

I am glad to have the opportunity to be in Montfort. My life is on the right track again.

**Acquines Bin Eging
Kampung Sungoi, Kota Marudu**

I came from a poor family. My father is a farmer earning just enough to feed my family. I had the opportunity to attend school, but I did not appreciate it. I just spent my time aimlessly. My parents were very concerned about me and they always advised me to change my attitude so as to have a better future. I did not listen to them. I reckoned that I was old enough to live in my own life style. I did not like to be controlled; I wanted to have my own freedom.

However, there was a sharp turn of events. One day, a friend spoke to me about Montfort Youth Training Centre and told me that I could pick up a trade skill there which would enable me to have a better future. At first, I was reluctant to enroll in the Centre because I valued my freedom. I was told that the programmes in the Centre demanded very strict discipline which was not to my liking. After much reflection and consideration, I changed my mind, though, and enrolled myself with the Center since I knew it could be good for my future.

In the Centre, I was 'lost' during the first two weeks. I could not speak nor understand English, the only medium of communication allowed. However, I was willing to learn for the sack of my future. As time passed by, I am now able to speak and write in English. At the same time, I manage to pick up a vocational skill - as a welder.

Now I fully understand the advice of my parents. I am glad to have the opportunity to be in Montfort. My life is on the right track again. I value hard work and discipline. I am growing in maturity, mentally and spiritually. The Brothers, instructors and staff of MYTC care for me. I take this opportunity to thank them all. Without them, I am not what I am today. The two years in Montfort do me tremendous good. I am very proud to be a Montfortian.



If I could study there, I would change my life and improve myself.

**Gary Pitonis
Kg. Bantayan, Inanam**

Before I came to Montfort, I was a bad boy. I was always in bad company. What we did was drinking, smoking, and hanging around, doing nothing useful. One day my father tried to persuade me to join Montfort. I said to my father, "I don't want to study there. "One month later, I thought that if I could study there, I would change my life and improve myself. So, I became a trainee in Montfort.

In Montfort, I have learned so many things and I can speak simple English. I am very happy there because I am able to study and learn valuable lessons. At the same time, I have many new friends. I want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all the Brothers, staff, teachers, instructors and all my family. Without them, I would not have changed and become a better person.

Most of all, thanks be to God for touching my heart and giving me a new lease of life!



MYTC NEWS



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**MESSAGE FROM BRO. FRANCIS CHUA SG.
DIRECTOR OF MYTC**

Dear Friends,

Once again, it is my pleasure to write a few words for the 2nd Issue of our inhouse MYTC NEWS. Our 1st issue was very well received and it spurred the Editorial Committee to produce this 2nd Issue with much joy and enthusiasm.

2007 is a significant and exciting year for MYTC. Firstly, allow me to thank the many Friends and Supporters of our mission. We have successfully completed our Phase I (Residential Campus) of the development in Kinarut costing close to RM5 million. We have now embarked into Phase II. Tenders have been called for the construction of

4 units of our Training Workshops and Staff Quarters without which we cannot move to Kinarut. At the same time, renovations are in progress to make the present MYTC fit for the IJ Sisters to run the Girls Programme. With these plans coming to fruition, many more Youth (both Boys and Girls) will be admitted to our Centre.

Our Staff and Instructors are gearing themselves to handle wider and bigger responsibilities. The theme chosen for 2007 is "BUILD UP OUR PERSONALITY WITH TRUST". As I have shared with the Staff, we need to trust God, trust ourselves and trust others in building up the Montfort mission in Sabah. Often, I hear that we lack confidence and lack management skills to take the respective departments to greater heights. The Parable of the Talents can serve to remind all of us of the given 'talents'. The questions are - how have I utilized my talents in my work? What were the things that prevented me from being effective in using my given talents? Most importantly, what steps must I take now to improve myself?

In this, the 6th year of our establishment in Sabah, with the grace of God, MYTC has slowly but surely laid a solid foundation to be built on. To you Students and Graduates, you are the 'Fruits' of our labour of love. When people see you displaying the good values and virtues that Montfort have taught you, they will continue to support our mission to give opportunities to many more Youth for a brighter future.

