Dear Mission Partners,

— New Look! New Look!
With this new layout, the newsletter will be more reader friendly. The contents page on the cover is for easy reference and will also serve as an archive of events. All this is made possible through the creative and artistic talents of Arthur Lee who has so generously devoted his time and effort in creating this new layout.

Last month the Province rallied to raise funds in aid of those affected by the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. It also responded to the call to unite in prayer for the people of Philippines. Our grateful thanks to all.

Did we all remember “The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” – one of the most important events in the Good Shepherd calendar? Read on...

Keep up the good work and roll in your stories as they happen! Enjoy! ♠

GLORIA

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SAY NO UNiTE to end violence against women

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IN TULID, KENDINGAU, SABAH
--- An awareness campaign on non-violence against women and children was carried out from 18–20 November. It started with an introduction to “The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” on 18 November. This was followed by sharing from each participant on their understanding of violence in relation to their own experiences in the family and community, and how they could be a support for each other.

On 19 November, a talk on Human Trafficking was conducted. Besides an understanding of the topic, it also included the preventive measures that the villagers can take to prevent their community from falling victims to traffickers.

On the next day, a prayer session dedicated to all women and children who have experienced violence was organized. A slide-show, “Ending Violence Against Women and Children” was presented. Sharing of information on the Domestic Violence Act 1994 followed. There was also a group discussion on the flyer “16 things you can do to help end violence against women and girls” by the UN and how they could implement these steps in their community.

> CONTINUE NEXT PAGE
Throughout this campaign participants were enlightened and enriched with new knowledge especially on how women can protect themselves in the event of domestic violence and how the community can offer support to stop violence against women and children.

About 150 women, men and children came forward to support the white ribbon campaign and the signature campaign to end violence against women and children.

**IN KOTA KINABALU, SABAH**

The campaign led by Seri Murni Crisis Centre, Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (PKGS), was launched at the conclusion of a 2-day retreat at the Kokol Prayer Summit for the 29 PKGS staff and volunteers facilitated by Judith Loh. In keeping with the spirit of the retreat, the launch of “NO to Violence Against Women and Children Campaign” opened with a reminder of the objective of this worldwide campaign held every year from 25 November to 10 December – to oppose all forms of violence against women and children.

It was followed by the singing of “Bahasa Cinta” (The Language of Love) and a gospel reading from Mark 1:29-31 followed by a silent reflection of the realities of marginalized women and children in our society today.

The highlight of the launch was when each participant was asked to pick a balloon and inflate it. They were then asked to write one word to describe one of the many forms of violence suffered by women and children. The balloons were then tied together on a string and the male participants were invited to break the balloons to symbolize their strong opposition to these violations that are committed every day. The campaign was thus officially launched.

**IN KUALA LUMPUR**

White Ribbons were distributed in Churches, Christmas bazaars and other public spaces during the campaign period. The White Ribbon is the world’s largest male-initiated and led movement to end violence against women. Today, the White Ribbon, worn by both men and women, symbolizes a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and children.

Leaflets containing information about the campaign and help lines of the Good Shepherd Shelters in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Sabah were made available to the public during the campaign.
Celebrating 25 years of the presence of Good Shepherd Sisters in Sabah cum an Outreach in Kg. Talungan

An invitation to the celebrations in Sabah prompted the Lay Associates in Kuala Lumpur to also have an outreach program in Kg. Talungan, one of the villages there. We decided to hold a medical and a dental clinic, and to have a children’s program. A visit to Desa Asrama Pukak was also arranged. For this we had a fund raising bazaar in the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Setapak on 8 September 2013.

THE BAZAAR
— On the eve of the bazaar we gathered in the hall to prepare for the sale. The floor was filled with boxes of every shape and size, bulging plastic bags, baskets and suitcases! The task seemed enormous; it did not look like we could be ready to sell anything come morning. However, many willing hands and thinking minds brought order out of all that chaos and we were ready for the sale by early afternoon.

