

**WELCOME  
PROTECT  
PROMOTE  
INTEGRATE**

“

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

”

LEVITICUS 19:34

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# MESSAGE FROM HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM GOH

“  
The glory of God  
is man fully alive,  
and the life  
of man is the  
vision of God.  
”

**IN AN ERA OF PROGRESS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT THE WORLD HAS BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.** However, the paradox of this is that as the world opens up, societies are becoming more inward looking and insular.

As Catholics, we are called to reach out and share the love of Christ beyond our confines. We are challenged to foster unity with the larger community and build friendships with those of different nationalities, religion and socio-economic status.

Migrants in Singapore often have the tendency to be misunderstood. Their practices, beliefs and way of life are new to us. We should seize opportunities of encounter to listen, share and understand the hopes and challenges that our migrant brothers and sisters face.

Pope Francis has stressed repeatedly that we should welcome and encounter the migrant. The Holy Father has put forth four key values, they are namely, “to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate” migrants. It is indeed a tall order for all of us to live these values in our daily life since it forces us to go beyond our comfort zones. Yet this is not an impossible task for us, as St John reminds us since God first loved us, it is a response to this gift is that we are able to love one another.

**MIGRANTS ARE GOD’S CREATION AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, EACH POSSESSING A UNIQUE STORY, STRUGGLE AND DREAM.**

Hence, welcoming the migrant goes beyond just allowing them to be part of our society. It involves respecting the individuality of the person and acknowledging his or her dignity as a child of God. This moves beyond tolerance to acceptance.

In protecting, it is important to remember that all of God’s children have the right to life. Migrants should thus be equipped to know and understand the laws of their host countries. We should also do our part to empower their access to financial and social institutions through journeying and advising them on the various channels in which they can seek assistance.

The abilities of each migrant must also be recognized and valued. This is done through promoting and fostering the integral human



development of migrants. The development of the entire human person goes beyond growing the personal, economic and social components, but must also include political, cultural and spiritual components. This is certainly done in hopes to echo St Irenaeus’s words that “The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God.”

Finally, integration should be seen as a two-directional process. This means that the encounter that we have with the migrant should not just be a time for us to share our local culture and practices. It should also be a time where we celebrate their cultural identity, language and traditions for the richness and value it adds to the whole of humanity.

In the parable of the Last Judgement, we are reminded by Jesus that He is present in our neighbour. This means that the love that we extend to our migrant brothers and sisters is the love that we offer to Him.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me...And the King will answer, ‘In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’”* (Matthew 25:35-36,40 | NJB)

My dear brothers and sisters, let us strive to overcome our prejudices and be the source of light to our migrant friends. I certainly would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the befrienders, board and staff of ACMI who work tirelessly in their service in being family to migrants in Singapore.

Yours in Christ,  
**MOST REV WILLIAM GOH, DD**  
Archbishop of Singapore

# MESSAGE FROM ACMI SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, FR CHARLIE OASAN, CICM

“  
How do we share  
this blessing with  
others especially  
those who are  
in need?  
”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**“YOU SHALL TREAT THE STRANGER WHO SOJOURNS WITH YOU AS THE NATIVE AMONG YOU, AND YOU SHALL LOVE HIM AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD”** (Leviticus 19:34).

Many migrants leave their families for economic reasons and for better opportunities abroad. In the Singapore context, we have more than 253,000 foreign domestic workers and 280,000 migrant construction workers who were in Singapore in 2018. All in search of a better life not just for themselves but for their families.

Ordinarily, people do not leave the security of their own land and culture just to seek adventure in a new place or merely to enhance their standard of living. Instead, they migrate because they are desperate and the opportunity for a safe and secure life does not exist in their own land.

Singapore is blessed with stability and good governance which makes it a ideal place for those who are in search of a better future. That said, can we move beyond our selfishness and share what we have with others? It is not God's will that some of his children live in luxury while others have nothing. In Luke's Gospel, the rich man was condemned for living well while the poor man starved at his doorstep (Lk 16:19-31).

How do we share this blessing with others especially those who are in need? We can start by viewing them as God's children. Before God all are equal; the earth was given by God to all. Therefore, migrants have the freedom to achieve a full and meaningful life, even if it means leaving his or her home. By changing our perceptions, it would translate in the ways in which we interact and form relationships with them.

With this renewed perspective, we can now share what we have with them. This can be materialized by being more empathetic to their struggles and taking the time to listen, learn and understand them.

It is my hope that we may all renew our perspective of the migrant. That we will see the face of Christ in the migrants whom we encounter in our ministry. All of us are worthy of love, care and respect for we are not strangers but children of God.

May the Lord bless our work and ministry to the migrants. May His wisdom guide us in all that we think, say and do. I thank the board members and trustees, staff, partners, benefactors and befrienders of ACMI for their care and passion for the migrant people in Singapore.

**FR CHARLIE OASAN**  
ACMI Spiritual Director

# MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN, MARK GOH

“  
We hope that  
through their encounter  
with ACMI, they may  
have a transformed  
vision and outlook  
for the future.  
”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

## **CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD HAS ALWAYS LED US IN OUR MINISTRY AT ACMI.**

Led by the Holy Spirit, a dedicated team and a committed board, ACMI has reached out and journeyed with more than 213,000 migrant beneficiaries in the last 20 years.

