

# Indonesian Challenge

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May - June 2011  
Volume 37 Number 4

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## Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

**“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” I Thessalonians 5:16-18**



### SIX CERTIFIED AS DCPI TRAINERS

Last week five young men from the Indonesian Christian Church (GJKI), and I spent four work-packed days studying how to start a church and how to train others to start a church. It was a stimulating and wonderfully encouraging experience. I had read the basic training manual, but it was nothing like being led through the program by an experienced church planter and trainer.

John Bond of Perth Australia leads a Church of Christ of some 1800 members. This congregation regularly produces church planting teams. John has taught the DCPI program in several countries. Two of the tenants of the program that most impressed me were:

1. No lone rangers; we work as a team. A man or couple

working alone can start a church, but it’s much harder than working in teams.

2. The Dynamic Church Planters International program teaches that churches plant churches.

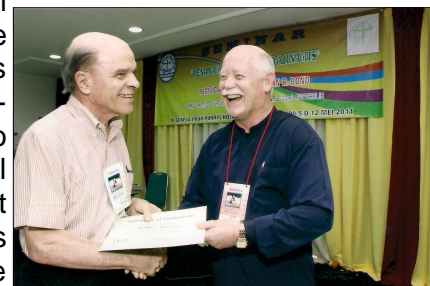
John sent the six of us home with a real heart-felt determination to develop our own vision for a new church. He sent me home with the determination to fulfill two roles in Indonesian church planting:

1. To work with the six people closest to my home in planting a new church. We have dedicated Christians right here who need only guidance and encouragement to work to build a church. I will work as mentor to Evangelist Bintang Marsono. Five others led by our evangelist, will be team members working together to lay the proper foundation for a new church.

2. I am already strategizing to develop interest and participation among churches and church leaders in all of Java and Sumatra.

This program has started. Three of our newly certified DCPI trainers are from the Bible College in Salatiga. They and the school rector are already planning to introduce the program into the Bible college curriculum. A fourth man is planning to use the program with his church in Solo and is working to hold a training session for many of the churches in Solo.

We are grateful to our Papuan Christian brothers and sisters who sponsored this training session, what gracious hosts, and they did all they could possibly do to provide the materials, meals, snacks, and facilities at absolutely rock-bottom cost.



**Bob receiving trainer’s certificate from John Bond**

## **GOOD NEWS ON THE LAND TITLE**

It appears there is land title progress as there is actually movement on the title. We now have in hand a two-page précis of the legal history of our title covering some twenty years. This is a copy of the document sent from the national land office to the Banten provincial land office. To be sure this is progress, but we are not rejoicing completely because the future progress is still uncertain. The papers could have been sent directly to the Tangerang local land office for actual processing of our certificate of title, but the national office chose this method to discharge their responsibility..

Now we will have to see how the Banten provincial land office performs. We can at least give praise that after some ten years at the national level, the papers have been released and forwarded. We are told this is a complete document that will not need to go through an evaluation process in Banten.

Now let us pray this is true and Banten will quickly forward the documents to Tangerang for actual title processing. Thank you for your faithfulness in the past. Please continue praying; this battle is not over

## **EVANGELIST'S REPORTS**

### **Banda Aceh, Sumatra:**

Samuel and Martha write that being a Christian in Aceh is constantly becoming more difficult. There are a few churches in Banda; the ones in homes or commercial

buildings are being closed. In some villages it's getting difficult for Christians to rent a house. Martha writes, "In the village where we live, Pie, Ulele, a Christian family has been told they have to move out of their house and area. The husband is from Medan, Sumatra and the wife from Aceh. So far we are safe. We have continued with the 'cooking club' where we meet in homes and share recipes. We have been able to get close to a few of the people who are not quite so fanatic. There are a few who have been sharing some of their problems with us and asked our advice. Please continue to pray for us and the families we are counseling with."

### **Solo, Central Java**

Ibu Ruth, widow of Evangelist Andreas Marwanto, is ministering with her son and wife, Berlian and Hesti at Pringgading Christian Church, a small church with 15 active adults and a new church/cell group in Solo with 7 adults. During the month of May Ibu Ruth counseled with 13 people in six villages and towns. She asks for prayer for a new cell group to start in Ibu Sri's house in Karanaryan.

### **Ciputat, West Java**

Bintang returned from the Dynamic Church Planting seminar with a trainer's certificate and he has now set up his committee of four families to study, plan, pray and develop a "dynamic" church in Kedaun, Ciputat. **Bintang writes:** "This month we've been counseling with Bapak Franz who has a Catholic background but hasn't gone to church for seven years. Church members have visited him to ask him to services, but he rejected the invitations. He is bad tempered, rude to his wife, Nena, and even hit her on several occasions. His wife finally left him. Franz decided he needed to change and started sharing his family problems with us. We began to guide him to repent and return to the Lord. He wants to restore his household, but his wife is not ready. Pray for this family; Franz says he wants to become a member of our congregation and help us in the ministry. Please continue to pray for the Maskuri family, Panji's family and Khodir's family that I wrote about in the March newsletter. God bless you for caring and sharing in this ministry."

## **PRAYER & PRAISE**

1. We give thanks to the Lord and each of you who gave special gifts to the mission in May and June. They are a real blessing and have helped us catch up. We do continue to pray for new monthly income so we won't be in such dire straits again.
2. We asked you to pray for the "key" to getting our land title. We pray now that the papers being sent to the Banten office is the "key" and the officials there will immediately send the papers to our local land office in Tangerang to process the land title certificate.
3. Jan is presently in the states helping with a personal family problem. Pray that things will be resolved so she can return to Indonesia soon.