



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006 - 2008

President

Michael Yei
(016-307 7003)

Vice-President

Cheong Sing Yuen
(012-208 4420)

Secretary

Alfred Ong
(016-201 8413)

Treasurer

Loo Leong Swee
(016-273 0768)

Committee Members

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Mr. Jason Ng
KL State BB Commissioner

SECRETARIAT

Stedfast Association
of Kuala Lumpur
c/o Menara Wesley,
No. 2, Jalan Wesley,
50150 Kuala Lumpur.
MALAYSIA

T : 603-7729 6722

F : 603-7710 6577

E-mail : stedfastkl@gmail.com

EDITORIAL TEAM



Advisor

Michael Yei

Editor

Alfred Ong

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WA Print Sdn Bhd



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STEDFAST

newsletter

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Message from the President



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and also from Stedfast Kuala Lumpur !

The year 2006 went by so quickly and it has been so busy for the Association and me. It is no easy task holding the fort as all of us carry full time jobs and that we have pledged out commitment to serve on a voluntary basis. So, it is a question of balancing the two and also not forgetting our families. At the end of it all, we

just want to thank our Almighty God for His presence in our lives and that He has made it possible for all of us to get through the year with flying God's colours of reaching out to others and completing the various tasks.

Since taking over from Mr. Danny Cheah, it has been a smooth transistion and we have managed to carry out all the programmes that have been planned before I took over. We have continued to reach out to others and especially to those who are in need. We have provided funds for Hyams Family, Grace Dialysis Centre, Methodist Boys' School KL, Wesley Methodist Church KL, our own Stedfast Scholarship programme and most importantly, we have never failed to support the many requests from KL State Boys' Brigade.

We will strive to continue to provide for all our Stedfast members and also to be in solid partnership with KL State Boys' Brigade who is now headed by Mr. Jason Ng, the new State Commissioner. We want to congratulate him on his new appointment and with God our Father as our Captain, I am confident that more great things could be achieved in the future.

As we push ahead into 2007, we still need to count on all of you for your support and participation in all our activities and programmes. We in the committee can only do so much and we seek your constant prayers as we move forward to be "Sure and Stedfast" in this God's Ministry called Stedfast Association Kuala Lumpur.



To God be the Glory and Praise.

Michael Yei

more photos on page 7



5th KUL Games 2007

The 5th KULGames was organized by KL State Boys' Brigade and hosted by 3rd Kuala Lumpur Company at their YMCA ground. The games started at 8.00am with speeches from Mr Tan Chee Keong (host company captain) and Mr Jason Ng (KL State Commissioner). After oath taking, Mr Jason Ng kicked the first goal of the KULGames07 marking the beginning of a day of fun and friendly competitions.

Mini Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Captain Ball (Male & Female) and Chess Competitions were organized. CONGRATULATIONS! to the newly crowned overall champion, 3rd KL Company.

NOTE : Once again, Stedfast Association Kuala Lumpur had played a part in the KULGames since its inception by sponsoring all the prizes for all the events.



STEDFAST DONATIONS



Stedfast Association Kuala Lumpur made two donations to Grace Dialysis Centre. The first was last year for RM3,000.00 being immediate donation to a young man who was going for a kidney transplant in China and this year we donated another RM2,000.00 for their operating expenses.

Photo here shows the presentation of cheque by President Michael Yei to Mr. Ding Cho Hee flanked by Exco members of Grace Dialysis Centre and SA Kuala Lumpur.

Stedfast Association Kuala Lumpur was happy to answer the call for sponsorship of the contingent t-shirts from Kuala Lumpur State Boys' Brigade for the recent Boys' Brigade National Pesta held in Kuala Lumpur.

Michael Yei presenting the t-shirt to Mr. Cheong Sing Yuen witnessed by (L to R) Loo Leong Swee, Philip Yin and Looi Kwong Hon



STEDFAST VISITOR



Mr. Henry Aik the Secretary for Kuching Stedfast Association was in town recently and our President, Mr. Michael Yei and his wife played host to him.



