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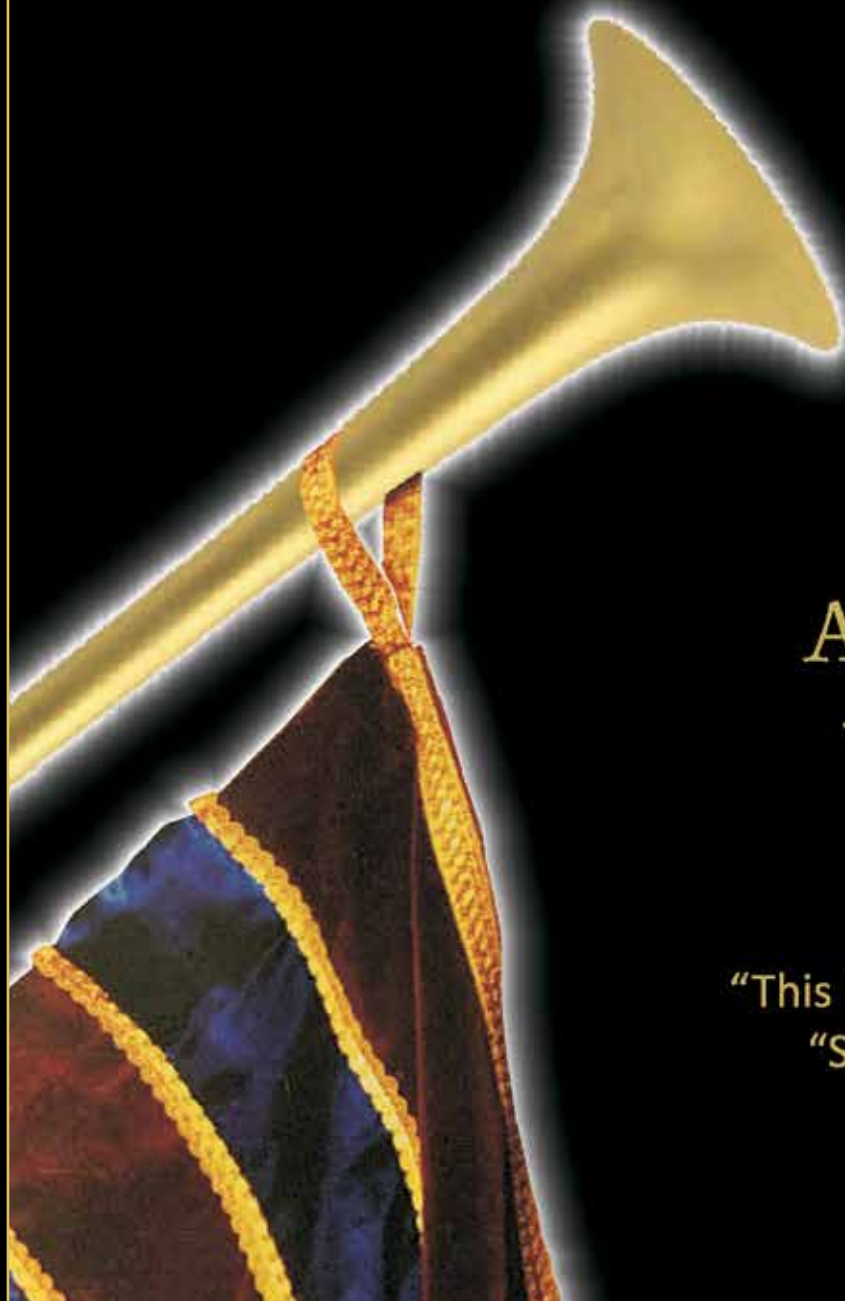
M E S S E N G E R

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

KDN : PP11463/05/2013 (032185)

AUGUST 2020

Blowing the Trumpet



A Prophetic Wake-Up Call

"This is what the Lord says...

"Seek me and live..."

Amos 5:4

Diocesan Theme for 2020 Blowing The Trumpet

Features



Coming Events

- CCEA Youth Forum in Philippines
- 7 - 12 October 2020
- Installation of Bishop of Singapore
- 18 October 2020
- English Youth Camp
- December 2020
- Chinese Youth Camp
- 7 - 10 December 2020
- Christmas
- 25 December 2020

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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 31 October 2020 to:

The Editor,
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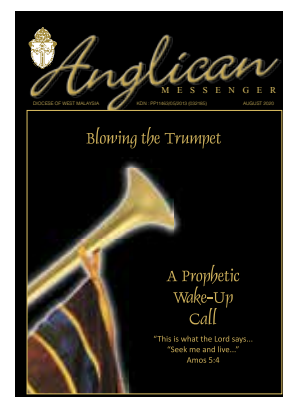
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Cover Design



The corona virus pandemic has caused unprecedented lockdowns and economic distress in all nations of the world. Hundreds have lost their jobs, factories have closed, homes have been lost and food is scarce on the table. These are no ordinary times and people are anxious and fearful, wondering whether they are heading towards an economic collapse, an economic implosion.

Many Christians see this global corona virus pandemic and economic meltdown as a wake-up call for them to turn back to faith in God and as signs of coming judgment. God is shaking the world again to get the attention of His people; to wake them up. The all-knowing all-seeing God is giving His people a chance and a warning, not so that we will be afraid but that we will be awake and ready and faithful and walking close to Jesus when the storms come.

God is calling His people to take a spiritual audit and to assess how we, our families, our congregations and churches are doing morally and spiritually today. The question is: Are we listening?

Blowing The 2nd Trumpet

– Call to Assemble

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

The political situation and the Movement Control Order (MCO/CMCO/RMCO) have put our application for the creation of the three new dioceses at a disadvantage. We need to pray and pray earnestly for God's intervention and a breakthrough on this matter. We need to pray for a stable, just and fair government. This is not an issue of flesh and blood but is a spiritual one. We need to Call for an Assembly to Fast – to seek and plead for God's mercy.

The prophet in Joel 2:15-16 also pleaded with the people of Israel to return to the Lord when things became difficult: *"Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders."* A strange feeling has come upon me that 'Nothing will happen if we leave things to take their course.' There are blockages and hindrances that only the Almighty can remove. Let us together cry to the Lord for His gracious generosity and mercy.

This year, 2020, the Diocese enters its 50th Anniversary (1970 – 2020), which according to the biblical norm, is a Jubilee Year. We need to *Call for an Assembly to Celebrate*. It is a time when everything will start anew. The creation of three new dioceses is timely and essential for a new start and a new adventure, otherwise stagnation will easily set in.

For a Jubilee, the introduction of a new beginning and new aspiration for the same group of people will inevitably invite much vigour, stamina and expectation. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted many quarters and economies including our Diocesan finances and church worship. Quickly realising the potential effect on Diocesan finances,



The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing

the church leadership sought ways to look for alternate funds from members and friends. Many members responded positively, and I believe more will respond in a matter of time.

During this challenging period, the Diocese did not shrink from her pastoral and evangelistic ministries and caring efforts. The Relief Emergency and Crisis Help (R.E.A.C.H.), a joint effort with Crest and Malaysian Care, immediately sprang into action and brought aid to the needy and less fortunate.

In at least twenty locations throughout the Diocese, we were reaching many who had lost their jobs and were without sufficient daily food and basic needs. This included the villages and Orang Asli kampungs. Many online services, Bible studies and webinars were streamed to members in their homes. Pastoral care teams used modern technology to reach their members – whether by phone, Whatsapp, Facebook, email, Instagram, Zoom or other platforms.

I have received news of a good number of people receiving Christ through online services and the virtual Pastoral Care ministry. Praise be to God! When the restriction is lifted - and I believe it will be soon - there is every reason to celebrate with thanksgiving.

