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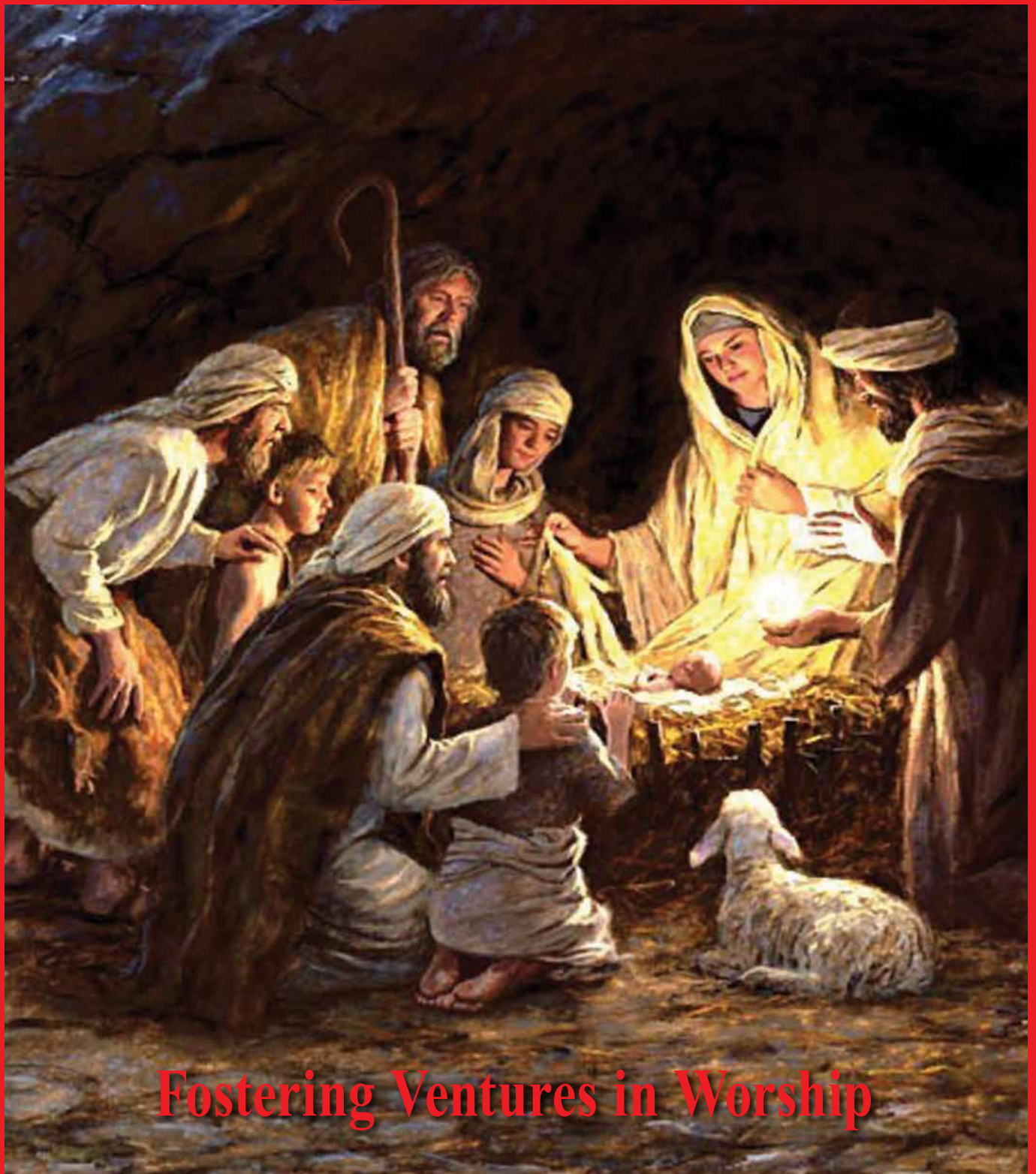
# Anglican

## M E S S E N G E R

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

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**Fostering Ventures in Worship**

# Editorial

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”  
John 4:24

Browsing through the books at Evangel, I came across a book titled ‘Worship by the Book’ edited by D.A. Carson. In the light of the divisive nature of corporate worship in some churches today and the fact that some clergymen in wanting to be ‘seeker sensitive’ or ‘user friendly’, have allowed corporate worship to become the style of music played, this book is an attempt by four men to enable clergymen again how to think carefully and theologically about corporate worship. Each has provided a chapter and taken together, their essays are a useful re-introduction to thinking about corporate worship in a biblical and theological way. A must-have book in every clergyman’s library, if he is serious about planning his church’s corporate

worship and shaping the music in content, substance and balance that will reflect the Word of God in song, rather than have songs that appeal on a very shallow level.

On another note, the feature article in this issue, ‘Fostering Ventures in the area of Worship’, focuses on the various dimensions of Worship in the Anglican liturgy while three other articles - the Diocesan Worship Conference, St. Paul’s Church Music Ministry team’s visit to Myanmar and the Sunday School Teachers Training - illustrate in practical terms, albeit in a small way, what the Diocese and individual churches can, and are doing in this area of worship.

As Christmas draws close and preparations are being made to enhance worship in churches, let us not, in the

excitement of the festive season, fail to perceive that the true beauty and wonder of the season lies in the Christmas spirit of giving of ourselves for others—the message of the Prince of Peace whose birth we celebrate. May we, this Christmas, once again accompany the shepherds and Wise Men to the stable and relearn the timeless and priceless lessons of love, humility and sacrifice and may we see the Christmas spirit as God’s love flowing through so many people, and, in adoration, kneel and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

*Have a Blessed Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year*

The Editor

## Features



## Coming Events

### Diocesan Theme – Enriching Partnerships

- Launching of Diocesan theme – 1 Jan
- CCM Heads of Church Retreat – 5-7 Jan
- Diocesan Clergy and Lay Leaders Conference – 11-13 January
- BM and Indigenous Board AGM – 23 January
- Lichfield Visitors – 12-26 February
- Installation Service of Archbishop of PSEA – 22 February
- Provincial Synod in KL – 23-25 February
- Launching of 200th Anniversary of St. George’s Penang – 24 April

## Editorial Board

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The Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing

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### The theme for 2016 is ‘Enriching Partnerships’.

The Editorial Board welcomes articles and photographs that focus on the theme. Please submit articles in Word document and not PDF and relevant photographs in JPEG format of less than 1 MB by 15 February to:

The Editor,  
Anglican Messenger,  
e-mail to [anglicandwm@gmail.com](mailto:anglicandwm@gmail.com)

The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia  
No. 16 Jalan Pudu Lama, 50200 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 03-20312728 / 03-20313213



‘And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in the manger’

Luke 2:16



# GOD'S BLESSINGS

## – Are you worthy or not, to receive them?

*by The Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing*



There is almost nothing edifying we can read in the daily news both printed or cyber versions. They are full of hopelessness, chaos, violence and immoral activities. The questions often asked are: Where is God? What is He doing? Where is His blessing?

It was in such similar circumstances that Christ first came into the world. The Roman world was supposed to be in Pax Romana (Roman Peace) yet the ordinary people in Palestine were under duress and at the mercy of the leaders, both spiritual and political. The coming of Christ was like a tiny beam of light piercing through the thick, dark cloud of hopelessness and gloom. Time and again, this tiny beam of light was subjected to many extinguishing and exterminating forces. The people of God, living in those times, wondered whether there would be any blessings from on high; if so, would they be worthy to receive them. Large numbers of them were filled with confusion, distrust, frustration and hatred with the ruling

authorities. This blended with the notion that they were God's chosen leaders. They were uncertain over the outcome of their prayers, wondering whether God would change the leaders' hearts or replace them. This love hate relationship they had was because of their gratitude for the efforts in the rebuilding of the Temple of Jerusalem by their leader – Herod the Great.

A careful examination tells us that we are no different from the New Testament people. Prayer after prayer has been offered yet there is no sight of the light at the end of the tunnel. How can one continue to celebrate Christmas with true Joy? Like the people in the New Testament, our hope should not be in the physical world or ruling authorities but rather in the invisible and wise God who rules over all things in the universe. Like Anna and Simeon (Luke 2) we need to look above and anticipate the visitation of the Lord who comes in a quiet and discreet manner to hearts that are prepared. We

should not be looking at the signs of the times or the improvements in the world's economy, politics, race relations, ringgit surge, education advancement or even in a peaceful universe. Instead we should look at our own lives and see how much of a disciple we are. We should also look not for the blessings but to the source – the ONE who pronounces the blessings!

Christmas reminds us that each of our hearts is like a container - a cup, a bowl or a pail. The bigger the heart, the more we can receive from God, and the blessings and joys of Christmas stay within us according to the size of the container of our hearts. The condition of our heart plays a crucial role in the reception of God's blessings. Unclean hearts do not qualify or are not worthy to receive God's blessings but pure, genuine, giving and sacrificial hearts do.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and a fruitful, pure, beautiful and happy New Year! **AM**

# Fostering Ventures in the Area of Worship

by Bishop Charles Samuel

Fostering a right relationship with God leads us to look at a number of dimensions in the Anglican Liturgy. Anglican worship engages the shaping of our body, mind and soul. This takes place in the context of our sacraments, which is outlined in the Book of Common Prayer. All these involve sensory experiences which become for us a symbol of spiritual architecture.

