



Anglican

M E S S E N G E R

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

KDN : PP11463/05/2013 (032185)

APRIL 2020

Blowing the Trumpet



Diocesan Theme for 2020 Blowing The Trumpet

Features



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Contents

Cover	2
Bishop's Message	3
Launch of the Diocesan Theme	4-5
Installation of new Archbishop	6-7
Meeting our Lord in a new experience ...	8-9
Clergy and Lay Leaders' Conference	9
Redevelopment of Pudu Lama	10-11
Asian Women's Ecumenical Assembly	12-13
First Middle Central Archdeaconry Assembly	14
67th Diocesan English Youth Camp	15
Soli Deo Gloria	16
St Mary's Agape Mission School	17
DWC Leadership Course	18
Soup Kitchen Christmas Celebrations	19

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Coming Events

- Chinese Board AGM in KL - 1 May 2020
- Tamil Board AGM in Penang - 7 May 2020
- Ordination Retreat - 11-14 May 2020
- Ascension Day - 21 May 2020
- Anglican Care AGM in JB - 15-17 May 2020
- Tamil Youth Camp in Penang - 1-4 June 2020
- Holy Trinity Church Batu Gajah 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving - 7 June 2020
- Diocesan Children Ministry AGM in Ipoh - 12-14 June 2020
- Tamil Young Adults Conference in Kuala Selangor - 12-14 June 2020
- Diocesan Golden Circle AGM in Melaka - 19-21 June 2020
- Ordination Service - 29 June 2020
- Chinese Young Adult Conference in KL - 3-5 July 2020
- English Young Adult Conference in Ipoh - 10-12 July 2020
- Diocesan Women's Conference - 31 July-2 August 2020

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KDN : PP11463/05/2013 (032185)

Cover Design



We live in a world that is constantly crying out for our attention, calling us to be consumed by our surroundings, by our troubles and by the pursuit of pleasure. But God calls us to lift our eyes above the distractions of this world. He calls us to see ourselves and our circumstances from a different perspective, to reach beyond mundane and temporal realities and draw near to the spiritual and eternal truths that come from His throne of grace. Throughout the Scriptures, God has used the trumpet, the shofar to call Israel and all who will hear, to pause and listen to this deeper reality.

In the Diocese of West Malaysia 'Blowing the Trumpet' is a call to the assembly of Anglicans in West Malaysia to give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy in blessing the church not just in the past decade but over the last 50 years. The Diocese has been blessed with growth in membership, manpower, money, property, new churches and more importantly with God's holy presence.

The call of the trumpet must therefore remind the Church once again to look up to the covenant God made with His people that 'I am the Lord your God' and may God's people re-affirm their loyalty and faith in the One who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blowing The 1st Trumpet

– Call of Warning

by The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing
Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia

In these challenging times, people are locked down everywhere due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many have asked the questions: What is God saying? Is it a sign of the end times? Why does God allow this pandemic? What is God's message for our Diocese? In line with our diocesan theme for 2020 – Blowing the Trumpet, I wish to share some lessons I learnt during my days in the Boys Brigade. Here are at least three types of trumpet call, namely, the Call of Warning; the Call to Assemble; the Call for Action.

When the trumpet is blown - A Call of Warning - it will be a time of emergency or desperation and final preparation. The Scripture says in Ezekiel 33:5: 'He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life.' Today we are in a time of desperate and final preparation but I feel not everyone is ready.

I remember in my early years, when the church bell rang the first time, it was to remind us to get ready for the church service which was another 30 minutes away. When the bell rang the second time, the service was another 5 minutes away. The third time was the actual time of the service.

The first trumpet call has gone out and we were told to get ready to move. There is still a little time left but not enough for lengthy training or equipping. In the year 2011, we launched the 10-year theme: Mission Challenged, One in Christ. We began with Sowing, and went on to Nurturing, Guarding, Yielding, Extending, Empowering, Sustaining, Releasing, Gathering and now we are Celebrating. We have seen our diocese grow in numbers, resources, work force, maturity, spiritually, etc. We have put in

place enough training measures and equipping opportunities for the harvest field. However, the 'battle' is impending. We need to be ready in mental alertness, attitude, commitment, faith, obedience and sacrifice for the glory of God. It is like an athlete, after having months and years of training, is now ready to go onto the running track for a big sports event.

The real 'battle' is to face the issue by ourselves. To all our members: Are we ready to be divided into three dioceses, take up the mantle and run with it? Are we ready to start all over again with three smaller dioceses, each with lesser churches, workers and resources? Are we ready to start planting new churches and training new workers for new harvest fields? Are we ready to work with new leaderships and new sets of guidelines and styles of working? Are we ready

to work with situations which are more challenging and difficult? Are we ready to partner with people who do not agree with the way or the theology or style or taste we have for the sake of the Gospel? In these difficult days, are we ready to speed up and work doubly or three times harder to reach out to the lost, least, little and less?

