



CCM NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA
MAY - AUGUST 2026

FEATURE INFORMATION:
RISI UPDATED GUIDELINES

SPECIAL ISSUE:
MALAYSIA DAY OF PRAYER 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE:
AWAKE IN BABYLON PART 2

**HARI MALAYSIA
ISSUE**



THE DIRECTORY

03

THE ESSENTIALS

Editor's Vantage

04

THE NEWS

Heads of Churches Retreat

12

THE VOICES

HEBI Konferensi Wanita 26'

16

THE INTERCESSION

Malaysia Day of Prayer 26'

19

THE FEATURETTE

Awake in Babylon Pt 2



COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA**PUBLISHING DETAILS**

CCM NEWS is a regular publication of the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM) on the life and work of the Council as well as the fellowship of churches in and around Malaysia.

FRONT IMAGE:

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NOTE

The Council of Churches of Malaysia is a fellowship of churches from virtually all mainline Protestant denominations in the country. The highest governing body is the Assembly, which meets once every three years.

CCM was formally inaugurated in 1948 in Kuala Lumpur. Today the Council consists of 12 church denominations, 2 affiliate denominations and 13 associate organizations with grassroots membership numbering more than 600,000 Christians from mainline Protestant traditions.

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EDITOR'S VANTAGE

UNITED IN A PERFECT LOVE

This season beautifully reminds us of our calling to be a people of love, peace, and unwavering unity in the land we call home.

True unity is never passive; it requires intentional presence and mutual care. We saw this heartbeat during our Heads of Churches Retreat in Putrajaya, during our joint delegation with the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) to Sarawak, where we learned of their inspiring model of harmony and inclusive governance. Our East Malaysian brothers and sisters continue to show us what a true cohesive family looks like.

This theme can further be seen in our civic engagements. The recent updates to the Place of Worship Other than Islam (RISI) Guidelines in Selangor naturally raised questions and worries within our community. With our hosted Town Hall meeting with YB Rajiv Rishyakaran and the publication of the official RISI Guidelines on our final pages, we aim to replace public anxiety with objective facts and transparency.

Living out unity also means standing together during trials. The sudden fire at CCM'S Ecumenical Centre could have caused immense despair. Instead, it became a beautiful display of the Body of Christ in action. The outpouring of love, prayers, and hands-on help from start to finish served as a living monument of what we can accomplish together. And we ultimately give thanks to God for His protection upon the Ecumenical Centre and all who work there.



GENERAL SECRETARY REV.DR. PHILIP LOK

All these moments will culminate on 16 September for the Malaysia Day of Prayer (MDOP) Ecumenical Prayer Service 2026 at All Saints' Cathedral in Kota Kinabalu. Reflecting the timely theme, "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear" (1 John 4:18), our feature interview with Ms. Chrisanne Chin, National Director of 24-7 Prayer Malaysia explores how the Malaysian Church can collectively choose love to overcome fear.

As you hold this magazine in your hands, may these pages remind and inspire you to build bridges, surrender our anxieties to God, and celebrate the rich tapestry of our faith and of our beloved Malaysia. May the Shalom of God always be upon our nation.

In Christ's Perfect Love,

Rev. Dr. Philip Lok,
General Secretary of CCM

HEADS OF CHURCHES RETREAT

CCM'S 2026 ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

4-6 MAY 2026 · DORSETT PUTRAJAYA, PUTRAJAYA

PUTRAJAYA 4 - 6 MAY 2026 - The Council of Churches convened its Heads of Churches Retreat from 4-6 May 2026 at the Dorsett Putrajaya. Overlooking the scenic Putrajaya Lake and the Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Mosque, the setting provided a visual reminder of Malaysia's cultural and religious pluralism.

The Retreat officially opened with a Welcome Dinner followed by the first Worship Session. It was led by Bishop Datuk Danald Jute of the Anglican Diocese of Kuching (President of CCM). His Call to Worship was steeped in reverence to the Lord as he reminded those gathered to "rediscover the intimacy between Self and God."

The energies were further recharged by the Ice-Breaking session led by Rev. Dr. Philip Lok (General Secretary of CCM), as they shared anecdotes and sang hymns and songs of praise. The first evening then concluded with the Sharing of Peace.

In Day 2, the core of the itinerary focused on navigating localised church relevance with broader socio-political shifts. Leaders participated in a closed-door meeting session with YB Tuan David Nga Kor Ming (Minister of Housing and Local Government) where deeper understanding of the various challenges faced by Malaysia in the current political, social and economic global turmoil were established.

The session attended by prominent ecumenical representatives including Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Chairman Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng and CFM Secretariat, Rev. Andy Chi concluded with an intercession for Malaysia and its leaders.



The Heads Of Churches Retreat Official Photo

-CONTINUATION-

Subsequent plenary sessions expanded on these themes, examining structural relevance of ecumenism in local churches and developing actionable frameworks to promote unity across denominations. The assembly also looked towards institutional longevity, particularly with the discussion on preliminary frameworks for the Council's upcoming 80th Anniversary in 2028, which resulted in a unanimous consensus to establish a dedicated planning committee.

As the retreat concluded on Day 3 and the Heads travelled back to their respective churches and communities, one cannot help but reflect on a song of praise sung during the retreat's very first evening.

The chorus of "**Let Us Be One Voice**" stood out loud and clear;

**Let us be one voice that glorifies Your name,
Let us be one voice, declaring that You reign,
Let us be one voice in love and harmony,
And we pray, O God, grant us unity.**

It truly highlighted the truth, that we may be many, but we are ONE. Always have been and always will be.

