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DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

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AUGUST 2019

BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,



...will return with **SONGS OF JOY,**
carrying sheaves with them.
Psalms 126:6

Diocesan Theme for 2019

Bringing In The Sheaves

Features



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Coming Events

- Special Provincial Synod in Kuching - 23-25 September 2019
- 60th Anniversary St Gabriel's Church KL - 29 September 2019
- CCEA Full Assembly in KK, Sabah - 2-7 October 2019
- Diocesan Synod in Penang - 14-16 October 2019
- Diocesan Mission Sunday – Christ the King Sunday - 24 November 2019
- Christmas - 25 December 2019

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Cover Design



Before the advent of the combines it was the responsibility of the harvesters to cut the wheat in the fields manually, gather them up, tie them in bundles and carry them to the barns. These bundles were called sheaves. It was arduous work but needed to be done.

As part of the Anglican Diocese we need to bring the harvest home. Looking at the barns in our various communities we need to ask ourselves the questions, 'Are our barns full of the sheaves of the Lord's wheat? Can we say we have done a good job in bringing in the harvest so that our barns are overflowing or are we facing stagnant or worse still declining congregations because we are failing to make the effort to bring in the sheaves?' We have all been given a commission by our Lord. Have we been busy fulfilling this Great Commission?

The Lord does not expect us to do everything but He wants us to do something. The least we can do is to disciple others to love God as we do. We need to make every effort to fill God's barns with His harvest. We must bring in the sheaves before it is too late.

Bringing In The Sheaves (2)

by The Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing

*Archbishop and Primate of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia
and
Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia*

The Diocese of West Malaysia is entering its 50th year since her birth in 1970. Next year, 2020 will be our 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebration.

The Diocese was inaugurated on 8 April 1970 with the Rt Revd Tan Sri Roland Koh Peck Chiang as her first Diocesan Bishop. He was formerly the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Singapore in 1959 and later when the name Malaya was added to the Diocese of Singapore to become the Diocese of Singapore and Malaya, Bishop Roland Koh was known as the Bishop of Malaya. However, he was translated to Sabah to become the Bishop of Sabah in 1966. In 1970, he was translated back to become the first Bishop of West Malaysia. Although he had a very brief tenure before the Lord called him home in 1972, he laid a very good and strong foundation for the new diocese. Bishop Koh was succeeded by The Rt Revd Tan Sri J G Savarimuthu in 1973 as the second Bishop of West Malaysia. He was instrumental in bringing theological training into the Diocese, with the setting up of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, together with the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia in 1979. He had the longest tenure of 22 years till the Lord called him home in 1994. The Rt Revd Tan Sri Dr Lim Cheng Ean was consecrated in 1995 as the third Bishop of West Malaysia. In his tenure, he consolidated the Diocese's financial stability and saw steady church growth.



Archbishop Ng Moon Hing

He retired in 2007 and was succeeded by me.

For the past 12 years, we have seen the Lord's hand helping the Diocese to grow from strength to strength in terms of membership, maturity, finance and churches. The training of the clergy, deaconesses and lay workers has adopted a more holistic approach with the introduction of the Malaysian Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education (MICPE) and Spiritual Formation Platform (SFP). We thank many retired bishops, clergy and deaconesses who paved the way and held the fort while the new Diocese was in her early stages of growth. I believe we have come to a comfortable stage where faith-based pro-active measures must be built in to prevent complacency and at the same time to propel further growth. Hence, this present set-up to establish three dioceses is, I sincerely believe,

the optimum opportunity and kairos time to multiply. If we do not multiply now, then when will be the best time – given the uncertain political climate, economy, governance, maturity and health of our nation and diocese? The huge geographical size of the diocese and the large number of churches makes it impossible for one Diocesan Bishop to effectively administer it.

As we enter into the diamond year of our existence, we are bringing our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. This includes the increase in membership, the increase in churches, the stable financial situation, the increase in church workers, the increased participation of the laity, the improvement in holistic training, the vision and commitment in mission and evangelism, the increased participation in social welfare ministries. the setting up of Anglican Care, the setting up of Relief, Emergency and Crisis Help (REACH), the increased involvement and participation of indigenous and Orang Asli in ministry, intentional discipleship training, the increased involvement in the prayer ministry, a stronger participation in ecumenism and in advocacy, and a greater awareness to a Safe Church and many more.

Glory to God in the Highest!

AM

Bringing in the Sheaves

by A Annamaney



*The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.
Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.*

Psalm 26:3-6

This is the ninth year the Diocese of West Malaysia is embarking on Evangelism, Mission, Discipleship and Training. The Diocesan theme for 2019 is 'Bringing in the Sheaves.' In 2011, when the Decade was initiated the theme was 'Sowing the Seed.' Sowing is the beginning of the process of bringing in the harvest. As we come towards the end of the decade, harvesting becomes the focus in 'Bringing in the Sheaves.'

Bringing in the sheaves would imply that all believers are to be soul-winners, collecting a harvest of souls for Jesus and the hymn 'Bringing in the Sheaves' is often used as an anthem for evangelism. Naturally, in the context of our Diocesan theme, the focus is to be on evangelism.