I join St. Paul in his prayer, "I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you, I pray with Joy".

Kotobian Tadau Tagazo Do Kaamatan Montok Diozu.

Once again, I wish you all an enjoyable and enriching reading.

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From the Editor's Desk

Our theme for 2007 is, "Build Up Our Personality with Trust". Trust is a precious commodity that can be so easily lost and almost impossible to regain. We must and should do with trust to live up to the ideals, goals and paragons of responsibility and accountability. We must not fail those kindhearted and generous benefactors, contributors and donors who have trusted us so much that they donate their hard-earned money to enable us to run the Centre, up to hundreds of thousands of ringgit. We must not let down those parents who sincerely entrusted their children to the Centre hoping their children to achieve their dreams, to become 'somebody' in life and to become good Malaysian citizens. I have full confidence and trust that the Management Committee will run the

Centre successfully with full responsibility, proper accountability and transparency.

Happy reading and wishing the Kadazan Community a Happy Harvest Festival.

Richard Teo

Management Committee of MYTC

The Management Committee (MC) is the highest decision-making body on the day-to-day running of the Institution. The Chairman of the MC is the Brother Director and members are to serve for a terms of two years. These members are senior staff members of the Institution holding key positions in the respective departments.

The present Management Committee line-up is as follows:

Bro. Francis, Helena Kwan Sr. Mary Agnes, Bro. Mark, Richard Teo, Stephen Lee and Vincent Wong

The main objectives of the MC are:

1. To provide an avenue for the Brother Director and his committee to meet on a regular basis to keep each other informed of important issues pertaining to the operation of the Institution and issues affecting the training and the well-being of the students and the staff.
2. To share ideas and knowledge coming from different perspectives and to arrive at collective decision and understanding prior to implementation.
3. To set yearly calendar of events and approve goals/budgets set by the respective departments.
4. To monitor progress on projects in line with the approved budgets so that variances, especially adverse variances, can be detected for timely corrective actions to be taken where necessary.
5. For steering the Institution in the right path to carry out its mission through proper scheduled planning and execution of agreed plans.
6. To involve the members to work closely with the Brothers in order to empower them to be involved in decision-making and taking wider responsibilities to uphold Montfort's vision and mission. **MYTC News**

MY STORY



Perhaps God was knocking at the door of my heart.

Eric James
Kg. Lobak, Beaufort

During my primary school days, I stayed with my grandparents at Kg. Lobak, Beaufort. My mother at that time was working in a beauty salon as a hairdresser at Kota Kinabalu. As my grandmother was not strict on me, I was free to do whatever I wanted. I started smoking since I was 10 years old. Instead of spending the money I received from my grandfather for food, I bought cigarettes. After I completed my secondary education, I got a job in a restaurant.

My bad habits remained. Whenever I received my salary, I would spend it on something useless like buying cigarettes and hard drinks. I could not save any money as I always finished it before the end of the month.

One day, I met an ex-schoolmate of mine, Derek Douglas. He told me about Montfort Youth Training Centre where he was one of the students then. I was surprised with myself for being interested to know about this Centre, as I was not a studious person. Perhaps God was knocking at the door of my heart. I expressed my desire to study in Montfort Youth Training Centre to my mother. She was very happy to know that I was keen to be trained and to become a useful person in society. I do not regret joining this Centre as I am confident that I can become a better person. Besides industrious studies, I have learnt so much about values in life such as righteousness, justice, discipline, team work, courtesy and above all, about God. I now know that I have an almighty Father who never stops caring for me.

I wish to thank the Brothers, the instructors and teachers for giving me a second chance. I believe that being trained in MYTC for two years, I am ready to face challenges in life wherever I go.

I was a naughty boy before I joined Montfort but now, I have changed to be a better person.