This pandemic has given us a warning that we need to step up in spreading the Gospel at a faster pace, more intelligent methods, more accessible mode of communication, more friendly and relevant measures, more holistic and sustainable approaches. The first trumpet call has gone out. There is no time to waste, idle or gossip. Time is short. People need the Lord. Let us get to work. **AM**



The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing

Launch of the 2020 Diocesan Theme and DWM's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

by Revd Matthew Chay

Sunday, 5 January 2020 was a day of double celebration for the Diocese of West Malaysia. The Diocesan Theme for 2020 'Blowing the Trumpet' and the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of West Malaysia were launched by the out-going Archbishop of the Province of South East Asia and Diocesan Bishop, the Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing at St Mary's Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur in the setting of a Holy Communion service. 'Blowing the Trumpet' is the last in a series of 10 themes for the Decade of Mission and Networking 2011-2020 with the Mission Challenge: One in Christ. About 150 clergy and laity were present.



Archbishop Ng Moon Hing's message was based on Ephesians chapter 1 on what it means to be children of God. Paul reminds all believers that God recognizes us from the foundation of the world and has called us to be a holy and blameless people. God has adopted us as His children and has given us wisdom and understanding so that the mystery of His will is revealed in our lives. We are all one in Christ. In our Diocese, there are five major language groups – English, Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese, Tamil and Iban. In the coming years, there may be other language groups, for example Nepalese, Pakistani, Cambodian and Vietnamese. God has given us His grace and called us to work together as one. The Diocese of West Malaysia has grown in these 50 years.

'Blowing the Trumpet' signifies giving glory to God and thanking Him for those who laid the foundation. Bishop then gave a brief summary of the formation of the Diocese of West Malaysia. The Diocese of West Malaysia was created from the Diocese of Singapore and Malaya on 8 April 1970 with the late Rt Revd Tan Sri Roland Koh as the first Diocesan Bishop. The challenges faced by the Diocese then were lack of leadership, lack of membership and lack of finances. When Bishop Koh was called home to the Lord in 1972, the Rt Revd Tan Sri J.G. Savarimuthu took his



*Archbishop giving his message.
Seated from left to right are Revd Mathew Chay and Archdeacon Eddie Ong*

place. He served 22 years and during that time Kolej Theology Malaysia (KTM) was formed in 1974. In 1979, Seminari Theology Malaysia (STM) was formed to train local clergy and workers. It was also a decade of Evangelism. The number of churches grew and so did the number of local priests and workers. The next Bishop, Rt Revd Tan Sri Lim Cheng Ean continued to grow the Diocese in various aspects and in 2006, a pioneer team was sent to the USA for the Diocesan Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education Program (MICPE).

In 1970, there were 32 churches and a handful of local priests. The leaders trusted God, prayed fervently and began to build in difficult times. Today there are



The 50th anniversary cake



160 churches within the Diocese of West Malaysia with 130 full time, part time clergy, deaconesses and workers.

The challenges faced by the church in Malaysia today among others are the Al-Kitab issue, the ban on the import of Malay Bibles with the word 'Allah' and the disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh. Archbishop ended his sermon saying that despite the challenges and the setbacks, the church must keep on growing. If it didn't grow it will shrink. In launching the Diocesan theme 2020, he called on the church to hold on to God and to move on. It is time to blow the trumpet to the glory of God and step into the goodness of God. The 50th year is a time of great expectations from

God. The 50th anniversary is also a time of thanksgiving.

The Coordinator of the Launch, Revd Matthew Chay gave a short introduction after which there was a special dance performance, the Ngajat, traditionally performed by the Iban community during the Harvest Festival.

This was followed by a video presentation. The service ended with the hymn: 'O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.'

The memorable evening ended with a sumptuous dinner and fellowship.

To God be the glory! **AM**



The Ngajat Dance Performance

Installation of the 6th Archbishop of Southeast Asia

by Revd Dr Lim Kar Yong



All Saints' Cathedral in Kota Kinabalu was filled with about 1500 dignitaries and guests from all over the world to witness the installation of the Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Tais, the Bishop of the Diocese of Sabah, as the 6th Archbishop and Primate of the Province of the Anglican Church in Southeast Asia. Held on 9 February 2020, this installation service was conducted by The Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing, Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia and he was assisted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Kuching The Rt Revd Datuk Bolly Lapok and the Bishop of the Diocese of Singapore The Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah.

To the processional hymn 'The Church's One Foundation' the ceremony began with the Crucifer leading the evangelists and the seminarians, all Diocesan and

Provincial Personnel, Wardens, Canons and Dean of the Cathedral, visiting Bishops and retired Provincial Bishops, visiting Archbishops, Provincial Bishops, Archbishop-elect Datuk Melter Jiki Tais and Archbishop of the Province Datuk Ng Moon Hing taking the rear of the procession. It was indeed an impressive display of the church hierarchy and with the resplendent ceremonial robes, colourful vestments and mitres of the Bishops and Archbishops it showcased the Anglican Installation service at its best.