Let us believe that the God who started a good work here over 200 years ago - beginning with the Chapel at Fort Cornwallis in Penang Island in 1805 - will continue to lead us steadily toward His high calling. In 1855, Revd Francis Thomas MacDougall had become the first bishop of our region, and then 54 years later in 1909, the Diocese of Singapore was formed. Finally, another 61 years later in 1970 the Diocese of West Malaysia was created.

Now in 2020 and possibly beyond, we are working towards the creation of three new dioceses after we have satisfied all the necessary legal requirements. We will need to Call for an Assembly to be United for re-Creation. The Almighty God in His gracious timing will see to the realization of this, according to His Will.

The Call for an Assembly to Fast, Celebrate and Be United for re-Creation will help drive our energy and stamina to an optimum level especially after all the restrictions such as having to use face masks, adhering to social distancing and ensuring regular hand sanitizing are over. This augurs well for praise and thanksgiving to God Almighty, diversification and deployment of resources, enhancement and wholesome development.

Let us continue to trust God, to heed His commands and pray earnestly. **AM**

Visit to the Diocese of Calcutta

by Mirriam Samuel

As part of the Bicentenary celebrations of St George's Church Penang, the Organising committee of St George's Church decided to trace the history of the Church back to the Diocese of Calcutta, beginning with the time when the Bishop of Calcutta, Bishop Thomas Middleton in 1819 was requested by the Archbishop of Canterbury to consecrate the newly constructed Church on the Prince of Wales Island, the name given to Penang island by the early British settlers.

Bishop Thomas Fanshaw Middleton's first visit to Penang was in April 1819. There were no more than 17-18 European settlers. He consecrated the church and held the first confirmation "in that part of the remote world" with 26 members of the congregation. In his memoirs he said, "These eastern settlements seem to offer peculiar advantages for the labours of Christian missionaries. Bordering close on the shores of the Malay peninsula and a passage of trade to China, the island is good to present an entrance through which the Gospel may, in the process of time, win its way to lands that are wrapped in the darkness of idolatry." He was passionate about sharing the gospel to those who did not know Christ and indeed in one of his sermons he said that the Christian should be a light to the Gentiles and to draw them to the gospel. He was encouraged to say that the spread of Christianity did not suffer persecution such as what other parts of India had to undergo in his time.

In their desire to thank the forefathers of the Diocese of Calcutta for the vision and mission of bringing not only the gospel to Penang Island, but also for bringing education and medical support, the Organizing Committee of the Bicentenary committee decided to establish links with the Diocese of Calcutta. It was for this reason that St George's Church extended an invitation to the Bishop of Calcutta to



Visit of Bishop Paritosh Canning and his 16-member team at St George's Church from 26 to 27 October 2019

its 200 year anniversary celebrations and resulted in the re-enactment of the journey by Bishop Charles Samuel to the Diocese of Calcutta on 28 November 2019.

The Bishop of Calcutta, Bishop Ashoke Biswas had presided and preached at the anniversary service of St George's Church on 14 May 2017. To commemorate the visit, Bishop Ashoke had laid a plaque on the west side of the church.

In his opening remarks, he had said that St Paul's Church built in 1816 in Calcutta had a similar architecture to St George's Church and was similar in terms of architecture and missionary endeavors. He had mooted the idea that because of their historical identity as Anglican Churches in the Far East, the two should develop a partnership in mission. This had been well received by the Church Council.



Procession of the clergy with traditional dancers at the Annual Diocesan Thanksgiving Celebrations.



Bishop Charles presenting the DWM pectoral cross to Bishop Paritosh and a beaded chain with Iban designs

To reciprocate this partnership, and at the invitation of Bishop Ashoke, Bishop Charles led the first team of five parishioners to Calcutta from 24 to 28 January 2018 with the hope of carrying out research on the early history of St George's Church. We discovered the journals of Bishop Middleton in his own hand writing about his visit to Penang in 1819 at Bishop's College in the well-guarded archives in the attic. In fact, we wanted to search for documents pertaining to the ownership of our land and building as well as the kind of missionary work that was done in the early years of the church mission but we were not able to do this. Bishop Ashoke retired a year later and a new bishop was consecrated and installed.

On 26 October 2019, the newly installed Bishop of Calcutta, Bishop Paritosh Canning visited St George's Church with a team of sixteen members comprising Standing Committee members, principals and headmasters of renowned colleges and schools. He preached and celebrated at the Holy Eucharist service on 26 October 2019. As a token of appreciation, he and his team were given the First Day cover stamps of St George's Church Penang. Bishop Paritosh invited

Bishop Charles to grace their Annual Thanksgiving Celebration in November, a key event in the Diocese of Calcutta.

On 28 November 2019, Bishop Charles Samuel with a seminarian reciprocated the visit of the Bishop of Calcutta and spent five days in the Diocese. It was an eventful and rewarding visit. Bishop Charles visited a Tamil congregation, the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor where the tomb of Mother Teresa was, various social ministries and an Anglican Theological College.

At their Annual Thanksgiving Service, Bishop Charles Samuel preached on how the gospel was taken from Calcutta to Penang and assured the people of Calcutta that the Anglican faith which had first been planted in Penang Island had indeed gone to other parts of South East Asia. Bishop Charles challenged the congregation to continue the good work of preaching the gospel with the same passion as it was first preached nearly two hundred years ago in St George's. There are many people today in Penang and in India who need to hear the gospel and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

At this service, with the consent of Bishop Ng Moon Hing of the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia, Bishop Charles presented Bishop Paritosh with a pectoral cross as well as a chain made up of beads with Sarawak embroidery sealing the long historic relationship which began with Bishop Middleton in 1819.

Both the Diocese of Calcutta and the Parish of St George's Church mutually agreed that this partnership in the gospel would continue through regular visits, exchange of clergy and laity and sharing of resources. However this has been put on temporary hold due to outbreak of Covid 19 and the lockdown of countries throughout the world.

There is much St George's can learn from the Diocese of Calcutta where it has established renowned colleges and schools, which promotes Dr. Andrew Bell's system of education, orphanages for boys and girls, homes for those suffering from AIDS, ministry to poor in the streets of Calcutta, and a renowned theological College called Bishop's College, where some of our early Bishops and Clergy were trained, clergy such as Bishop Savarimuthu, Revd Butwan Manikam, Bishop Ponniah Moses, Revd Jambunathan and Revd Albert Walters.

Bicentenary celebration is a time to remember the contributions of the early fathers of the Anglican faith and to remember many of our forefathers who were instrumental in building the church but now one not remembered, and to encourage the next generation to run the race with perseverance and faith in a living God. What is now important is to see how locals share the gospel within our Diocese and how the churches grow in this Diocese. **AM**

Miriam is the daughter of Bishop Charles and Alice Samuel. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Linguistics at USM Penang.

Building a Christ-centred Community in an Online World

by Revd Dr James Harding



Online lessons continue with interest

St Paul's Theological College (SPTC) Malaysia, which is based in the Alpha Hub in Lot 10, Bukit Bintang and closely partnered with HTBB Church, was founded in August 2016 to provide theological training for mission and ministry to people who would otherwise find it difficult to access traditional forms of theological education. Thus from the very origin of the College there has been something in our DNA about pioneering, adaptable, nimble and responsive approaches to education. Even so, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Malaysia, and we went into lockdown, the College faced a number of significant obstacles that have challenged our very values. We pride ourselves on embodying our very strongly held core values, of "theology done in the context of worship," as when we worship together as part of our theological study, it changes the questions that we ask, and changes the answer that we give. Of "theology done in the local churches," we believe that it is possible for a person to

stay in their local church and continue to be engaged in ministry in their local church, whilst studying theology, mission and ministry in a College. Of "theology done in a learning community" whilst there are many good online options available, we believe that to sit next to persons who are from a different denomination and Christian tradition to yourself, and listen to them helps stretch and grow your vision of God and of His Kingdom. So how? How can a college prioritise corporate worship and community learning during a Movement Control Order imposing social distancing?

