



Anglican

M E S S E N G E R

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

KDN : PP11463/05/2013 (032185)

DECEMBER 2019



BRINGING IN THE **SHEAVES**



Diocesan Theme for 2019

Bringing In The Sheaves

Features



*The Editorial Board wishes its readers
A Blessed Christmas and A Peaceful New Year*

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The Editorial Board welcomes articles and photographs that focus on the theme. Please submit articles in Word document and relevant photographs in JPEG format of about 1 MB each by 1 March 2020 to:

The Editor,
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Coming Events

Events in 2020 – Blowing the Trumpet

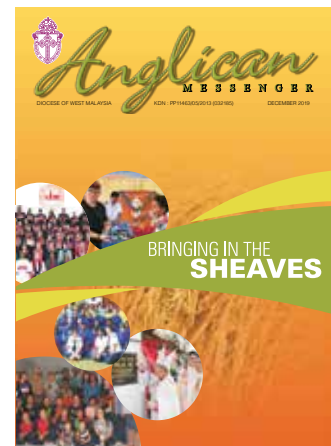
- Anglican School of Disciples (ASOD) in Kajang - 4 Jan - 7 Feb 2020
- CCM Head of Churches Retreat in Kuala Terengganu - 7-9 Jan 2020
- Primates meeting in Amman Jordan 13-16 January 2020
- St Paul's Church Penang 70 Anniversary Thanksgiving - 19 January 2020
- Installation of the 6th Archbishop and Primate of the Province - 9 February 2020
- Provincial Synod in KK 10 – 13 Feb 2020
- Diocesan Clergy & Lay Leaders Conference in Ayer Keroh - 2-4 March 2020
- Easter - 12 April 2020
- World Anglican Chinese Clergy Fellowship Conference in Taiwan - 21-24 April 2020
- STM AGM - 29 April 2020

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KDN : PP11463/05/2013 (032185)

Cover Design



As the year comes to an end and with it the theme of 'Bringing in the Sheaves', it is vital to remember that the task of bringing people into the Kingdom of God is a never ending task. Stretching before our eyes is a field that is continuously in need of harvesting - a field of hurting people, a people in despair, a people in need of shelter, food and clothing. As we see these needs, we as God's people, a people of influence connected to more souls than we can possibly imagine, are called to be intentional in our relationships. We are to use the tools and the gifts God has given us to help them, lead them to follow Christ and commit their lives to Him. This is our Lord's Great Commission for us. This is our intentional assignment. It reminds us that in each of our encounters with the people in our circle of influence, the cycle of the harvest of hearts must be a priority.

Bringing In The Sheaves (3)

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

With the violence and protests happening all round the world, such as in Hong Kong, La Paz (Bolivia), Santiago (Brazil), Iraq, Yemen, Syria, together with the awareness and protests over the environment, one cannot help but wonder about the actual impact knowledge development and technological progress have brought to the 21st century world. People today seem to have forgotten the basics of life and instead have become greedy, wasteful, indifferent, violent, selfish, lustful, indulgent, intolerant, proud, fierce and angry. There is a saying we should take note of: 'A man reaps what he sows.' (Galatians 6:7). Actually what we are reaping today is the product of our past. Though we lament and sigh thinking of how we can clean up this rubbish, we should not forget to focus on the type of actions we wish to see in the next generation or decades. Indeed this depends on what we are sowing now.

The theme 'Bringing in the Sheaves' is appropriate in reminding us of the intentionality of our sowing – the seeds, the equipment, the preparation, the process, the love and nurture. We started this process nine years ago and today we can thank God for the fruits we have been bringing in annually to our diocese. From 2011 (9 years), we have added 7,000 baptisms, 5,500 confirmations, 65 workers, 25 churches and 38 congregations. There are also the additions of other ministries such as the social welfare ministries, R.E.A.C.H (Relief Emergency And Crisis Help), Spiritual Formation Platform, which are over and above the regular language Boards, auxiliary Committees/Councils, and Mission Schools.



Archbishop Ng Moon Hing

As one family, together with all the categories of church members, irrespective of age, language, colour or theological persuasion, we must be intentional and concerted in our vision, and in our planning and execution for the next decade, at least in the four major areas we have been pursuing thus far i.e. (M.I.N.D.) Mission-driven, Interpersonal development, Needs-accommodated, and Discipleship-focused.

Mission-Driven

Our mission is the Lord's business. We are commissioned to 'GO' to all nations to baptize and teach and to 'stay-in.' It is the Lord's harvest in the Lord's field with the Lord's servants for the Lord's kingdom. We must always sleep, eat, play and live mission. There is no other option, if we really consider that our Lord Christ Jesus has personally called us and understand what He has done for us.

Interpersonal development

This business of the Lord cannot be done by any individual or group. It must be a collective effort serving together with like-minded people on a same journey. It is a team effort with those of this generation and the next and beyond.