Following the words of welcome by the Dean of the Cathedral, Archbishop Ng took over the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Prayer of Preparation and the Collects. The readings came on and were followed by the sermon by the Archbishop elect, the Rt Revd Tais.

The Installation then followed with the Diocesan Bishop of Kuching The Rt Revd Bolly Labok presenting the Rt Revd Tais to be installed as the sixth Archbishop of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia. The Registrar of the Province read the Mandate after which the congregation was invited to kneel and that great ancient hymn 'Veni, Creator Spiritus'- Come Holy Ghost - was sung. Following the singing of the hymn, the necessary legal declarations were made. The Diocesan Chancellor, Canon Andrew Khoo introduced the Declaration of Assent and administered the Oath after which the Archbishop took the hand of Bishop Tais and inducted him to his chair. He handed over the Primatial Cross and willed Archbishop Tais the Cross as a sign of the ministry they both shared with the Lord Jesus Christ. The



Outgoing Archbishop Moon Hing handing over the Primatial Cross to the new Archbishop Melter Tais



Bishop Ng presenting Archbishop Tais to the congregation

Bishop of Singapore, The Rt Revd Renniss Ponniah then presented The Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Tais to the congregation who received him with thunderous and sustained applause.

It was truly a very historic moment as Archbishop Melter is the first Bumiputera from Sabah to be installed as an Archbishop in the Anglican Communion. Incidentally, he is also the first indigenous

Bishop of Sabah, having been installed as the 6th Diocesan Bishop on 19 May 2015 to lead the Anglican community in Sabah and Labuan. All five previous Archbishops of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia were also present to witness the installation: Bishop Moses Tay (Singapore, 1st Archbishop), Bishop Yong Ping Chung (Sabah, 2nd Archbishop); Bishop John Chew (Singapore, 3rd Archbishop); Bishop Bolly

Lapok (Kuching, 4th Archbishop); and Bishop Ng Moon Hing (West Malaysia, 5th Archbishop).

Archbishop Tais will hold office until February 2024.

Archbishop Melter is from Kampung Nangoh in Beluran, Sabah. He received his theological studies at the Malaysia Evangelical Seminary, Miri. This was subsequently followed by further studies at the Malaysia Bible Seminary, Selangor. He entered the priesthood in 1993 and served in numerous parishes in Keningau, Lahad Datu, and Telupid. He also served as the Archdeacon of the Central Archdeaconry (2007-2009), an Assistant Bishop of Sabah (2009-2015), and the Vicar General of Sabah (2014-2015) before his installation as the Diocesan Bishop.

Archbishop Melter is also actively involved in a number of ecumenical roles both nationally and internationally. He served as the President of the Sabah Council of Churches (2017-2019), and is presently the Deputy President of the Council of Churches Malaysia (2019-2022). He is also a member of the Design Group Committee for the 2020 Lambeth Conference, an assembly of global Anglican bishops taking place once a decade.

With more than two decades of vast and rich experience in pastoral ministry, Archbishop Melter, without doubt, will continue to provide the necessary leadership to the Province of Southeast Asia.

A thanksgiving dinner at 8pm at the Hakka Association Hall took place immediately after the installation service. **AM**

Meeting Our Lord In A New Experience

by Revd El Cid Catnas



*The Clergy from the Philippines with Revd Fred David at the Opening Service.
From right Revd Charleston Bukin, Revd Magno Bawalan, Revd Mario Mandonon,
Revd El Ci Catnas and Revd Renato Baybayan*

Great learning and wonderful experience will be enjoyed if we openly accept new things and set aside our own biases.

When I was informed that I was to be one of the representatives of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) to the Clergy, Deaconesses and Lay Conference of the Diocese of West Malaysia from March 2-4, 2020, I was very happy and excited to have this kind of exposure. It is a rare opportunity that comes into the life of a minister.

One thing I had in mind was that, there was a necessity to remove any baggage I had in order to have a wider and deeper understanding of my experience during this exposure. However, comparisons cannot be avoided between the place I come from and the place I was sent to. Comparisons should lead me to have a better understanding and an appreciation of both places and challenge me to contribute towards the development and growth of the church I am serving in back home.

We had a tour of Kuala Lumpur before attending the Clergy Laity Conference and I was amazed at the tremendous developments taking place. One thing I observed was that the inhabitants of the city were more disciplined than those in the Philippines and I think this could be a reason for the rapid development of the country. This discipline could also be the reason for the rapid growth of the Anglican Church of the Diocese of West Malaysia. It was a great experience visiting different places within Kuala Lumpur and eating different kinds of food introduced to us by Revd Fred David who took charge of

us and acted as our guide. We were also given opportunities to minister in different churches. I was sent to St Paul's Church Petaling Jaya and two of my colleagues went down to St John's Church Ipoh.