Jeddy Gawid @ Fidelis
Kg. Kirokot, Tambunan

I came to Montfort Youth Training Centre after I completed my Form Five because I did not have the opportunity to study Form Six. I heard of Montfort from one of my relatives, Mr. Fredoline, who has worked in Montfort Boys Town

before. He knows quite a lot about Montfort. He said that Montfort is a good institution, better than others. I was very lucky when Montfort invited me to be one of the students as a trainee in Motor Mechanics in June 2005. I was a naughty boy before I joined Montfort but now, I have changed to be a better person. I have learnt so many valuable things in Montfort from the Brothers, Sisters, staff and both of my instructors, Mr. Imanuel and Mr. John Liew. I want to say a big 'THANK YOU' to Brother Francis, Mr. Vincent and Mr. Oliver who have looked after me in the home side, and Mr. Richard, Mrs. Lorena and Mr. Jude for being my teachers in English and computer knowledge. May God bless them always.



PREFECTS' OUTING TO TABIN WILDLIFE RESORT, LAHAD DATU Twelve Prefects led by Bro. Francis and four Staff drove to Tabin, a wildlife sanctuary in the heart of Sabah. The 3D2N adventure was made possible with the goodwill from the Chairman and Management of Tabin.

Each year, among themselves, a number of Students are recommended for Prefects' service and are voted in. Leadership training is given by Bro. Director to prepare them for this responsibility. Prefects' dedication to assist in the smooth running of the Home Programme is recognised and appreciated by the Brothers and Management. Besides technical skills training and general studies (English and IT), Montfort's Youth Development Programme emphasises on holistic character formation. It is in the day-to-day well-run Home Programme that transformation in character in the students takes place.

One may ask exactly what Prefects do to deserve being singled out for this 'reward'? In most people's mind, Prefects are like Class Monitors who help Teachers clean the whiteboards and keep the class quiet while the teacher is out of the classroom.

In MYTC, Prefects are tasked with many leadership roles and they are the 'right-hand' men, so to speak, of the Student Affairs Officer. Each morning, at 5.30am a Prefect does the 'wake-up' call, conducts morning exercise and takes roll calls to check on attendance.

In MYTC, we create an environment of a 'Home away from Home' to give Youth a sense of belonging, treating the Centre as their own Home. We do not hire helpers to do chores around the Home. Prefects are the ones who see to it that house-keeping, general maintenance, compound cleaning and kitchen duties are divided and equally shared out. Prefects help to maintain discipline through the 'Merit-card' points system. Indiscipline or misconduct will result in the hard earned merit points being deducted.

In MYTC, English, being a business language, is taught under General Studies along with Computer Studies. Thus, speaking English is enforced. The Prefects' job is to ensure that this is being practised consistently. Employers are generally very impressed with our Students' English proficiency. After leaving MYTC, frequently they wrote back to tell of their gratitude that such vigilance had 'forced' them to master the speaking of English and how much it is helping them in their workplace.

Prefects also organise morning and evening prayers, and carry out week-end projects such as landscaping and grass-cutting at the new Kinarut Campus.

For all of the above, The Management salute our Prefects and a small 'reward' is perfectly justifiable. Prefects serve and give of their time selflessly because it is in doing that they learn to become leaders in the true sense.

On the trip to Tabin, the Prefects have this to share:

When they reached Tabin Wildlife Centre, they were greeted well by the staff working in the well-known holiday hot-spot. Some of the students were very surprised that in the middle of the jungle there is such a place that is almost as good as a 5-star hotel. A pleasant surprise indeed!

The staff of Tabin brought the group to see some wild animals. They were lucky enough to see elephants, foxes, iguanas and owls. They also had the opportunity to see the mud volcano. According to the Tabin staff, the mud from the volcano, if applied consistently on the face, has the effect of improving and smoothening the skin. One of the Prefects took a small portion, not for his face, but as something to keep as a remembrance.

Another adventurous activity was jungle trekking. It was no easy trail for them as leeches were here and there. That made their trekking even more challenging but yet full of fun. Everyone managed to complete the trail without fuss.

All the Prefects were very delighted with their visit to Tabin Wildlife. They thanked the Management for giving them the opportunity to see more of Sabah. **MYTC News**



JICA Volunteer attached at Montfort Youth Training Centre

Akinori Kojima, 40, a Japanese Volunteer, has been with the Centre since May 2004. His contract will end in June 2007.

