

A Dedication to the Lord

Pusat Komuniti CARE and Pusat Sumber CARE

Between the brightly coloured walls still smelling of fresh paint, over 50 local church leaders, Malaysian CARE staff and board members gathered on the 19th of October 2018 to dedicate two new centres serving the community in Setapak. Pusat Komuniti CARE (PKC) and Pusat Sumber CARE (PSC) were placed in Setapak to be at the forefront of CARE's efforts in that area.

Standing shoulder to shoulder, the hall in PSC rang with praises as we lifted our voices to the Lord, celebrating His greatness and goodness. There was a remarkable unity in spirit as church leaders and pastors prayed and anointed the Centre. A recognition, perhaps, that though we come from different organisations and churches, we serve the same God.

As a community toy library, PSC is designed to empower children and parents by equipping the latter with the knowledge and practices to parent their children. Where poverty often hinders a child's maturity and development, PSC seeks to build up children through education and play. Its walls are lined with toys and developmental materials, all neatly labelled and ready to be borrowed. PSC also caters to children with special needs in providing early intervention services and supporting parents in their journey.

The two centres are a short walk around the block from each other. At PKC, a Reverend knelt in prayer, declaring that the Centre belongs to the Lord. There were food and

fellowship because it would not be a Malaysian function without them. Meanwhile there was a slight drama downstairs because as we were praying, the workers at the garage below had caught a large python, estimated to weigh 25 kilograms! We thank God for His protection that no one was harmed.

PKC was designed with the community's interest and wellbeing in mind, for instance, there is a hall for community use as well as counselling rooms. PKC seeks to serve the community by providing services and resources in a safe space to the poor and needy people. Whether youth-at-risk, refugees, ex-prisoners, those struggling with addiction and substance abuse, or people affected by HIV/AIDS, PKC provides assessments and referrals, counselling, developmental programmes, vocational training, job support, and many other services. It is PKC's goal to build resilient individuals and families and to enable the community to thrive despite socio-economic challenges.

On the field in Setapak

The spread of drug abuse in Setapak has been noted by the National Anti-Drug Agency, and our own encounters with the people here have revealed disheartening levels of urban poverty. With people eking out a living and coming home to broken families, a sudden sickness or unfortunate circumstance could send families spiralling downwards. From the comfort of our own homes, we often forget that there are many others who do not share the same opportunities and support that we do.





Pusat Sumber CARE (Photo credit: Rozanne Yong)

We are thankful that God has brought so many like-minded people and churches in Setapak to serve the community together. For many years now, CARE has felt God’s call to be the salt and light in the subdivision. Through partnerships and open doors, God has led us to be placed here.

The words of Psalm 146:3 remind us, “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.” We remember that as servants doing the Lord’s work, it is not we who save, nor we who can truly bring about change in people’s lives. Trust in the Lord who can save, the Lord who upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord who gives sight to the blind and lifts those who are bowed down.

As the sun rises at the dawn of a new year it is our hope that PSC and PKC, anointed and dedicated to our Maker, will be an example of God’s love and hope to the people of Setapak. ■



PKC and PSC Staff



Dedicating both the centres to The Lord (Photo credit: Christina S)

■ Elliot is a staff serving the refugee community of Setapak. He enjoys lazy afternoons and good books, preferably at the same time.