The conference was a very enriching experience and it renewed my passion to do God's Mission in His vineyard. I believe that all of us from the ECP clergy were moved by the Holy Spirit during the event. We were reminded that we must do our best in our ministry while we had the chance to do it. According to the Most Revd Datuk Melter Tais the guest speaker at the conference, this was the time to do mission to the best of our abilities - not when we reached heaven. Our obligation on earth is to worship our Lord and to be a witness of His salvation to all people through mission and evangelism. The only thing we can continuously do in heaven is to worship Him. We cannot do mission or evangelism anymore.

In all the things that happened at the conference, the prayers, services, praise and worship sessions, bible studies, the hotel venue, the wonderful people whom we met, God was communing and showing His presence to me and to all His people who attended the conference. Furthermore, God reminded me and my fellow clergy from the ECP to do more fruitful ministry in order to achieve the rapid growth the ECP province needed.



*Revd Juining Babia with
Revd El Cid Catnas*

There were some very precious questions that God asked me during the conference and throughout my ministry – One, 'How serious were we in our training and equipping ourselves in His Word?' Two, 'How prepared are we for the service? Do we know how to invest in the the people's talent for service?' Three, 'How compassionate are we for the people?' and Four, 'Are we preparing people to meet our Lord.' As a pastor, this cannot be answered



Revd Magno Bawalan (L) and Revd Mario Mandonon (R) with Revd Tom Cherian at St John's Church

though words only but by obeying the call of Jesus to follow and serve him faithfully. It is in serving our Lord that will bring us new experiences where we can meet Him anew in the different places where He sends us and to the different people whom we serve.

On behalf of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, our Prime Bishop, the Most Revd Joel Pachao and my colleagues, I would

like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Diocese of West Malaysia and to Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing, to Revd Fred David and his son Timothy who spent their precious time with us, and to all the clergy and lay people who assisted us in one way or another. Special thanks to St Paul's Anglican Church Petaling Jaya, Revd Joshua Ong and all the staff for our accommodation and for the warm welcome. Above all, I thank God for the opportunity and for the wonderful experience I had.

May God grant us the grace to continue faithfully to do His mission that we may be effective instruments in preparing the world for Jesus' coming again. Let us together go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **AM**

Clergy & Lay Leaders Conference

by Anne Swinitha



It was a great honour and privilege to have attended the Clergy and Lay Leaders Conference (CLLC) from 2 to 4 March at the Metra-Square Hotel, Ayer Keroh, Melaka. It was so good to meet up with friends whom I had not met for a long time. It also felt awesome to be able to wake up in the mornings to go for worship and not worry about work, church and home affairs. Getting together with other Christians just to worship and listen to God's word was comforting and refreshing.

The theme for this CLLC was Mission for Multiplication. The Most Revd Datuk

Melter Tais, the Archbishop of the Province of the Anglican Church of South East Asia was given three sessions to speak on the theme. His message was very inspiring and encouraging. I felt so small and unworthy listening to all that he said. He made me realize that there is just so much to do in order to reach out to others especially those

living in the interior of Malaysia. Having listened to the Most Revd Datuk Melter Tais and our own Bishop Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing speak, it is clear that we are not doing enough to help and reach out to those in suburbs and rural areas in our beloved country Malaysia. We are all so comfortable where we are. We are not willing to come out of our comfort zone in order to spread the gospel.

I was also inspired by the session with Empowering Churches, Equipping Disciples. It is so true that there is a great need to equip ourselves and the members of our churches with God's word so that



we can serve Him with confidence and without fear. Having the books on sale for us to browse through and buy was very helpful.

I would like to thank the Diocese of West Malaysia for organizing the retreat and for giving the family members of the clergy; and the lay leaders the opportunity to attend it. May God bless all clergy and lay leaders in our Province and the work that is being done. May He continue to raise more labourers to serve Him and equip us to do His work effectively with much prayer and without fear. **AM**

A New Building For The Diocese of West Malaysia

by Dato' Stanley Isaacs

At long last, the Diocese has begun the building of a new complex on the land which had hitherto been a two storey wooden building standing on that plot of land denoted as No 16 Jalan Pudu Lama, Kuala Lumpur. The history of that land and the building dates back to 1902 when the British Colonial Government gave this piece of land measuring about a quarter of an acre to the then St Mary's Church, now known as St Mary's Cathedral for a building to be erected and used as a small mission/school for the Tamil children of St Mary's Church. Concurrently it was also to be used as a parsonage for the Tamil Priest ministering to the Tamil congregation of St Mary's Church.



The original building with an extension at Jalan Pudu Lama, Kuala Lumpur

The land was given to the 'Tamil Episcopalian Minister' as a 'Reserved' land by the Selangor Government in the Government Gazette dated 21 July 1902, Item 461 for that purpose. The Tamil Episcopalian Minister was not a body corporate, and never was, and hence I believe that was the reason for the Government to allocate the land as a 'Reserved land' and not by way of an outright alienation. The term 'Tamil Episcopalian Minister' was probably a term of convenience because the Anglican Church in the then State of Malaya did not have a Diocese and hence the Anglican (Episcopalian) congregations did not have a body corporate to hold the property. However, and for all intents and purposes, the Tamil Episcopalian Minister was at all times regarded and treated as a priest of the Anglican Church. A somewhat similar case was the land reserved for St Katherine's Church in Kajang. It was reserved in the name of that church. All other land and properties belonging to the Anglican Church in Malaya were vested in the Bishop of

Singapore. After the Anglican Church became a Diocese in 1970 and had been accorded corporate legal status by the Incorporation Act of Parliament obtained in 1971, all properties of the Church in West Malaysia except 'Reserved' land were transferred and vested in the West Malaysia Diocese.

