	Mr. Patrick
2010	Mr. Simon Chanren	Mr. Victor
2011	Mr. Hedved	Mr. Victor
2012	Mr. Victor	Mr. Hedved
2013 - 2015	Mr. Hedved	Mr. Victor
2016	Mr. Simon Chanren	Mr. Hedved
2017	Mr. Hedved	Mr. Victor
2018 - 2019	Mr. Hedved	Mr. Michael

BERCHAM

The Beginnings

In **1990**, several members of TMC Ipoh, including Christians from other churches, moved to the Bercham residential area. The people had difficulty attending services due to transportation problems. There was an urgent need to gather people in Bercham for worship. Such a move was initiated by **Rev. P. Tevaraji**, the pastor of TMC Ipoh.

The First Fellowship Meeting

The first fellowship meeting was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. D. David on **11 February 1992** (Monday). Only two families attended. Mr. & Mrs. D. David were appointed as the first coordinators of the Bercham Outreach Ministry. About 11 members from 5 families attended the meeting. Following that, meetings were scheduled to take place every Tuesday between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. These weekly meetings focused on Bible study. Members took turns to host the meetings.

Consolidating Ministry with Sunday Service

In **1993**, Mr. Isravel and his children surveyed the Bercham area to identify the Christians residing there. Follow-up visits were carried out by lay members to invite believers, including unchurched Christians, to attend the weekly Bible Study sessions. Slowly the ministry grew and Mr. Isravel and Mr. Paramanathan and their children, who had moved from Kati Estate, began to help in this ministry. On **3 April 1993**, the first Bercham Outreach Sunday service was held at Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Jacob's house at 6.30 p.m. These Sunday worship services were arranged once a fortnight in their house. The services continued in the same place until **17 November 1996**. Rev. Tevaraji preached, while student pastors Mr. Raymond Raj and Mr. Jayabalan shared testimonies. The people were edified. Mr. Tharmapal, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Louis Martin and Mr. Paramanathan served occasionally. Mr. M. Thavamany Arul, Mr. Paul Manikkam and Mr. A. Thevarajan helped in the area of music. From **1994 to 1996**, Mr. Paranjothi offered his van and provided free transport. After 1996, TMC Ipoh provided van transport for the people. Services continued in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Jacob.

Move to Double-Storey Shop-Lot

On **1 January 1997**, a double storey shop-lot was rented for RM 800, and services were then held in this building. The building was subsequently bought for RM 178,000 on **10 April 2000**. One church member graciously contributed RM 100,000 and the remaining amount was raised from the contributions of members. In **2002**, **Pastor John Mathuni** was posted to TMC Ipoh to assist in the Bercham Outreach Ministry. The mother church targeted to make Bercham into a Local Conference. However, due to various reasons, the ministry slowed down. In **2005** though Mr. Salomon Thangaiah was sent as the coordinator from the Mother Church, he was posted as the Supply Pastor of TMC Johor Bahru in January 2006. As there was no one to take over, the task was given to **Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph**, the pastor.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

At the **LCEC meeting in November 2006**, Bercham members indicated that they would like to start a morning worship service from January 2007 onwards. In **2007**, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Manymuthu were sent as coordinators to revive the ministry. The first morning service was conducted on **14 January 2007** at 8 a.m. About fifty adults and twenty children attended. In this service the LCEC Chairperson, Mr. R. Steven, challenged the members to pray and work hard so that Bercham Outreach would become a Local Conference by 2009. After the service, a Pro Tem Committee was formed. Mr. R. Steven, the LCEC and Evangelism Chairperson conducted the election. Mr. Joseph William was elected Chairperson. On **17 January 2007** at 7.30 p.m. the Pro Tem Committee held their first committee meeting to plan for the year. The second meeting was held on 14 June 2007 at 7.35 p.m. The Cell Group had its first meeting on 6 February and Prayer Cell on 7 February.

Becoming a Local Conference

On **21 June 2007**, a proposal was brought to the LCEC monthly meeting by the Chairperson, Mr. R. Steven to recommend Bercham Outreach to become a Local Conference in June 2008. This was further discussed on 18 July, and August and September 2007. All were in favour.

The resolution was brought to the Second Local Conference held on **26 September 2007**, the District Conference on **7 October 2007** and to the TAC Executive Board on **12 October 2007**. On **18 November 2007**, at the 32nd Session of the Tamil Annual Conference, this was unanimously accepted. **Tamil Methodist Church Bercham** was accepted as the 47th Local Conference of the Tamil Annual Conference. On **19 April 2008**, the Bercham Outreach of the Tamil Methodist Church Ipoh was organised as a Local Conference by **Rev. P. Tevaraji**, the TAC President. He was assisted by the Perak DS and Local Church Pastor, **Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph**.

The Full Membership of the Bercham Outreach at the time of Local Conference recommendation was 47. There were 27 Preparatory Members and one Affiliate Member. On the day of its formation, the Full Membership stood at 48 and the Preparatory Roll was 28. The Full Membership on 30 June 2008 was 53. Worship attendance averaged 50 – 60 persons. A new Outreach was started at Kg. Simee. **Rev. Dr A.E. Joseph** was the first pastor-in-charge with **Pastor Paul Mani** assisting. Mr. Paramanatham was the Lay Leader and Mr. William the LCEC Chairperson.

Initial Leadership and Identity Crisis

From 2009 till 2012, Rev. Herbert John was the pastor. In **2009**, Pastor Richard Lawrence was the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 46. The MYF and MW were officially formed. The church organised a “Christian Star Night” to raise funds for purchasing a shop lot. The DS Rev. Herbert John reported: “The church is new and is going through the initial leadership and identity crisis.” In **2010**, the Full Membership was 50. Mr Rohindra Rao (Pre-Ministerial Student) assisted the pastor. The church purchased the adjoining building. In **2011**, Pastor Tharmapal, who was a Church Worker, assisted Rev. Herbert.

The Full Membership was 53. The new building was used for church fellowship, until renovation was complete. Tithing was low and was a concern. The church was grateful to the Annual Conference for writing off the RM 25,000 loan. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 56. There was one Cell Group.

From 2013 to 2015, Rev. Paul Mani was the pastor. Pastor Tharmapal continued to assist till 2015. An evangelistic meeting was held from 6 – 9 June **2013** with Mr. GMM Mutu as the speaker. In **2014**, the Full Membership was 50. An Evangelistic Rally was conducted in August, for which thousands of flyers were distributed around Bercham. In **2015** the Full Membership was 47. Both the MYF and MW were struggling to meet. Many youths had left for studies. The youths from TMC Pusing helped in the Children's and Music ministry

Church Turns Eleven Years Old

From 2016 – 2018, Rev. K. Segaran was the pastor and assisted by Pastor Sargunawaran (Part Time). The Full Membership remained at 57 from 2016 till 2018. In **2016**, a Christian puppet show was conducted by Pastor Lesley from India, which was very successful. There was some growth in the area of finance. Renovation work was done to the altar area. In **2017** two evangelistic meetings were held. Since the youths were studying outside Ipoh, they only met twice a month for their fellowship gatherings. However, they took active part in the worship and music ministry. A VBS was conducted and attracted 40 children. 12 were non-Christians. This was conducted again in **2018** with 20 children, of which 11 were non-Christians. Three Church School teachers attended a training session held in TMC Kampar. A two-day evangelistic meeting was held and one couple who attended this meeting, now attend the church. The church celebrated their 10th Anniversary on 14 October.

In **2019, Rev. David Retnam**, the Assistant Pastor of TMC Tamil Settlement Ipoh, is the pastor-in-charge. Pastor Sargunawaran is the part-time Church Worker. The Full Membership is 77 after the membership was stagnant at 57 for three years. The membership in the Agencies are as follows: MYF (10), MSF (17) and MW (17). There are 30 children and 4 teachers in the Church School. They have one Cell Group. There are no Outreach Points.

Conclusion: 60% of the Full Membership of TMC Bercham are seniors. Also, the MSF is the most active group of the church. Many of the church youth study outside Ipoh. The church has no Outreach work. These factors have contributed to the church membership being stagnant over the years. Although the church is eleven years old, much prayer and effort is needed to help bring spiritual growth. This would enable them to reach out to the community with the Gospel message.

PASTORAL ROLL

2008	Rev. A.E. Joseph
2009 – 2012	Rev. Herbert D. John
2013 – 2015	Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail
2016 – 2018	Rev. K. Segaran
2019	Rev. David Retnam

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2008 - 2013	Mr. Paramanatham	Mr. Joseph William
2014	Mr. Paramanatham	Mr. Tharmapal (Lay Pastor)
2015	Mr. Paramanatham	Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail
2016 - 2018	Mr. Paramanatham	Rev. Segaran
2019	Mr. Paramanatham	Rev. David Retnam



SELAYANG

The Background

In **1986**, Mr. Sam Krishnasamy Subbiah and his wife Julie introduced Mr. James Manoharan to work in the Selayang area. He was appointed as a Church Worker by TMC KL, the mother church. Mr. Sam and his wife were then appointed as co-ordinators. Rev. John Kovilpillai, the pastor in-charge, and Mr. Robert Ananthan the Evangelism Chairman and their team began regular visits. After initial gatherings in a few places, in the year 2000 the ministry moved to Dr Stoner's clinic, an upper floor Shop Lot at 3A Jalan 11A, Selayang Baru, 68100 Batu Caves. This premise was given free of charge for the church's usage by Dr Stoner.

Becoming a Local Conference

In **1988**, Mr. & Mrs. A. Subramaniam were appointed as co-ordinators and were responsible for starting weekly Bible Study and visitation. One member who played a significant role in the early years was Mr. Andrew Doss. He was a faithful recording secretary of the Selayang Outreach Church Working Committee, which had regular monthly meetings under the chairmanship of the pastors from the mother church. Monthly Holy Communion services were also conducted. The work steadily grew and the Outreach was **organised as a Local Conference on 28 March 2009**.

The Early Years as a Local Church

In **2009** the Full Membership was 65. **Rev. Reuben Kanagalingam**, who served as Assistant Pastor from 1 January, suddenly resigned in June. **Rev. S. Jayabalan** was appointed the Pastor in charge **from 1 August 2009** and served **till 2014**. Within seven months, the church saw an increase in membership, finance and ministry. There were three cell groups. There was Bible Study with prayer that met on Fridays except the last Friday, of the month when there was a healing service. All the Agencies and Committees functioned well. Kota Damansara Outreach Ministry was started in homes. They started a Parsonage Fund which stood at about RM15,000.

Ministry Expands and a Parsonage Purchased

In **2010** the Full Membership grew from 65 to 96. About 15 – 20 adults attended the new outreach in Kota Damansara. There was a need to rent a shop-lot but cost was an issue. They also had children's ministry, Bible study and prayer meetings. A parsonage was bought at RM260,000, and the pastor moved in to it. Fund raising work was in progress.

In **2011** the Full Membership grew to 127. An Indian Cultural and Carnival Nite was held on 20 February. The church raised about RM34,020.30. The Kota Damansara ministry progressed smoothly with about 35-45 adults and children attending. The church explored a possible joint ministry with the Bukit Rotan Sg. Buloh Outreach and Kuala Lumpur's Sg. Buloh Cell Group. There was a Home for Christian Boys in the former premises of the Selayang church. There were 3 boys.

