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SOWING IN DISCIPLESHIP

The word 'mathetes' in Greek is translated into English as 'Disciple'. It actually means 'A Learner' or 'An Apprentice'. This is a frequently used word by Christians and non Christians alike but each has a different meaning to its usage. When it is used in a Christian context and in a biblical sense, the word 'Discipleship' can mean more than just a process in becoming 'A Learner' or 'An Apprentice'. It can more accurately mean 'A Discippler' – one who is a learner or apprentice while in the process of becoming a teacher or master.

The theme 'Sowing in Discipleship' leads us to focus on the process of training people to be Disciples and eventually to be Disciplers. A disciple is one who follows. A discipler is one who leads. Christians should not be contented just becoming disciples. Instead everyone should pursue it to the end to become a discipler. Today we have many believers and not enough disciples, let alone disciplers. Many just want knowledge and information and few have the commitment and courage to step out in faith to be disciplers. For those who are willing to step out, unfortunately, many only want

to be pastors and teachers and not disciplers. How sad?

Who is a discipler?

I wish to share an example of what happened in my ministry some years ago. In a small way, I have tried to disciple some people while I was a parish priest. At the end of each year, Bishop Lim would send an STM student to have his long vacation field work for two months under me in my parish. Over the years, I have had the privilege to have several students serving with me. To every student who came to me, I gave the same instructions.

■ cont'd on page 3



WHAT'S INSIDE



Lausanne Conference – My experience
• Page 7



UCACW Tamil Women Organise Get-together
• Page 10



Mission from JB to Yangon
• Page 14-15

News Update

- Two minutes @ 12 noon: Calling all Anglicans in the Diocese to take up this challenge to spend two minutes a day to pray for the world especially the disaster areas - Somalia; our country especially over the coming General Election; Diocese especially 2011 – Sowing the Seed for an Abundant Harvest of Blessings and raising of workers; family and other issues.

- Installation of New Vicars in 2011: Rev Canon Peter Chiang Chee Pang (2 January 2011), Rev Stephen Chan Mung Koon (21 January 2011), Rev Frank Lin Yoke Min (30 January 2011), Rev. Marshall Thomson (6 February 2011), Ven Charles Samuel (27 February 2011), Rev Alex Kok Chee Sin (date to be decided).

- Inauguration of new Missionary Districts in 2011: MD of Anglican Revelation Church, Shah Alam (3 July 2011), MD of Gereja Shalom, Gopeng (25 September 2011), MD of Good Shepherd church, Taman Scientex, Pasir Gudang (12 November 2011).

- Dedication of new Churches and Church halls: St John's Church, Ipoh (church renovation 29 January 2011), St George's Church, Penang (restoration 27 February 2011), Church of Gideon, Tg Sepat (new premise 1 April 2011), Holy Cross Church, Sitiawan (renovation 2 April 2011), St Luke's Church, Teluk Intan (church hall 4 April 2011), Asli Chapel in Kg Teluk Untung, Gua Musang (new chapel 19 April 2011), Joshua Community Centre, Seremban (new church 1 May 2011), St Christopher's Church Hall of Praise, JB (church hall 31 July 2011), Gethsemane Church, Jawi (new premise 2 August 2011), Anglican Training Centre, Bagan Jamal, Penang (new premise 13 August 2011), Good Shepherd Church, Kampar (new premise 24 August).

- Clergy weddings: Rev Eisu Das and Jasmine (6 August 2011), Rev Gerrad Emmanuel and Marie (26 November 2011).

Editorial

Sowing in Discipleship

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
Mathew 28:19-20.**

Discipleship has been described in many ways but these words of Jesus make it clear that discipleship is a command and that it is people who disciple people. Jesus Himself disciplined His disciples and He expects us to do the same.

At first, the disciples of Jesus listened to Him and observed what He did. Then they gave up their secular occupations to follow Him and learn from Him. Later, they became apostles and took on the role of discipling others.

Sowing in discipleship is investing in the lives of those we seek to disciple. It is not an option. It is a command and it requires obedience and commitment as we are linked to God's purpose. Discipling someone is when we intentionally identify with God's interest in that person's life even as we are seen to be transformed in our own lives.

Churches need to have a vision and sow seeds of faith among

believers which would help them to understand how precious they are to God and how important it is for them to grow and mature in their understanding of Him. This must be seen as a continuous process of spiritual growth in which we aim to develop a lifestyle that reflects 'Jesus'. Unless we make disciple-making our primary agenda we are failing in our mission. Leaders need to have a passion to be disciples and to disciple others. Only then will our sowing be effective.

Let us commit ourselves to teaching our churches everything that Jesus has commanded. Let us make it a resolution for 2012 to seriously commit ourselves to sowing in discipleship. When we do this, we would be launching a harvest that is plentiful [Hebrews 12:11]. Is your church seriously taking sowing in discipleship? Start now as this is the best gift you can give our Lord at Christmas. Greetings for Christmas and blessings for the New Year!

The Editorial Board.

Editorial Board

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The Rt Rev Datuk Ng Moon Hing

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The theme for the next issue in April 2012 is "Nurturing the Shoots in Prayer". The Editorial Board welcomes articles and photographs that focus on the theme for the coming issue. Please submit articles (in Word document) and relevant photographs (in JPEG format) to the Editor, Anglican Messenger, Diocesan Office or e-mail to anglican@streamyx.com by 15 February 2012 .

The Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia (Anglican Church)
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- The student must stay with my family in the vicarage. We thank God for a large vicarage with many rooms.
- He/she must eat what my family eats – simple meals only (pity them), except on his/her day off or when receiving other invitations.
- He/she must join my family in family worship and devotion as a 'member' of the family.
- He/she must be ready to get up and work with me at odd hours whenever there was an emergency.
- He/she must carefully observe when and how I prepare my sermons, do my devotion, relate to my wife, relate to my children and their home-work, relate to church members, lead PCC meetings, conduct services, handle issues, relate to my church staff, spend my time and money, food and drink pattern and consumption, etc.
- He/she must be willing to travel with me to all outreach centres and rural places for ministry. This included eating, staying and using the facilities in the rural places.
- He/she must read all the files and Bishop's instructions and assigned books.
- He/she must be willing to communicate and exchange views and ideas with me, including scripture, theology, politics, spiritual matters, economics, medical topics, business issues, topics related to the physical, psychology, arts, science, etc.

I believe a Discipeler is a transparent person. He must be who he is at home, in church and in society. The little things count and speak loudly for a discipler. His disciples will watch him and possibly imitate him. There is great danger and it is very vulnerable to open oneself so wide but it's worth everything when it involves Biblical Discipleship.

Bishop Moon Hing

News Update

- The Iban Leaders Conference was held at Hotel Flamingo, Ampang KL from 16 – 17 September 2011.
- Visit by Myanmar Bishops was held from 27 September to 12 October 2011.
- Diocesan Men's Conference at St Mary's Cathedral KL was held on 15 October 2011.
- The Consecration service of Assistant Bishop Jason Selvaraj was held on 28 October 2011 at St Mary's Cathedral KL.
- The CFM Christmas High Tea, organized by NECF will be held on 25 December 2011 Bishop's Christmas Mini Open House in East Coast: St Martin's Church, Kota Bahru (16 December), Rumah Damai, Kuala Terengganu (17 December), St Joseph's Church, Kemaman (17 December), Church of Epiphany, Kuantan (18 December).
- St Mary's School celebrated its 100th Anniversary on 1 November 2011.
- The Launching Service for the new Decade (Decade of Mission and Networking) and 2012 – Nurturing the Shoots – will be held on 1 Jan 2012 at St Mary's Cathedral KL. Other Archdeaconries will be having launching services in January.

CLERGY MOVEMENT

1. Rev Alex Kok was transferred to the Parish of Emmanuel Harvest Centre, Sg Ara, Penang with effect from 16 October 2011 as Vicar.
2. Rev Eisu Das was transferred to the Parish of St Philip & St James, Sg Petani, Kedah with effect from 1 November 2011 as Priest-In-Charge.
3. Dss. Julih Bah Aew is reading her M. Min fulltime in STM from 1 January 2011.

CAPE TOWN HOSTS THIRD LAUSANNE CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION



*Sheerah Lee is
the KidsGames
Malaysia Facilitator.*

16 25 October 2010, all week, I've been at the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism in Cape Town, South Africa. What a week this has been! Over the week, the unity, diversity, and vitality of the worldwide Church have been on dramatic display in Cape Town. More than 4,000 Christian leaders from 198 countries were together in Cape Town, South Africa, to confront the critical issues of our time as they relate to the future of the Church and world evangelization.

I have wept more than once that week. Tears ran down my face as I listened to Libby Little passionately tell the story of her husband, Tom Little, the medical missionary brutally killed in Afghanistan in August 2010 (just two months before the Lausanne Congress!) She said that his death provided the fragrance of Christ to those who killed him.


I was greatly blessed by hearing the testimony of an 18 year old North Korean girl who lost both her mother and father to prison because they refused to stop sharing the gospel. This brave girl spoke passionately and brilliantly to us for 15 minutes until she broke down during her last two sentences, as she pledged to pick up where her parents had left off: taking the gospel to the North Korean people. Her heart for the people of North Korea was humbling, and the story of God pursuing her was beautiful. Through all her hardships she looked to the cross. Listening to her testimony was a blessing to my life because so many times I let things distract me from Christ. This girl was centering her life on Christ, and it showed through her actions. I think her heart for the lost and urgency for them was how we ought to be. I was sitting there that night listening to her story with awe, with full heart and wanting to encourage her great sacrificial obedience. It was evident that the entire building packed with hundreds of people was moved by her testimony because of the standing ovation she received not only me but all 4000 stood, with tears in our eyes, and applauded... for some time.

My eyes and my ears have been opened during the powerful Bible expositions of Ephesians as I grasped again the length, width, height, and depth of the riches of Christ; the mighty power of the gospel, and the great mission of the Church on earth. Bible study plenary sessions throughout the Congress focused on Ephesians and God's plan for unity. Participants were urged to study the letter in preparation for Cape Town. In each Bible Study, the role of Scripture in mission was highlighted.



