Reaching the city of Kuala Lumpur and beyond: being a Pentecostal megachurch in Malaysia

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PENTECOSTALISM IS SAI D to have arrived in Malaysia in the 1930s and its domestic growth has been consistent with the global charismatic movement of the 1970s. Pentecostal churches have flourished among ‘those from the margins of society’, but have also increasingly resonated with the middle and upper classes. In Malaysia, the political marginalisation of the ethnic Chinese has seen Pentecostalism become a vehicle for the consolidation of the Chinese identity as a modern, individualised subject of the Malaysian state.

Calvary Church is a Pentecostal church based in the capital city, Kuala Lumpur. Established in 1960 as a mission church, it is the largest Assembly of God (ADG) church in Malaysia. However, the second Malaysia Plan in the early 1970s restricted the stay of foreign missionaries to no longer than ten years, resulting in the appointment of Prince and Petrina Gurneznam as the church’s pastor-in-charge. In 2014, a new generation of leaders took over the church, positioning it to grow beyond its current size. Today, Calvary Church is one of the fastest growing churches in Malaysia. It has been described as one of the fastest growing churches in the world. It claims four million members in the Philippines and 55 other countries.

The newsletter of this church, Calvary Church Magazine, was launched in 2011. It has become a platform for highlighting the church’s activities and achievements. The magazine has also been instrumental in promoting the church’s message to a wider audience.

Calvary Church’s mission statement is to “reach the city of Kuala Lumpur and beyond, being a Pentecostal megachurch in Malaysia.” This mission statement reflects the church’s commitment to reaching its community and spreading its message beyond the city. The church’s growth and expansion are a testament to its success in achieving this goal.

References


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