

A quarterly newsletter linking Christian Bahasa writers and ministry workers around Malaysia

## Soaring High to Fulfill the Bahasa Ministry

Imagine you are a Bahasa speaking Christian, you walk into one of our local bookstores and in frustrations, and you walk out because there is hardly any book in Bahasa. This has been the plight of our Bahasa speaking congregation for many years which spurs Wawasan Penabur to fulfil His calling.

It is for this very purpose, some 100 Christians joined Wawasan Penabur during its first Rakan Penabur Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009. About 100 titles collected by our resource centre, plus close to 70 titles from Scripture Union were there on display for the participants to browse through. But, reality hit that only 64 titles are still available today.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome by the chairman, Chow Chee Yan, and a rousing speech by Pastor Phua Seng Tiong who was the hospitable host of SSMC.

Four speakers delivered their speeches passionately with a sense of urgency. Rev. Wong Fong Yang urged the churches to start a national fund to fund Bahasa resources projects and support those who are set apart for the work. The SIB Semenanjung president, Daniel Raut, convinced us the need of making books at an affordable price while Edwin Agung spoke on the consequences of Islamisation and the need to disciple our churches. Bob Teoh showed eye-opening slides on Sarawak.

Tan Hwee Yong shared her journey and calling in this ministry and stressed on the need to create an identity and tell our own story in Bahasa. Randy Singkee spoke on creating a colony of writers and translators for Malaysia.



A few words...



Dear friends,

As you may know, Wawasan Penabur was formed in January 2009 to partner with the Bahasa-speaking church in Malaysia, with the aim to develop and distribute the best Bahasa resources to leaders, churches and individuals.

One of its objectives is **to grow** ... by partnering with writers, translators, publishers, pastors, theologians and leaders in the ministry of equipping the Bahasa speaking church. In this issue, we highlight the first Rakan Penabur Meeting that was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

And there were 3 Christian books in Bahasa published in the last 3 months. Wawasan Penabur's publication - **Obor Remaja** (translation of the Young Teens Aflame) and **Tetap Teguh** (apologetics) will be published soon.

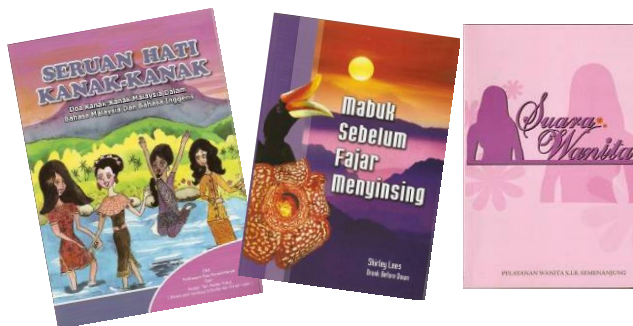
Appreciate your prayer support as it has been challenging to look for printer to print our books as it contains some words that were considered sensitive. Pray that we as Christians, will not be easily intimidated and be crippled by fear. E-book is the best option at the moment.

Enjoy this issue and we love to hear from you.

*Berita Rakan Penabur* is an electronic publication of Wawasan Penabur containing news and information about our work and new Christian resources in Bahasa Malaysia.

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## Resources



**Seruan Hati Kanak-Kanak** contains 140 prayers and refreshing prayer stories written by Malaysian children and a few adults. The children also illustrated the book to stretch our imagination further. Please contact Hwee Yong ([hweeyong@yahoo.com](mailto:hweeyong@yahoo.com)) if you are interested.

**Mabuk Sebelum Fajar Menyingsing** is a classic book on how the Australian missionaries stepped into Borneo and transformed the many tribes in the interior of Sabah & Sarawak. A book illustrated with drawings and photos of earlier mission work. Please contact Hwee Yong ([hweeyong@yahoo.com](mailto:hweeyong@yahoo.com)) if you are interested.

**Suara Wanita** contains 6 lessons on Christian women and their role as wife mother, home maker and career. Ideal for individual or group study. Please contact Madelin/Pr. Saraban at 03-22725233 if you are interested.

## Important Dates

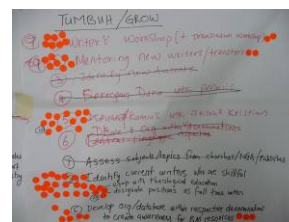
### OCTOBER

- ◆ Wawasan Penabur Fund Raising Dinner. Date & venue to be confirmed. Please contact us at [wawasan.penabur@gmail.com](mailto:wawasan.penabur@gmail.com) if you can be part of the organizing committee.

Participants were divided into various groups and Roshan Thiran led them to brainstorm on sowing, growing and spreading. Many agreed on the need of setting up fund, exploring IT avenue, and tapping into the strength and talents of the new generation. They were given the opportunity to vote for workable strategies after their discussion.

Two books written by Tan Hwee Yong were launched on that day: *Seruan Hati Kanak-Kanak* and the translation of *Drunk Before Dawn* by Shirley Lees, *Mabuk Sebelum Fajar Menyingsing*.

The participants further interacted and established network with each other over lunch. Rakan Pena bur Meeting has opened their minds for further partnership and meaningful involvement in the ministry.



## Penabur Challenge

The Malaysian church has not awakened to its call to take on the Bahasa work seriously. It is crucial that we now redeem our lost time.

Wawasan Penabur's initiative of identifying, sharing and distributing Christian resources in Bahasa Malaysia to the Bahasa-speaking Christians, particularly the indigenous people groups deserves our fullest support.

There was a strong call from the last Rakan Penabur Meeting to set up National Fund for BM Translation work. We need to challenge and network the best of our young people for national BM ministry.

We also need to engage theological seminaries in creating a curriculum for BM translation work, identify and prioritize commentaries to be translated.

It is time for all theologians, pastors, evangelists, children and youth workers and writers to unitedly join hands as a team to meet the gap of the Bahasa church. Are you one of those being called?

## Penabur's Top 3 Response

1. Central funding for BM ministries and BM publishing. The purpose is to develop writers for long-term roles & set them apart for this ministry
2. Identify current writers who are skillful – equip with theological education, designate them positions as full time writers
3. Identify communication experts (new media, IT channels, and website) to adapt current books and get them online in different media. Create one portal for all resources.