In 2018, Pope Francis proposed a new response to the challenges and needs of migrants on the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018. In response, ACMI has adopted Holy Father's call *to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants* as part of our 4 values for the ministry in providing pastoral care to migrants in Singapore.

As such the team at ACMI is working on adopting the 4 values to guide its various ministries namely case management, skills development, formation, community outreach and PR & Communications. Through these ministries, ACMI hopes that all who journey with us may experience Christ's love and may learn to love the other, the stranger, as themselves.

In April 2018, ACMI celebrated its 20th anniversary in providing pastoral care to migrants and itinerants in Singapore. This year, mass was held on Divine Mercy Sunday and we were joined by our beneficiaries, partners, Catholic foreign migrant communities and benefactors. It was a truly joyous occasion as we celebrated the joys and challenges and the many migrants whom we have journeyed with in the last 20 years. Indeed, love must be at the heart of all that we do at ACMI as it is only through love that our work will be sustained.

On this occasion, we also took the opportunity to commission the board of directors, trustees and staff. All of whom renewed their commitment to serving and journeying with the migrants in Singapore.

In journeying with vulnerable migrants in Singapore in the last 20 years, ACMI has had to take an often multi-disciplinary approach in caring for the migrant. It involves collaborating with various stakeholders to look into all aspects and needs of the individual and more often than not their family. Indeed, we ensure that the holistic needs of the case is looked into. We hope that through their encounter with ACMI, they may have a transformed vision and outlook for the future.

One such individual who we have journeyed with since 2013 is Martha\*, a foreign spouse from Vietnam who married a Singaporean

man in 1996. However, their marriage started to break down and reached the tipping point in 2013 when her husband started frequently locking her daughter, son and herself out of their home. Martha eventually sought help from ACMI. Today, Martha no longer lives with her husband and continues to care for her daughter and son. She is now a much more confident and independent lady than she was when she first came to Singapore. Despite the challenges still to come her way, Martha is hopeful and believes that through perseverance and faith she can overcome obstacles that life brings her.

## **ACMI ALSO CONTINUES TO WORK TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS CATHOLIC AND SOCIAL MISSION ORGANISATIONS TO BUILD A VIBRANT, MISSIONARY AND EVANGELISTIC CHURCH.**

This is carried out through adopting and infusing the gospel values of love, truth, charity and hope in all that we do.

In May 2018, ACMI in collaboration with Couples for Christ (CFC) — ANCOP launched a 4-part values formation series titled "Abundant and Better Life Abroad (AbBA)" this four-part formation series for Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) aims to guide them in discovering their true self-worth and identity. Through this programme, we hope that FDWs may have better work experience and an enriching and truly fulfilling life in Singapore. One of the participants was so inspired by the programme that she journeyed and encouraged 2 fellow FDWs who were interested in the Catholic faith to be baptised and confirmed in Easter 2019.

ACMI hopes to continue its collaboration with CFC — ANCOP into 2019, offering it to more FDWs.

As we continue our ministry in caring for vulnerable migrants and itinerants in Singapore together with our dedicated team and collaborators, I am confident that those whom we journey with will be empowered to face the challenges in their lives. Beyond that, I believe that the transformation that they have experience will inspire others not just migrants to persevere in life.

As Christ body, let us continue to shine the light of Christ to others. Let us continue to welcome, protect, promote and integrate the migrant in our midst. Let us not shun away from our duty to bring Christ's love to others.

May the peace of our Risen Lord be with you and your family always.

**MARK GOH**  
Chairman

## OUR MISSION

  
**BE CHRIST THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
IN OUR MINISTRY**

ACMI IS A CATHOLIC COMMISSION  
SERVING THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY

OUR MINISTRY IS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AND GUIDED BY OUR CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

WE BELIEVE IN GOD'S WILL FOR THE  
DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF PERSONS

### WELCOME

All as brothers and sisters who come to us with respect and without prejudice.



### PROTECT

We ensure vulnerable persons receive support towards living more holistic lives with dignity, safety and security.



### PROMOTE

Human values rooted in our Catholic teachings by being instrumental in the development of migrants and collaborative efforts with stakeholders and agencies.



### INTEGRATE

Communities that enhance integral human development regardless of religion, culture, race or socioeconomic status.



## OUR PURPOSE

## OUR VALUES

“

For I was hungry  
and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and  
you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger  
and you made  
me welcome.

”

MATTHEW 25:35

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR  
**REV FR. CHARLIE DAYAO OASAN**

Fr. Charlie has been the spiritual director of ACMI since 2013. He serves as Assistant Priest at the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



CHAIRMAN  
**MARK GOH**

Mark is the managing director of VanillaLaw™ and founder of the firm's business arm, GoSME. He has over two decades of legal and business experience. He has served with ACMI for the past 18 years and attends the Church of St. Ignatius.



MEMBER  
**BEN FROIS**

Ben is a lawyer and is currently at Lee, Frois & Partners. He sits on the committee of Catholic Lawyers Guild and worships at St Stephen Church.



MEMBER  
**GERARD HOOI**

Gerard is presently the Managing Director (Singapore) of Concept Dynamics International (CDI – Thailand), a landscape architecture and design company based in Bangkok, Thailand. He is a Catechist for Infant Baptism and RCIA at Christ The King Church and is a parishioner of St Ignatius Church.