Early records on this parsonage and school in Pudu Lama are vague and sketchy but it appears certain that it was only in 1915 that the parsonage cum parish hall was constructed. The parish hall also doubled up as a Tamil Primary school. In these early records, the following schools had operated at the parish hall. They were St Mary's Anglo Vernacular School, a Chinese School, and St James Tamil School. The parsonage was used as the residence of the Tamil priest in St Mary's Church ministering to the Tamil Congregation there until about the late 1990's, when St Peter's Church was built in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. Even so, the

priest of the Parish of St Peter's Church, i.e. from the Tamil congregation of St Peter's Church continued to occupy and use the premises as his parsonage and the office of St Peter's Church.

In 1997, the building was found to be in a rather poor state of repair and being a wooden building standing next to the magnificent Maybank complex, it looked shabby and telling on the church. The Diocese decided to take over control of it with a view to demolishing it and replacing it with a multi storey building. It has been proposed that the building continue with the original objective of the Reservation but with a much wider and more contemporary scope such as, a centre for the meeting and training of priests, evangelists and mission workers and for their residence during such a period. A floor has also been designed as dormitory for students attending short courses and youth conferences. As a centre for learning, the building will have



Perspective of the new building

The design of arches on the ground floor was required by DBKL in order for the building to complement some of the period buildings in that area.

reference library facilities and archives of the Anglican (Episcopalian) Church in this country. With the availability of space, it is hoped that the Diocesan Office will be housed in the building too even though the Diocesan Office is well settled in the present premises in Jalan Pahang.

It is an ambitious project from the viewpoint of costs, but it is designed to meet the training needs of both the present and future generations of priests, evangelists and mission workers in the Church here. The estimated cost of the eight floor building is around RM16 million

and this cost will be fully met by a portion of the proceeds from the sale in 2010 of the former Rumah Bishop in Jalan Stoner.

Land is scarce and expensive in this part of the city which has very close access to the central bus station and the LRT. Consequently, it is unwise not to maximize the use of the land. Both the Federal Territory Director of Land and the City Hall have given their full clearance for this project to proceed as planned. Although the land under redevelopment remains a reserved land, the Diocese has applied for the land to be alienated (sold) to the

Ground-breaking ceremony on 14 February 2020

The ground-breaking ceremony was held on 14th February 2020, and the project will take twenty-two (22) months to complete.



From left to right: Ven Stephen Chan, Mr Andrew Khoo, Mr David Joseph, Bishop Ng Moon Hing, Ven Eddie Ong and Dato' Stanley Isaacs

Diocese. A decision on this is pending but the Diocese has been advised by the Director as well as by the Diocesan property consultants to proceed to build regardless of the decision to come. The decision to redevelop this property had received the approval of the Diocesan Synod several years ago and by the Diocesan Standing Committee after several reviews. **AM**

DATO' STANLEY ISAACS is the Chairman of the Diocesan Land & Properties Committee & Member of the Standing Committee.

Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly and Pre-Assembly ATCHAA Workshop

by Deaconess Dr Tan Swee Bee



20-22 degrees Celsius. Upon arrival at the venue, the Presbyterian Bible College, we headed to the dining hall and had our first taste of Taiwanese cuisine.

The following morning after the excitement of meeting up with the other participants we settled down to a 2 ½ day workshop on HIV/AIDS, on the theme of 'Action Together in Combating HIV and AIDS in Asia' (ATCHAA). The daily schedule included a brief worship, the reading of God's Word and prayer followed by group contextual Bible Study. This was followed by sessions on HIV/AIDS and the issues facing the church. In the evenings participants were free to do their own thing so a group of us banded together to find our way to the night market. This became a 'daily routine' as several participants were not comfortable staying in the College with nothing to do.

The Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly that took place from 21-27 November 2019 and the Pre-Assembly Workshop from 19-21 November 2019 at Hsinchu, Taiwan was promoted as a historical event as it was the first ever women's assembly organized by the Christian Convention of Asia (CCA). It attracted over 250 participants from across the Asia-Pacific region and with a

few representatives coming from beyond the region.