KL State contingent in their united attire at the National Boys' Brigade Pesta in Kuala Lumpur.



12th Annual General Meeting cum Fellowship Dinner

Date : Saturday, 12th May, 2007.
 Time : 6.30pm
 Venue : Level 1, Menara Wesley,
 Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur.
 Note : Fellowship dinner will be free-of-charge but please inform Secretariat by 5th May, 2007.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Annual subscription will be a problem if members do not do the needful and we are not in the business of suspending or deleting members from our membership list unless we have no other alternatives. Considerable amount of our income is spent on newsletters, postages and programmes for our members. So, we seek for your support and understanding to renew your subscription. Members are encouraged to upgrade their membership to Life. ALL LIFE MEMBERS ARE GIVEN A STEDFAST T-SHIRT. Please request them from the Secretariat if you have not already done so.



STEDFAST MAGNIFICENT AWARD



For the second year running, the Stedfast Magnificent Award was presented to the top SPM student of Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur and it was won by Mr. Leong Chun Hoong with the SPM results of obtaining 12 A1s.

He was awarded with a crystal Stedfast Trophy, a replica and RM300.00 cash vouchers. Photo shows Michael (left) presenting the Stedfast Trophy to the award winner.

STEDFAST KUALA LUMPUR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2007

Applications for Stedfast Kuala Lumpur Scholarship will end on 30th April and following the interviews on 6th May, the EXCO will approved those applicants that are recommended by the Interview Board headed by Mr. Yong Chee Seng.

Our Stedfast Kuala Lumpur Scholarship are only eligible to current members of Boys' Brigade (priority to KL State BB members), Stedfast members and their families. For more information, please check out our website www.stedfastkl.org.my

Programmes 2007

APRIL		JULY	
1st	Start of Stedfast Scholarship	28th	Stedfast Night
30th	End of Stedfast Scholarship	AUG.	
MAY		11th	10th Stedfast Golf Tournament
5th	Stedfast Scholarship Interview	SEPT.	
12th	Stedfast Scholarship Awards	28th - 30th	Stedfast Family Camp
12th	12th Stedfast AGM	OCT.	
JUNE		20th	KL State BB Founder's Day
30th	Stedfast Night		

9th STEDFAST GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Stedfast Golf Tournament is a “must” for us as this is the only annual fund raising project. Through the funds raised from this annual tournament, we are able provide financial assistance for needy members of the Boys’ Brigade to further their tertiary studies, KL State Boys’ Brigade projects, training and development purposes and our own Stedfast programmes.

Friday, 22nd September, 2006 was chosen for our 9th Stedfast Golf Tournament at the exclusive Templer Park Golf and Country Club. For some reasons or other, the participation was the worst so far and there were only about 60 participants.

However, God do works in mysterious ways and we must always believe in Him. Poor turnout means the amount raised to provide financial assistance would be drastically affected but our good Lord did not allow this to happen. And here, we want to acknowledge the excellent effort put in by the good office of our Life Member, Mr. Soo Kim Wai for securing two massive donations from a Foundation and a prominent businessman. Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Mr. Soo and hope that more members would follow in his foot-steps to assist us in this important area.



The winner for the 9th Stedfast Golf Tournament was one of our regular supporter, Mr. Lim Yew Soon with a handicap of 10.8 and a nett score of 70.2 points. He received a 29 inch flat screen television set and a challenge trophy. However, there were no winners for the hole-in-one to claim the RM15,000 Rolex watch which was on offer.

Again, we want to thank our Almighty God for his presence especially for the fine weather and the support of all those who have participated including Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr. Denis C. Dutton, advertisers in our souvenir programme, sponsors, donors as well as our very own volunteers and members. Ribuan Terima Kasih!



StedFast Family Camp

SUMMERSET Resort sits near Kuala Rompin, on the southern tip of Pahang. Its strategic location close to the Endau Rompin Forest Reserve and a 5km pristine beach that stretches along East Coast's most beautiful shoreline facing the South China Sea makes it a charming retreat.