Needs-accommodated

It is not enough to give ourselves a pat on our back and ignore the needs of the masses. We should look at where the eyes of the Lord are upon - it is where the harvest is most ready. We should be ministering into the place where it hurts—food for the hungry, comfort for the restless, strength for the weak, hope for those in despair, healing for the wounded, support for the insufficient, etc.

Discipleship-focused

Discipleship training is the best answer for the coming decade and for future generations. It can help us develop a strong mind that is biblically sound, morally rational, critically positive and intelligently balanced; a strong heart that is willingly obedient, sacrificially devoted, unconditionally loving and humbly committed; a strong spirit that is dynamically just, sensitively secured, reasonably visionary and with wholesome integrity.

Let us sow peace, unity, justice, reconciliation, blessings, prosperity, love and eternal life for the next generation continuing as we have done so from Christmases past.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and an exciting New Year! **AM**

Archbishop of Canterbury's Visit to Penang

by Moira Toh



*The Most Revd Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury*

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby visited Penang on his way to the Regional Primates Meeting that was to take place in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. His visit to Penang was in conjunction with the celebration of the 200th anniversary of St George's Church, to pray with local Christians and to visit St Nicholas Home for the Blind. The Archbishop was with his wife Caroline, his adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs, Bishop Anthony Poggo and the executive assistant to Bishop Anthony, Raquel Hitchman. In addition to being a church

leader in England, and the first among equals of the senior Anglican clergy, the Archbishop of Canterbury is seen as the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion of churches which includes all forty provinces around the world.

The Archbishop was in Penang from Tuesday-Thursday, 1-3 October. During this time, he celebrated the 200th

Anniversary of the consecration of the church of St George the Martyr with a special Eucharist service alongside Bishop Charles Samuel. In his sermon, the Archbishop stressed the importance of unity and reconciliation for Christians.

The Archbishop reminded the congregation that the building is not the church but that the PEOPLE are the church and the body of Christ, that deep foundations have to be laid on the Word of God and that the people must reflect Jesus's character to the world by serving the poor and preaching the Gospel. This will ensure that St George's will go on for another 200 years and more!

The Archbishop and his wife, together with Bishop Anthony Poggo and Raquel went on to visit St Nicholas Home for the Blind – a church-supported centre for the blind and visually impaired in operation since 1926. In a thank you speech to all present, he said he had had an extraordinary visit to the home and had felt the presence of God in action. **AM**



Unveiling the plaque commemorating Archbishop Welby's visit



The congregation in attendance



Archbishop Welby and his wife with the teachers and the visually impaired children

A Service of Ordination & Commission

by James Chee



clergy) laid hands upon them and prayed for them, thus reminding the church that the ministry of proclaiming God's revelation in Christ is to be done in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

The Archbishop delivered his message using Luke 1:46-55, Mary's Magnificat. He spoke of Mary's praise to God, characterising God as one who cares for the lowly and frustrates the intention of the powerful. He divided his talk into three categories: mercy and fear, strength and hunger and providence. This was

We thank God for the Ordination and Commissioning Service which was held at St. Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur, on Thursday 15 August 2019.

The Service started at 4.00pm with a long procession of cross bearer, choir, lay readers, deaconesses, deacons, priests, canons, archdeacons, diocesan officers, candidates, bishops, archbishop and his chaplain. The total number of people who attended the service was 350 and made up of members, friends, candidates and their family members.

There were altogether 11 people ordained or commissioned: three ordained as priests (Revd Dr Lim Kar Yong, Revd Paul Lau Hang Soon and Revd Teng Meng Huat), five as Deacons (Evangelists Gavin Yang Wan Shin, Benammie Anak John, Avean Elvin, and pastors Daniel

Leong Kin Keong and Alex Kong Teck Soon), and three commissioned as deaconesses (Pastor Christine Lee Yoon Foon, Evangelists Jackeline A/P James David and K. Logeswary A/P Kathamuthu).

During the service those who were ordained or commissioned gave their commitment to serve the Lord through the Diocese of West Malaysia with Jesus Christ as the head of the church. The Archbishop (and, in the case of the new priests, other



followed by the celebration of the Holy Communion.

The service ended at 6.30pm with the thanksgiving hymn 'To God be the glory' followed by a fellowship buffet dinner.

St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur extends its congratulations to all those who were ordained or commissioned. We are thankful for their commitment to serve the church and pray to our Father in heaven to bless, guide and give them wisdom so that they can reach many lives with the message of Jesus Christ. **AM**



St Paul's Theological College Graduation

by Viola Wu



SPTC Class of 2019 - First Graduating Cohort

It was a day to remember as St Paul's Theological College (SPTC), a young and vibrant theological college based in central Kuala Lumpur, hosted its inaugural graduation ceremony on 31 August 2019 at Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang (HTBB) Church, Bukit Bintang. SPTC Malaysia, based in the Alpha Asia Pacific Hub was founded and established in 2016 as an offshoot of St Mellitus College, London, with a view to theologically train and equip Christians from all Church denominations in the Klang Valley. All the courses currently offered by SPTC were officially accredited for a period of five years by the Asian Theological Association earlier this year an amazing feat achieved by the college considering that SPTC has only been in operation for three years. This was also before the first graduating cohort.

