

Article for Anglican Messenger

On 29th of February 2015 I began the short 14 hour hop to KL. Despite having 3 hours sleep over the nights before and during the journey I arrived in KLIA at 1pm in a surprisingly awake state. I was confronted by a country which was both unbearably humid and full of jungles. It was probably the interest in my new surroundings which kept me awake for the rest of the day!

Just to give you an idea of who I am before you read on;

-I'm Joseph Poole

-I'm 20 years old

-I have 4 siblings of which I am the middle brother

- My mom is a Nurse and my dad was a GP but he is now a Church of England vicar.

Moving swiftly on wards.

I'm a St Chad's volunteer from Wolverhampton (Which is a city, though it doesn't seem to deserve that title next to KL) and I was heading for St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral in KL where I was unsure of what I was yet to do. Hopefully almost 5 months down the line you would imagine I now know what I'm meant to do day by day.

I didn't really have many expectations prior to coming as I didn't really know what I was getting myself into but despite that my time here has exceeded any and all of my expectations in every way it possibly could. While my time here started off reasonably gentle (the game is to see how long you can get people think your jet lagged for!) I soon got stuck into things.

Two of the very practical things I will be most thankful for over my time here at St. Mary's are the numerous bible studies I attended as well as a course called 'Bible Overview' run by the cathedral with material from Equip Ministries. This particular course runs through the main themes of the bible and how it all points to Jesus, which has been really helpful with getting the whole bible into perspective.

Back home in Wolverhampton I was fairly active in children's ministries so it has been wonderful to continue that over here. It's great to see a church with such a thriving children's ministry as here. I would definitely encourage you to support it in any way you can. I have been assisting with kids church in the 3-5's age group since I arrived which has at times been challenging, but also very rewarding to see the fruit of this ministry in the children's lives. I can only imagine that with continued investment they will continue to grow as the years go by.

It's also (so far!) been a privilege to work with the people here at St. Mary's cathedral. They are all great examples of how to live godly lives in every aspect and It's been inspiring to have worked among them, even if only for a short period.

Whilst my time here has been mostly positive a lot of it hasn't been easy. I've had to go through a drastic change in the amount of free time I had and that's definitely been a challenge to how I should use my time in general and what should be at the forefront of my life. Aside from the ministries I've been involved in, I have helped to head up the replacement and servicing of the Audio/Visual

equipment here at St. Mary's. Which has been a long (and ongoing) process but hopefully will work out to better serve all of you, and to assist with the gospel being loud and clear (maybe not so loud).

This adventure was one I entered into with apprehension but will be one I leave knowing I made a wise choice. I'm grateful for both my home church for making this possible as well as my new found family here for welcoming me. But above all I'm most grateful for Jesus' death and resurrection and the new life we have in him. I will be praying for the church here in Malaysia and maybe one day we will be reunited.

Joe

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2



“This is my home church back in Wolverhampton”



“A 'wefie' of a recent trip to cheshire home”



“Group shot from SMAGOW, SMACC's annual church camp”