A sheaf (pl sheaves) is a big bundle of harvested grain stalk. People used to gather wheat by tying them into bundles (called sheaves). At harvest time before the use of machines, farm workers (the reapers) would go into the field, cut the crop and tie them into bundles to make them easier to carry. These bundles are called sheaves. Then, they would bring the sheaves in to wherever they would be stored, before distribution. So the term 'bringing in the sheaves' means 'gathering in the harvest.' It is a farming language.

Harvesting takes time. It starts with sowing and the end product would be bringing in the harvest. It is the climax for the farmer and is a time of rejoicing.

When the Israelites return from exile, they return to a land that is devastated, dry and unfruitful – totally useless. Instead of crying over the state of the land, the Psalmist

chooses to remember God's goodness to the people in the past and rejoices:

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

The psalmist remembers God's acts in the past.

The Israelites have much to remember. From the time of the Exodus, God protects them from the plagues, provides them with food and a way through the Red Sea. He also give them victory against foreign enemies in the Promised Land.

Instead of lamenting about how God allows His people to be defeated and taken as captives to Babylon, the Psalmist focuses on God's fantastic dealings with His people.

It is only after praising God for His goodness that the Psalmist pleads for restoration:

Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.

He asks God to restore their fortunes like how streams restore the dry, parched land. Remembrance of God's past goodness builds up our faith and helps us to trust Him more and more. We realise that God, who is great and wonderful has helped us in the past, so we know that nothing is too difficult for Him. The knowledge of God's past goodness gives us confidence that He can and will deliver us once again.

When we go through a bad or difficult time in life, do we lament about the terrible state we are in or do we remember God's goodness in the past, thank Him for it and rejoice that He is the same God who can help us?

The Psalmist ends with these reassuring words:

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Perhaps some of us feel that we are not actively involved in evangelism. Perhaps we may never be directly involved in this. So, how do we bring in the sheaves?

We have to remember Galatians 6 : 9
Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

There is always work to do – a soul to nurture, to be a listener, to encourage another person, a smile to share, a prayer to offer, to provide a lift and the list can go on.

We don't need to be seen to be working – we may be quietly preparing the soil – whatever we do, we are working for the harvest.

The cycle of harvest is eternal. Sometimes, farmers weep as they plant (sow) because they do not expect any harvest – perhaps the soil is bad, the weather is bad or a terrible natural calamity has hit the land. But God's promise is that they can rejoice because one day there will be an unexpected harvest.

Perhaps there is a situation in your life where you feel you are doing all you can and yet, nothing seems to be happening. You are sowing in tears.

Keep on sowing, remember, at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. God promises that we will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with us. **AM**

Anglican Care Retreat & AGM

by A Annamaney

The Anglican Care Retreat and AGM was held at the Vistana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 5 - 6 April 2019 and was attended by 70 fellow workers serving the Lord in various social ministries within the Anglican Church in West Malaysia. Participants came from all parts of West Malaysia. The Retreat began with Holy Communion celebrated by Anglican Care Chaplain, The Rt Revd Dato Charles Samuel, Bishop of the Northern Archdeaconry. The service was followed by an informal time of sharing testimonies and fellowshiping with old and new friends.



The participants with Archbishop Ng Moon Hing and Bishop Charles Samuel

On Saturday morning we had a time of spiritual refreshment led by Dato Dr Amar Singh and his wife, Datin Dr Swee Im. Dato Dr Amar was a senior consultant paediatrician heading the paediatric department of Hospital RHB Ipoh and a founder member of the Early Childhood Intervention Council. Together they led the participants into a time of looking within themselves to see their needs and then looking up to the Lord to refresh them.

In the afternoon, we broke into groups and drove to Batu Arang where we visited three Homes ministering to persons who are HIV+ - Rumah Ozanam for women, Rumah Jaireh for children and the Oasis Nursing Home for men. For many of the participants to the conference it was a new experience meeting and interacting with people who were HIV+.



Participants at the session with Dato Dr Amar and Dr Swee Im

We ended with the Annual General Meeting, chaired by Anglican Care President, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing. In his Presidential Address, he reminded us to “create a Christ-like caring atmosphere within the diocese and beyond.” He also reminded us that in the present political scenario, the government does not have an agenda for the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. He therefore encouraged us to work for the weak, the lonely, the least and the lost. Then, to the delight of all, he gave out grants to the 18 registered ministries.

It was a good week-end, thanks to the hard-working



Archbishop Ng presenting a grant to Helenn Weaver, a representative of St George Heritage, an organisation that empowers the disabled

Council members and support of Bishop Charles Samuel, the Chaplain, and our Archbishop, the Most Revd Ng Moon Hing. **AM**

Anglican Clergy/Deaconess and Family Retreat

by Revd Kenneth Dawson



The Diocesan Clergy/Deaconess and Family Retreat was held from 25-27 March 2019 at Bukit Gambang Resort City, Kuantan with the theme, 'ONE IN SERVICE, ONE IN CHRIST'. A total of 175 clergy and deaconesses together with their family members attended the event. We were privileged to have three Bishops and a Reverend from different dioceses joining us. They were The Rt Revd Clement Sun Oon Ethel, Bishop of the Missionary Diocese of Pyay in Myanmar, The Rt Revd Andrew Aung Gyi, Bishop of the Missionary Diocese of Patheingyi also from Myanmar, The Rt Revd Renniss Ponniah, Bishop of the Diocese of Singapore and Revd Lewis Lew, the Dean and Associate Director of Missions for Nepal.

