

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

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” (Isaiah 6:8b)

Wawasan Penabur organized a one-day writing retreat on the 17th November 2010 for a small group of Bahasa writers. They are to write on OT prophets and their message to the Bahasa-speaking churches today.

And on Christmas day 2010, the local newspapers published the following news that catches a lot of our attentions. Here's an excerpt from the Star:

TAWAU, 25-December 2010: The Sabah Islamic Affairs Department (Jheains) will enforce the apostasy law once its faith rehabilitation centre in Kinarut is ready next year, said its director, Datuk Amri A. Suratman. He said enforcement of the law was part of Jheains' five-year strategic plan.....

On dakwah, he said Jheains would focus its efforts on strategic and rural areas, especially those with a high number of converts, especially on prayers.

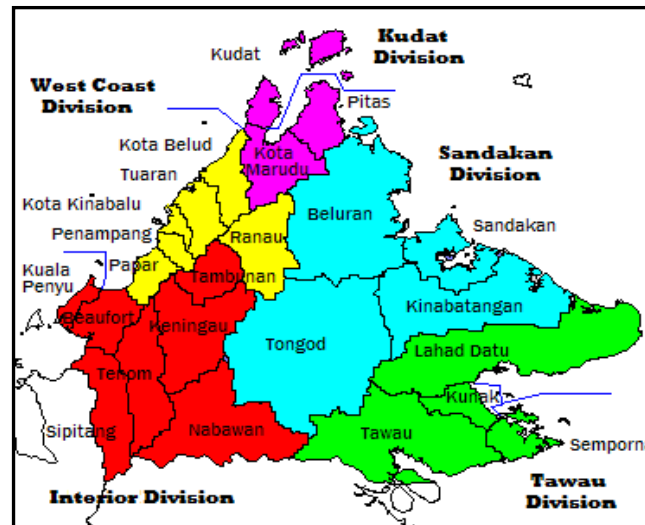
"These efforts will be carried out continuously to ensure that Muslim converts are not neglected," he added. - Bernama

Not many of us realised the implications of the apostasy law. There a lot of church-goers who were registered as Muslims due to parents' conversion. A lot of East Malaysian Christians are not even realised that their religion registered as Islam in their Mykad.

Rural areas in Sabah are predominantly Kadazan, Dusun, Murut and Orang Sungai areas. These are traditionally Christian areas, with approximately 620,000 Kadazandusun of various tribes, 150,000 of Muruts and 70,000 Orang Sungai.

A quick check from Jheains's website indicates that their dakwah focus will be on Tongod, Kinabatangan

& Beluran districts in the Sandakan Division; Pitas, Kudat & Kota Marudu districts in the Kudat Division; Ranau, Kota Belud & Tuaran districts in the West Coast Division; and the whole Interior Division particularly Tambunan, Keningau, Sipitang, Tenom and Nabawan districts.



Can we just sit back and relax with this aggressive encroachment? What then can the West Malaysian churches do to help the Bahasa speaking brethren in Sabah (and Sarawak)?

Both books and Bibles in Bahasa are still very much lacking. School children are exposed to the teaching from the dominant religion, and youth grown up knowing other religion better than theirs.

The Bahasa-speaking and indigenous churches need our urgent attention to help nurture and build their next generation to be strong and steadfast in the face of beguiling winds of change.

This is indeed a wake up call for all of us!!

A few words...



Dear Friends,

Wawasan Penabur wishes you a good and fruitful New Year! We continue to give thanks to Him for more Bahasa books being published and distributed especially to East Malaysia in the last Quarter. The OBOR series is now adopted by some Bahasa – speaking for their church discipleship program.

As we enter the new year, we face even greater challenges as Islamization is taking an aggressive move both in Sabah & Sarawak. Perhaps, the Lord wants us to pay attention to local missions this year!

There are two big projects/campaigns Wawasan Penabur is undertaking this year: “**Satu Keluarga, Satu Buku Cerita Alkitab**” in March for Easter; and “**Satu Anak, Satu Alkitab**” in November for Christmas.

You and your church definitely can play a role in these projects. Enjoy this issue and be challenged!

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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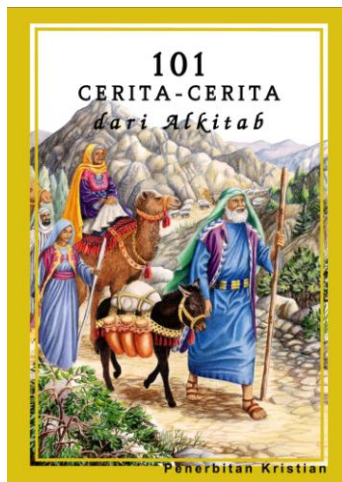
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Resources

More Books from Wawasan Penabur



Praise God that in this Quarter, we published another 5 books: OBOR Belia Buku 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19.