TREASURER  
**JEREMY KHOO**

Jeremy is Head of PR, Communications and Volunteer Management at Alzheimer's Disease Association (ADA). He previously worked at Children's Aid Society and NTUC Fairprice. He currently sits on the board of Caritas Singapore and worships at St Vincent De Paul Church.



SECRETARY  
**NICOLE VIVIENNE WEE**

Vivienne Wee is the Director of Operations for both GoSME and VanillaLaw™. She has more than twenty years of legal and business administration under her belt. She has served with ACMI for the past 5 years and attends the Church of St. Ignatius.



MEMBER  
**LYNN YEO**

Lynn is a Director of her family investment holding company, Azul World Pte Ltd and has many years of working experience at different multinational companies. She is a parishioner of Catholic Church of St Ignatius and is currently serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion at the Cathedral of Good Shepherd.



MEMBER  
**ROLAND YEOW**

Roland is the Executive Director of Boys' Town since Sept 2018 and prior to that, he worked as a training consultant for organizational development. He was also the former board member of OJoy Counseling Centre and the current Vice-President of the Youth Workers Association. He attends the Chapel of Christ The Redeemer.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



CHAIRPERSON  
**MARK GOH**



TREASURER  
**SR. MARIANNA D'COSTA, FMDM**  
(Resigned 31st December 2018)