At the opening Holy Eucharist Service, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing in his message from the Gospel of Luke, encouraged all participants to play a more proactive role in the extension of the kingdom of God. He said although they may face challenges in their Ministry, they would have to persevere, remain faithful and



be responsible and obedient to their respective calling. The first day ended with compline led by Revd Kenneth Dawson.

The theme speaker, The Rt Revd Renniss Ponniah, in his three sessions of bible study, focused on the book of Ruth. He affirmed that God is building His church as a covenant community and He uses people of virtuous character. He will show us 'hesed' (loving kindness) and He wants us to practice 'hesed' so that we can be confident that the church will grow from



*The Rt Revd Renniss Ponniah,
Bishop
of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore*



Presentation by the children and youths



Indiana Stunt Show

strength to strength. These sessions urged the participants to focus their hearts and minds to look beyond the walls of the churches they are serving.

The Holy Eucharist Service on the second day was celebrated by Suffragan Bishop The Rt Revd Charles Samuel and followed by a bible study on 1 John chapters 1 & 2, led by Revd Gerrad Emmanuel. On the third day, Suffragan Bishop Jason Selvaraj celebrated the Holy Eucharist Service and this was followed by a bible study on 1 John chapters 3, 4 & 5 conducted by Revd Raymond Lai. Both days proved to be very inspiring and enriching with the Word of God.

During our sessions with Archbishop Ng Moon Hing, we were briefed on the latest progress on the formation of the dioceses and some important administrative issues. There was also a time of Q&A. The sessions were a great help in understanding the various developments and issues at diocesan level.

There was a separate session for the children and the youth led by Revd Timothy Andrew Nicholls who helped them put up a dance performance on the final day of the retreat. They performed magnificently and with full confidence.

On the second day of our retreat, in the evening we were treated to a Safari Night show within the vicinity of the resort. The two special shows presented to us were the Yabara Fire Show and the Indiana Stunt Show. It was a time of excitement, entertainment, laughter and enjoyment. We had a chance to see the 'white lion' which is one of its kind in Malaysia.

Dinner at Simba Hill Restaurant was a time of relaxation and interaction with one another.

We thank God for the three-day retreat which was a blessing to all the participants.

AM



Yabara Fire Show

Ecumenical Study Trip to GERMANY and the VATICAN

by The Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing



The team with Revd Gabriele Lipski and the Augustinian monks

Twenty six church leaders of the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM) and Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) took an ecumenical study trip to Germany and the Vatican from 23 May - 5 June 2019. This was the first trip made with the Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, Anglicans and the Salvation Army to witness the works of Martin Luther in Germany and the Catholic Church in Rome. It was indeed a tiring but enriching and worthwhile trip for all the leaders.

"It not only showed us beautiful sites and the wonderful history of the early church leaders but has enhanced our global

perspective of sacrifice, obedience and faith in the Lord. This ecumenical study tour of Germany and Vatican City has regenerated in me a fresh commitment to serve our Lord Jesus even more fervently with intentional transformation of self, family, community, society and even nation," remarked Archbishop Moon Hing.

With all these experiences, one cannot help but hear what leaders in the Lutheran and Catholic churches have to say about ecumenical lifestyle.



At the Vatican with Cardinal Kurt Koch



At an open-air ecumenical service on a farm

In Neuendettelsau, the group met with Dr Annekathrine Preidel, the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (ELCB) Synod and witnessed first-hand an open-air ecumenical service at a farm jointly run by the Lutheran and the Catholic communities with priests from both denominations participating at the service. In Erfurt, the group witnessed a beautiful ecumenism-in-action sharing by the Revd Gabriele Lipski of the Lutheran Church and two Augustinian monks in their joint services in the same church. In Munich, Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm shared with the group that



At Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament into German



Archbishop Ng and Bisfe at St Peter's Basilica

ecumenism lifestyle has indeed deeply embedded itself in the churches in Germany and it is the way forward for the German Church. In the Vatican, the group met with Cardinal Kurt Koch, the Head of the Pontifical Council of Promoting Christian Unity of the Vatican and his team. Fruitful discussions and sharing were received from all the ecumenical groups from Germany and Rome.

"Walking in the footsteps of the early church fathers in these historic sites brought back many memories of church history classes making them alive, and the remembrance of them with thanksgiving for the faith, courage, vision and sacrifice of the early fathers," described Bisfe Siew Lan.



At the Malaysian Embassy with the Malaysian Ambassador to the Vatican His Excellency Westmoreland Palon



The men's team



The women's team

The sites visited included Luther's birth and death places, the Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German in 10 weeks, the Wittenberg church where Luther nailed the 95 theses, the Panorama Assisi 360 – a specially built three-storey panorama depicting the scene of Luther's days, the Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica, the Catacombs, the Scavi excavation tour which included St Peter's Tomb, the Coliseum, the Holy Steps of Jerusalem and many more.

After more than 10 days, the whole group was pleasantly surprised with a treat of Malaysian food by the Malaysian Ambassador to the Vatican, His Excellency Westmoreland Palon, and his team at the Embassy.