The ceremony that took place on Merdeka Day celebrated the achievements of the class of 2016, primarily made up of the first cohort of students who signed up to pursue theological education at SPTC back in August 2016 when the college was first launched by SPTC Principal Revd Dr James Harding. One of four awards (either a BA, Diploma, or Certificate in Theology, Mission and Ministry, or Certificate of

Pastoral & Spiritual Formation) were given out to this pioneering group made up of students from over 10 different countries!

The theme for the ceremony was based on the words of Jesus in John 15:16 where He calls His disciples to "go and bear fruit." In conjunction with Merdeka Day and this newfound 'freedom' from assignment deadlines and intensive teaching weeks, the national anthem of Malaysia, 'Negaraku' was sung right after the procession. A praise band and

choir made up of existing students led the crowd in worship and thanksgiving.

The message for the graduands was clear. Along with the brief address by the guest of honour, The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury), and the final exhortation by The Right Reverend Ric Thorpe (currently the Bishop of Islington) who first commissioned this graduating cohort back in 2016, the graduands were finally 'sent out' by the college to 'go and bear fruit that will last.' Archbishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing, President of St Paul's Theological College, gave the benediction.

Official photos were taken, and the graduands were treated to a lunch reception at the Ritz Carlton that was fully sponsored by members of the SPTC Board of Trustees. It was a personal and intimate celebration attended by families of graduands, supporters of the college, guests from St Mellitus College and a small group of student volunteers alongside the SPTC staff members. A wonderfully exuberant atmosphere pervaded the room. It was a joyous gathering as all the graduands got to look back and reflect, look at the present and be grateful, and look ahead in anticipation of all the things God was going to do in each of their lives in the days to come. **AM**



L to R: Revd Daniel Millest, Assistant Vicar HTBB and Director of Formation SPTC, Dr Jane Williams, Assistant Dean of St Mellitus College, The Rt Revd Prof Rowan Williams, Master of Magdellan College Cambridge and Archbishop of Canterbury Emeritus, The Most Revd Ng Moon Hing, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in SE Asia and President of SPTC, Revd Miles Toulmin Vicar of HTBB and Vice President of SPTC and Revd Dr James Harding, SPTC College Principal

SYNOD 2019

by Shirly Jaya Paul



The Clergy in attendance

St George's Church, Penang hosted the Diocesan SYNOD for 2019 from 14-16 October. Hosting SYNOD was momentous for the church members as it was done after a lapse of nearly 20 years and marked the climax of St George's Bicentenary Celebrations.

A total of 269 delegates attended SYNOD 2019. Synod commenced with the registration of delegates on 14 October 2019 at the City Bayview Hotel, Penang. Instead of the meetings of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity a meeting was held to elect the NSM, LOM and Deaconesses who would vote during the SYNOD election. This was followed

by a group photograph and the Opening Service at St George's Church at 5.00 pm. Following the service all delegates

adjourned to the Hotel for a Welcome Dinner. The occasion was made memorable by the presence of the Chief Minister of Penang YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow and his wife at the dinner.

From 15 to 16 October 2019, a series of meetings were held and decisions made. Among the discussions held was the much anticipated issue of the division of the Diocese



Delegates to Synod 2019



(L-R) Bisfi Siew Lan and Archbishop Ng Moon Hing with YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow and his wife Puan Tan Lian Kee, Alice Samuel and Bishop Charles Samuel

to wait till the constitution is amended and the parliamentary act is approved. Meanwhile, there will be an EGM of Synod next year to elect a new Bishop as Archbishop Ng will retire in 2020.

SYNOD 2019 came to an end on 16 October 2019 with praises extended to the Organising Chairman and his team for a first class organisation of SYNOD. This could not have been possible without God's intervention. All praise and glory to God for His faithfulness in guiding and leading the team throughout this journey in organising SYNOD 2019. **AM**

2019 Presidential Address

- Be A Sending Church

by The Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing

1

Hazy days

The annual recurrent haze has caused great discomfort and disruption to businesses, schools and the nation. We are so casual and indifferent that in general, most of us do not consider the haze hazard an issue at all. This 'take for granted' attitude is commonly known as the 'tidak apa' attitude.

The rhetoric of racial and religious hate speeches is so frequent that the vast majority only grumble among themselves but take no action i.e. 'tiada aksi'. Many probably do not know how to deal with these incidences. There is also the fear of repercussion coupled with the minority insecurity syndrome.

The inequitable and unjust distribution of wealth and power has also become a nightmare for citizens for many years. Initially there was great hope in the new government but now we hear phrases like 'tiada harapan'.