All went home tired but happy and nourished by packets of “kai fan” and lots of water. It was good thirsty work.

Sunday morning dawned overcast and cool, the rain though held off till the end of the bazaar. Business was a little slow initially but soon picked up as the morning wore on and as parishioners came by when Masses were over. Downstairs the canteen became a hive of activity – food items were selling like hot cakes. There was a variety of food, from curry puffs to Taiwanese “Bento rice” a new taste for some. Fr. VA Michael helped by telling his parishioners not to go to their favourite stalls for breakfast but to head for the canteen for the delectable food on sale and to the bazaar upstairs. Money collected was used to buy medicines and stuff for the visit to Kg. Talungan.

ARRIVAL AT KOTA KINABALU - 3 OCTOBER
— We went straight to Desa Asrama Pukak. Now this visit was a delight – fresh air, tall trees and a flowing river. The children greeted us with happy smiles, introduced themselves in very passable English, they danced and sang. The staff treated us to lunch, we had a little dialogue with all the children after which we returned to Kota Kinabalu for dinner.

The visit to Alamesra Youth-PREP Centre in Kota Kinabalu on the following morning was an eye opener for us. Launched in 2010, strategically situated in the vicinity of colleges and university,
it is a convenient place for youths to come together for celebrations such as Christmas, Harvest Festival, Easter and for more serious discussions on social issues. Some of the services include training and skills development, counseling, generally to prepare them for life in the city when they come out to study or to work. To teach them the realities of life, to raise awareness of their rights and dignity and also to protect them from abuse. About 20 youths come in daily to avail themselves of the facilities such as computer and internet services, musical instruments, reading materials and even a pantry. It is heartening to know that they have had positive results from all this effort. For this wonderful work we say ‘syabas’ to Ms Chin Poh Choo, Director of PKGS, Sabah and her dedicated team.

We moved on to lunch and on the way stopped by a wayside stall for “burnt coconut” and delicious coconut pudding. On arrival at Kg. Talungan we were met by the headmistress of the school, the children and their parents. Classrooms were turned into dental and medical clinics. About 80 adults and children were seen in the medical clinic, 60 patients mostly children in the dental clinic. Most of the patients were in quite good health. In the dental clinic little ones were hanging on to their seats, faces resolutely turned towards the dreaded “CHAIR” waiting their turn. The impression was that dental hygiene was generally good, but caries rate was rather high. Meanwhile fun and games were happening in the school hall, children played games, danced and sang. They learned origami and came up with some nice colourful paper baskets.

THE CELEBRATION
—— Saturday, 5 October was the day of celebration of the 25 years of “Good Shepherd” in Sabah. St. Simon Church was packed. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop John Wong. The choir was at its best surely! Lunch was a happy affair with lots of entertainment. The children from Asrama Desa Pukak made an appearance on stage and received a big applause. Souvenir books, “Our Zeal Must Embrace The Whole World” were distributed to all present at the Celebration.

Every trip to Sabah must end in the market where we bought rice of different colours, extra long cinnamon sticks and what have you. Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd treated us to a sumptuous dinner at a seafood restaurant, and to finish the day we went to a beautiful beach a long drive away.

Sunday saw most of us making our way to the airport for our flight home.†
Third Pastoral Meeting
“Being a Pilgrim Church in the midst of Migrants and Itinerants”

held in Larantuka, Flores, Indonesia 22–24 October 2013

At this meeting Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd was represented by Theresa Symons, Sr. Lidwina Alyandu and Barbara Lip. There were 55 participants, comprising of bishops, priests, religious and the laity. Sr. Maria Dipal, chairperson, Human Development Commission of Diocese of Sandakan was also present. It was a meeting between the sending dioceses (Flores), transit diocese of Tanjung Selur (Kalimantan) and the receiving diocese (Sabah).