A collection of thoughts and sharing from the whatsapp group of the members of this ecumenical study tour. **AM**

St George's Celebrates Its Bicentennial

by Sharmila Kanagalingam



St George's Church depicted on a commemorative First Day cover and Stamp

For two centuries, the oldest Anglican church in the Far East (now known as East Asia), the Church of St George the Martyr (or simply, St George's Church) in George Town, Penang, Malaysia embodied the spirit of charitable pioneering and spiritual awakening in a faraway corner of the British East India Company's empire.

This magnificent structure, envisioned by the East India Company and the Diocese of Calcutta and immaculately constructed by Indian convict labourers, was a remarkable sight when completed in 1818. The first service was celebrated on Christmas Day, 25 December 1818 and later consecrated on 11 May 1819 by the Bishop of Calcutta. It has a similar architecture of St Martins in the fields in England and St George's Cathedral in Chennai. Its early founders, missionaries such as George Caunter (1800), Artwill Lake (1805) and Revd Robert W. Hutchings, are credited with establishing the region's oldest and most reputable educational institutions – committed to the Anglican principles of equal access to education for all children on the island, regardless of race, colour, creed and even faith. To this day, though

the schools are now administered by the Malaysian government, the legacy of Anglican charity is seared into the fabric of the country. Renowned alumnus of Penang Free School, St George's Girls' School and Hutchings School, the Tamil School, range from the founding fathers of Malaysia to legends of medicine, jurisprudence, engineering and even film and cinema.

After the formation of the Diocese of West in Malaysia in 1970, the Church focused on different charitable endeavours, most notably, championing the cause of education and housing for the visually impaired. It should come as no surprise that the success of this effort, evidenced by the high student enrollment at St. Nicholas School and Home for the Blind in the 1980s, would soon result in the Malaysian government usurping the administrative functions of the school and moving it to another location in mainland Malaysia. It followed the pattern of the Church's early pioneers' projects – they acutely addressed gaps in sorely needed services and their flawless methodology surpassed expectations leading to models that begged replication.

The Church, by virtue of its location, symbolized the calm of Christ in the chaos of humanity. During WWII, even with part of its structure damaged by Japanese bombing, the Church was home to displaced families including that of the late Member of the Constituency of Bukit Gelugor in the state of Pulau Pinang, Karpal Singh, whose family sought refuge in its compound throughout those perilous years. Even its World War II pastor, Revd Eric Scott, who the Japanese placed under house arrest at St Nicholas Home and who also bravely assisted fellow inmates at Singapore's Changi Prison during WW11, acted as an

informant to Allied sources, risking life and limb for the liberty of the island's peoples.

Under the leadership of Bishop Dato' Charles Samuel, the Church's building was accorded international prestige as a UNESCO World Heritage Site bringing flocks of tourists through its doors every day to partake of its glory days. Yet, this designation is fragile in that it mandates that the Church preserve its grounds and many of its facades with its own funds, and imposes restrictions on the ability of the Church to fundraise through its newfound audience of worldwide visitors.

The Church's Bicentenary Committee, made up of stalwart members of its congregation, spent five long years revitalizing its charitable relevance under its 'Empowering the Disadvantaged' banner. While a work-in-progress, its findings do indicate a challenging landscape for the future of Anglican charity in Malaysia. A robust secular civil society presence coupled with a political climate that casts suspicion on Christian charitable work has confined the Church's role to that of a limited funding partner on localized projects. For



Donations to the various organisations in conjunction with the celebrations

example the commendable all-volunteer effort of fortnightly distribution of food to the disadvantaged street-people of George Town, assisting those in need of urgent medical assistance and education sponsorships of disadvantaged children.

The Church has embarked on multi-pronged efforts to address the most pressing and urgent issues faced by the communities it serves – now encompassing the entire northern region of Peninsula Malaysia. A Heritage Fund has been set up for the preservation of this historic building, its compounds, and artifacts. A custom-made pipe organ was donated and installed in its vaulted interior, one that has attracted virtuosos from Russia to Singapore to perform to packed pews.

An Educational Endowment Fund seeks to address the inequity of access to quality education in government schools, in keeping with the spirit of its earliest founders. The Bicentenary Committee will continue to reinvent the Church's role in Malaysia's ever-changing landscape.

It is against this background that St George's celebrated the 200th anniversary service on 11 May 2019 at 5p.m. The Chief Minister of Penang The Honourable Chow Kon Yeow along with Bishops and priests from within the diocese and overseas attended the service. It was



Bishop giving the message



The plaque is unveiled

a day filled with special moments. The Rt Revd Charles Samuel, Bishop of the Northern Archdeaconry and Vicar of St George preached at and celebrated the Holy Eucharist service. At the end of the service the Chief Minister was invited to sign the Bicentenary guest book. A plaque was unveiled, a commemorative First Day Cover Stamp was launched, a mahogany wooden cross was erected, a time capsule was lowered and finally a celebration dinner brought together people of all walks of life to a time of thanksgiving and joy. Yet,

the task of the Church and its members is by no means over. More challenging and innovative approaches must be developed in the 'spirit of charitable pioneering and spiritual awakening' if the Church is to stay relevant in the next century. The Anglican presence has been in this land for more the 200 years and the Church must continue her faithful witness through worship and mission to the disadvantaged and marginalised in our community.

