



Berita **Rakan Penabur**

April-September 2026

A Newsletter Linking Bahasa Churches and Ministry Workers in Malaysia

A Chosen Race, A Holy Nation

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9, ESV)

According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census (My Census), Malaysia has a population of approximately 32.4 million, of whom 2.94 million (9.1%) identify as Christians. Christianity remains concentrated in East Malaysia, where Sarawak and Sabah together account for about two-thirds (approximately 67%) of the country's Christian population, while the remaining one-third (about 970,000 Christians) live in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territories.

Christians form the largest religious group in Sarawak (42.4%) and represent over a quarter of Sabah's population (27.2%). A significant proportion of Malaysian Christians worship in Bahasa Malaysia, making Bahasa-speaking congregations an important part of the national church.

Often overlooked are the Orang Asli, the indigenous peoples of Peninsular Malaysia, who are officially recognized under the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954. They are distinct from the indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak and consist of eighteen sub-ethnic groups traditionally classified into three major categories: Negrito, Senoi, and Proto-Malay.

According to Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) Special Report on the Demographics of Orang Asli (2025), released on 14 October 2025, the Orang Asli population numbered 227,900, representing approximately 0.7% of the population of Peninsular Malaysia. Despite their small numbers, the Orang Asli represent one of the most culturally diverse and historically significant people groups in the nation.

Christianity Among the Orang Asli

Among the Orang Asli, 23,228 people (10.9%) identified themselves as Christians in the 2020 census. Islam accounted for 58,072 people (27.2%), while 108,020 (50.6%) continued to adhere primarily to traditional animistic beliefs. Orang Asli Christians are concentrated in areas with larger Orang Asli populations and where Christian ministry and church planting have been active for several decades. About 95.3% of all Orang Asli Christians are concentrated in these five states:



State	Orang Asli Christians
Perak	12,823
Pahang	5,951
Selangor	4,827
Kelantan	1,145
Negeri Sembilan	1,082

Christian presence varies considerably among the eighteen Orang Asli sub-ethnic groups. Communities such as the Semai, Temiar, and Mah Meri have experienced a longer history of Christian witness and church growth, while several Negrito groups continue to have relatively small Christian populations.

The Significance of the Orang Asli Church

Although the Orang Asli constitute only a small proportion of Malaysia's population, their place within the Body of Christ is significant. As the indigenous or "first peoples" of Peninsular Malaysia, they occupy a unique position in the nation's history and cultural heritage. In some Christian and prophetic circles, they are referred to as *Anak Sulung* ("firstborn"), reflecting the belief that they have a special role in God's purposes for the nation.

For this reason, it is important that established churches recognize, embrace, and partner with Orang Asli churches in ways that strengthen indigenous leadership and encourage sustainable spiritual growth. The Orang Asli church should not merely be viewed as a mission field, but as a vital part of the Malaysian Church with gifts, insights, and contributions that can bless the wider Body of Christ.

Effective ministry among the Orang Asli must recognize their cultural, linguistic, and historical diversity rather than treating them as a single homogeneous people. Contextualized discipleship, long-term relationship building, Bible translation, leadership development, and genuine partnership with indigenous believers remain essential for the healthy growth of the Orang Asli Church.

They are indeed "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that they may declare the praises of Him who called them out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)



The Temiar Revival



One of the most remarkable developments in the history of the Orang Asli Church is the revival that occurred among the Temiar people of Kelantan and Perak. Beginning in the 1970s and continuing in various forms over subsequent decades, this movement saw many Temiar communities respond to the gospel through the ministry of indigenous believers, church planters, and mission workers. What emerged was not a single revival event, but a sustained movement of spiritual renewal and church growth that transformed many villages.

The growth of the church among the Temiar was shaped largely by family and community networks rather than formal institutional structures. The gospel was communicated through personal relationships, oral testimony, prayer, and communal worship. Many Temiar Christians testified to experiencing God's power through answered prayer, physical and emotional healing, freedom from fear associated with spirits and traditional rituals, and a newfound sense of hope and purpose in Christ.



A key factor in the movement's sustainability was the emergence of indigenous leadership. Temiar believers increasingly took responsibility for leading congregations, evangelizing neighbouring communities, and discipling new believers. This enabled the church to grow in culturally meaningful ways while remaining rooted in biblical teaching.