THE III LAUSANNE 2010 IN PICTURES





On one of those nights at Cape Town 2010, they took a lot of time to highlight the suffering of the persecuted church. But what was unique about the gathering is that some of the persecuted were among us and gave testimonies. It is one thing to hear stories from missionaries, or even to read about this in magazines. It is quite another thing to listen personally. It is very positive being together with so many people from so many nations and hearing all of the stories and testimonies of the people. It is very encouraging. You realize that a lot of things are happening in the world and that Jesus Christ is very alive!

One of the emphases of the Congress was creating personal connections and laying the groundwork for partnerships. Main sessions were structured to offer time for discussion in small groups within the plenary sessions. Table groups were set up with seating assigned to people of similar ministries and roles, from varied nationalities and backgrounds. The same table groups met together each morning. Dialogue groups were offered during four days of the Congress to provide a smaller context in which to address specific issues. They began with brief 25-30 minute presentations addressing three or four questions and the remaining 60 minutes were used for smaller groups to share what was happening in their country on the topic, network with others and go deeper into the issues. In addition, regional gatherings were held at the start of the Congress and again at the end to help participants meet others from their own region, discuss how to apply what they were learning within their local context, and make strategic plans for how to extend the benefit of the Congress in the early months of 2011.

I will never forget the two hour worship service that closed the congress. I expected strong praise and comparisons to “what it will be like in heaven,” but the reality went much further. 5,000 voices alternating from classics like “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” to the new “In Christ Alone” shook the room. The adapted Kenyan communion liturgy was profound. The message was penetrating. The service of Holy Communion which occupied the final segment of the worship service was carefully and sensitively crafted to balance high liturgy with “free church” traditions. The incorporation of audience participation in music, litanies and physical movement was effective. The event was powerful, uplifting, challenging, impacting, convicting, and majestic at points – a credit to the planners, an event which honored God in a way that sent participants on their way rejoicing.

I have never been in large rooms with thousands of people in enthusiastic praise before, and this was definitely different to scan 360 degrees around and to see nearby the faces of dozens of nationalities! To see the worship leaders in the clothing of India, Africa, and Europe, high church and low church, young and old, women and men; all different, all the same. Many probably thinking, as was I: How did all this happen? Where is this thing going?

Doug Birdsall led the participants in **The Cape Town Commitment**. It is entitled “For the Lord We Love and the World We Serve”.

Doug Birdsall and Archbishop Henri Orombi of Uganda then led the participants in the Benediction and Dismissal of The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization. The Cape Town 2010 participants are challenged to “Go in Peace. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

It is no exaggeration to say that The III Lausanne Cape Town 2010 was one of the highlights of my life. I went to learn and I was not disappointed. I left inspired, encouraged and challenged. I was so struck by the quality of the leaders and volunteers. I can't recall ever having seen so many outstanding leaders in one place. The graciousness of the volunteers was almost overwhelming. It was such an honor and privilege to be there.

By Sheerah Lee

LAUSANNE CONFERENCE – MY EXPERIENCE

The Malaysian delegates to the Lausanne Conference on Global Evangelization arrived at Cape Town on the morning of 18 October 2010. The group consisted of 32 members representing different denominations and was led by Elder Tan Kong Beng.

On the first day, Andrew Khoo, Sheerah Lee and I who represented the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia attended the Sunday morning service at St. George's Cathedral.

During our eight day stay in Cape Town, we stayed at Strand Tower Hotel which is about 1km away from the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

At 4.00pm we left the hotel for registration at CTICC and got ready for the opening service at 6.00pm. More than 4,000 evangelical leaders from all over the world were gathered for the conference. We were exposed to mission work and testimonies of missionaries who were from different countries serving through different ministries. It was so encouraging for me to hear that God is at work in the world through His Church. The theme talks, workshops and group discussions provided me with a lot of information on mission work.

It was really an eye opening experience for me to attend such a conference and I learnt so much. I came to know that the Global Church in South and East-Africa, Asia and South America have grown and are active in sending missionaries all over the world.

Apart from that, I learnt that Conferences like the Lausanne Conference are making it clear that Christian mission in the 21st century is focusing on work through a fully global partnership.

I was really grateful for the opportunity that was given to me to attend such a conference. I wish to thank Bishop Ng Moon Hing and the Diocese of West Malaysia for giving me the opportunity to attend the Lausanne conference 2010.

*By
Deaconess Julih Bah Aew*



The Malaysian delegation



A cultural presentation



Group discussions

WHY IS DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING NECESSARY?

(This article is taken from the book of Sarang Community Church, Seoul, South Korea by John Oak)

Discipleship Training (DT) is rooted in the words of Jesus Christ to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 – Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

It is Jesus Christ, who holds all authority over the universe, who commanded us to make disciples of every nation. And disciples are to be made from every nation.

Therefore, the church must carry out DT. The contents of DT are the teachings of Jesus Christ. The key to DT is obedience. The leader is responsible not only to teach, but to obey as well.

Who is qualified to train disciples? First and foremost, he must be a disciple himself. Jesus Himself entrusted this mission to the disciples whom He had taught and trained for three years.

It is very important to understand Jesus' intentions in telling His disciples not just to evangelize but to make disciples. If one understands why Jesus dedicated three years pouring forth all His energy into making only a few hand-picked disciples, it is not so difficult to understand His intention. Jesus was searching for those who would take on the responsibility of carrying out the work of saving the world and establishing the kingdom of God. And it would begin with only a few and not many. Jesus was convinced of Isaiah's prophecy. “The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation” (Isaiah 60:22). Jesus did not doubt that those few who were personally molded by Him would lead many and also conquer the world.