I believe that the four months of teaching and learning that we had to deliver during the lockdown in actual fact presented a Kairos moment to us. With a strong back-room support team, including a staff member who specialized in our media, AV and tech support, we were able to seamlessly move all of our teaching and learning online by pre-recording videos to camera and uploading them to the "church

online platform" developed by Life Church, which enabled our students to watch the lecture together 'live' from their various homes and offices. But how can we do this and maintain our core value of community? The 'Public Chat' feature has been excellent, allowing students to both make small talk (which is always community building), and also to comment live on the video lecture, which encourages active learning. We have continued to deliver a 2-hour lecture broken down into 20 minute content blocks, which allow students to regularly move over to Zoom Rooms and discuss the contextually applied questions in small groups

every 20 minutes or so. We have been able to continue to prioritise worship by having a weekly Chapel Live time on Zoom, which is also simultaneously streamed to social media platforms so guests can join in as part of our Open House outreach to prospective students. Whilst (at least for me) this isn't quite the same as gathering together in person to worship with other believers, we still have been blessed with a special sense of the Holy Spirit uniting us together, even though we are dispersed and apart. I think the regular use of words of the liturgy, the work of the people saying the words of God together back to God, have helped unite us in one body in these times of online worship.

The Covid-19 Crisis has been a Kairos moment for us. On 24 August 2020 we will launch our new Master of Arts in Biblical Studies programme. We would not have been able to do this for a few more years if the lockdown hadn't forced us online. With lessons we have learnt over the past

three or four months, we are able to deliver a mixed-mode programme, which consists of 60% asynchronous online learning (you watch a video on your own in your own time, whenever you want), and 40% synchronous learning (where we gather together on campus for a live lecture at

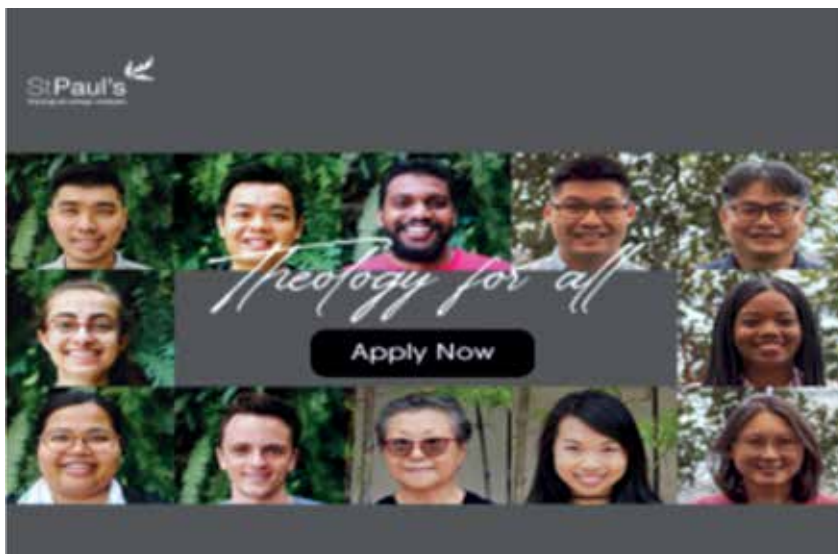
the same time). We are so excited about this new postgraduate offering which will complement our existing BA in Theology, Mission and Ministry undergraduate course. Please pray for us as we seek to train and equip the people of God to serve Him in their local churches with hearts on

fire and minds enlarged and renewed by the beauty of the gospel.

Revd Dr James Harding is the Principal of St Paul's Theological College

You too can do theology

by Dr Jon Chan



In the past few months we have seen many organizations and businesses in Malaysia crumble as the economic climate took a turn for the worse. We are grateful

to God that He allowed St Paul's to not only continue in the work of teaching and training, but also for our students to thrive in these challenging times. As we went into

lockdown in March and began a season of isolation, community has become more important than ever. The weekly virtual gatherings allowed us to worship, pray and learn together, which sustained fellowship and kept spirits high amidst uncertainty and physical separation. The network of academics worldwide, who teach and mark assessments for us, played a huge role in keeping the college running as we entered a purely digital mode of teaching. This new online platform has allowed us to explore different and innovative ways of doing theology, and given the opportunity to reach prospective students whom we previously had no access. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, we are excited to see what God has in store for the college!

Dr Jon Chan is a Lecturer and an Academic Officer at SPTC

Community Conquers COVID-19 Challenges

by Martin Hansell

The challenges presented to the student of theology are very real, but the community created by SPTC has gone a long way to overcoming the initial obstacles to academic learning and personal change which are integral aspects of the course I am on. Yet that was before the COVID-19 lock-down threatened to bite a huge chunk out of the life of the college. We went from a vibrant, collaborative college community to a cloistered, constricted cage-like (who'd ever have thought it of our own homes!)

containment. The largest question looming had to be "What would happen to our progress?" Whilst making sense of such an intervention into the lives of so many may not prove that easy, trust in an all-knowing God, and allowing that very thing which God had allowed to do its work, would become essential to summoning up the strength to push through under very strange circumstances. And with the inside line on what it takes to convert a face-on-face norm into a digital reality that

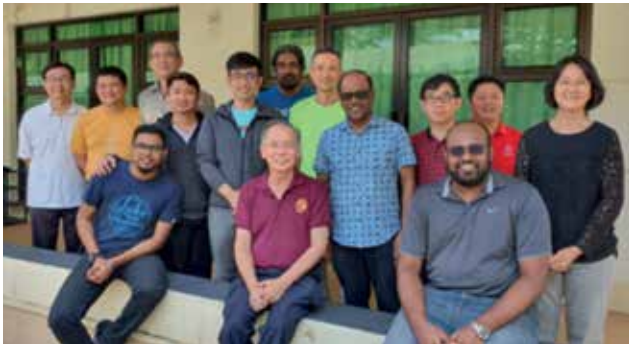
felt normal, I watched, worked (like crazy) and wondered as I looked back on how on earth SPTC managed it. Few organizations have made such a dramatic shift in such a short space of time. Overall after four months, with our first small-group year-end gatherings taking place just recently, the sense of community has only grown fonder with the momentary physical absence! **AM**

Martin Hansell is a 1st Year Student and SPTC staff member

Diocesan Ordination Retreat Reflections

Reflections from the Diocese of West Malaysia

by Revd Avean Elvin



Standing L-R: Ev Khoo Boo Huat, Ang Joo Tat, Revd Daniel Leong, Revd Benammin, Revd Gavin Yang, Ev Andrew Doraisingam, Revd Alex Kong, Ev Augustine Gnanamani, Revd Karma, Ronley Ansoi and Ev Pong Ah Yan.
Seated left to right: Revd Avean Elvin, The Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing and Ev Sakhte Kumar.

Following the lifting of the RMCO, the Ordination retreat was held from 13 to 16 July 2020 at Harvest Haven, Gopeng. Thirteen participants attended this retreat, five for the ordination of Priesthood,

seven for the ordination of Deacon and one to be commissioned as Deaconess. During the 3-day retreat we observed our daily office of morning prayer, evensong and compline. In addition Bishop Ng briefed us on the Clergy Handbook.

All participants were required to present two thesis on two topics given by Bishop. The two topics were:

1. How is your own local church preparing to face the resurgence of religious extremism within your context? Discuss briefly types of extremism in this nation and show proof of

it. What has your church done so far by way of preparation?