A closer look at the church in Malaysia, especially the Anglican Church in West Malaysia, shows us similar characteristics as the 'tidak apa', 'tiada aksi' and 'tiada harapan' attitudes. Because we are still very much in the 'maintenance' mode and have not moved beyond it, we hate to compare ourselves with other churches, especially those which are growing fast and large. We argue that many of the leaders and pastors of other denominations were former Anglicans (though we do not ask ourselves why they left us).

2

What can we learn from the Early Church?

In the first 300 years of the Early Church, the believers were passionate for the Gospel of Christ. They were in a Survival mode because of the persecution. They truly believed in the Word of God, seriously investing themselves and leading others into the Kingdom of God, lest they perish. They went all out to preach Christ in season and out of season, truly obeyed the Word of God so that the people could be saved and be able to meet with God personally. Such actions resulted in a report by a Roman Governor in Bithynia, Pliny the Younger, to his Emperor Trajan expressing his concern and complaining about the spread of Christianity to the whole Roman Empire at the beginning of the second century AD.

The Early Church took up Christ's Great Commission seriously amidst hardship and persecution. In those days of intense suffering and challenges, we see the bold contributions of many great leaders and apologists such as Quadratus, Aristides of Athens, Justin Martyr, Tatian, Athenagoras, Theophilus, Tertullian, Origen, Clement of Alexandria, Dionysius of Corinth, Hippolytus, Athanasius, Ignatius of Antioch, Theodoret of Cyrus, Irenaeus and many others. They were the leaders of the 'Unrecognised Sending Church' – the Church that was not recognised by the Empire - and on many occasions were

treated as enemies of the Empire. Yet they fervently sent their adherents to reach out to others. They were truly 'A Sending Church.'

The Church became a 'Recognised Sending Church' in the third century after the Edict of Milan in 313AD. She expanded in the next three centuries and this saw many churches being planted all over the new regions in the Germanic kingdoms. British, Irish, and Celtic Christianity unified with Roman Christianity.

The following centuries saw the Church identifying herself with the Crown and becoming an 'Established Maintenance Church'. This set the tone for complacency, making it become self-contained, inward looking, making traditions more important than the teachings of Christ, proud, wealthy and powerful. The beginning of the 'slide' of the Western Church started when her moral and biblical authority was compromised. It became the catalyst for the Reformation in the 16th century. During the same period, economic and political competitions propelled a search for new lands and territories which eventually ended up as colonies of the European masters. The Gospel usually went together with guns and weapons to the new-found lands. This brought about much pain and struggles with serious implication for the indigenous Church in the colonised lands.

3

The Story of DWM

3.1 The Beginning

In the first 150 years of the coming of Anglicanism to this part of the world i.e. South East Asia from 1805 to 1960, we were very much a chaplaincy church. The churches then were built to serve the traders. When we were part of the Diocese of Singapore, we were still very much a 'Receiving Church'. The missionaries brought money, funds, materials and people and built schools, hospitals, social care centres and churches in Malaya. After the missionaries left, the local leadership took over, but one thing did not change much even till today – our mentality still remains one of being in the 'Receiving mode'. When can we move away from the 'Maintenance Church' to be a 'Sending Church' – the Church that our Lord Jesus commanded us to be in the Great Commission?

3.2 The Diocese

Fifty years ago, the Diocese of West Malaysia was born with a few local priests and a majority of foreign missionaries manning some 30 churches throughout the new diocese. Bishop Roland Koh, our first Bishop, worked hard trying to raise local leaders to replace the departing foreign missionaries. He needed to look for funds to support them and for training purposes. For a new diocese, the training and stipend of local priests were a costly affair. Bishop Savarimuthu, our second Bishop, did the same. During his tenure, more missionaries were required to leave due to governmental policies. He started Kolej Theoloji Malaysia (KTM) in 1974 and later Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM) in 1979, together with the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia. During his tenure many young people were

trained in STM. Bishop Lim Cheng Ean, our third Bishop, continued in the same process of balancing the books and making sure there was enough clergy for the parishes. I am the fourth Bishop and I am thankful to God for my predecessors who paved the way making it easier for me to further develop the Diocese.

3.3 A Sending Church

We must learn from the Early Church, which, in the midst of tribulation, continued to strive to preach the Gospel and plant churches. The circumstance and situation of our Church in Malaysia today does not differ much from that of the Early Church. There are a few things we can and must learn from the Early Church to survive in the midst of a hostile culture where any meaningful influence or power is lacking.

- GO – to heed to the Great Commission aspect of SENDING. This involves preaching, sharing, evangelizing, telling stories, reaching out, accommodating, etc. Staying put in churches and asking people to come is a passive move. Thus, intentionally planting churches in new areas, starting cell groups, Alpha Courses for new people, Christianity Explored series to reach new groups, missions locally and abroad, as well as social care for the needy, migrants and refugees are the end goal.
- MAKE Disciples and Baptise – to sync with the Great Commission aspect of PASTORING. This involves leading, nurturing, be-ing, walking alongside, counselling, advising, mentoring, journeying with them, assuring, providing, listening, discipling, etc. to enhance good and proper behaviour with fair and equitable treatment of each other and our neighbours.

