

Indonesian Challenge

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Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13

Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR. As we pause to reflect at this time traditionally reserved for resolutions and closing the chapter of our lives called the old year, I feel constrained to remark that each day is also a new page in our lives. And in this world where Satan so obviously reigns, we as Christians now more than ever must remember Matthew 5:16, “...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” I encourage you to each day arise with the determination that the day will be new for God and, therefore, combat the evil works of Satan. Speak out against the ultimate lie that all things are according to God's will. God is good; God is love. We are His ambassadors to this lost and dying world. **So live that this will indeed be a Happy New Year because you are here.**

UPDATE FROM JAN

A lot has happened since December 9th. I was working on the December Indonesian Challenge when I learned my mother was in the hospital with a broken hip. Bob made reservations for me to go to the states. Our secretary, Linda, made arrangements for our sponsor to get my re-entry permit in my passport. Bob had to change rupiah to dollars and purchase my ticket – all in 48 hours! Happily everything went smoothly.

Christmas Kindness - *I had a 12 hour layover in Korea so Bob reserved six hours for me at the transit hotel for \$53. While waiting in the security line, an American lady saw my U.S. passport and spoke to me. She and her husband were returning to Mongolia from a vacation in Viet Nam. They walked with me to the transit hotel, discovered I was a missionary, and talked about their missionary friends. Lori knew I was only booking six hours because of the cost. When I asked about adding an hour or two, she said I could tell the hotel later. When I got my wake up call and asked to add another two hours, I was informed, “my friends” had paid for six more hours and wished me a Merry Christmas! **I was really touched by their thoughtfulness and generosity.***

Bob and Della Andrew picked me up from the airport Monday, December 14th. Our son, Rob, picked me up from the Andrews' house and took me to the hospital. The following day Mother was moved to the convalescent hospital. She can walk with a walker now, but is still quite weak. If all goes well we can bring her home Friday or Saturday, January 29th or 30th. My return to Indonesia is scheduled for February 20th. Thank you for your prayers for her.

“PADAHAL” by Bob MacLean

This morning, January 24th, I preached from Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Padahal means essentially, “on the other hand.” I used 11 statements like, “but I'm only one person” to show how we tend to speak with great faith, but act with little conviction that God can grant us the victory we are seeking. Then I used about 30 Bible stories to show how God really can give us victories in our lives in seemingly impossible situations.

The four challenges before us this year are:

- (1) Print the book "Scheme of Redemption," and get it in the hands of our target audience.
- (2) Develop and start the training program for church planters.
- (3) Clear the land title.
- (4) Develop and implement a reasonable pension program and retirement schedule.

In all of these there are details and ramifications, but these are the primary goals.

I believe God can give us victory. It will require faithful and holy living on our part led by prayer and it will require you to pray seriously and remain faithful in your giving.

A good pastor recently asked how long I plan to keep working in Indonesia. I said fifteen years. This is a nice dream goal, but a reasonable person would say it's unlikely. We are still thinking about it. The immediate question is, "What are you going to do this year?" We need to strive for real honesty in our planning and we need to understand the truth of the saying, "man proposes but God disposes." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." But let's remember, the "all things" is in the hands of God alone. I remain, YOURS FOR HIS GLORY, FOR HIS VICTORY AND FOR A CHRISTIAN INDONESIA.

BOOK PRINTING

After a thorough reading of his "Dummy" copy of "Rencana Penebusan" - "The Scheme of Redemption" - one of our readers offered the opinion, "It's an excellent book; it needs only a few minor corrections, but it is written on too high an academic level for our target audience - village preachers and other non-college educated Indonesians." I mentioned this opinion in a meeting with three other readers and they immediately agreed and amplified this. So we are now working to improve the book. Our ICM treasurer in California continues to hold book club and publishing funds there. The total is now \$3,180. We'd like to publish as soon as possible, but it will do no good to print a book our target audience can't or won't read. Please pray we will soon have the right book in print.

THE NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are receiving national support for our night school to train employed Christian adults as church planters. I have decided we must form a broad-based national board of directors. We are working on this while we see support growing. One teacher recruit sees on the order of 100 potential students in our immediate area. A national school leader has offered facilities in an area we hadn't considered before. This would mean offering the program in at least three areas. I started with a plan to use the birthday offerings, now at \$7,200, as seed money to develop a plan for local financial support. This is still my plan, but if things keep growing we may be forced to increase this seed money. We'll keep you posted.

LAND TITLE REPORT

Conversations with people related to our land title case reveal the following:

More of the same: While there are excuses and circumstances that may be reasons, the net effect is our title application is still going up and down the land office chain of command for minor corrections. The latest is to change a name to that of the new Deputy Director. The only "progress" is that we have now been told we must pay 30 million rupiah (\$3,300) to release the application to the head office staff where you may assume another fee will be required before the title is actually released to the local land office. Our former attorney just finished processing his own land title after many years. He says it will require lots of money and lots of prayer. Because the property has increased substantially in value and because it is Christian mission land, it seems worth the effort. Thank you to all who signed notes promising to pray regularly; please keep it up. Anyone is welcome to join this group. You will encourage us if you tell us you are praying.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Thanks to very generous December givers, we finished the year with a small surplus. Detailed reports are available from our financial secretary/forwarding agent and treasurer.

Our evangelist in Aceh preached to 200 people at a Christmas celebration. Evangelist Bintang in Ciputat is now teaching four new Muslim families. Please pray for them.