

Hi! My name is Hannah. I am twenty-three years old and I'll be beginning my teaching training at Cambridge University in September, 2006.

During my third year at university, in Newcastle upon Tyne, I had decided I wanted to take some time 'out' before making any final decisions about my chosen career. I was interested in working with an organisation that offered experiences in full time ministry and had originally planned to remain in the UK. I was eager to grow in my understanding of the church and through the St Chad's Trust I believe God taught me more than I could have even imaged learning had I stayed at home. It was really exciting to be given the opportunity to serve God in a contrasting culture and so grow in my understanding of the world-wide church. It was awesome to be in situations where my awareness of the presence of God was greater than I had ever experienced, even though these were often times when there was only God to whom I could turn.

Whilst in West Malaysia I spent three months based at the Ray of Hope Centre for children with learning disabilities, in Ipoh. I spent the latter part of my trip, another three months, in Penang where I was involved in a variety of church ministries. I also had the opportunity to take a three week holiday in Sabah and Sarawak at the end of my stay in Malaysia.

Although I had gone to Malaysia as a volunteer, to serve, I believe I gained more than I was able to give. I remember my time away as a time given for friendships to be built and for moments of quietness, to be spent with God, away from the comforts and usual routines of my home environment. This was an amazing time of getting to know God better and for Him to reveal to me how He is truly Awesome!