The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honour, praise, exalt, and please God. Our worship must show our adoration of God, for His grace in providing us the way to find forgiveness of sin and to celebrate a new life through Jesus Christ. Jesus says in John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." Worship therefore is not an option but an essential part of existence. Worshipping God is a serious matter and must not be taken lightly.

Worship should inspire us to contemplate on the splendour and loving kindness of God and Christ. Our singing, praying, studying His word, giving our offering and partaking of the Communion are designed by God to draw us closer to Him thus enabling us to have a stronger and deeper relationship with Him. James 4:8 holds a wonderful promise and assurance through the following words, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

In worship, we not only honour and give all the praise and glory to God; it is also a time when we find our clarity of thought and mind and find strength in Him. Worship nurtures us to develop a mind and character of Jesus Christ. When we worship God, we value what God values and slowly but surely, take on the characteristics and Christ-like qualities, although in our sinful state we cannot become perfect like Him. Philippians 2:5 says "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ." How then do we take on the mind of Christ? In Romans 12:2 we read, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Paul reminds us that the renewing of our mind occurs as



we study and meditate on God's word and dedicate worship unto Him.

There is no doubt that our liturgy shapes us thus becoming an important channel for us to develop a proper relationship with God. It reminds us of our core theological truths and tells us what we are to make of these remarkable events. Because church life is a matter of God and God's ways with us, it is only right to conclude that everything we do in the church must be of God.

At the recent Provincial Youth Network Seminar held on 26 September 2015 in Penang, representatives from different dioceses met and one of the sessions was dedicated to understanding what our young people were thinking of the liturgical services. They affirmed that the Anglican liturgy accords a high degree of reverence in worship and this is truly appreciated. There is gravity before the Lord and devotion before Him.

In their discussion, they also projected the struggles they face in worshipping in accordance with the Anglican liturgy. A problem identified was the use of language in the services, with a note that perhaps the younger generation would appreciate the use of more contemporary or simplified English in the said prayers. Furthermore, there was the concern of having to compromise with different age groups. We can all agree that certain age groups have their preferred style of worship and how the services are conducted matter a lot. Still, representatives questioned whether the

incorporation of other aspects of worship, particularly a time dedicated to testimony sharing, would make the service more accessible and applicable for a younger generation.

All in all, how much can we change? What can we add or subtract from the Holy Communion? How much space can we allocate for contemporary styles of worship? Will the traces of our Anglican history and richness of our liturgy be lost in the enhancing of our service order?

Alexis D. Abernethy, whose primary research interest is the intersection between spirituality and health, wrote a book titled 'Worship That Changes Lives: Multidisciplinary and Congregational' which suggest ways to address issues that have been raised. The first is helping the clergy achieve a more dignified and reverent celebration of the liturgy. An improvement in preaching would dramatically help the quality of liturgical celebration.

A second area concerns the performance of lay readers and readers. Readers are often inadequately trained in the art of public proclamation; they read without conviction and enthusiasm for the scriptural text and do not seem to understand the meaning of the assigned scriptures. A third area concerns liturgical music. Some of the songs are not well constructed, theologically thin, and repeated.

These are some of the suggestions that we could consider, ensuring that worshippers are drawn into God's presence and share the richness of the liturgy.

In conclusion, our liturgy will not meet everybody's needs. However, by keeping in mind that God is God and we are recipients of His blessings, we should be modest in our needs. "Keep us in this hope which we have grasped; so that we and all Your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise Your name." This is a call to each of us as we move from worship and into the world, to be witnesses and disciples of a living God. **AM**



# Diocesan Worship Conference

by Kelvin Lee

**W**e were extremely excited to stand in the midst of what God was doing, stirring up His army of worshippers in different parts of the nation, raising up a generation of people awakened to the purposes of God as they encounter His presence. Our heart for His people was that they would personally encounter Jesus and be empowered to serve the local church. The 8th Diocesan Worship Conference was amazing and we believe God will do an even greater work next year!

This year, the Conference was held from 16 – 18 July 2015 in WEIL Hotel, Ipoh, Perak. Our theme this year was SUPERNATURAL. It was a great honour to have with us the staff and alumni from the School of Supernatural Ministry, Singapore to share with us on how to UNLOCK our GIFTS, DISCOVER our DESTINY and IMPACT our WORLD. We learned how to discover our true identity in Christ, develop the gifts of the Spirit and how to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We had 180 passionate, registered

participants. The night sessions (16th and 17th) were opened for all including non-registered participants and we had about 270 the first night and 500 the second night. The first night was the opening session by our Bishop Ng Moon Hing. He took the first plenary session on the topic 'Hearing the Voice of God'. The second night was a session to pray for our city and nation. We invited pastors/leaders from the Ipoh Pastors' Fellowship to join us. Many churches of various denominational backgrounds also joined us for an evening of 'Touching Heaven, Changing Earth'. We urged those who had gone out of Ipoh for work/studies to return and join us.

The conference was carried out in 4 languages and praying was on the '7 mountains of influence' - Business, Education, Arts and Entertainment, Media, Government, Religion and Family, with pastors/leaders from other churches leading prayer for each of the 'mountains'.

The topics for the plenary sessions were:

1. Hearing the Voice of God - Bishop Moon Hing

2. Supernatural Ways of Royalty Identity - Pastor Gilbert Kong
3. Culture of Honour - Paul Seow
4. Father Heart of God - Johnny Wong

The workshops were:

1. Prophetic Worship - Paul Seow
2. Prophetic Dance - Elaine Chan
3. Prophetic Art - Jacke Tan
4. Flags In Worship - Steven Wong
5. Sozo Ministry - Madeliene Tan
6. Dreams and Visions - Ps Gilbert Kong
7. Song Writing and Album Production - Elliott Koon

For more details of the plenary sessions, various workshops and facilitators, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/psalmistgeneration>

God's desire is to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. We want you to be part of this great empowerment. As we come together to seek God and hear from Him, we will be empowered to be the Church that Jesus referred to in the last days. So see you next year! **AM**



# Music Team's Mission Trip To Myanmar

by Anna Rajagopal



The team with Bishop David Naing Nyi Nyi and Rev. Hillary Saw  
From left: Andrea Chong, Karen Kaur, Tony Pushpan, Bishop David, Andrew Jacob, Gideon Yogan, Rev. Hillary Saw, Sugin Charles and Anna Rajagopal

St. Paul's Church Petaling Jaya's Music Ministry Team made up of Andrew Jacob – team leader, Tony Pushpan, Karen Kaur, Sugin Charles, Gideon Yogan, Andrea Chong and Anna Rajagopal began preparations to Myanmar in June 2015 with a campaign to raise funds for the trip. Through a food sale and the generous donations of parishioners we raised a total of RM 7,934.

We left for Yangon on 29 August and on arrival paid a courtesy call on Archbishop Stephen Than of the Province of Myanmar. On 30 August we took the overnight bus to Mandalay and reached our destination in the early hours of 31 August. We were met by Bishop David Naing Nyi Nyi of the Diocese of Mandalay and after handing over the monies we had collected for the flood relief work, and a word of prayer, we left for Pyin-oo-Lwin and to our destination, All Saints Church.

We were welcomed by Rev. Hillary Saw who runs the music school and the vicar,



Sugin and Andrea with the 12 students outside the newly painted music school

the students various aspects of the music ministry we decided as our special project to repaint and refurbish the music room.

The following day we held our first workshop with the students. We started off with a praise and worship session led by Tony, who gave an overview of our sessions that would culminate with a concert on Thursday in Mandalay. We had an ice breaking session, and then Andrea and Sugin took over the first session - teaching the students how to sign to 'I am Amazed' with Rev. Hillary on hand as translator.

The rest of us went into town to buy paint for our special project. After lunch, Karen continued with the choir sessions teaching the students the two songs in English they would present at the concert. Following this the students were divided into 3 groups for the instruments session with Andrew teaching them the ukulele, Yogan the bass and Sugin the cajon. Tony, Andrea and I started the cleaning of the music room and preparing the area to be painted. We had picked a bright yellow and terracotta for the walls.

The next day the praise and worship session for the day was led by Amy, one of the students. Tony then shared on Matthew 25: 14-30 on the Parable of Talents. He spoke on how God has bestowed gifts on us and how we are to use it for His glory. He

Rev. Philip. In the presence of the music students we officially presented our gift of musical instruments to Bishop David. We spent time with the 12 students ranging in ages from 22 to 24. In addition to teaching

emphasized the need to be productive and to always use our talents to serve the Lord. Andrea and Sugin took over and taught them a short skit entitled 'Hands' while the rest of the team members continued with the painting. An hour of training on instruments, and then the students joined us to clean and paint the room. Everyone chipped in to paint and clear the rooms. In no time at all, the previously blue-green room was turned into a bright cheerful space with yellow and terracotta walls, complete with art work and a logo we designed for them.

After a short rehearsal in church, we made our way to Mandalay to hold the first mini concert by the students. A quick sound check, early dinner and we were ready for our concert. We had a big audience, made up of the Sunday school teachers as well as some church members. We had choir performances, violin recitals, mimes, and solo items. Andrew shared his testimony. For most of the students, it was the first time they had performed in a concert, and it really gave them a boost of self-confidence hearing the applause from the crowd.