SECRETARY  
**JACK CHEW**



TRUSTEE  
**SR MARIA LAU, IJ**

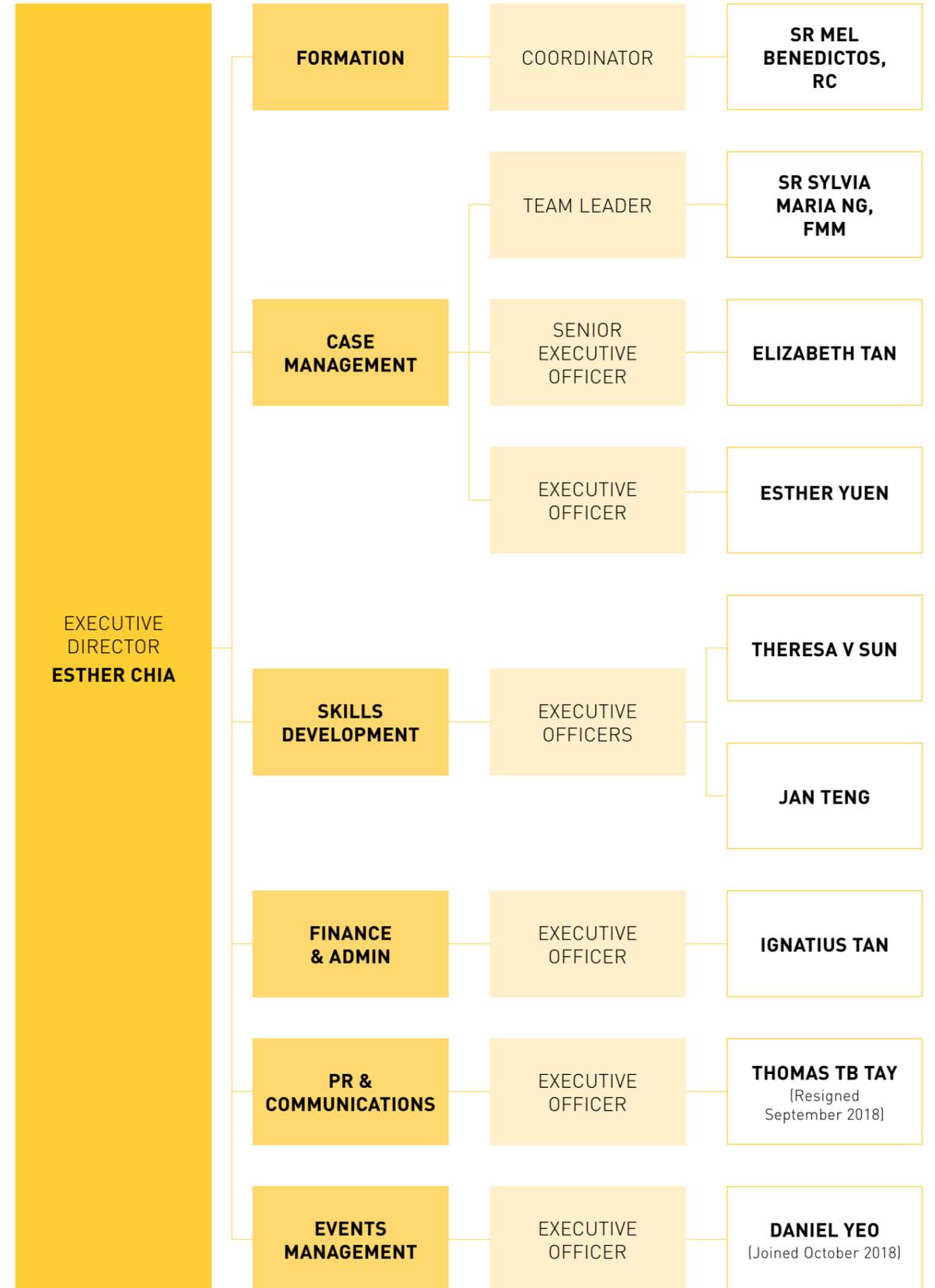


TRUSTEE  
**DEACON CLEMENT CHEN**



TRUSTEE  
**GERARD HOOI**

# EXECUTIVE TEAM



## BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

	FY2018 S\$	FY2017 S\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Deferred Expenses	7,266	9,884
Deposit	3,007	3,007
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>		
Bank	632,776	574,962
Petty Cash	1,000	1,000
PayPal	-	1,063
Recoverable	4,306	-
Total Current Assets	648,355	589,916
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	1,369
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(989)
Total Non-Current Assets	-	380
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>648,355</b>	<b>590,296</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
<b>Funds</b>		
Balance as at 1/1/18		
Migrant Fund	214,727	-
Ordinary Fund	296,559	364,207
Surplus for the year		
Migrant Fund	32,244	214,727
Ordinary Fund	9,501	(67,648)
Balance as at 31/12/18		
Migrant Fund	246,971	214,727
Ordinary Fund	306,060	296,559
	553,031	511,286
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accruals	45,900	24,949
Deferred Income	49,174	53,949
Other Payables	250	112
Total Current Liabilities	95,324	79,010
<b>TOTAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>648,355</b>	<b>590,296</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES / COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	FY2018 S\$	FY2017 S\$
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Caritas	478,000	520,000
<b>A. Migrant Fund</b>		
Donation	8,948	14,899
Other Income	-	5,999
<b>B. Ordinary Fund</b>		
Donation	-	1,319
Other Income	14,188	31,240
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
<b>A. Migrant Fund</b>		
Skill Development Programme	147,262	139,072
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	648,398	712,529
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Management Cost	200,170	217,672
<b>A. Migrant Fund</b>		
PR, Events, Research & Advocacy	71,625	64,626
Migrants' Welfare	131,921	101,457
Skill Development Programme	198,250	153,272
<b>B. Ordinary Fund</b>		
Formation	4,687	28,423
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	606,653	565,450
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>		
A. Migrant Fund	32,244	214,727
B. Ordinary Fund	9,501	(67,648)
	<b>41,745</b>	<b>147,079</b>

# MIGRANT CONTEXT IN SINGAPORE

Based on the Occasional Paper on “Projection of Foreign Manpower Demand for Healthcare Sector, Construction Workers and Foreign Domestic Workers” released by the National Population and Talent Division, Prime Minister’s Office of Singapore.

Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) provide care-giving support for families with elderly and children. Having FDWs to assist with care-giving duties allows seniors to continue living in a familiar environment with their families and loved ones around them as well as allow Singaporeans, especially women, to enter or remain in the workforce. With an expected increase in the number of resident households with young and/or elderly, as well as an increase in number of households where both spouses are working, demand for FDWs could rise from 198,000 FDWs in 2011 to 300,000 FDWs by 2030.

The construction workload is expected to increase as the Government ramps up infrastructure development such as the expansion of our rail network, launching more Build-To-Order housing projects, creating more social and educational facilities, and building more nursing homes and hospitals to cater to the ageing population. The Government has introduced measures to promote productivity in the built environment sector through the Construction Productivity Roadmap. Manpower policies have also been tightened to encourage more reliance on productivity improvements. Even with these measures, we expect demand for construction workers to remain strong in the next 2-3 years, from 250,000 in 2011 to about 280,000 in the next 2-3 years. With the projected productivity improvements, demand for construction Work Permit holders should be within the range of 250,000 to 300,000 by 2030.

## POPULATION OVERVIEW IN SINGAPORE

TOTAL POPULATION 5.64M

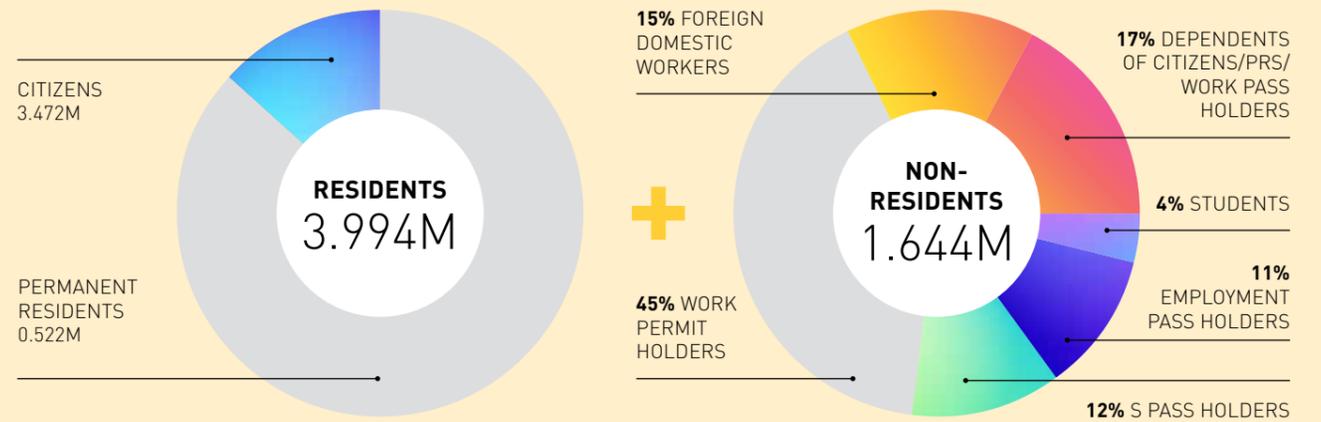


FIGURE 1: Diagram Source — Department of Statistics, Ministry of Manpower Singapore. Numbers may not sum up due to rounding. Figures above are as of June 2018.