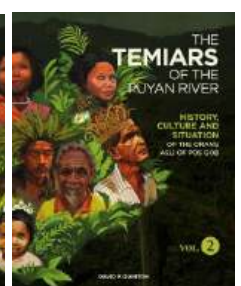
The Temiar experience highlights several important principles for ministry among indigenous peoples. The gospel takes deeper root when communicated in the heart language of the people, when community relationships are respected and nurtured, and when local believers are equipped and empowered to lead. Today, the Temiar Church represents one of the most vibrant expressions of indigenous Christianity among the Orang Asli and continues to offer valuable lessons for mission, church planting, and discipleship in Malaysia.



It should be noted that while the term "Temiar Revival" is commonly used in Malaysian Christian circles, it does not refer to a single revival event but rather to a series of spiritual awakenings, church-planting initiatives, and sustained Christian growth among Temiar communities since the 1970s. These developments have been documented through the testimonies of indigenous church leaders, mission practitioners, and researchers of Orang Asli Christianity.

Some references for Temiar Revival:

1. Geoffrey Benjamin (2014). *Temiar Religion, 1964–2012: Enchantment, Disenchantment and Re-enchantment in Malaysia's Uplands*. NUS Press.
2. David P. Quinton (2022). *The Temiars of the Puyan River (Vol 1 & 2)*. NUS Press
3. Colin Nicholas, *Another Orang Asli Church to be Demolished*. Aliran, September 22, 2010.





Sekolah Kepimpinan Isakhar-Timotius (SKIT) was initiated in response to the growing spiritual hunger among Orang Asli youth and young adults. This year, we launched the inaugural SKIT with 10 students (18 May-20 June, 2026).

While the Sekolah Kepimpinan Issachar (SKI), launched in 2024, has served Form 5 school leavers effectively, it became evident that Orang Asli youth would benefit from a curriculum that is more systematic, practical, and contextualized to their unique needs and ministry opportunities. SKIT was therefore developed to provide intentional discipleship, biblical training, leadership development, and practical ministry experience.



Guided by the theme “Pimpin Diri Ikut Kristus,” SKIT is a five-week residential Bible school for Orang Asli youth aged 18-25. Through biblical teaching, worship, prayer, mentoring, community living, and ministry exposure, participants are encouraged to deepen their relationship with Christ and develop the character and skills necessary for Christian leadership.

The school draws inspiration from two biblical models. Like Timothy, students are challenged to be examples in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity despite their youth (1 Timothy 4:12). Like the sons of Issachar, they are encouraged to understand the times and discern God's purposes for their generation (1 Chronicles 12:32).



A significant milestone was reached on 20 June 2026, when SKIT celebrated the graduation of its inaugural cohort—10 students representing four Orang Asli tribes (Semai, Temuan, Semelai and Jakun). Their journey reflects God's faithfulness and offers a glimpse of what kind of leaders God is raising up among the next generation of indigenous Christians in Malaysia.

One Orang Asli leader remarked, “SKIT has restored the dignity (*martabat*) of our people. I was so grateful just to watch and listen to the students’ testimonies during the graduation ceremony. It dawned on me that SKIT is truly special.” Three students who never attended secondary school became emotional because they had never dreamed of wearing a graduation gown in their lives. Their parents were proud as well.



Indeed, SKIT is a journey of discipleship and transformation. It is a place where faith is strengthened, character is shaped, friendships are formed, and God's calling is discovered. Our prayer is that every graduate will leave with a deeper love for Christ, a stronger foundation in God's Word, and a lifelong commitment to serve Him as faithful disciples and servant leaders. In doing so, they will become a blessing to their families, churches, communities, and the generations that follow.

A Prayer by SKIT 2026 Student

Safuan Bin Mustapha (Temuan)

Methodist Damansara OA, Petaling Jaya



Here we are, Lord. We come into Your presence once again, surrendering ourselves into Your hands, O Father.

First of all, we want to give thanks because You have brought the ten of us to attend Sekolah Kepimpinan Isakhar-Timotius. Father, we are grateful that You have watched over us throughout these five weeks at SKIT. May everything that we have learned be lived out in our daily lives. May we remember every piece of advice, every reminder, and every teaching, for we know that You will be with us throughout our lives.

