
‘Might not those Islands one day inquire in their Missionary Meetings how the British Church may be revived?’ ‘Those islands’ included the Malay Archipelago, Sri Lanka and the West Indies which were referred to as the ‘Insular Missions’.

Today we are certainly realising that the answer to this question is a resounding YES as we see ‘Reverse Mission’ taking place. It has been a great privilege to experience the growth of the church in Kuching and West Malaysia during this two week visit, and to be challenged and inspired by the attention given to discipleship in particular.

Revd Dr Albert Walters has been seconded by the Diocese of West Malaysia to the Church of Bangladesh where he is the Principal of St. Andrew’s Theological College, Dhaka. Muslims make up 90% of the population and Christians 0.3%. Albert is co-writing a book about Islam with a Muslim colleague. His ministry in Bangladesh is an inspiring example of missional resourcing.

Might we consider further ways of sending and receiving clergy, ordinands and lay ministers, of sharing in ministry across the wider church?

Three openings for school links in Kuching:

- Primary school at St James’, Quop
- Secondary school at St Luke’s, Sri Aman
- Secondary school with St Mary’s, Kuching

There are with each of these opportunities to link with the local church / Cathedral.
WE APPRECIATED:

The wonderful welcome and hospitality we received during our 5 days in the Diocese of Kuching and 8 days in the Diocese of West Malaysia. Thank you!

The opportunity to preach at St Thomas’ Cathedral at their 06.45 service attended by 800 people and the following Sunday at St George’s Penang, the oldest church in S E Asia.

Visiting the Seramban Theological College and seeing potential for partnership.

Experiencing Longhouse hospitality, and the ministry of the four clergy of St Luke’s Church, Sri Aman, amongst the 260 Longhouses in their parish.

Meeting up with Archbishop Bolly just before his departure to the Primates’ meeting in Canterbury and his part in their commitment for us to ‘walk together’.

As part of the Diocese of West Malaysia’s Decade of Mission and Networking, 2016 has been chosen to be a Year of Enriching Partnership. Philip and Charlotte Swan were invited to speak at the Clergy and Lay Leaders Conference; Philip on Mission Partnership, Spirituality and Discipleship and Charlotte on Spiritual Companionship. Representatives from Lichfield Diocese are invited to other events this year.

St Chads Volunteer Programme: It was a great joy to meet up with previous Volunteers, hosts and others connected with the Volunteer programme. We saw the rewiring done by Joe Poole during his time at St Mary’s Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur. At St Nicholas Home in Penang there was particular appreciation expressed for a former Volunteer who helped with fundraising—‘Please send us another Matt Teather’, pleaded the Principal, Daniel Soon. Teachers of English are wanted in the Mission Deaneries and we will soon be looking for a suitable parish to host an ordinand in training from Kuching. The Ven Revd Stephen Soe, father of Christopher Soe who was at Dovedale House, has sent two more Volunteers to this Diocese. This underlines the value of SCVP hub churches.

AND FINALLY……..

- We look forward to the release of the New Provincial Hymnbook from S.E. Asia reflecting the different cultural traditions of the Province.
- Over 100 copies of the Community of Saint Chad booklet were handed out at the Clergy and Lay Leaders Conference as we explored missional spirituality as the basis for discipleship and being church today.
- In Penang we found a St Chad’s Group meeting under the wise leadership of Richard Loh and we are exploring the possibility of translating it into Bahasa Malay and Mandarin.
- What scope is there for inculturalisation for instance in relation to the Iban culture?
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ in Malaysia are facing many challenges and demands as a result of Islamisation and the systematic pressures of living under an Islamic government.
- Pray for Bishop Mark Rylands, Captain David Brown and the others who are visiting Malaysia in February.