Therefore, DT is a strategy to train a chosen few. It is a strategy to move many with a few. Behind the command of Jesus to make disciples was this hidden agenda. In the end, His decision proved right. Despite its meager beginning with the Twelve, the kingdom of God is soaring high in the world today through the countless number of disciples who continued after them – like the mighty water covering the ocean.

For a long time the church did not grasp the true significance behind Jesus' command to make disciples. The command was understood as a general command to evangelize. However a new understanding and challenge of DT began through mission organizations that were stirring young people into radical dedication of their lives for the gospel. Over the years it has been proven that these organizations were right.

Now the huge task remains for local churches to take up the baton from mission organizations and train disciples. This undertaking is still in its infancy and has many obstacles to overcome.

Sarang Community Church has emphasized the vision of DT since its founding years. This emphasis has been due to the firm belief that the church must produce Christ's disciples. Sarang Community Church has also been aware of the danger that the church will be unfit to deal with contemporary society unless those who attend church become disciples of Christ.

Mobilizing the entire church by focusing on a few individuals at a time has been carried out through DT. Though it has been a difficult road, Sarang Community Church has been able to bear much fruit with God's blessings during the past twenty or more years. It is a joy to see an increasing number of churches sending the message that discipleship is possible.

Those who have undergone DT can serve one another according to their gifts and thus play a lead role in creating organic fellowship within the church. Through the service of teaching and building up fellow believers, the entire church emerges as disciples of Christ before the world. I am convinced that this is the best way for the church to fulfill its calling as the salt and light of the world.

DT is achieved in a small group environment. It is also shaped by the pastor. This is the model and a guide to leadership that Jesus has shown us.

The church must recover its essence and calling in order to renew its members and rejuvenate its image. This is possible only when the church firmly establishes its identity as both the people of God called from the world and the disciples of Christ sent to the world. DT is the most biblical and effective way to awaken the laity to their identity and calling. I have no doubt that before long a new chapter will open where all churches will be transformed into disciples of Christ. As written in Matthew 19:26, it is impossible with man but possible with God. Then Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, will receive all the glory and praise.

By: Rev Wity Kendu

MAGNA CHARTA OF DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Colossians 1:28-29 – “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me”

Subject:	Christ
Workers:	Us
Content:	The Word of God
Method:	Teach, proclaim, and admonish
Object:	Each person
Purpose:	To become whole in Christ
Attitude:	Rely on the Holy Spirit

DISCIPLESHIP

a personal journey and reflection

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.... (Matthew 28:18-19)

A Christian is to be made a disciple!

I came to know Christ when I was 17 years old. After I watched the movie Pilgrim Progress at an evangelistic gathering on Easter Eve, I became interested in Christianity. A classmate of mine passed me a tract on the Gospel of Mark. As I read it, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes and I saw Jesus as the God whom I have been seeking all my life. With much joy and trembling, I locked my room, knelt down and in great sweat promptly invited Jesus into my life as Messiah and Lord.

Shortly thereafter I attended church. When a church member came to know that I was a new believer and that I wished to know more about my newfound faith, I was introduced to the priest-in-charge. But he had no time to help me. He was rushing off to another service in another town.

In the meantime, I was introduced to a lovely couple in the church. The wife who was a teacher invited me to her house to join a few other students for weekly bible studies. She also gave me a used RSV Bible. I started reading the Bible since then. The foundation of my Christian life started then, with daily personal Scripture reading and weekly bible studies. Like the first believers who devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers, the process of becoming a disciple of Christ began there.

All glory be to God that the Lord sent this couple to disciple me. 'Strike when the iron is hot', as the saying goes. I was a new believer and a seeker. I had many questions about my newfound faith and I needed someone who loved the Lord and loved me to be there for me, to disciple me. Imagine, if I had been left on my own. With no Bible and with no guide, I wonder if I would still be a believing-Christian. I



Christopher Tan with his family.

would have been grateful if I remained an occasional church goer!

Sometime later, the local Tamil Methodist Church resident pastor conducted weekly bible studies with our church youths. I enjoyed those studies, for they strengthened and deepened my faith and love for God. Subsequently, many others shaped and influenced my walk with God. Even today, I still see myself as a disciple. Still learning. I continue to seek out spiritual fathers and mothers who have journeyed longer and further in the ways of God.

A Christian is a disciple-maker.

I was part of the leadership of the Anglican Youth Fellowship. We organized exciting programs and the weekly attendance grew steadily. But later due to one reason or another, we could not continue with exciting programs and the attendance dropped. I was troubled greatly. Something was wrong here. I went back to the Scriptures to listen to what God has to say about this turn of events. I noticed that while Jesus was ministering and preaching to the masses, He picked twelve and disciplined them for the best and last three years of his life.

Taking the cue from Jesus, I picked up seven of the younger youths and started to spend time with them. We studied the bible together, practiced music together, watched movies together [and later discussed about

the values in the movies] hung out together and so forth. From seven it dropped to five and from five it dropped to three. The three became good friends for a season and subsequently took over the leadership of the Youth Fellowship. Today, some of them are leaders of their own churches.