Putting action to music with Andrea and Rev. Hillary in the lead

The next day we said our good byes, did some sightseeing and headed to the airport for our flight back to Malaysia. Our presence, though small, had inspired the students and the painting of their music room gave them a sense of belonging to the school in which they would be spending another 2 years. By the time we reached Malaysia, we received photos showing that they had cleaned and painted the adjoining room. It was good to know that we had put our God given talents to good use. **AM**

# Sunday School Teachers' Training in Myanmar

by A. Annamaney



The teacher trainees with Annam and Raji

St. Paul's Church Petaling Jaya was invited back to Mandalay to conduct a Sunday School Teachers' Training and a Music workshop. Raji Jacob and I were in charge of the SSTT while Andrew Jacob gathered a group of 7 young adults for the Music Team. In August, the floods hit Myanmar and we were concerned if the training would go on but were given the assurance that it would. So in faith we set forth from Malaysia on 1 September.

On arrival in Yangon, the Mission Team met the Most Rev. Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Myanmar and presented him with a donation for the Provincial Medical Mission.

On 2 September, the Rt. Rev. David Naing Nyi Nyi, Bishop of Mandalay Diocese officially launched the Sunday School Teachers' Training. We are thankful to Jane D'Silva, organizer of the Sunday School Department of the Diocese of Mandalay for coordinating the training. Twenty five Sunday school teachers had signed up for the training but only nine were able to make it as the floods affected travel on roads and rivers. We were humbled by how much these people had sacrificed to come for the training. One lady travelled for nearly 4 days (by road and boat) to reach Mandalay. Another from Nagaland (near Assam at the Indian border) took a flight as overland travel would have taken nearly a week on dangerously flooded rivers and inhospitable jungle

The programme included daily morning Bible study, sharing testimonies, preparing

lesson plans, making visual aids, playing Bible games and micro-teaching. On the first day, we talked about the need for personal salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit. We ended the day with a time of prayer and ministry. Most of the teachers came forward and

Raji prayed for them and gave a word of knowledge.

The visual aids workshop was the most interesting. We found that almost all churches did not have a budget for the Sunday School and the cost of visual aids they made came from their own meagre financial resources. It was only during the one month Teachers' Training, that they were given free materials and asked to make the visual aids they needed. We brought our own materials and were surprised to discover that some teachers had not seen and therefore did not know how to use a paper puncher (to make holes in the paper)

Spending time with the teachers helped to create a rapport with them despite our language barrier. Most of the teachers needed a translator but as Raji and I used very simple English in our talks, the teachers joked that had we stayed another week they would be speaking English and there would have been no need for a translator. They loved to sing, and break times and lunchtimes were filled with the sound of beautiful Myanmar Christian songs.

Our Sunday School Teachers' Training had an unexpected ministry. Raji's reputation as a prayer warrior had preceded her and every evening, after our training sessions, people came to the Diocesan office to be prayed for. During the prayer sessions there were manifestations and people needed to be prayed for deliverance. Even after we had finished our training and had a spare day for sight-seeing, Bishop David called us to his home as there were people



Nang Khin Sein with the teacher trainees

who needed prayers. On our last night in Mandalay, after dinner, once again, Raji was asked to pray for the family. We were so blessed to have had this Prayer Ministry as well.

In the midst of all this, Nang Khin Sein, the foot-soldier supported by St. Paul's since 2001, came to meet us. Nang is from the small town of Linkay, in the Southern Shan State. She runs a boarding home for students from the outlying areas. St. Paul's Church supports her annually as she is working in an area which is inaccessible to foreigners. In her boarding home, she teaches the Bible and has daily prayers. St. Paul's members also help to sponsor 20 of her 56 boarders. Nang, too, travelled 2 days from her home to meet us in Mandalay. It was a joy to meet her, pass on greetings from our church and friends, pray and minister to her before she left.

The whole mission trip ended with a wonderful mini-concert performed by the students of the School of Ministry and Church Music and the St. Paul's Music Team. This was held in Mandalay. The Sunday School Teachers, church members and children from the orphanage were part of the audience.

Every mission trip we have made has been good and blessed. Each time we discover that we are not there to teach but more to learn, share resources, walk alongside and be partners in mission. Once again, we have an invitation to return next year and we look forward to it! **AM**

Annam is the Chairperson of Anglican Care and Coordinator for mission trips to Myanmar for St. Paul's Church PJ



# Medical Camp in Choke, Nepal

by Rev. Matthew Chay



Devastation caused by the earthquake

On 25 April 2015 an 8.5 magnitude Gorkha-earthquake struck Nepal. It was the worst natural disaster to hit Nepal since the 1934 Nepal-Bihar Earthquake. It killed more than 9,000 people and injured more than 23,000 and many still remain missing. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless. Entire villages were flattened. On top of the 8.5 magnitude quake, the country experienced a few aftershock. A major aftershock with a 7.3 magnitude occurred on 12 May 2015. Many centuries-old buildings in Kathmandu Valley were destroyed. It also killed and injured people who were staying in that area.

In answer to the call for help from the Deanery of Nepal, 11 of us under the leadership of ACROSS (Anglican Crisis Relief Outreach Support Singapore) went into the disaster area on 8 June.

We had in our team 3 doctors, 3 nurses, 1 pharmacist, 4 logicians and a local pastor. It was a special team because the members came from the Diocese of Singapore, Sabah and West Malaysia. We worked hand in hand in the kingdom of God.

We reached Kathmandu on 8 June and travelled into the interior to a village called Choke in Dhading district. It was a remote village, so remote that it was not even posted on the map. Our helicopter pilot was lost when we flew in but thank God he finally managed to find the place. Choke is a place located 6000 feet above sea level.

At the camp we provided medical assistance to 298 patients. The number of patients was lower than expected because the villagers were busy planting their crops in preparation for the coming



Receiving medical attention



monsoon rains. It was obvious that the villagers were trying to rebuild their homes and their shattered lives. Through their sharing you could see many of them still in a stage of shock and trying hard to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones. Besides needing financial help in rebuilding their houses, the Minister of Agriculture for Nepal said the monsoon this year would not bring in the necessary amount of rain needed by the crops. This would affect the Nepali farmers especially those living in interior as they needed the rains for their crops. Please continue to pray for Nepal. **AM**

Rev. Matthew Chay is the priest in charge of St. Andrew's church, Bidor, Perak and REACH coordinator



The ACROSS team to Nepal



# The Mentakab Anglican Centre

by Rev. John Layang anak Obeng



From left: Rev. John Layang, Lay Reader Surash, Bishop Ng Moon Hing, Archdeacon Stephen Chan, Dean Andrew Cheah, Rev Christopher Dhalie, and Lay Pastor Stephen Gendang

Sometime in October/November of 2006, Rev. John Layang from the Iban Ministry of St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur paid a visit to the 5th Mile Camp in Mentakab. He found that many among the Iban community who lived in the camp, particularly those from the Anglican denomination, did not go for Sunday worship. The reason given was that there was no Anglican church in Mentakab or its surroundings. This planted a seed for ministry - as the Iban Ministry of St Mary's Cathedral decided it was timely to begin a mission in that area.

In 2007, after much planning, the Iban Ministry of St Mary's Cathedral began its venture into Mentakab. Visits were held once every two months through cell groups held in different homes. These visits continued until June 2009 when it was halted temporarily until the end of 2010 as Rev. John Layang - who was leading this ministry - was sent to the African Republic of Congo as a member of the UN Peacekeeping Mission.

In February 2011 the mission was re-started through the cell group ministry. However this time it also included other activities such as prayer meetings to celebrate birthdays, wedding anniversaries as well as to commemorate the passing of loved ones. In the same year, another team from Ascended Christ Anglican (ACA) Centre made a mission trip to 3rd Mile Camp, Temerloh and 5th Mile Camp

Mentakab. As a result of these visits, the Lord began a revival among the members who were based in these two camps. Attendance at cell group meetings grew with many accepting the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. Plans were made to start Sunday services for the members there.

In early 2012, the Iban Ministry contacted the SIB Church in Mentakab to discuss the possibility of using their church premises for the Anglican members in the area. SIB graciously consented to this and services were initially conducted twice a month - on the second and fourth Saturdays at 10.30 am. On 22 September 2012, a total of 15 adults and 24 children were baptized in the SIB Church Mentakab by Rev. Iben Arang and on 30 March 2013, 22 members were confirmed at St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur.

But the Iban Ministry in Mentakab faced a major challenge in mid-2013 when the attendance at services started to show a decline. At one point, only two families came for worship services! The Ministry made the decision to hold a retreat and then decided to revert to the original format of having cell groups. From these groups, the Ministry obtained feedback from members who expressed their preference to have their own church building with services held on Sundays. Thus began the search for suitable premises somewhere in Mentakab. By the grace of God a member of the Gospel Hall by the name of Ms Tan approached the Iban Ministry through Rev. John to offer her shop lot with a rental of RM500 as well as assist with the necessary renovation, electrical fittings and other necessary requirements.

We are so grateful to our Jehovah Jireh who not only provided for our material needs but also the workers for the harvest! The

growth of the Iban Ministry in Mentakab was indeed a testimony to God's power. Our God who is El Shaddai also arranged for the family of a Lay Reader Steven Kadir to lead the flock in Mentakab. On 29 March 2015 the first service was held at this new church where 39 adults were present. This was truly a blessing as we kept seeing more coming for services each week. On 1 August 2015 the Mentakab Anglican Center (MAC) was officially inaugurated by the Bishop Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing. A total of 32 children and 10 adults were baptized while another 21 were confirmed.



