

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MYTC



Dear Friends and Fellow Montfortians

CROSSING A DECADE OF FOUNDATION IN SABAH

It all happened with a thought to start with - **MONTFORT YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE, A HOME TRULY DEAR FOR NEEDY YOUTH** - and it took almost a decade to materialize it! A thought will always remain just a thought if the heart has no desire for it. It is the heart's desire, says the Psalmist, that fills us with the determination, passion and perseverance to pursue the thought until it becomes "tangible".

It is not important whether one has the means or not in the process of pursuing an ideal, but the heart's desire to see through that **thought** and putting it into reality. Some called it a 'vision' or a 'dream' but I call it 'awareness'.

It is this awareness that had spurred the Brothers of St Gabriel to set up this foundation in Sabah. Today in its present reality, Montfort creates a space for those whom society perhaps has neglected to give another chance for them to develop their talents and potentials. On this our 10th year of establishing Montfort in Sabah, I would like to recall with deep gratitude all those who had given so much of themselves to labor with uncountable hours, day after day, without counting the cost to fulfill such desire.

In family situations, parents slog hard for the betterment of their children but some children do not seem to appreciate what their parents have done for them. It is so easily forgotten once you have crossed the bridge. It is with such sentiments, dear present Students (Girls and Boys) and Graduates, that I urge you all to put on this "awareness" as we grow and live in this illusive world that we may not be deceived but be perceptive, receptive and appreciative of one another's contributions and ideas.

On behalf of the Brothers, IJ Sisters, Board of Governors, Management, Staff, I wish to thank each and every one of you sincerely for your involvement and investment. Your financial assistance, time and valuable advice have raised us up.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and a promising New Year 2009.

Bro. Francis Chua sg.

Editor's Note



Dear readers,

Peace and happiness to all of you. We are 10 years old now in Sabah; thank you for journeying with us. For this newsletter to be published, it takes a lot of time and dedication. I want to thank Stephen, Jacinta, Beverley and the others for their contribution and for making this newsletter available for all of us.

Many events took place over the years and we have grown through all these events. The Boys' Campus in Kinarut and the Girls' Campus in Donggongan are fully operational. The year will be ending soon and we have a whole lot of activities lined up.

Continue to pray and journey with us. Enjoy reading and be updated on what is happening in our Centres.

Wishing all of you "A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009."

Bro. Peter K. sg

New Additions to Montfortian Family

We are happy to welcome the following new staff members:

- Boys' Campus: 1) Mr Cladius George - Student Affairs Officer (joined in August 2008)
2) Mr Cladius Frederick Sulip - Manager, Development & Production (joined in Sept 2008)
Girls' Campus: 3) Ms Josephine Lobinjang - Sewing Instructor (joined in July 2008)
4) Ms Hideko Himawari - Japanese Volunteer Sewing Instructor (from 17/10/08 to 14/08/09)

Congratulations to our newly wedded staff:



Mr Thaddeus Loukin married to Ms Stephanie Malin



Mr Wely Yatam married to Ms Julita Koduok

Congratulations also to our staff,
Mr Rumi @Along, for obtaining
his bus driving licence!



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I would like to receive the MYTC NEWS. Kindly send it to the address below.

Name : _____

Address : _____

Tel : _____ (H) _____ (O) _____ (HP)

I also would like to make donation to support the publication of this MYTC NEWS amounting to

RM _____ Chq No / Postal No _____

made payable to Montfort Youth Training Centre. Thank you.

WORD OF THANKS

To all our donors, supporters and friends who have always been so ready to help our (and yours too) mission of raising useful and successful human beings. Thank you.

Special thanks to our longstanding regular donors namely: Datuk John Choo of Ken Chong Food Industries S/B, Mr Ng Hong Leong, Enmore Enterprise S/B, Mr Martin Chong, Mr Wan Lee, Pertubuhan Ugama Buddha Che Sze Lim, Che Sui Khor Moral Uplifting Society and to our many other regular donors who have contributed in their own special ways. Thank you very much.

Diriwan's sponsoring of RM5,000.00 worth of sewing machineries and accessories for our Girls' Campus. This timely donation will help greatly in the professional training of our girls in sewing. Thank you.



MYTC is ever grateful to the Rotary Club, Tanjung Aru for their continuous support. They initiated this generous donation from CIMB of RM38,000.00 for the purchase of automotive engines as training modules for our Mechanic trainees.