## FOREIGN WORKFORCE NUMBERS

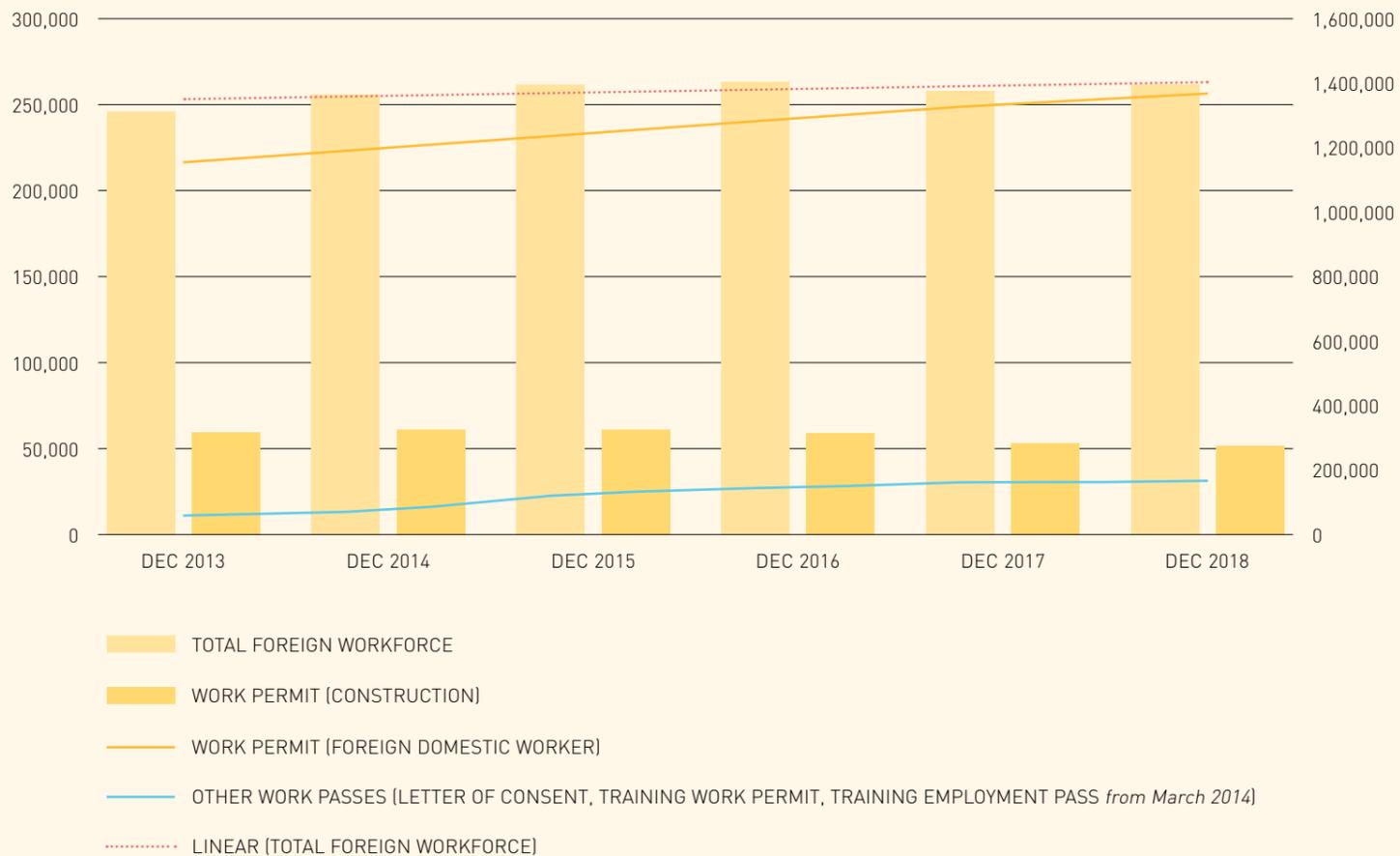
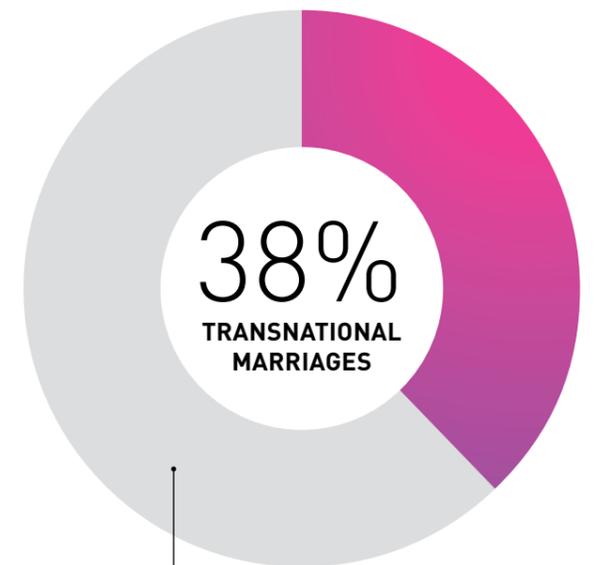


FIGURE 2: Source — Ministry of Manpower

## MARRIAGES IN SINGAPORE 2007 – 2017



### 62% CITIZEN MARRIAGES

Based on the data, more than 1 in 3 citizen marriages last year involved transnational couples. Over the years there has been a steady increase in transnational marriages in Singapore.

