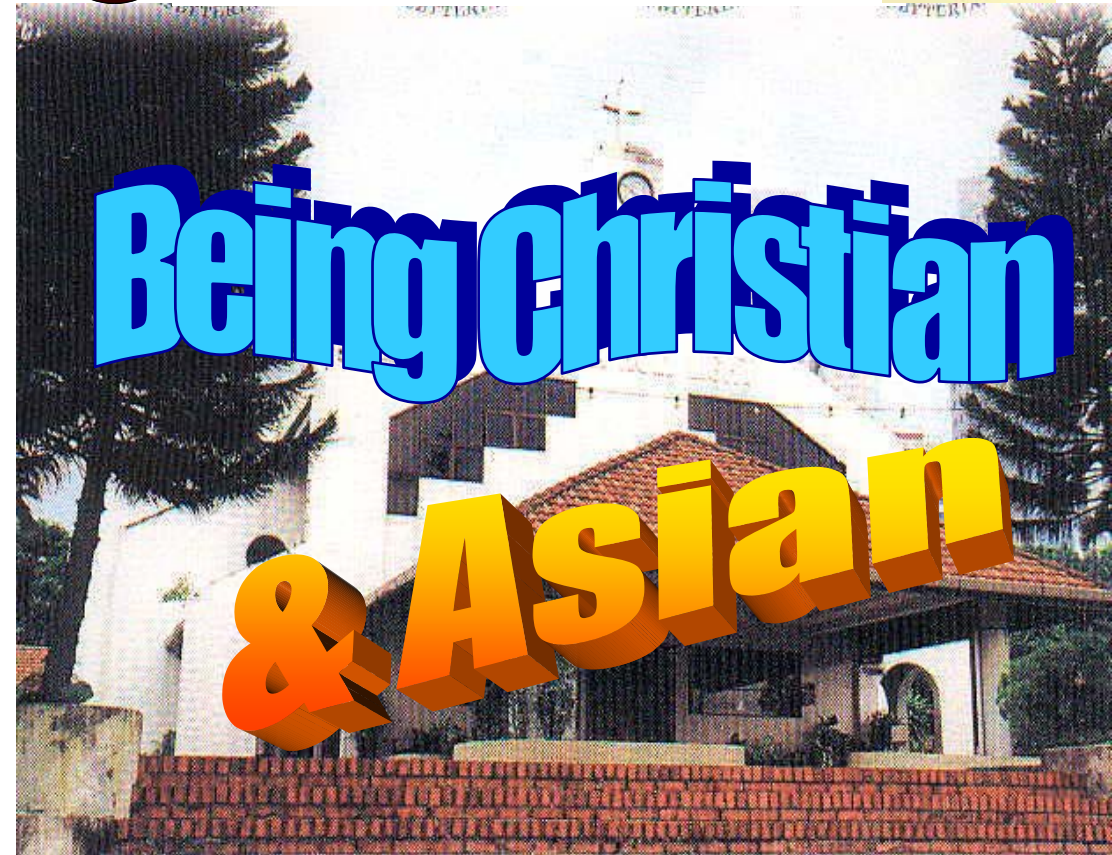


## Yes, I Wish to Attend the Seminar



## Spiritual Formation Institute Seminar 2004



Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Rev

Church:

Correspondence Address:

Tel: (O)

(H)

(Mobile)

Fax:

Email:

Cost : RM \$20.00

Registration fees include tea, dinner and complete programme materials

- ◆ Please send all completed registration forms with registration fees to Ms Grace Soon at Berea, Holy Light Church Tel: 07-2243285 Fax: 2235476 or to your church representative.
- ◆ All registration forms must reach us before 13 June 2004.
- ◆ All cheques must be crossed and made payable to "Holy Light Church (English)"

Date: Saturday 19 June 2004

Time: 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Venue: Holy Light Church main hall  
11-C, Jalan Gertak Merah  
80100 Johor Bahru

Closing Date for Registration: 13 June 2004

## Synopsis

In early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, intellectuals and nationalistic leaders in China used to attack Christianity with the slogan, 'One more Christian, one less Chinese!' Similar sentiments today continue to be expressed in many parts of Asia directly or indirectly against the church because it is often observed or suspected that Christianity is proclaimed and practised in western forms. Consequently many Asian Christian converts end up being cut off from their own cultural roots. Instead of finding a clear sense of identity in Christ that is also rooted firmly in the best and highest of their own cultures, they often turn to western Christianity for example and teaching.

Of course there is much that we can learn from the western Christian tradition. But when we adopt unthinkingly western Christianity with all its cultural trappings, this can give rise to two negative consequences. First, it often hinders many from coming to Christ because they fear that they have to give up their own cultural identities in the process. Secondly, it prevents the churches in Asia from growing mature because they are often end up looking to the west for inspiration and approval. Thus, for the sake of effectiveness in Christian mission and the maturity of Asian Christianity, the church must tackle seriously the question of what it means to be Christian and Asian at the same time.

### ***For enquiries, please contact***

***Spiritual Formation Institute  
Holy Light Church (English)  
11C, Jalan Gertak Merah, 80100 Johor Bahru  
Tel: 07-2243285 Fax: 07-2235476  
Dr. Alex Tang Tel: 07-2207514***

## Session Topics

### ***Session 1: The reasons for the need to disengage our Christian faith from western culture and thought.***

These include problems within western Christianity itself, the very nature of the gospel which requires it to be incarnated into our cultures and the importance of doing this to enhance the proclamation of the gospel.

### ***Session 2: Two case studies: (a) the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement, and (b) Deliverance ministry.***

Asian Christianity also has its own distinctive understanding of the Holy Spirit's work in revival and also practices of deliverance ministries. By drawing on these traditions and studying the Bible, we would be able to develop proper perspectives to these matters. Related to this are difficult issues like martial arts, traditional Chinese/Indian medicine and acupuncture.

### ***Session 3: Toward a Malaysian Christian identity?***

Can Christians in our country clothe the gospel more effectively in terms of the cultures and practices of its peoples so that we can more effectively identify with our neighbours and reach out to them? Included here will be issues like hymns and songs that are more rooted in Asian thought forms, more Asian ways to do preaching like use of parables and Asian imagery, celebrating Christian festivals.

## Speaker



Rev. Dr. HWA Yung is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia, Trinity Theological College, Singapore. He is also an ordained pastor of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. Before taking up his present position in July 2001, he was for 15 years the Principal of Seminari Teoloji Malaysia (Malaysia Theological Seminary). He studied at the University of Tasmania, London University and Asbury Theological Seminary in the USA.

Among his ministry involvement, he is the Vice-Chairman of the Asian Lausanne Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

He is married to Bee Teik, a writer and counselor, and they have three children.