

INDONESIAN CHALLENGE

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Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

PRAISES

We now have three new believers in Aceh. They read their Bibles and pray every day and meet together each week for Bible study and prayer – **in secret.** They range in age from Junior High to a grandmother. It's a start, how far and how fast this group goes and grows, we can only pray and speculate; it is a gathering of three new believers worshipping and growing in faith. Please pray for them.

On April 11th we accepted delivery of a new Honda Jazz (FIT). All the taxes, license fees and the first year's insurance as well as the purchase price are paid.

Not including one year's insurance



coverage (for which we received two discounts), the total price was \$15,170 including \$1,390 tax and license. The car has already been driven far enough to be ready for its first service and is fulfilling all our expectations. With this successful purchase, a very stressful several years with a comfortable old car constantly breaking down are ended. The new car is a mission vehicle, not a personal car. Thank you for your part in this advance of mission equipment.

Our son, Tim, successfully weathered ground breaking surgery to insert a disc instead of fusing two neck vertebrae. The president of the company that manufactures the disc, Prestige,

was in the operating room, along with one of the head physicians. Tim was the first live human this doctor has done the procedure on and he said this is such a new procedure that they don't even have any written instructions for the patients yet! Tim returned to work May 5th and is doing well.

Evangelist Arlin is moving forward with her life in a vigorous way, still friends and still part of our training network, but now depending directly on God to guide her in implementing support relationships. She is also in a new degree program and has bought her own computer to facilitate her school work.

The Scheme of Redemption book project is now ready, and next week we'll start showing sample copies to book sellers/stores, Bible colleges and printers.

Praise God for good income the month of April. The total was \$6,094.94.

A PHILOSOPHY AND A PLAN PART II

Last month I touched briefly on some aspects that hinder the ultimate development of a mature, powerful church. I call this "Dependency." Although this word is not original with me, I would like to see it more widely discussed and used in mission circles. This month I want to delve more deeply into two thoughts found in the paragraph numbered 1, "...locally led and locally funded." I recognize that locally funded as an issue has the potential for being interpreted

as an American, selfish, capitalistic basis rather than Christian. As I am using it here, it is a more succinct, clearer way to say two other things. To take ownership is one of them. People take ownership when a project becomes theirs emotionally and motivationally or, "really." You cannot genuinely take ownership if you don't really pay for it one way or another. It may be that the financial outlay has little to do with the real cost. But the price has to be a relatively significant price to you. If this is significant, then financially you have taken ownership. Another aspect is responsibility. Until something becomes your responsibility, you have not yet taken ownership and it is not "locally owned." If this doesn't happen, you, the local, will frequently be asking the foreigner for help - In this case the national Christian turning to the missionary. The problem isn't the money as much as the way this tends to work against the ultimate goal of a local church, on its own, independent of the missionary and other outside influences. In this case it really is the principle and not the money despite the often repeated, "when a man says it's not the money, it's the principle - it's the money." Not only is this not true, this concept and need for true ownership has proven to be universal in mankind. As a principle, it's a very big thing. If our goal is to establish the church, congregation by congregation in a foreign culture, then it's a whole life issue to see the church functioning completely on

its own because only then do we feel we have accomplished what we came to do.

Having come part way to the reverse of dependency—independency, we come to the other half of the phrase. It does little good for the local church if the missionary merely moves to the back of the room and controls things from there. All too frequently we hear things like “these people aren’t ready for self-government” or “they are still like children” or “I’ll have to supply leadership another five years.” In a future article I want to speak more specifically on aspects of letting the church be the church, but for now I want to mention just one reason locally funded is so important is the urgent need to be locally led. The church must be free to say to its establishing missionary, “thank you for your input, but we’re going to do it our way.” There are other issues, but we’ll have to discuss them another time.

EVANGELIST’S REPORTS

Daniel asks for prayer as he searches for a place to live that can be used to hold meetings freely. He is visiting, counseling, & sharing scriptures with several families. There are two families in two areas interested in studying and holding a cell group meeting

in their homes. He is also working towards reaching young people through sports and music.

Bintang and Biya report some frustrations we are very familiar with. For about two years now Bintang and Biya have been steadily building relationships, but some of the people they meet have other agendas. Many want a “loan”. Then there are those who want to work for Bintang, never mind what, “just so you pay me.” They have recently experienced disappointment when a family drew away from their teaching because they weren’t seeing any money. **Pray for wisdom, courage, and perseverance for Bintang and Biya.**

MORE PRAYER REQUESTS

Vis-a-vis things Muslim. The latest in an ongoing story happened on Seram Island. We could see it from the school we taught at in Ambon. There three church buildings were destroyed by fire, 56 people wounded, and four killed. This is a saga all over Indonesia including our own province. **Do please remember to pray always for our safety and our witness.**

Our cook, Yanti, has a sister who lives just over our wall, She just spent three days in the hospi-

tal. We were able to help with this. We suspected appendicitis, but she has a cyst and infection which the doctor says can be treated at home. She must stay in bed (she has a husband and two little girls) and return to the doctor regularly. **Please pray for complete healing, also guidance for us as we try to show Christ’s love to this Muslim family.**

Now that we have the new car we are making regular trips with our evangelists and others to further the cause of Christ in our part of the world. We have also begun an ambitious calling program with both Muslim and Christian neighbors. We’d like to have two study/social groups meeting with us. **Please pray for these.**

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE MISSION LAND TITLE

Our secretary, Linda, spent several days reviewing all land documents and after several tries managed an appointment with the head of the land title section, two positions below the National Minister of Land. She was able to detail the status of our title request. She got his complete agreement and promise to execute and present our case to the Deputy Minister for approval to present to the Minister of Land for signature.