

Indonesian Challenge

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Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

NEWS FROM THE EVANGELISTS

Bapak Bintang and his wife now have three cell groups meeting. They are at three separate locations provided by the Indonesians themselves. With no crossover between the groups, they are three entirely different gatherings. I want to give you an idea of just how good this news is. For some time we have been encouraging our people to set a minimum goal of three cell groups with each cell having an attendance of fifteen to twenty adults. This is a step towards developing ten tithing families and eventually combining the three cells to have an independent locally funded and locally led church.

Small groups of fifteen to twenty seem to be the norm here with many never growing larger. There are at least ten within a few miles of here right now. We regard this move as a major step forward in building a genuine church in Ciputat—Pamulang. Besides this, on a personal note, Bapak Bintang will make the last payment on his subsidized house contract this month, but has already contracted a house on his own and paid off his wedding loan. Just to clarify, the Ciputat Church/cell is now out of the mission house and meeting in their own facilities. **Please pray Bapak Bintang and these groups will continue to grow in strength and commitment.**



Ibu Arlin has just finished what we all hope is the last phase of construction on the Ciracas Church building.

She did this by borrowing against her school salary. She had almost paid off the school loan she made to buy the land. You will soon see these acts have had and are now having a major part in blocking the successful development of this church. Our relationship with her is cordial. She has just asked me to preach at an Easter week retreat in the mountains near here. But Ibu Arlin's problem is she wants to succeed so badly, she'll make any sacrifice to do so. The congregation thinks she has plenty of money including a steady income from ICM even though this is not so. For the record ICM makes a final \$55.00 salary subsidy payment to the church on March first. ICM is also planning to write off about \$1,600, the balance of the loan to build the church building. This help has only been supplemental. Ibu Arlin is now in the position missionaries all over the third world struggle with. She has a dependant congregation. They

are convinced she will supply all their religious/spiritual/church funding needs and "our small tithe will make no difference, so why bother?"

We are working hard to change this attitude, but a more practical issue is Ibu Arlin is ready to fly. I intend to continue helping educate the church at Ciracas and to help Ibu Arlin develop them into a responsible, locally governed, and locally supported church, but the financial obligation ICM has had is drawing to a close. **Please do pray.**

EVANGELIST SALARY FUND - AN APPEAL

For the past few years we have been paying some of our evangelists' salaries out of a fund established from the will of a generous and committed Christian. For two years their salaries are coming from the fund only. Toward the end of this year, this fund will run dry. There is one hope to extend this time. Several years ago ICM borrowed from this fund to refurbish the mission property at Bukit Indah. Neglected for eighteen years we spent \$6,600. Now we need to repay this money. The ICM Board of Directors have developed three appeals to do this: One, ask supporting churches to hold a special offering at Easter, Pentecost, or some other appropriate or convenient date before October. The board is also asking any who want to help to designate extra gifts. We

want to designate income from any new support to this need for the year 2008. **Please prayerfully consider this need.**

PERSONAL WORK by Bob & Jan

Our hope is to finish some writing projects this week in the midst of meetings, conferences, teaching sessions, and a special project visiting our immediate neighbors; fourteen families are Muslim; one is Christian. We are taking oleh-oleh (gifts returning travelers bring home to family and friends). This is an opportunity to visit in a friendly, hospitable situation. Our goal for this season is to get into all our neighbor's homes for a friendly visit and witness as hearts are opened. A second goal is to personally visit with our Christian neighbors who live in our Bukit Indah housing complex which consists of 1200 homes.

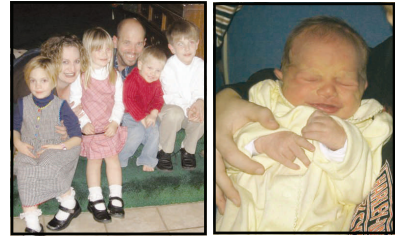
We are trying to start more Bible studies here for present Christians and for interested inquirers. **Please pray about this.** Other plans in the works include a Good Friday preaching service, a speaking trip through East Java with evangelist Andreas Samuji, and an oversight trip to Banda Aceh to encourage

and work with our evangelists there. More immediately - this week we start a regular teaching meeting with our Jakarta area evangelists. We will teach each other songs using words and music rather than the usual words only, and I will be teaching aspects of personal evangelism for Muslims. We will also be praying for each other.

NEW CAR

We have been blessed with good financial support once again this year. Thank you for your faithfulness. In addition we have been blessed with a good response to the fund drive for a new car. We are ready to buy and are down to the last \$1,000 to make the purchase. The old car really is on its last gasp. The first time out it broke down. It's repaired, but the best offer - sight unseen by a lover of old Peugeot is \$800 and he still hasn't come to see it.

The car we are buying is not the absolute cheapest available. But by all accounts we've studied, it is the most responsible choice. It's the economy model of the Honda F.I.T./Jazz. **Won't you please pray and see if you can help** with the last thousand. Your gift of \$50 or \$100 could be strategic right now.



EXCITING FAMILY NEWS

Ellington (Ella) Eté MacLean was born to Corrin and Michael on January 21, 2008, Siblings are Tristan Michael, Cosette Renee, Cybelle Natasha, and Jazz Marsalis. This family of seven will be moving to Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia in June. Michael will be teaching music at Mountainview International Christian School established by Christian Church missionaries and Bethany Fellowship in 1981. Sheri went to school here and Mike grew up in this area.

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS

With the growth of cities all around us, we find we can now maintain a P.O. Box just ten minutes away rather than forty. It is available immediately:

**Bapak / Ibu Bob MacLean
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