The main objectives of the meeting were to establish a strong network among the sending, transit and receiving dioceses; to look into the reality of migrant workers in foreign land and to map out a common direction, in pastoral care, for them.

The final draft of the action plan was adopted and signed by the Bishops of Larantuka, Tanjung Selur and Sandakan.

It was a fruitful dialogue filled with hope among all participants for further collaboration and networking. However, it was a soul-searching learning experience for each of us to have met with the people struggling to survive in poverty in Flores – the place where most of the migrant workers in Sabah originate from. May we grow in zeal to embrace the migrant women, and their families whom we journey with dignity and compassion.

It was also a time of reunion with several of those whom we had encountered over the years in the Good Shepherd mission in Sabah.
Thanksgiving Celebration
at Kampung Tulid, Keningau

An overwhelmingly turn out of
about 300 people participated at the
Thanksgiving Celebration at Kampung
Tulid Station, Keningau on 9 November.
The event started at 8am and ended with
a potluck lunch at 1pm. Catholics from the
4 villages gathered again for Mass at 5pm
at Gereja Kristus Raja at Tulid.

With the theme, “Gratitude is the memory
of heart”, the pkgs Tulid Team put together
the event which gathered people from
four village communities – Tulid, Batu
Lunguyan, Kiulu Baru and Delayan Baru
with the focus to strengthen relationships
among the communities.

Activities such as football match, fun
fair, telematch and tug of war brought
the people together despite the
heat under the burning hot sun. The
friendly competition between villages
strengthened relationships and created
the opportunity of getting to know
people from other villages.

The colourful event with various types
of food served at the potluck lunch and
various performances by children, youth
and women from the 4 communities in
their traditional costumes was truly an
enjoyable one.

Indeed it was a joy to see the communities
coming together in unity. We are grateful
for their acceptance, collaboration and
togetherness in participating in the
activities planned by pkgs since the start
of the community development programs
2 years ago. It also showed how valuable
it was to have the chance to work and
plan together with the local communities
to achieve a common goal.

Justice and Peace Camp
in Kota Kinabalu

In conjunction with Malaysia Day,
Alamesra Youth-REP Centre organized
a Justice and Peace Camp on 13–14
September 2013. We were privileged to
have the young lawyers from Sabah Law
Association to facilitate the camp. The
theme was ‘Malaysia United: History of Sabah to the Formation of Malaysia’.

Topics shared included the History of
Sabah, Malaysian Agreement and 50
Years of Malaysia. It was like a history
education camp for the 16 participants
comprising of students from Secondary
school, Colleges and University.
The participants had the chance to
understand history in a more fun
and interactive way.

The participants, who were from
different religious and education
background, felt more united after
learning more about the history of
their state and country.
Our Leaders from Alamesra Youth-PREP Centre

Mary Anne – IREX Project

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An interview with Evelyn Doikin
graduate of IFFASia’s Batch 7

NAME Evelyn Doikin
AGE 25
HOMETOWN Tamparuli, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
SENDING ORGANIZATION Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd

Your employment prior to joining Institute of Formation, Fondacio Asia (IFFASia):
Youth Coordinator at Alamesra Youth-PREP Centre, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

How do you come to know about IFFASia?
In 2011, through Youth-PREP Link programs at the Dioceses of Sandakan and Keningau I met Anna and Roselinah. They are faithful servants of God, faithfully and confidently journeying with the Sabahan youths. Their commitment attracted me. I had a good time sharing with them about IFFASia. From there on, I had a desire to join the formation. During the 3rd Sabah Youth Day in Tambunan in 2012, Anna introduced me to the IFFASia team. Two months later, I received an invitation to join IFFASia.

What were your expectations when offered a place?
- Improve my leadership skills
- Learn how to prepare, organize and run programs
- Improve my communication skills

Anne went through a challenging selection process early this year as applications are invited from NGOs worldwide. The program started in 1 August 2013 this year and will end on 8 December 2013. As Anne’s interest was in the area of Migrant Advocacy, she received her placement with Center for Intercultural Organising in Portland, Oregon, an NGO focussed on building power in immigrant and refugee communities through community education, civic engagement and policy advocacy, organising and mobilisation, and intergenerational leadership development.