Adults and children being baptized by Rev Christopher Dhalie, Archdeacon Stephen Chan and Dean Andrew Cheah



Candidates being confirmed by Bishop Ng

MAC took 9 years to come to fruition, and throughout that time, the Lord was in control. The love of God as demonstrated through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross to give us eternal life was so real to us. And He has given us a mission which is to:

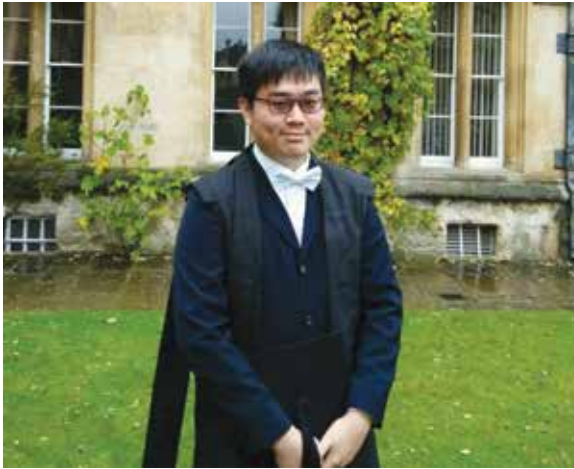
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:19-20 **AM**

The article was written originally in Bahasa Malaysia and translated into English for this publication.

# Star Student of Bethel EIP

by A. Annamaney



Brian Khor Jia Jiunn



Brian with his peers at Oxford University in formal subfusc attire Oxonians use when attending matriculation or sitting for exams

When a child with any form of impairment is born, the family is often devastated. Having a disabled child seems so cruel, harsh and final. Many families search for some kind of help and others just give up hope.

With the help of Malaysian Care, St. Paul's Day Training Centre started in May 1993 to bring help and hope to intellectually challenged persons. In 1996, three years after the adult classes started, the Early Intervention Centre for pre-school children was opened at Bethel Church Puchong Jaya. Children with intellectual disabilities and other forms of developmental delay were introduced to an Early Intervention Programme (EIP) to overcome their barriers to learning and to help them develop to their fullest potential.

Brian Khor is a success story of Bethel EIC. After attending Bethel EIC, Brian was able to be integrated into normal classes in school and he passed all his major exams with flying colours. When he scored straight A's in the PMR exams, he was interviewed by the local newspapers. During his interview, he gave credit for his success to his mother and the teachers in Bethel Early Intervention Centre. While waiting for his SPM (Form 5) results, he did his National Service.

St. Paul's DTC invited him to share

his testimony at the 2011 Christmas Evangelistic Lunch. Below is his testimony.

"I was born with autism, dyslexia, was hyperactive and a slow learner. When people around me gave up on me, my mom never gave up her hope on me. One day, she sent me to Bethel Early Intervention Programme for my pre-school education and there I started to know and understand God.

During my time in EIP, I got to know friends and teachers who really love me. Teacher Yuw Han, teacher Annam, teacher Christine and all the teachers in EIP had taken great care of me. And I would like to thank my mom because she never stopped praying for me. I would like to say thank you to all the teachers in EIP who were willing to educate me patiently even though I knew that I was a troublesome boy in EIP. When I was 6 years old, I was not even able to count things from 1 to 10. When I was 7 years old, I was able to get 99 for my mathematics.

And God didn't stop blessing me. I was also able to socialise with people around me when I knew it was impossible last time when I had autism. Even in my PMR examination, I was able to score straight A's (eight in all). God's grace was manifested when I was able to get

straight A's for my Trial SPM examination and surprisingly, I got number 8 in the National Boarding School Ranking (Ranking Sekolah Berasrama Penuh) among all the students studying in boarding schools in Malaysia.

I truly praise God for all the blessings. I would like to thank my mother and all the teachers in EIP."

Today, Brian is on a scholarship in Oxford University where he is studying Physics. Below is his email dated 3 August, 2015:

"I'm doing very fine and well here in Oxford (United Kingdom). I will be graduating with BA in Physics in 2017. After completing my undergraduate education, I plan to do a PhD in Physics and hopefully pursue a career in academia (ideally a university professorship that juggles with both research and teaching). I attend St. Ebbe's Church in Oxford on Sunday."

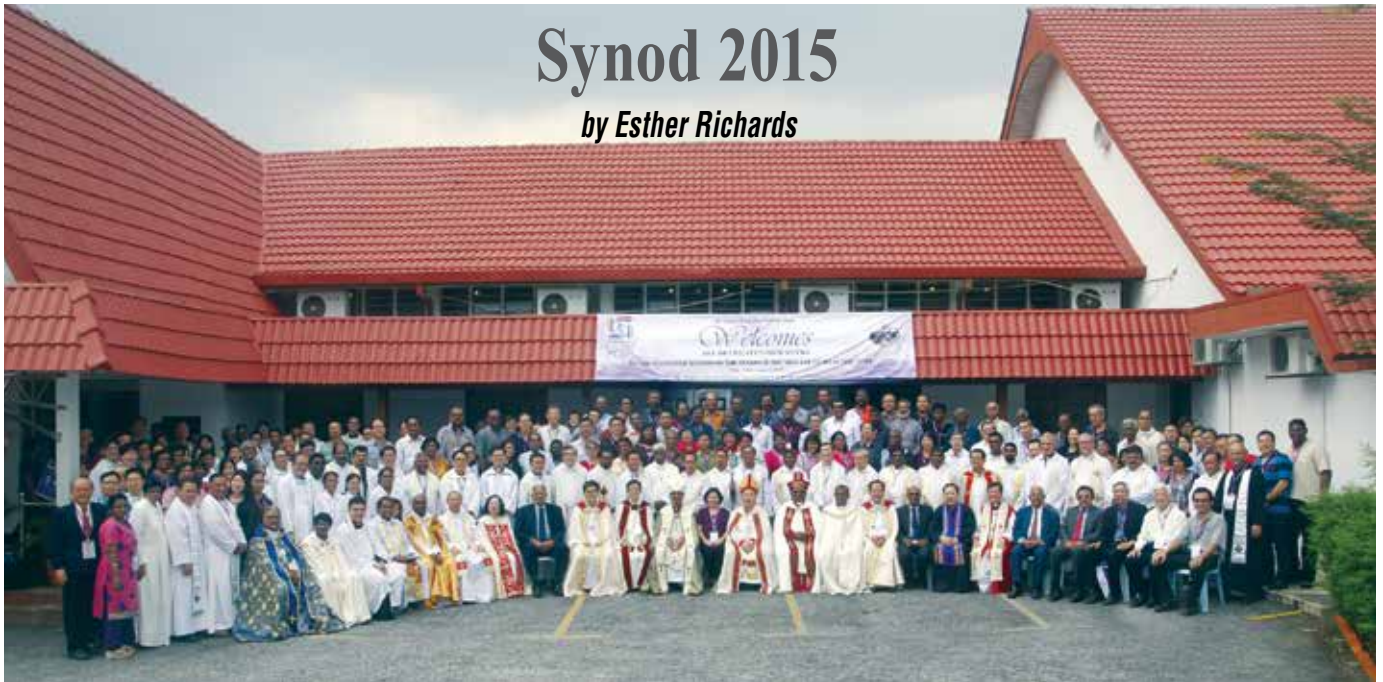
At the time of writing, Brian is home on holiday and says that he got first class in his 1st year exams. Ours is a God of hope and transformation. Testimonies like this remind us that though often discouraged and exhausted, when we serve the Lord, our work is not in vain. **AM**

*A Annamaney assists in the Day Training Centre in St. Paul's Church PJ and the Early Intervention Programme in Bethel Centre*



# Synod 2015

by Esther Richards



Delegates at the sixteenth session of the Synod

The sixteenth session of the Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia was hosted by St. Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya from 18 - 20 August. A total of 258 delegates and 48 observers attended this 3 - day conference.

Synod began in St. Paul's Church at 2pm with the combined meeting of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity to discuss the topic 'How should the Church prepare herself to face greater extremism in the light of her growth, evangelism and mission.' It was chaired by the Bishop, The Right Rev. Ng Moon Hing. Delegates were divided into three groups. The discussions proved to be fruitful and a couple of suggestions were made:

- pray earnestly for God's intervention
- children, youths and adults to be grounded in the Word of God
- Sunday schools to actively provide biblical education to children
- the love of Christ to be displayed in the face of persecution

The combined meeting was followed by the group photo session and the opening service set in the context of the Holy Eucharist. Delegates then made their way to Crystal Crown for an elaborate dinner hosted by St. Paul.

The second day of Synod saw Bishop give his Presidential address on 'Keep

my lamp burning.' He touched on the financial scandals facing the country, the economic downturn, the racial polarisation, the religious extremism, the downward trend of the Malaysian currency among others and questioned if Malaysia was heading towards becoming a failed nation. In addition he stressed on the five marks of mission, among which was striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and life on the earth

This was followed by the vote taken on the 'Formation of Future Dioceses in West Malaysia.' Voting was done according to Houses and it was a resounding 'yes' from both Houses. From the clergy it was 46 for and 6 against, and from the laity it was 86 for and 32 against. Following this, a preliminary paper on the Ordination of women as Deacons was presented by Andrew Khoo, the co chairman of the Ordination of Women Committee for discussion at the Archdeaconry sessions in 2016 before the voting at Synod in 2017. As this was election year, the afternoon saw the election of members to the various Diocesan boards and committees.