Make us strong and courageous, O Lord, so that we may continue to walk faithfully with You and not turn to the left or to the right, for You have promised to be with us forever. As we faithfully meditate on Your Word and do what the Bible teaches, You have also promised to make our way prosperous and successful.



Use us, Lord, when we return to our respective places, so that we may be witnesses for Christ, becoming the salt and light among our people and every tribe.



We believe that You will breathe the fire of revival among all eighteen Orang Asli tribes in Peninsular Malaysia. Unite the Orang Asli churches, Lord, so that they may be strong and steadfast in their faith in You.

As we prepare to return to our villages and communities, help us in the journey ahead—whether we continue our studies, enter the workforce, or serve in our local churches. Lead us and guide us, O Lord.



I have Become More Confident

Yeok Man A/L Yeok Chanlun (Semai)

PMSM Kg Tibang, Ulu Slim River, Perak

Shalom. My name is Yeok Man. Before I joined SKIT, I was a very shy person and lacked self-confidence. I did not know what I wanted to study, and I did not understand the Bible well.



While I was at SKIT, my friends and the staff taught and helped me understand the Bible. My spiritual discipline was also strengthened because all of us were required to spend time in daily Bible devotion every morning. In addition, there were many classes that helped me grow spiritually. One example was the class on Knowing the Father's Heart. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to attend the Issachar-Timothy Leadership School together with my friends and this Christian community.



After SKIT, I hope to continue praying so that my life will never drift away from God. I believe that God will always watch over and care for us. May the Lord Jesus bless you.



[Link to the students' testimonies](#)
[Perkongsian Pelajar SKIT 2026](#)

[Link to the Graduation Ceremony](#)
[SKIT 2026 Graduasi LIVE](#)

[Link to Sekilas Graduasi SKIT 2026](#)
[Hari Graduasi SKIT 2026 \(20-Jun 2026\)](#)

I Learn to Forgive

Airul Najwa A/L Anuar (Semai)
Gereja LCM Pengkalan Hulu, Perak



I would like to express my gratitude and thank God for moving my heart to come to SKIT. My name is Airul, and I am from Pengkalan Hulu, Perak. I am an Orang Asli from the Semai tribe.

Before coming to SKIT, I rarely spent time with God through Bible devotion and seldom prayed. At first, I felt shy and hesitant about attending SKIT. However, I soon became happy and enjoyed building friendships with the other participants.

At SKIT, I learned to be disciplined in spending time in God's Word and in prayer almost every day. One of my favorite activities was "SKIT Got Talent," where we spent time together playing games, acting, and sharing meals. It was a truly memorable experience that I will never forget.



The lesson that touched me the most was "Forgiveness". Through that session, I learned the importance of forgiving others so that I would not hold bitterness or resentment in my heart. I thank God because I learned so much about myself and was able to grow closer to Him. My hope after SKIT is that I will remain disciplined and consistent in my Bible devotions and prayer life, so that my faithfulness to God will never fade. May God bless us all.



I Learn to Serve in Children Ministry

Jurana A/P Hamdan (Semai)
PMSM Pos Bersih, Slim River, Perak



My name is Jurana A/P Hamdan. Before I came to SKIT, I was an introverted person who rarely interacted with others. I also had little understanding of my faith and had not spent much time growing deeper in it. SKIT has helped me to be more confident in speaking in front of others.

Through SKIT, I learned to understand myself better, growing in my knowledge of God's Word, and becoming involved in ministry. One of the most meaningful experiences during my time at SKIT was serving in Children's Ministry. Before this, I had never been involved in Children's Ministry.

Through this ministry, I learned how to teach children about God's Word and discovered that interacting with children can be both enjoyable and rewarding. During my five weeks at SKIT, I felt deeply grateful, blessed, and filled with joy because of the wonderful memories I shared with my friends and the staff.

My hope after SKIT is that I will never forget the lessons I have learned here. I will continue to grow and keep learning to know God through His Word, remain consistent in meditating on God's Word day and night, just as we practiced at SKIT.



