

WONG MEIN KONG

Regional Director of Southeast Asia Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Background:

Where are you located? I have been living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia since 1979.

How do you serve in GCI? Senior pastor of GCI Malaysia and Singapore and since July 2018 Regional Director of Southeast Asia. I plan to step down as pastor next year to focus more on my new responsibilities for the region.

How many years have you been part of GCI? I came into contact with the church via the Plain Truth magazine during high school and was baptized in 1974.

How did you connect with GCI? I came across the Plain Truth magazine in secondary school, then wrote to the Australian office for booklets and later requested a visit from a minister. John Halford wrote to me, but a mail strike delayed his letter and I missed the appointment. I was baptized in my first festival in 1974. I came from a nominal Buddhist/Taoist Chinese background and was the first in my family's generations to accept Christianity. My parents were unhappy but accepted my conversion; however in time they grew to like the church members. I met my wife Chew Yeng in church and her journey to GCI is similar to mine.

How has your ministry developed? I had been active in church since I started attending, especially in youth activities. After 17 years working as a civil engineer I was employed as pastor in Malaysia and Singapore. This included pastoral visits to scattered members in other countries of Southeast Asia (except the Philippines). My ministry over the years has been guided greatly by mentors like John Halford, former pastor Yong Chin Gee, and retired RD Australasia Rod Matthews. My passion is in pastoral ministry and I see my role as a pastoral encourager/supporter/mentor of leaders serving the many small groups/congregations in the region. Experiencing Christianity in these disparate cultures has shown the need for lifelong discipleship beyond initial conversion. I am reminded of the imperative to "grow in grace and knowledge" in 2 Peter 3:18.



Get to Know Mein Kong



1.

I am most grateful to God for my wife who I believe God brought to me; for our daughter and our son (who died in 2011); and for the many friends in church that I have met and known over the years.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:38-39. I recently discovered the lyrics of the two versions (Easter & Christmas) of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and they are among my favorite worship songs.

2.

What energizes me - Having a good discussion on some theological/biblical issue with practical implications.

I FEEL CLOSE TO GOD WHEN...

I am enjoying the quietness of solitude especially in the midst of nature, and I learn to listen to him.

3.

I enjoy watching old classic movies, including those in other languages, as I like to learn about different cultures and historical settings.

WHAT DOES HOPE LOOK LIKE RIGHT NOW?

Knowing that even in my uncertainty of the future facing the church in the region, God has laid out his plans, just that he hasn't told me yet! I tell myself, Jesus never hurried and he never worried. He will get things done his way and in time.



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