The third day saw the Diocesan Treasurer presenting the Diocesan Treasurer's Report and the Diocesan Budget. The year 2014 showed an increase in the deficit of income over expenditure. This



Proceeding into the main sanctuary

was because of a marked increase in salaries implemented in 2014. In many cases staff salaries far exceeded the contributions from the relevant parishes, resulting in the Diocese having to heavily subsidize the increased expenditure.

In his closing address Bishop asked everyone present to work harder and to keep the lamp burning. He thanked all parishes for their financial contribution to Somalia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Philippines, China and Nepal that came to RM1 million. He thanked St. Paul's Church for organising the Synod. Synod came to an end with a closing thanksgiving prayer and lunch.

All in, it was a well organised Synod thanks to the hard work and long bruising hours put in by the Organising Chairman, Marcus Sundram and his dedicated committee. **AM**

Esther Richards is the Synod representative for St. Paul's Church Petaling Jaya.

# ‘Keep My Lamp Burning’

by *The Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing*

*Psalm 18:28-29 (NIV)*

<sup>28</sup> *You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.*

<sup>29</sup> *With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.*

**B**ishop Ng Moon Hing has called on all Anglicans in Malaysia not to lose faith but to keep their lamps burning in the face of increasing challenges and difficulties in the external environment. Delivering his presidential address during the recent Synod held on 18 August 2015 at St Paul’s Church Petaling Jaya, he highlighted the seeming lack of fear in God as seen through the many global issues affecting the world and Christians. Issues such as the Greek crisis, the change in Canon laws of The Episcopal Church (TEC) in US from traditional marriage to marriage of same sex after the Federal Court upheld the marriage of same-sex, as well as the domestic financial scandals and challenges to justice and democracy, should raise serious concerns among believers.

What can the Church do? How are we supposed to pray? Before offering his perspective on possible solutions, Bishop Moon Hing shared about how the Anglican Church had developed in Malaysia and overcome the difficulties of the past.

He reflected on its history and shared his views on a question many have been asking: “Why is the Anglican Church in West Malaysia so old and yet so small?” He touched on the challenges the Anglican Church went through from the time the British first landed in Penang and how attention moved from there to Singapore and then Sarawak as the British expanded and changed focused into these territories.

The first hundred years of Anglicanism in this part of the world was concentrated in Borneo, and certainly not in Malaya or the Straits Settlement. In 1909, decisions were made in England to divide the diocese of Labuan, Sarawak and Singapore into two, namely the Diocese of Borneo and the Diocese of Singapore. The then Bishops tried to develop ministries and plant churches in Malaya but were heavily hampered by the two World Wars and

the Economic Depression in the 1930s. Another fifty years passed and Malaya had not been given much attention. It was always treated as the backyard of the diocese. Upon achieving Merdeka in 1957, talks about a new nation and new interests were created with the coming of many missionaries from China.

The Anglican Church was also impacted by three major exoduses of Christians from this land during the past 60 years. First, were the British, including the soldiers, merchants, civil servants and ordinary citizens who left when Malaya attained independence in 1957. The second batch left after the 1963 formation of Malaysia. The third batch was the locals who left after the 13 May 1969 riots.

When the Diocese of West Malaysia was created in 1970, there were 36 church buildings with about one third without any congregation or worshipping community, mainly due to the fact that these churches were formerly congregated largely by the British planters or soldiers or civilians.

However, in the past 45 years, with much toil under the leadership of the various Bishops, clergy and lay leadership, the Anglican Church has reached the stage today with 143 churches and worship centres, in which altogether we have 245 congregations worshipping every Sunday.

However, Bishop Moon Hing cautioned that in anticipation of challenges and extremism, the Church should be prepared to face all eventualities. There needed to be pro-active measures instead of just fire-fighting most of the times. What can these measures be?

Among the key drivers would be to have a clear vision, such as the 30 year vision that the Bishop initiated at his first Synod in 2007. This was adopted from his experience in the Orang Asli ministry which began with a 30 year vision to groom

a whole new generation of Orang Asli. Today, there are encouraging signs with 2 ordained OA priests (AO), 2 deaconesses, many lay pastors and evangelists and more than 10 TEE students.

Another area that needed to be addressed was the “Spirituality Deficit” that the Diocese is facing. Anglicans, he noted, are good in liturgy but in most cases, unfortunately, we lack the life of liturgy. There is a serious deficit in the basic belief of many Christian brethren. Addressing this requires a process of learning and growing - known otherwise as ‘sanctification’.

Bishop Moon Hing said a proper understanding of the Word of God and the Salvation Work of Christ was of utmost importance to all new and old Christians. A serious call to Intentional Discipleship was essential if we are to withstand the increasing onslaught of extremism and intense persecution in the days to come. Hence, everyone should be engaged in a life of discipleship. Our churches must rise up and take bolder and urgent steps to self-equip and self-prepare as Disciples of Christ.

He cited a common trait he saw in spiritual giants such as Martin Luther, Samuel Rutherford, Mathew Henry and Mother Theresa – all had a close walk with Jesus daily or a life of complete faith and trust in Jesus or a life of devotion and prayer. These spiritual giants were once weak and ordinary people like us until they had a close walk with Jesus daily. Hence he called all to return to a life worthy of the Lord.

The Bishop touched on the Anglican Communion’s Five Marks of Mission which expresses the common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic/integral mission.

The Five Marks of Mission are:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new



- believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

He said most would agree that the first three marks are within our scope, although the third mark may not be up to the expectant passing mark yet. While there was much to praise God for the work of Anglican Care, he felt there was still a long way to go in the caring service. Drawing reference to the work of missionaries from over one hundred years ago, he felt that we needed to catch their passion and zeal of unconditional service. We should be pro-active and pave the way ahead for others to follow, particularly in the arena of social care.

Bishop Moon Hing felt that the fourth and fifth marks, namely the transformation of unjust structures and the safeguarding of the integrity of creation were the weakest links in our churches. Many members assumed that churches and Christians should not get involved in politics and governments, let alone transform unjust structures. However, he expressed joy that the churches in Malaysia have come a long way in working together at CFM as one voice and in one accord. There was a need to raise up and send more Christians into the civil societies and political arena both in the opposition as well as in the ruling government.

Bishop Moon Hing said the fifth mark was never an agenda a century ago within the government or churches. But now, with the rapid pace of developments and environmental challenges, it is the responsibility of all people to 'safeguard the integrity of creation'. If the government

does not start the 'save the environment' awareness, the church can start.

Concluding his address, the Bishop said, "In these uncertain times, we need to pray to God and personally assure Him that we are willing to cooperate and obey His commands by offering our lamps to Him to top up with oil in order to keep burning."

Bishop Moon Hing said he sensed that the next ten years will be darker and harder for us, particularly Christians and churches, in this nation.

"Do prepare more oil now. With God's help, when the night gets darker, our little lamp will shine brightest. Our collective lamps will be a power house." **AM**

*This article is a summary of the Bishop's presidential address at Synod held on 18 August 2015 in St Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya. For the full text of the Presidential address, please visit <http://www.anglicanwestmalaysia.org.my>.*

## Election of new Archbishop

by ACNS Staff

The Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing, Bishop of West Malaysia, was elected Primate of the Anglican Church of South East Asia during an extraordinary meeting of the Provincial Synod on 2 September in Sandakan, Sabah. He will be the fifth Archbishop to serve the Province, which comprises the dioceses of Kuching, Sabah, Singapore, and West Malaysia.

Provincial Secretary Leonard Shim announced that Archbishop-elect Ng Moon Hing's term of office will begin in February 2016 and continue to 2020. Bishop Ng Moon Hing had made major contributions to Anglican mission and evangelism both regionally and globally and as chair of the Anglican Witness core group continued to be instrumental in promoting a Communion wide emphasis on intentional discipleship,

the General Secretary added.

Archbishop-elect Ng Moon Hing, who will continue serving as Bishop of West Malaysia, will succeed the Most Revd

Bolly Lapok as Primate. Archbishop Lapok will remain Bishop of Kuching after completing his term as Primate in February 2016. **AM**



Archbishop-elect Datuk Ng Moon Hing and Archbishop Bolly Lapok

# Real-Life Disciples

*by The Organizing Committee for the Discipleship Training Seminar*



*Participants at the seminar*

“There are many full-time Christians but part-time-disciples; many full-time pastors but part-time disciples.” – Bishop Ng Moon Hing

In September 2015, the Diocese of West Malaysia had its 4th Seminar for Disciple Makers in St George’s Church Penang, the oldest church in the Province of South East Asia. Discipleship Training has been going on in the Diocese since 2009. Presently the Discipleship Training programme is being carried out in five languages namely English, Chinese, Tamil, Malay and Iban. This seminar was done in Chinese and English.