FIGURE 3: Source — Department of Statistics Singapore  
NOTE: Transnational marriages refer to marriages involving one citizen and one non-citizen (i.e. permanent resident or non-resident).

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



**590**

FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS ATTENDED SUNDAY COURSES FOR THE FIRST TIME

MORE THAN  
**470**

FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS RETURNED FOR SUNDAY COURSES

**178**

FOREIGN SPOUSES AND FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS ATTENDED THE WEEKDAY COURSES



**67**

NEW CASES WERE OPENED



MORE THAN  
**2000**

LOCALS AND MIGRANTS BONDED IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



MORE THAN  
**75%**

OF THE CASES INVOLVED FOREIGN SPOUSES

**19%**

OF NEW CASES WERE CLOSED



**1079**

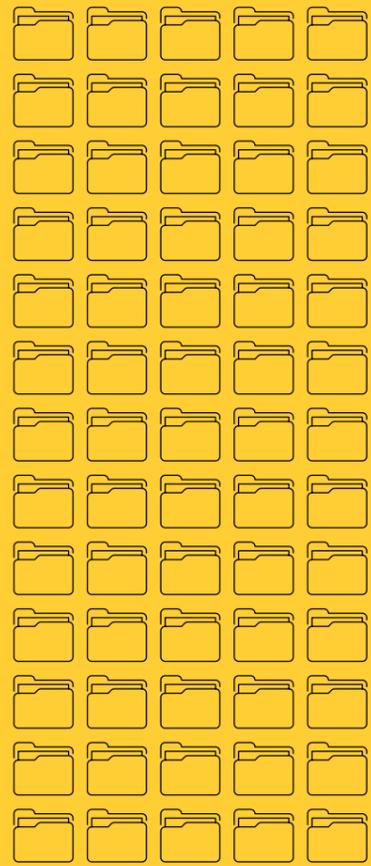
MIGRANT WORKERS BENEFITTED FROM THE BREAD BASKET PROGRAMME

THE CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM RESPONDED TO MORE THAN

**100**



CALLS OF MIGRANTS SEEKING HELP FOR VARIOUS ISSUES



“  
There is neither  
Jew nor Greek...  
For you are all one  
in Christ Jesus.

”

GALATIANS 3:28



# MIGRANT SUNDAY

23 SEPTEMBER 2018



The annual Migrant Sunday was held at Church of the Transfiguration and was graced by Archbishop William Goh. Representatives from the various Catholic migrant communities were present at the event. Including partners, benefactors, friends and parishioners of the church.

In his homily, Archbishop Goh said that everyone has ambitions in life. "Motivation, ambition can help us." But in that Sunday's second reading and Gospel, that "ambition can be disruptive" and "motivation can be selfish," he noted. "We must transform and change this ambition to vocation, which is the call to serve God and to serve humanity."



**This is the context for Migrant Sunday: all of us must have the duty to find our vocation and we must also help others to fulfil their vocation of love and service."**

He urged those who hold influential workplace positions to look out and speak up for those who are unjustly treated in the office.

After Mass, the various migrant communities put on cultural performances in the parish hall. There were hymns sung by the Sri Lanka community and the Tamil-speaking representatives from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. Other highlights included a Tobelo dance by the Indonesian Catholic community, a guzheng performance by the Mandarin-speaking community and an Áo bà ba dance by children of the Vietnamese Families of the district.



# ACMI COMMISSIONING & 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING MASS

**ACMI CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH MASS HELD ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY ON 8 APRIL AT AGAPE VILLAGE**

(A Catholic integrated social services hub). It was celebrated by Friar Julian Mariaratnam, OFM; Chaplain of the Sri Lankan Catholics of Singapore. 200 guests attended the commissioning mass, these included members of the various Catholic migrant communities in Singapore, benefactors and partners.



ACMI's chairman Mark Goh thanked all communities, partners, benefactors, board and staff of for their unceasing work and support of the mission of ACMI. In the course of 20 years, the commission has reached out with love to more than 4,800 client cases, 8,800 domestic workers in our skills development programmes and more than 200,000 foreign workers in the dormitories. Mark also stressed that love must be at the heart of all that we do at ACMI as it is only through love that our work will be sustained.

Mass ended with the commissioning of members of the board of directors and trustees and staff. Each were asked to reflect on their commitment to serve at ACMI and to renew their commitment to the Lord and were presented with a plaque of the Good Shepherd.



# CASE MANAGEMENT

The case management team continues to support vulnerable migrants in Singapore. Particularly its support to transnational families and low income foreign workers living in Singapore or passing through. In 2018, the case team received 116 calls and opened 67 cases. Issues faced by the migrants ranged from legal, family, emotional to employment issues.