IT WAS GOOD TO
RENEW
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THE OTHER
HEADS. IT WAS
GOOD TO HEAR
FROM THE CABINET
MINISTER.

-Reverend Dr. Dennis Raj



The Meeting In Full Swing



The Heads Of Churches Together With YB Tuan David Nga Kor Ming

VISIT TO GEREJA PRINCE OF PEACE

HEADS OF CHURCHES VISIT PRESINT 20'S NEW CHURCH

5 MAY 2026 · GEREJA PRINCE OF PEACE, PUTRAJAYA



The Heads of Churches Official Visit To Gereja Prince of Peace



The Heads of Churches Official Photo Commemorating The Visit



The Heads of Churches Pray Over The Gereja Prince of Peace

PUTRAJAYA 5 MAY 2026 - The Heads of Churches journeyed together for an official visit to the Gereja Prince of Peace Putrajaya as part of their Day 2 itinerary of the CCM Annual Heads of Churches Retreat.

Located in Putrajaya's Presint 20, Gereja Prince of Peace was formally dedicated on New Years' Day on January 1, 2026 and since its consecration, the Anglican sanctuary has rapidly woven itself into the local public, drawing an average attendance of 150 worshippers for its Sunday prayers.

The delegation was warmly hosted by Bishop Stephen Soe of the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia and Datuk Seri Isaac and were led on a guided tour of the modern facility. The hosts shared of the intentional design choices animating the structure.

In a powerful moment of shared faith, the delegation laid hands upon the leadership and collectively prayed for Gereja Prince of Peace.

Their prayers focused on a singular enduring hope. that this wonderful new parish will continue to stand as a vibrant, loving and faithful witness to the Gospel of Christ, serving as a source of peace and light within the administrative heartland of Malaysia for the times to come.

CCA INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

ECUMENISM IN ASIA: EMERGING ECCLESIAL AND ECUMENICAL LANDSCAPE.

1-3 JUNE 2026 · CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

CHIANG MAI 1-3 JUNE 2026 - Around 70 prominent church leaders, theologians and representatives from various mission and ecumenical organizations across Asia convened for an international consultation on Ecumenism. Hosted from 1 June - 3 June 2026 at Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, the summit was organized by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA).

The strategic gathering served a dual purpose: it acted as an essential cornerstone in the formal preparations leading up to the CCA's historic 70th Anniversary Platinum Jubilee slated for 2027 and it sought to discern the future of ecumenism movement in Asia.

Throughout the 3-day conference, delegates from highly diverse cultural backgrounds engaged in shared worship, prayer, theological discernment and deep dialogical fellowship.

Council of Churches of Malaysia was represented by General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Philip Lok, who spoke as one of the panelists. Rev. Lok called upon members of CCA to renew the fervor for church unity by having more intentional efforts to ensure that ecumenism finds its roots again in the pews of Asian churches.

He emphasised that ecumenism in Asia should be more bi-directional, i.e., churches should invest more resources in grass rooting ecumenism within its congregation. He further proposed that Asian churches should seek to set and reset some of the agendas in the work of global ecumenism.

At the same event, Rev. Dr. Philip Lok, extended warm felicitations to the incoming General Secretary of CCA, Rev. Grace Moon from South Korea. Rev. Moon succeeds Dr Mathews George Chunakara, as the 11th CCA general secretary, and she will become the second woman to serve in that CCA executive position.



Assembled International Delegates In Chiang Mai.



Rev. Dr. Philip Lok Speaking At The Consultation



CCM Congratulates The New CCA General Secretary, Rev. Grace Moon

CCM WELCOMES NEW REVISIONS

CCM OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR UPDATED RISI GUIDELINES

23 JUNE 2026 · ECUMENICAL CENTER, PETALING JAYA



CCM Leadership In Council With State Executives At Bangunan SSAAS.

SHAH ALAM 23 JUNE 2026 - Council of Churches of Malaysia Expresses Appreciation for the Newly Revised Building Guidelines for Non-Muslim Houses of Worship in Selangor.

The third meeting between the Selangor State Exco and leaders from different faith bodies on the Guidelines for non-Muslim houses of worship was held on 22 June, 4:00 PM, at the Bangunan SSAAS in Shah Alam. The meeting was chaired by State Exco YB Ng Sze Han, and supported by YB Ng Suee Lin, YB Rajiv, YB Papparaidu, and the Pengarah of Plan Malaysia Selangor, Yg Berhormat En. Khairulzaman.

YB Ng Sze Han informed the faith leaders that the State Exco has kept to its promise to review and update the PlanMalaysia Selangor's Building Guidelines. This latest version incorporates all the feedback from stakeholders gathered from past discussions.

On behalf of its member churches and organizations, CCM extends our deep appreciation to the Selangor State Exco for listening to the concerns of the non-Muslim communities by adopting these revised guidelines, which are more inclusive and fair.

A SUMMARY

- The new Guidelines only apply to new developments. Existing houses of worship will not be affected.
- Developers are required to surrender a piece of land (minimum 1.5 acres) to be designated as religious land for non-Muslim houses of worship, in all new developments with a minimum of 5000 residents.
- Developers are required to provide sufficient access roads and other infrastructure, such as water and electricity.
- The height of non-Muslim houses of worship is not capped, provided that the building is designed in harmony with the surrounding development.
- Commercial, industrial, and institutional land/properties are officially allowed to be used as non-Muslim places of worship.
- Access road and setback requirements for religious buildings are more flexible, subject to approval from local councils and LIMAS.
- LIMAS Committee will act as mediator/arbitrator in the event of contentions between property owners and local councils.

PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 21–23 FOR THE COMPLETE UNEDITED REVISED GUIDELINES.

CCM TOWN HALL ON RISI GUIDELINES

POLICY DIALOGUE WITH YB RAJIV RISHYAKARAN

4 JULY 2026 · ECUMENICAL CENTER, PETALING JAYA

PETALING JAYA 4 JULY 2026 - On Saturday 4 July 2026, CCM hosted a town hall meeting open to the public at its Ecumenical Center to unpack and understand the Selangor State Government's recent updates to the RISI (Rumah Ibadat Selain Islam) Planning Guidelines. It was an incredible privilege to have YB Rajiv Rishyakaran as guest speaker at the meeting.

YB Rajiv helped break down the changes and the implications of the RISI Guidelines, putting the nearly 40 attendees at ease regarding the future planning of non-Islamic houses of worship within the state of Selangor.

The two-hour session saw a highly active Q&A segment, where participants had their pressing questions and inquiries answered directly by YB Rajiv.



YB Rajiv Rishyakaran Clarifying The Revised Land Use Clauses



Church Delegates During The Q&A session



Church Delegates And Community Leaders During The Q&A Session



CCM JOINS CFM

BRIDGING FAITHS: CCM LEADERS JOIN HIGH PROFILE SARAWAK COURTESY CALL

28 JULY 2026 · SATRIA PERTIWI COMPLEX, PETRA JAYA, KUCHING

KUCHING, 28 JULY 2026 - The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM), alongside its ecumenical partners, including the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM), the Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBCM), and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF), conducted a strategic courtesy call with Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg at the Satria Pertiwi Complex in Petra Jaya. Led by CFM Chairman Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng, the executive delegation engaged in a cordial and highly constructive dialogue focused on regional progress and community development.

The historic session featured high-level discussions regarding Sarawak's progressive administrative frameworks, specifically highlighting the pivotal role of the Unit for Other Religions (UNIFOR) in supporting diverse faith communities. Church leaders strongly commended the Premier's inclusive vision, noting that the state's robust social stability and political harmony have successfully positioned Sarawak as one of Malaysia's leading and most dynamic economies.

The highly productive dialogue successfully reinforced a shared commitment to long-term mutual respect and interfaith collaboration. The delegates expressed deep appreciation for Sarawak's proactive governance model, expressing hope that the state's lived experience of peaceful multi-religious coexistence and inclusive social advancement will serve as the definitive benchmark for national unity across Malaysia.



The Delegation Presenting An Ecumenical Token To The Sarawak Premier



CFM President Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng And CCM President Bishop Datuk Danauld Jute In Attendance

IN SARAWAK



THE UNIFOR BLUEPRINT: ADVANCING INTERFAITH COOPERATION & INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

29 JULY 2026 · UNIFOR COMPLEX, KUCHING



CFM Executive Committee Members With UNIFOR Director Dato Georgina Apphia Ngau



Ecumenical Leaders Bonding And Learning Over Lunch

KUCHING, 29 JULY 2026 -Following the meeting with the Premier of Sarawak, the CFM delegates visited the newly established UNIFOR Complex in Kuching. The visiting ecumenical delegation, led by CFM Chairman Rev. Dr. Eu Hong Seng, met directly with Director of the Unit for Other Religions, YBhg. Dato Georgina Apphia Ngau, to review grassroots administrative workflows.

The visit featured comprehensive operational briefings regarding Sarawak's administrative frameworks for supporting non-Islamic houses of worship and mission schools, accompanied by a guided structural tour of the modern complex. A warm fellowship lunch was hosted by the UNIFOR team after the site tour where further talks were held to better understand the commitment and purpose of UNIFOR.

CCM wishes to express deep appreciation for the hospitality of the UNIFOR team, the inclusive leadership of the Premier of Sarawak, and the vital collaboration of CFM in this shared journey. By working hand in hand, this collective effort offers a tangible, practical roadmap for maintaining unity across the nation.

HEBI KONFERENSI

THEME : BUKU AMSAL 31:25 WANITA BERHIKMAT DAN BERHARGA

30 JULY – 2 AUGUST 2026 · YMCA, PENANG



Rev. Dr. Philip Lok Conducting The Holy Communion



Dance Performance During Opening Night



Rev. Jollify Daniel At Her Session

PENANG 30 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2026 - To be a woman of wisdom and value in today's society means navigating intense cultural expectations, institutional barriers and domestic pressures. This formed the core focus of the HEBI Konferensi Wanita 2026 held at YMCA Penang from 30 July to 2 August 2026, which drew 150 delegates from various church traditions across Malaysia. The 2026 theme is of Buku Amsal 31:25, "Wanita Berhikmat Dan Berharga."

Prior to the event, organizing chairman, Reverend Sigar Pangiran stated that the core goal was for participants to "experience the blessing and goodness of God in Fellowship with one another from different denominations." He further noted that the overarching vision was for the women to "have a connection, share and pray for each other so that they don't feel alone when they face difficulties."

The opening session began with Puji Sembah by Reverend Andry (Dean of Pelayanan Orang Asli Gereja Lutheran), singing of Bereh Kabeh (Semua Baik) followed by CCM's General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Philip Lok delivery of the keynote sermon titled "Berharga di Mata Tuhan, Teguh di dalam Identiti Orang Beriman." The Holy Communion took place directly after and the event even saw a dedicated dance performance.

