

FCMSM NEWSLETTER - DEC 2021

*Christmas
Greetings*



Dear friends in Christ,

I would like to use this quote from Martin Luther to wish all of you Merry Christmas 2021.

"Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a child is given. To crown us with the joy of heaven."

2021 brought mankind around the world a lot of events to ponder about. A pandemic around the world that changed the way we live, no more handshakes and masking ourselves whenever we meet others to keep us safe from a deadly disease.

If it is good tidings that we hope for in 2022, then an end to this pandemic will be the wish of all mankind. Nonetheless, it is also time to reflect on the ways we deal with nature and the resources provided for by God on this planet to make our homes and families a better place to live with God's grace.

Despite all the challenges we have living in the new normal, FCMSM managed a few events that will be cherished by parents and students at the schools under our care. I take this opportunity to thank all those who managed the SPM Bible Quizzes, the teaching seminars for teachers, the ongoing video production for helping teachers to teach SPM Bible Knowledge using deep learning approaches. A big thank you to all the donors who help in one way or another.

Thank you, Lord, for your guidance that we have been able to use the internet and on-line technologies to bind our thoughts together and continue to spread Your love for us.

To all the members of FCMSM, their family members and their loved ones, a very blessed Christmas, and a peaceful New year 2022.

Thomas Huo Kok Sen
Chairman
Federation of Christian Mission Schools Malaysia

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE 2021 ALLOCATIONS

SCHOOL CATEGORY	NO. OF SCHOOLS	ALLOCATION RECEIVED (according to the school)	ALLOCATION GIVEN (according to MOE)
SM (Mubaligh)	336/365	16,269,845	20,662,315
SJKC	39/39	1,805,871	1,969,703
SJKT	3/4	0	160,850
SMJK (Conforming)	14/14	654,413	763,579
SK	1/3	0	54,583
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	393/425	18,730,129	23,611,030

- There is a difference of RM4,880,901 between the Allocation Given (by MOE) and Allocation Received (by schools). This is probably due to some schools not reporting what they received or there was a problem with the BOC's bank account.
- In the government's budget for 2021, all Sekolah Mubaligh were allocated RM20.94 million.
- In the government's records, there are 12 Sek Kerajaan (SK) Mubaligh and 370 Sek Bantuan Kerajaan (SBK) Mubaligh (not including SJKC, SJKT, SMJK Mubaligh schools).
- Therefore, the 370 SBK Sek Mubaligh (SM) were allocated RM20.28 million while the 12 SK Sek Mubaligh were allocated RM0.66 million for a total of RM20.94 million.
- Average allocation to each of the 382 Sek Mubaligh – RM54,817.
- Out of the 425 schools, only 298 schools responded to the survey fully. 62 schools did not respond at all. 66 schools did not state how much they received.
- According to MOE, 393 schools received their allocations. 32 schools were not given any allocations either because the BPA forms were not received, the BOC did not have a bank account, or are still in the process.
- The above information is correct as at 18 Dec 2021.
- **Allocations for 2022 have not been made known as at the time of writing.**



BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

VIDEO PROJECT

The Bible Knowledge Video Project is a guided video-study course on The Gospel According to Luke and The Acts of the Apostles. This course consists of 35 programmed lessons of 90 minutes length for each of the two books. Each lesson is inclusive of interactive exercises and life applications. Periodic tests and summative tests are also included in the video lessons.

The introductory video on this project may be accessed through https://youtu.be/O2u_LYgJa_g or on the FCMSM website under the menu link: Bible Knowledge – SPMBK Video Lessons. The video lessons, beginning with The Gospel According to Luke will be uploaded on the FCMSM website beginning 15th January 2022 next year onwards.

These programmed lessons are an invaluable resource and self-contained teaching – learning tool designed to be used by FACILITATORS (teachers, priest, pastors, youth workers or even parents) who believe that Bible Knowledge is important and would like to encourage and help students to take this subject. The SPM BK Video Course is adequate to prepare students well for the SPM BK Exam Subject (9221).