Anne’s project paper entitled “The Young Immigrant Leadership and Organizing Project” has been selected as one of the top 3 in her thematic area and top 12 among all other participants’ submissions. She will have the opportunity to present her follow-on project at the End of Program Conference where she will demonstrate her project.

The goal of Anne’s project is to increase youth leadership among immigrant communities in Kota Kinabalu. Her objectives are to train 12 young immigrant leaders, conduct 2 projects with immigrant communities, and build a network of young immigrant leaders in Kota Kinabalu over the period of 6 months. It is envisaged that these projects will benefit the 889,000 immigrants in the state of Sabah.

Anne’s dream has been to start an immigrant rights awareness in Sabah. With her achievements to date and her heart for immigrants and human rights, Anne will undoubtedly live out her dream and purpose in life. We are very proud of Anne and we pray that the Lord will continue to use her for greater things. †
Does iffasia meet your expectation?
Yes, iffasia had helped me to increase my self-confidence and to take on a more proactive role in giving service. My spiritual life has improved and I discovered more of myself. iffasia had also helped me to understand more about the roles of the young people in the church and society at large.

What does iffasia offer?
This formation offers four modules;
- Human Module
- Social Module
- Spiritual Module
- Pastoral Module

The sessions of the four modules enabled the students to discover themselves more and grow in spiritual life. It promotes healing and transformation in the context of a diverse living community. We are given the opportunities to improve on communication skills and understand more about the inter-cultural sensitivity. iffasia also enables the students to be more aware of the challenges in the society today through exposure visits, internship and mission project.

What one component that attract you most? Give your reasons:
The Pastoral Module. During the Pastoral module sessions, I discovered many new things in life. It has helped me improved my skills, both leadership and communicative and has enhanced my self-confidence. It has enabled me to have a better understanding about the needs of the church and society through the sessions and exposure of pastoral internship, the Spirit of Vatican 2, pastoral / development leadership course, youth ministry, discernment skill and mission project.

What is your most memorable experience in iffasia?
My most memorable experience in iffasia is Community life because it allows me to experience living with people of different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds. Learning of the challenges they encounter in their country, the way they proclaim God in their life, the desire to serve the poor and reaching out to young people really touched me.

All events were well prepared and effectively implemented. Events such as the retreat on Personal Development Plan, towards a New Life, Faith Walk and Mission project had enhanced and enriched my self-confidence. Our daily interaction had cemented a good relationship bond with one other. The good relationship bond built, made my journey in iffasia joyful, experiencing God’s love and mercy. My mission became clearer and am set to use the experience gained to reach out to the young people.

What areas have you improved on?
After the formation process in iffasia, I realized that I had changed, not only in terms of my understanding, perception and belief. I came to understand more about the Christian Catholic faith, developing a disciplined life of prayer and bringing out the leadership in me and others.

Even though baptized since birth, I had no discipline in my spiritual life. Sometimes, I felt that God was not important in my life and the consequences were such that, I had a foul relationship with God, others, and my family. I felt that I could do everything by myself, what I had was from me and often times I shunned God. I lacked confidence talking and sharing about God with others.

Sometimes, I just wanted to give up in my ministry. I had nothing to offer. I had no talent, no skill and not capable. Yet my heart and my desire was set ablaze to serve God. The formation really awakened a spiritual understanding in me. I become more aware of my strength and interest in life and God’s power. Today, this is my strength, knowing, loving Him and sharing God with others. I want to bring peace to others because of the peace I received from Him.