Almost thirty years have passed since the first group. There were other groups and individuals that I spent time with in making them disciples of Christ. Some of them have dropped off while others remained faithful to the Lord till today. With the advent of social networking, some of them have contacted me via Facebook. They expressed their thanks and gratefulness to God that they met me in the early and foundational period of their Christian life. For these blessings of making disciples for Christ, I am grateful to God.

Discipleship is a long-term spiritual investment.

You must be prepared for the long haul. It can be demanding on you. You are to disciple through the Word of God and through your own life as an example. You are asking them to imitate you as you imitate Christ! Sacrifice is needed. Your personal and family time, and occasionally your money are required. It's less glamorous and visible than other ministries. In short, it is hard work. But the reward is heavenly and eternal.

By Rev Christopher Tan

Christopher Tan Ah Soon is embarking on a journey of challenging men to reclaim their lost masculinity and rise up to be men-of-God in the church, in their homes and in the public arena. He can be reached at cifu21@gmail.com and <http://facebook.com/cifu21>.

UCACW TAMIL WOMEN ORGANISE GET-TOGETHER

The Upper Central Archdeaconry Women's Committee (UCACW) organized a Tamil Women's Get-together at St. Thomas Church Banting on 5 November 2011. A total of 99 ladies from 10 churches participated.

The day started off with Health Screening conducted by Doctors and staff from Pejabat Kesihatan Kuala Langat. We were blessed to have with us Dr Dinesh Earnest from the Orthopedic Department of Hospital Klang, who gave a one-to-one consultation with the ladies who had bone related problems.

After the Health check, the ladies were led in aerobics by a sister from St. Thomas Church Women's Fellowship. It was fun watching them do the exercises. This was followed by Praise and Worship led by the youth of St. Thomas Church. Rev Jesvinder Singh of St. Matthew's Church Selayang brought the word of the Lord. He spoke on some women in the Bible, highlighting examples which we should or should not follow.

They were:

Mary the mother of Jesus - A Meditative Heart

Mary was a woman of faith, courage, humility, praise, and prayer. She was a good wife and mother, and an exemplary disciple of Christ.

Euodia & Syntyche - Division

Euodia and Syntyche were two women who are mentioned briefly in the book of Philippians. (4:2) They were members of the church in Philippi and, as Paul described them, they were loyal believers who had fought along with him for the cause of the gospel. Anyone could see that they were good Christians. But somewhere along the way they lost their focus. Euodia and Syntyche's dispute may have caused contention among other believers in Philippi. That often happens in a close knit community.

Priscilla - Hardworking

Priscilla was a hardworking woman. She was a hospitable homemaker and used every opportunity to teach the message of Jesus Christ. So like Priscilla, we can speak about our Lord, while sharing our talents in making handicrafts.

The next session was with Dr Sheila Rani, a Lecturer at the International Medical University. Her talk was based on the problems faced by women who suffer from Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS), Menopause and Osteoporosis. She

spoke at length about the symptoms that occur and how we can overcome these by taking preventive measures. Her talk was very informative and educational and an eye opener for many of the participants. She also stressed the importance of practising a healthy lifestyle.

We were also privileged to have with us Dr Joyce Joseph, a neurologist from Hospital Kuala Lumpur, who was present throughout the programme to counsel our ladies with general health related issues.

After lunch, the ladies were kept busy, participating in a Bible Treasure Hunt. They were given 10 clues and were asked to bring to the organizers the items they had collected. After this the ladies in the respective groups were given 20 Bible Quiz questions to answer within the given time. Next, as an impromptu activity, the groups were given 15 minutes to come out with an item presentation based on the Diocesan theme "Sowing the Seed". It was amazing to see how creative the ladies were in coming out with a skit, a mime and a song presentation in just 15 minutes!!

This clearly shows that when we work together harmoniously, great things can be achieved.

Feedback showed that all the ladies who participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves, hearing the Word of God, learning how to take care of our body, meeting old friends, making new ones and having fellowship with one another.

By
Mrs Nesamani Alexandor
Chairperson, Upper Central
Archdeaconry Women's Committee



OPEN HOUSE AT COZY HOME

St Mark's Cozy Home hosted an open house on 10 September 2011. The day's programme began in a very joyful atmosphere with Deaconess Dorina the Chaplain welcoming the Bishops, members of the Board and all the guests. Then she went on to introduce all the residents by name and had them acknowledge their names as everyone cheered. She ended with Ms Lim Ah Tai giving a short message as the oldest resident.

Rev Charles Ng said the Opening Prayer and this was followed by a dance presented by the ladies from All Saints Church KL. Their song had the line "Ha! Ha! Ha!" in it and all the senior citizens joined in. It was fun and there was a lot of laughter!

During Praise and Worship which followed, the residents who each had been given castanets and bells, raised their hands and shook the bells as the songs required. The songs which were sung in Cantonese had the words.....

