



TENTMAKERS INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIAN CONGRESS 2007
JULY 9-13, PORT DICKSON, MALAYSIA

By *BERAM KUMAR*

“SELAMAT DATANG”, Pastor Phua Seng Tiong, the Senior Pastor of SS Methodist Church, welcomed the 260 delegates from over 20 countries to the International Tentmakers Congress & Consultation to Malaysia.

The Congress was hosted by the Malaysian Center for Global Missions (MCGM – www.mcgm.net.my), and co-hosted by 5 Malaysian churches - SS Methodist Church, FGA Centre, Canning Garden Baptist Church, The Dwelling Place and SIB-KL. The organizers were STAMP (www.stamp-upg.org)

Malaysia was privileged to play host to the 5th International Congress. In the past, it has been held in Chiang Mai in Thailand, Melbourne in Australia, Cape Town in South Africa, and Cheju Island in South Korea.

Tentmakers International (www.tentmakersinternational.info) is a Global Network to promote “tentmaking”. Tentmaking is the concept used to promote the integrating of work and witness in the marketplace, particularly in parts of the world where there is little or no access to the Gospel, which is over 27% of the world. Often times, the only Gospel contact for the people in these places is through “marketplace Christians”.



Pastor Albert Tan, Senior Pastor of FGA Centre, Penang leading the delegates in morning devotion.

Some of the issues that were covered in the Congress included, Community Transformation, Business As Missions, The Unreached Peoples, Mobilizing Tentmakers, Disaster & Crisis Relief, Using Sports for Marketplace Witness, Teaching English, and Student Movement and Tentmaking.



Kay Hiramine, CEO and Mike McCausland, COO of Humanitarian Services Group sharing of the need for skilled workers in time of disaster and crisis relief.



Bob Lopez, the Executive director of Philippines Missions Association sharing the vision of training and deploying 200,000 tentmakers from the Philippines. Bob is also the current Chairman of Tentmakers International.



Timothy Olonade, the Chairman of NEMA (Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association) shared that whilst the Chinese brethren through the Back to Jerusalem Movement were preparing to send hundreds of thousands of laborers, Nigeria Missions plans to also deploy tens of thousands northward and meet them for tea in Jerusalem in the year 2020 !



Dr K Rajendran, the Secretary General of India Missions Association sharing with the delegates of the global network of missions and how Tentmakers International fits in to the global missions movement, particularly the World Evangelical Alliance – Mission Alliance. He is the current chair of the WEA – Mission Commission.



Derek Christensen, the former Chairman of Tentmakers International and now it's Ambassador-At-Large, sharing his message entitled "The Time Between The Times", where and how the Tentmakers International network started, where it stands today and where it is poised to go in the future.

As the delegates prepared to close the Congress, it would not have been complete without them trying the "king of all fruits". So, the night before the Congress ended, we introduced them to Durian !! The hotel of course would not allow us to eat them in the hotel, so they graciously set up tables for us by the beach as we enjoyed the durians and young coconuts along with some roti canai!

There is a sense amongst us all in the global missions movement that we are poised for great challenges but also great opportunities for missions. It is going to come at a great price in many parts of the world, but just as Jesus saw the prize set before Him and endured the Cross, may we also be found faithful.

Beram Kumar

Member of The International Board of Tentmakers International
& Chairman of Organizing Committee of TI Malaysian Congress 2007