> CONTINUE NEXT PAGE
Mission Project
Your experience:
“You are the salt of the earth, but what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? You are the light of the world; don’t hide your light under a basket! Let your good deeds shine in the dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the darkness”. (Matthew 5:13–16) Our theme for the Mission Project is “Youth initiatives for peace”

My experience during the Mission Project in Vietnam and Cambodia was enriching, encountering with young people, FBOS, NGOs, the poor and etc. My experience really opened my eyes to see the reality of the new trend of the modern world. During the mission project, I had a good time to get to know about the local situation in Cambodia, its political-social economy, religious and cultural environment. It helped me to have a better understanding of the social mission of the church and to have a deep sense of engagement in the process of dialogue on peace among different religions and cultures.

The mission project, an initiative and an integral component of IFFASIA’s formation program had created the opportunities for students to be involved in dialogue-in-action regarding peace building. It provided us with the knowledge, skills and the right attitudes needed in our pastoral involvement. The program had also increased the awareness and my understanding of the challenges of migration, human rights, and post-civil war rebuilding process and its impact on society.

What is expected of you upon your return to your sending organization?
I am expected to take on a team leadership role at the Youth-PREP Centre and will be directly involved in the training and development of peers as well as coordinating programs.

Your advice to the young people in your church / parish / diocese:
“As Pope Francis tells us – no one in the Church is useless, and if from time to time someone says to someone else: “go home, you are no good”, this is not true.”

Therefore all people are important. They are to play their roles in the community and in the church to be servant leaders, to serve others, to use their talents and potential to benefit society. I believe young people can bring transformation for a better world. They have power and energy to contribute to the development in society.

As young people of God, we are invited to love and serve Him, to share our tiny faith with one another, to bring about evangelization and to love one another. We are an important agent of change, a great resource for social development.

“Be the light of Christ, we are called to spread the word and live the faith”. †

Taken from News Update - Diocese of Sandakan

Training Program in Trafficking In Persons by University of York students

PKGS had the privilege to play host to three Masters in Applied Human Rights students from the University of York who were with us from 25 November to 6 December 2013. This is the third year that PKGS has collaborated with University of York in providing a platform for the students to undertake projects on human trafficking and advocacy. In the past two years, we were fortunate to tap into the knowledge and creativity of these students which have helped us to improve on our work processes.

Led by Dr Alice Nah of the Centre for Applied Human Rights department, this year, Ben Chapman, Emily Copsey and Shaqiera Ladhu are assisting PKGS to develop a training program in Trafficking In Persons (TIP) which will be instrumental in providing a standardised training on human trafficking for all existing and new staff of PKGS. During their two-week stint at PKGS, the students conducted interviews with some of PKGS’s staff who are involved in shelter services, as well as with other NGO leaders and experts on human trafficking in Malaysia. With this wealth of information and the brilliance of the students, PKGS can expect a comprehensive and practical training program on human trafficking which will be implemented in the second quarter of 2014. †
Volunteer
Marilou Glain

She volunteered for three months at the Women’s Shelter in Kuala Lumpur. She is from France. She came with a small English vocabulary but a big Heart. By the time she returned home, her vocabulary became bigger and so did her Heart!

She wrote:
My mission in Malaysia started from March 2013. I just returned from a mission in suburban Kuala Lumpur delighted and enriched by beautiful encounters. I spent three months in the Shelter, receiving women and children for a weekend or for several months. By the time they leave the Shelter they are calmer after experiencing physical and psychological violence. The women and children, either victims of human trafficking from the Asia Pacific region or local women, victims of domestic violence are very well supported by a dynamic team in the Shelter.

24 hours a day, listening to the residents despite a language barrier sometimes. They know little or have no knowledge of English. A micro enterprise is currently being introduced to allow the residents who agree to work a few hours a day to earn some money.

The security of the site of the Shelter is tight; the doors are locked at all times. All regulations are strictly enforced. The living conditions for the staff are very good. There is no air conditioning in the room but a fan. My roommates were friendly.

To conclude, I would say that I have come back enriched by the experience and sensitized by the issues, unsuspected by our society. Women still retain a zest for life despite all the uncertainty about their future.