Akinori is very grateful to the Centre for being given the opportunity to journey together with the students and to share with them his expertise in wood-working.

Having been assigned to be in the Carpentry Department, Akinori is well-liked by the students for his kindness and willingness to instill knowledge to them. Akinori observed that the students show genuine interest in wood-working. He, therefore

believes these students will go far if they continue to work with the right attitude.

Akinori extended his gratitude especially to Bro. Francis Chua and he firmly believes that under the mentorship and determination of Bro. Francis, Montfort Youth Training Centre will be second-to none. This indeed is good news to all Youths particularly those from Sabah. **MYTC News**

A Love Letter From Dublin, Ireland to Bro. Francis Chua

Your 1st newsletter arrived 2 days ago and it was great to hear all the news from Sabah. Forgive our silence. The last few months have been very busy, but you are all constantly in our thoughts and prayers. The memories of our time with you always bring us so much joy.

School is very busy. The students are more and more difficult. Their family problems compounded by the lack of faith make teaching more challenging than ever!



It will be my first Christmas with both my parents in Heaven, so it is a sad time, too, for us. I will be with my brother and his family in the west of Ireland, so it will be good to be together. I'm sure the boys will be gone home for Christmas holidays, so give them my best wishes when they return. Our warmest regards too, to the Sisters and all the Staff, especially Bro. Mark, Bro. Thomas and Helena. Despite the distance, the 4 degrees here and the 30 degrees there and all the thousands of kilometers between us, the distance between our hearts is very small!

Helen O'Reilly and Mary Therese Murphy came to stay in MYTC for two weeks some time last year. They admitted that they felt so much at home during their stay here with the Brothers and the students. They were especially touched by the hospitality and the friendliness of the staff and the students. According to them, spending their holidays in Sabah was one of the best things that happened in their life. Editor's note

Happy Christmas to you.

***Lots of love, Helen
22nd December 2006***

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

A Life in the Spirit Seminar was conducted from 19th to 21st January 2007 within MYTC compound with the objective of empowering the youths to live their lives in the freedom of the children of God. Youth leaders from the



Light of Jesus Christ Covenant Community of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish were invited to conduct the seminar. Sixty students (fifty-two boys and eight girls) attended the seminar. The seminar was conducted in the language of the youths. Thus, there were a lot of action songs and skits to convey important messages to the youths and yet followed by serious talks on important issues. As a result, there were a lot of fun and at the same time food for thought. All had a great time, being led into opening themselves up for the Holy Spirit to move in their lives. Many were moved to tears recalling past memories during the prayer for forgiveness and the inner healing service, an indication that healing was taking place. It was generally believed that after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, these youths will never be the same again, especially after being reminded

of their true identity as the children of God and how much the Father loves them. **MYTC News**

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR WORKSHOP COORDINATORS

On 26th and 27th of January, 2007, coordinators from the Carpentry, Motor Mechanics and Welding workshops went on a day of recollection with the Management Committee at Mesilau Resort in Kundasang, Kota Kinabalu. The principal objective of the recollection was to help workshop personnel realize that God has equipped them with talents to carry out their works in their respective roles in the mission of MYTC and that He is the one they serve, not the Brothers and therefore they should serve to the best of their ability and in the highest integrity. Bible passages chosen for reflection and sharing were 1 Cor 12:4-11 on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Matthew 25:14-30 on the Parable of the Talents. The recollection ended with a Eucharist Celebration, thanks to Brother Mark Tee who was the presiding celebrant. **MYTC News**



VISIT BY WELFARE DEPARTMENT



MYTC has been a place of visit to many outsiders who have heard of the good works done here and want to have first-hand information about MYTC. On 24th January 2007, a group of students under the care of the Welfare Department in Kota Kinabalu led by the Department's staff members paid MYTC a visit. Mr. Vincent Wong, a member of the Management Committee, gave them a briefing with a Powerpoint presentation followed by light refreshments. Needless to say, there were all very impressed by how MYTC is being so efficiently run. The visit should be an eye-opener to the students who may not know what holistic training is. **MYTC News**