Arriving at Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei, I met with two other conference participants who were heading to the same destination - Hsinchu, an hour's drive from Taipei Airport. It was 5.30pm but it was dark. It was nearing winter and the temperature had fallen to around

With the conclusion of the workshop, we signed up for the Assembly. A further 200 participants began arriving for the Assembly. While waiting for the Assembly to begin, the earlier group that had attended the pre-Assembly workshop went on an exploration of the city of



An indigenous dance performance from Taiwan



Anglican sisters in the Assembly. Photo credit: CCA

Hsinchu, also known as the city of winds. Yes, you can literally hear the winds. Other groups went to the big malls, a few participants actually travelled to Taipei for a brief visit, while some attempted to climb the 18 Peaks Mountain Park.

The daily schedule for the Assembly began with a simple worship followed by group Bible Study. Bible Study materials were compiled in a booklet for facilitators and I was privileged to write an article. Then we congregated again in the main auditorium for thematic talks and panel presentations. The theme was 'Arise, be Awake to Reconcile, Renew, and Restore the Creation.' Here, I was honoured to serve as one of the moderators for the thematic talk by a distinguished speaker from Australia. After the afternoon break we attended different workshops led by different facilitators. Again, I was privileged to co-lead in one of the workshops. Each day closed with a simple evening prayer led by different participants.

Sunday was church visitation day. Participants were divided into groups to visit churches in Hsinchu. Some went to

small churches, others to the larger ones, some went to the one located near the beach while others to another located in the hills. I was in the team visiting the indigenous Tayal church in the hills. We were greeted warmly and after the church service were treated to a spread of local Tayal dishes. Everyone returned to the college pretty tired but were excited as we prepared for the Cultural Evening. Teams from countries represented were eager to showcase their cultural song and/or dance. Although scheduled to start at 4pm, many were too enthusiastic and were already in the auditorium by 3pm. The event did not start till about 4.30pm but was joyfully participated by both performers and audience. The opening and closing items were from Taiwan and the opening indigenous dance set the mood for the rest of the evening.

The next two days of the Assembly were an anti-climax after the highly-charged Cultural Evening which ended with the auditorium being transformed into a dance hall as everyone danced to a K-pop's girl-band music video.

Besides building new friendships, establishing networks, and partnerships, I was confronted with the revelation of unjustified inequality of my fellow sisters in ministry in other parts of the world. There was also a disturbing idea attempting to be planted into all participants—that same sex union is an individual choice and it should be accepted by the church community. From a pastoral perspective, I can accept the LGBTIQ community. However, the call to end all sorts of 'discrimination' towards same sex preference within the Christian faith community is indeed a frightening move. I was blessed with the opportunity to be a part of the Assembly and to receive exposure to the wider Christian community.

I returned home with a troubling thought at the direction a part of the universal church is choosing to pursue. It is my prayer that the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia will not subscribe to this world-wide trend that same sex unions should be accepted by the church community but abide by the scriptural truth that a union in marriage is between a man and a woman. **AM**

First Middle Central Archdeaconry Women's Gathering

by Agnes Christian



Participants of the 1st MCAWC Women's Gathering

With the formation of the Middle Central Archdeaconry in 2019, the women's ministry of the churches in Selangor gathered together to launch the formation of the Middle Central Archdeaconry Women's Committee under the leadership of Archdeacon Stephen Chan.

Excitement was in the air as 80 ladies from 14 churches in Selangor attended the gathering at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Subang Jaya on 17 August 2019. The event began with Praise & Worship, followed by ice breaker games led by the ladies of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Archdeacon Stephen Chan then proceeded to explain what was meant by the 'Middle Central Archdeaconry.' The ladies found this very informative, as they were unaware of the newly formed archdeaconry. The Speaker for the day, Deaconess Yit Ching Li shared on the Diocesan theme, Psalm 126:5-6 and Hebrews 10:24-25. We are to encourage one another in love and good works. We can pause and note our

frustrations, anger and disappointment, but we are not to throw away our faith, commitment to God and His good work in us.

The Chairperson of MCAWC, Agnes Christian, shared and expounded on the 'Vision' and 'Mission' of the newly formed archdeaconry.

VISION:

'Bringing women together in Christ through encouragement, service and spiritual growth' (Roman 15:5)

MISSION:

- Leadership
- Equipping
- Mission
- Prayer
- Edification (Building Up)
- Social Concerns

She later opened the floor for discussion on the MCAWC programmes. The MC of the day, Christine Shanker, kept the gathering lively with her banter.



Deaconess Yit Ching Li

The gathering ended with lunch and fellowship.

Our appreciation to the Women's Fellowship of Good Shepherd Church, Subang Jaya and the Vicar, Revd Wity Kendu for hosting the gathering. **AM**

67th Diocesan English Youth Camp



glorify God as a student, the biblical man & woman and friendship. My favorite part of DEYC this year was Fun Night where we had different activities to do which were all related to the workshops that were held.
– John

Other activities such as games gave us opportunity to bond with our group members. In addition to this, we really enjoyed the hot springs and a small game we played during our time there. The 'Fun Night'

this year was interesting with activities correlating with the various workshops we had at camp. – Calista

We had lavish food that made our mouths water. Every single day we had a variety of food from different Malaysian cuisines. We also went to the hot springs and had a lot of fun at the waterslides. – Timothy

I learned how to take on more responsibilities like managing a group and helping to take care of younger campers. Most importantly I learned to be more open to others and this has helped me to not judge people before understanding the situation. – Vasanthan

All in all, it was an absolute joy to have these young kids show us how much the young people of today have to offer. It is our confidence of an assured victory in Christ Jesus that continues to fuel us to do our humble best for Him.