International Day of the Girl Child
celebrating Girls around the world

11 October 2013 was the second International Day of the Girl Child. The event, facilitated by Jackie Sander, a volunteer with the Teenage Centre, was attended by the residents and staff of the Centre, invited guests, Gloria and three of her former students. The theme this year is ‘Innovating for Girls’ Education’. Jackie started the evening with an activity asking the girls to think of their role models and what qualities they have. Then, they were asked to think on how they themselves could achieve those qualities.

After their sharing, Jackie explained what the International Day of the Girl was and the history behind it. She also shared about the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

The girls viewed two videos about the importance of education and how investing in a girl’s education is really investing into the entire community.

Speaking from the Youth Summary, Jackie talked about the issues that girls are facing which was that “research across 9 countries found that age 14 is the time most girls are likely to drop out of school”.

Another issue that was discussed was the distance of school that girls “families can associate long journeys to school with danger and risk, not to mention the cost of transport. Poor, rural girls in almost every country have a lower rate of enrolment than their richer urban counterparts”.

The final activity was on the topic of beauty; to discuss among the girls which of the images provided were the women beautiful. After the final sharing with the whole group, the night ended with snacks and the girls were able to spend time with our guests and dancing.
Villamaria Good Shepherd Kindergarten, Kuala Lumpur

The staff and children celebrated World Peace Day on 20 September. Before this date the teachers talked about peace in the classroom and asked the children what peace meant to them. One six year old student said, “When we keep quiet in class there is peace”, while some others said, “When we don’t fight with our friends, brothers and sisters, there is peace.”

Children from different classes took turns to hang their origami peace cranes, made by mothers of the our Japanese students, on the tree branches which were placed at the entrance of the school.

The children prayed for peace in families, country and the world. The day ended with two songs, “Peace is flowing like a river” and a song to the tune of Happy Birthday which had the following lyrics:

Happy Peace day to you (2X)
Happy Peace day to everyone
Happy Peace day to our earth.

Mariaville Good Shepherd Kindergarten, Ipoh

The World Peace Day was celebrated on 20 September. A week before the celebration the children were told to bring pictures of smiling faces from magazines. The children were then given a peace day tag each to colour. The tags were attached to their uniforms to encourage them to speak about World Peace Day to their parents.

The program started with the lighting of the candle by Ms Anne, Director of Schools. An introduction to the meaning of peace was given by Ms Tiong. A sketch by the teachers on the value of sharing followed. The children were told about the importance of good values which will lead to peace at home and in school.

To conclude, the children pasted the pictures of smiling faces on a giant peace sign to symbolise that each of us must do our part in order to attain world peace. The program ended with the children and teachers singing the Peace Day song.

Lantern Walk

Villamaria Good Shepherd Kindergarten, Kuala Lumpur

As part of the curriculum in Villamaria, the children are taught about the cultures and festivals celebrated by the different races in Malaysia. In line with this, the school organized a Lantern Walk on 19 September to commemorate the Mid-Autumn Festival or popularly known in Malaysia as The Mooncake Festival.

The children walked around the school compound with their brightly lit lanterns and sang the “Moon Song”, a song they had learnt in their Mandarin Classes. The children enjoyed themselves tremendously and one of them quipped, “This is the best lantern walk I ever had.”
Restful Waters

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**
— In August a one-week fundraising drive was organised by Restful Waters to raise funds for those affected by the Monsoon which had caused massive flooding in Manila, Philippines.

In November the team again rallied to raise funds in aid of the people affected by Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines.

A one-month joint project, ‘Remembering the Forgotten-Giving Hope’ will be launched in Restful Waters on 4th January 2014. It is an initiative to raise funds for the new mission in Congo. This is organised by Mission Partners of Restful Waters in collaboration with Mission Development Office and Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office.