In addition, I desire to stay actively involved in ministry wherever I am and to continue saying "Yes" to God's calling upon my life. I pray that through ministry, I will remain connected to God and faithful to Him. My hope is to become a positive example and role model for others in my village, especially for the younger generation. I want to keep learning how to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world wherever God places me.

Lastly, I am grateful and thankful, especially to Kak Kharis, who encouraged and helped me to join this school. I am also thankful for my family, my friends, and the Christian community at SKIT whom I love dearly. Most of all, I am grateful and thankful to God, who has been with me throughout my journey at SKIT. Praise the Lord!

Now I Know The Orang Asli Rights

Wafarazira A/P Romi (Semelai)

Persekutuan Kasih OA Semelai (PERKOASM), Pahang



My name is Wafarazira A/P Romi. Before I came to SKIT, I found it difficult to experience God's presence, and as a result, my relationship with Him had grown distant. But I was inspired by my younger sibling, who had previously attended SKI. After returning from SKI, I saw many positive changes in his life. That was why, when the SKIT poster was shared, I noticed many interesting topics that would be taught, and this made me even more excited to participate in the program.

Throughout SKIT, I was able to spend time with God through my morning devotions, where I really felt that God was speaking to me and correcting me where I was wrong. This opportunity broadened both my mind and my heart. I am very grateful to God for giving me such precious time with Him. One of my favorite parts of SKIT was journaling. I had never kept a journal before, so I am very thankful that I learned to do so. Through journaling, I was able to express my thoughts and feelings each day and reflect on what God was doing in my life.



The lesson that touched my heart the most was the session on livelihood and income generation where we were asked us to draw something that we loved most about our village. We worked diligently on our drawings and colored them with great care. After we had finished, we were asked to present our artwork. Once everyone had presented enthusiastically and taken photos of their drawings, something unexpected happened—the staff suddenly took our drawings away and tore them up.

My immediate reaction was shock, disappointment, and a desire to cry. But later we were told that's how our land and jungle were intruded into and destroyed. Through this exercise, I realized that Orang Asli land deserves to be protected from those who encroach upon it. The activity helped me experience, in a small way, the emotions that my people feel when their ancestral lands are taken from them.



To be honest, I was not someone who cared much about my customs or culture because some of the traditions of my tribe had become mixed with idol worship, which made me uninterested in learning more about them. After becoming a believer, my focus was mainly on Christianity. At times, I even felt that I did not belong among my own people.

However, the lessons on Orang Asli rights and identity brought new awareness and understanding to me. They helped me appreciate who I am and where I come from. Therefore, my hope after returning home from SKIT is to continue spending time with God and to make it a daily habit. I also hope to continue journaling, which has become one of my favorite activities.



I Became God's Child

Romeslan Bin Romero (Jakun)

Gereja Baptist Pekan, Pahang

My name is Romeslan, though most people know me by my nickname, Gary. I am an Orang Asli from the Jakun tribe. Before attending SKIT, I was a lazy person. I lacked the desire to learn more about Jesus, and my faith was weak. However, I believe that my presence at SKIT was not a coincidence, but part of God's plan for my life.



One of the lessons that changed my life the most during SKIT was learning to forgive with the Father's heart. God's Word in Matthew 5:44 says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." This verse deeply touched my heart and challenged me to forgive those who had wronged me. Although forgiveness is difficult for me, I believe that the Holy Spirit has opened my heart and given me the willingness to forgive others. Through this experience, I have learned that forgiveness is not merely a choice but an act of obedience that brings healing and freedom.





Throughout my time at SKIT, I learned many new things that helped me grow in my understanding of God's Word. I gained a deeper knowledge of Scripture and also learned more about who I am. I discovered that I am unique and precious in God's sight.

In addition to learning about forgiveness, there was another session that deeply impacted me as a believer in Christ—the session on Christian doctrine. This session had a significant influence on my life because it taught me the importance of standing firm and defending my faith as a follower of Jesus Christ.



Throughout my time at SKIT, I experienced great joy in getting to know friends from different tribes, backgrounds, and communities. They helped and encouraged me in many ways as we grew together in our faith during the program.

My hope after SKIT is to become a good example and role model for the young people who see me as a Christian. I also hope to continue strengthening my faith in Jesus Christ and growing in my relationship with Him. Furthermore, I desire to glorify and honor God's name by serving Him faithfully and being actively involved in ministry.