In the midst of religious extremism, increased secularism and advanced individualism, Bishop Moon Hing believes that Discipleship Training is the way forward for the church in this century. He stressed, “The final product of the church should be Disciples of Christ, and not programmes and activities or church membership.” The hallmark of a Disciple is “one who can articulate the Gospel of Christ clearly, one who can feed himself spiritually with the Word of God i.e. the Bible, one who prays earnestly and

hears from God; one who worships and serves God in season and out of season irrespective of name, position, title, privilege, or monetary gain, and one who goes for mission to communities which are less comfortable than his own.” The problem of today’s church is that there are too many spoon-fed Christians who are only looking to the Sunday sermons for their spiritual food and direction. The call to be real-life disciples is a centuries-old call but the cares and worries of this world have crowded out God’s still small voice.

The sessions in the Seminar included Ministry Philosophy, Ecclesiology - the meaning of church, Ministry Strategy – Training the Laity, Inductive Bible Study, and the Practicality of Discipleship Training. There were also a number of workshops. The two open sessions in the evening were led by Rev. Isak You from SaRang Church, Seoul, Korea. He shared his experiences on the problems and issues of making way for the real change into Discipleship and how to move the members into active Discipleship.

The highlights of the experiences shared

were how one church had seen its finances triple after one year of engaging in Discipleship Training, how another had produced many people for full-time ministry after 5 years of engaging in Discipleship Training, and how a third had seen 70% of its members actively engaged in serving in various capacities including mission and outreach work.

The final charge by Bishop Moon Hing was moving and impactful. He emphasized that, “We should seriously consider and make Disciple Making our legacy for the coming generations. As in the Early Church and throughout the past centuries, Christianity survived only through the real Disciples of Christ. Today we do not need to re-invent the wheel. It is already there and it is DISCIPLE Making through a consistent Discipleship Training process.” He further stressed that, “The success of Discipleship Training is not in the programme, course work, materials used or certification but it is measured with what happens outside the small group training or church i.e. how they behave and conduct themselves outside the training i.e. the life and character of the Disciple.” **AM**



# Disaster Response And Relief Training By ACROSS

by Esther Appadurai



Participants with the Singapore team and Bishop

**R**EACH (Relief, Emergency Aid and Crisis Help) organized its first training programme on 16 - 17 October 2015 at St Paul's Church PJ for those wanting to contribute their skills and expertise in times of emergency. It proved to be a fruitful and beneficial programme with qualified trainers from ACROSS (Anglican Crisis Relief, Outreach Support Singapore) sharing their experiences and giving expert advice. It was also timely because it made the Anglican Church in Malaysia realize how ill-equipped it was in dealing with the flood situation that hit the East Coast last year and how necessary it is to be prepared for the next monsoon season.

ACROSS, established in 2002, has been actively involved in relief work in Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Myanmar and various parts of Indonesia. Not only have they provided medical and logistical support but they have by their life and action in these disaster areas testified to the love of Christ as they bore witness to Him to the locals.

The first speaker, Rev. Michael Tay spoke in depth on the theology of the crisis relief ministry. He stated that ACROSS is based on the firm foundation of the Scriptures that as Christ's servants we are to reach out and help those less fortunate not only in terms of financial and physical help but also in terms of providing spiritual comfort. He stated that large numbers of victims die miserable deaths due to

infectious and contagious diseases, starvation and from the forces of nature. Rev. Michael Tay was detailed in his explanation on the need for Christians to be actively involved in disaster relief and provided apt biblical references to verify this truth. He shared many anecdotes and personal experiences on how disasters would creep in like a thief in the darkest night and strike when least expected.



Mr. Chew Boon An speaking to the participants

The next speaker, Mr. Chew Boon An, spoke on 'Preparation for Volunteers' and provided participants with comprehensive lists of dos and don'ts while Mr. Peter Soon spoke on 'The Operations Aspect of Crisis Relief.' All speakers emphasized that anyone can volunteer to be a relief worker and contribute his skills and talents as there are many types of relief work. Other than medical relief, one could aid with registration, taking and reading the blood pressure, crowd control and other administrative duties. There was also dental relief, eye care relief, flood relief, and children's ministry. Thousands of children were displaced and traumatized children needed to be ministered to. The other major part of

the relief work is in the distribution of food and reconstruction programme. In the reconstruction programme, experts are needed to help in the rebuilding of destroyed infrastructure. If you are unable to join in the field trips, you can join us in the prayer ministry and uphold the workers on the field.



Bishop Ng presenting a souvenir to the leader of the team, Rev. Michael Teh

The seminar was also attended by Bishop Ng. He gave an address on the importance of self-discipline and the necessity of prayer and fasting if one decides to become a relief worker.

In all, 50 participants were enriched by the speakers' experiences and have taken back with them a wealth of knowledge on disaster relief work.

If you are interested to be part of the disaster team, please email the REACH Coordinator Rev. Matthew Chay at [revmattchay@gmail.com](mailto:revmattchay@gmail.com) **AM**

Esther Appadurai is the Hon. Secretary of Anglican Care and worships at Peace Community Church, Bukit Jalil, Selangor.

# Provincial Youth Leaders' Training

by Jon Silendra



Participants in group discussions



Rev. Nickson Chia (Sabah) leading participants in Morning Prayer

also from Singapore, addressing same-sex attraction and same-sex marriages.

After an intense second day, we had a light-hearted Hilmy Nor to bring us the essentials of Christian living and how it would help us defend our faith. Hilmy shared his life story in becoming a full-time ministry worker despite his ethnicity. It was inspirational to hear his experience, living and maintaining his faith while under detention.

Our last workshop was by Rev. Don Juet and Bishop Charles Samuel on developing a liturgy for contemporary services in our Province. It was great to hear the view from different churches on our current liturgy as it is used - from traditional choir singing to liturgical dancing, and from strict adherence of liturgy to flexible use of liturgy. It was very encouraging that the youth leaders of our Province were strongly supportive of our traditional liturgy.

In the evening it was free time. Some of us went to Penang Hill, some to the bustling mall and some of us (me included) visited the Logos Hope ship that was in town.

On the last day, we had a short sharing and review of our discussions over the past few days. We then adjourned to St George's Church for our Sunday service, followed by lunch in Georgetown. Everyone was blessed to learn so much about what was going on in the various parts of the Province and all wished that more youths could have joined the PYNET Training. **AM**

Jon Silendra is a PBA representative and he worships at St. John's Church Ipoh

The 2015 Provincial Youth Leaders Training was held at the Red Rock Hotel in Penang from 24-27 September. It was organised by the Provincial Youth Network (PYNET) for youth leaders from our Province, which comprises the dioceses of Kuching, Sabah, Singapore and West Malaysia.

The objective of the training was to equip our youth leaders and youth workers. Over the course of the 4-day training, participants discussed issues Christians face in living out their faith in the current political and social climate. They also shared with one another the challenges and issues affecting youth work in their respective dioceses.

On the first day, we had a very eye-opening presentation from the Diocese of Kuching. Rev. Andy Shie from Brunei and Rev Dennis Gimang from Kuching shared their experiences and challenges in their respective ministries. Being from West Malaysia, it was a great surprise for me and many others to hear that paganism was still very strong in Sarawak. We were even more baffled by the level of restrictions placed by the authorities onto God's work to the point where ministers had to meet secretly. However, they also shared God's victories over evil principalities and man-made restrictions.

Later, we had a workshop brought to us by Chrisanne Chin, the Youth Moderator



Participants listening keenly to Ms Chin

of the Council of Churches Malaysia, on some statistics and trends concerning Christianity in Malaysia. We realized that the field for God's work was still very large in Malaysia.

The next day, we had an intense session on apologetics with Farshid Rezae from St. Mary's Cathedral, KL. We learned that the purpose of apologetics should always be to glorify God and what He has done, and never about winning an argument. Even as we learnt key arguments on God and His nature, we were put to the test on our apologetics skill with Farshid in the role of a non-believer. It was clear that we still had a long way to go in equipping ourselves to defend our faith.

In the afternoon, Leo Hee Khian from Singapore led us in a workshop on Christian worldview, pertaining to our roles in society and our duty to uphold justice and charity. This was followed by a workshop on sexuality by Mabel Siew,



# Persidangan Belia Anglikan

by Melissa Raj

The Persidangan Belia Anglikan (PBA) is an annual affair for the young adults of the Diocese to meet together. It was held from 11-13 July at the YMCA Ipoh. This year we were brought to the apostle Paul's word of exhortation and call to stand firm in Jesus Christ from his first letter to the Corinthian church. This letter gave us the perspective on how we are to conduct ourselves if we are to foster ventures in the church (the Diocesan theme for 2015).

Our speaker, Lee Chun Chung of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES), gave us three points to remember: Examine, Stand, and Pursue. We have to first examine our hearts and motivations for what we do in church. Are we motivated by greed or pride, more keen to follow the ways of the world or to put ourselves before others? Are we standing strong in the gospel of Jesus Christ or are we relying on the packaging of the gospel more than the message of the gospel itself? Do we pursue love - to love our brothers and sisters-in-Christ - as we serve the church together?

The foundation of our identity is found in Christ's death on the cross for our



sin and in His resurrection. We are united in Christ and are compelled by His love for us to love each other. This reminder served us well as we discussed the diversity of practices within our respective churches; our expressions of love in action may differ but we must never lose our foundation, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Participants at the conference

At our Business Meeting, Bishop Moon Hing gave his address, sharing with us the history of the Anglican church in Malaysia and the future of the Diocese. This helped us put into context where and how our respective churches fit into the vision and growth of our Diocese.