Presentation of Donation
(RM 50,000) to Brother Francis
of MYTC by Mr Chin Chi Kee,
JP, of Kinabalu Foundation.



Montfort Annual Golf initiated and continued by the same group of dedicated individuals - Datuk George Ling (Organising Chairman), Ms Margaret Fung, Mr Henry Goh, Mr George Bandusena, Mr Thomas Chiu, Mr Willie Ng, Mr Willie Wong, Ms Helena Kwan and supporting members, Mr Eddie Abdullah, Mr Peter Anthony, Mr Patrick Lim and all the participating golfers who helped towards the success of this year's tournament. It was held on Saturday, 23rd August 2008 at SGCC. The excess of income over expenditure was RM146,000.

JULY



**Visit of
AES Students
from Singapore**



**International
Rotary Club members
with their families**



**Legion of
Mary Visit**



**Outdoor
Camping
at Kuala
Penyu**



Girls outing to Tg Aru Beach



**Interhouse
Futsal &
Basketball
Tournament**



**Visit of Regional
Biblical Commission**



Rotary Club & CIMB Visit



Sabah Teological Seminary Visit



Celebrating Our 10th BSG Anniversary



**Trainee
in Action**



Visit of Sri Mengasih Student



**Merdeka Night
at Girls Campus**



**Boys cycling
in the evening**

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER



BSG Night



Learning English



**Train the Trainers
Session**

OCTOBER

Happenings at MYTC Boys Campus

Experiential Learning Experience

42 students (teenagers of 15 and 16 years) and 5 teachers from Assumption English School (under Montfort Boys' Town, Singapore) visited MYTC, Kinarut for an Experiential Learning Experience from 23rd to 27th July 2008.

Coming from 'concrete jungles' and hi-tech lifestyle, the students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the abundant green and natural setting of Sabah with its colourful flora and fauna. An organised trip to Kinabalu National Park and Poring Hotspring were a thrill as they attempted the Canopy Walk at 100 feet above ground.

A host of activities were also organised for interaction between our home and away students: jungle trek to Sungai Mook Waterfall (they just totally loved it!), obstacle race, Outward Bound School style (great camaraderie were shown between the students) and a social evening of creative talent show by both MYTC and AES students.



Good activity the youth can cherish & remember

End Result: They have truly enjoyed their stay with us, bonding with our students (fellow teenagers) so much so that a few of them had to be literally 'shoved' onto the airport bound bus! *MYTC News*

Outdoor Camp to Kuala Penyu (Camping-mah!) (1st - 3rd October 2008)

This outdoor camp was organised as part of MYTC's character formation training program. It covered basic survival skill in the midst of nowhere and an awareness of our local tourism attraction spots.

From the setting up of the tents to the preparation of their meals, the boys were very much on their own with the staff watching at a distance, guiding only when necessary. And the boys did pretty well - displaying good leadership, great teamwork, cooperating and working alongside in everything, even gathering round their make shift dining table to dine together (well taught by MYTC!), 'family-mah!' as one house said when commenting on their good fellowship spirit.

Save for the strong winds and rain, it was a most enjoyable learning trip for all. SYABAS to the Student Affairs Officers, the main coordinators, for a job well done, and all participating staff for their uniting support. Yes,