St. George's Church needs the support



The Chief Minister signing the bicentenary guest book



The Chief Minister lowers the time capsule

of the global Anglican community as it moves into its third century in Asia. There is a vested stake for every Anglican to see the Church remain a legacy of its past – the Church is a vital part of our story, a vital part of Christ's story. Make it part of your story today. *To donate to the preservation of the Church of St George the Martyr or to any of its charitable efforts, please contact the Church office through email at stgeopg@yahoo.com.* **AM**

ACC 17 – Youth Recognition Award

by Andrew Soon



Andrew Soon, representing St Paul's Church, Penang in receiving the award from The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by Revd Canon John Kafwanka, Director for Mission of the Anglican Communion.

2019. The theme was 'Equipping God's People - Going Deeper in Intentional Discipleship.'

The Anglican Discipleship Youth and Children Ministry Award was introduced for the first time in April 2016 in Zambia and the award was to be presented every three years at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in recognition of the initiatives of Anglican youth ministries to effectively disciple young people under their care. This time around St Paul's Church, Penang of the Diocese of West Malaysia was selected as the recipient of the award under the Recognition Category for a project titled, 'Rumah Shalom - An Effort for Secondary Education of Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia.' This reward is aimed at recognising successful work that has been done in promoting effective discipleship among young people especially with impact that goes beyond the project/programme itself and therefore has the potential to motivate, challenge and empower others. Upon conversations, it was learned that one of the reasons that Rumah Shalom was selected as the award recipient was that the project is in line with the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, which expresses the Anglican Communion's common commitment

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) can be seen as the most representative body of gathered Anglicans among the Instruments of Communion. It includes members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons. All provinces send two or three representatives and they are selected in different ways. The ACC's role is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the provinces and churches and help co-ordinate common action. It

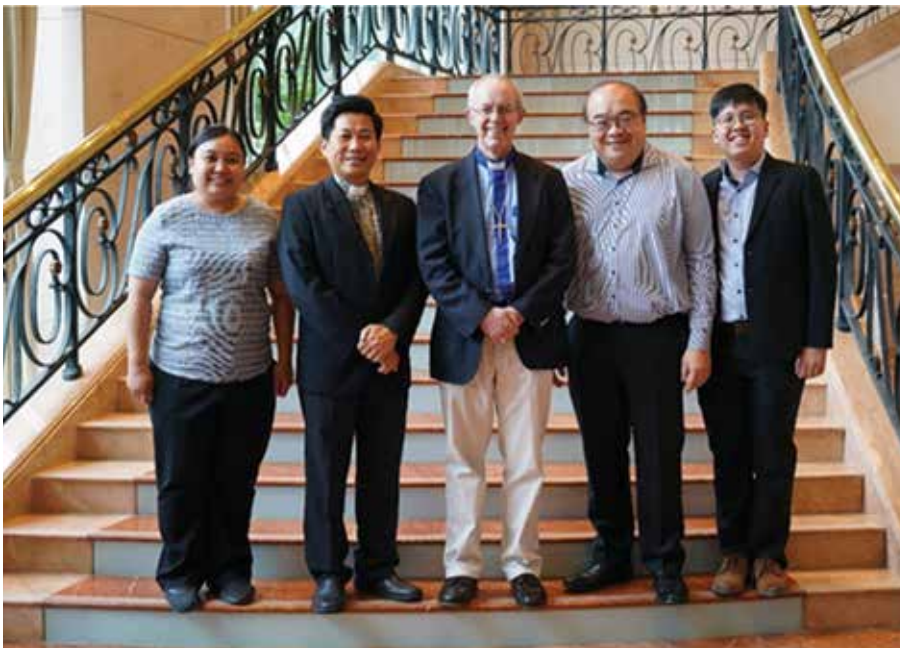
advises on the organisation and structures of the Communion and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters. The ACC meets once every three years. The most recent (ACC-17) was in Hong Kong from 28 April to 5 May



The community of Rumah Shalom



The group from the Province of South East Asia with Andrew Khoo, the Diocesan Chancellor



Province of Southeast Asia representatives with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Ms Phyllis Montegrai (left), The Ven Moses Chin (2nd from left), Dr Stanley Lai (2nd from right), Andrew Soon



Mr Andrew Soon delivering a speech on Rumah Shalom

for the Orang Asli. As commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a), Rumah Shalom’s vision is to provide holistic training and guidance for the secondary education of the Orang Asli, so that they will be equipped and raised to become the future leaders of their tribe, enabling them to uplift their community and enter into the mainstream of national life without forgetting their traditional language and culture. Rumah Shalom operates on the following five key aspects, namely:

- Academic Guidance
- Self-Management Training
- Spiritual Formation
- Discipleship
- Commissioning.

The home began by only accepting male occupants. As of today, Rumah Shalom has grown to a community of 14 male and 11 female students. We hope our efforts will transform the lives of more of the Orang Asli. **AM**

to, and understanding of, God’s holistic and integral mission. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

In his speech, Andrew Soon shared on the issues and challenges faced by the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia, issues such

as malnutrition, an alarming high dropout rate from schools, Islamisation, and non-recognition of land rights. These issues ultimately moved St. Paul’s Church, together with Gereja Shalom, Gopeng to set up Rumah Shalom, a Christian hostel aimed at providing secondary education

DCM - 'Reaching Out To Gen Z'

by Luciana Cheang



Archbishop Ng Moon Hing with the participants

The Diocesan Children Ministry's recent conference for teachers and leaders from 5 - 7 July 2019 at Vistana Hotel KL saw a good turnout of 60 teachers and leaders from different parts of the Diocese. There was a good balance of participants from four generations - the 'Baby Boomers' (1946-1964) Generation X (1965-1979), Generational Y/Millennials (1980-1994) and I Gen/Gen Z (1995-2012).