In view also of the upcoming vote on the ordination of women to the diaconate, we dedicated an evening to examining this issue. Rev. Nick Loi of Christ Church, Ipoh took us through 1 Timothy Chapter two, a key text, to help us think through this from a Biblical perspective. It was a helpful start before we begin discussions in our

respective archdeaconries.

Our itinerary included an Ipoh Food Hunt too. We got into groups of four and five (just enough to fit into a car) and drove round Ipoh town for lunch and dessert - these places were specially curated by some of our council members. It was a great time of fun and fellowship with lots of wefies (group selfies) to prove!

Though our numbers at the conference were small, the quality of our fellowship was not. It was an invaluable time spent with our brothers and sisters from other churches in the Diocese, and praying for each other. This, succinctly, is the spirit of our annual conferences. **AM**

*Melissa Raj is the Chairperson of the Diocesan Youth Council and sits on the Standing Committee of the DWM*



## 25th Diocesan Golden Circle AGM/Fellowship

by Nesamani Alexandor

The 25th DGC Annual General Meeting / Fellowship was held from 10 - 12 July 2015 at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh. The Conference was organized by the Lower North Archdeaconry under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Foo. The theme of the Conference was 'Fostering Ventures'. A total of 291 Senior Citizens from 27 churches participated.

After the welcome tea, participants congregated at the Pusing Hall for the Opening Service at 5.00 pm. Later that evening the participants gathered for the Annual General Meeting presided by Bishop Ng Moon Hing. The title of his Presidential address was, 'The Time is Ripe for Action.' He spoke on how when he was a teenager, the church did not have much money. The youths had to do 'gotong-royong' or 'odd-jobs' to earn money to finance their camp fees. These days the youths are given subsidies but they have to be begged to attend the youth camps. Question: Where are the youth today? Because the youth of yesteryears did everything required by them in the church they stayed on.

We need to ask:

- ◆ Can the seniors today be a 'bridge' or a 'launching pad' or 'middle man' to bring the youth back into the Church?
- ◆ Can there be a revolutionary mind set for the Seniors to be God's vessel for this purpose?

- ◆ Are the Seniors ready for this challenge for the sake of the future of the church or the survival of the Church?

### The Call

Bishop said as seniors of the church to improve and not to cause the church to deteriorate. We have to re-visit our actions, mind-set, attitudes, perceptions, expectations, etc. while enjoying and praising God for all that we have achieved and done. We must not pamper the young ones by providing them with too much and must learn to let go of our concept of 'I know more than you' or 'You must listen to me' or 'What do you know which I do not already?'

### The Action

Bishop said that we have a lot of theories but action speaks louder. Bishop suggested the following that the DGC can do.

- DGC can invite the youths to teach them cyber skills for life-long learning.
- DGC can invite the DYC to plan a one-day event for interaction between DGC and DYC. The DYC can be invited to take the lead.
- DGC can invite DYC to plan a singing cum performance tour through the Diocese.
- DGC to jointly write a book of testimonies

- DGC to jointly have mission trips with the DYC.

The next day, after breakfast the participants were divided into their language groups for the Theme Talks. The speakers were:

- ◆ Rev. Nick Loi of Christ Church Ipoh – English
- ◆ Rev. Frank Lin of St Peter's Church Ipoh – Chinese
- ◆ Rev. Gerrad Emmanuel of Church of the Holy Spirit Ipoh - Tamil

The participants enjoyed the theme talks and were inspired to serve the Lord.

The night session saw the seniors taking the stage to show off their talents by presenting song items, skits, sketches and dances. Those who performed were in their seventies and eighties. All in, there were wonderful performances.

The closing service was officiated by Assistant Bishop Charles Samuel. The participants then packed their bags, bade farewell to all their friends and returned home determined to heed Bishop's advice, to set a good example to the younger generation in the church. All glory and honour be to our Lord Jesus Christ. **AM**

Nesamani Alexandor is the Hon. Secretary of the Diocesan Golden Circle



# St. Chad's Volunteer From Wolverhampton

by Joe Poole

**O**n 29 February 2015 I began the short 14 hour journey to KL. Despite having 3 hours sleep I arrived in KLIA at 1pm in a surprisingly awake state. I was confronted by a country which was both unbearably humid and full of thick vegetation. It was probably the interest in my new surroundings which kept me awake for the rest of the day!

Just to give you an idea of who I am before you read on:

-I'm Joseph Poole

-I'm 20 years old

-I have 4 siblings of which I am the middle brother

- My mom is a nurse and my dad was a GP but he is now a Church of England vicar.

Moving swiftly on:-

I am a St. Chad's volunteer from Wolverhampton (a city, though it doesn't seem to deserve that title next to KL) and I was heading for St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral in KL where I was unsure of what I was yet to do. I didn't really have many expectations as I didn't really know what I was getting into but despite that my time here has exceeded all expectations in every way it possibly could. While my time here started off reasonably gently (the game is to see how long you can get people think you are jet lagged for!) I soon got stuck into things.

Two of the very practical things I will be most thankful for over my time here at St. Mary's are the numerous Bible studies I attended as well as a course called 'Bible Overview' run by Equip Ministries. This particular course runs through the main themes of the Bible and how it all points to Jesus. It has been really helpful with getting the whole Bible into perspective.

Back home in Wolverhampton I was fairly active in children's ministries so it has been wonderful to continue that over here. It's great to see and work in a church with such a thriving children's ministry. I would definitely encourage you to support it in



Joe Poole with friends

any way you can. I have been assisting with kids church in the 3-5 age group since my arrival here. At times it has been challenging but it has also been very rewarding to see the fruit of this ministry in the children's lives. I can only imagine that with continued investment they will continue to grow as the years go by.

It has also (so far!) been a privilege to work with the people at St. Mary's Cathedral. They are all great examples of how to live godly lives in every aspect and it has been inspiring to have worked among them, even if only for a short period.

Whilst my time here has been mostly positive it hasn't been easy. I've had to go through a drastic change in the amount of free time I had and that's definitely been a challenge to how I should use my time in general and what should be at the forefront of my life. Aside from the ministries I've been involved in, I have helped to head the replacement and servicing of the Audio/Visual equipment here at St. Mary's. It has been a long

process but hopefully will work out to better serve all of you, and to assist with the gospel being loud and clear.

This adventure was one I entered into with apprehension but will be one I leave knowing I made a wise choice. I'm grateful for both my home church for making this possible as well as my new found family here for welcoming me. But above all I'm most grateful for Jesus' death and resurrection and the new life we have in Him. I will be praying for the church here in Malaysia and maybe one day we will be reunited.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:1-2 **AM**

# A Gift of A Year

by Deaconess Yit Ching Li

Peel Parishes was an unknown name but I soon became acquainted with it as I spent a year there under the St. Chad's Volunteer Programme. My anxieties, uncertainties and loneliness were dispelled by the welcome, hospitality and care of the people there. I was blessed to be part of their ministry team and together with the wardens, deputy wardens, Parochial Church Council members, ministry heads and church members, we served the Peel Parishes and the community that lived in and around it. Besides leading in services, preaching, teaching and visitation, there were other activities I was involved in such as the memorial day services.

The British have a deep appreciation for their history and go to great lengths to preserve it. They have re-enactments of battles fought even before World War I. Prominent buildings are associated with historical figures and a plaque giving the person's name, work and age are attached under each figure. Memorial and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) Services are held even till this day at the parish's war memorial to commemorate World War I and II. At the VJ Day service I was touched that so many had died for Malaya even when they did not have any connection to this country. A church member standing next to me whispered, "My dad was in Changi prison." With that sense of deep gratitude I shared my experience with one of the congregations and I expressed my thanks to family and friends who had been involved in

the war. Together, we shed tears for the lives sacrificed and the independence gained.

I took part in the Partnership in World Mission Conference 2014 (PWM 2014) and was given the privilege of sharing about Malaysia and her Church at the conference. I was surprised that only a handful knew about the 'Allah' issue and the other challenges faced by the Malaysian Church. I shared again on the Malaysian Church at the Peel Parishes and Deanery Synod, made a little booklet and to give the whole programme a Malaysian flavour, sang Amazing Grace in the style of the dikir barat. This was something I had done with my colleagues in Seminari Theologi Malaysia and now it had come in useful in the UK.

I am thankful to Rev. Philip Swan who arranged for me to be part of Shared Conversation - a dialogue on the key question of "Given the significant changes in our culture in relation to human sexuality, how should the Church respond?" It was a great learning curve to be listening, engaging and thinking of "good disagreements" to develop relationship and trust with people of differing orientations. I noted from the Partnership in World Mission Conference 2014 that "no diversity is too big for reconciliation." How then can the Church be united and stay united to move forward in addressing this diversity of human sexuality?



With Peel Parishes' Ministry team

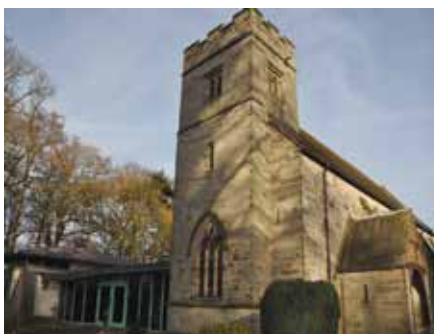


Peel Parishes – St Paul

A missed event was a mission trip to Maltosane, South Africa! All in all, it was certainly a blessed year to explore a different culture, travel a part of the world that I had not set foot on, make new friends, discover more about myself and how much I actually love my country. A big thank you to all who made this trip possible.