In **2012** the Full Membership further grew to 157. The Kota Damansara work progressed smoothly with about 35-45 adults and children. The home for the boys was converted into a half way home for needy families to stay on a temporary basis.

In **2013** the Full Membership was 153. The half way home ministry was further developed. In **2014** the Full Membership was 154. Rev. S. Jayabalan gave good pastoral leadership, in spite of his own physical challenges. The Kota Damansara Outreach which started with promising numbers, began to reduce in attendance. On 14 September, they moved into a member's home, with the hope that the attendance would improve in the future. There was regular Friday prayer and also a combined session with members of the Sg. Buloh Outreach, Kota Damansara and Selayang members every last Friday of the month. There were four Cell groups. The church continued to look for a suitable piece of land to build their own church.

From **2015 to 2017**, **Rev. David Abraham** was the Pastor. In **2015** the Full Membership dropped to 134. Since there was no proper place to worship, the ministry in Kota Damansara was reduced to home visitations and some help through Social Concerns. The LCEC decided to hand over the work to TMC Bukit Rotan, the nearest Methodist church, with the hope of improving their ministry. This effort did not bring any change and the work has since been discontinued. Two revival meetings were organized from 17 – 19 April with Rev. John Ganapathy, and from 24 – 26 July with Rev. David Rasahpandy as the speakers. The Care Groups increased from four to seven areas but there was a shortage of leaders to carry out this ministry. A Leadership Seminar was conducted by Rev. Dr. A.E. Joseph to encourage the leadership and also to identify new and potential leaders for the future. A Family Camp was also organised in July in Pangkor and this helped improve unity and participation among members.

Members Equipped to Reach out

In **2016** the Full Membership was maintained at 134. The church formed the Issachar Anointing Group after their participation in the School of Intercessors. A revival meeting by Rev. Vijatal from India was conducted in July. A total of eight home meetings were organised to encourage members. A Leadership Seminar was conducted by Rev. P. Tevaraji on 6 March. The MSF, which was formed in 2015, conducted programs to encourage their members.

In **2017** the membership dropped further to 119. Rev. David Abraham not only gave pastoral leadership to Selayang but was also appointed to cover TMC Rawang. Rev. David Abraham was also recovering from a heart surgery and was to retire at the end of the year, after 11 years of service. There was a seminar held on soul winning techniques by Pastor John Chidambaran from the Narikurunggu ethnic group from India. The Children's Sunday was observed in July with Mr. Ponraj Navamani as their speaker. He spoke on the Future Christian Generation and the role of parents.

In **2018 Rev. Edward Devadason** was appointed the Pastor. The Full Membership dropped further to 81. An appraisal was conducted by the PPRC to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes conducted. A monthly comprehensive bulletin with articles, announcements and themes was prepared and distributed. All Agencies were encouraged to have collective programmes instead of individual ones. The membership was updated and 39 names were removed because they were unidentified or no longer worshipping in the church. In order to strengthen ministry work, five teams were formed (Word, Worship, Witness, Fellowship and Prayer).

In **2019, Rev. Justin Clarence**, the DS of Central District and pastor of TMC Sentul, was appointed the Pastor-in-charge. Rev. Samuel Jacob Manokaran is the Associate Pastor. The present Lay Leader Mr. Alex Albert, is also the LCEC Chairperson. The church celebrated their tenth anniversary on 6 April 2019. Their current Full Membership is 83. Church School has 20 children and 3 teachers. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (14), MYAF (19), MW (35) and MSF (15).

Conclusion: TMC Selayang has come a long way over the last ten years of being a local church. From a Full Membership of 65 in 2009, they are now 83. They have their own church building as well as parsonage. All the agencies are functioning. Efforts have been taken to strengthen the spiritual life of the members. Greater focus on evangelism would surely help bring growth in membership. The present leadership is challenged to take the local church to greater heights. By the grace of God and with the guidance of the two pastors; Rev. Justin Clarence and Rev. Samuel Manokaran, and with the commitment of the local leadership, the church can move on to the next level. All glory and honour belong to God alone.

Source:

TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2009	Rev. Justin Clarence (<i>April till July 2009</i>)
2009 – 2014	Rev. S. Jayabalan (<i>From 1 Aug.2009</i>)
2015 – 2017	Rev. David Abraham
2018	Rev. Edward Devadason
2019	Rev. Justin Clarence

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2009	Mr. M. Pandian	Rev. Justin
2010 - 2013	Mr. M. Pandian	Rev. Jayabalan
2014 - 2019	Mr. Alexzander Albert	Mr. Alexzander Albert

Pastors ministered in TMC Selayang

from 2009 till 2019

2009 முதல் 2019 வரை த.மெ.இ.செலாயாங்கில் ஊழியம் செய்த
போதகர்கள்

From January till July 2009 :-

Rev.Justin Clarence & Associate Pastor, Rev.Reuben Kanagalingam



From August 2009 till 2014 :-
Rev.S.Jayabalan



From 2015 till 2017 :-
Rev.David Abraham



Year 2018 :-
Rev.Edward Devadason



From January 2019 till now :-

Rev.Justin Clarence & Associate Pastor, Rev.Samuel Jacob Manokaran



CHERAS

The Beginnings

The Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur's ministry in Cheras started in the home of Mr. & Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai when Rev. P. Tevaraji was the Senior Pastor of the church. There were weekly services on Sundays at 6.00 pm. This however ceased when **Rev. Tevaraji** became the Conference President. This was started again at the initiative of Mr. I. Ponnuthurai and there were weekly gatherings in his home on Fridays at 7.30 pm. There was good response for this gathering and a need was felt to organize this work as Cheras Outreach.

First Cheras Outreach Service at Chinese Methodist Church Taman Mudun Cheras

It was felt that the members of both the Tamil Methodist Church Sentul and Kuala Lumpur staying in the Cheras area could come together and see the possibility of becoming a Local Church. Meetings were then held with the leaders of both these churches. The first Cheras Outreach Service was held on **24 September 2006 at the Chinese Methodist Church, Taman Mudun, Cheras**. This was a joint effort involving the leaders of the Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur and Sentul. **Rev. Victor Vethamani** was the pastor of the Kuala Lumpur Church and **Rev. Devadass Ratnam** of Sentul.

Outreach Service Move to Taman Cheras Permata

After much searching by Mr. & Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai, the Cheras Outreach rented the premise at Taman Cheras Permata, where the first service was held on **14 January 2007**. Approximately 30 - 40 people attended the service on the second and fourth week of the month. Holy Communion was served on the last Sunday of every month. Rev Victor Vethamani was the Chairman for the Cheras Outreach Ministry Committee. The committee included Rev. Devadas Ratnam (TMC Sentul), Rev. Elijah Bala (TMC UK), Mr. I. Ponnuthurai (TMC KL), Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter (TMC Sentul), Mrs. Manomani Peter (Treasurer, TMC Sentul), Miss Prema Sugi Panirselvam (Secretary TMC KL), Mr. Samuel Segrane (TMC Sentul) and Mr. Sugumaran (TMC KL).

Formation of TMC Cheras Local Conference

The Cheras Outreach **became a Local Conference on 27 March 2010**. Rev. Devadass Ratnam was appointed the first pastor of the church. At the time of the formation, the Full Membership was 40. Mr. Basil Simmon was the Lay Leader and Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter the LCEC Chairperson. The Church occupied the upstairs of a shop-lot located at 5A Jalan Permata Biru, Taman Permata, Cheras. The rent was RM 600 per month. Pastors from Sentul as well as from Kuala Lumpur took turns to preach in the Sunday service. Ministerial Student Mr. John Sunder at times conducted Sunday morning services held at 9.15 a.m. The Church School met at 8.00 am. Holy Communion was served on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month.

The Early Years as a Local Church

As **2010**, was the first year as a local church, there were expenses towards setting-up basic facilities such as installing lights at the staircase, repair and plumbing work and LCD installation. Other expenses included buying microphones, power mixer, microphone stand and other accessories. The MYAF was officially formed on 10 July with a membership of 10 people. Rev. Devadass Ratnam was happy to note that the church finance was strong and RM20, 000.00 was put in fixed deposit in July 2010. In August 2011, Rev. Timothy Krishnan helped in TMC Cheras. On 10 December, TMC Cheras carried out its first Community Project together with the Children's Christmas Programme. In addition, five new believers joined TMC Cheras.

From **2012 to 2017**, **Rev. Timothy Krishnan** was the pastor-in-charge. In **2012** the finances improved, and the church could afford a full-time pastor. Rev. Timothy Krishnan was appointed as the full-time pastor from 2012. The church sponsored 4 children under the Myanmar Child Adoption Programme. The Church School, under the leadership of Mrs. Selvi Basil, experienced growth. 15 children were taken to Malacca on an educational tour on 21 July 2012. Sadly, the church drummer Mr. Michael Sandanades, had a stroke and lost his job in the private sector. The church decided to assist him with a monthly allowance of RM800 from May to June 2012.

A small Church library was initiated by Mrs. Manomani Peter and the members started to pledge for the Nehemiah Project. 10 children from the Church School attended the VBS at SMK Methodist Boys School from 31 - 2 June 2012. Tuition classes were started by Dr. Robinson, Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter and Mrs. Regina Solomon on Saturdays. This was later changed to Sundays after church service. More than 10 students attended the classes. An Electric Field Therapy Unit (Alpha 9000) was bought by the church for RM16,600 to be used by members of the church. Under the Myanmar Child Adoption Programme, the church sponsored 15 children. For the Children's Summer Camp in Ulu Klang 20 children and 6 teachers attended. The Full Membership stood at 69 (increase of 2 members). A PA system consisting of 2 speakers, 2 stands, an amplifier and 3 microphones were donated by the Government representative (Hulu Langat) to the church on 16 March 2013. 5 people from the church were given baptism at Sungai Tekala, Hulu Langat. In addition, the Church Family Camp was held from 24 – 25 May 2013 in Gunung Ledang Resort, Tangkak, Johore. Finance continued to improve and the money kept in fixed deposit increased to RM100,000.

Church Worship Service Moves to Ground Floor

In Sept **2014**, the worship service moved to the downstairs at 6, Jalan Permata Biru, Taman Permata, Cheras. The monthly rental for the new additional premises was fixed at RM1,300. A church building fund was also started with an initial fund of RM 2,000. Two mission trips were made to Kg. Bertam, near Raub. The Church School attendance increased from 5 to 11.

The tuition classes were temporarily stopped as the response from students was poor. The church sponsored 4 children under the MMM Myanmar Child Adoption Programme, in **2014**.

Mr. Basil Simmon and Madam Elsie Ponnuthurai had their preaching licenses renewed. The Family Camp was successfully carried out in Hotel Seri Malaysia, Malacca from **28 -29 July 2014**. A new PA system was bought for RM30,000. Full Membership increased from 69 to 75. The 2014 Christmas Party was held at the Community Centre in Taman Cuepacs. 15 children from the TMC Cheras Church School made an educational trip to KLCC Aquaria and Petrosains in June 2014.

22 children were sponsored under the Myanmar Child Adoption Programme in **2015**. In the same year it was found that church funds were declining. However, the local church continued to support Rev. Seenivasagam David from January **2015** until April 2015 with a monthly amount of RM500. Financial assistance to Mr. Michael Sandanades was continued. Mr. Kunaseelan and Mr. Sam were sent to KARAK for evangelism training from 18 to 19 July 2015. **On 17 August 2015**, the church was burgled at night. Several church band items like guitars, amplifier, speakers etc. were stolen. The annual Christmas Party was held on 11 December 2015. Total Full Membership was 76.