*Every senior always cheerful
Not a worry in your heart.
No more sighing, no more arguing
Always cheerful, Yes! You can.*

The chairman Mr Peter Yuen then welcomed everyone and gave us a brief account of the developments of the Home. It was in its fourth year and RM15,000 had been spent to upgrade the filtration and water plant so that the water was now safe for drinking. A room for physiotherapy had been set up and Pudu Rotary Club had very generously promised RM25,000 to build a properly equipped facility on the ground floor.

Dss Dorina has been looking after the special needs of the 32 residents with the help of Patricia Frances Luis, the Nursing Manager and the fifteen staff. The chairman



ended by thanking everyone who was present for their support and good wishes. A video clip on the activities of the home was also shown.

Bishop Moon Hing then addressed the gathering. He pointed out that the Home was the realisation of a dream by the late Canon Chan Kai Meng who had begun a fund by putting aside a sum of money each birthday. Bishop encouraged all present to do the same and set aside the number of ringgit equivalent to their age adding one ringgit for each year.

He stated that the intake had to be reduced due to renovations as the facilities had to be made user-friendly for the elderly. More residents are not mobile and this necessitates having to reduce the occupancy. Bishop's vision was for the Home to become a teaching home where occupational therapy and other activities will enable the elderly to live active and meaningful lives.

The morning ended with visits to the different areas in the Home, and a sumptuous lunch was provided for all.





UCAWC VISIT TO LOWER NORTH ARCHDEACONRY

Praise God! The Upper Central Archdeaconry Women were able to make this inaugural Inter Archdeaconry visit to the Lower North Archdeaconry from a dream to reality. A total of 52 ladies 3 men from 11 Churches participated in this trip held from 3-4 September 2011.

The purpose of our visit was:

- To visit a few Churches in the Archdeaconry concerned
- To meet and interact with the women in the Archdeaconry
- To be an exposure trip for the ladies in the Upper Central Archdeaconry

Very early on the morning of 3rd September, all the ladies assembled at St. Mary's Cathedral and we started our journey at 6.45 am in a bus and a van.

Our first stop was at Emmanuel Church Tapah. We were received by Rev Marshall Thompson, the Wardens and the Women's Fellowship members. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and had breakfast with the ladies.



Ipoh. We were received by Rev Tom Cherian and he shared at length on the history of the Church.

At Ray of Hope we were received by Datin Mary Yeoh.



We were treated to a tea fellowship at the Café Ray of Hope which is run by the former students of the Centre. The students were so happy to serve us cold drinks and fried noodles!

After a hectic and exciting day in Ipoh we proceeded to Teluk Intan. We arrived at the Century Home Stay at 6.45 pm. After a quick wash up we made our way to St. Luke's Church Teluk Intan. We were received by Rev Ong Ah Bah and Pastor Augustine. The ladies from St. Luke's prepared a sumptuous dinner for us and we had a wonderful time of fellowship.



From there we proceeded to the Church of the Holy Spirit at 10.30 am to join the Lower North Archdeaconry ladies in their One Day Programme. We were received with warmth and love by the members of the Women's Fellowship and joined them for a lunch fellowship.

After dinner, we had a time of Praise & Worship and a time of sharing by a sister on the activities carried out by their Women's Fellowship. Then Mrs Nesamani Alexandor presented a power point presentation on the

From the Church of the Holy Spirit, we proceeded to Kampong Kacang Putih to buy the famous Ipoh Kacang Putih.



Our next stop was St. John's Church





activities of the Upper Central Archdeaconry Women's Committee.

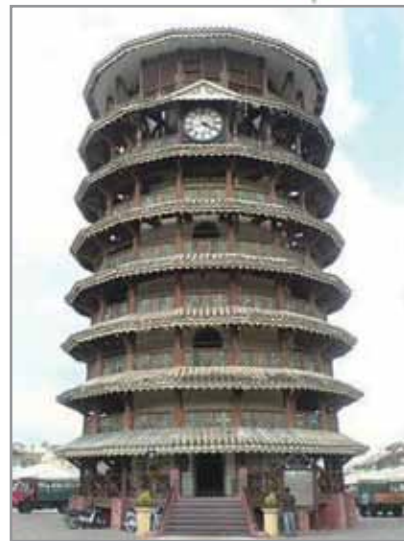
Bright and early on Sunday morning we made our way to St. Luke's Church to attend the Holy Communion Service at 9.00 am.



From there we moved on to our final destination... Bethany Home.

Upon arrival we were met by the Director of Bethany Home, Mr Jayasingh Rajiah. We assembled at the hall and Mr Jayasingh shared on the work carried out by the Home since 1966. He also briefed us on the services that are available.

Oh my! Oh my! What an amazing experience!! We had a wonderful time, visiting all these places. Even though we were exhausted, nevertheless we enjoyed ourselves, having fun and fellowship with one another. Indeed this



The famous Leaning Tower of Teluk Intan.

visit was an eye opener for most of the ladies - as they had heard about the existence of these Churches but they were seeing them for the very first time!!!

We give God all Glory, Honour and Praise!!

*By:
Mrs Nesamani Alexander
Chairperson, UCAWC*



MISSION FROM JB TO YANGON



From 27 August – 1 September, a team of 10 young adults from the Church of the Good Shepherd Johor Bahru led by Rev Tan Meng Poo had the opportunity to travel on a mission exposure trip to Yangon. For everyone (except Rev Tan), it was our first trip to Myanmar – and it was exciting!