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE! *MYTC News*



Waiting to walk together on BIG SLIPPERS

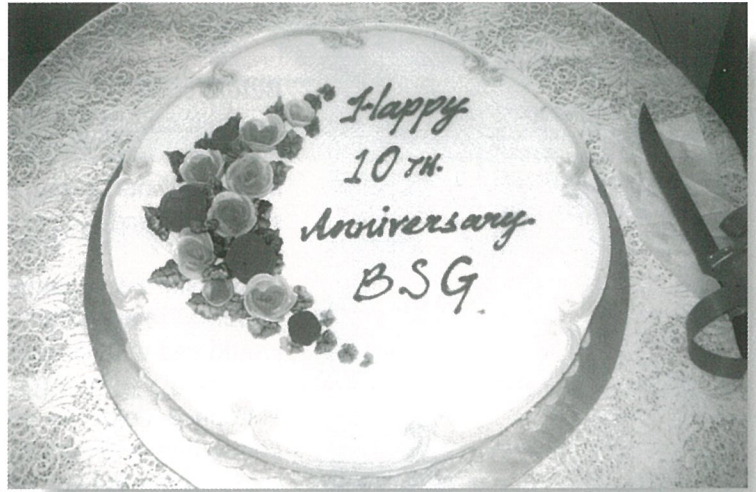


They can survive just about anywhere

10th Anniversary of Presence of the Brothers of St Gabriel in Sabah

An important milestone in the history of Montfort Youth Training Centre, Kota Kinabalu. With the arrival of the Brothers of St Gabriel and the setting up of MYTC began the Beacon of Hope for these underprivileged and aimless youths of Sabah. At last, there is a place for them to turn around their 'mistaken way of life' and someone who truly believes in them where others have only contempt.

From a humble, make-shift beginning of 15 to the present 110 youths, the Brothers of St Gabriel have made great strides in following in the footsteps of their Founder, St Louis Marie De Montfort, who saw great potential in these youths whom the world neglected.



And all they wanted to remember on this auspicious occasion was an in-house celebration as, quote, 'We are merely servants and doing what we should do.' Thank you, Brothers, and we pray that God will sustain your mission for many, many more good years to come. *MYTC News*

Staff Annual Retreat - 13th -15th September 2008

This annual retreat was organised for all staff during the students' semester break to refresh and 'energise' our body, mind and spirit before the next semester began! This year's retreat, facilitated by Fr Rudy Wong, a Redemptorist Priest from Ipoh, brought us to a journey of SELF discovery: a journey beginning with Faith in God and Faith in ourselves. Carl Jung's theory of uniting the Conscious (the EGO) and the Unconscious (SELF) was used to help us to find our real SELF (which St Theresa of Avila referred to as 'the marriage of the Human and the Divine').



The start of this psycho spiritual journey was to acknowledge that "I am a child of God, good, blessed and lovable" - a basic belief always countered by the EGO because of the many false beliefs we accumulated from others and our own self throughout circumstances of our lives and the actions that we took. (Oh, wretched soul that I am, yet I am so LOVED by God. Hang on to this truth, children of God, in whatever race, creed or state you may be!).

From here, we were brought into 3 sessions of guided 'inward' journey to the SELF (the Unconscious), shifting through the EGO (the Conscious, i.e. the mind). An intense and continuous journey that we need to take if we are to live the real SELF (where we will discover that our TRUE SELF is so different from the Conscious self) in order to acquire the Peace, the Joy, and the Love that all human beings long for.

Then, our daily living should be one of:

- i) Contemplative Awareness
- ii) Contemplative Attitude
- iii) Contemplative Living, and
- iv) Contemplative Action.

What could be a difficult topic Fr Rudy managed to help us into an insightful SELF discovery with simplicity and delightful anecdotes that at the end of it, we could not get enough of this wonderful journey! *MYTC News*

Breaking News from the Girls' Campus.....

The Girls' Campus was officially launched on 3rd June 2008 at MYTC Donggongon after the boy trainees shifted to the new campus in Kinarut. 19 deserving girls, selected from the various interior parts of Sabah, took up residence at the Centre. The person in charge is an IJ sister, Sister Mary Agnes, who is assisted by another IJ sister, Sister Celestine Tham.

This new intake of 19 trainees constituted a 200% increase over the previous 2 small batches of 10 girls or less each taken in over a span of 4 years when Montfort first opened its door to take in girls. Due to space constraint the intake was limited to a very small number. However, as space becomes available, Montfort could not hold back anymore the number of girls waiting to be accepted.

Now six months into the program, the girls are learning to adapt to a disciplined and learning-oriented environment. It's definitely no easy task for them to "trade-in" their selfish and lackadaisical attitudes. However, with loving firm handling, they are constantly taught by the Sisters to overcome old attitudes and to develop a new mentality. This daily molding of their character helps them not only to work out relationships, trust, obedience, etc, but also to tackle a new language (English), to learn new skills (dressmaking, baking, cooking), and to deepen their general knowledge (mathematics, basic computer skills).