In 2016, the Christian Education Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Manomani Peter started the memory verse recitation for church members. This was well received by the members. Mr. James Thavaraj went on a mission trip to Kudat, Sabah from 20 to 23 October 2016. In view of the burglary in 2015, the District Superintendent, Rev. Justin Clarence, instructed the LCEC to speed up the fixing of an alarm system for the church and to insure the musical instruments.

Pastor Resigns

Mr. James Thavaraj was sent on a mission trip to Sepulut, Sabah from 15 to 18 June **2017**. Rev. Timothy Krishnan resigned as pastor of the church with effect from 1 September 2017. **Rev. Justin Clarence**, the Central District Superintendent, took charge as the pastor from **September to December 2017**. Prior to this Rev. Timothy Krishnan went on three months leave. Full Membership in 2017 stood at 86. The downstairs, where the worship took place, was sold in August 2017 by the owner and the new owner raised the rental to RM 2007 with effect from August 2017. The Mission Committee also gave coin boxes to each member in the church in the beginning of 2017. Total collection from the coin boxes amounted to RM1,492.40 and this was used for mission work.

Greater Social Concerns

From **2018 Rev. Samy Dass** took charge as pastor of the church. There was one baptism. The Social Concern Committee under the leadership of Mrs. Elsie Ponnuthurai continued to help the needy and destitute. A stroke victim was given a monthly allowance of RM 500 from May 2012 onwards.

Similarly, a monthly allowance of RM200 was given to a dialysis patient from 2013 to 2015. A one-time support of RM200 was further given to a single mother. Free groceries are also given to needy families during Christmas time. 22 Myanmar children were adopted under the MMM Myanmar Child Adoption Project.

In 2019, the Lay Leader of the church is Mrs. Vasantha Chelladurai and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter. The Full Membership is 84. The number of members in the Agencies are as follows: MYF (16), MYAF (18), MSF (18), MW (26) and there are 26 children and 3 teachers in the Church School.

Conclusion: Today this local church is nine years old. It was slow to evolve in the very early years in the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. Ponnuthurai. However, in 2006, when the leadership of TMC KL and TMC Sentul agreed to encourage their members staying in the Cheras area to come together, it rapidly progressed to become a local church in 2010. The church continues to grow by doubling its Full Membership and with greater involvement in ministry.

Sources:

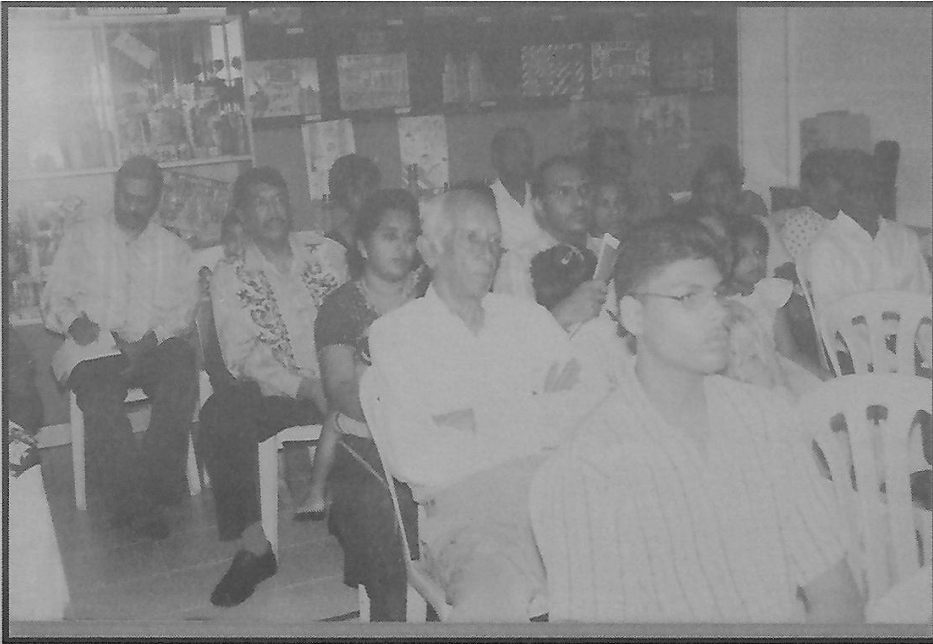
1. Article by Rev. Samy Das
2. Article by Dr. Robinson
3. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2010 – 2011	Rev. Devadass Ratnam
2012 – 2017 (till 31Aug. 2017)	Rev. Timothy Krishnan
2017 (Sept. to Dec.)	Rev. Justin Clarence
2018 onwards	Rev. Samy Dass

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairperson

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2010 - 2012	Mr. Basil Simmon	Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter
2013 - 2018	Dr. Robinson Samuel	Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter
2019	Mrs. Vasantha Chelladurai	Mr. Samuel Gunalan Peter



Members at the inaugural service listening to the sermon



Three pastors Rev. Victor Vethamani (TMC KL), Rev. Devadass Ratnam (TMC Sentul), The Late Rev. Elijah Bala (TMC Ulu Klang) and Cheras Co-ordinator Mr I Ponnuthurai at the inaugural service.

KAPAR

The Beginnings

The ministry in Kapar was initiated by **Rev. V.A. Subramaniam**, who was the pastor of TMC Klang from **1960 – 1961**. He was also the headmaster of the Methodist Tamil School in Kapar. Mr. Sarathy, an active member of TMC Klang, was also a member of the School Board. During this time the Kapar ministry was first started in the school canteen. As a result, in 1969, Mdm. Kuppu Munusamy Naidu was one of the first persons to be baptized. However, the Kapar ministry was discontinued following the racial riots of May 13, 1969. Sadly, no records were kept regarding the Kapar ministry from 1969.

Evangelism Efforts in the 1990s

Rev. S. Duraisingam, the pastor of TMC Klang from **1990 – 1992**, together with Mr. P.P. Abraham, Ms. Tina, Ms. Usha Stanley and their team started a Bible Class and Church School in a house in Taman Rakyat, Batu Tujuh, Kapar. The ministry then moved to the Kapar Chinese Methodist Church. At that time, Mr. Jayarajah was the Evangelism Coordinator of TMC Klang.

In **1994**, under the leadership of **Rev. C. Jayaraj**, TMC Klang rented a building in Kapar to build this ministry. Those who were involved in this include Mr. and Mrs. Victor, Mdm. Sathianathan, Ms. Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Sarathy, Mrs. Chitra Nathan, Mrs. Napoleon, Mr. Timothy Sathianathan, Mrs. Pakiarani Edward, Mr. Achu Naidu, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick, Mr. Roymen Kumar, Mr. Steven, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nagappan and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nadarajah. Mr Victor was the Evangelism Coordinator.

Consolidating Ministry in the 2000s

Rev. Jayabalan, Rev. Ruben Kanagalingam, Pastor John Mathuni and Rev. Jeremiah Thomas led the Kapar ministry in the 2000s while serving as Assistant Pastors of TMC Klang. During this time, there were 20 adults and 25 children worshipping regularly. In **2004**, this Tamil ministry returned to the Kapar Chinese Methodist Church. Then under the leadership of **Rev. John Kovilpillai**, TMC Klang reclaimed the Methodist Tamil School land in Kapar and built a Mission Chapel there at the cost of RM 100,000. It was dedicated on 8 October 2006 by Rev. John Kovilpillai.

Formation of the Pro Tem Committee

Mr. Timothy Sathianathan, Evangelism Coordinator of TMC Klang, together with several other lay members continued to be actively involved in this ministry in the 2000s. **Rev. Elanko Kannan** was pastor of TMC Klang from **2007 – 2008**, followed by **Rev. A.E. Joseph** who served in **2009**. A Pro Tem Committee was set up under his leadership. At this time, Pastor Devarajah Balayah was appointed co-ordinator of the Kapar Outreach Ministry with Mr. Ramulu as the secretary. Mr. Jayarajah was the Evangelism Coordinator then. This team decided that the Kapar ministry should strive to become a Local Conference by 2011.

Up until that time, the average attendance was 40 to 50 people, including non-Christians. Church School had 30 to 35 children. Regular prayer ministry was held every Wednesday and song practice on Saturdays. The pastoral house visitations were on Sundays and Wednesdays. All Night and Extended Prayer Sessions were carried out. Women and youth meetings were also conducted. Tithes and offering increased considerably. Social concerns ministry was also carried out.

In **2010**, the average attendance increased to about 50 to 55 adults and there were 30 to 35 children. Many revival meetings were held frequently with various pastors. Attendance was very good and encouraging. The Pro Tem Committee was extended. The Evangelism Coordinator was Mr. Arthur Jeremiah. Mr. Jaime John, Mr. Tommy Ganapathi, Mr. Draviasingam, Lay Leader Mr. Achu Naidu and other TMC Klang leaders were very helpful towards the Kapar ministry. TMC Klang, in its Second Local Conference, recommended that Kapar Outreach become a Local Conference. However, the DS, Rev. P. Tevaraji, while encouraging and supporting the ministry in Kapar, advised them to wait another year to further build their leadership and finance.

Becoming a Local Conference

In **2011**, Sunday worship service in the mornings was started. While continuing as the Assistant Pastor in TMC Klang, Pastor Devarajah Balayah concentrated more on the ministries in Kapar. At this period, Mr. Patrick Anthony was the Evangelism Coordinator. More extended prayer sessions and frequent home visitations were done. Many were brought to the church. Tithes and offering increased rapidly.

The 36th Session of the Tamil Annual Conference held in **November 2011** approved of the Kapar Outreach becoming a Local Conference. On **17 March 2012**, the Kapar Outreach was constituted as the 50th Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia by the TAC President Rev. C. Jayaraj. **Rev. Jonathan Jesudas** was appointed as the first Pastor of TMC Kapar, with Supply Pastor Devarajah Balayah as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership in June was 57. Ten adults and eight children were baptised on 29 July. TMC Klang continued to give support in different ways.

Growing with a Pastor of their own

From **2013 – 2018**, **Pastor Devarajah Balayah** served as the pastor. In **2013** the Full Membership was 84. Christian nurture was through Cell Groups and Bible Studies. Finance improved with an increase in tithes and offerings. Several gospel meetings were held. In **2014** the Full Membership was 97. Five adults and six children were baptised. In **2015** the Full Membership increased to 96. Majority of the members were from the lower-income group. In **2016** the Full Membership was 99. They had five active Cell Groups.

In **2017**, for the first time, the Full Membership crossed the 100 mark to 107 in June. There were seven active Cell Groups. A few members of the church registered for the TEE Course in Tamil and English. An Evangelistic Banquet was held at Klang Utama, which was a new experience for this church. About 200 people attended. Eight adults and six children accepted Christ. The Social Concerns Committee of the church started free tuition at Bukit Raja with 25 children. The DS reported that Rev. Devarajah was well respected by the Indian Community in Kapar.

Growing Through Cell Groups and Evangelism

In **2018** the Full Membership further increased to 125. The Finance too improved. For the period January – June 2017, tithes were RM 44,476. There was a significant increase in 2018 to RM 58,230. There were six active Cell Groups. The Church was involved in evangelism in three places – Bukit Raja, Taman Sg. Kapar Indah and Taman Intan Kapar. They started a Cell Group in Bukit Raja. An open-air Evangelistic Meeting was held in Taman Intan.

