

**Name: Wong, Ken-Horng**  
**University: UPM**  
**Occupation: IT Support**  
**Place of Work: Kulim**  
**Duration serving at your current place: 2 yrs +**  
**Current Church: Reservoir Garden Baptist Church**  
**Email: kenhorng.wong@gmail.com**

Hi! I'm Ken-Horng. I come from Penang. \*yeeha\*

This would be my 3<sup>rd</sup> year running the rat race. Only 3, but varsity days seem like eons ago. Working life does this funny sort of thing to you, where days just fly by you without you noticing. I'm currently based out of Kulim, Kulim Hi Tech Park to be exact; which is approximately 45 km away from where I stay. On a clear day, I would typically need 45 minutes to reach office, round trip would make it 90 minutes. That is, IF the infamous Penang Bridge has no hiccups. If in the event luck is not on my side, and there happens to be an accident on the bridge, it's been known to take up till about 4-8 hours crawl. (serious!)

According to wikipedia, Kulim is a 'major town and district in Kedah.' My interpretation though, is that it's a small town with no shopping malls, no bowling alleys, not even Mc Donald's. There's 1 KFC if that interests you. Demographic wise it's a predominantly Malay (75.4%) area with Chinese(14.1%) and Indians(6.9%) being the minorities, as at 2004. This is supported by the Department of Statistics, Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics, Census 2000. Hence, you get to enjoy the whole gamut of 'interesting' Malaysian delicacies. There's the famous Nasi Ayam at a shack called Periuk Besar. Famous Lunas Duck Rice. Banana Leaf Rice from the Indians. Oh, you should also try out the 'chai kueh' and laksa when you're in Kulim, slightly different from what you get in Penang. Culture wise, people here tend to be friendlier (relative to those in the cities) and more helpful. The downside though, expect the pace of life to be slower if that suits you. Regardless of what you hear about racial disunity between races, (depending on which newspaper/blog you read) I have personally encountered Malay friends here. Occasionally I have lunch with them whenever I'm here. I find them intellectually adept and surprisingly nice folks to talk to.

Now, if you're wondering how in the world did I end up working in such an obscure town (well to me, it is and since I'm the one sharing if I say it's obscure, it is) . . . I guess it was the conditioning and the preparation which God has laid for me ever since I graduated. We'd have to go back to my first job- which was in Prai on the mainland of Penang. Man, that was a tough place to start with. Roads leading to the office where I used to work were dusty and literally filled with nails and other hazardous materials which would be detrimental to both car and passenger. (There's a scrap yard at the end of the road) And since, its on the mainland of Penang I had to get used to the treacherous Bridge EVERY DAY. Somehow I knew He was taking me further, and further away from the bright lights of the city. A year spent in Prai somehow changed my mindset towards working in smaller towns. Again, it is the friendly nature of colleagues and people around. Fast friendships are made, some made to last till today even years after I left my former employer. The benefits far outweighed the 'occupational hazards' if I may call it that way. Naturally when I arrived for the first time in Kulim I was prepared for the rough and tough conditions. To my surprise, it is much cleaner and very much scenic for a "hi tech" park. It is a decision I have not regretted, being in different places and experiencing the culture enriched my life immensely and really opened my eyes and ears to the bigger world outside of the city (I'm referring to Penang). Ultimately though, the decision to go or not to a place has to come from above. Only then, you'll experience the richness and blessings as He opens up opportunities that you never thought possible.

God has been good. The more I discover of His goodness, the more I'm consciously aware of how dependant and in need I am on Him. Pray with me, as I'm contemplating a different course of employment in my life. That He will continue to use me wherever He leads. I'll part with this sms I received some time back. I'm paraphrasing as I've since deleted the message.

*When you come to the edge of a cliff, trust God fully and let go. Only 1 of 2 things will happen. 1. He'll catch you when you fall. 2. You will mount up wings as eagles and soar above the wind.*

Some pictures:



Common view from the highway – miles and miles of greeneries.



Shot from Butterworth Kulim Expressway- in the morning. Seen anything unusual?