



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

Issue 2.
December 2015

GOLDEN NEWS!

St. Mary's Cathedral Golden Circle

WELCOME! To the 2nd edition of the Cathedral Golden Circle Newsletter. We would like to share with you all the programmes and activities carried out by us from October to December.

We welcome all who are 50 years of age and above to come join us for faith, fellowship and fun.



Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES SEPT – DEC 2015

- Senior Citizens' Day – 3 Oct 2015
- UCAGC Bible Rally – 17 Oct 2015
- Mission Trip to Teluk Intan – 17 – 18 Oct 2015
- Fellowship Visit to Sabah – 7 – 10 November 2015
- Muruku Making – 5 Dec 2015
- Visit to Cozy Home – 12 Dec 2015

REGULAR PROGRAMMES

- Breakfast Sales every 1st Sunday of each month
- Home Visits to more St. Marians

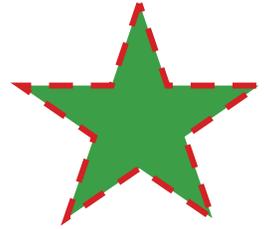
SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY – 9 members participated in this programme held at Christ Church Jinjang on Saturday 3 October 2015.

HOME VISIT – Some members of the Golden Circle Committee visited Ms Elizabeth Periathamby, who is recovering at home after an operation



Merry Christmas, and may this New Year bring you joy and laughter. To be happy in the Lord is the greatest wish in life

VISIT TO ORANG ASLI VILLAGE TELUK INTAN



Over the weekend of 17th and 18th October a representative mission group from St. Mary's Golden Circle visited Teluk Intan, to assess and help the needs of disadvantaged members of the local community. Our first visit was to Bethany Home. K. Thilly gives a brief report on what the Supervisor shared with us that day.

This Home, founded in 1966, provides training and support to children and adults with a variety of disabilities, including epilepsy, autism and cerebral palsy. Bethany Home's policy is to equip, encourage and support people with disabilities to become as independent as possible within their own families and in the community at large. Some of them who have been trained with skills now run a café called – Café Bethany and sell sandwiches, cakes and buns.

The following day we visited the Orang Asli residents of Pengkalan Daun Village, Chenderong Balai in the Teluk Intan area. Present were the leader Mr Bardol and Dr Cheng, who helps out with the Sunday School for the Orang Asli children who come not only from the settlement but also from a neighbouring kampong, as well as friends of the children. There were around 60 of them ranging in age from 4 to 14 years.

Our fellowship opened with a short prayer by the Orang Asli leader, then the Pastor led us with some praise and songs of worship in Bahasa accompanied by two Orang Asli boys who played guitars very well.

To assist the school community, we brought with us colouring pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, scissors, glue, a flat screen TV and a CD player, CD's of Christian songs and nursery songs, some prizes (biscuits, sweets, towels, books), as well as Sunday School books for the teachers and work books for the students.

Our visiting team divided into two groups, one remained in the hall to keep the children occupied and the other spent time in the kindergarten to look into completing a glossary of Orang Asli words. The other group concentrated on activities with the children who sat in a circle and played "Poisoned Parcel".

The children were also given pictures to colour. Each had a biblical verse and they were told what the verse meant. The pictures when coloured, had strings attached to them and the children were encouraged to take them home and hang them in their houses.

The children were each given a cup cake and soft drinks and finally we gave them a love gift of RM 200.00.

This was a really inspiring visit to the Orang Asli settlement. We will not stop at this and will make more visits to this settlement to see how else we can help them to stand up with dignity and pride in Malaysian society.



FELLOWSHIP VISIT TO SABAH

The Land below the Wind

The St. Mary's Golden Circle has as one of its prime objectives to build relations between Christian communities in East and West Malaysia. Last year we organized a highly successful fellowship trip to Sarawak where we were able to reciprocate a visit by Seniors from Kuching to St. Mary's earlier in the year.

In November this year our goal was to extend our relations and fellowship with our fellow Golden Circlers in Sabah in a self-financed trip.

Over four days we undertook a series of visits in the Kota Kinabalu area to acquaint ourselves with the capital as well as making excursions to Sapi Island, Kinabalu Park and the Poring Hot Springs. A truly fascinating experience for us all.