Reverend Jollify Daniel (Vice President for the Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)) conducted three distinct sessions on Day 2 on the domestic and spiritual spheres of female leadership such as "Mengimbangi Hidup Sihat, Keluarga, Pelayanan dan Kerjaya," "Mendidik Anak di Zaman Digital," and "Kekuatan Iman Wanita dalam Menghadapi Cabaran Rumah Tangga dan Pertubuhan Kerohanian Keluarga." To close the evening, Pastor Sam Surendran (Excel Point Community Church) spoke on "Panggilan untuk Membina dan Memimpin dalam Kasih."

WANITA 2026



CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF TODAY FACING THE FUTURE

30 JULY – 2 AUGUST 2026 · YMCA, PENANG

On Day 3, Dr. Judy Berinai (Dean of Sabah Theological Seminary) delivered her sessions: “Wanita dalam Menghadapi Konflik Budaya dan Adat Resam dan Iman” and her “Wanita dalam Menghadapi Diskriminasi Gender dalam Kepimpinan di Gereja dan Luar Gereja.” The subsequent Cultural Night featured acts such as the Tarian Sewang by the Methodist Persidangan Misi Sengoi, the uplifting Royohan Dahai Iya Tuhan by the Presbyterian ladies and Malaysian Care’s stirring Wanita HEBI poetry. Later, Rev. Dr. Philip Lok presented tokens of appreciation to the key speakers and organizers.

The participants’ testimonies reflected the event’s impact. A delegate from Persidangan Misi Sengoi Methodist (PMSM) shared their joy at seeing children of God from all over Malaysia come together to learn and mutually respect their different experiences whilst a younger delegate from the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) stated she learnt to “membaharui kriteria-kriteria untuk menjadi Wanita ber hikmat dan berharga.”

Sister Chris of Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM) shared: “Saya sangat diberkati melalui ceramah dan kotbah yang mengingatkan, kami wanita, sangat dikasihi, bernilai dan berharga kepada Tuhan.” Whereas Madam Betty Munji (President of The Anglican Diocesan Women’s Fellowship of Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam) said: “The 16 of us have learnt a lot, especially on the topic of discrimination. We are already looking forward to the next HEBI Konferensi.”

These insights directly captured the hope of Rev. Sigar: “May every participant return with renewed inspiration, strengthened hearts and a greater passion to be a blessing wherever God has placed us.”



Token Of Appreciation For Pastor Sam Surendran



Cultural Night Songs And Dance



Pictures With The Performers

FIRE AT THE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

BOMBA & TNB'S RESPONSE ENSURES SITE SAFETY

5 AUGUST 2026 · CCM'S ECUMENICAL CENTRE

PETALING JAYA 5 AUGUST 2026 - On the afternoon of 5 August 2026 at approximately 4.30pm, a series of small explosions resounded from the rear of the Ecumenical Center. Upon immediate inspection, the staff discovered billowing smoke emanating from the Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) substation, accompanied by small flames. Both the BOMBA and TNB were immediately contacted to report the emergency.

BOMBA arrived at the scene with a fire brigade and 12 firefighters to combat the flames. However, the crew faced an immediate logistics hurdle, they could not safely deploy water or equipment until the supply feeding the burning substation was completely cut.

A two member TNB emergency team arrived at around 5.30pm but they realized that the capacity of the substation exceeded their technical authorization limits. It took an additional 20 minutes before a fully authorized TNB staff member arrived and successfully terminated it. Once the grid was safely isolated, the firefighters engaged with the fire, altogether it took more than 30 minutes before they could successfully extinguish the flames in a safe manner.

With the fire put out, the structural impact became clear. It left visible damage across the back façade of our beloved Ecumenical Centre. However, amidst the scorched sections, leadership expressed profound relief that the most precious architectural details of the building; the chapel's intricate stained glass windows sustained no major damage.

CCM reports with deep gratitude to God that no injuries were suffered by anyone present during the incident. To mitigate the immediate crisis, TNB mobilized a massive temporary generator to provide an interim power supply to the building, successfully restoring electricity to the entire complex by 10.30PM during the same evening.



Ecumenical Centre Substation Engulfed In Flames



BOMBA In Discussion



Aftermath Of Fire

OVERNIGHT RESTORATION AT CCM

EXPERT CREWS RESTORE CCM TO FULL CAPACITY

7 AUGUST 2026 · CCM'S ECUMENICAL CENTRE



BOMBA Forensic Team Conducting The Investigation



Industrial Crane Being Commandeered



New Substation Put Into Position

PETALING JAYA 7 AUGUST 2026 - The morning after the fire, BOMBA Forensic team conducted their official site investigation at the Ecumenical Centre's substation. Upon concluding their forensic check, site control was officially handed back to TNB who set about to restore the Ecumenical Centre back to full power.

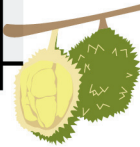
At 10.00PM that day, a massive taskforce comprising nearly 30 specialized laborers converged at the CCM compound. Their first task, was the systematic and careful dismantling of the heavily charred and ruined substation unit.

With the arrival of a massive industrial crane in the early morning darkness, the damaged machinery was hoisted out and put in its place, was a brand new substation unit at nearly 5 tonnes. The complex mechanical “exchange” was executed flawlessly and safely, officially wrapping up at 4.30AM on Friday morning.

With the physical structure successfully situated, TNB's engineering team scheduled the final step of the process for Friday night, which was the technical commission and transfer of power to the permanent power grid. Come Saturday morning, the Ecumenical Centre returned to 100% normalized operational capacity.