**FINANCIAL AID**
— As part of the services at Restful Waters, we have committed to giving monthly financial aid in cash and kind to four families experiencing financial difficulties. Items include milk powder, biscuits, rice, sugar, canned food and adult diapers.

**SPONSORSHIPS**
— In response to a request by Province of East Asia, Restful Waters sponsored the salary of a Cambodian teacher for a year. In addition it also sponsored a Myanmarese lady to pursue a certificate course in sewing in preparation for future employment. †

Prison Ministry

— Counseling sessions, Eucharistic Celebrations/Communion Services were made available to prisoners on death row three times weekly. †

Peace Prayer Outreach

— The Eucharistic celebration was to thank God for the abundant blessings received by the benefactors, prayer partners and walkers of the street who gather regularly to reach out to the increasing number of women from the Asia Pacific region. †

Marymount Convent School

— On 14 November, staff and 84 students of the school experienced an exposure program. They reached out to children of three Good Shepherd run kindergartens in the urban poor areas of Batam, Indonesia. †

Project for Refugee Families in Phuket, Thailand

— Sr. Agnes Claire and her youth group organised a fund raising event to support Good Shepherd Thailand. Money raised was used to upgrade the facilities of a learning centre for Myanmarese refugee children and families in Phuket. With the money, a truck was purchased for transportation of goods as well as to shuttle the children to and from the centre. †

Dawn

— The humble beginning of the Justice and Peace Office in Singapore which was set up with the help of Gloria gave birth to DAWN. A mission outreach team headed by Edmund and Carol from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour spruced up the ‘dungeon’ to accommodate DAWN. Skills Development program started on 8 February 2009.

This year DAWN celebrated its 5th Anniversary with the Annual Graduation Celebrations on 27 October.

Each year about 250 Foreign Domestic Workers register for the Caregivers Course which is the most popular course. The partnership with Man Fui Tong Nursing Home, headed by Ms Christina Loh, with its quality coursework is a contributing factor to its popularity. †

1. Thank You Bro Xavier, OFM who joined our volunteer team
2. A student who enrolled for a course yearly for the last 5 years. She received an award and a plaque
3. Eight very dedicated volunteers received
   - A plaque for 5 years of service
   - An ‘angpow’
   - A lucky draw for 2 to the Universal Studio

Prison Ministry

— Counseling sessions, Eucharistic Celebrations/Communion Services were made available to prisoners on death row three times weekly. †

Peace Prayer Outreach

— The Eucharistic celebration was to thank God for the abundant blessings received by the benefactors, prayer partners and walkers of the street who gather regularly to reach out to the increasing number of women from the Asia Pacific region. †
A workshop was organised by the Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Circle of Provincials and the Mission Development Office. It was held in Bangkok from the 30 September – 6 October. Representing the Province was Sr. Lucy Chia, Melina Ong and Gloria Bon. Sr. Joan Lopez, Asia Pacific Circle Link Person to the Asia Pacific Circle Justice and Peace core team was also present.

The objective was to review the Economic Justice Programs / Income Generating Projects in the Asia Pacific region as well as to identify other possibilities of helping our beneficiaries.

The producers saw the need to develop up-to-date designs and products of a better quality by building up the capacity of the artisans. It may be necessary to look out for more local markets and reduce their dependency from Good Shepherd marketers.

Each participant responded positively to all the discussions at the workshop.

In the last 3 months, volunteers have been busy marketing handmade items made by the poor women in Good Shepherd Centres in Thailand. Sales were brisk in all 12 Christmas Bazaars where we were given charity tables. There was a sale at a private residence too.

Besides marketing the items, volunteers took the opportunity to hand out white ribbons and flyers during the ‘No Violence Against Women and Children’ Campaign period.

This year, sales extended to Singapore – at Good Shepherd Convent Kindergarten Annual Concert and during Marymount Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Meet. In Ipoh, items were sold during Mariaville Good Shepherd Kindergarten Concert. Parents of these schools were given prior knowledge of the project and this was a great help during the sales.