Dressmaking Class



Baking Class in progress



Fish pond cleaning

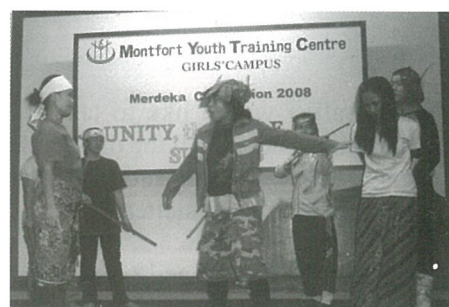
On the residential program, the girls have outdone themselves within such a short span of time since their arrival. Their housekeeping skills are evident in the orderliness and cleanliness of the surroundings. Their illustriousness can be seen in projects which include vegetable planting, grass planting, grass cutting, compound cleaning, drain digging and clearing, fish pond cleaning, recycling of waste material, etc.



Futsal Champions



Guitar lesson

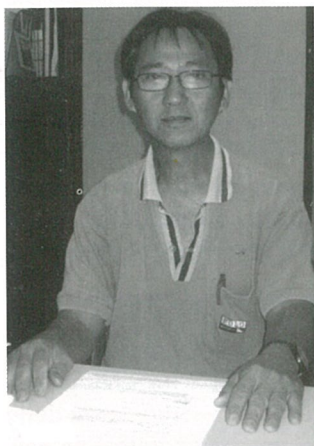


Merdeka drama presentation

They say, "All work and no play makes Jill a dull girl." All efforts are on hand to make sure that the girls do not end up being "dull girls!" Activities, both indoor and outdoor, are being programmed for them such as futsal, basketball, line-dancing, indoor board games, etc. To help them discover hidden talents, there are guitar learning sessions, choir sessions, handicraft/creativity sessions, cooking competitions, drama and songs presentations, etc.

Faith Formation classes are organised to enable the girls to grow in their faith and in their knowledge that with God in their life, they can overcome the difficulties which they will encounter in their life. Truly, the girls can expect to benefit much from this wholesome living, ensured and diligently enforced by Montfort.

Montfort Girls' Campus - Jalan Bongoon-Kodundungan-Ganang, Tel: 088-721053 Fax:088-721054



John Liew, Head of Production Motor Mechanics Department

I am delighted to be given this chance to share of my working experience in MYTC. A unique experience where I am learning and growing spiritually (and personally) as much the students are learning their skills from me.

I am involved in the Practical Production Training of the senior trainees, guiding them closely in the repairing of cars from general servicing to major overhauling. This hands-on training is vital for them to acquire the mechanical skills faster given their two years only in MYTC. I find that I am able to relate to them as I was like them in my teenage years, an aimless youth, and leaving school to work as a Mechanic Apprentice at the age of 16 years. Whenever I can, I would love to share with these trainees my experience of working in the real world as well as imparting life values.

On the personal level, I find joy and satisfaction in sharing my 30+ years of mechanic experience. I could have continued with my own successful automotive business, somehow there was this desire that found me applying to work in MYTC. On reflecting, if I have continued in my business, I would one day retire and that will be it, without sharing and passing on my skill. Now that I am in MYTC (since 2005), I find it is really rewarding that I could share my experiences especially to these students and when I retire, I could reflect with gladness that at least I have pass on my mechanic skills to all these deserving youth.

Geoffrey Samin, Student Affairs Officer



First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizing committee for inviting me to write a few words in this newsletter.

I am Geoffrey Samin and I was once a Montfort student in the year 2004-2006. After my graduation, I was sent to Johor to work as a mechanic for almost 2 years. While I was there, I encountered a lot of experience especially to see and learn the way how the people of Semenanjung worked. To me, it was fantastic to see the way how they organised and accomplished their work. They were active people with lots of energy!

Although I have gained experience and learned a lot, yet I did face a lot of difficulties and problems...thank God, if it was not because of Montfort challenging program that I have gone through, I am sure I could not handled

the situation easily; like the discipline, awareness, responsibility, time management, workshop skill and the most important was the English speaking. Most of the time, we were asked to communicate in English, which is the most valuable and international language.

I could still recall an incident where a customer came by to our workshop to ask for a repair of his Mercedes Benz car. At that time, our service adviser was not around, so my friend by the name of Januarius and I took the responsibility to deal with this customer. He spoke and explained to us in English and we tried to help him. Deep inside my heart, I was saying, "how bless are we this time." Truly, if it was not because of the English that we have learned in MYTC, how are we going to communicate with others? After we have repaired and settled the problem of his car, he asked us questions like, "Where were you studying before, and where did you learn the discipline and the workshop skills? And many more.... We then told him that we studied our workshop skill and discipline in MYTC in Sabah. When he heard this, he was happy and asked us for MYTC contact number. I appreciated all that I have learned in MYTC which I feel have truly been very useful to me.