This is a character-building and transformation game.

- TEACH – to emulate the Great Commission aspect of TRAINING. All Christians need to be built with good fundamental foundations of the faith. Some will require to be equipped with proper theological, philosophical, biblical and intellectual excellence, and thinking to answer the critics and to defend the faith, as well as to grow reasonable faith. We require many good scholars who are biblically orthodox and intellectually persuasive in seminars as well as the production of writings and books for the general public, the Church and in the learned arenas.

4

Conclusion

Finally, we, the Church today, need to learn again how to be a prophetic voice in the midst of a hostile world. We cannot stay indifferent anymore. We must take positive action to GO and make disciples of all nations. Evangelism, church and diocese planting is surely the way forward. We cannot afford to stay stagnant. Stagnation is slow death.

Living Life To The Fullest

by A Annamaneey



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) materialise 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 John (who has long-time links with the Diocese of Daejeon), I was able to form a team of seven 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 two of the four Social Ministries we visited. All the ministries have very comprehensive services.



Vocational training

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 (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.



Apartments for the elderly

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 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 relatives who are in the Nursing Home.

Besides these, the Centre provides Community services like:

1. Hot meals to housebound seniors
2. Mobile baths in a customized van - they do about 60 baths a day.
3. House-keeping services three 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 John who linked us to Fr Titus Kim of St Mary's 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 live their life to the fullest. **AM**



St Mary's and St John's Church, Jincheon

Consecration of Assistant Bishop Samuel of Yangon

by Archdeacon Charles Fraser



Group photo of all invited clergy

When Archbishop Ng Moon Hing asked me to represent him at the consecration of Assistant Bishop Samuel of Yangon, I was delighted. This was my first trip to Myanmar and I was glad Canon Fred David was travelling with me as he was familiar with Myanmar, coordinating mission work and conducting teaching sessions for theological students.

Upon arrival on 23 April 2019, I was surprised by the chaotic situation on the roads. Firstly, I could not comprehend the traffic system with right hand drive vehicles driving on the right side of road. I was told this was a decision of one army general who had had a strange dream.



Revd Fred David introducing Archdeacon Charles to the streets of Yangon

After consulting the Abbot, the chief monk of Myanmar he ordered that all traffic be driven on the opposite side i.e. the right side of the road.

The Diocesan Bishop of Hpa'an is The Rt Revd Dr Mark Saw Maung Doe. The trip to Hpa'an took six hours by bus. I was accompanied by an ordinand named Samuel. Canon Fred and I went our separate ways. The policy in Myanmar does not allow locals to house foreigners therefore I was put in a hotel. The Diocese of Hpa'an extended me superb hospitality.

I visited Kwanbe, where the Cathedral of St Peter is situated. A new building for the Cathedral was under construction. I was amazed with the progress of the work and how it was being built. The vicar as well as the Bishop and his wife Joanna hosted me to a delicious meal and took me on a guided tour around the Diocesan office. I met the Diocesan staff and heads of various auxiliary bodies. The one ministry which is outstanding and caught my attention was the young people doing volunteer work such as building houses in new areas and supporting the communities with daily needs through agriculture, farming, hunting and fishing. To help in under-developed areas, the Diocese has started an orphanage and English classes for adults. All these simply



Bishop Samuel presented with the pastoral staff

point people to God who is the provider of all good gifts.

On 28 April, the consecration service of Samuel as Assistant Bishop was held in the setting of Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of Holy Trinity Yangon. The service was graced by the Archbishop, Bishops, Assistant Bishops and foreign guests from Asian countries and as far as the Diocese of Melbourne, Australia and the Diocese of Quincy, USA.

It was a fruitful, memorable and eventful trip for me. I would like to thank the Church of the Province of Myanmar, especially the Diocese of Hpa'an, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing and Canon Fred David for making this visit a meaningful and memorable one for me. **AM**

An Eye-Opening Visit to Nepal

by Archdeacon Jacob George John



L to R – Ven Stephen Chan, Canon Steven Arsvatham, Ven Jacob John, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing

On 22 October 2019, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing, Archdeacon Stephen Chan and I went on a mission trip to Nepal. Our trip began in the morning and when we arrived at Kathmandu in the afternoon we realized that both Archdeacon Stephen Chan and my luggage had not arrived. They finally came in the middle of the night through the next flight. Early the next morning, we, in 2 jeeps together with Canon Steven Arsvatham, Assistant Dean of Nepal, Revd Rinzi Lama, Revd Shyam Nepali and Revd Kumar, took a 7-hour journey through the Himalayan mountains to the lowland village church at Simray in the district of Nvjgad.