So, from 20th to 22nd October, 2006, a group of about 75 Stedfast members and their families participated in the Stedfast Kuala Lumpur Annual Family Camp. The location, a 4-star deluxe eco-resort located in the midst of one of the oldest tropical rainforests in the world and sprawling over 834 acres in Kuala Rompin on the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia was an excellent venue. Everything was too good to be true..... the accommodation, food and the beauty of the place and its surroundings.



Stedfast Kuala Lumpur was also honoured and privileged to have with us, Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr. Denis C Dutton and Datin Emme Dutton who were back in Malaysia for a short holiday. Bishop Emeritus was so kind to accept our invitation and also made the special effort to share with us on "Conflict Resolution" over the three days.



At the end of it all, we were all so thankful to our good Lord for His abundance grace, blessings and goodness for the renewal of friendship and the bonding of new ones who were present at the Camp. We are sure everyone will look forward to the next Camp and till we meet again..... to God be the Glory and Praise.



WAS IN THE NEWS AGAIN...

FOCUS

Rocky road to an FTA >In Global Trends

Wake-up call on safety

With a death, a semi-paralysis and the sealing of a canteen due to unhygienic conditions – all within a week – parents want assurances from the national service authorities. Is it safe to send their children to its camps?

By K. S. USHA DEVI

IN moments of anguish, S. Muniswari pleaded with the authorities that they must ensure no other parent would have to lose her child while undergoing national service (NS) training. Let her daughter E. Prema's death be the wake-up call that every precaution must be taken in future.

The unexpected death of the 19-year-old whose body was found in a toilet at the NS campsite near Pasir Putih, Kelantan has caused ripples of anxiety among many.

While awaiting autopsy results that will only be available in a few weeks, Prema's parents will find it hard to come to terms with how a healthy young girl could suddenly lose her life.

And yet, statistically, her death makes up only 0.002% of fatalities among NS trainees, a very negligible percentage. Of the 265,000 trainees that have undergone the service since 2004, hers was one of six health-related deaths. There were six other deaths that occurred mainly outside NS camps.

"I am not justifying with numbers; we are very upset with any death. That is why talk about prevention," declared an emotional National Service chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye at Prema's funeral.

As a result of her death, NS trainees may soon have to undergo a compulsory medical check-up. The current and first batch of about 34,000 this year will complete their training on March 11 and the second batch will enrol one week later.

At the same time, based on news reports about Teluk Rubiah camp trainee Asila Latin Husna Abdul Basir who became semi-paralysed following strenuous push-up exercises last week, Lee has promised to review the physical modules.

Boot camps?

Have the NS camps morphed into boot camps? Has its objectives of promoting national unity and integration been achieved? Are enough precautions taken to ensure safety in every aspect for the trainees?

A pioneer Camp Commandant at Kem Bina Semangat, Kuala Kubu Baru, Michael Yei says that he believes in the NS programme and how it can achieve its objectives. At the same time,



Pertinent questions: Have the NS camps morphed into boot camps? Has its objectives of promoting national unity and integration been achieved?

safety must be a priority too.

"If safety rules have been set and are followed to the letter, the probability of any serious accidents occurring would be drastically reduced. If the rules had been strictly adhered to, some of the injuries or deaths could have been avoided," says Yei who has been involved in youth activities for over 30 years.

But he stresses that nothing is foolproof; even when a person stays at home, there will be accidents.

"In outdoor programmes, there are a lot of obstacles, and conditions vary from camp to camp."

However, Yei, who is no longer involved in the NS training, is worried about the safety equipment being used at the camps after three years because of the wear and tear of the equipment.

"This is a separate issue and needs to be looked into if they have not already done so. This is important because accidents or deaths will still happen if sub-standard equipment is used," he says.

On health issues, Yei says that the Health Department inspected the camp when he was on NS duty. And if there was food poisoning in a camp, the Camp Commandant should hold periodic meetings with the caterer and camp owners to ensure that everything was of decent standard.