2. The Province of South East Asia has approved the dissolution of the Diocese of West Malaysia and the creation three dioceses. Give reasons why you support this idea or why you oppose it. Include also the advantages and disadvantages of this development in the light of the present environment of Malaysia, in terms of evangelism and discipleship training opportunities.

We presented our papers and defended our points based on what we had written in our theses. It was a good time of learning from each other and to hear different points of view. This retreat was indeed a refreshing time coming especially after the MCO period. We thank God for this time together and equipping us for our future ministry.

Reflections from Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang

by Abigail McIlrath

In July, Bishop Moon Hing invited those getting ordained and commissioned from Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang, on a retreat as part of the ordination process in the beautiful setting of Harvest Haven, near Ipoh. This was an opportunity to set aside a few days to discuss ministry within the Diocese of West Malaysia, explore more of our calling and to learn from Bishop.

During the retreat, we each presented reflections from the papers we had written prior to attending. The two topics we talked about were how the local church can prepare for religious extremism in Malaysia and what are the advantages and disadvantages of the Dissolution of the Diocese. These relevant topics provided stimulating conversation throughout the retreat, allowing each of us to practically apply our findings but also gain invaluable insight from the Bishop's experience. The importance of building resilient disciples within the local church was an overriding theme as this is what will enable

the local church to be strong and withstand any trials that may come.

We enjoyed time worshipping together, reading God's Word and receiving encouragement from Bishop. It was also extremely helpful to have detailed explanations of the elements of Anglicanism. It was not only beneficial to understand some of the practicalities but also to consider the theology that underpins them.

On the last day together, we reflected on our main takeaways and the overall feeling was a sense of deep respect and appreciation of Bishop Moon Hing. He patiently and passionately explained the history of Malaysia, missionary movements and the Diocese. Through sharing honestly about the



Left to right - Jacintha Tagal, Adrian Vincent, Abel Cheah, Charlotte Ng, Bishop, Stewart McIlrath, Abigail McIlrath, Melissa Theng

realities of ministry life, each of us learned much from his perseverance, not just over the past 13 years, but also throughout his life as a follower of Christ. We left the retreat feeling renewed in the Holy Spirit, inspired by the love of God and united in spreading the name of Jesus. We all felt envisioned and equipped to continue in this journey of ministry within the Diocese. **AM**

First Among Equals

First Malaysian outside North America to win US teaching contest



UTAR Don received international acclaim for her cross-cultural research.

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) lecturer Dr Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson received the first prize in the International Communication Division (ICD) Teaching Contest 2020, becoming the first person outside of North America to do so. The contest celebrates teaching and innovations in international communication and learning.

Sharon, who is an assistant professor at UTAR's Faculty of Creative Industries, will be recognized during 2020's ICD Business Meeting at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications' (AEJMC) conference in San Francisco which honours excellence in journalism and mass communication.

Sharon's winning entry was titled: 'Cross-cultural teaching and learning on virtual platforms: A case study for continuous collaborative learning.' It was a joint, cross-cultural course offered for students studying at UTAR and the University of Delaware (UD) in the United States. Sharon and Prof Patricia Sloane-White from UD's Department of Women & Gender Studies and Anthropology coordinated the course, which was conducted by a video conference. The course was designed to involve the two different student classes in a joint study on popular culture and social principles.

Sharon's research explored the cross-cultural exchange between students across nations in a virtual setting, where participants engaged in the sharing of ideas, beliefs, ethics, tradition, culture and identity. The study was done during a collaborative semester in participation with educators and students from the University of Delaware, United States and UTAR.

Sharon explained that she had submitted her paper on a whim and was surprised at grabbing the first prize. She shared that throughout her work, she had formed long-lasting bonds with a number of participants with many still keeping in touch and even migrating to Malaysia to further their studies.

For her achievement, Sharon even received a shout out from former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.



Dr Wan Azizah Ismail
@drwanazizah

Tahniah Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson pemenang pertama dari Malaysia untuk International Communication Division (ICD) Teaching Contest 2020. #MalaysianHeroes

Arathi Magandran, a student who participated in Dr. Sharon's cross-cultural

class says, "That class is one of the best classes I have taken in my entire university life. Dr. Sharon has been so committed and focused on the objective of this whole course. Through this course, I would say that it altered my perception, in a good way, of course and helped me acquire a better understanding of equality, communication, culture, lifestyles, politics of our own country and also of other countries. Moreover, she shared about the Malaysian heritage, mainly on Indian, Malay and Chinese culture, norms, values and many more in order to educate Americans and also make them aware of the Asian culture. In one of the classes, the students were told to wear their traditional clothes comprising of the Baju Melayu, Baju Kurung, Punjabi suit and so on. This step was taken to give Americans an exposure on our traditional attires."

Sharon said students taught each other about their lives, values and experiences. "They also explored and exchanged cultures as they grew up in two very different lifestyles and landscapes. Even though the semester has ended and many of the students have graduated, they are still connected by Whatsapp and continue to have meaningful conversations about the world that they live in and the effect of events on them. This goes beyond traditional classroom education to continuous engagement, interaction, and holistic learning," she added.

The first place was won by Dr Sharon, followed by Dr Rachel Mourão from the Michigan State University, USA in the second place and Lamia Zia (PhD student) from Texas Tech University in the third place. Each submission was evaluated by three reviewers based on the following criteria: Innovation; contribution to international communication; connection with learning objectives; impact and learning outcomes. The winners were calculated based on the final scores of the review outcome. **AM**

Dr Sharon Wilson is a member of St Paul's Anglican Church Petaling Jaya

‘Be Still And Know That I Am God’

A Testimony

by Dr Sharon Wilson

My journey to winning this competition and being the first Malaysian to do so, cannot go by without giving all glory and honour to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When the Movement (MCO) started in March, my classes had to be converted into online lessons. Although it was not necessary, I was working 10-15 hours a day re-learning how to teach a tech savvy generation Media Theory. Students were as confused as I was but I had to hold-on to get them to the finishing line as for many of the students that was the last semester before they graduated. On top of everything else, I had deadlines to meet on research papers, book chapters and grant applications. We also had to attend online training courses to ensure we were trained to teach online and at that time we did not know how long the pandemic was going to last. During this time, the International Communications Division of The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (AEJMC) a prestigious organization in the



Dr Sharon Wilson

field of study put out a call for the teaching competition.

At this time, I had already completed my class and project on ‘Cross cultural

teaching and learning on virtual platforms: A case study for continuous collaborative learning.’ The project was a collaborative, semester-long video conference cross-cultural course between students enrolled in a class at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) facilitated by me and University of Delaware United States (UDEL) facilitated by Prof Dr Patricia Sloane-White. The course is structured to engage the two groups of students in shared cultural explorations concerning contemporary culture and social values. They examine the nature and meanings of each culture’s consumer and popular culture, discuss everyday issues affecting their community and lives and share ideas and trends about global cultural influences and the role and persistence and transformation

of culture, beliefs, ethics, tradition, and identity in both settings. Students taught each other about their lives, values, experiences and explore and exchange cultures and societies as they grow up in two very different lifestyles and landscapes. One very meaningful experience was a Saturday spent visiting religious places of worship including our own St Mary’s Cathedral. This was not only a way to give them a sense of respect and understanding of the various religions in the country but to get a firsthand experience of how people worship God and how they create an environment for this purpose. For many, visiting a church or a mosque was a first time experience and it made them have a lot of self reflection and realization. During this time, students would take photos or do a Facebook live for their American friends giving them a ‘virtual tour’.