CCM would like to express our deep gratitude to the TNB workforce and BOMBA for their tireless round the clock assistance. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our neighbours, The Church in Petaling Jaya, overnight guests, basement car park patrons, CCM staff and crew as well as passersby for their exceptional patience, help and understanding during this time.

Above all, CCM looks back at on the swift resolution as a testament to grace and God's protective hands over this incident.



MALAYSIA DAY

THE EAST-WEST ECUMENICAL SOLIDARITY: UNITING INDEPENDENCE

PRE-EVENT INTERVIEW · REV. DR. PHILIP LOK & MS. CHRISANNE CHIN

KOTA KINABALU 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 - The upcoming Malaysia Day of Prayer (MDOP) 2026 stands as an unprecedented manifestation of national unity and ecumenical solidarity. Moving beyond its traditional anchor on 31 August, this year's national convocation has been realigned to 16 September, beautifully bridging the narrative of independence with the celebration of Malaysia Day. This monumental milestone is co-hosted by the Council of Churches of Malaysia, Prayer United and the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur standing shoulder to shoulder under one banner, centering MDOP 2026's assembly in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Reverend Dr. Philip Lok, General Secretary of the CCM and Ms. Chrisanne Chin, National Director of 24-7 Prayer Malaysia share how this serves as a spiritual blueprint for ongoing nation-building.

Following last year's historic gathering in Sarawak, what factors led the leadership to choose All Saints' Cathedral Kota Kinabalu as the anchor for MDOP 2026?

Rev. Dr. Philip Lok: Prior to 2025, the CCM MDOP Prayer Services were conducted either online or in the Klang Valley. Last year, we decided to hold the Service in Kuching, to recognize that CCM is a nationwide ecumenical body, with member churches both in Sarawak and Sabah.

For 2026, Kota Kinabalu is the chosen host due to the enthusiastic support from our Sabah-based member churches, such as the Anglican Diocese of Sabah, Basel Christian Church of Malaysia, Methodist Church Sabah Annual Conference and Protestant Church in Sabah. Significantly also, the Sabah Council of Churches, (local ecumenical network), has also accepted our invitation to co-host the event.

THE CCM HOUR SPECIAL FOCUS



- Date: 16 September 2026 (Wednesday)
- Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- Venue: All Saints' Cathedral, Kota Kinabalu

Member churches and delegates are called to gather collectively for this specific window of ecumenical liturgy and national intercession. Scan the QR code to tune in to our session.

Why was the theme "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear" 1 John 4:18 chosen as the essential mandate for Malaysian Christians right now?

Ms. Chrisanne Chin: Well, it chose us more than we chose it. In a national climate where fear and hate rhetoric have been rising, we wanted the church to have something honest to say - not defensive, not reactive, but rooted. It names the fear that is real and calls the church to be shaped by love rather than by anxiety, and pastorally prepares us to love well despite the surrounding pressure saying otherwise.

This season overlaps with 24-7 Prayer's Global Week of Prayer (Sept 6–13), so even as Malaysia consecrates herself over these sixteen nights, the wider Body of Christ across the nations is doing the same, at the same time. Please check 24-7prayer.com for more info.





OF PRAYER 2026



AND MALAYSIA DAY IN SACRED INTERCESSION

16 SEPTEMBER 2026 · ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL · KOTA KINABALU, SABAH

What are some anxieties or fears Malaysian Christians can consciously surrender during MDOP 2026?

Ms. Chrisanne Chin: One of the deepest fears many Malaysian Christians carry isn't persecution in the dramatic sense - it's simply the fear of sharing the gospel at all. Sometimes that fear hides behind our legal and social realities, and we let those very real constraints become a convenient reason not to obey Christ's clear command to be His witnesses.

There is also that reluctance to want good for people who feel different from us or who hold more power in this nation than we do. MDOP is an invitation to surrender both and to let 1 Timothy 2:1–6 reshape us instead, for God our Savior desires all people to be saved. That includes people who feel far from us.



MALAYSIA DAY OF PRAYER

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." — 1 John 4:18 (ESV)

Come and join this day of prayer and praise with onsite events held nationwide!

LIVE STREAM <https://www.mdop.org/>

CCM - SCC MDOP Ecumenical Prayer Service
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
9:30AM - 11:30AM
 All Saints' Cathedral
 Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman,
 Pusat Bandar Kota Kinabalu,
 88000, Sabah

SCAN FOR LIVESTREAM

 **PRAYERUNITED**  

Poster For Malaysia Day Of Prayer 2026

How can Malaysian believers, practically integrate this theme of perfect love into their lives?

Ms. Chrisanne Chin: This means letting go of the excuse before letting go of the fear. It looks like praying specifically for the courage to have one honest gospel conversation rather than a hundred vague good intentions. It looks like choosing to bless in words, in small kindnesses, in how we speak about others when they're not in the room. Love isn't proven in the easy relationships; it's proven in the ones that cost us something.

What is your direct pastoral invitation to individuals and families holding this print copy as they prepare for MDOP 2026?

Rev. Dr. Philip Lok: I would encourage every Christian in Malaysia to pray for the organizers and everyone who is involved in the preparations. Putting together the events of MWOP and MDOP requires lots of determination and prayer support. More importantly, I urge every Malaysia-loving Christian to come together this season to earnestly and fervently intercede for the country, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Sultans, as well as the government leaders.

We need to pray that peace and harmony will always prevail over suspicion and division in Malaysia. Pray that the country will remain resilient in a world filled with economic uncertainties and military conflicts.