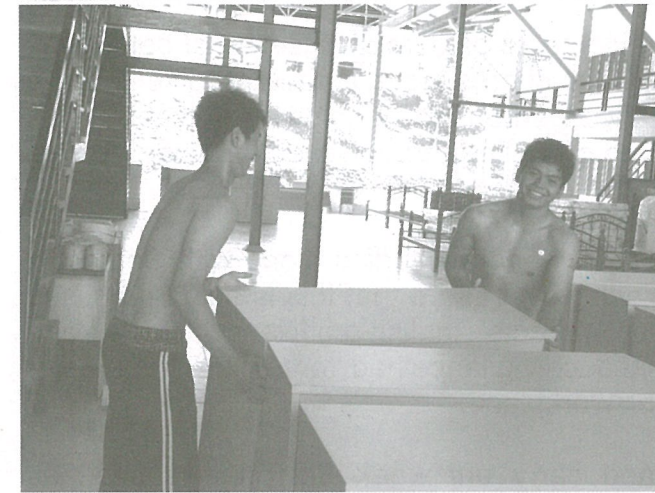
GOAL SETTING TALK

A Talk on Goal Setting was organised for our 2nd Year Students on 23 February 2007. The speaker and facilitator was Ms Teresa Alberto, a well-known Trainer in Kota Kinabalu. Altogether 25 students and 5 instructors attended the event.

The main objectives of the event were firstly, to teach the students how to be focused on what they want in life and secondly, to help them in time management which will result in maximum productivity. Talks were accompanied by practical exercises and games. The response from the students as well as the instructors was very positive. All felt that they have benefited tremendously from the event, thanks to Ms Teresa Alberto for the interesting and insightful talks accompanied by fun-filled activities, and to Ms Lorena for such a well-organised and useful event! **MYTC News**



CLEANING UP AT THE NEW CAMPUS



On Thursday, 8th of March, 2007, Ms Helena Kwan who just came back from an overseas trip mobilised all staff and students to clean and tidy up the Dormitories, Multi-purpose Building and Student Affairs Office in the New Campus at Kinarut. This was to ensure that they were ready for use for the Youth Camp organized by the Youth Leaders of the Diocese of Kota Kinabalu during that weekend. The hard work paid dividend. The Camp was successfully conducted. The "hardwares" in the New Campus were tested and they were working properly with no untoward incidents reported. The staff and students did a great job, especially our Editor, Mr. Richard Teo, our Pastoral Care Manager, Mr. Vincent Wong, and our Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Oliver Kintui, who supervised the students in the various tasks from 9 a.m.

until late evening. All of them truly displayed the Montfortian spirit! **MYTC News**

ELECT FROM SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL VISIT MYTC

On 18 March, 2007, a group of over 30 of the Elect from the Chinese RCIA of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish paid a visit to MYTC with a view to knowing the part MYTC plays in the mission of the Catholic Church. Brother Francis gave them a warm welcome and introduced them to the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel including explaining to them the differences between Religious Brothers and Priests. Subsequently, Mr. Stephen Lee picked up where Brother Francis left off and gave a presentation on the vision and mission of MYTC. All talks were given in Mandarin, a real challenge to both Brother Francis and Mr. Stephen Lee. This was followed by some refreshments and ended with two songs presented by our students to the complete surprise and delight of the visitors. Our students did MYTC proud by their excellent performance.

To the Elect, this was a great opportunity to see from the presentation the Gospel of Jesus Christ practised in real life through the selfless giving of the Brothers. All were impressed by what MYTC has done for the underprivileged youth in Sabah, a conscious and active response to God's call to care for the poor. As a token of love and support for MYTC, the Elect presented the Centre with some food stuffs. One gentleman, an old friend of Mr. Stephen Lee, indicated that MYTC would be a place that he would like to serve after his retirement. May God bless him for his generosity. **MYTC News**

