



Borneo Briefings March 2019

Newsletter from the Trozzo family

Serving the Church in Sabah, Malaysia

CNY – Chinese New Year – Gong Xi Fa Cai!



The seminary holds cultural celebrations throughout the year, and this year's CNY started with a bang – confetti poppers! With so many cultures and religions, the malls here are always decorated for



something. Christmas decorations come down, CNY go up; CNY come down, Easter goes up, followed by Ka'amatan (tribal harvest), Ramadan, Mooncake Festival, and Deepavali. Malaysia has the most public holidays of any nation, making room for celebrations from most groups. Even though Christians make up only 1% of the national population (35% in our state), national holidays include Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter.

Wendolyn preaching in chapel in Feb.



Wendolyn preached in chapel on Valentine’s Day, teaching about the 5 Love Languages from Dr. Gary Chapman. Her thesis advisor, Dr. Judy Berinai, translated into Bahasa Malaysia. Chapel balances language groups by using two of the three main languages each week: Mandarin, Bahasa, and English.



As part of her message about Love Languages, Wendolyn (whose main love language is gifts) gave each worshipper a “prayer square” from one of our supporting congregations, Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverside California. The idea that prayers went into each stitch truly fascinated the Short-Term Mission students, who are teenagers that finished exams (like SAT’s) and while waiting for their test results attend a seminary program for three months, learning everything from Bible knowledge to practicing using fire extinguishers.

**Thank you for being such a blessing to us!
The peace of the Lord be with you!**

Devotion Leading



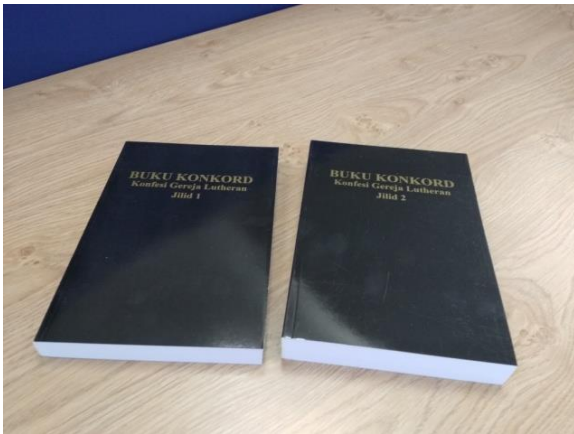
As part of our ministry to stay connected to the local denominations that we serve, Eric and Wendolyn attend devotions each week with the bishop and staff of the BCCM (Basel Christian Church of Malaysia). Last week Wendolyn went off-script from usual online devotions to teach how to memorize Bible verses using “discovery learning.” The results of teaching at devotions helped Wendolyn write a final paper for her final Masters of Theology course entitled “Psychological, Sociological, and Philosophical Foundations of Christian Education.” Soon Wendolyn will take her comprehensive exams and settle on a final thesis topic. The goal is for her to graduate in November.

Eric worship leading at opening chapel



Eric was invited to lead the community’s weekly assembly, opening the new school year that began in January. Worship in Sabah is usually not very “liturgical” to our eyes – three songs, prayer, 45 minute sermon based on a few Bible verses, offering, benediction and sung Amen. Eric brought some liturgical elements, such as an alb and spoken Gloria as well as a Eucharistic prayer, to the community worship and it was so well-received that he was asked to develop a Morning Prayer service for weekly English devotions at the seminary.

Buku Konkord Jilid 1 and 2



Part of our work here is to help provide the churches with basic resources to help guide them. The Book of Concord is a collection of writings that many Lutheran churches use as a guide to basic Christian teachings. The Lutheran Study Centre had introduced some of those writings to the churches using the Malaysian language in 2013, calling it Volume 1. The printing

used the Indonesian language translation, which is similar to the Malaysian language. At the end of 2018, we realized that all of the copies from that first printing were in use. In February we were able to get a new printing of Volume 1, and used the opportunity to also print the remaining writings as Volume 2. That makes the full writings of the Book of Concord are now available in the Indonesian translation for the Malaysian language churches to use.

Health



Wendolyn had quite a surprise in January: a day after teaching primary school boys to breakdance and happily running a 5 k, she was admitted to the hospital with what the doctor termed “quite a big pneumonia” (is that a technical term?) After 5 days in the hospital and 6 weeks of rest (less than 4,000 steps a day), she is feeling much better. The hospital let her come home after only 5 days because our neighbour, a nurse, could continue IV antibiotics. Dante had just completed a first aid course and built Wendolyn a clever splint to hold her IV port still. In Asia, parents cheer for their kids to be either a doctor, lawyer, or engineer (a friend recently joked, “the fourth option is to be a

disappointment”), and Dante shows good instincts for all three. We are still American enough to tell our boys they can be what they want; Dante wants to go into the Coast Guard and Caedmon wants to own a food truck. Maybe he will make dim sum, like shown here – this was a brunch that Eric offered to help me in the healing process. Inside the white balls are duck egg yolks.



Boys Brigade Junior Concert



One of the ways that our whole family stays involved with the local congregations is through Boys Brigade. Our local squad celebrated the 40th anniversary of having a Junior program (elementary school age) by having an evening of performance that

included bugles, drumming, dance, and singing. Eric and Wendolyn helped with the organizing, Cade participated in the dance troupe and was asked to oversee the youngest boys in their marching, and Dante appeared with the “alumni” who had gone through the Juniors and moved on to the Seniors. The evening ended with everyone joining the choir to sing “A Million Dreams.”

We are grateful for your support!

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2.) By cheque, made payable to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, with Trozzo MSG0715 in the memo line. Mailing address is: ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

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