Mingalaba (hello) was the first word we learned when first arrived in Yangon.

Our first visit was to Grace Home Orphanage. We were greeted with big beaming smiles from 35 children and some adults in the

orphanage's small hall. The children then welcomed us by singing 'How Great Thou Art'. We led in a number of children's songs and games and had an awesome time. We were amazed that they sang so loudly and harmoniously. They were so full of energy and enthusiasm when it came to game time. At the end, we gave out some Malaysian snacks. We also gave a donation to the Orphanage. Knowing the children's background and where they came from, it was heart wrenching for all of us but we thank God for Grace Home and His providence for the children, that they are all well looked after.

The team was divided into two groups to attend Sunday service – at the Holy Trinity Cathedral (English service) and St. Michael's and All Angels (Myanmar service). We may not understand the language but got to experience the traditional orthodox style of worship. After that we met up with a group of youths for a short briefing and had lunch before proceeding to St. John's Church, Yangon for a combined youth service and worship seminar where the speaker was Rev Tan himself. There were about 150 youth and the event included song presentations by various churches in their language. Two of our team





The Rt. Revd Samuel Htan Oake hosted us and the Provincial office, where the General Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Saw was our host. We had morning prayer and tea for a start. Each person in our team was given a task to visit various departments in the offices to understand their work and needs. The departments are the Mother's Union, Religious Education (RE), Evangelism, Communication and Youths. We also joined the Anglican Youth People Association (AYPA) where youth gathered for their English lesson that day. We mingled with the youths and were impressed with how well they conversed and shared with us in English. We had fun singing songs and playing ice-breaker games together. Some donations were also given to the Diocesan and Provincial offices. We also purchased a new laser printer as a gift for the RE department at the Diocesan office.

Our final destination was RBC Myanmar. In the morning we joined them for morning prayers and tea. After that we helped them to unpack and arrange reading materials (Our Daily Bread). We also bought some RBC materials for the Diocesan office's evangelism team.

While we got to know the work of the Church in another land and made a contribution in our small way, we also learnt how to work together as we planned and prayed for the trip.

Finally, the last word we learned was Kyeizu tin ba de (thank you). We were thankful for our PCC, families and friends who chose to bless us with prayers and financial support for the trip to Myanmar. It was spiritually enriching and at the same time educational. We are truly thankful to the Lord for the open doors. Mohinga (vermicelli in fish sauce) became one of our favourite local dishes. And we all agreed that the fruit yoghurt drink costing Kyat 500 from City Mart was the best.

*By Julie Tan
Church of the Good Shepherd
Johor Bahru*

members also gave their testimonies on that day and it was interpreted into Burmese.

We travelled on pick-up trucks almost every day to get to our destination. Transport was provided by courtesy of Grace Home as well as the Diocesan and Provincial offices. Streets were busy and buses were everywhere. Air pollution was unavoidable and fumes from diesel vehicles were unbearable. Massive potholes, bumpy uneven paths and wobbly blocks on sidewalks could be seen almost everywhere. But life goes on without people really minding too much.

In all the places we visited, people were incredibly friendly and there

was a never-ending parade of smiles, waves and hellos. Men and women wore colourful lungi and their faces were covered with thanaka (yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark).

On one of the nights, we went on a prayer walk after our evening meal. From afar we could see the unused Parliament building and the impressive and massive Shwedagon Pagoda. As we walked, we prayed for God's blessing on the nation and people of Myanmar – that the light of Jesus Christ will shine throughout that land.

We also had the opportunity to visit (on two separate days) the Diocesan office where the Assistant Bishop

TESTIMONIES



from

GEREJA SHEKINAH MAMBANG DIAWAN



A small team of delegates from Synod visited Gereja Shekinah Mambang Diawan in KAMPAR and would like to share the testimonies of these believers.

Rev Wong Yoo (2nd from right) with the believers.

Cai Miao Xiang (1st left)

Before I accepted Christ, both my legs were very painful whenever I squatted, especially when I used the toilet. I found it difficult to stand up again. Three days after I accepted Christ, I was able to bend, squat and stand up without any pain. This true God has healed me. All glory be to Jesus Christ!

Li Cai Zhen (2nd left)

I was a follower of Tian Dao. Because both my sons are drug addicts, I was very sad. I had headaches, a nervous breakdown and pain in both legs. I needed medication for sleep. Now both my sons are in a Drug Rehabilitation Centre, and it has changed them. I also accepted Christ Jesus, because the Lord Jesus Christ has looked after me. The pain in my leg which I had for 30 years and my insomnia were healed. I truly believe in God's grace to me.

Xi Feng Zhen (3rd left)

My husband is a soothsayer, a fortune teller and also a medium healer. I had lots of ailments, like mumps, irregular heartbeat, ache in the backbone and growth on my right leg. One day, my husband left me to become a monk. I felt very sad and hopeless and began to have suicidal

thoughts. 'The end of man's wits is the beginning of God's work'. I went to church and accepted Christ as my Saviour. God is my hope in life. I started to change for the better. My sickness was also healed. Now, I serve fervently in the church and I have the peace and joy of God, and the satisfaction of being in Christ.