All praise and glory to God for giving me this opportunity to be with His people in the UK. **AM**

*Deaconess Yit Chng Li currently serves in All Saints Church, Cheras Kuala Lumpur. She is also the Executive Secretary for the Anglican Mission Schools Board.*



Peel Parishes – St Giles, St. Mary's & All Saints



Peel Parishes – St Barnabas



Peel Parishes – St Peter



# Ignited for God in Wellington

by *Stephanie Yong*

Greetings everyone!

**T**ime sure flies. It has been one year I completed my placement as a St. Chad's volunteer in All Saints Wellington, England. I settled in really well from the start and made many new friends of all ages. My host family was wonderful, very hospitable and loving towards me. I absolutely enjoyed their dog's company too! From the very beginning, I was greeted with warmth and open arms by the lively congregation of All Saints Church, Wellington,



*With her host family, the Lawsons*

God is really awesome! There were so many things that I was involved with in the church in which I really needed His guidance and wisdom and which He never failed to provide. I was involved in the family, children, youth and music ministries and I sang and played the piano and keyboard in the music band. I helped prepare the power point slides for the Sunday services and managed the social media platforms of the church. I had a pretty tight schedule each day. There was just so much to do as the church was involved in so many activities.

I worked from Sunday to Thursday having Fridays and Saturdays as my days off. On Sundays I either played for or sang in the music band during the morning family service or taught and helped out in Sunday School. The youths, called Tyndale, met on Sunday evenings and I helped co lead.

The staff team including me, usually started weekdays at 8.30am daily. We met in the prayer room to pray for one another, the church and the world, read the scriptures and share encouraging words with one another to kick start our day.

Mondays and Tuesdays were usually for attending meetings and working in the office. Each month on Tuesdays we had

Oasis Lunch, which was a 2-course lunch for elderly people (age 60+) prepared by some members of the congregation. I helped in serving the food, cleaning up with the other volunteers and keeping the guests entertained with small talk or offering a listening ear to their hundreds of stories and advice.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, I helped with the Moms and Toddlers. We set up a mini play school for the toddlers in the parish hall for them to play and learn to interact with others. It was definitely something I enjoyed the most during my week as I love looking after children.



*At Anfield, Liverpool for my birthday*

In between these days, I had my usual music practice at night and worked in the office to get ready for Sunday.

With the start of 2015, I took up the challenge to lead a home based group of young adults within the ages of 18 to 30.

I lead the group with a friend from church. It was great fun to gather young adults from other churches as well to join us. Half way during my placement, the church started a monthly contemporary worship service on Saturday evenings. I enjoyed playing the keyboard for the team and being a support to the organisers. My friends and I managed to squeeze in some time to make a welcome video for our church which I helped produce. On Fridays and Saturdays I spent time with my host family and friends going to places or just sleeping in or travelling around England by train. I was really blessed to live just 10 minutes (walking distance) from the train station.

Looking back I was so nervous about coming to England. I had so many doubts but having been pushed out of my comfort zone I was able to take on leadership roles and gained new skills. Being in a different country with different cultures



*Farewell gift from the staff team*

widened my perspective and view on many things. These few months have set me on fire to serve others even more and has made me really determined to be a better person for God. I really thank Him for this incredible blessing as I have matured so much in spirit and mind. **AM**

*Stephanie Yong currently serves on the Worship team as a keyboardist at Holy Trinity Bukit Bintang*

# Shared Memories with Puan Sri Roland Koh

by *The Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing*



*Puan Sri Roland Koh with Bishop Moon Hing, Bisfe Siew Lan and John Koh*

Mrs. Koh's maiden name is Hoh Wai Ying. She was born in China. "I first met Roland Koh at a refugee camp while doing relief work after the Second World War. I noticed that this young priest always appeared wherever I went, even to the canteen and he would do the same work I did with the refugees." They eventually got married and Bishop Koh was posted to St Mary's Church, Hong Kong. In 1953 they were 'loaned' to the Diocese of Singapore and came to take charge of the Chinese congregation of St Mary's Church in Kuala Lumpur. Coupled with a new family and uncertain of the new venture, she struggled to cope with church activities as well as the unfamiliarity of the new place and language. "Before I realized it, he had become an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Singapore based in Kuala Lumpur. This caused him to travel a lot leaving me to bring up the children. A few years later, we moved again to Sabah when he was made Bishop of Sabah in 1965. In 1970, we returned to Kuala Lumpur where he was made Bishop of West Malaysia."

Following the death of Bishop Roland Koh in 1972, Puan Sri Koh made the decision to join her son in Canada in 1977.

Both John and Puan Sri Koh wish all parishioners in the Diocese of West Malaysia God's richest blessings! **AM**

**O**n our recent trip to Canada this June, Bisfe Siew Lan and I had the opportunity to meet up with Puan Sri Wai Ying Koh the wife of the first Diocesan bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia, the late Rt. Rev. Tan Sri Dr. Roland Koh in Toronto. Her son, John Koh, was with her together with our host Siew Yau Man and wife Christina, and Canon Edmund Der and his wife. We met at a Chinese restaurant in Toronto for dim sum. Puan Sri Koh is

97 years this year but she certainly looks much younger. Apart from a little difficulty in hearing and walking, she is still active, looks fresh and has a healthy appetite. She still does the cooking at home as well as a few household chores. She related to us the challenges she faced first as a priest's wife and then as a bishop's wife. She can still remember many names and places she had been to and sends her best regards to the Diocese and to all who know her.

## Lest we forget

### The Rt. Rev. Dr. Tan Sri Roland Koh Peck Chiang



Born:  
March 14 1908 Sandakan, North Borneo

Entered into glory:  
October 6, 1972 Philadelphia USA

**B**ishop Koh was born into a prominent traditional Buddhist family. He was first introduced to Jesus at an early age of eleven when he was sent to Hong Kong to study in an Anglican School, St. Stephen's Boys College. However he remained a staunch, practicing Buddhist for more than twenty years before he surrendered his life to Christ. He believed that this life changing experience was only possible by the love and patience of God.

Soon after his conversion he offered himself

to be trained for the sacred ministry of the church. In 1941 he was ordained a priest in Hong Kong and served in the Diocese under Bishop Roland Hall. However Bishop Koh had always felt a strong calling to share the Gospel in South East Asia. Therefore, after a time of study in England he moved to Malaya in 1954 and served as a priest in Kuala Lumpur. In the 1950's Malaya was in a state of emergency because of the communist insurgency. Many Chinese were relocated to the newly created barbed villages. In addition to the work in Kuala



# Diocesan News Bites

## 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEREJA SHALOM

27 September 2015 was the 19th anniversary of Gereja Shalom in Gopeng. More than 400 Orang Asli Christians from Central Perak attended the Celebration Service. Sixty five of the newly baptised were confirmed by Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing. There were many young people at the Service and they performed several songs and dances in praise of God. - Canon Dr. Teh Soong Kee



A parched congregation at the service



UCAWA Tamil retreat participants

## UCAWC TAMIL RETREAT

On Friday 9 October, 44 ladies from 9 churches in the Upper Central Archdeaconry journeyed to Harvest Haven, Gopeng, for the UCAWC Tamil Retreat 2015. It was a time of fellowship, fun and listening to the Word of God. The theme talk was given by Rev. Gerrad Emmanuel, the priest in charge of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ipoh. It was on the prophet Jonah. The itinerary included visits to the Kampar Tin Mine Museum, Gopeng Heritage House and Museum, Kampong Kachang Putih and the Sungkai Hot Springs. - Nesamani Alexandor

Lumpur, Bishop Koh was very much involved in the work in these villages. On June 16, 1958 he was consecrated the first Assistant Bishop of Singapore and Malaya to be based in Kuala Lumpur to help out with the work there.

The indigenization of the church was something Bishop Koh strongly believed in and he worked hard in forging a national identity for the church and unity among the races. He challenged local Christians to live their Faith and to offer themselves for the ministry of the church, schools, clinics other church organisations and the community at large.

In 1965 Bishop Koh was called by God to return to his native home of North Borneo to lead the Church there as the second Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Sabah. The journey was especially meaningful to him and one he wanted to give glory to God. He had left Borneo as a young boy not knowing what was ahead and he went back as a living witness to Jesus Christ his Saviour and the Hope of the world. What a privilege it was for him to share the Good News back home! After five years home Bishop Koh was called back to Kuala Lumpur to start a new diocese. At the inauguration of the Diocese of West Malaysia Bishop Koh was made the first

Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia on April 8 1970.

Bishop Koh was blessed with a devoted wife, Ho Wai Ying, whom he met in China and together they have four children and many grandchildren.

Bishop Koh was a man of many gifts and interest but when Jesus touched his heart he surrendered them all and laid them at the foot of the cross. Taking the words of Paul to the Galatians he too joins Paul to testify that 'I no longer live but Christ lives in me.' **AM**

- from the internet



May the timeless message of  
Christmas remind us

of the  
*Amazing*  
★ *Grace*  
★

God has bestowed upon us.

*Have a*  
BLESSED CHRISTMAS

