



April-June 2017

Berita Rakan Penabur

A Quarterly Newsletter Linking Bahasa Churches and Ministry Workers in Malaysia



Let the Little Children Come To Me

A friend of mine who speaks regularly to teenagers likes to tell them, "You are not the church of tomorrow. You are the church of today."

Most Christians believe that the evangelical revival first began in 1734 among the young people in Jonathan Edwards' church in Northampton, Massachusetts, that then spread along the Connecticut River Valley in New England. But there was actually an earlier revival in a different river valley in central Europe - the Oder River Valley. The region was known as Silesia and ran along the Czech-Polish border. The "Uprising of the Children" that occurred in this locality in 1708 reminds us of the importance of young people in the church.

The story of this revival is told in a 41-page tract published in London in 1708. It began when school-aged children at Sprottau (near Glogau) began to meet in the open fields outside the town at daybreak, two or three times a day. They would form a circle to pray, sometimes prostrating themselves, singing Lutheran hymns, and reading the Psalms and devotional texts. They then closed with a blessing.

Soon, the adults joined the children. As the children sang and prayed, the adults wept. In several towns, as many as 300 to 1,000 children gathered. The magistrates issued orders to desist, but the children would not stop. At Frideberg, a hangman was sent with a whip to disperse the children who were meeting in the marketplace. But when he saw them at their prayers, he could not do it. At Breslau, Roman Catholic children joined the Lutheran children, despite strict orders from the magistrates for parents to keep their children at home.

This young people's revival soon became the catalyst for a spiritual renewal of the church. Teschen, a town deep in the south of Poland, became the center of that revival. Some people would walk all night to get there. Great crowds gathered inside and outside of the church spent hours in prayer, confession, and ardent hymn singing. Revival soon spread to the surrounding towns and villages. Teschen was to central Europe in the 18th century what Edwards' Northampton was to America.

Very often children are seen as the least in churches. But if we want to see a great revival and renewal in Malaysia, we have to start with discipling the young. They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of **today**.



Sowing BM Christian Resources
Bridging Christian Communities

Wawasan Penabur's Vision

To sow, grow and spread
the best Bahasa Malaysia
resources among the
BM-speaking Christian in
Malaysia

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Sowing BM Christian Resources

“Thy Word is the Lamp Unto My Feet”

My name is Priscillia anak Pagun. I was born in Johor but my parents are Ibans from Sarawak. I am writing to you because of the colourful Alkitab Kanak-Kanak that I own for the last 4 years. My mother bought it for me when I was 11 years old. Now I am 14 and I am still reading the Bible.

On days when I feel tired and anxious about schoolwork and school activities, I will pick up the Bible and read a passage or two. Reading God’s word refreshes me. Seeing how important God’s Word is to children, my mother bought another 6 copies to give to my cousins. Thank you for making the Alkitab Kanak-Kanak so affordable at only RM 5 a copy! We know it costs a lot more, like RM 30 a book!

Since last year, I also started reading the adult Bible. As I already know some of the stories (with beautiful pictures) from Alkitab Kanak-Kanak, I find the adult Bible not boring but even more interesting. My sister also has her own Alkitab Kanak-Kanak and I always ask her to read her Bible together with me.



I also lend my Alkitab Kanak-Kanak to my Christian friend in school, because she hardly goes to church. Soon she started asking her father and mother to go to church. Now they are regular in church even though there are times when they cannot go because of the lack of transport. I am really happy for my friend!

Thank you for publishing these Children’s Bible and may God bless you and your work!

They meet every Friday night and Saturday night. The meeting starts with a short time of worship, after which they read the Bible together. This is followed by a Question and Answer Session. Sometimes, a Bible Quiz is conducted to review the previous week’s lesson. The meeting ends with prayer.



The numbers haven been growing each week and the children are encouraged to read through the Alkitab Kanak-Kanak. A small reward is given to those who read it from cover to cover. Praise the Lord that thus far, 14 children have completed reading the entire Alkitab Kanak-Kanak.



Continue to pray for Nura, Bee King and Corina as they faithfully visit the longhouses and disciple the young. Pray for the children that they will know God personally, and be strong in their faith as they grow up. Almost all of these children will leave the longhouses and stay in school hostels when they enter secondary school.



Bridging Christian Communities

News From the Longhouse

Cikgu Bee King is a primary school teacher in Saratok. She is also serving as a Sunday School teacher in church. During one of her trips to the longhouse in Temudok Awik, she saw the need to minister to the children in longhouses. Currently, together with Nura and Corina, they run weekly Bible Classes using the Alkitab Kanak-Kanak in two long houses – Temudok Awik and Ulu Senulau.



“I personally have seen how the Alkitab Kanak-Kanak has been a blessing to many of the children in the longhouses. Because of urban migration, only primary school children and old grandparents are living in longhouses. So our visits have brought a new dimension in the life of these children. They read God’s Word, ask ‘tough questions’ and God is changing their perceptions and paradigms towards education and life,” Nura added.

Jesus said, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work.” (John 9:4, NIV) Indeed we, too, must do the work of Him who sent us while it is still day because a time may come when we will be hindered from doing His work.



Brief News

Wawasan Penabur celebrated 7 years of God's goodness and faithfulness, with a thanksgiving dinner/accountability report to our ministry partners and supporters on 20th April 2017.



Who we are

Board of Advisers

- Rev Wong Fong Yang
- Rev Danil Raut
- Lim Heng Seng
- Rev Datuk Jerry Dusing

Board of Directors (Penabur)

- Chow Chee Yan
- Roshan Thiran
- Alfred R. Tais
- Randy Singkee



How Can We Work Together?

- Help raise awareness and funds.** I believe this ministry has long-term potential. I desire to play an active role in engaging hearts and minds, so that others will also commit to strengthening the BM Church – through energy, funds and prayer.
- Sponsor and support** Wawasan Penabur's **"Satu Anak Kristian Satu Alkitab Campaign"** for Orang Asli, Sabah and Sarawak children.
- Sponsor and support** **"Penabur Benih Initiative"** to put Alkitab Kanak-Kanak in the hands of the children in Sarawak longhouses and schools.
- Support** Wawasan Penabur's **"Lapan Permata Project"** in providing teaching materials for the Children Ministry workers, Sunday School and Kindergarten teachers.
- Get involved in writing/translation projects.** I would like to join and contribute to a network of Christian writers, translators and publishers focused on developing BM resources.
- Pray intentionally.** "Unless the LORD builds the house, we labor in vain". I would like to pray for the Bahasa-speaking churches, and keep the Wawasan Penabur team accountable to the Lord through faithful intercession and action.
- Sponsor and support** Bible School students or Full-time youth workers through **"Sikhem Initiative"**
- Support** Wawasan Penabur's **"Singa Yehuda Project"** to print and distribute Gospel & Apologetics Comics to the youths

I / My Organisation/Company would want to contribute to Wawasan Penabur Sdn. Bhd.

Here is my/our gift _____ for Wawasan Penabur.*

Name : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number(s): _____ (hse) _____ (off)

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Make cheque payable to "Wawasan Penabur Sdn Bhd"
Deposit cash/cheque into Maybank account: 5623 6663 2813

* Please fax/send/email the bank-in-slip to us.