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the Newsletter of

The Missionary Community of Corpus Christi

April 2007

www.mc-corpuschristi.org

Volume 1 No 1

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Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter connecting the members, friends and supporters of MCCC (TDK). A lot has happened since TDK was formed nearly a year ago. We hope that this newsletter will serve to inform you of the happenings in the MCCC world and will inspire you to respond in generosity and maybe to become a member of MCCC too.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Ivan Fang

A Holy & Blessed Easter



The first TDK member in China

Anna Ling became the first TDK member to take up an assignment in China.

Anna Ling, a long time active member of the Chinese Speaking Community as well as an established catechist in the Catholic Community of Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, became the first person hailing from Brunei to take up a mission posting in China. Originally from Sibu, East Malaysia, Anna's family now lives in Miri. Anna arrived at the Ziyun Centre in Guizhou Province on 17 November 2006 to join the team there which consisted of Sr. Agnes Lee IJ from Singapore, Sr. Clare from Hong Kong and



Fr. Hector Suano, a Filipino Columban missionary who

has been in China for the last seven years. He has been seconded by NCL to help out at the Ziyun Centre. Sr. Agnes has since returned to Singapore after having helped the Brunei group to establish themselves in the area. MCCC is ever so grateful to her for having helped set up and looked after the Ziyun Station the past two years. Sr. Clare's future at the centre is in doubt as she is awaiting directives from her superiors. Since Anna's arrival, she has established herself as the team leader and hopefully, more *continued on page 3*

Primary School Project

The Primary School Project in Biacha, Dabang County, Guizhou Province, is nearing completion.



The Two-story primary school built with contributions from generous donors in Brunei.
Photo: Anna Ling

After numerous delays, the Primary School that is being constructed in Biacha, a village in Dabang County, Guizhou Province is nearing completion. One of the reasons for the delay is the spiraling cost of the construction itself. The village is in a remote area and transportation of the building materials only takes place once a day. To add to the problem, the villagers requested for a larger school to be constructed from what was originally planned. From a four-room classroom project, the school will now have six classrooms including a library and a teacher's quarters. The project is partly funded through donations from a few individuals in Brunei through RBCS Brunei while the rest is taken care of by the local government. We would like to thank all those who have contributed generously to the building of this primary school. Our contact in Ziyun informed us that after the last stoppage for Chinese New Year, the school should be completed by the time you read this article.



Another view of the Primary School in Biacha in Dabang County, Guizhou Province.
Photo: Anna Ling

New Project

The next development project in Ziyun is set to the drawing board.

Anna has brought attention to another project that requires urgent help. The Sang He Bridge project came about because the former wooden bridge spanning the river was washed away by the strong currents and the villagers needed to cross the river. At the present moment, the school children have to be carried one by one by their teachers across the river to their school. The new bridge will be 5m high and 7m long and estimated to cost around B\$6000.00. A proper estimate will be made pending the drawings by an engineer. In the meantime, your contributions and support for this project through RBCS Brunei will be very much appreciated.

Back to the Grind!

Joan Hiew, who spent three grueling months touring Cambodia, has returned to Brunei.



Joan with a Cambodian student, Bora and another Cambodian woman in Kratie.

Joan Hiew, a teacher at a local Chinese School in Kuala Belait, Brunei, returned to her teaching in mid March after taking time off from her busy schedule to spend three months without pay traveling across the hinterland of ever-beckoning Cambodia. She left for Cambodia right after Christmas. Her time spent in Cambodia was a memorable experience for her. She was able to hear and see for herself firsthand what the various NGOs were doing to help the disadvantaged people of Cambodia. She even went to those places where no visitor would ever dream of going. She was also able to acquire some words

of the Khmer language and her linguistic skills were put to great use when it came to ordering food at the local restaurants. One of her greatest moments came when she was invited to sing at a charity concert. Since coming home to teach, Joan has also been busy going around making presentations on the needs of the people of Cambodia to various groups connected with her school and the church. Without a doubt, Joan's experiences in Cambodia will be etched in her memories for a long time to come. Anyone wishing to learn and hear more about what can be done in Cambodia should contact Joan.

TDK members CNY meet in Miri

The members gather for their CNY get together at Marriot Hotel, Miri.

With Fr. Ivan back in Brunei for the Chinese New Year celebrations, the TDK members from Kuala Belait were able to gather together at Marriot Hotel in Miri to celebrate Chinese New Year as well as to discuss their plans for both China and the new Cambodian mission. Anna, also back for Chinese New Year, reported on the situation in Ziyun and gave an update on the construction of the Primary School in Bi-

acha. The group lauded her efforts and her commitment to her work and promised more support to her. Future visits to

of opening up a mission centre there. He also urged members to begin to form their units so that the support base for



missionaries can be strengthened. The group also acknowledged and appreciated the presence of two visitors from Miri who attended the meeting. A trip to Cambodia was also proposed with a retreat for members in Miri sometime in June.

Ziyun Station will be planned. Fr. Ivan gave a presentation on his recent trip to Cambodia and spoke on the possibility

volunteers will be inspired by her example to go to help out at the mission centre at Ziyun in due course. Short-term volunteers can always spend some time to teach English at the English Tuition centre there. Ziyun Station needs people who are willing to spend some time there to lend a hand. If you need more information on how you can help at the Centre, please contact Anna at Ziyun. The phone number there is +868535230823 or email Anna at nk_annaling@yahoo.com.