The aim of the conference was to assist teachers and children's ministry leaders to identify new and varied teaching methods for the current generation. It also served as a platform for them to come together for fellowship, encouragement and prayer. In addition to this, it served as a good break to unwind from the teaching in the Sunday Schools. As Archbishop pointed out, it was a day out for the teachers from the weekly routine of teaching in a classroom.

Five inspiring speakers led the participants into an awareness of



Participants in action assisted by facilitator Esther Appadurai

the type of teachers needed in the teaching of Generation Z and Generation Alpha children in our Sunday Schools.

Generation Alpha children are generally referred to as 'Babies born with cell phones in their hand.'

Deaconess Ruth Ong, the theme talk speaker spoke in detail on the different generations and created awareness among the participants on how to teach appropriately to the new generation. The group discussions that followed were lively and very informative.

Here is a brief write up of the speakers and some of the issues they covered:

Ms Rubina Henry spoke on 'Brokenness.' She touched on the different generation gaps that the Sunday Schools were facing. She also spoke on emotional brokenness in children and ways to assist them. The other topic she spoke on was 'Safe Ministry - Protecting our Children.' She covered the effects of the social media on children and how teachers must be cautious when using them and pointing out to the children the dangers associated with using them.

Revd Jacqueline Rodwell presented various teaching methods which did not make use of technology but still interested the current generation. Her topic was on 'Growing the Children's Ministry.'

Mr Jonathan Hesp, in his talk on 'Digital Teaching - Leveraging Technology to reach out' introduced various applications and websites that the teachers can easily access for their Sunday school lessons.



Revd Jacqueline Rodwell on 'Growing the Children's Ministry'



Jonathan Hesp on 'Leveraging Technology to Reach Out'



Anthony Brown on 'Focus on Prayer and Worship'

Mr Anthony Brown brought the teachers back to basics in 'Focus on prayer and worship.' He shared his personal testimony and this had an effect on the participants present. He also showed the participants on how to engage the children in the area of 'Prayer' and 'Worship'.

churches will become more conscious of the importance of the Children's Ministry and allocate a greater proportion of their church budget on the teaching of children and training of teachers, as teachers play a vital role in raising the next generation of young people who will be rooted in the Word of God. **AM**

It is hoped that the leaders of our

The in-coming committee



From the left

Rubina Henry, St Mary's, Central Representative

Esther Appadurai, Parish of St Peters, KL – Hon Secretary

Angela Joseph, St James Church, KL – Hon Treasurer

Lucianna Cheang – Chairman

Archbishop Ng Moon Hing

Esther Christina, Holy Spirit Church, Ipoh – Committee Member

Tim Nichols, St Mary's KL – Committee Member

Sylvia Augustine, All Souls, Cameron Highlands, Committee Member

Jame Mercy Epsybai, St Thomas Kulim, Lower Central Representative

Kathireen K. Rajamanickam, Good Shepherd Church, Penang, Committee member

Jackeline James David, Emmanuel Church, Tamil Board Rep, Committee member

STM BM Mission Trip to Makassar

by Deaconess Tan Swee Bee

It had been awhile since I led and participated in an overseas mission trip. For the STM BM Mission trip to Makassar from 11-17 May 2019, our schedule took us to both urban and rural ministries. Landing at the airport, we were ushered to the first ministry point at a rehab centre for the mentally disturbed before heading to our hotel. Weekend ministry began with the youth service in the evening that Saturday; then Sunday service with services at 7.30am, 10.00am and 4.00pm including a children's church running simultaneously with the 10.00am service.

On Sunday night we travelled to the highlands – an 8.5-9 hour bus ride to Toraja. The 9pm bus only left the bus terminal at about 9.40pm and we arrived at our destination after 6 am the next morning. It was another 30 minutes or so



The STM BM Team



Children's ministry in city church



Children's ministry in Leppan



Children's ministry in Kanan

by car to the interior. Our first kampong visit was Leppan. The Toyota Unser we were in actually drove across a small stream – Camel Adventure style! Resting awhile and getting acquainted, we started preparing for the children's ministry in the afternoon followed by a 'revival meeting.' It rained so heavily and the village was super cold. (A quick check showed it is about 3000 m above sea level). But it touched me so deeply to discover that several who had attended the night meeting came from another village. It had taken them about two hours of walk to arrive! Early the next morning was a 1.5 hour walk/hike to Kanan village. We repeated similar activities here – children's ministry followed by a 'revival meeting' and it concluded with a feast of





Visiting Toraya Maelo

local Toraja delicacies courtesy of some villagers. The next morning we were greeted by some friends in a small Grand Max mini-van who were on the way back to Makassar. So, eight persons went into this vehicle and we went for a sight-seeing tour of Toraja. We made two stops: one was Toraya Maelo to see the view of Tana Toraja and the famed huge statue of Jesus extending His hands to bless the city. The next stop was a coffee corner overlooking a very fantastic view of the mountains.



