

# Indonesian Challenge

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## Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

### THANKS BE TO GOD

As this year is drawing to an end, we want to take time to say thank you to God and to each of you for encouraging us, blessing us, supporting us, and praying for us and our Indonesian evangelists.

Bintang and Biya, Daniel, Arlin and Martius, Samuel and Martha pray regularly with grateful hearts for their fellow-workers in Christ in the USA. They thank God for your faithfulness, generosity and your prayers.

Your prayers were especially felt when they were visiting their Muslim neighbors during the Islamic Ramadan holidays. They ask for your prayers now as they share God's love and the story of Christmas during their "Natalans" (special Christmas programs) and as they visit their neighbors. We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. "Selamat Natal dan Tahun Baru"

### NATIONAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION 2007

This year we met in Cincinnati, Ohio, the "Queen" city, but if you ask Della Andrew, she'll tell you, "It's the cold city." Bob and Jan MacLean accompanied by Bob and Della Andrew, manned the ICM display booth. Bob and Jan experienced the four days at a continuous run. Jan spoke at a 7:30 breakfast; Bob taught his hour and a half seminar, "Speaking Agape in a Clear Muslim Tongue," a lesson designed to explain how to practice loving Muslims and gain friendship to teach the Gospel. Bob also

made a presentation on mission needs in Indonesia from long-term or career missionaries down to a person with no missions training, but willing to do menial jobs. He found one girl who said she likes to do filing. She even came by the booth and signed our missionary interest sheet, "Sarah - 8 feet of filing." Bob also attended two planning meetings for the 2008 National Missionary Convention to be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. All four of us were busy talking with people visiting the ICM display, speaking in some sessions, and trying to meet people.

A highlight for the two Bobs was a trip to the beautiful Cincinnati Christian University campus to attend a meeting of the alumni of eleven Bible Colleges. They got to meet Bible College presidents and missions people with positive results that we expect to bear fruit in invitations to speak at several colleges.

The help provided by Bob and Della cannot be over-emphasized. Their presence and work was an enormous boost to Jan and I. We still didn't get to many of the speaking sessions, but we left Cincinnati feeling that we had accomplished our goal of making the work in Indonesia known, and making contacts with people who may decide to join the work in Indonesia. Not only did we feel it was a week of accomplishment, but the Andrew's presence was a terrific morale boost. Thank you Bob and Della.

### THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

This book has just been completed in its third translation into the Indonesian language. We had two printed and bound volumes at the convention together with the original English volume. At almost the last minute Bob was able to make contact and establish a relationship with a group whose mission is to help missionaries print Christian books in the national tongue they work in. This group has undertaken to raise the money to print and publish, "The Scheme of Redemption," by next May. This will be completely independent of the ICM budget. It looks like we will really have this valuable book in the hands of Indonesian preachers and Bible students very soon. More on this as we see progress.

### OLD FRIENDS AND NEW

We went to Cincinnati hoping to spend time with old friends and long-time supporters of this work who were neighbors in South Jakarta, Dick and Liz Slemmons, but Liz was in Chicago being a happy grandmother to their oldest daughter's newborn twins. Dick was ill so we had a phone visit only. But this disappointment opened the way for God's serendipity to come in to play. Bob and Della Andrew planned their NMC trip to coincide with a family vacation with their older daughter and family, Candace and Mark Speed who live about 55 miles north of Cincinnati. So Sunday did not see us worshipping with old friends at Columbus; instead we were at the Fairborn Church

where Bob made a brief presentation to the Senior minister and he and Jan were invited to make a half-hour presentation to the missions committee. We will wait and pray for God to deliver the final outcome.

**VISALIA**

This is the first time we've spent more than a few days in our little home here. One result is our new friends at the First Christian Church of Visalia have invited us to speak about the Indonesia work January 6, 2008. January 13th we will speak at La Mirada Christian Church where they plan to receive an offering for the new mission car. They have said, if you already have enough by then, use our money for insurance and gas. We leave for Indonesia January 15, 2008.

**THE CAR FUND FROM A TO Z**

From A to Z refers to our search for a cheap yet adequate little car. The Hyundai Atoz is a delightfully sporty tiny car. But we would have to tiptoe through the potholes to protect it, and there are lots of potholes in Jakarta. A is for Atoz and Z is for Jazz and signifies the other end of our car quest. This is the name for Honda's smallest car known as the FIT in the USA. In-

donesia calls it the JAZZ. We have looked at it and read reports from four different countries. All extol its economy, durability, and reliability. We are about \$3,232 short of this in the present car fund balance. Our final decision is to pray God will use his people to bless us according to his will, return to Indonesia, sell the old car, and buy whatever we have the money for at that time. This is not pivotal to our ministry, but it is an important—useful tool. Please pray God will also bless us with a balanced perspective in our ministry.

**THE LAND TITLE**

We have just passed the tenth anniversary of our Appellate Court win on our land title dispute. The glacially slow land office, called Indonesia's most corrupt by some, has just told us our documents are on the desk of the second in command ready for signature. Whether they are signed before she goes on Hajj, a religious trip to Mecca, or after, means the same as: "Were they signed this week or do we wait another month?" After this the papers go to the head then to the local land office for a process that includes a three-month mandatory public posting. If it can be believed, one little victory is the office is no longer processing a can-

cellation of false land certificates, but new land titles. Along the way our sweet talking Javanese secretary has paid little thank you tips to various underlings, but no real extortion. However she fully expects to be met with a serious demand somewhere in this process. Let's all pray God will use this to demonstrate He's in full power, not just to save the money, but so we can stand before Him in real integrity. Let His Will be done and give us the courage to bear it.

**PRAYER & PRAISE**

**PRAISE FOR:**

\*Progress on Bukit Indah land certificate

**PRAY** the Lord will lead us to dedicated Christians prepared to be career missionaries in Indonesia.

**CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

\* Full title on the Bukit Indah property. Pray for a true miracle in the Land Office so the necessary documents will be completed and released by December 31.

\* Martha and Samuel in Banda, Aceh.

\*Bintang and Biya as they reach out to new people with God's love.

\*Daniel as he tries to make new contacts and open cell groups.

\*Arlin and Martius as they try to get the Ciracas Church to be self-supporting.

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