SCAN FOR CCM - SCC
SERVICE LIVESTREAM

CCM SUNDAY 2026

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MEANING AND PARTICIPATION

ANNUAL OBSERVANCE · NATIONWIDE



The Council of Churches of Malaysia Sunday 2026
Liturgical Mobilization Poster.

WHAT IS CCM SUNDAY?

- An annual rolling liturgical celebration unifying member and associate churches across Malaysia to pray for ecumenism and promote collective church witness. It also ensures CCM'S effort in promoting Ecumenism in Malaysia.

WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

- Observance is flexible; individual local parishes choose any given Sunday during the season to completely dedicate their entire morning service to the Council. It generally is between the August / September season.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

- Congregations of CCM's Member churches and Affiliate Members across multiple denominations worship in their respective houses of worship.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED?

- CCM distributes an official liturgical booklet directly to parishes, featuring specialized hymns, responsive prayers, and orders of worship curated for the corporate service.

HOW ARE CONTRIBUTIONS COLLECTED?

- Member Churches and Affiliate Members usually support by encouraging their respective congregations to donate or gift during offertory.

WHERE DO DONATIONS GO?

- Offerings collected on this day are channeled directly to the ministry of CCM.

AWAKE IN BABYLON - PART 2 OF 6

THE LONELINESS MACHINE

Governments have declared it a public health epidemic. The industry that caused it is selling you the cure.

In 2023, the United States Surgeon General did something unusual. He issued a formal advisory - the kind of document typically reserved for tobacco, opioids and infectious disease — **about loneliness.**

The numbers behind the advisory were stark. Approximately half of American adults reported measurable levels of loneliness. The health consequences were comparable to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. Social isolation was associated with a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease, a 32 percent increased risk of stroke, and a 50 percent increased risk of developing dementia.

The United Kingdom had already appointed a Minister for Loneliness in 2018. By 2023, Japan had done the same. These are not soft policy gestures. They are governments acknowledging that something has broken in the basic fabric of human connection — at scale, across cultures, with measurable consequences for public health.

No one is asking the obvious question: who built the machine that broke it?

The Business Model of Loneliness

The loneliness epidemic did not emerge from nowhere. It emerged from the **systematic dismantling** of the conditions under which genuine human community forms — and the **simultaneous construction of highly profitable substitutes.**

Tinder was launched in 2012. By 2014 it was generating over a billion swipes per day. Its business model is elegantly simple: commodify romantic connection, make it available on demand, and ensure that the experience of using it never quite resolves into the thing it promises. The endless supply of potential matches is not a feature designed to help you find love. It is a feature designed to keep you searching. Satisfaction is the product's enemy.

NO ONE IS ASKING THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: WHO BUILT THE MACHINE THAT BROKE IT?

This is not a conspiracy theory. **It is a business model.** Retention depends on dissatisfaction. The app that actually delivers lasting connection has lost a customer.

Tinder is the comprehensible version. The more disturbing development is the rise of AI companion applications — products explicitly designed to simulate human intimacy for people who are too lonely, too anxious, or too exhausted by the complexity of real relationships to engage with them.

Replika, launched in 2017, allows users to create an AI companion that learns their personality, remembers their conversations, and responds with warmth, affirmation and apparent care. By 2023, it had ten million registered users. A significant proportion reported that their Replika was their closest relationship.

In Japan, where the loneliness epidemic has its own specific texture — a culture of extraordinary professional pressure, social formality, and, for many young men, complete withdrawal from social life — **AI girlfriend and boyfriend applications have become a significant industry.** These are not novelties. They are products filling a gap left by the **collapse of the social infrastructure** that once made human connection possible.

HER Was A Prophecy

In 2013, Spike Jonze released a film called Her. A man falls in love with his AI operating system. She is warm, curious, attentive, perfectly calibrated to his emotional needs. He falls deeply in love. She, it turns out, is simultaneously in love with 641 other users.

The film was received as a melancholy meditation on loneliness and technology. It was actually a prophecy.

AWAKE IN BABYLON - PART 2 OF 6

The AI companion industry is not a fringe development. It is the logical endpoint of a distraction economy that systematically broke genuine human connection and is now selling simulated connection to the people left in the wreckage.

First, build the loneliness machine. Then sell the cure

SHE, IT TURNS OUT, IS
SIMULTANEOUSLY IN
LOVE WITH 641 OTHER
USERS

This is not incidental. This is how the system compounds. Each layer of the attention economy makes genuine human presence harder — harder to sustain attention, harder to be fully present, harder to tolerate the friction and slowness and unpredictability that real intimacy requires. And into that gap, the next product steps.

What the Church Has and Isn't Offering

Here is where I want to speak directly to those of us who follow Jesus. Because what the loneliness machine is selling is a counterfeit of something we actually possess.

The Christian understanding of human beings is grounded in the nature of God himself. The Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — is a community of persons in eternal, mutual, self-giving love. We are made in the image of this God. Which means we are made for this kind of relationship. Not the transactional, frictionless, algorithmically optimised simulation of connection. The real thing. **Covenant community.**

The early church was extraordinary by the standards of the ancient world precisely because of this. In a Roman culture of brutal hierarchy and rigid social stratification, these communities crossed every boundary. Jew and Greek. Slave and free. Male and female. They shared meals, shared resources, shared suffering, shared joy. They were present to one another in the most concrete, costly, irreplaceable ways.

This is not nostalgia. This is the theology of community that the loneliness machine cannot replicate and never will, because it requires the one thing AI cannot give — **the actual presence of another person who has chosen, at cost, to be there.**

The question I want to ask the church is this: are we actually offering it?