He is the one who we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. – Colossians 1:28. **AM**

This article was written by Jon Silendra, with contributions from John Daniel of St Barnabas Church, Klang, Calista Abigail of Church of Holy Spirit, Ipoh, Timothy Thomas of St. James' Church, Sentul and Vasanthan A/L Mohan of St Mark's Church, Seremban.

Last year's 67th Diocesan English Youth Camp (DEYC) was held at the Refreshing Springs Resort, Hulu Selangor and it was an absolute blast with many young people coming together to share and learn the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, what did the youths themselves have to say about the camp?

The theme for DEYC this year was Soli Deo Gloria, a Latin phrase which means, 'To God Alone Be Glory.' The speaker, Nigel Evan Rode did an excellent job at sharing God's Word to us. As we studied the book of Colossians, I found myself gaining a deeper understanding of God's Word. During our very first session with Nigel, he asked us, "Who is Jesus to you?" Well, I learnt that Jesus is the only one who connects us to God. – John

This camp was an eye-opener because prior to attending this camp I misunderstood the words 'grace' and 'mercy'. I thought they meant the same. However, after going through the sessions by Nigel and the devotions, I realized 'grace' meant undeserving kindness. – Calista

In participating in this camp I have learnt so many things about the Gospel that was once strange to me. I have learnt how to become a good Christian through Christ and in response I have gotten closer to

God by helping those in need. – Vasanthan

The focus and goal of the Diocesan Youth Council has always been to incorporate a gospel-centred message in every one of our camps because the truth is, nothing in this world should be more attractive to us than our Lord Jesus Christ.

Next up, DEVOTIONS!

At the break of dawn, we had refreshing exercise sessions followed by devotions that helped us to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding about the book of Colossians. – Timothy

Devotions were carried out every morning at 7:30 am. Yes, I know what you're thinking. How do you expect young people to focus so early in the morning? Well, the exercises held before that really knew how to wake us up. – John

It was not all just tedious theology in camp. A good focus in learning practical approaches to Christian living was placed in our workshops. The purpose of this year's workshops was to learn how we can glorify God as youths in our daily life.

The workshops this year were interesting as well. They touched on many different topics such as the social media, how to

Soli Deo Gloria

by Jacinta Edward John and Paul Amos Makeswaran



The participants with the Rt Revd Dr Jason Selvaraj

Jacinta: “Kriiiinnng” went the alarm clock, waking us up at the crack of dawn. It was the 13th of July 2019; we were energized and ready for a day of non-stop learning and fun. The 13th was the day we set off from Kuala Lumpur on our two-hour drive to the historical city of Melaka. The drive to Melaka was beautiful, and we reached our destination in no time. If you had not already guessed by now, we had come for the 32nd Diocesan Young Adults’ Conference.

Paul: The Diocesan Young Adults’ Conference was rather a special one this time round, as it was held in Melaka. Being the host church, we felt it was our responsibility to support what is happening on a wider scale than just what we do at church. So, that gave us, the young adults of Christ Church Melaka, the enthusiasm to participate in this event.

We felt the warmth of being welcomed by the seniors when we stepped into the hall. We cherished the fact that while we were the host, we were still given attention as if we were newbies. We met a number of participants from other churches as well. It was a great time of getting to know other members of our Diocese.

Jacinta: ‘Soli Deo Gloria’ is the running theme for this year. It means Glory be to God alone! Our guest speaker for the day, Reverend James Ong, exquisitely takes us through a journey of the Bible, highlighting the various events where the Glory of God was revealed to His people. Tying it in to our daily lives, he helps us see that we should live our lives for the glory of His name, and that our actions and words reflect God to the people around us.

Our next session, the Panel Discussion, is interesting and interactive. Reverend James, Anne Swinitha, and Jon Silendra answer some of our burning questions about the talk given.

We then have a short but meaningful Business Session, headed by Bishop Jason Selvaraj. Reports, minutes and accounts are discussed, and a few new members are elected to the Diocesan Youth Council.

Paul: We also voiced out the problems

we face and our experiences in serving in ministry. It was a lesson to take home as we hear praise reports from other churches of how they overcame certain problems.

Jacinta: Being in the heart of Melaka and right opposite to the famous Jonker Street, the Teambuilding Session has us go on an adventurous food hunt with a small group of new-found friends. From “Assam Fish” to “Durian Cendol”, we are required to try as many food items on the list given. This allowed a great time of fellowship, sharing and camaraderie with young adults from other churches.

Paul: At the final session, we were given group tasks to discuss answers to relevant situations and issues Christian adults face. With opened thoughts and hope when facing these challenges, the conference came to an end.