In **2019**, **Rev. John Kovilpillai** has been appointed the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Mohan Raj as the Assistant Pastor. Mr. David Atputam is the Lay Leader and Mr. Paul Raj the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 123. The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (18), MYAF (32), MSF (30) and MW (28). They have 46 children and 7 teachers in the Church School. They have one Preaching Point at Bandar Bukit Raja, which meets once a month. They have six Cell Groups meeting regularly on 2nd and 4th weeks.

Conclusion: The Tamil Methodist ministry in Kapar spans almost over sixty years. The DS delayed its formation as a Local Conference by one year in 2010, when it was first recommended. This was because of the need to strengthen the leadership as well as the finances. This vibrant new church rose to the situation by being faithful. Currently, with the experience of the Senior Retired Pastor, Rev. John Kovilpillai, the energy of the young pastor Mohan Raj and the commitment and service of the members, TMC Kapar can look forward to greater things ahead for the glory of God

Sources:

1. Article by Rev. Devarajah Balayah
2. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2012	Rev. Jonathan Jesudass (<i>from March onwards</i>)
2013 - 2018	Rev. Devarajah Balayah
2019	Rev. John Kovilpillai

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2012 - 2015	Mr. Devet Atputham	Mr. Ramulu
2016	Mr. Devet Atputham	Pastor Devarajah Balayah
2017		Pastor Devarajah Balayah
2018	Mr. Paulraj Rasaiah	Mr. Paulraj Rasaiah
2019	Mr. Devet Atputham	Mr. Paulraj Rasaiah

BAHAU

Location and the Background History

TMC Bahau is located in Mahsan, Negeri Sembilan, about 70 kilometres from Seremban. Mahsan is situated just off Bahau. Bahau Outreach, which was known as Mahsan Outreach, was started by TMC Seremban when **Rev. James Solamadan** was the pastor in 1990. Four families that moved to Taman Sri Seriting in Jempol started to gather for fellowship in their homes. On Sundays, these families went to worship in TMC Seremban. This was the beginning of the Bahau ministry. From **1990 – 1991**, weekly meetings and Church School classes were conducted in their homes. During the tenure of **Rev. Solomon Abraham**, who served from **1992 – 1993**, the ministry in Mahsan grew as members from the Seremban Church made home visitations and prayed. From **1994 – 1999**, **Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)** continued building this work with the help of STM students such as Mr Joseph Yesupatham, Mr Jonathan Jesudas and Mr Adrian. A shop-house in Mahsan was rented for this ministry in **June 2000**, when **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor. Around this time Cell Group meetings were started in Tembangau (in Pahang) which was 40 km from Mahsan. Soon the Mahsan Outreach Building was officially dedicated by Rev. Justin Clarence the Southern DS. Mr Reuben Kanagalingam and Mr Edward Devadason from STM helped in this ministry.

Initial Consolidation of the Ministry

The work continued to grow from **2002 to 2008**, when it was under the care of the next Pastor, **Rev. David Tharmakan**. STM students continued to help and they included Mr Stephen Gunaraja, Mr. E. Kunabalan, Mr Elijah Bala and Mr Richard Lawrence. Mr James Kuttan was employed as Church Worker from **2005 to 2009**. A single storey terrace house was rented for the worker. **From 2009**, the ministry grew under the Pastoral leadership of **Rev. Sandireaseheran** and Church Worker Mr James Kuttan. In **2010**, Pastor Richard Lawrence was appointed to help Rev. Sandireaseheran. In **2011**, Mr Henry Jeremiah was assigned to further build the work and was joined by Mr. Christopher Saravanan, a Pre-Seminary Student.

A double storey shop-house was purchased by TMC Seremban, the Mother church in 2011 to be used for this ministry at the cost of RM 480,000. This new building, which was fully paid for, was handed over to the Bahau ministry in Mahsan, when it became a Local Conference in 2014.

Becoming a Local Conference

The LCEC of TMC Seremban, at its meeting on **Sunday 4 August 2013**, came to a unanimous decision to recommend their Outreach in Mahsan to become a Local Conference in 2014. There were 54 Full Members in this Outreach as at **30 June 2013**. This recommendation was proposed and accepted at the Local Conference of TMC Seremban on **12 September** and at the Southern District Conference on **29 September 2013**.

Then, at the 38th Session of The Tamil Annual Conference in November **2013**, it was proposed that Mahsan Outreach of Seremban be accepted as a Local Conference. It was officially formed as a Local Conference on **23 February 2014**, taking the name of TMC Bahau.

In **2014**, **Rev. Sandireseheran**, the pastor of TMC Rawang, was also appointed as the first Pastor of this newly formed church. He was assisted by Part-time Church Worker Mr. Henry Jeremiah, who served here till 2018. The Full Membership was 62 in June. TMC Bahau then identified Rompin as their Outreach, but as the progress was slow there, other places were considered. The MW met twice a month. They met one Sunday in the church and the other in the homes of members. The MYF and MYAF were active. Finance was a concern, for the giving was low.

In **2015**, **Rev. Joseph Komar**, the pastor of TMC Seremban, was also the Pastor-in-charge here. The Full Membership was 71. There were four Cell Groups and almost all the members were attending these gatherings. One of the church members went to Myanmar to help conduct the VBS. Their first Family Camp was held in the Port Dickson Methodist Centre on 31 July. The church building was renovated and the Dedication Service was held on 10 October.

In **2016**, **Rev. Joseph Yesupatham**, the pastor of TMC Seremban, was the Pastor-in-charge here. The Full Membership was 73. The church was involved in social work. The poor were given provisions and the sick were visited in their homes and in the hospitals.

From **2017** onwards, **Rev. Anthony Panan**, the pastor of TMC Cha'ah has been the Pastor-in-charge here. In 2017, the Full Membership was 76. A few of its members gather at 5 am on Saturdays for prayer. The DS saw that their evangelistic efforts needed more focus and strategy. In **2018**, the Full Membership was 80. An average of 10 people attended the Friday Prayers.

In **2019** Rev. Anthony Panan continues as the Pastor-in-charge, with Pastor Joseph Ambrose as the Assistant Pastor. The Lay Leader is Mr. Jesus Robert and the pastor, Rev. Anthony Panan is the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership of the Church is 84. The present membership of the Agencies: MYF (20), MYAF (40), MSF (17) and MW (25). There are 25 children and 6 teachers in the Church School. Currently they have identified Tembanggau as a potential Outreach. They have started Area Fellowship and prayers in the home of Mr. John Robert, a member of TMC Bahau who resides in Tembanggau.

Conclusion: TMC Bahau is a young church, just over five years old. When they were proposed to be a Local Conference back in 2013, their Full Membership was just 54. In 2019 it has increased to 84. This local church has grown and is actively involved in reaching out to the community. The DS has encouraged the local church to be more focused in their evangelistic efforts to see a definite church growth. They need to do this with prayer and commitment, to take the church to greater heights for the glory of God.

Sources:

1. TAC Journals
2. Proposal Paper for Bahau Outreach to become a Local Conference
3. Souvenir Program, Formation of TMC Bahau as Local Conference on 23 February 2014
4. Interview with Pastor Henry Jeremiah

PASTORAL ROLL

2014	Rev. Sandireseheran
2015	Rev. Joseph Komar
2016	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2017 onwards	Rev. Anthony Panan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2014 - 2016	Mr. N. Ravindran	Mr. Christy Daniel
2017 - 2018	Mr. David Pandian	Mr. Christy Daniel
2019	Mr. Jesus Robert	Rev. Anthony Panan



ULU TIRAM

The Beginnings

The ministry in Ulu Tiram began when **Rev. C. Paul** was the Pastor in charge of the Tamil Methodist Church Johore Baru. Initially there were house meetings in the home of Mr. Isaac Christian. When the ministry grew, the LCEC of Johore Baru decided to rent a shop lot at Taman Ros for worship services. After eight months, they moved to No. 17, Jalan Badik, Taman Puteri Wangsa Ulu Tiram. In **2001** Ulu Tiram, with 35 members was the only Outreach of the Johore Baru Church.

Resident Fulltime Church Worker

In **2002** Mr. Pattiyan was appointed the first resident fulltime Church Worker for the Ulu Tiram Outreach. He assisted Rev. C. Paul from 2002 – 2003. The Ulu Tiram's Full Membership grew to 53. Tamil Methodist Church Kuantan financially supported the Ulu Tiram ministry with a monthly aid of RM 600. The new Outreach was officially dedicated on **9 March 2003** by the TAC President Rev. P. Tevaraji. In August **2004** Rev. C. Paul resigned. **Pastor John Mathuni**, who was stationed at Ulu Tiram, played an important role in keeping the members together and in the rebuilding of the church. He served from **2001 till 2004**.

The Growing Years

Those who served as pastors of TMC Johor Bahru were also in-charge of the Ulu Tiram Outreach. These included **Rev Mark Subramanyam** (2004 – 2005), **Rev Jonathan Jesudas** (2006 – 2007) and **Rev Dennis Raj** (2008 – 2010). The PMYF was formed in Ulu Tiram during the tenure of Rev Dennis Raj. From **2006 – 2011**, Pastor Solomon Thangaiah served as a Church Worker. He retired in 2011. In **2007** a second hand van was donated by TMC Ipoh to the Ulu Tiram Outreach. In **2012**, the Southern DS appointed Mr. Shanmugam as Church Worker in Ulu Tiram. He served from January 2012 till June 2013. From July – December 2013 Ms. Mercy Rani served there.

Formation as a Local Conference

Ulu Tiram Outreach was organized as a Local Conference on 15 March 2014. **Rev. Silvester Louis Martin**, the pastor of TMC Johore Baru, was also appointed as the first Pastor of TMC Ulu Tiram. In **2014**, Rev Richard Lawrence, a Member on Trial, served as the Assistant Pastor in Ulu Tiram. The Full Membership in June was 62. They had a regular Bible Study on the Book of Revelation. They had one Cell Group which used Rev. Victor Vethamani's Small Group Bible Study Book. The Methodist Women's Fellowship was officially organised on 18 May and transport was an issue for the gathering of the ladies. The MYAF was formally organised on 25 May. Their first program was hospital visitation. Six of them attended the National MYAF Camp. Work commitments made it difficult for them to meet. The church rental was RM 1,000.

They had RM 40,000 in their Building Account. They hoped to buy a shop-lot or a piece of land in a nearby vicinity. They had a Family Outing on 1 May and the whole church participated. The DS observed that there was a lack of understanding of the Methodist system and the working of the Tamil Annual Conference. He also expressed concern that “Before the formation the excitement and unity level was high but after the formation, ‘silently’ the atmosphere changed.” Several members faced family struggles and many ‘gifted’ people were unable to use their gifts constructively.

Early Years with Major Financial Challenges

From 2015 – 2016, Rev. Richard Lawrence was the Pastor. In **2015** the Full Membership was 75. Two members were received into full membership through Confirmation. Cell Groups were held on Tuesdays. They adopted 10 children under the MMM Gift of Hope Project. The finances of the church was a major concern and TMC Johore Baru supported it by giving RM 1,000 a month. Mr. Anthony Row gave RM 300 monthly. A few committed local church leaders were also contributing monthly to help pay the church rental, parsonage and utility bills. In **2016**, the Full Membership was 68. They had ministry to the poor by providing provisions. They also had training in evangelism.

