

# Kem Belia

## Siapakah Saya?

*“What a contrast their behaviour was from the first day!”*



**W**hen I spoke to the youth on the first day, they turned their faces away from me because they were afraid they would be asked to speak. They were passive and shy and it was a challenge for me to communicate with them.

Kem Belia, organised every year by Malaysian CARE, aims to address current issues faced by the Orang Asli (OA) youth. Last year, at Emmanuel Christian Assembly in Taiping, we wanted them to focus on their identity which was also the theme of the camp—Siapakah saya? (Who am I?).

### Siapakah Saya?

The OAs face a multitude of problems as a marginalised community. *“Saya Orang Asli, saya tidak pandai, saya tak boleh”* (I am indigenous, I am not smart and I can’t)—such is how they look at themselves, leading to low self-esteem and identity crisis about who they really are. But we want them to recognise and take to heart that they have an identity in Christ. Through the theme of this year’s camp, we believe we have achieved those goals through the planned activities. They grew in their

confidence to speak out, to engage with the lessons and to discover more about themselves. The presence of OA facilitators at the camp also really helped to get through to them.

Over the three days, the youth built relationships with each other, working together through games and performances. It was incredibly moving to see them on stage at the end of the third night, singing and dancing with such vigour and creativity and showing off their talents. What a contrast their behaviour was from the first day!

### Identity in Christ

Galatians 4:7 says, *“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God”*. We believe that through Kem Belia, the OA youth were able to capture the essence of the theme in recognising their identities and despite being part of a community marginalised by society, they can find their identities as children of God through Christ. If all else fails, they can, as the psalmist admonished in Psalm 146:5-6, always *“Trust in God our Help and Hope, Faithful Forever”* ■

■ Abby is a staff in Community Development. She is a caring and friendly person. She is trusting God in the plans that He has for her.