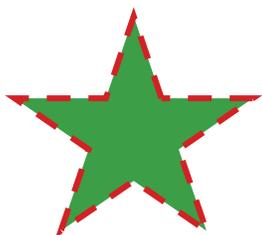
On Saturday 8th November we were hosted to a scrumptious dinner by our fellow Golden Circlers at All Saints' Cathedral and were graciously received by the Dean, the Very Rev Chak Sen Fen, Rev Victor Leong and Bishop Datuk Yong Ping Chung.

The following morning, we attended the English Service at 7.30 am and were most warmly received by all the members of the congregation. There were great photo opportunities for all, and we now look forward to a visit by members of All Saints' Cathedral Golden Circle early in 2016.

So far and yet so near. We were blown away by the many natural attractions of Sabah and by the friendship in Christ which we experienced in "the Land below the Wind."



The spectacular Mount Kinabalu!!



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Some twenty one years ago St. Mary's Cathedral Golden Circle was initiated. Mrs Esther Schokman, who was amongst those who attended, reflects on the foundation and progress of the Golden Circle since then.

St. Mary's Cathedral Golden Circle was launched by Mr. S Robert, Chairman of the Diocesan Golden Circle, on 9th May 1993. Mr. Ernie Talalla was elected as the first Chairman of the Golden Circle with Miss Margaret Joseph to assist him. Mr. Talalla represented St. Mary's at the Diocesan Golden Circle AGM on 16th July 1994 when a total of 9 Anglican churches attended.

Mr. Robert Sundram gave a talk to encourage members to commence a membership drive and form a Benevolent Fund to help members with ill-health or funeral expenses and to visit church members who were sick in hospital or at home and to visit Old Folks' Homes. At another meeting in November 1994 the Rules and Regulations for the Cathedral, Churches, Missionary District Golden Circles were agreed upon. This was delegated to Mrs. Ruth Sivapragasam and Mrs. Esther Schokman whilst Dato Stanley Isaacs helped to draw the Rules.

Activities got underway with visits to Childrens' Homes where we joined in Fellowship with Prayers and Songs of Praise. We had a small belated Christmas party in Bethany Home with gifts for the children. A child from Bethany Home was sponsored at RM300.00 for 1 year. Visits also took place to the Malayan Association for the Blind where we brought gifts and foodstuff, and to the Old Folk's Home in Sg. Besi again with fruits and foodstuff, and a small donation. Flowers were placed at the graves of 4 servicemen at the War Grave Cemetary in Cheras and a donation of RM100.00 was made to the Day Care and Training Centre for the construction of a hydro-therapy swimming pool fund.

It was left to Mr. E. Talalla to organize more activities in order to get people to join the Golden Circle. A Breakfast Sale was arranged to have English food on sale after the 8.30 a.m. Service. The cost was RM2.50 per plate. On other Sundays Chicken Rice porridge made by Mrs. Mei Blake and local cakes, nasi lemak and curry puffs were also put on sale. The profits went toward the Golden Circle Fund which was used for activities and donations for outreach work in Old Folk's Homes as well as New Village Orang Asli settlements. Classes were also held to tutor the Orang Asli children in English.

Hospital Visits were organized by Mr Al Schokman who drove the Cathedral van. He visited Iban patients referred to him by members of the Wardieburn Camp Cottage Prayer Meetings. Fruit and Milo were given to needy patients and tracts to some patients with prayers for their recovery. Mr. and Mrs. Schokman also engaged in outreach work at Wardieburn Camp where some of the families took part in Golden Circle activities. Their children were also encouraged to attend Sunday School.

Excursions were planned including one, to Pulau Ketam Later. visits to the Selangor Pewter Factory and a rubber plantation were well attended as was an excursion to Sungei Buloh Garden led by Ms. Lina Santiago of the Selangor and Federal Territory Garden Society.

A Golden Circle Anthem was suggested and the theme song, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US to the tune of "As With Gladness Men Of Old" by Mrs. Esther Schokman was chosen.

St. Mary's Cathedral Golden Circle with its dedicated committee has progressed far in spiritual strength and in our endeavours to foster closer Christian Fellowship in our country so that religious tolerance can be observed in our multi-religious and multiracial country.



For further information about Golden Circle activities please contact us as follows:

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Visits can also be arranged to housebound St. Marians and Golden Circlers.