As part of our “Satu Keluarga, Satu Buku Cerita Alkitab” campaign, this hardcover, full-coloured 216 pages “101 Cerita-Cerita dari Alkitab” is a family book that prayerfully will strengthen you and your family’s faith in Christ.

Projects & Campaigns

“101 Bible Stories”

Finally, “101 Cerita-Cerita dari Alkitab” has been published and is ready for distribution. We have printed 10,000 copies and we aim to print another 40,000 copies in the coming months. The “**Satu Keluarga, Satu Buku Cerita Alkitab**” campaign will be launched in March in time for Easter.

It is a translation of the “101 Favorite Stories from the Bible”, a book that has been translated into many languages, and has delighted millions of children all around the world. The book is meant for family devotion or storytelling. Even young children who cannot read will love to look at the colourful, descriptive pictures. After each story, there are some questions to encourage discussion and help the children to remember the stories.

“Kitab Suci Kanak-Kanak”

Not only are we short of Alkitab for adults, there is no children’s version of Alkitab available for the young generation!

As part of the “**Satu Anak, Satu Alkitab**” campaign in November, Wawasan Penabur is currently doing the **Kitab Suci Kanak-Kanak**. We plan to publish tens of thousands of copies before end of October 2011.

Being a ministry, Wawasan Penabur requires funding and prayer support so that the materials can be made available and retail at affordable prices. You can partner with us in praying for the indigenous churches and/or sponsoring some publications and the Children Bible.

WP in Berita NECF

Wawasan Penabur is also highlighted in the latest issue of Berita NECF (Nov/Dec issue).

While English will remain as the lingua franca of the globalized culture, more and more of the younger generations who are educated in our national language will find difficulty in understanding our present curriculum of Christian education materials. Nearly two-thirds of all the Christians in Malaysia are Bahasa Malaysia (BM) speaking but less than 1% of Christian resources are in BM.

Seeing this great need, some concerned Christian leaders from across the major denominations formed Wawasan Penabur (Sower's Vision) last year to develop and distribute the best BM resources to leaders, churches and individuals.

To date, they have published 20 youth discipleship materials called “OBOR Belia” (Youth Flame). In the last one year, thousands of copies of OBOR Belia have reached our indigenous brethren in Sabah and Sarawak and also the Orang Asli churches in Peninsular.

Other than OBOR Belia, they have published “Lakukan Apa Yang Benar” (Do What is Right), a practical guide on legal matters for churches in Malaysia; and an apologetic book specifically to help our young people defend their faith.

They have also conducted a few awareness campaigns. The “Bahasa Malaysia Resources Awareness” was for Christian leaders, writers and publishers while the “Last Malaysia Awareness: Seminar, Dialogue & Cultural Performances” was for church leaders. A cultural dance night cum awareness campaign drew attention to the many tribes that are currently going through some challenges in “systematic encroachment” in Sabah and Sarawak. About 13 local writers and leaders participated in a week long “Writing Workshop” which focussed on training aspiring Bahasa writers. Other projects in the pipeline include a book on tracing God’s plans and promises for the Malaysian churches as seen through some major Old Testament characters.

Indeed, the BM speaking and indigenous churches need our urgent attention to help nurture and build their next generation of BM speaking believers to be strong and steadfast in the face of beguiling winds of change. Literature and training centers of the other faiths are making their inroads quickly into our villages. Christians who are not deeply rooted in biblical truths are easily swayed by other religious teachers.

Wawasan Penabur, being a ministry, requires funding and prayer support so that the materials can be retailed at affordable prices of RM 3– 6 a copy. You can partner with their efforts in praying for the indigenous churches and/or sponsoring some publication of books. More information can be obtained from their website at www.wawasanpenabur.org or contact them at wawasan.penabur@gmail.com.

6 Berita NECF November–December 2010

Special Announcement:

◆ “Satu Keluarga, Satu Buku Cerita Alkitab” Project

Look out for the launching of this Campaign from our website!

◆ Office Space Needed

We are running out of space, with currently more than 25 titles of books and thousands of Children Bibles! If you have an empty house, apartment or office space that you would like to be used for ministry, please contact us!