From 2017 – 2018, Rev. Silvester Louis Martin was the Pastor in charge. During this period, he was assisted by a Fulltime Church Worker, Mr. Jack Kennedy. In **2017**, the Full Membership was 73. The church experienced a new beginning in spiritual maturity, as they focussed on the Word. An average of ten people faithfully attended their Thursday Prayer Session. In **2018**, the Full Membership was 87. The local church continued to struggle financially because of the high rental of their place of worship (RM 1,200 a month) and the parsonage (RM 700 a month)

From 2019, Rev. Samuel Periathamby is the Pastor in charge. He is assisted by Church Worker Pastor Jeyaseelan John. The Full Membership is 87. The monthly rental for the place of worship is RM 1,200 and the parsonage rental is now RM 800 a month. The giving of the members has improved and so the present financial situation is not alarming, though it is still a challenge. The church does not receive any outside financial aid from any other local church or individuals. The membership of the Agencies are as follows: MYF (17), MYAF (10), MW (24) and the MSF is inactive. There are 27 children, 3 teachers and 3 helpers in the Church School. Several youths of this church are working in Singapore. As such, weekday ministries are difficult. The older people need encouragement and deeper commitment for greater involvement in the church ministries.

Conclusion: TMC Ulu Tiram is a little over 5 years old. They were blessed to have either a Church Worker or a Pastor stationed in Ulu Tiram even before they were formed as a local church. This helped the church to grow with proper guidance. The fact that they do not have a place of their own for worship and with no parsonage, the church continues to face financial pressure due to high rentals. Their location, being near to Singapore, has helped them financially, as many have found employment. But at the same time, this has meant difficulty in getting participation for their week-day programs. The church has to find ways to overcome these challenges, if they are to experience church growth.

Sources:

1. Souvenir Program – Formation of TMC Ulu Tiram on 15 March 2014
2. Telephone Interviews – Pastor Jack Kennedy and Pastor Jeyaseelan John
3. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2014	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2015 – 2016	Rev. Richard Lawrence
2017 – 2018	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2019	Rev. Samuel Periathamby

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2014	Mr. R. Sunthararaj	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2015 - 2016	Mr. R. Sunthararaj	Rev. Richard Lawrence
2017 - 2018	Mr. R. Sunthararaj	Rev. Silvester Louis Martin
2019	Mr. R. Sunthararaj	Rev. Samuel Periathamby

PUSING

The Early Years

The ministry in Pusing was started in **1993** when **Rev P. Tevaraji** was the pastor-in-charge of the TMC Ipoh. The first meeting was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob. This ministry began with house visitation by Miss Esther Devadason and Mr Joseph William. From **1995 - 2000 Rev John Kovilpillai** and from **2001 – 2003 Rev. Peter Devadason** were the pastors of the Mother church.

Beginning of Regular Prayer Meetings

A regular prayer meeting was started at the Home of Madam Antasi A/P Arokiasamy at No 157, Bk L Perumahan Awan, Jalan Parit, Pusing. This family eventually shifted their house to No 140 Jalan Melati 5, Taman Melati Pusing. The ministry began to flourish in this new vicinity. More leaders from the TMC Ipoh began to be involved and help and the ministry began to grow in number. In **2002** a semi-wooden shop lot was rented (near the Police Station) and regular Sunday evening service was held.

Beginning of Cell Group Meetings

From 2003-2004, Mr. Tharmapal, the Evangelism Chairman, coordinated this ministry. Mr.& Mrs Arul Manickam helped in the Church School. In 2004 the cell group ministry was started by Mr. R. Steven. The cell group was held weekly in different homes. Pusing was targeted to become a Local Conference in 2009. **Rev. A.E. Joseph** was the pastor of TMC Ipoh from **2004 – 2008**.

Beginning of Sunday Worship Service

Mr. & Mrs Louis Martin took charge of this ministry from 2005-2006. Some converts were baptised by Rev A.E. Joseph. From then on Sunday worship service, Church School, Cell Group and visitation were carried out weekly in the evening. Ministry was also done among the Indian workers. In March 2006 the ministry continued in a new shop lot building in Taman Damai, Pusing

Friday Services Restarted

Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Tharmaraj were put in charge of this ministry from 2007-2008. They restarted the Friday service in 2008 after a gap of a year and about 5-10 believers began to attend regularly. Regular evening Sunday Service, Church School, Cell Group ministry were held.

Consolidating Ministry by Stationing a Worker

In **2009 Pastor Paul Mani** and his family were stationed in Pusing to consolidate this ministry. Mr R. Steven (Evangelism Chairman) proposed the formation of a Pro Tem Committee and it was duly established on 1 Feb 2009. This was when **Rev Devarakam John** was the Pastor of TMC Ipoh from **2009 – 2012**. All the Agencies were set up and began to function. The Sunday service was changed to morning 9 am from June 2009 onwards. Parit Outreach ministry was started in the Home of Mr & Mrs Amuda at 6th mile, Ladang Glenealy on Sunday evenings at 6pm.

Purchase of a Piece of Land

In **2011**, a Bungalow lot piece of land was purchased for RM 56,000 in Se Puteh. Plans were approved and the corner-stone was laid on 1 November **2012** by the Conference President Rev. C Jayaraj. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the building did not materialise. In February **2013**, a shop-lot in Taman Mewah Pusing, which is situated in the town, was bought for RM 349,000. Renovation work, costing RM 200,000, was started in August. The new building was dedicated by the TAC President Rev. C. Jayaraj on 15 December 2013. A van was purchased for RM 98,000 in November 2013. The ministry further grew under the able leadership of Rev. Paul Mani with the help of the members. The Full Membership reached 60 with 17 children.

Pusing Becomes a Local Conference

On 25 June **2014** the LCEC of TMC Ipoh accepted the proposal made by Mr. R. Steven and seconded by Mrs. Sakuntala David to make Pusing a Local Conference in 2015. This recommendation was brought up and accepted at the Second Local Conference on 28 September 2014. The recommendation for the formation of Pusing as a Local Conference was accepted at the 39th Session of the Tamil Annual Conference. It was **formed as a Local Conference on 7 February 2015**. **Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail** was appointed as the first Pastor of this church and he served till 2016. The Lay Leader was Mr. Vincent Michael and LCEC Chairperson was Mr. Anthonitas Inasimuthu. At the 2015 Annual Conference, the District Superintendent reported that TMC Pusing had a passion for new souls. They saw new visitors every week. In **2016**, they gave financial support for the Tamil ministry in Bruas and Kuching. The present sanctuary overflowed during festivals and the church also needed to purchase a parsonage. In **2017 Rev. David Rasahpandy** was appointed the Pastor, with Rev. Steven Arumugam as the Assistant Pastor. The first ever VBS was held and fifty children participated, of which 25 of them were from non – Christian background. Mr. Anthony Das committed himself for the pastoral ministry. In **2018, Rev. Seenivasagam David** took charge as the Senior Pastor with Rev. Steven Arumugam continuing as the Assistant Pastor.

From January **2019, Rev. Steven Arumugam** is the Pastor-in-charge. The current LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Rajeshkanna and the Lay leader is Mr. Daniel Pinner. The Full Membership is 67. The membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (6), MW (18). There is no MYAF and MSF. There are 10 children and 3 teachers in the Church School. Outreach work is done in Parit through monthly visitation. There are about 5 people from 2 families there. Pusing Home Fellowship meetings takes place in six different areas on Tuesdays at 8pm.

Conclusion: In the four years as a local church, there were four different pastors in charge - Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail (2015 and 2016), Rev. David Rasahpandy (2017), Rev. Seenivasagam David (2018) and Rev. Steven Arumugam (2019). When the proposal to become a Local Church was made at the 2014 Annual Conference, the Full Membership Roll was 69 and today it is 67. The local church continues to face financial difficulties, though in 2018 it was reported that there was a slight improvement. Their only outreach work is at Parit and the progress is slow, with only monthly visits. At present there are no Lay Preachers in this local church. Much prayer and concerted effort are needed to lift this church to the next level.

Sources:

1. Souvenir Programme
2. History of Pusing by Mr. R. Steven
3. Telephone interview with Rev. Steven Arumugam
4. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2015 – 2016	Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail
2017	Rev. David Rasahpandy
2018	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2019	Rev. Steven Arumugam

LAY LEADERS/LCEC CHAIRPERSONS

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2015	Mr. Vincent	Mr. Antony Das
2016 - 2017	Mr. Paner Selvam	Mr. Antony Das
2018	Mr. Paner Selvam	Rev. Seenivasagam David
2019	Mr. Paner Selvam	Mr. Rajesh Kana

ASAHAN/TANGKAK/SAGIL/JASIN CIRCUIT

The Background to this Circuit

The present churches in this Circuit developed as separate Outreaches of TMC Melaka and became Local Conferences of their own over the years. In **1990**, Sagil Outreach became **TMC Sagil** on 14 January. On the next day, Asahan Outreach was formed as **TMC Asahan** on 15 January. In **1996**, the ministry in Sagil was incorporated together with Tangkak and became **TMC Tangkak**. In **2010** these local churches were incorporated and became **TMC Asahan, Sagil, and Tangkak Circuit**. In **2016**, with more developments, the circuit came to be known as **TMC Asahan/Tangkak/Sagil/Jasin Circuit**.

TMC SAGIL (From 1990 to 2009)

Formation of Sagil Local Conference

TMC Sagil was formed as a Local Conference on 14 January 1990. **From 1990 to 1992, Rev. Roberts Pandian** was the Pastor. In **1990**, the Full Membership was 54. About 40-50 adults attended the worship service on Sundays at 7.30pm. Weekly worship was held in Tangkak town on Thursdays. About 10 members lived in Tangkak. Work also started in nearby Nagapa Estate. There were 15 children and 2 teachers in the Church school. MYF had 13 members and WSCS 10 ladies.

Growing in Leadership and Finance

In **1991**, the Full Membership was 53. When Sagil became a Local Conference, both the leadership and the finance were not strong. The leaders were trained and the finances improved. A greater commitment was seen among the leaders as well as the members. Worship services were well attended, with about 40-45 adults. The outreach ministry of the church was in Tangkak. In **1992**, the Full Membership was 58. It was an Estate Church. The outreach work in Tangkak town grew and 20-25 adults attended the weekly worship service. The pastor of Asahan and Sagil was now based in Tangkak. The response from the Indian community towards the church in Tangkak was very encouraging. The church staged a drama "JESUS" and raised RM3,500 for its Van Project. They had a total of RM 8,000 in this fund. The church spent much on rentals of vehicles for their ministry.

From **1993 to 1994 Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. In **1993**, about 30-35 people attended the Sagil worship services on Sundays at 7.30pm. The Full membership was 61. About 20-30 people attended the worship service in Tangkak Outreach every Friday at 7.30pm. There were 12 children and 2 teachers in the Church School. The MYF was not active, and efforts were taken to revive it. The church purchased a second hand Datsun C20 van for its ministry. In **1994** the Sunday worship was changed to 9.30 am. About 30 members attended the worship service. The Full Membership was 60.