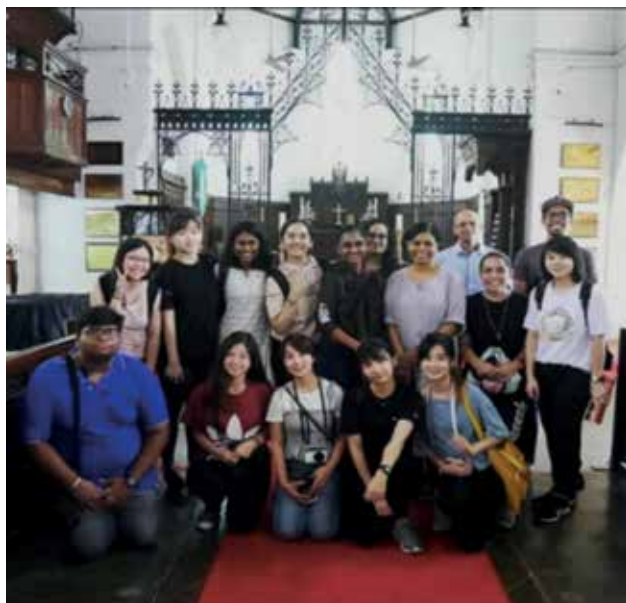


Our class in motion

L Students from UTAR

R Students from UDEL

Even though the semester has ended and many of the students have graduated,



Sharon and her students on a study trip to St Mary's Cathedral

they are still connected by Whatsapp and continue to have meaningful conversations about the world that they live in and the effect of events on them. This goes beyond traditional classroom education to continuous engagement, interaction, and holistic learning.

When the call for competition was announced I contemplated not sending the application as the year before I had applied for a local competition and did not win. As an academician and researcher, it is very disappointing to see work that you put out being rejected or turned down if only because there were too many applicants or the target you were sending a research paper or project to was not a good fit to your own. It creates self-doubt and one becomes very vulnerable and defensive. But I felt perhaps this was a way for me to show what we had done and hoped others would emulate this trend.

I had been teaching for 20 years, and when I prepared the application, I asked God to guide me. My exact words were 'God you know what I have done, you know if I deserve this and you know how I have been frustrated about what's going on. If you think this is where I'm supposed to be (in education), if you think teaching is what I'm supposed to do, then use me as your instrument. Show me.'

I opened my Bible and this verse jumped right out, Psalm 46:10 'Be still, and know that I am God!'

And that was it. I sent it in and for months I forgot about it.

Nobody knew I had applied for it – not even my husband. It was only God and me on this little 'secret'. On 12 July I thought about this competition and wondered whatever was the outcome of it and on the morning of 13 July

I received an email with the subject ICD teaching contest and in my mind I thought, 'Here we go. Whatever it was I will take it as the will of God.' When I opened the email the words, 'Congratulations! I'm very happy to announce that your submission won first place in the ICD teaching competition this year!' I had to read it twice. I didn't know what to do. I just kept repeating 'Thank you Jesus' over and over again. I woke my husband and told him the news and I remember crying, just overwhelmed with emotion.

When the media picked up the news, I still had not known the extent of winning this had had, until I was told by the organizers of the competition that I was the first outside the Americas to win the contest. During this time I was also attending CBSI bible study and we were studying the book of Kings. King Solomon and all his predecessors had everything imaginable but what they failed to do was glorify and stay obedient to God. I certainly did not want to be ungrateful. I acknowledged God's greatness and His will. Today I know exactly what I have to do and what my ministry is. A few days later, as I received more media coverage and messages, it got me nervous and I asked God for guidance and again He guided me and showed me this...

'For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you... We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.' Romans 12:3-8.

I strongly believe that we all have a calling to serve the Lord. We don't all need to be priests and work in a church ministry. Sometimes our service for Christ can be in many ways – we could be doctors, nurses, administrative clerks to dispatch riders and students. The question is 'Do others see Christ in us?' A kind word, a smile, a 'How are you doing?' goes a long way to demonstrate the love of Christ to others. But before any of that is done, rely on God. Put your entire self in Him. It is not easy. It is not easy for me either. But I believe He had prepared me for this for a long time putting the right people such as my colleague, Prof Dr Patricia Sloane White from Delaware University who has been a friend for the past 15 years and all the students, both at my university and at Delaware whom He carefully and strategically placed so we could learn and lift up each other. I thank God for all of them and I pray that those who read this and who have been discouraged will be encouraged to seek God. There is always a reason God does something. We may not know it today but it will be revealed. It is truly life's greatest mystery. **AM**

Sharon Wilson (Ramendran) an Assistant Professor at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) became the first person from Malaysia and outside North America to win the International Communication and Division (ICD) Teaching Contest 2020. She and her family attend the 5pm Tamil Service at St Paul's Anglican Church, Petaling Jaya.

Well done, good and faithful servant

by Marilyn & Andrew Cole

Shirley Skelton Cole (née Powys), a former CMS and OMF missionary in Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and Taiwan and wife of the late Dr Alan Cole, (1923 - 2003) went to be with the Lord on Ascension Day, 21 May 2020, aged 98 years and 6 months.

Shirley Powys grew up as a Church of England rectory child in Sydney diocese between the wars, living in Picton, Penrith, Annandale, Cremorne and Vaucluse. With two musical parents, Shirley learned both piano and organ, accompanying the singing in services all her life, from Emu Plains prison farm in primary school years, to secondary school chapel at SCEGGS Darlinghurst, small churches in Malaya and Singapore, and continuing this right up to her late 80s, at nursing homes in Mosman. With a strong personal faith in Jesus, Shirley was an active member of 'Crusader' groups at school and later with the Nurses' Christian Fellowship.

Having undertaken nursing training in Sydney during and after World War II, Shirley moved to London to gain further nursing experience and attend Bible school. This was to prepare her for mission work, after her 'jungle doctor' older brother Norman Powys had left Sydney in late 1946 to work with CMS in Tanganyika. On Sundays, she went to



Shirley Skelton Cole née Powys

All Souls Langham Place where she met a young Alan Cole, then training for the ministry at Oak Hill College. They became engaged in 1949 and Shirley's mission focus soon settled on Chinese-speaking people. After completing her studies, Shirley returned to Sydney. Alan followed later and they were married in September 1951 and Alan started teaching at Moore Theological College.

Their older son Andrew was born in June 1952, and the family left for Singapore in September 1952, then was sent to do Chinese language study in Taiwan. A younger son, Patrick, was born in

November 1954. The family moved to Cheung Chau in Hong Kong for intensive Cantonese language study and then moved in early 1956 to church-planting work at Mambang Di Awan ('Ghost in the Clouds'), a very small protected 'new village' in Perak, Malaya, at the height of the 'Malayan Emergency'. Life was in very simple timber houses, with honey-bucket toilets and back-yard wells for water supply.

Furlough in Sydney in 1957 saw Stephanie added to the family, while they were living in the curate's cottage at St Faiths Narrabeen. Despite Archbishop Mowell's wish that the family stay in Sydney at Moore College, they returned to pastor and grow small churches in Malaya, at Slim River and Teluk Intan through 1958-1960.

During an extended furlough in Sydney, with teaching and pastoral care work at Moore College, the family transferred from OMF to CMS partnership which allowed them to move to work in ministry training and pastoral care at St Peter's Hall, Trinity Theological College, Singapore from August 1962. The hall was adjacent to our home, and sounds of the student day, from early morning bells, Prime and breakfast, through to Compline, floated up the hill, as sounds of our home life floated down the hill in return. Shirley often relaxed in the evenings by playing her favourite hymns and anthems on the piano, the music of JS Bach being especially prominent.

Shirley and Alan Cole worked together in a Sunday curacy at St Matthews, Neil Rd, establishing an English-language service for up-and-coming young marrieds. Alan preached and led services, while Shirley played the organ and trained the choir. Shirley first learned to drive a Mini car in Singapore, as one of her other roles was to support a school transport pool, that included her two younger children!