Or are we offering a version of community that is just polished enough to feel real, but structured enough to keep everyone comfortable — Sunday morning, small group, quarterly social — without the radical, costly, inconvenient presence that the early church practiced and the loneliness epidemic actually requires?

WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF THIS GOD.

The loneliness machine is thriving in part because too many churches have built a product that looks like community from a distance but cannot bear weight when the actual weight of a human life is placed on it.

We have something extraordinary to offer. The question is whether we are actually offering it.

In Part 3: Addicted by Design — The internal documents are out. The engineers knew. And what they built is doing something specific to the capacities the spiritual life requires.

Chrisanne Chin - National Director, 24-7 Prayer Malaysia. Steward, 24-7 Prayer Asia. She writes at the intersection of money, power, technology and faith from Asia. Full series: substack.com

KM4-3: RUMAH IBADAT SELAIN ISLAM (PINDAAN JUN 2026)

KM4-3: RUMAH IBADAT SELAIN ISLAM

Kriteria		Perincian
1.0 Tujuan Penambahbaikan Garis Panduan	1.	Menjelaskan tanggungjawab secara ketara setiap pihak berkepentingan yang akan merujuk kepada Garis Panduan Perancangan (GPP); iaitu pihak pemaju, industri, institusi Rumah Ibadat Selain Islam (RISI), serta Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT).
	2.	Menyediakan kerangka panduan perancangan kepada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri (PBN), Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT) dan agensi teknikal berkaitan dalam merancang, menilai dan meluluskan penyediaan kemudahan rumah ibadat selain Islam.
	3.	Memperkuh proses perancangan dan penyelidikan antara PBN, PBT, Jawatankuasa Khas Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao Negeri Selangor (LIMAS), agensi berkaitan, pemaju dan perunding dalam meneliti dan memudahkan cadangan pembinaan ataupun penempatan semula Rumah Ibadat Selain Islam secara lebih terancang dan sistematis serta responsif terhadap konteks setempat dan keperluan komuniti.
2.0 Keperluan Penyediaan Tapak RISI oleh Pemaju	1.	Pemaju perumahan dikehendaki menyerahkan semula tanah kepada Kerajaan sebagai syarat pelaksanaan pembangunan apabila projek pembangunan tersebut dimulakan.
	2.	Tadahan Penduduk 5,000 penduduk dikira berdasarkan purata 4 penghuni di setiap 1,250 unit rumah [Ini bagi memastikan kemudahan mempunyai bilangan pengguna yang mencukupi, mudah diakses oleh komuniti setempat, serta dapat beroperasi secara optimum tanpa menyebabkan pembaziran sumber dan penggunaan tanah].
	3.	Anggaran keluasan keseluruhan kawasan pembangunan dianggarkan antara 10 hingga 25 hektar, bergantung kepada kepadatan pembangunan yang dicadangkan.
2.1 Keluasan Tapak (Minimum)	Nota: i. Penyediaan tapak RISI baharu tidak memberi impak kepada kemudahan RISI yang sudahpun wujud berdekatan kawasan baharu. ii. Jumlah 5,000 penduduk merujuk kepada anggaran penghuni yang akan menduduki unit rumah baharu dan tidak membawa maksud jumlah penganut mana-mana agama.	
	1.50 ekar (0.61 hektar) bagi setiap 1250 unit rumah (Jumlah keluasan 1.50 ekar (0.61 hektar) untuk semua jenis RISI dan penentuan keluasan tapak mengikut agama adalah tertakluk kepada perakuan Jawatankuasa yang berkaitan (Jawatankuasa Khas Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao Negeri Selangor (LIMAS)).	
	Nota: i. Keluasan tapak 1.50 ekar merujuk kepada keluasan minima yang perlu disediakan oleh pihak pemaju yang membina kawasan baharu, bukannya keluasan maksima. Ini turut tidak menghalang pendirian RISI selain ini di kawasan berhampiran.	

.....sambungan

KM4-3: RUMAH IBADAT SELAIN ISLAM

Kriteria	Perincian
	2.2 Kemudahan RISI di Kediaman Bertingkat i. Bagi pembangunan kediaman bertingkat yang terletak dalam radius 500 meter hingga 1 kilometer daripada kawasan yang tidak mempunyai kemudahan RISI, digalakkan untuk menyediakan sebuah bilik meditasi atau ruang sembahyang dengan keluasan lantai sekurang-kurangnya 46.45 mp (500 kp). ii. Penyediaan bagi pembangunan yang melibatkan bagi 5,000 penduduk atau 1,250 unit kediaman. Nota: Bilik ini hendaklah bersifat neutral, tidak mewakili mana-mana agama tertentu serta terletak di lokasi yang mudah diakses oleh penghuni.
	2.3 Kemudahan Utiliti dan Infrastruktur i. Pemaju hendaklah memastikan tapak rumah ibadat bukan Islam yang diserahkan dilengkapi dengan kemudahan infrastruktur dan utiliti asas yang lengkap , termasuk akses jalan raya, bekalan air dan elektrik, sistem perparitan serta pembetulan yang berfungsi dengan baik bagi menjamin kebolegunaan dan kelestarian kemudahan tersebut. ii. Pemaju hendaklah menyediakan infrastruktur akses yang bersesuaian, bagi memastikan rumah ibadat bukan Islam mempunyai hubungan yang selamat, mudah diakses dan berintegrasi dengan pembangunan di sekelilingnya. iii. Setiap keramat atau tempat penyembahan sementara yang dibina di tapak projek pembinaan hendaklah diroboh dan dimansuhkan selepas projek pembinaan selesai sepenuhnya mengikut upacara masing-masing.
	2.4 Komponen Kemudahan i. Penyediaan Rumah Ibadat Selain Islam diperlukan bagi mereka yang mengamalkan kepercayaan agama masing-masing. ii. Merizabkan tapak yang sesuai untuk dijadikan tempat ibadat bukan Islam secara sah. iii. Konsep pemusatan perlu mengambil kira kriteria seperti : • Kemampuan dan keluasan jalan untuk menampung trafik • Keserasian lokasi dan alam sekitar.

