

**SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE**  
**HELP SHAPE LEADERS OF TODAY**



From left: Adam Sugathar, Nicholas Yeap, Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar, George Ong, Rev Dr Hermen Sastri

**Brigade Brothers to Brothers in Christ**

We rejoice that one of the BB alumni, Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar has been elected as the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. May the Triune God grant him all the strength he needs in this special calling.

These brothers in Christ (above photo) were glad to catch up over lunch at the Bread of Life Café in the Council Churches Malaysia's (CCM) Ecumenical Centre on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Many exciting conversations were exchanged, among them reminiscing of the good old days growing up in the Boys' Brigade (BB).

Nicholas Yeap, the Brigade President of The Boys' Brigade in Malaysia (BBM), was from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kampar Company based in SMK Methodist (ACS) Kampar with Wesley Methodist Church Kampar as its sponsoring body. Rev Dr Hermen Sastri, General Secretary of CCM and the Brigade Chaplain of BBM, who was also a former BB member during his younger days in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kuala Lumpur Company sponsored by Grace Methodist Church Sentul. Moving southwards, Rev Dr Jeyakumar, a rank and file from the 1<sup>st</sup> Melaka Company, received Christ through his experience in the BB. From Sarawak, George Ong, the Executive Secretary of BBM was from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sibu Company.

A recurring question that emerged during the conversation was "What was the one thing that we can think of that brings most impact to the members in the BB?". For Rev Dr Jeyakumar, "...the activities (camps, sports, etc) in the BB Company is the one thing that bond us together stronger in our friendship, many of whom I still keep in touch till today, more than 30 years later." Due to the age difference, one would have assumed that the needs and wants of the younger generation would differ to those from older times.

However, it is clear that across generations the need for fellowship and camaraderie that form the basic relational needs of young people are still very real. The Boys' Brigade ministry is fundamentally a relational ministry, even since the days where its founder, Sir William Alexander Smith and his wife, invited squads of Boys to his home for tea. Such relationship was the foundation of the love for God and for young people.

Although these brothers may have come from places separated geographically, by the Grace of God they have found conviction and commitment in Christ through the Brigade and have become one family as brothers in Christ. This is what the Boys' Brigade ministry is all about — to advance Christ kingdom among Boys and Girls and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, and Self-Respect, moulding them towards becoming a man and a woman of Christian Character.

If you wish to know more about the Boys' Brigade, please visit [www.bbmalaysia.org](http://www.bbmalaysia.org) or to contact them at [hq@bbmalaysia.org](mailto:hq@bbmalaysia.org). To God be the Glory.