Leonard Personality Index (LPI) session in Cipta Pahlawan Mission School

Returning from the highlands, we checked into a hotel. There was some mix-up and we were put into suites! I opened my hotel room and there was a massage chair in it! After more than nine hours ride in a small mini-van, the massage chair was so inviting! The next morning was a teaching session in a mission school followed by a visit to an orphanage. The following morning was our final day and after a sumptuous breakfast of famous



Visit to orphanage in Makassar city

chicken porridge (superbubur.com), we visited a training center that offered skills training for the visually impaired. Then we went souvenir shopping. Our final meal in Makassar was mi pangsit and we then headed for the airport.

Reflection: The migrant ministry in the city church at 4pm on Sunday opened my eyes to the plight of migrants – their “fate,” condition, and uncertainty. It made me appreciate my citizenship in a country I can call my own, despite the many dissatisfactions we encounter. Entering into the interior, the rural ministry reminded me of similarities with the rural churches we have in Malaysia. The distance from the city often caused neglect in terms of modern amenities.



Visiting a skills training center for the visually impaired

Lack of funds also made the rural church to continue ministry with bare necessities (despite roof leakage, incomplete church building, etc). Like any other mission trips, I hope this trip will begin a lasting network and partnership to mutually encourage all involved to grow and progress in ministry.

AM



Team members sharing their testimony in the youth service, main service, and migrant service. They also led in the children's ministry in the city church and rural churches

49th Diocesan Women's Conference

by Nesamani Alexandor



The 49th Diocesan Women's Conference 2019 organised by the Diocesan Women's Committee was held from 28 – 30 June 2019 at Nova Highlands Hotel, Cameron Highlands. The theme for the Conference was 'Bringing in the Sheaves'. A total of 303 ladies and gentlemen from 40 churches in the Diocese participated. We had the privilege of having 33 ladies from the Diocese of Kuching with us at the Conference.

The Opening Service was officiated by The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing and assisted by Ven Jacob George John, Ven Stephen Chan, Revd Matthew Chay and Deaconesses. The Opening Service began at 5.00 pm. After the service we had our group photo taken and immediately after that we adjourned for a Steamboat Dinner. The ladies and gentlemen had a great time enjoying the hot Steamboat in the serene and cool weather.

The next morning after breakfast, we adjourned for the Business Meeting. Bishop in his Address said our Diocesan Theme from 2011 – 2020 is 'Decade of Mission and Networking – Mission Challenge: One In Christ.' This year 2019 the sub theme is 'Bringing In The Sheaves.' In the past eight years the Diocese covered the areas of Sowing, Nurturing, Planting, Guarding, Extending, Partnering, Enriching. As we approach the ninth year, it is time for us to gauge how far and how well we have fared. As we are planning for the formation of dioceses, we should all the more count the cost. He said the Diocese had grown tremendously over the years.

As the DWC will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2020:

- Bishop challenged the DWC to seriously consider, ponder and count the sheaves over the past 49 years of its existence. He said it was good

to know about the past achievements and challenges and thank God for His goodness. He said only then would the new DWC be in a better position to plan for the next decade.

After the conclusion of the Business Meeting, the ladies went into their respective language sessions for the Theme Talks. The ladies got back together only for meals.

ENGLISH SESSION – report by Mrs Eliza Soo, Chairperson UCAWC



The speaker was Archdeacon Jacob George currently the priest in charge of All Souls' Church Cameron Highlands. He shared on the following topics during the three theme talks.



Attitude towards prayer

(Romans 12 : 11 – 12)

We are to check our attitude, our commitment and seriousness in our prayer life. He used the analogy of a farmer. In order to get a good harvest, the farmer has to give his best to get the best. If we do not listen to God nor remain uncommitted, we cannot hope to bring in the harvest.

God's Challenge for us

(Hebrews 10 : 19 – 25)

When we take up the challenge, God will reward us and bless us. Four challenge areas to be addressed to bring in a good harvest: - a) challenge to worship God in spirit and truth; b) challenge to keep our faith; c) challenge to be together in the name of Christ and love one another and d) challenge to have hope. God's promise is that when we trust in the Lord, He will be there for us.

Stay in the faith and hope in the Lord

(Psalms 81 : 1 – 13)

If we remain stubborn and rebellious, murmur and grumble, do not spend time with God in prayer and building relationships, we will be a stumbling block to reaping a good harvest. When we obey the call, God will bring the harvest and it will not be a burden bringing in the sheaves.

The theme talk ended with prayers for Archdeacon Jacob George by Revd Jacqueline Rodwell from ASICC and sister Raji Jacob from St Paul's Church.

TAMIL SESSION – report by Deaconess Pushpathai Chelliah

The speaker, Pastor Ashok Paul from Grace Community Centre, Old Klang Road in his Theme Talk 1 challenged the

women to sow good seed in their land (heart) . He started with Matthew 1:13, why Jesus spoke to them in parables and taught many hidden things. This was followed by Mark chapter 4 The sower and the seed.