Together again

The family returned to Sydney at the end of 1968, first to Moore College with Sunday curacy at St Peter's East Lindfield, then moved to Macquarie University in 1972, with the founding of Robert Menzies College. In both places, quite apart from being busy with raising her own teen and university student age children, Shirley was involved in pastoral care and support of college students, with home groups, hospitality and meals, in itself a major ministry. Until there was a separate space for Sunday chapel services at RMC, these met in the main room of the family home, with Shirley at the piano.

When Alan was appointed CMS Federal Secretary in 1979, Shirley fully supported him in that ministry, including coping with his frequent travels. Foreign guests stayed at their home in Roseville. She was involved with the 'folding ladies' in Bathurst St, and with supporting the MAG group, and attending the Summer Schools.

They 'retired' from work in Sydney in early 1988 and were sent in the fellowship of CMS to Trinity College Singapore, again being involved in Bible and music teaching, pastoral care and support, for a further seven years. They finally returned to live at Mosman in late 1994, joining St Clements and running Bible study and pastoral care groups, with Shirley playing the piano at mid-week services in local nursing homes.

Shirley moved to an independent living unit in Mosman after Alan's passing in 2003, progressing to low-level nursing care as her frailty increased and vision worsened. A fall with fractures compelled a move to high-level nursing care in 2017. Family and pastoral visitors knew that she could sing hymns and spiritual songs word-perfect until the last month of her life. If the RSV Bible was used for readings, Shirley could often repeat complete paragraphs or verses of scripture from memory, having God's Word well hidden in her heart. She was an active participant in weekly services in her nursing home, first at Lane Cove and then at Peakhurst, right up to the time of the COVID lock-downs from mid-March 2020.

Shirley Cole outlived her soulmate and husband Alan by many years. At the end of her life militant here on earth, as one of the longest-living of her generation of family and contemporaries, she was well and truly ready to be called home to eternal life, to be together again with Alan and all faithful witnesses, triumphant in Jesus' presence.

After Shirley's passing, our family received messages of heart-felt appreciation for her life and ministry from many former students and younger fellow-workers, still busily fruitful in ministry here in Australia, and in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. **AM**



In a nursing home with loved ones

A Sparrow's Prayer

*Father, before this sparrow's
earthly flight
Ends in the darkness of a
winter's night;
Father, without whose word
no sparrow falls,
Hear this, Thy weary sparrow,
when he calls.
Mercy, not justice, is his
contrite prayer,
Cancel his guilt and drive
away despair;
Speak but the word, and make
his spirit whole,
Cleanse the dark places of his
heart and soul,
Speak but the word, and set
his spirit free;
Mercy, not justice, still his
constant plea.
So shall Thy sparrow,
crumpled wings restored,
Soar like the lark,
and glorify his Lord.*

Lord Hailsham

Voices from The Pandemic

The COVID-19 Experience

Dr Joshita Jothimanickam

The COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed our lives. For many, the important feature of this experience is 'enforced presentism', which is a feeling of being stuck in the present and adapting to the new essence of life. However, for the medical front-liners like me, it is a new battle. In the disease control division of the Ministry of Health, we are responsible to ensure that everyone is safe and know how to keep oneself safe. When the first few cases were confirmed in Malaysia, Crisis Preparedness and Response Center started monitoring the positive cases and did contact tracing to ensure that the spread was minimized. Citizens and families from China, Italy, Iran, Indonesia and other countries were evacuated back to Malaysia. I was in the Rapid Response Team to do sampling at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the quarantine centres for the evacuees



COVID-19 sampling for evacuees from China at KLIA

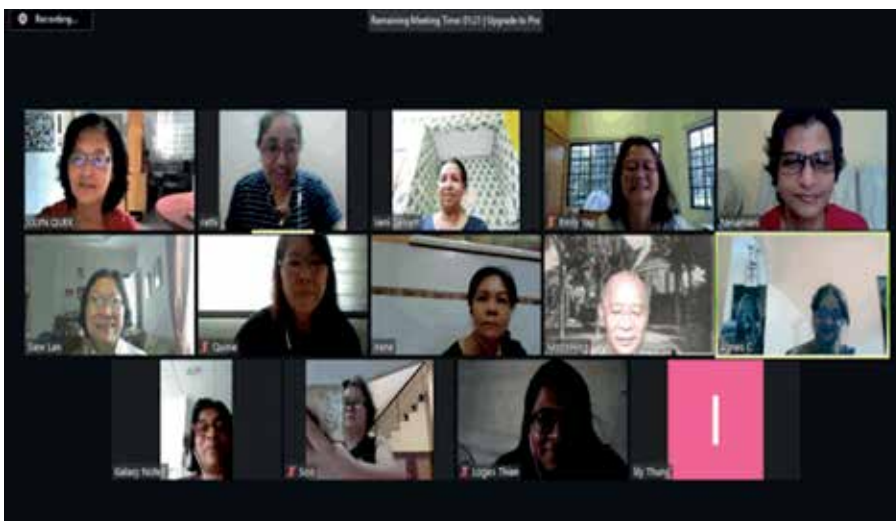
as well as the quarantine centres for the illegal foreigners. I also did health surveillance for lab staff to ensure that they were physically and psychologically strong. We received samples from all over the country to be tested at the lab; we generated reports and prepared guidelines. This information is constantly being disseminated to the public to keep

them abreast with the new developments. This pandemic has manifested the supremacy of God Almighty and His divine protection upon me and for which I am eternally grateful. AMEN.

Dr Joshita Jothimanickam is an Epidemiology Medical Officer at the National Public Health Laboratory. She worships at St James Church, Sentul Kuala Lumpur

MCO, A BLESSING TO ME

By Rethi Grace



*DWC Meeting during the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) via Zoom.
The very first time having a meeting online.*

COVID-19 has changed the world, our country, our lifestyle. With the Movement Control Order (MCO), physical movements have been greatly reduced.

MCO has caused all schools and kindergartens to be closed and the kindergarten where I was teaching in was no exception. This has shifted my

teaching from face to face teaching to online teaching whereby I am required to prepare presentation slides and produce pre-recorded teachings to be sent to the students. I am also required to teach using online meeting platforms such as 'zoom' in order to continue the syllabus for my students. MCO has really brought me to the test as producing teaching videos and presentations online is something I rarely do. I was forced to catch up on skills recording my teachings, and learning to use online platforms to enable teaching to proceed in my school. Despite having a rough start at the beginning of MCO, throughout the season I managed to catch up well in making use of all computer gadgets to enable successful teaching for students thanks to the guidance and help provided by my sons. To be honest, if MCO had

not been in place, I would not have taken any initiative to upgrade and learn my computer skills due to my busy schedule. Praise God due to MCO, my computer skills have greatly improved.

MCO has also prevented us from meeting in church, something that was not pleasant to experience. However, I see MCO as a blessing as this was an opportunity for me to get closer to God. With all the time I had, I began reading the Bible more to get to know God deeper, to understand His ways, spending more time in prayer which had greatly helped me in my

relationship with Him. Despite not having the opportunity to meet up with members and friends in church and not having the opportunity to serve physically, being at home has allowed me to have more frequent alone times with God which has greatly benefited my relationship with Him. Therefore, I see the MCO season as a blessing and a calling by God to all of us to develop our personal relationship with Him.

MCO has affected many people financially and I am no exception. Therefore, we will need to trust God during these hard times

as God is our Provider and surely, He will cater to our needs. I believe as we move out from the phase of MCO, we should be more recharged, going around, spreading the Good News and bringing new believers to church as this was the calling given by our Lord Jesus Christ to all of us. As the world might operate differently after MCO, let us move with faith and in the wisdom of God in this new season to ensure all our ways and works are all for the glory of God.