TMC Sagil becomes TMC Tangkak

In **1995 and 1996**, **Rev. Abraham P. Selvanayagam** was the Pastor. Worship services were conducted every Friday at 7.30pm in Sagil Estate. About 15-20 people attended. Worship services were held in Tangkak on Sundays at 11.30am. About 45-50 people attended the services. The Full Membership was 57. The church was able to manage their expenses with what they received. A Building Committee was formed and a Building Account was opened. Since the ministry was now centred in Tangkak, the church decided to purchase a shop-lot in Tangkak for worship purposes. **In 1995**, it was recommended that the **TMC Sagil be henceforth called as the TMC Tangkak**. In **1996** the worship services were held in Tangkak on Sundays at 11.30 am. About 50 people attended. Friday services were at 7.30pm in **Sagil Estate** and about 10 attended. The Full Membership was 59. The church intended to purchase a shop-lot to be used for worship. TMC Seremban came forward to help purchase a building for TMC Tangkak.

In **1997** **Rev. Justin Clarence** was the Pastor-in-charge with Rev. Moses Jayaseelan as the Assistant Pastor. Worship services were held in Tangkak every Sunday at 11.30am and about 50 people attended. The Full membership was 56. There were 10 children and 2 teachers in the Church School. There were 10 members in the MYF and 15 members in the MW.

Pagoh Ministry Begins and Tangkak Consolidated

From **1998 to 1999** **Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **1998**, Rev. Moses Jayaseelan was Assistant Pastor. Sunday worship was at 11am and 35-40 people attended. The Full Membership was 52. Outreach ministry was done in two places: (a) **Sagil**: there were 5 families and they met on alternate Fridays at 7.30 pm (b) **Pagoh**: A new area, 20-25 people attended. Pagoh would grow if a worker was placed there. The Building Project was pending because the cost of purchasing was still very high. They continued to raise funds. Tangkak had good young lay leaders who were involved in ministry. With the opening of the Pagoh ministry, there was potential for greater growth. In **1999** the Assistant Pastor was Rev. John Mark. Sunday service was at 11 am, and 70-80 people attended. The Full Membership was 63. Church school had 15 children with 2 teachers. MYF had 20 members and MW 25 members. Both MYF and MW were actively involved in local church ministry. In their Parsonage Project, the church signed a Sales & Purchase Agreement for a single-storey terrace house costing RM85,000. They were grateful to TMC Seremban for the grant of RM40,000 and TAC for the grant of RM10,000 and TMC Melaka for their grant of RM1,000.

Ministry expands to Muar/Pagoh

From **2000 to 2003** **Rev. John Mark** was the Pastor. The Worship service was on Sundays at 11am. 70 people attended. From 1 October **2000**, they moved to rented premises. The Full membership was 67. A new area was identified for Outreach ministry in Gresik. Visitation program was carried out. The pastor and the members were greatly motivated by the purchase of the new parsonage. They rented a shop house for the church services and other activities.

In **2001** the Full Membership was 77. Five were added through the Confession of Faith. In Sagil, 5 families met together on alternate Fridays. 10 people regularly attended. At Pagoh/Muar – Every 3rd week a group of 10 people met for a time of worship and prayer. With the growth of Tangkak town, there was potential for church growth. In **2002** the Full membership was 66. The pastor was busy with ministry in Asahan and Jasin. In **2003** the Full Membership was 43. Though 27 members withdrew from church membership, those who remained were united and supportive of all the ministries.

Membership Drop Affects Church Ministry

From **2004 to 2008 Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor-in-charge. In **2004**, the Full Membership was 42, which dropped to 19. The membership of this church was affected due to the withdrawal of 10 members and few who could not be located. The income too dropped considerably. Church school had 9 children. In **2005**, with the withdrawal of 21 people from the church the previous year, the average attendance in both Tangkak and Sagil was only 5 members. This demoralized the church. The Full Membership of the Church was 18. This greatly affected the ministry and finances of the church. The membership was too small for any Committee or Agency to function well. In **2006** the Worship service in Tangkak was at 11.30am and Sagil 7pm. About 10-15 members attended the Tangkak service and 6 members in Sagil. Only one family that left earlier returned. The Full Membership was 25. This greatly affected the finance of the church and they received a subsidy of RM882 for the pastor's salary. TMC Tamil Settlement gave RM250 monthly. The church also received a Love Gift of RM1,000 from the Calvary Life Assembly. In **2007** the worship services were held at 5pm in Tangkak and 7.30 pm. at Sagil. The Full Membership was 28 and in **2008** it was 29.

Coming Together as a Circuit to Pool Resources

In **2009 Rev. P. Sandireaseheran** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Jayarajah as the Assistant Pastor. Worship service was at 6pm in Sagil Estate. The Full Membership was 27. It was reported at the 2nd Local Conference that out of the 27 members, 10 members were not worshipping with them. They were either residing or worshipping elsewhere. The church took steps to remove these members. The church gave up the Tangkak shop house and started worshipping in Sagil Estate for two reasons: (a) the church finance was not enough to pay the rental. (b) Most of the members were staying near Sagil Estate. The church with its financial limitations and transport difficulties was only active on Sundays with the worship service. The church received a subsidy from the Annual Conference to pay the pastor's salary. TMC Tamil Settlement also gave monthly financial support. The church membership was dwindling. There was no sign of growth. Their monthly income averaged at only RM500. After much discussion and deliberation, the LCEC and the 2nd Local Conference decided to form Asahan/Jasin into a circuit church together with Asahan/Jasin.

This was recommended at the District Conference and decided at the Annual Conference. TMC Tangkak was made into a Circuit Church with Jasin/Asahan because of Tangkak's low finance and dwindling membership – active members only 17.

TMC ASAHAN (1990 to 2009)

On 15 January 1990, the Asahan Outreach of TMC Melaka was formed as a Local Conference and became TMC Asahan. The Full Membership was totally from the Asahan Estate. From **1990 to 1992 Rev. Roberts Pandian** was the Pastor. In **1990** the weekly Sunday service was at 5.00 pm and 40 – 50 people attended regularly. An average of 30 adults attended the weekly Bible Study. Home Prayer Meetings were held on Saturdays. The Church School had 35 children and 5 teachers. Both the MYF and WSCS had 13 members. In **1991**, they started a ministry at Jasin (under TMC Melaka). They were keen to reach out to other areas as well. Though the Income was above the Expenditure, the finance was low. In **1992**, being totally an estate congregation, the chances of reaching out within the estate context was nil. There was communal pressure within the estate. Like TMC Melaka, TMC Asahan too had some members in Jasin. They had about RM 5,000 in their Building Fund.

From **1993 to 1994, Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. In **1993**, the Full Membership was 60. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held on alternate Thursdays at 7.30 pm. These were held in the homes of church members and about 20 people regularly attended. Weekly worship service was held at Jasin Outreach on Sundays at 9.30 am and about 10 – 15 people attended. Bible Study was conducted on alternate Saturdays at 7.30 pm. They looked for an appropriate place for the worship service. In **1994**, about 35 to 40 people attended the worship service on Sundays at 4.30 pm. The Full Membership was 60. About 15 to 20 members attended the weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays. The Jasin Outreach worship service was held on Sundays at 7pm. The Church School was held on Fridays at 6pm. There were 20 children and 4 teachers. Both the MYF and WSCS had 15 members.

From **1995 to 1996, Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam** was the Pastor. In **1995**, the Full Membership was 52. Six students from STM conducted a Music and Worship Seminar and a seminar on the importance of Education. This was attended by 20 youths. About 80 people attended the Revival Meeting conducted by the STM students. In **1996**, the Full Membership was 51. A revival meeting was held at the Jasin Outreach with Brother Titus from India. The newly formed MYAF had 12 members. In **1997, Rev. Justin Clarence** was the Pastor-in-charge with Rev. Moses Jayaseelan as the Assistant Pastor. About 45 – 50 people attended the Sunday Worship Service at 4.30pm. There was much joy in their worship. The Full Membership was 50. About 35 people attended the Home Prayer Meetings and Bible Study every Thursday. Jasin Outreach had Prayer Meetings on Wednesdays.

In **1998 and 1999**, ***Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor. In **1998** Rev. Moses Jayaseelan was the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 55. There were about 5 families in the Jasin Outreach. They met on Saturdays at 8pm. with an average of 15 – 20 members. The church received RM 4,800 from TMC Seremban to settle all the arrears to the TAC Commitment Fund.

In **1999**, Rev. Devarakam John was the pastor with Assistant Pastor John Mark. About 50 – 60 people attended the Sunday Worship Service at 5pm. The Full Membership was 58. Six families met on Thursdays at 7.30pm. The Building Fund stood at RM 13,000.

Estate Fragmentation Affects Church Membership and Ministry

From 2000 to 2003 **Rev. John Mark** was the Pastor. Due to the Estate fragmentation, the Full Membership dropped to 35. The Expenditure of RM 12,409 exceeded that of the Income of RM 10,683. In **2001**, Rev. John Mark was the pastor. The Sunday Worship was at 8.30 a.m. and about 30 – 35 people participated. The Full Membership was 66 and six members were added through Confession of Faith. They managed to have an Income that exceeded the Expenditure. At the Jasin Outreach, a building was rented for worship. The rental was paid by TMC Seremban. It was dedicated on 22 September 2001. A large number of families had moved from Jasin to Asahan. From **2002**, the church was known as Asahan/Jasin. The Full Membership was 81. They received help from a Singapore Church for their Van Project. TMC Seremban continued to pay the rent for the Jasin building. TMC Kluang donated a van for the Jasin ministry. In **2003**, the Full Membership was 90. The pastor started a “Jasin School of Evangelism” with the aim to train leaders for the task of evangelism. About 12 leaders were trained in this School. The church also had a 24 hour Chain Prayer with intercessory prayers. There was growth both in membership as well as in finance.

Another Crisis Causes Another Setback

From **2004 to 2008**, **Rev. Anthony Panan** was the Pastor. In **2004**, the church faced a major setback. There were 11 membership withdrawals, 12 were removed by Local Conference Action and 7 were transferred out. Their Full Membership dropped to 63. Their Income just managed to meet their expenses. In **2005**, the Sunday worship service was held in Asahan at 8.30am. and at 4.30pm in Jasin. The Full Membership was 74. Fasting and Prayer was held on Tuesdays at 8pm in Asahan and on Thursdays at 8pm in Jasin. In **2006**, Jasin moved to a shop-lot for its worship service. The Full Membership was 83. The church received a monthly subsidy of RM 500 for their pastor’s salary. TMC Tamil Settlement, Ipoh gave RM 250 monthly for the rental of the shop-lot. In **2007**, the Sunday worship service in Asahan was at 8.30am and in Jasin it was 10.30am. The Full Membership was 78. They received RM 250 from TMC Ipoh Tamil Settlement for the rental of the Jasin building and also monthly subsidy of RM 500 for their pastor’s salary.

In **2008**, the Full Membership was 81. Another year the church received financial help from TMC Tamil Settlement, Ipoh and the Annual Conference. A One Day Intense Bible Study was conducted by Rev. David Rasahpandy. In **2009**, **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor with Pastor Jayarajah (Rajan) as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 80. Sunday worship service in Asahan was at 8am and in Jasin at 10.30am.

ASAHAN/JASIN/TANGKAK

From **2010**, the church became **TMC Asahan/Jasin/Tangkak Circuit**. The DS reported that the Circuit was formed for better ministry possibilities. Each place had its coordinating committee. The ministry in Sagil did not show much improvement but there was growth in Jasin.