After two years in Johor, I decided to go back to Sabah to look for a new job because the company that I worked with was not giving me a good salary. Yes... Thank God! Within a month, I heard that Montfort needed someone in the workshop, so I contacted Brother Francis; I was then given two choices, either to work in the Student Affairs or in the Motor Mechanic Workshop. When I heard this, I smiled and said to myself, "yes, this is the time for me to show and to make use of my skill in other areas." I made my decision and took the opportunity to work at the Student Affairs since I was once an HQ Discipline Officer.

I joined Montfort in 1st April 2008 as one of the Montfortian family. I am no longer working as a mechanic dealing with cars anymore but instead, an officer dealing with human beings...wow! Interesting and full of challenges but nothing is impossible if we put God first in our lives.

Thank you to all the Brothers and Staff of Montfort for your caring, guidance and support. I truly appreciate that and God bless you all. Last but not least, I would like again to specially thank the Brothers of St Gabriel for your mission to "Build Youth Build Nation" in Sabah...thanks to one and all!



My life before I joined Montfort by Floran Mark

Before coming to Montfort, my life is totally not that of a choice for parents to see their children succeed in life. I have stopped schooling when I was 15 years old. I was expelled from my school because of my bad behaviour. I stayed at home without doing anything. My parents often asked me to continue my studies but sadly, it was left unheard.

And I started to smoke and drink, influenced by my friends. Every night I preferred to spend time with friends rather than with my family. Most evenings would end with us getting drunk, fighting and damaging other's property.

I stopped going to church for many years. My life became really terrible, continuing with these bad habits for almost two years before I came to my senses. I got fed up with what I was doing; asking myself what would happen if I kept on doing like this. Maybe God really wants me to change. One day my father told me about Montfort and how it could help me. Without thinking, I just said 'Yes' to him and we came for an interview and I was accepted.

I suffered when I first came because I was homesick. I really felt like going home but one of our Seniors told me that it was normal and if I stayed a little bit longer, everything was going to be alright. After a few months in Montfort, I began to like the program and I found that it was a very interesting and helpful program. At Montfort, I learned: a) how to be independent, disciplined, respectful and to take initiative in anything I do. b) to teamwork and be a skilled person, c) to be a leader so as to become a useful citizen with a bright future and d) to speak English; that is the specialty of Montfort as compared to other Institution.

In Montfort, I came to know our Lord Jesus Christ through the Faith Formation class, meditation and prayers. I am so glad that I came to Montfort, with the excellent guidance from all the Brothers who took such good care of us physically, mentally and spiritually. There are times when I am 'down' and the Brothers are always there to advise me never to give up, to encourage and support me. I am really proud to be a part of the Montfortian family.

New and Future Happenings

- 1) Christmas Caroling - Our annual house to house caroling to bring good tidings and say "thank you" to our ever generous friends and supporters.
- 2) Christmas Party for students graciously hosted by the Chairman of MYTC's Board of Governors, YB Tan Sri Bernard G Dompok, at his residence.
- 3) St Gabriel's Annex - Its construction was initiated by our Bro Director for accommodating visiting Brothers of St Gabriel and other guests. This can be used for small group retreats (up to 18 persons) with nominal charges. Our recent guests were from the Regional Biblical Commission including two Bishops (Brunei and Sarawak). For more details, please call our Administration Office at 088-755811.
- 4) MYTC Weekend Experience - With so many enquiries from parents concerned with their teenage children heading in the wrong direction, we hope to reach out to these youths through this program. Our maximum intake per weekend is 20 persons. For more details, call our Administration Office at 088-755811.
- 5) Full swing Workshop Production Training - A two pronged strategy, we strongly believe in gearing our Seniors into highly competent skilled personnel for the tough commercial market and at the same time, generating a small income to help subsidise our increasing training costs with the increased number of trainees. This is where we would very much like all our supporters to also help us in this way, to come to us with your needs be it in the Welding, Carpentry or Mechanic Workshop. Your support is our success in training these youth. Thank you.