Rethi Grace is the Chairperson of the Diocesan Women's Committee

Serving The Community

by Irene Chin

MCO & CMCO... although our movement is restricted, we can still do wonders, reaching out to the needy and poor. During the first two weeks of MCO, I was tied up with closing the financial accounts and auditing for a church. Into the third week of MCO, I saw many daily wage earners starting to feel the impact of the lockdown and were struggling to feed themselves and their families. I was very thankful that my family and I were doing fine. In fact we were more than fine. Then I started thinking, 'What can I do to help the poor and affected ones?'

I was recruited into a group called Caremongering Penang and I was assigned to take care of the northern and southern Penang mainland areas. Praise the Lord though my areas were out of the 10km radius, I was able to close all the cases through online purchases from Tesco and Mydin. It took us two days to distribute food aid packs to 1500 Rohingya families around Butterworth on 23 and 24 April. From then on, I became more involved, making the groceries purchase and deliveries to local Malaysian families who sent in requests for aid. I was able to reach out to more than 60 families and I never felt better for being able to be part of the community.



I am so glad I decided not to just stay at home during the MCO, CMCO and now RMCO but instead made myself available and useful for the Lord. Each time before I went out, I would pray for protection especially from being infected as I had been exposed to threats, meeting the refugees and migrant workers other than the local Malaysians. Always believe and trust in God for leading the way when you serve in honour of His name. I thank God for providing me with the funds to feed the poor and needy.

Apart from ministering to the needs of the poor and the needy, there are weekly bible study and prayers meetings through video conference. I participate in our church weekly Sunday online worship, assigning duties and sending reminders for recording of scripture reading and intercession. Life continues, not disrupted at all as we move on with this new normal.

Irene is the Diocesan Women's representative for the Upper North Archdeaconry

Anglican Care in the midst of COVID-19

by Annam Arumanayagam



The Working Committee

L to R Helen and Mike Wevers, Annam A, (Chairperson Anglican Care) Jackie David, Nirmala Ruth, Rebekah Bala, Esther Appadurai, and Revd Mathew Chay

20 June 2020 was a historic day for Anglican Care. Instead of its annual Retreat and AGM, a Virtual Gathering for all Anglican Care Ministries throughout West Malaysia was held. Participants from ministries in Penang, Ipoh, Gopeng, Teluk Intan, the Klang Valley, Kuala Trengganu and Johore participated in this on-line activity. At least 60 persons attended for an opportunity to listen, learn, share and encourage.

President of Anglican Care, Bishop Ng Moon Hing encouraged the participants

to Proclaim, Preach and be Present. In his Meditation, the Anglican Care Chaplain, Bishop Charles Samuel reminded participants to be Serving Saints, diligent in caring for God's creation and people. God is still creating and working His purpose out. Bishop Jason Selvaraj who was also present at the retreat, encouraged the participants to continue the good work they were doing for God's glory. The retreat ended with a prayer of re-dedication to continue to serve God and the community.

There were some technical glitches

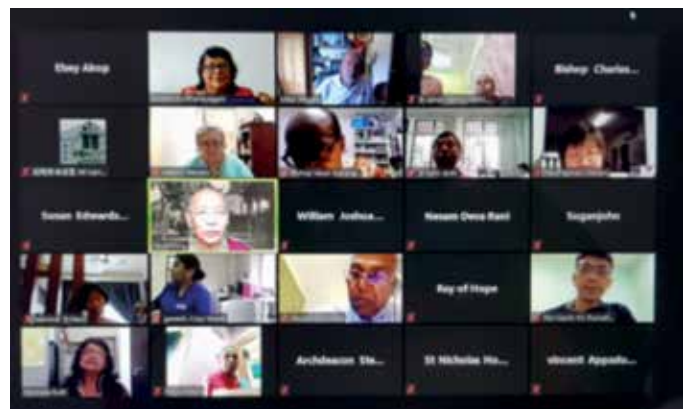
which were quickly resolved by the IT helpers – Revd Matthew Chay, Deaconess Jackie James David and Esther Appadurai.

All praise and glory to God.

Participants were reminded to think out of the box on how to continue to minister to those around us even though the country was in a lock down situation. Below are some examples in which the various ministries have continued or 'diversified' to ensure that the work continues.



Zoom 1



Zoom 2

- **Ray of Hope & Cornerstone Sanctuary, Ipoh**, baked and distributed cookies to the front-liners.



- **St. Luke's Church Care Ministry, Teluk Intan** could not continue with their Soup Kitchen but instead they started a Food Bank to collect and distribute food to the needy. They also donated face masks to the Teluk Intan Hospital.



- **Rumah Damai, Kuala Trengganu** – gave thanks that the residents were healthy and were checked by government officials at regular intervals to ensure they were physically and psychologically strong.

- **Pertubuhan Kebajikan Pusphanesam** had a surplus of food and they started Meals of Hope by distributing food in Johor Baru, especially to those stranded because they could not return to work in Singapore.



- **Social Action Ministry, Bangsar** could not continue with Feeding the Poor but instead they provided meals to the COVID-19 hospitals in Sungai Buluh (120 pax) and Seremban (100 pax). On top of that, they provided meals for personnel manning the road blocks.



- **REACH** (the Diocesan Crisis Response Team) worked together with Malaysian Care and Crest to provide food and provisions under the Food4Hope programme



- **St. Mark's Cozy Home, Sg Buluh** – the staff of the Home continued to serve faithfully through these difficult times while on institutional lockdown (no outside visitors were allowed not even family members)



- **St Paul's DTC and Bethel EIC** staff planned activities and worksheets for their students to do at home, assisted by parents/family



In conclusion a reminder to all participants to keep to heart the assurance from Hebrews 6:10 that 'God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.' **AM**

Annam is the Anglican Alliance Faciliator of East Asia and a member of St Paul's Church PJ

'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'

by Marianne Liaw

The ministry of 6th Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade Company continues online amidst the lockdown

With schools throughout Malaysia being closed for over three months throughout the MCO period and all forms of physical gatherings prohibited, Girls Brigade (GB) companies, both church-based and school-based faced great challenges in ministry.

As a school-based GB company; 6th Kuala Lumpur's meetings usually take place during official school co-curricular hours in both St Mary's primary and secondary schools. With schools being closed during the lockdown period, we were initially unable to proceed with the activities we had planned to carry out.

However, we are thankful to God for the gift of technology, as slowly but surely, we began conducting online meetings over Zoom. This of course, required a lot of creativity and adapting in overcoming various physical limitations and restraints which we were confronted with during the online meetings.

We were amazed by the encouraging response we received from our GB members! Many have been attending these online meetings regularly.

The 6th KL committee, comprising mainly student leaders rose to the challenge, taking on the responsibility of playing key roles in planning and executing the



An e-poster designed by one of the 6th KL student leaders promoting their online meetings



Marianne sharing God's Word at the Girl's Brigade International Day 2020

various activities planned during our weekly online meetings.

Even as we shared Christ with the girls in all of our meetings each week, it was evident that quite a number of girls were extremely engaged and responsive towards what they had heard from the Scriptures.

We managed to pull off activities such as baking over Zoom!

These sessions were conducted by our long-time volunteer, Pastor Lum Choy Ying, who has in fact been graciously hosting all our meetings over Zoom.