- The seeds which fell along the path - when the seed is sown. Immediately the evil one will come to snatch the word which had been sown.
- A seed which fell on the rocky ground - when faced with pressure and criticism the lesson to learn is to look beyond our circumstances and go along with God's greater plan and rise up.

2nd Theme Talk - Pastor Victoria Ashok started with "Women are special and we should be proud to be a woman." She said women must:

- appreciate being women. She followed this up with the example of Hannah from 1 Samuel 1 who sowed in tears and did not complain or murmur. All she did was to go to the Lord and pour her tears before Him. She was later blessed and bore three sons and two daughters. Be still and go to the Lord in your time of need.

3rd Theme Talk - Pastor Ashok shared: The seed which fell among the thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it. He gave examples of life which will be like thorns and how to overcome.

The 4th seed which fell on the good soil brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty fold and

sixty fold and a hundred fold. God has given us life so work for His glory.

CHINESE SESSION – report by Deaconess Joann Tan

Praise to the Lord, we had a successful and meaningful Conference.

The speaker for the Chinese session was Archdeacon Stephan Chan from Kajang Anglican Church. He shared on the Diocesan Theme – Bringing in the Sheaves. He guided us to think about what we should sow and harvest in our own life. What we harvest is from what we have sown. He pointed out that we need to learn to know, learn to do, learn to live and learn to grow, in preparation to fulfil God's desires in us, to manage the world and ourselves according to His guidance. He showed us how we can fulfill all these. Firstly, we need to affirm that we are valuable, because God created us in HIS image. Second, we need to be a blessing to others. Thirdly, we should always think about others first than ourselves. Finally, he concluded we can discover our value of life by how much we contribute and sacrifice, not how much we harvest and gain.

On the last day of the conference the ladies were invited to share about their experience and gains in this conference. Lots of sisters shared that they really enjoyed and gained a lot, especially from the theme talks.

The Conference came to an end on Sunday 30 June 2019. The ladies went home with fond memories of meeting up with old friends and making new ones as well as looking forward to the 50th Anniversary of the Diocesan Women's Committee celebration in 2020. They parted with the knowledge that they are women in Christ, who cherish their esteemed place in the sight of God and a great task is ahead of them to 'Bring in the Sheaves.'

We give God all glory, honour & praise.



*Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9*

Living Life To The Fullest

By A Annamany



The team with members of the staff

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10b)

In my work with the intellectually challenged, we claim in our Objectives, that our aim is to help our client to “live life to the fullest”. For 20 years, I constantly worked towards that, seeing small steps and small victories and many times, setbacks and discouragements. It was a struggle as we had no model to copy.

In late 2018, while attending the CCEA Bishops’ Meeting in South Korea, we were taken to visit various social ministries run by the Anglican Church of Korea (ACK). There in these centres, I saw people with intellectual challenges receiving life-long education and support, and in this way, living “life to its fullest”.

Seeing my dream (for intellectually challenged persons) materialize in the short visit, as the Bible says, “my cup overflowed” with joy and I was determined to return to this place and learn more.

Under the auspices of the Anglican Alliance, and with the support of Ven Canon Jacob George (who has long-time links with the Diocese of Daejeon), I was able to form a team of 7 to visit the

Diocese of Daejeon to see their Social Ministries, known as Sharing Houses.

Ven. Canon Titus Kim of the Diocese of Daejeon arranged for us to visit various social ministry centres. Here, I am highlighting 2 of the 4 Social Ministries we visited. All the ministries have very comprehensive services.

Eumseong-gun Disabled Rehabilitation Welfare Centre.

In this large building, there is all age activity and learning for disabled persons. The Early Intervention Programme is called ‘Dream Start.’ The services continue with transition for those who can be employed successfully. There is also vocational training and support for economic independence. There are classes for computer and hobby groups (leisure activities) which include singing



Vocational training

(karaoke), photography, playing Korean drums, belly dancing etc. In their older age, these hobby activities would make life meaningful for the intellectually challenged.

Gimje Welfare Town for the Elderly

Another place of great interest was the Gimje Welfare Town for the Elderly. This large area houses all kinds of activities and services for senior citizens. There is a Day Activity Centre, Residential Home, Nursing Home and Apartments.

The Day Activity Centre provides different kinds of hobby/leisure/educational activities like fitness exercises, singing, dancing, computer lessons, playing billiards, a cafe where they can sit and chat and have regular outings.

There is a Residential Home in the adjoining building.

Next to this building is the Nursing Home for full-time care. Spouses can go to the



Apartments for the elderly

Activity Centre and also spend time with the patient.

Also in the compound are Apartments which are leased out (at very affordable rates) to spouses and family members who wish to stay close to their relative who are in the Nursing Home.

Besides these, the Centre provides Community services like:



St Mary and St John's Church, Jincheon

1. Hot meals to housebound seniors
2. Mobile baths in a customized van. They do about 60 baths a day.
3. House-keeping services 3 times a week.

We also visited the House of Deborah, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, Sharing Houses for the Youths, Job Preparation for Poor Adults and a Horticultural Project. It was a very fruitful visit and I am so thankful to Ven Canon Jacob George who linked us to Fr Titus Kim of St. Mary and St. John's Church, Jincheon.

There is much we can learn from these models and adapt it for our country and needs. My prayer is that, with these models, we can help the challenged and elderly to live their lives to the fullest. **AM**