Luo Jin He (1st right)

Before accepting Christ, I had inflammation and bleeding in my colon. I saw specialists but could not be completely healed. My career was also affected as I had no peace of mind. My mother is a Christian and she asked me to attend an evangelistic meeting. I went and I experienced a miracle. I was completely healed. Career wise, God supplied all my needs. Now my whole family serves the Lord and the Lord is our hope and joy.

Li Yu Lan (seated)

Two other sisters and I had taken a blood oath. The two others have died but their spirits kept tormenting me, wanting me to go with them. Later, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, and also got married. Because I did not pursue the Word of God diligently, the evil spirits returned to torment me again. I have been to hell twice. I fell down from a bicycle and hit my head against a buffalo. I was unconscious and needed an operation at that time to save my life. I regained consciousness a week after the operation. A year later, I walked with a cane. Jesus has never left me. He snatched my life back from the evil one.

By Rev Wong Yoo and Evengelist Yong Siew Foong

JALAN TENGAH LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSING WELL

Work on the redevelopment of the former St Mary's School land in Jalan Tengah, Kuala Lumpur is proceeding well and on track for its opening in the second half of 2012. Currently, the substructure work has been completed for the whole development. The main builders work is ongoing and is on schedule to be completed by May 2012.

Presently, the superstructure work of Synod's tower (Tower B) is completed and a concrete topping up ceremony was held on 8 July 2011 in the presence of representatives from Synod and the developers, Mergexcel Property Development Sdn Bhd. The superstructure work for the remaining towers, namely Towers A & C have also been completed. The overall physical progress is 89.4% complete.

The official opening of the development will most likely be held around the time of Synod 2012. Members of the Synod can expect to be invited for this milestone event.

Please continue to pray for the Lord's guidance on this project.



Elevation View of Tower B From Central Park



Aerial View of Tower B

Typical Kitchen Cabinet & Island for Unit Type A1 (without fitting & appliances)



Unit Type B1 – Typical Elevation View of Vanity Top & Mirror



DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH IN TAPAH

Gereja Kg Merah in TapaH was dedicated by Bishop Andrew Phang together with Archdeacon Canon Steven Abarrow at a special service recently. Seven members of the church were also confirmed by Bishop Phang during the service. The event was attended by Evangelist Anthony and about 60 other members from Gereja Shalom Gopeng.

Praise God for this new church and do uphold them in your prayers!



EMERGENCY BIBLE NUMBERS



- When you are sad, call on John 14
- When you don't feel loved, call on Romans 8:38-39
- When you have sinned, call on 1 John 1:8-9
- When you are facing danger, call on Psalm 91
- When people have failed you, call on Psalm 27
- When God feels far from you, call on Psalm 139
- When your faith needs encouraging, call on Hebrews 11
- When you are scared, call on Psalm 23
- When you are worried, call on Matthew 6:25-34
- When you are hurt, call on Colossians 3:12-17
- When you feel no one is on your side, call on Romans 8:31-39
- When you are seeking rest, call on Matthew 11:25-30
- When you are suffering, call on Romans 8:18-30
- When you feel you're failing, call on Psalm 121
- When you pray, call on Matthew 6:9-13
- When you need courage, call on Joshua 1
- When you are in need, call on Philippians 4:19
- When you are hated because of your faith, call on John 15
- When you are losing hope, call on 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- When you are seeking peace, call on John 14:27
- When you want to do good works, call on John 15
- When you want to live a happy life, call on Colossians 3:12-17
- When you don't understand what God is doing, call on Isaiah 55:8-9
- When you want to get along with others, call on Romans 12:9-21

*God Bless You All.
Ev. Steven Raj
St. George's Church Penang*

EVENTS IN 2012

• Launching of new Diocesan Theme – Nurturing The Shoot	1 January 2012
• Diocesan Clergy & Deaconesses Retreat at Bayu Beach Resort, PD	4 – 7 January 2012
• Provincial Synod	12 – 15 February 2012
• CCM World day of Prayer	3 March 2012
• St Katherine's Church, Kajang 100th Anniversary Celebration	15 April 2012
• World Chinese Anglican Clergy Fellowship Conference at Manila	17 – 20 April 2012
• Chinese Board AGM	1 May 2012
• Anglican Care AGM	12 May 2012
• Tamil Board AGM	24 May 2012
• Diocesan Women Conference in JB	4 – 6 June 2012
• Diocesan Worship Conference in Ipoh	7 – 9 June 2012
• Diocesan Golden Circle Conference	12 August 2012
• Diocesan Synod in Kajang	21 – 23 August 2012
• Diocesan Discipleship Training Seminar	September 2012
• St Luke's Church, Teluk Intan 100th Anniversary Celebration	14 October 2012

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?

How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Shall we find the stable-room
Lit by a star?

Can we see the little Child,
Is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,
Ox, ass, or sheep?
May we peep like them and see
Jesus asleep?

If we touch His tiny hand
Will he awake?
Will He know we've come so far
Just for His sake?

Great Kings have precious gifts,
And we have naught,
Little smiles and little tears
Are all we brought.

For all weary children
Mary must weep.
Here on His bed of straw
Sleep, children, sleep.

God, in His mother's arms,
Babies in the byre,
Sleep, as they sleep who find
Their heart's desire.

FRANCES CHESTERTON