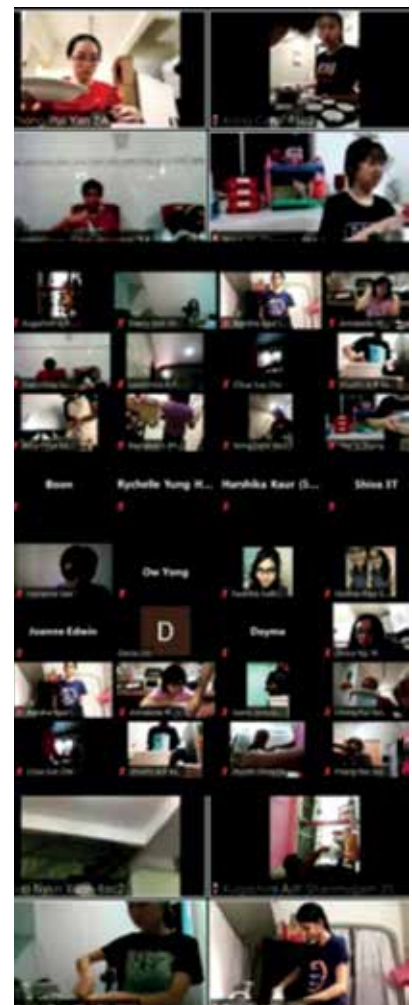


Baking session during one of the 6th KL's on line meetings

We also ran 'physical' activities such as aerobics over Zoom. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

Many of our members also participated in the Girls' Brigade International Day event, which was streamed live over Youtube for GB companies across East and West Malaysia.

We were able to serve in this event by sharing God's Word and leading in prayer. By the grace of God, through our supportive and capable team of student leaders, teacher advisors and volunteers as well as from the leadership of St Mary's Cathedral, our supporting church, 6th KL has managed to remain active amidst these challenging times, with the goal of encouraging all of our members to seek, serve and follow Christ! **AM**



Diocesan Young Adults' Webinar

by Marianne Liaw

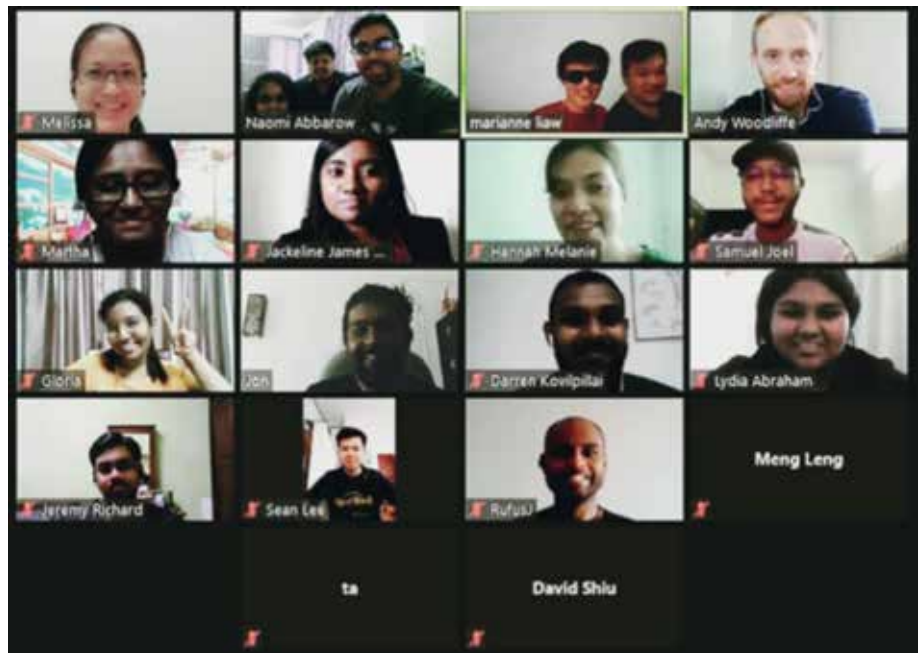
"Sometimes it is the obvious things which we ignore. It is the things we take for granted that we miss."

These words were articulated by Andy Woodliffe, the speaker of the DYC's inaugural Young Adults' Webinar, referring to the difference between what it means to walk in **Christ** and to **walk** in Christ in his talk, which was based on Colossians 2:6-7.

Although unable to organize the 33rd annual Diocesan Young Adults' Conference physically as planned, the DYC decided this should not be a deterrent in encouraging young adults in our Diocese to come together for a time of fellowship and hearing God's Word. This first ever Webinar organized saw slightly over 20 participants from 10 different churches coming together for a time of interaction and learning over Zoom.

In fact, the restrictions and restraints of an online event did not stop those who attended from participating in fun-filled icebreakers. This was followed by praising God and encouraging one another in song, led by a live music team over Zoom. The event proceeded with a meaningful time of hearing God's Word.

In summarizing what it means to walk in Christ, Andy explained,



"...when Paul says "just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him", what he means is "you started with the gospel; this is how you received Christ: make sure that you carry on in that. Don't deviate; don't diverge; don't depart from the gospel – because departing from the gospel of Christ is ultimately departing from Christ."

Participants also learnt that walking or living in Christ is not about stagnation. There is meant to be change and development in our Christian life: we are to dive deeply into, and grow upwards in, Jesus Christ. This involves putting off

more and more like Jesus."

The talk was then followed by a Q&A session, where questions were raised on how the truths which had been shared from Scripture applied to a Christian young adult's daily life.

The webinar ended with the music team leading the participants in the closing hymn, 'And can it be,' where the lyrics served as a beautiful reminder for us to walk in Christ.

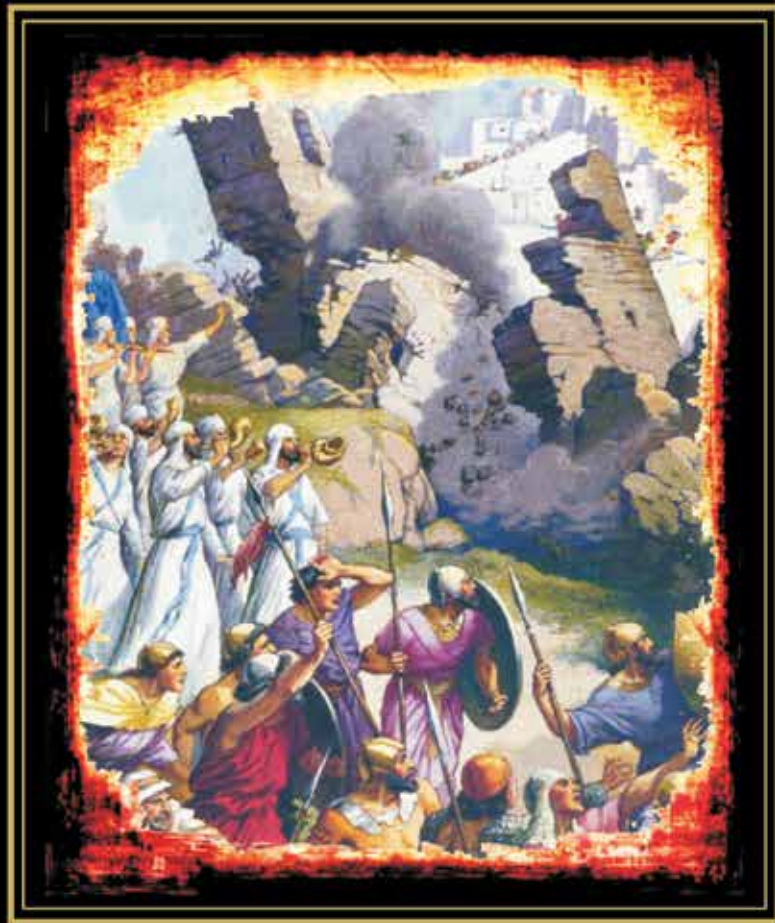
It is indeed our hope and prayer that the young adults in our Diocese will wholeheartedly embrace and take heed of the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians:

⁶ 'Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.' – Colossians 2:6-7 **AM**

"In other words, we are to become less and less like ourselves, and

Mirrianne is a member of St Mary's Cathedral K.L. and a Youth Ministry worker with Scripture Union in Semenanjung Malaysia.





'When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed;....' Joshua 6:20