In **2010** **Rev. Joseph Komar** was the Pastor-in-charge with Part-time Supply Pastor Vijaya Varma and Mr. Nelson Nadarajan as the Ministerial Candidate. Sunday worship in Asahan was at 8am, Jasin at 10.30am and Sagil at 6pm. After Jasin/Asahan and Tangkak/Sagil became a circuit, the LCEC met once in two months. The meeting was held on a rotational basis in all three places – Asahan, Jasin and Sagil respectively. A group of East Malaysians were attending the worship service at the Asahan Preaching Point. They were from the nearby Training Camp.

The Purchase of the New Building

In **2011** **Rev. John Simson** was the Pastor-in-charge with Pastor Richard Lawrence as the Assistant Pastor. The Full Membership was 92. A Sales and Purchase Agreement was signed to buy a double-storey shop house for worship. The building was purchased under individual names – Mr. Daniel, Mr. Thankaraju, Mr. Nyanamuthu, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Anne Selvaraj. The new building was located at Bandar Jasin Bestari, Lot No PT 8633 Jasin Melaka. The church bought the building at the cost of RM319,000. They applied for a bank loan of RM 250,000. The Circuit was made up of 3 congregations functioning as 3 different churches and located in two different states, Melaka and Johore. This made it difficult for them to organize common joint programs.

In **2012 and 2013** **Rev. Richard Lawrence** was the Pastor. In **2012**, the Full Membership was 113. Members who left the church some years ago because of misunderstanding returned. The church started a migrant ministry among Sri Lankans in Muar and Serkam. The church began to service the bank loan for the two-storey shop house at Bandar Jasin Bestari. This affected the church financially. In **2013** the Full Membership was 120. The Church Theme: “Let’s Enlarge Our Tent” Isaiah 54: 2-3. About 150 -200 people gathered for a Revival Meeting and many were healed and delivered. Pastor Sugumaran was the speaker for this meeting.

Renovation works were done in the Jasin Building bought the previous year. The church decided to use the ground floor for church purpose and rent out the first floor. Though a small congregation, they paid the Pastor's salary and managed the church ministries without receiving a subsidy from the Conference.

In **2014 Rev. Devarakam John** was the Pastor with Mr. Roland David, a Missionary Candidate. The Full Membership was 121. The Church Theme was "ARISE & SHINE". The Tangkak ministry grew as a Prayer Cell was started in the parsonage. The Tangkak Friday worship service was held at the Tangkak Chinese Methodist Church. It was attended by about 40 people.

The Selandar & Tebong Ministry started as a Prayer Cell and the ministry grew. Some families in Muar and Nyalas were visited. Two Evangelistic & Healing Meetings were held with Rev. David Rasahpandy and Pastor Sugumaran as Speakers. About 150 people attended this evangelistic meeting. Many were healed and delivered. They started a Social Concern Fund to support needy families and educate the congregation in the area of social concerns issues. The relationship between Jasin and the other two congregations was not good. Some of the Jasin members wanted to come out of the Circuit. In Asahan the parsonage was repainted. Jasin spent RM 47,717 for renovation. They looked for a tenant for the 1st Floor. An appeal letter was given to Sagil Estate Management for land. The Church van was very old and they looked for 3 vans for these three places.

In **2015 and 2016 Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. In **2015**, Mr. Ezekiel Raj was assigned here for his One Year Practical Break from January – June. Mr. Victor Gunaseelan (Full Time Evangelist) was appointed here by the DS. The Full Membership in 2014 was 140. From January to October 2015 there were 24 received by Confession of Faith and 6 through Confirmation. The members of Asahan/ Sagil / Jasin were actively involved in Tebung ministry with Evangelist Victor. Tangkak and Tebung looked for a new place of worship. Jasin church planned to renovate the 1st floor of the church building. They planned to build a Pastor's office, guest room and also meeting rooms. The Budget was RM50,000. 21 members from **Tebung Outreach** took water baptism on 31 August 2015 at Sagil's waterfall. It was noted that it is difficult for one pastor to handle four congregations. There was a need for another worker to help the current Pastor to develop and strengthen the church ministries. Rev. Mark Subramaniam served effectively. In 2015 it was proposed and accepted and in 2016 the church came to be known as **TMC Asahan / Tangkak /Sagil /Jasin Circuit**

TMC ASAHAN/JASIN/SAGIL/TANGKAK CIRCUIT

In **2016 Rev. Mark Subramanyam** was the Pastor. The Full Membership was 139. In **2017 Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail** was the Pastor. Prayer was emphasised in the church. There was Friday prayer at Asahan, Thursday Prayer at Jasin and Wednesday Prayer at Tangkak. Personal Evangelism was done faithfully. Evangelistic meetings were carried out. There were Cell Group and Church

School ministries. In **2018 Rev. Joseph Yesupatham** was the Pastor with new graduate Pastor Nelson Nadarajan assisting.

In **2019, Rev. Nelson Nadarajan** became the Pastor. The Lay Leader is Mr. Tangaraju and the LCEC Chairperson is Mr. Barnabas. The Full Membership is 150. There are Area Fellowships as follows: Taman Gunung Asahan & Estate (1), Jasin area (1), Tangkak area (1) & Sagil area (1). The membership in the Agencies is as follows: MYF (33), MYAF (25), MSF (11) and MW (32). There are 51 children and 5 teachers in the Church School. These are the co-ordinators for the different places: Asahan: Mrs. Sujatha Kumar, Jasin: Mr. Tangaraju, Sagil: Mr. Barnabas, and Tangkak: Mr. Jeganathan

Conclusion: This Circuit has a long and eventful history. Rev. Nelson, the present pastor, reports that the people fondly remember that “the participation of young people in the early ‘80s was very warm and welcoming. Most of them gave their best to the Lord in total church ministries. The church grew because of their dedication, prayers and service.” Also, the drama “Siluvai Kaatchi” was played in 2013 in Asahan Estate on Good Friday. The whole estate was gathered to witness the suffering of Christ. This Circuit has gone through several challenging situations and has come through by the grace of God. The Circuit is spread over two States – Melaka and Johore. This is challenging for the church. The pastor and local leaders, together with the DS, are addressing the challenges. With the Lord’s guidance, there is no doubt that this Circuit Church, will rise to greater heights for the glory of God.

Sources

1. TAC Journals
2. Rev. Nelson Nadarajan– telephone Interview

PASTORAL ROLL

SAGIL

1990 – 1992	Rev. Robert Pandian
1993 – 1994	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
1995	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam

ASAHAN

1990 – 1992	Rev. Roberts Pandian
1993 – 1994	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
1995 – 1996	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam
1997	Rev. Justin Clarence
1998 – 1999	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2000 – 2001	Rev. John Mark

TANGKAK

1996	Rev. Abraham Selvanayagam
1997	Rev. Justin Clarence
1998 – 1999	Rev. Herbert John
2000 – 2003	Rev. John Mark
2004 – 2008	Rev. Anthony Panan
2009	Rev. Sandireaseheran

JASIN – ASAHAN CIRCUIT

2002 – 2003	Rev. John Mark
2004 – 2008	Rev. Anthony Panan
2009	Rev. Joseph Komar

ASAHAN/SAGIL/TANGKAK

2010	Rev. Joseph Komar
2011	Rev. John Simson
2012 – 2013	Rev. Richard Lawrence
2014	Rev. Devarakam John (Herbert)
2015	Rev. Mark Subramanyam

ASAHAN/JASIN/SAGIL/TANGKAK

2016	Rev. Mark Subramanyam
2017	Rev. Paul Mani Sabrail
2018	Rev. Joseph Yesupatham
2019	Rev. Nelson Nadarajan

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairperson Of Asahan/Tangkak/Sagil/Jasin

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2010 - 2013	Mr. Tangaraju	Mr. Nyanamuthu
2014 - 2016	Mr. Sellathurai	Mr. Barnabas
2017	Mr. Sellathurai	Mr. Nyanamuthu
2018	Mr. Tangaraju	Mr. Nyanamuthu
2019	Mr. Tangaraju	Mr. Barnabas

GATEWAY KELANA JAYA

The Beginnings

Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya began as Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre (KJOC) of the Tamil Methodist Church Petaling Jaya. Though the initial burden for this outreach began in **2006**, it was in **2009**, when **Rev. P. Tevaraji** was the pastor, that this work really got started. The ministry originated from the cell groups operating in Kelana Jaya. Weekly meetings for prayer and Bible study were held, first in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Windsor Paul and then also in the home of Mrs Esther Jayaraj.

From Members' Homes to Luther House

On **21 October 2009**, an emergency LCEC meeting was held in the home of Mr and Mrs George Nesarajah. At this meeting it was strongly felt that with the current attendance as well as with the potential of reaching out to students in numerous colleges in Kelana Jaya, it was the right time to consider establishing an Outreach Ministry operating from a shop-lot. Thus, the outreach moved to the **Luther House Kelana Jaya**. This was the first venue used for the Sunday Worship Services of Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre.

The Formation of Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre (KJOC)

The group worshipped at the Luther House from **April 2011 till June 2012**. The average attendance for the Sunday Service was 40 people, made up of TMC PJ members living in Kelana Jaya and some from other churches. Then in conjunction with TMC PJ's 25th Anniversary celebration on **14 May, 2012**, two projects were launched to commemorate it, one of it was the Kelana Jaya Ministry. This was how the Kelana Jaya Outreach Centre was officially initiated. KJOC then saw an increase in attendance at the worship service and other programs.

From Luther House to Zenith Corporate Park

Though the Luther House was a good place to conduct the worship service, however Sunday ministry was limited to only four hours in the evening, as it was also utilized by the main church for the rest of the day. The facility was also not available on weekdays. The church then began to look to either buying or renting space for their own purpose. It was then that the LCEC decided to rent one floor at the **Zenith Corporate Park**, a new office/business area within Kelana Jaya for a monthly rental of RM 2,500. The first service was held on **1 July, 2012 at 6pm**. Soon the worship time was moved to 11 am and finally to its present time of 9 am. This time change called for total commitment to the ministry at KJOC from the members in the mother church. This time change was also to attract other believers in the vicinity who wanted a morning worship service.

Growing in Zenith Corporate Park

In **2017**, **Rev. A. James Ravindaren** became the Pastor of TMC PJ and was in charge of this Outreach work. The number attending Sunday services at KJOC was around 70 – 80 people. Sunday school, MYF, and MYAF (4th Sunday) were carried out weekly. There were three cell groups and a weekly prayer and sharing ministry held on Friday nights with an attendance of around 20-30 people. Bible studies were conducted by Rev. Victor Vethamani on every 2nd Friday of the month. A Preaching Class was conducted by Rev. Victor Vethamani, in which 35 members participated. The church also joined the YMCA in their “Feeding the Poor Program.”

From KJOC to Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya

On **26 February 2017** KJOC was formerly organised as the Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya. It had a Full Membership of 61. It is the first Tamil Methodist Church not to include “Tamil” in their official name. This was agreed upon at the Annual Conference Session after much consideration. The purpose was to give a broader outlook to its identity, thus drawing people of all language backgrounds to the Church. From its inception as a local church in 2017, **Rev. James Ravindaren** has been the local church pastor, Dato’ Windsor Paul John the Lay Leader and Mr. Joel Solomon the LCEC Chairperson.