The journey was very exciting, and the scenery was absolutely stunning. I have seen it on TV, read about it but it was my first experience traveling through the ridges and ravines of the Himalayan Range. When we reached Simray in the late afternoon, the congregation seated on the floor was waiting for us singing and praising God. Archbishop Ng preached and officiated the confirmation and eucharist service. More than 125 people were confirmed. It was a new church and the members were only baptized and not yet confirmed before Archbishop's visit. A home-cooked meal by the villagers was served after the service. By the time we headed to the next destination for accommodation i.e. Hetauda, it was dark, and we had to travel another 2 hours.



Worship service at Simray

Early on Day 3, we headed to Manahari for another confirmation service. It was another 2 hour drive. At this second new church, more than 75 people were confirmed. I was asked by the Archbishop to be the preacher at the church in Manahari. Immediately after lunch, we traveled another 5 hours through the mountain range. Half the team needed to leave us and return to Kathmandu for urgent matters, while the rest of us headed on to Pokhara. On our journey, we saw snow-capped mountains, rivers, ravines, vegetation, and the beauty of the Lord's handiwork and I could not hold back myself but praise His holy name. We thank God for our drivers who excellently maneuvered through the windy, narrow and dangerous roads up and down the mountain ranges. It was dark again when we reached Pokhara, a tourist attraction and the second largest city in Nepal.

Early on Day 4, we rose at 4.30am to climb Sarangkot to view the sunrise from the Himalayas. It was cold and misty, but we praise God that there was a window of clear sky where we managed to take some memorable photos. Later we visited the Joyland Kindergarten, which was recently started by the Deanery of Nepal. The aim of setting up this ministry was to set foot in the Western side of Nepal through the ministry of Christian education. Devi, wife of Pastor Kishan, is the principal of Joyland Kindergarten. English is the medium of instruction. We met a couple, Boss and Vasanthi, who are mission-workers from Singapore.

After lunch we went to Peace Pagoda, a historical site to have a view of the Pokhara Valley and the beautiful scenery of Mt Annapurna and Fishtail. Later we visited a new church headed by Pastor Kishan and his wife. It is situated in a slum area. The children were full of vigour and joy. They came from the surrounding areas for tuition and related activities. They were preparing for a Christmas outdoor presentation through song and dance. This brought joy to my heart and tears to my eyes.

On Day 5 we took a flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu. There we attended a farewell service for Archbishop Moon Hing. All of us were garlanded by the locals. Archbishop shared a meaningful and challenging message. It was at Nazarene Church which is headed by Revd Rinzi Lama. After the service, his wife Ps Nani Beti Lama cooked us a sumptuous dinner.



L to R – Ven Stephen Chan, Archbishop Ng, Revd Rinzi Lama, Ven Jacob John

On Day 6 we left Kathmandu for KL and arrived home in the evening.

I want to count this as a special blessing from God. I rejoice in the Lord for such a great privilege to visit our Deanery countries in the Province and see how God is opening new avenues in a land full of challenges. It re-energises me that the Love of God must be shared freely. The souls of the people in Nepal are precious.

AM

Golden Circle Bible Rally

by Nesamani Alexandor

The Upper & Middle Central Archdeaconry Golden Circle Bible Rally 2019 was organised by St Mary's Cathedral Golden Circle recently. A total of 76 Golden Circle members from 10 churches participated. Archdeacon Eddie Ong was also present together with nine judges – three judges for each language group.

The day started bright and early with members arriving to register for the various competitions. This was followed by an Opening Prayer by Dean Andrew Cheah, a welcome address by Mr Tony Hughes, Chairman of St Mary's Golden Circle and a time of praise and worship.

The challenges offered were:

- Prepared Bible Reading - participant to choose to read either Psalm 95 or Psalm 126
- Prepared Bible Recitation - Participant to recite Matthew 5:1-12 (Memorised)
- Draw your Sword - A Bible verse was called out and participants to quickly flip their Bible to find the verse and read out loud
- Bible Quiz - one set of 20 questions based on Luke chapter, 1-5 were given to two participants from each church and they were to complete the answers in half an hour.



The Dean, The Very Revd Dr Andrew Cheah with winners Christ Church Jinjang



*St. James Church
Winners of the Tamil language group & Overall Champion*

The churches that participated in the English Session were St Mary's Cathedral, St Gabriel's Church, St Paul's Church, St Barnabas Church and St Katherine's Church. The Tamil Session was represented by St James Church and St Peter's Church while the Chinese Session was represented by Our Saviour's Church, Salak South and Christ Church, Jinjang.

There was a lot of excitement as the supporters cheered their respective teams.

The winners in the various language groups were:

English

- 1st : St Paul's Church, PJ
- 2nd : St Gabriel's Church, Sungai Besi
- 3rd : St Barnabas Church, Klang

Tamil

- 1st : St James Church, Sentul
- 2nd : St Peter's Church, Bangsar

Chinese

- 1st : Christ Church, Jinjang
- 2nd : Our Saviour's Church, Salak South

The overall champion that carried the Challenge Trophy was St James Church.

