

Strong support for charity bazaar by [yvonne t. nathan](#)



CCMs Bumiputera Indigenous Affairs Department showcasing Sabahan wares. From left: Barina Jailen, Suzilah Angansai, Parasin Oinung, Juining and Jack Owlal.

An OUTPOURING of earnest wishes drove the Council of Churches Malaysia's (CCM) first ever charity bazaar with artwork and freshly baked goods galore donated by community members.

Booths were dedicated to the selling of wares contributed towards community building as CCM approaches the tail-end of its fundraising efforts.

The building along Jalan Universiti in Petaling Jaya faces University Hospital and it has become a sanctuary for those accompanying their loved ones receiving treatment at the hospital. It has 20 rooms to be let out for that purpose.

After nearly 10 years of planning, followed by three years of construction from 2010 to 2013, CCM has approximately RM500,000 left to raise to pay back loans on the building that has become a safe space for the community.

"It is our first attempt to showcase activities of interest to the public and community in the surrounding area," said CCM general secretary Rev Dr Hermen Shastri.

"We are hoping to continue organising the bazaar once a year.

"After we raise enough money for the building, we will begin donating proceeds to other NGOs.

"Because of the location, we decided to do something not only for the family members taking care of patients at the hospital, but also students," he said.

Among the volunteers for the bazaar were people who had benefited from the help provided by CCM.

There was a variety of attractions from art workshops and NGOs such as Bangsa Ria Association for the Disabled Kuala Lumpur and Selangor selling trinkets, to the sweet scent of lovingly baked homemade cakes from the German community.

One of these kindly bakers was Rietje Klaas who saw it as a way they could help CCM.

"Masses in German for both Catholics and Protestants are conducted monthly in the little chapel at CCM, so when we were asked to contribute, each of us brought a cake," Klaas said, adding that each household had its own speciality that was made especially for the day.

For CCM member Juining Babia from Sabah, their Sabah-centric booth selling beaded necklaces and woven purses was for

charity while acknowledging their heritage.

“The CCM Bumiputera Indigenous Affairs Department’s purpose is to promote a sense of community among indigenous peoples to encourage them to be leaders in society.

“But we are also here for the community and to create a sense of fellowship to connect with one another through charity,” he said.

For details and to help, send an e-mail to cchurchm1948@gmail.com or revhermenshastri@hotmail.com or call 03-7956 7092.