MCCC

TDK will now be officially known as the Missionary Community of Corpus Christi (MCCC).

With the possibility of TDK moving into Cambodia to take up the challenge of a new mission, it was proposed by Fr. Ivan that it would be better to give an official name to the organization that will be responsible for the units that are being formed. So what was formally known as TDK (Tinan do Kristus) will now only apply to units formed in Sabah. In Brunei it will be known as KKB (Kristus ka Badan). In Sarawak, it will be in the Iban language. In Singapore it will probably take the Chinese initials as its acronym. But all the units will be under the umbrella organization of MCCC.

Promotional Tour of MCCC

Fr. Ivan, back for the CNY celebrations, embarked on a promotional tour of MCCC.

While recently back from the UK where he is now currently based to spend Chinese New Year with his family in Brunei, Fr. Ivan took the opportunity to promote MCCC, the organization he is keen to develop as a means to facilitate missionary awareness among the people in the region. While visiting Singapore, an opportunity arose for him to make a presentation on Cambodia and China and the objectives of MCCC. As a result of his talk, a group of Singaporeans are now keen to embark on a familiarization tour of Cambodia right after Easter. Nearer home, another gathering was



organized in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. This resulted in those attending showing a greater enthusiasm in supporting the cause. Fr. Ivan also met the Kuala Belait unit members to further encourage them to begin forming themselves and

to commit themselves to promoting the work of MCCC. Future plans include trips to Sibu and Kuching and even Kota Kinabalu to promote MCCC. A trip to Ziyun Centre is also being organized.

Fr. Ivan with some of the Singaporeans at the presentation held at a Convent in Serangoon Gardens, Singapore. Sr. Agnes is standing beside Fr. Ivan.

Cambodian Trip

A group of Singaporeans will embark on a familiarization tour of Cambodia after Easter.



Following from Fr. Ivan's visit to Singapore, a group of twelve Singaporean ladies will be departing for Cambodia right after Easter on 10 April 2007. Three from among them will remain for a full month while the rest will spend up to ten days touring the places in the Apostolic Prefecture of Kompong Cham, around where MCCC intends to set up her mission centre. This will go to places like Kratie, Stung Treng and Rattanakiri, visiting the various parishes as well as the

projects that are being undertaken at all these centres. They will also take in some famous historical sights of Cambodia like the temple ruins of Angkor Wat and Ta Phrom and meet up with some NGOs to have a first hand look at what is being done in Cambodia. It is hoped that on their return to Singapore, this group will bring home to their own parish a greater awareness of the kind of work the mission to Cambodia entails and rally support for the cause of MCCC.

MCCC Retreat in Miri

A retreat for all MCCC members will take place in Miri between Saturday 9 June and Sunday 10 June, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The Feast of Corpus Christi, 10 June, is the first anniversary of the founding of MCCC, formally known as TDK. A one-day retreat for all members of MCCC will take place in Miri, starting on Saturday 9 June at 4.00 p.m. and ending the next day at 3.00 p.m. The retreat, which follows the first

training course of eight sessions conducted weekly at the unit meeting, will end with a special mass to mark the occasion. All members attending the retreat are requested to register with the secretary of MCCC, Marilyn, not later than the end of May.

All general enquiries: please contact the secretary
Miss Marilyn Newn Email: mmnewn@hotmail.com
Brunei StanChart Account number: 0150341503600
Singapore: HSBC Account number: 143455392060

Brunei to Cambodia

MCCC is organizing a trip to Cambodia between 15 and 22 June 2007.

As part of the programme to encourage more participation in the Cambodian mission, MCCC is organizing a trip to Cambodia for anyone keen to travel there during the school holidays in June. The trip will begin from Miri on Friday 15 June, arriving in Phnom Penh via Kuala Lumpur on AirAsia and the return journey will depart from Siem Riep on Friday

22 June arriving in Miri via Kuala Lumpur the same evening. The trip will include a visit to Kompong Cham where MCCC intends to set up a base. It will also include the popular places in and around Phnom Penh and the famous temple ruins of Angkor Wat and Ta Phrom. Please contact Miss Marilyn Newn if you wish to be part of the group.



Joan at the Day Care Centre for children in Kompong Cham, Cambodia.

Training Programme

The training programme for MCCC members will begin after Easter.

Anyone wishing to be a member of MCCC will have to go through a training programme which normally lasts the duration of six months. The training programme comes in three eight-session modules. After completing each module, participants are expected to attend the weekend retreat which will focus intensely on one particular aspect of membership in MCCC. The eight sessions will be conducted in the groups consisting of around six to eight members. Once a group has successfully completed the first module, it will form a unit of MCCC. A facilitator will guide the units through the eight weekly sessions which

centres around scripture readings specially chosen to draw out a particular aspect of the qualities of being a member of MCCC. The training sessions will soon be made available through the website with instructions for facilitators on how to conduct the weekly sessions. Once the groups have successfully completed the first modules, the facilitators will have to arrange a suitable weekend for a retreat to take place. The second module can only begin after the members have attended the retreat. MCCC units can be formed anywhere by completing the three modules.