»If safety rules are followed to the letter, the probability of serious accidents would drop drastically«

MICHAEL YEI

Need for medical staff

In cases of emergency, Yei says that there should be different levels of staff in each NS camp. For first aid and medical attention, he had a full-time medical staff seconded from army camps when he was in charge. Many of the staff were

also hands on and took charge of the activities they were handling.

"I was also hands on in all activities, going round and making sure that everything was all right," he says.

But Yei is still positive about the NS because he believes that it has made a difference for the many students who participated in NS. For the majority, he says they might not see the long-term benefits now.

"With a positive mindset, trainees will be able to reap the fruits of all the programmes that have been planned without any cost to the trainee," he says.

At the end of the day, Yei strongly feels that "there must be commitment, sacrifice, dedication and service from the heart on the part of the NS staff."

Another former NS staff says that each camp is different when it comes to the implementation of rules and regulations. Physical activity, which is part of the NS programme is done to keep the trainees healthy and alert.

"The NS wants the trainees to enjoy being in the camp and to build their character, strength as well as to get them to bond with each other," he says.

Declare health status honestly

So how does he explain the accidents and deaths?

"There could a number of other reasons. For a start, trainees should fill in the health

questionnaire honestly and accurately.

"That form has to be signed by both parents and children," says the ex-camp manager.

And although all of the trainees should complete the exercises rolled out by the officer in charge, those who could not do it were not forced to complete it.

"We were not monsters wanting to torture the trainees. There were teething problems related to health and food during my time but we would act accordingly to solve them there and then," he says.

Another NS officer says that the training conducted is not as strenuous as it has been made out to be.

"These are young and active individuals who are eager to join in all the activities that are offered," he says.

"The majority of them did not complain although there were one or two who wanted to skip the activities," he says.

"NS is a national service which should be taken positively, and the most important thing is that everyone – parents, trainees and the authorities – should work together to make it a success," he says.

Trainees are required to fill in a declaration form regarding their health status before reporting for camp.

A general practitioner says the questions are rather extensive, and if answered truthfully, would paint a clear picture.

"A doctor would be able to pick up a lot of things from there."

The doctor also believes that most trainees would be able to take on the training dished out to them.

"The majority will survive even if they are not used to the training. They may feel sore the first few days but would be able to get on with the exercises."

"However, if there is an underlying or undetected heart problem, then we may have a situation," she says.

Thus, she supports the proposal for a compulsory check-up, adding that it would be able to prevent 50% of the health-related deaths.

More stories on Pg 26

Good, bad and the ugly

9th STEDFAST GOLF TOURNAMENT PHOTOS



StedFast FAMILY Camp PHOTOS



SKL Football Club



President Michael Yei was at the football field with our Stedfast Association KL Football Club members. Photos shows a sharing cum pep talk session with all the football club members.



The Stedfast badge is ROUND in shape similar to the Glengarry Officers' badge which is 45mm in diameter. The badge can fit for BOTH the cap and collar.

The badge uses the standard fixing method using 2 stud/pins. Hence, it has two pin points (evenly balanced) which can be poked thru the collar or cap thus preventing it from moving and the pin is about 10mm long.

The colour of the badge is Bright Silver.

If you are interested, this Stedfast metal badge is now on SALE and if you are interested to get one, please contact your respective SA Secretaries as we will only be dealing with the Association and not individuals. Mr. John Bates of London SA is also holding some stocks.



EXCO-MEMBER IN ENGLAND

Mr. Tan Geok Soon was in London and Manchester recently and he was hosted by both the Stedfast Associations.



With Manchester Stedfast Association Exco members at a lunch fellowship.

Left to right : Ron Adshead, Geok Soon, Eric Chilton, Peter Cole, Mavis Southworth



In London, with Bob Mandry at Westminster's Chapel with the background of Bob's massive collection of Boys' Brigade badges.

Weekly Stedfast Activities

Football

Every Sunday - 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Badminton

Every Monday - 7.00pm to 10.00pm

More weekly activities can be organised if you come forward to tell us.