The case team also organised 2 events for its clients to find community and bonding in one another:

## The case management team continues to support vulnerable migrants in Singapore.

### A. FOREIGN SPOUSES OUTING — 12 JUNE

A group of 15 foreign spouses took the afternoon off for a simple picnic lunch at Botanic Gardens. To chill, socialise and appreciate each other's company.



### B. CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR FOREIGN SPOUSES — 13 DECEMBER

An annual event organised by the Case Management team. Spouses and their children from transnational families are invited to have a day out to relax and enjoy the presence of each other's company. This year, families were treated to a day out of fun to the zoo.

A Christmas party was also organised with games and a lucky draw. A tribute to the Mothers' was also organised to appreciate and thank the efforts of the mothers for keeping the family together amidst the many issues they were facing.

# FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Jane\* (*not her real name*) a migrant, committed a crime while she was working in Singapore.

Having no family members or relations in Singapore, ACMI journeyed with her and offered her counsel and support through the entire criminal proceedings. Following the pro bono lawyer, ACMI offered her spiritual and emotional support throughout the journey.

With support and advice from ACMI, Jane took the time in prison to reflect on her life and what she had done. She remembered the 'Our Father' prayer which was taught to her as she was a young girl. She began to pray it daily.

Jane wrote in her letter to ACMI: "Though days are slow, God had stayed by my side which made my days seems rapid and bearable...I'm truly blessed!"

She also began to see the wrong in what she had done and was remorseful about it. Her wish is to change for the better once she completes her sentence.

"It's always been my passion to serve, and with this new chance the Lord has given me and through your example, I would like to spend the rest of my life serving the Lord, through helping the needy, visiting the lonely and sharing my God given skills to those who need it." Jane said in her letter.

Certainly, it is ACMI's hope that Jane would be able to start anew and begin again once she is out.

Jane concludes in her letter. "Pray for me, that I'll be able to finally fulfill the Lord's plan for me. Pray for my spiritual growth because I fell like a novice and not to drift in my fellowship with God. I do pray for strength and wisdom to carry through this mission."



# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The skills development ministry aims to empower migrants of all nationality, language or religion to have confidence, an improved sense of self-esteem and worth. It hopes to restore human dignity to vulnerable migrants.

The skills development enrollment grew by 23% from 2017.

2018 saw 1,246 students join the weekday and Sunday courses. On weekday classes, mainly catered to foreign spouses and a small group of foreign domestic workers saw close to 170 students. For Sunday courses, we saw close to 1068 foreign domestic workers sign up for courses.

Courses offered by the ministry range from baking, cooking, hairdressing, English language, business and caregiving. All courses are conducted in English by a dedicated team of befrienders from migrant and local backgrounds.



**The skills development ministry aims to empower migrants of all nationality, language or religion to have confidence, an improved sense of self-esteem and worth.**



# THE MIGRANT TIES THAT BIND

"I want to continue staying here," Cattleya Valerie Guinto, 43, a graduate from ACMI's caregiving class shared. Despite coming from The Philippines, Cattleya found home in Singapore.

The ladies, who were all part of the 2018 Semester 2 Caregiving course at ACMI are currently undergoing a 6-week practicum at Assisi Hospice on Sundays.

Many others who graduated from ACMI's caregiving class share the same sentiment as Cattleya. They found a renewed sense of purpose in Singapore while taking up courses at ACMI and volunteering at Assisi Hospice. All of them driven with the same fire and a compassionate heart, willing to give back to the community.

Even after the end of the 6th week, many of them returned on their off-days to volunteer. "In Assisi and ACMI you can learn, outside you cannot learn and sometimes make trouble," said Angel V. Faderes, 31. After spending six years in Singapore, she found herself spending more time at the hospice and ACMI rather than exploring the picturesque landscape of Singapore.

These FDWs also receive much support from Assisi Hospice's Volunteer Management staff whom they affectionately call "Sir Alex". Similarly, the nurses and Patient Care Assistants who took them under their wing took care of them.

Through ACMI, these FDWs not only found a second home but also gained new experiences and a deeper sense of purpose in their life. At the Hospice, they assist the nurses at the wards to provide care to patients. Their assistance range from preparing meals, befriending patients, sponging, diaper changing and oral hygiene.



Even as they care for the elderly, their hearts held on to stories which inspired them to continue volunteering. "It feels like (caring for) my mom," said Clave Elisa Castillo, 33. Having lost her parents before she could start caring for them, Castillo gave her heart to caring for the patients whom she treats like her own parents.

Clave shared an encounter she had with one of the patients. "She was alone most of the time, her son visited but infrequently." Clave said. "She would often hold her hand out and I would grasp it. Though we spoke little, I wanted her to know she was loved and not forgotten," said Clave with tears welling up in her eyes.

The call bell from the patient rang again and all the women got up promptly to check on the patient.

Certainly, these women were more than just FDWs. They are women with great compassion and generous hearts, each with their own experiences, hopes and dreams all bounded together in their love and joy of service for others.

*Written by: Abigail Chua*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## OUTREACH TO DORMITORIES — BREAD BASKET

### A. CHINESE NEW YEAR OUTREACH TO ACL TUAS CONSTRUCTION DORMITORY

A group of 29 befrienders from Caritas Singapore and ACMI took part in this outreach. The befrienders shared oranges and NTUC vouchers with the construction workers. The befrienders and construction workers also mingled and shared stories.