AM



St Paul's Church – winners in the English language group

Alpha Course in St Barnabas

by Raymond Gunaraj



Participants of the English and Tamil Alpha Course at St Barnabas

An ALPHA course was held in St Barnabas Church Klang for 12-weeks from 5 May to 21 July 2019. The English and Tamil sessions ran concurrently. The Tamil session had 40 participants, mostly non-Christians from the church's outreaches in Port Klang and Tepi Sungai. The English session was attended by 10 people. The leaders were trained by Mr Sarathkumar and trainers from Alpha Malaysia and the course was facilitated by Mrs Naomi Hamza and her husband, Dr Albert Hamza from St Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya.

The 12-week course contained various topics on the birth, death and teachings of Christ. It always began with lunch, followed by an ice breaker and then a short time of praise and worship. This



Participants met in small groups for further discussions

was followed by a short introduction given by the facilitator, Mrs Naomi Hamza. The Alpha videos, in Tamil and English, were then screened for the participants. After the video, the participants went into their respective groups for further questions

and discussions.

Each group had two moderators to guide and encourage the participants to engage in a healthy discussion on the topic for the day. Before each Alpha session, the facilitators met for prayer, briefing, feedback and received the questions for small group discussion.

A children's class was also organised for the children accompanying their parents attending the course.

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and strength for the successful completion of the Alpha course.

In all a total of six participants were baptised during and after the course - one, young adult (lady) from the English session and 5 from the Tamil session - two mature adults and three young adults. The committee thanks Mrs Naomi Hamza for helping to facilitate and organise the course. **AM**



Praying over participants to be baptised



The Baptism

IFES in Malaysia

by Anita Stephen

Our vision is to see students built into communities of disciples,
transformed by the gospel and impacting the university,
the church and society for the glory of Christ.

My name is Anita Stephen and I am a member of St Mary's Anglican Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur. I am writing today on behalf of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) to tell you about the wonderful gospel work going on in universities and to ask if you would come alongside me to support this ministry. I'm hoping that Anglican churches all over Asia will come on board this global ministry.

IFES comprises students and staff in more than 170 countries.

I work for the IFES office based in Asia and our focus is to bring technology into how ministry is carried out. One of IFES Asia's efforts is the eLearning initiative that helps make reading materials and learning more relevant to the younger generation. An example of one of the eLearning courses is 'Engaging the University', which helps prepare university students for life at university as a Christian. IFES offers this to university students for free.

Another way in which IFES Asia supports the global ministry is through creating digital platforms to enable the administrative work related to ministry to be carried out. IFES Asia is also revolutionising how ministry is done through a program called Ministry Impact, a program that enables national movements gauge how effective their evangelism activities are.

IFES seeks your support in the following ways: (1) Prayer: we ask that you pray for our work. Please pray for us in your individual prayers and as a church – incorporate us into your intercessory prayers and prayer points in your church bulletins; (2) Finances: we ask that you consider giving to us financially. The size of your gift is not what matters for we have seen how our God can bless small gifts (consider the loaves of bread and fish that were used to feed thousands – Matthew 14: 13 - 21); (3) Introductions: we ask that you introduce us to other Christians who may be willing to support us as we reach out to students globally.

IFES works behind the scenes to support national movements.



National movements have different names in different countries.
In Malaysia/
Singapore: FES,
US/Korea: Inter-Varsity
Indonesia: PERKANTAS

If you have any questions about IFES Asia or IFES in general, please contact Anita Stephen (Supporter Relations Manager (Asia) at ifesasia@ifesworld.org or on 012 918 2320.

IFES does the following work:

- Pioneering work: IFES helps national movements set up new student ministries in campuses, cities and countries that were previously unreached.
- Evangelism: IFES supports national movements on their evangelism efforts through training, funding and other resources.
- Developing student leaders: IFES promotes this through initiatives such as the Global Leadership Initiative, Graduate Impact and IFES scholarships.
- Engaging the university: IFES does this through regional consultations and mentoring.
- Strengthening national movements: IFES does this through initiatives such as Ministry Impact, Governance Development and Indigenous Support Development.

UCAWC Tamil Retreat 2019

by Nesamani Alexandor

The Upper Central Archdeaconry Women's Committee (UCAWC) organized its 6th Tamil Retreat at Golden Sands Baptist Centre, Port Dickson, from 20-22 September 2019. We were delighted to have participants from the Middle Central Churches join us at this Retreat. A total of 36 ladies from seven Churches participated.

On the first day, the ladies assembled and had a fun time in getting to know one another, while playing some ice breaker games. After dinner, they took part in a couple of team building exercises. Everyone joined in the activities and thoroughly enjoyed making new friends while working together in teams.