From Zenith Corporate Park to Penthouse Unit in Kelana Jaya Square Block C

In **July 2015** TMC PJ was led to purchase a Penthouse Office unit in Kelana Jaya Square Block C with an area of 5118 square feet. The necessary documents were signed to purchase this unit at a cost of RM 1.5 million and renovated at a cost of RM 800,000. On **9 April 2016**, a ‘gotong-royong’ was carried out in preparation for the key-receiving ceremony on **16 April 2016**. About 100 people, including members from the mother church, attended.

Professional Interior Design and Renovation Works

An interior designing company, Konan Design was engaged to assist in maximizing the usage of space as well as designing the sanctuary to meet all their ministry requirements. The sanctuary design was to be both modern as well as Methodist in outlook. The renovation works were completed by the end of June 2017. The sanctuary can seat 350 people, with a maximum of 400, with reduced aisle space. Using collapsible sound proof dividers, this area can allow for two meetings to be conducted concurrently, each with a seating capacity of 100 to 150 people. There are four meeting rooms and one Conference room with a seating capacity of 30 people. There is also a library equipped with various books and reading materials.

Worship Service at Kelana Jaya Square Block C

The last Sunday worship service at Zenith Corporate Park was held **2 July 2017**. The shifting process began with the help of the members, especially the youths on 3 July. The first Friday service was held at the new sanctuary on **7 July**.

The first Sunday worship service was held on **9 July**. On **23 July 2017** the New Building of the Gateway Methodist Church Kelana Jaya was **dedicated by the Rev. Dennis Raj**, the President of the Tamil Annual Conference.

The Church, like all the Tamil Methodist Churches in the Tamil Conference, uses both Tamil as well as English in the worship service. It should be noted that since there are some Telugus attending the worship service, to encourage them, the Bible Reading for the Sunday worship is also done in Telugu.

One significant feature of this church is the regular publication of their bi-lingual (Tamil and English) **church magazine, 'The Living Word'**. It is printed on glossy paper and its contents include church news in pictures, members' testimonies, quizzes both Bible and general and many helpful articles. Their first publication was in August 2014 while they were still an outreach. The magazine has been released to coincide with Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

In **2018**, the Full Membership remained at 61. New people began to attend the worship services. They have one cell group at Kayu Ara area. A total of 10 people mainly elderly and children attend. From Mondays to Thursdays, under the leadership of Mr. Paul Peter David, the children are given help in their school lessons and a Bible study is conducted for them on Wednesdays.

Rev. Victor Vethamani conducted monthly Bible Studies on the Book of Revelation. Free tuition was given for Rumah Kasih children. They adopted 20 Myanmar children under the Gift of Hope Project. One get-together program was conducted amongst migrant workers around the church.

For **2019**, Rev. James Ravindaren is the pastor, Dato' Windsor Paul John the Lay Leader and Mr. Joel Solomon the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership as at 1 January is 75. The Agencies membership is as follows: MYF (23) MYAF (20), MSF (20) and MW (25). Also there are 25 children in the Church School with 5 teachers. Two families from Lembah Subang have started to attend Sunday worship regularly. The church supports them with transportation to church, groceries, medical expenses and school bus transport cost. Visitation is made when necessary.

The church has also started a **new Outreach at Kepong** with the assistance of two of their members staying in there, Mr. Michael V and Sister Prastillah Beulah. This is held at the latter's home on Sundays at 5 pm. This ministry was started on 11 August 2019 and about 15 people attended (mostly non-believers and a Sri Lankan family). The second meeting was held on 1 September and also 15 new people, mostly men, attended. For the moment the meetings are scheduled for once a month, with the help of the pastor Rev. James Ravindaren.

Conclusion

The ministry in GMC Kelana Jaya as a local church began in February 2017 with the **theme**: “Loving God, Loving Others”. The District Superintendent, who is also the local pastor, Rev. James Ravindaren, in his first District Superintendent’s report to the Annual Conference wrote: “*The church is blessed with very good, capable and talented leaders. They are able to carry out many programmes and preach during Sunday services with the guidance of the church pastor.*” Included in these talented leaders are two members with the Conference Licence to Preach – Mr. Paul Peter David and Mrs. Esther Jayaraj. Mr. Paul Peter David is also appointed as the Church Worker of the local church. Added to this is the fact that the church has a vibrant youth group who play an active role in the church worship service. All these augur well for this local church and they have a bright future.

Sources

1. TAC Journals
2. Local Church Magazine, The Living Word

PASTORAL ROLL

2017 onwards

Rev. A. James Ravindaren

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairperson

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2017-2019	Dato Windsor John Paul	Mr. Joel Solomon

PALOH

The Beginnings

The outreach work in Paloh came as a result of the ministry initiated by TMC Cha'ah in **1985**. This was due to the evangelistic work that was started in the nearby town of Yong Peng and in the Chan Wing estate. In **1986**, the work extended to Kempas and Paloh. Though there was much opposition, the sowing in tears was not in vain. In **1987** there were a number of baptisms in Landak, Kempas and Paloh. In **1988** a shop lot was rented at Paloh and believers from all the neighbouring areas congregated in this place for the worship service. Among the key people who facilitated the work in the early years were Rev. Doraiseelan John and Mr. David Varatharaj. In **2002**, work was started in Paloh and Bekok by TMC Cha'ah under the leadership of Rev. David Rasahpandy. In **2003**, with the addition of about 12 members from the Tamil Presbyterian Church, under the pastoral care of **Rev. Tankaraj**, the Paloh ministry grew stronger. This ministry was supervised by both TMC Cha'ah (Rev. David Rasahpandy) and TMC Kluang (Rev. Seenivasagam David).

On **28 March 2003**, this ministry became an outreach of TMC Cha'ah till 2007. The District Superintendent Rev. C. Paul officially launched this. In **2005** worship services were held on Fridays at 8pm. About 15 attended. There was a "Celebration Night" ministry which about 120 people participated **Rev. David Rasahpandy** was the Pastor. In **2006** the Outreach had three Cell Groups, started for the purpose of evangelism in Paloh town, Paloh Mill and Kempas. In **2007** Paloh Outreach had a fulltime worker. The work progressed well where 20 Hindu families were contacted.

From Cha'ah to Kluang Outreach

In **2008** the ministry in Paloh was handed over to TMC Kluang as their Outreach, under the pastoral care of **Rev. John Simson**. From **2008 – 2010**, Ms. Mercy Panchanathan helped and gave leadership. They continued to have worship service on Fridays at 8pm. A "One Day Evangelism" was observed in Paloh when friends and neighbours were contacted and followed up. In **2010** an average of 40 people gathered for worship. The church had plans to buy the land beside the present church in Paloh.

Ministry Consolidated With a Fulltime Church Worker

From 2011 – 2013, Mr. John Elisha was appointed as fulltime Church Worker and Paloh continued as an outreach of Kluang. In **2016**, the Pro Tem Committee was formed and Mr. Seran Cheng Kuttavan was appointed Church Worker. Since then, through the labour of love of many pastors, leaders and workers and the grace of God, the ministry flourished. On 1 October Tamil Methodist Church Kluang recommended their Paloh Outreach to become a Local Church in 2017. The District Conference unanimously accepted the proposal. This was brought to the 41st Session of the Tamil Annual Conference in November 2016 and was accepted.

Becoming a Local Conference

On **18 March 2017**, Paloh was organised as the 55th Local Church of the Tamil Annual Conference. **Rev. John Mathuni** was appointed as the first Pastor-in-charge and was assisted by Mr. Seran Cheng Kuttavan the Fulltime Church Worker. The first LCEC Chairperson was Mr. Rames Kumar and the Lay Leader was Mr. Sinapen. The Full Membership was 42 as at 30 June 2017. The church was fervent in prayer and they observed fasting and prayer for forty days. They were involved in hospital visitation and ‘Prayer Drives’. In **2018**, Rev. Mathuni continued as the pastor-in-charge and Pastor Anthony Dass was the Church Worker. At the end of December 2017, the Full Membership remained at 42.

In **2019**, **Rev. Devarajah Balayah** is the Pastor-in-charge. Mr. Paul Davidshan, a ministerial candidate, is assisting him. Mr. Ravi is the Lay Leader and Mr. Rames Kumar Joseph the LCEC Chairperson. The Full Membership is 46 with 9 Preparatory Members. The present membership of the Agencies is as follows: MYF (7), MSF (8) and MW (15). There are 20 children in the Church School with 3 teachers and 2 helpers.

Conclusion: Though TMC Paloh is less than three years old, the ministry in Paloh started more than 30 years ago. There was opposition prior to their formation, but they prayed, worked hard and sowed in tears. In 1987 there were a number of baptisms and slowly the ministry was established. The church emphasises prayer and involves itself in the community. This would surely draw people to the church and, no doubt, result in the growth of the church.

Sources:

1. Rev. C. Jayaraj in Souvenir Programme, Formation Service on 18 March 2017
2. TAC Journals

PASTORAL ROLL

2017 – 2018
2019

Rev. John Mathuni
Rev. Devaraj Balayah

Lay Leaders/LCEC Chairpersons

Year	Lay Leader	LCEC Chairperson
2017 - 2018	Mr. Sinappan	Mr. Rames Kumar
2019	Mr. Ravindran	Mr. Rames Kumar



Tamil Methodist Churches

AND ON TO..... KUCHING SARAWAK!

AND ON TO..... KUCHING SARAWAK!

God has been very gracious in establishing the Tamil Methodist ministry in Peninsular Malaysia since 1894. This has now spread to Kuching Sarawak. Although the Tamil ministry in Kuching has been going on for some years, it has been more organized and focused from 12 June 2015. This ministry is not through the effort of or under the supervision of any local church but it comes under the Board of Evangelism of the TAC, of which Rev. Vijaiadas Vedanayagam is the Chairperson.

This ministry is currently spearheaded by Mr. R. Steven, a member of TMC Ipoh. He and his wife Mrs. Esther Cecelia Sellamani Steven travel fortnightly to Kuching. Weekly worship services are conducted and about 70 non-Christians attend. They have regular Children's ministry and VBS has been conducted. There is also work among the women.

Their budget for 2018 was RM 35,000 and for 2019 it is RM 55,000. The expenses are mainly for the worker's salary, air tickets etc. Faith Methodist Church Kuching has given great support to this ministry. They have given RM 20,000 per year since 2016. They gave RM 20,000 for the purchase of a van in 2016. In 2019, from their Mission Month Offerings, they gave RM 13,947.

In a special meeting held on 16 September 2019, eleven indicated their willingness to be pioneer members of the Kuching Tamil Ministry. Two non-Christians have accepted to be on the Constituency Roll. On 13 October 2019, with the help of Rev. Ezekiel Raj (pastor of TMC Bentong), seven children were baptized.

The same excitement with which the Tamil ministry began in Penang 125 years ago is now seen in Kuching. Truly the ways of the Lord are amazing and His faithful servants are experiencing how good and faithful God is. To Him alone be all glory.



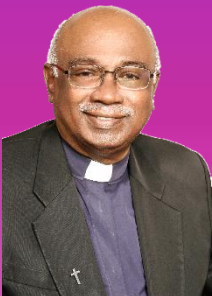
“Lord you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

Psalm 90: 1, 2

“If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.”

II Timothy 2: 13

THE AUTHOR



Rev. Victor Vethamani is a retired minister of the Tamil Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. He is involved in writing, teaching, training and preaching God’s Word in various churches. He is married to Saras and they have a son, Santhosh.