### B. TALENT SHOW AND PARTY FOR 80 WESTLITE DORMITORY WORKERS — 26 MAY

Students from Catholic Junior College organised a talent show and party for a group of 80 foreign workers from Westlite Dormitory. Prizes were given out to the top 3 performers. The rest of the workers were treated to Nasi Briyani and a ration pack each. The students and foreign workers also got a chance to mingle and interact with one another.

### C. SJI INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH TO WESTLITE WOODLANDS DORMITORY — 31 MAY

A group of 20 students packed and donated 60 ration packs to dormitory workers at Westlite Woodlands.



### D. ST IGNATIUS CHURCH OUTREACH TO WESTLITE PAPAN DORMITORY — 15 SEPTEMBER

62 Catechism students participated and fund raised to distribute 500 ration packs to foreign workers living at the Westlite Papan Dormitory. The students interacted and appreciated the foreign workers for their hard work in building Singapore.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT — 18 MARCH

A group of students from the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus organised and participated in a fun filled day of Zumba together with 63 Foreign Domestic Workers. The event sought to celebrate the lives of the women Foreign Domestic Workers and their contribution to the Singapore Society.



## AWARENESS TALKS AND EVENTS

### A. NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS) LAW & YOU

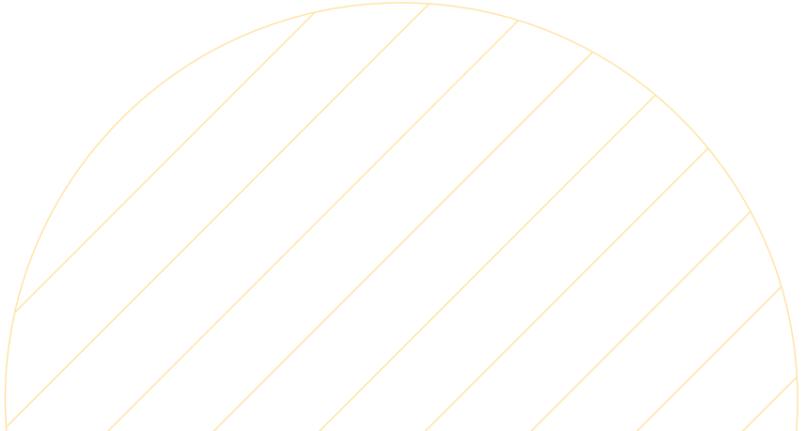
Students from the NUS Pro-Bono law society shared with foreign domestic workers on their legal rights and working in Singapore.

### B. AIDHA — MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU

Aidha a non-profit in Singapore which seeks to empower women through financial management conducted a workshop to educate foreign domestic workers on how to manage their money and spend it wisely.

## HARI RAYA PARTY FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS

A Hari Raya Party was organised for Foreign Domestic Workers at Agape Village together with the Indonesian Catholic Community. The ladies were treated to a buffet spread and a mini talent time session.



# FORMATION

ACMI SOUGHT TO DEVELOP THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF OUR MIGRANT BENEFICIARIES IN 2018. THIS WAS DONE THROUGH A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMMES.



## ABBA — ABUNDANT AND BETTER LIFE ABROAD — MAY 2018

A 4 session workshop organised in conjunction with Couples for Christ. This workshop seeks to increase the self-esteem and awareness of participants in their personal growth.

## CLP — CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM — OCTOBER 2018 – APRIL 2019

A continuation from the ABBA programme, CLP seeks to lead participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian individuals. This is done by bringing a person into a stronger relationship with God by discovering and living more fully the power and gifts he or she received through the Holy Spirit. The programme lasts for 12 weeks and is organised in collaboration with Couples for Christ.



## SPIRITUAL LIVING THROUGH ART

Throughout 2018, ACMI organised a series of jewelry and rosary making workshops aimed at allowing migrant women to reflect on their lives and find healing and joy through art.



## HAPPINESS WORKSHOP — AUGUST 2018

The workshop was organised to support migrant women and help them to better manage their emotions and feelings homesickness while working abroad. Sr Mel Benedictos a religious Cenacle Sister led the session.

## ACMI TEAM RETREAT — OCTOBER 2018

The theme for the retreat this year is "Receiving, Giving and Love". Conducted at Majodi Centre, the retreat was led by Fr. Alvin Ng SJ. Team member Jan Teng who joined the team in early 2018 shared: "Through this retreat, I was affirmed of the love that I have received from God. With this love that I have received, I would like others to experience it as well, especially the migrants whom I work with."



# A PILGRIM'S PRAYER

God of the journey,  
grant us the heart of a pilgrim.

May we always walk the path  
of life with faith.

May we welcome all who come our way  
as our continual encounter with Jesus.

Walk with us closely, Lord,  
as we open our hearts to our co-pilgrims,  
to all the joys and sorrows along the  
road of life, and to the unknown territory  
of the future.

Fill us with joy, hope and love until  
the end of our pilgrimage on earth.

Amen.



**ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR THE PASTORAL CARE  
OF MIGRANTS & ITINERANT PEOPLE (ACMI)**

#04-01 Agape Village  
7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh  
Singapore 319264

**Helpline for Migrants:**

9188 9162

**Enquiries on Skills Development Courses for  
Foreign Domestic Workers and  
Low Income Foreign Spouses:**

8600 3583

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