Participants at the retreat



The Theme speaker was Pastor Ronald Rohendra Rao from the Tamil Methodist Church Puchong. Though he is very young, he mingled very freely with all the ladies – most of whom were as old as his

mother. He spoke on the Diocesan theme 'Bringing in the Sheaves.' The topics were as follows:

- Day 1 – Overcoming Depression
- Day 2 – Shaking off your Dust & Rising up
- Day 3 – Expecting the Unexpected

The young pastor captivated the ladies' attention with his simple illustrations of everyday happenings at home and in our churches. We are to shake off the dust and rise up to challenges and expect the unexpected from our Lord.

On the second day, the ladies took part in a very interesting Bible based activity and in the afternoon they were taught a simple and beautiful handicraft.

After dinner the ladies (in their individual groups) presented song items and skits based on the theme. They truly displayed their hidden talents!

On Sunday, we had a Holy Communion Service conducted by Dss Samidial.

The Retreat ended after lunch on Sunday 22 September.



Feedback from participants was very positive. Many testified that they benefited much from the talks. They felt very refreshed, energised and all geared up to get back to the Women's fellowships in their churches to encourage other sisters by sharing their experience. **AM**

The Grand Plan: Journey Through the Bible An Upper Central Archdeaconry Youth Event

by Marianne Liaw



Group photo of participants and facilitators

"This is honestly the most exciting youth Bible event I've attended so far. I had so much fun and learnt so much...The urgency to share the Gospel with others really hit me hard at the end of the event." – Samuel Joel, helper / participant

What is the Bible really all about? Do the 66 books really fit together to tell one story? What is this story? And who is this story all about?

Youths from more than 10 different churches (Anglican & non-Anglican) came together on a Saturday to discover the answers to these questions. The action-packed day started with a Bible talk and group discussion on the book of Genesis, tracing the story of God's creation to the fall of man and the spread of sin. Amidst human rebellion and divine judgment, the promise that a Saviour would come from the human race to defeat Satan and evil rings clearly in Genesis 3:15: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

This promise was then traced through the entire Old Testament with fun-filled station games! From station to station, participants travelled through the story of Abraham, the man through whom God would bless the world (Genesis 12:1-3) to his descendants, the Israelites whom God rescued from slavery in Egypt and made a covenant with, giving them his law to live as his people in the Promised Land (Exodus 19:1-6). They also traced



A talk on the Creation and the Fall and the spread of sin in the book of Genesis

the era of kings, noting that God had promised King David that a descendant of his would sit on the throne forever (2

Samuel 7:16). They journeyed through time, all the way to the exile, when the Israelites were sent into captivity by their enemies as a result of judgment for their sinfulness. But the echoes of the voice of the prophets spoke of the coming of a Saviour, a king who would reign over God's people forever and who would save and redeem his people.



Participants presenting their thoughts

During the second half of the day, the atmosphere was filled with great excitement as participants took part in a live game simulating the New Testament era, role-playing as citizens living under the oppression of Roman power. Facilitators and helpers role-played as various historical and biblical characters in the New Testament. With everyone trying hard to 'survive' and work towards 'a better life' under the rule of Caesar during the live game, the story of the Gospel played out as Jesus (role-played by a helper) came to call others to follow him. This was followed by his death, the growth of the church and along with that, persecution against those who identified themselves as his followers during the game.

The live game concluded with the triumphant story of the risen Jesus' second coming, defeating all earthly authorities. This was then followed by a simulation of heaven and hell. The event ended with a recap of all that had taken place throughout the day.



Live game - oppression by Caesar



Live game –collecting taxes for Caesar

It is evident that the Bible is one book, which reveals to us God's salvation plan. The promises he made throughout Scripture find their ultimate fulfilment in Jesus, God's King who lives and who will one day return to judge and establish his rule forever.

Feedback from youths and even from their parents and teachers after this event has been extremely encouraging:

"Thank you! My boys had a great time..."
– Cheryl Yong, parent

"Thanks for having the refugee students for the Youth (The Grand Plan) event. They have learned much." – Keith Law, volunteer teacher

It is indeed our hope that genuine interest and love for the Scriptures will be stirred amongst the youth in our Diocese. We pray that followers of Jesus in the next generation will be able to read and handle God's Word faithfully, with the understanding that it is the revelation of God's plan for the salvation of mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. **AM**



For the past 12 years, the Lord's hand has been helping the Diocese to grow from strength to strength in terms of the increase in membership, the increase in churches, the increase in clergy and church workers, the stable financial situation, the increased participation of the laity, the improvement in holistic training with the introduction of the Malaysian Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education (MICPE) and Spiritual Formation Platform (SFP), 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 many more.

The huge geographical size of the Diocese and the large number of churches makes it impossible for one Diocesan Bishop to effectively administer it. The present set-up therefore to establish three dioceses is the optimum opportunity and kairos time to multiply.

Archbishop Ng Moon Hing
[Taken from 'Bringing in the Sheaves (2)']