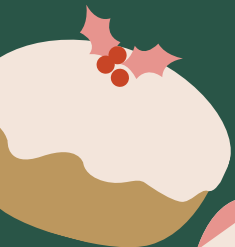
GUIDEBOOK REVISION



The revision of the SPM Guidebooks for The Gospel According to Luke and The Acts of the Apostles is being carried out. One of the reasons for doing so is that the commentary, interpretation, helpful notes, and references have to be updated in line with what is necessary or helpful for form five level students to appreciate the texts and be able to do well in the SPM Bible Knowledge subject. Furthermore, the examination format for the paper will also be changed as from SPM 2021 onwards.

A special committee will be set up to oversee the project. It will collect feedback on the current guidebooks to provide a helpful guide for the author to carry out the revision. It will check and approve the contents before the final completed work is submitted to the FCMSM Exco for endorsement.

A small Exam Guide Production team will also be set up to produce a supplementary booklet to complement the guidebooks. This booklet will also take into consideration the facilitators' guide and the diagnostic and other tests which are incorporated in the SPM Video Project. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.



Christian Heads for Mission Schools

Circular SPI Bil 1 Tahun 2013 provides for joint consultations between the JPN and the MA when it comes to selecting and appointing new Principals or Headmasters for Mission Schools. We are grateful to MOE for this.

Much as we would like to appoint Christians to these posts, sometimes the MAs' hands are tied. There are just not many Christian teachers left in government schools to select from. Additionally, not many Christians have taken up NPQEL, the prerequisite course for appointment as principals and headmasters.

But then, of those Christians who have taken up the NPQEL, some have not managed to pass their interviews even after a few rounds. Sabah and Sarawak candidates are very much encouraged to come over to the Peninsular to take up vacant principalship posts in our Mission Schools.

MAs need to embark on a plan to seek potential replacement principals for their Mission Schools, five years prior to the retirement of the present one. FCMSM may send out an online survey form to collect data on potential candidates for leadership positions in mission schools. This database would then be made available to all MAs.

2022 School Calendar

Next year's school calendar will start on 21st March 2022 and end the following year on 12th March 2023. That would be 43 weeks of school and 8 weeks of term breaks altogether. In terms of days, this comes to 198 school days and 63 days of term breaks.

As regards the timetable for SPM 2021, initially, there was some brouhaha when it was released. SPM 2021 would be spread over 3 weeks or 15 days from 2/3 till 20/3/22. Some papers were slotted on Fridays and Sundays. There are some positive points for shortening the number of days of the exam and having it over the end-of-term break (26/2 – 20/3/22). This would be psychologically better for the students who would not have to spend too many weeks sitting for the SPM. School lessons would also not be disrupted much for the other non-SPM classes.

However, since then, MOE has come out with a new schedule. Under the new timetable, SPM 2021 would last from 2/3 till 29/3/22 over 5 weeks or 15 days. Bible Knowledge 9221 would remain on the same day as initially, that is, 10th March, 2.30pm.

Jesus Christ is the reason for the season

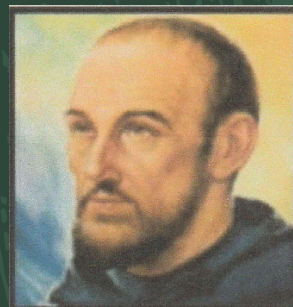
HAVE YOUR SAY

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF BLESSED NICOLAS BARRE – FOUNDER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS (21 OCTOBER 2021)

Today, the Sisters of the Infant Jesus do not play a direct role in the education of the young in their schools, yet as a mission authority, with some encouragement, this significant event was celebrated in a few schools.

1. Notre Dame Secondary School, Melaka

The school used to celebrate Founder's Day annually. This year, on 22 October 2021, the celebration started with the Eucharistic celebration for the Catholic teachers and students as well as the members of the Board of Governors.



This was then followed by a virtual video production presented by the secondary students. They shared on the founding of IJ schools in Malaysia as far back as the first foundation in 1852 in Penang. Notre Dame Secondary School started in 1959. 2021 sees them remembering the foundation for the past 62 years. The students were enthusiastic in knowing the history of their school in the context of the whole progress made since 1852.