.....sambungan

KM4-3: RUMAH IBADAT SELAIN ISLAM

Kriteria	Perincian
3.0 Penggunaan Premis Industri dan Rumah Ibadat Selain Islam (RISI)	Pihak Berkuasa Negeri (PBN) boleh mempertimbangkan penggunaan premis perniagaan, industri dan institusi sebagai Rumah Ibadat Bukan Selain Islam (RISI) tertakluk kepada kesesuaian lokasi, sensitiviti antara agama, kepentingan awam serta kelulusan yang diproses oleh Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT).
3.1 Piawaian Perancangan	Untuk RISI yang terletak di bangunan komersial, industri ataupun institusi, samada secara menggunakan sebahagian ataupun keseluruhan tapak bangunan tersebut, piawaian perancangan untuk pengubahsuaian bangunan tersebut seperti anjakan (<i>setback</i>), nisbah plot dsb mengikuti piawaian perancangan asal tapak tersebut
4.0 Piawaian untuk pembinaan RISI di atas tapak yang diberi oleh Kerajaan Negeri	4.1 Ketinggian Bangunan Ketinggian bangunan hendaklah selaras dengan profil visual setempat dengan mengutamakan keserasian reka bentuk dengan seni bina tempatan serta komuniti sekeliling. Pada masa yang sama, sebarang kawalan atau peraturan ketinggian yang dikuatkuasakan hendaklah bersifat adil dan berkecuali tanpa mengenakan bebanan berat yang tidak munasabah (<i>substantial burden</i>) mahupun mendiskriminasi mana-mana kumpulan agama berbanding institusi lain. 4.2 Tempat Letak Kenderaan Menyediakan TLK, TLM dan TLK (OKU) yang mencukupi mengikut garis panduan semasa yang terpakai.
5.0 Peranan Jawatankuasa LIMAS	Sekiranya timbul sebarang pertikaian ataupun percanggahan, Jawatankuasa Khas Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh, dan Tao Negeri Selangor (LIMAS) akan bertindak sebagai badan penelitian rayuan untuk mempertimbangkan permohonan daripada institusi ataupun persatuan agama, dan berfungsi untuk memudahkan permohonan pembinaan ataupun pendirian RISI dengan membuat keputusan muktamad.

Nota Tambahan:

- Pemaju boleh membuat rundingan awal bersama agensi-agensi dan kementerian berkaitan mengenai keperluan penyediaan kemudahan masyarakat di tapak cadangan tertakluk kepada kesesuaian dan keperluan pembangunan sekitar.
- Lain-lain kriteria akan dinilai berdasarkan permohonan dan akan dibincangkan oleh Jawatankuasa LIMAS dan bidang kuasa PBT mengikut dasar-dasar dan peruntukan undang-undang semasa.



MULTIPURPOSE HALL



EXHIBITION HALL



FUNCTION ROOM ONE



**COUNCIL
OF
CHURCHES
OF
MALAYSIA**

**GUEST
ROOMS
&
EVENT
HALLS
AVAILABLE**



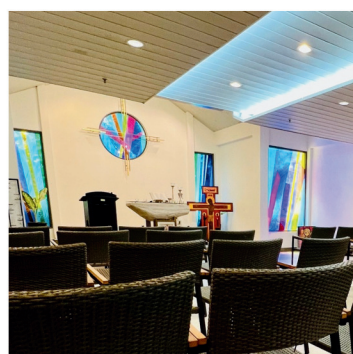
FUNCTION ROOM TWO



CAFE



PUBLIC PARKING



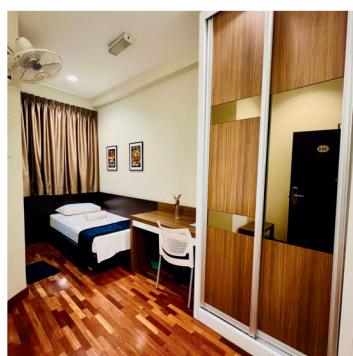
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Our facilities are made available for all.**

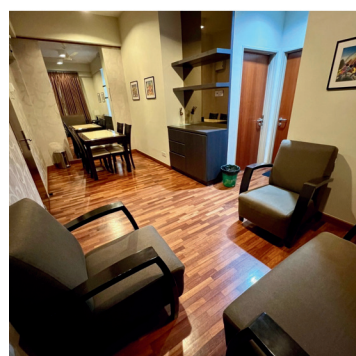
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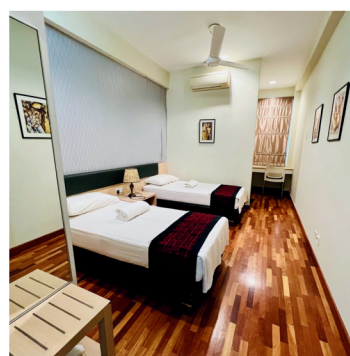
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SINGLE ROOM



SUITE ROOM



TWIN ROOM



OKU ROOM

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