Before we left, we had the privilege of having another round of fellowship over supper. We are all anticipating next year’s conference with eager hope in our hearts.



Jacinta: A day may not be enough, but my experience at this conference is enriching and enlightening. Till next year, to God alone be the Glory! **AM**

Jacinta Edward John attends Emmanuel Church, Cheras, and Paul Amos Makeswaran attends Christ Church, Melaka.

St Mary's Agape Mission School for Refugees

(A social outreach of St Mary's Cathedral KL)

by Dr Mei Tan

St Mary's Agape Mission School formally accepted the reins of the school in January 2014. We are now in our 6th year of operations. We currently have 73 students, predominantly from the Chin State in Myanmar. The school runs 4 programmes: KG1 - basic writing and numeracy. Foundation English skills in vocabulary and instructions; KG2 - introduction to phonics and conversational language using ABCs for English learners®; junior ACE® - early level ACE students requiring more input from supervisors; senior ACE - fully independent students who are able to make their own goals and accurately score their own work. The main curriculum we use is the ACE curriculum from the School of Tomorrow®. Agape school is an approved school of the School of tomorrow and making sure we follow their operating procedures is a priority of the school. We aim to ensure

that the children receive a recognised, competitive and Christian education. Our mission is not just education, but the building up of disciples for God. Apart from the academics, Agape school also, via our volunteers, trains our students in public speaking by having debates and expecting them to give weekly presentations on topics on which their peers are expected to quiz them.

2019 has certainly been eventful for St Mary's Agape Mission School. We began 2019 expecting to close the school at year end. This was because in June 2018, the UNHCR had announced a cessation on the refugee status of Myanmar Chins and expected that all would leave Malaysia. However, we ended the year on a high note! The UNHCR reversed that decision in April this year and our students can retain their refugee status and continue living and studying in Malaysia. We are



These photos show the students in action during normal class hours.



The photos show a regular Thursday afternoon when families come in to pick up donated items: food (the lost food project / HTBB food bank), clothes, household items, etc.

also delighted to report that the 2 oldest students of our original batch who had resettled to the US have now entered university! One is doing a Bachelors of Practical Ministry and the other, Nursing. We continue to thank God for His provision and love and pray that He grants us wisdom in shepherding our students. The school now has 75 students and it is always a challenge making ends meet. We ask for prayer in helping us meet our financial commitments so that this ministry can continue. **AM**

DWC Leadership Training 2020

by Nesamani Alexandor



Participants at the Leadership Training 2020

The Diocesan Women's Committee (DWC) organized the Leadership Training 2020 from 11-12 January 2020 at Harvest Haven, Gopeng, Perak. A total of 23 leaders from the Upper North, Lower North, Upper Central, Middle Central and Lower Central Archdeaconries participated in this programme

Mrs Jasmine Adaikalam was the Speaker at the Training. The topics were as follows:

- Session 1 – Leadership Preliminaries
- Session 2 – Leadership Skills & Values
- Session 3 – Case Study of Shepherd Leader from the Word of God



Working together on a group activity



Another successful activity completed

After every session there was a time for discussion and a group activity. All groups displayed strong leadership and team player qualities.

On Sunday we started the day with a Holy Communion Service. The Leadership Training ended with a time of testimony and sharing and of course lunch!!

Feedback from the Leaders was that they had benefited from this Leadership Training and were all fired up, to get back to their churches to encourage and motivate the ladies to bring positive changes in their Women's Fellowships. **AM**

Soup Kitchen Christmas Celebration

by Adrian Sarron

Church of the Holy Spirit, Ipoh (COHS) in Buntong Ipoh, has been running a soup kitchen programme since April 2017. We started off with the aim of feeding everyone who was hungry around our Church. It began with around 30 people and now it has grown to around 130 people requiring food each week. Food is cooked and

served by a group of volunteers at the Anglican Community Centre (ACC) every Friday at 7 pm. Later in the evening, a team of volunteers will deliver around 50 packets of packed food for street dwellers around Ipoh town.

In conjunction with Christmas, the church organised a Soup Kitchen Christmas

Celebration on 13 December 2019. We had carollers presenting carols and a lucky draw for everyone. We also prepared and distributed blessing bags containing toiletries, blanket and other food stuff that was distributed to the street dwellers around Ipoh town. **AM**



Clockwise from the bottom left corner:

1. Contents of the blessing bag
2. COHS Carollers presenting carols
3. Christmas tree with all the goodie bags
4. Brother Immanuel Moses sharing about the birth of Jesus
5. Revd Gerrad Emmanuel presenting the first prize for the lucky draw winner

Blowing the Trumpet signifies

- A CALL TO ASSEMBLE
- A COMMAND TO MARCH
- AN ALARM OF WAR
- A HOLY CONVOCATION
- A CALL TO FAST
- THE APPROACH OF FESTIVALS AND FEASTS
- THE COMING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD
- THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
- THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