Finally, I am grateful and thankful to God, who has been with me throughout this journey. I am also thankful for my friends, my mother, and the members of my church, who have continually supported, encouraged, and helped me along the way. May God bless you!



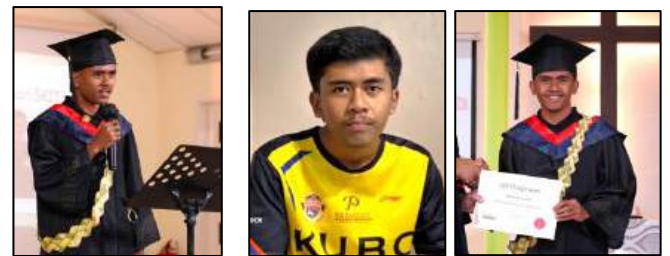
My Identity in Christ

Syahril A/L Samad (Temuan)
Pusat Injil Kelana Jaya, Selangor



My name is Syahril A/L Samad, and I come from Kampung Sungai Leleh, Pahang. I am from the Temuan tribe. I am the eldest of three siblings and live with my mother. Before attending SKIT, I rarely spent time meditating on God's Word. I was often lazy and stubborn, unwilling to listen to my mother's advice. When I first heard about SKIT, I was worried about leaving my family, but I believed that this was God's calling for my life.

I am grateful that at SKIT I gained many Christian friends who continually encouraged me to spend time with God. The moment I enjoyed most was having dedicated time to meditate on God's Word. One of my favorite classes was Time and Money Management, taught by Brother Ray. Through that class, I learned how to use my time wisely and manage my finances effectively.



The session that touched my heart the most was "Who I Am in Christ," where I learned to draw closer to God. I thank God that throughout this school, I was able to know myself more deeply and spend meaningful time with Him. I am also grateful for the many Christian friends I met at SKIT.

My hope after SKIT is that God will use me to serve Him humbly and faithfully. I also hope to remain disciplined in my morning devotions, continue to pray regularly, and always place my hope and trust in the Lord. May the Lord Jesus bless you!

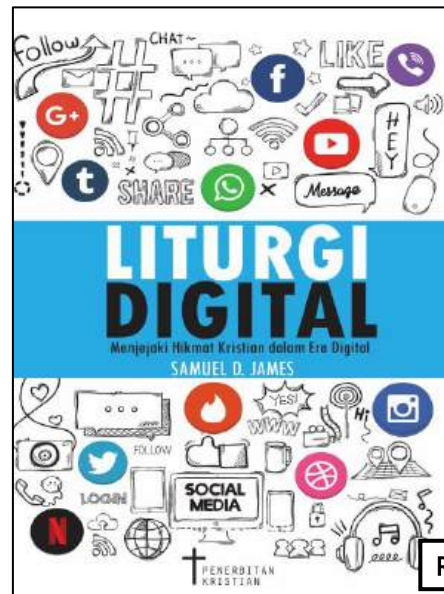


Mark Your Calendar for SKIT 2027 & SKIT 2027



<https://www.sekolahisakhar.com.my/>

New Book Liturgi Digital



RM 25

Liturgi Digital (Digital Liturgies) by Samuel D. James examines how the internet shapes human desires and habits from a biblical perspective. While technology offers instant information, constant connection, and real-time updates, the writer argues that many people wrongly seek in the digital world what only God can provide. He identifies five “digital liturgies” that distract us from truth, wisdom, and dependence on God.

Calling readers back to Scripture, the book encourages Christians to live faithfully in an internet-saturated world. Written in an accessible style, it offers practical wisdom for students, parents, pastors, and anyone seeking a Christ-centered approach to technology.

How Can We Work Together?

- ☐ **Sponsor and support** Wawasan Penabur’s “**Satu Anak Kristian Satu Alkitab Campaign.**”
- ☐ **Support “Sabda Harian & Bicara Sabda Digital Project”**
- ☐ **Sponsor and support** Bible School students or Full-time youth workers through “**Sikhem Initiative.**”
- ☐ **Support “Sekolah Kepimpinan Isakhar”**
- ☐ **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.

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

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

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