It is our hope that this school continues to uphold the Convent ethos, values and culture.

2. The Heritage Trail in SK IJ Convent, Jalan Bandar Hilir, Melaka

Prompted by the keen interest of the head mistress (a non-Christian) and the members of the Parent-Teacher's Association, this project was completed and the Heritage Trail Room was opened on 23 October 2021 in the school.

The whole journey of the foundation of IJ schools was well-exhibited. We were truly impressed by the ways the whole history was presented and narrated to all visitors by the girls in Stds 5 & 6.

3. The video production on the founding of the school in Batu Pahat

In conjunction with this jubilee celebration, the members of the Board of Governors which was formed only a year ago, took an interest to capture the spirit of the First Sisters who began this school in the small town of Batu Pahat. It was a joyful event to recall and remember how the school days had been for many past pupils of the school.

Please enjoy a Christmas greeting video clip from the Methodist Council of Education and Wesley Methodist Schools:

<https://www.facebook.com/WMSSeremban.Private/videos/918542898805891>

The above contributions were sent in by IJS and MCOE to share with us their joy and praises to God. All MAs are welcome to contribute to this newsletter. Thank you.

MISSION SCHOOLS IN MALAYSIA

(by Mr Yap Kok Keong for the Malaysian Education Review of Dong Zong)

Excerpt:

Given the realities and problems that mission schools face today and more than likely will continue to do so in the future, how should Mission Authorities respond? The future of Mission Schools has been the subject of much heart searching and debate since the 1990s. Have mission schools outlived their usefulness? Should they take a bow and exit from the education system? Should Mission Authorities just confine their focus on religious education of the young and leave "secular" education to the government? After all, unlike in the past the government is more than capable of providing education for all. Going into the future, how long can mission schools hold on as a separate category nominally labelled as "Government-Aided Schools"?

To read the whole article (including the Chinese version), you can peruse the FCMSM website under the Resources menu link.

A LITTLE NOTE

from the General Secretary

On my dining table, sits a fishbowl of guppies, just given by a friend. Every time I have tried rearing fish, they all died on me. Over time, I think I've learnt a few small things about taking care of fishes. But please don't fully trust what I'm going to tell you here. Don't overfeed the fishes. Don't use tap water. Let the tap water settle for a few days first. I think there's no need to change the water too. Or is it don't change often? Because when you do, you wash away all the fish eggs and fry too. They are too small to differentiate from the dirt.

Have some water plants in the aquarium – they provide oxygen but they also suck oxygen away for respiration. Contradictory? Yes, but some water plants provide covering and shelter for some fish which are 'bullied' by other fish. Filter and aerator system for the aquarium? I had it but my fish didn't fare much better. Some people have their aquariums thriving but not for me, so far.

This month marks my sixth month holding the general secretary's post. I have never held such a high-profile post before. Just like with the fishes, there is much for me to learn. I'll make mistakes along the way. If I am slow or do not perform up to expectation, please be patient with me. I don't feel competent. I see many volunteers helping out in the ministry of FCMSM. They don't get paid yet I am.

I think Mission Schools are great because that is where Christian values are conscientiously held and practised. I'm glad Mission Authorities and FCMSM are doing something to preserve the ethos, character and traditions of Mission Schools. Just now, things don't appear bright for Christian education – schools, teachers or students. But we'll do what we can.

It's good to remind ourselves what FCMSM is about. I extracted the following excerpt from a page describing the formation of FCMSM and written by Tay Choon Neo and Angeline Lazaroo:

FCMSM aspires for Mission Schools to become schools of choice by:

- **raising the Mission School Ethos, Character and Traditions,**
- **having strong Christian School Leadership, teachers and Board of Governors,**
- **and teaching and learning of Bible Knowledge.**

To play our part in educating the young for our nation in challenging and turbulent times, the clarion call is for the churches, the Christian community, alumni and other stakeholders to come alongside FCMSM to make Mission Schools great again for the glory of God.

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!