

Indonesian Challenge

For correspondence & contributions:
Indonesian Christian Mission
P.O. Box 457
Livermore, CA 94550-1956
Phone : (925) 443-3440

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Bob and Jan MacLean direct
P.O.Box 162, BMD TNG 15330
Indonesia
mackurus@yahoo.com
SKYPE: rcmacca

Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, whenever you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” James 1:4 (ASV)

JAN'S JOTTINGS

As I write this, I realize that one-fourth of year 2012 is almost over. The above scripture speaks to me. Bob and I planned to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays with family and return to Indonesia in January. When we returned to Visalia from a trip on January 13th, we returned to a small lake that had already produced mold. Our trials began - It was two



Linda, our secretary, guests, Peggie & Will, and Dolvie, Linda's husband in front of his business.

weeks before we got word that our insurance would cover some of the damage, and a few weeks more before they said they would cover it all. A process of bids, mold remediation in four rooms, and now bids for the rebuilding walls, flooring and cabinets. Each step that should have taken a few days has taken weeks.

This weekend friends of ours from the states are at our house in Indonesia and we're not there! But our Indonesian staff and friends are taking care of them. We are blessed that in spite of us, the Lord's work continues in Indonesia. We are here to glorify

God, be witnesses to everyone around us. Right now this seems to mean our responsibility is to be God's light to the motel employees and restaurant personnel, and contractors. We have also made a few new contacts on behalf of ICM. Our goal has always been to teach and train Indonesian Christians to stand on their own. We have been working towards leaving all church planting, printing and other projects in Indonesian hands. They are doing well without us, but we do need to return soon for some training seminars.

BLESSED THROUGH CHICKENPOX By Evangelist Bintang

In the middle of January almost all of our neighbors' children came down with the chickenpox. Everyone had chickenpox but our family, and then Ozora, age 21/2 got sick, and we prayed for a light case which he had; then his little brother Melky joined him, but they were quickly back to normal. Then I got the chickenpox and I was really ill for three weeks. Where is the blessing? When I got sick some of our neighbors came by to see me for a minute, and many more of them came with advice from their experience with chickenpox and suggested medicines and remedies that might help me. I felt the concern of these Muslim neighbors; it was gratifying they really cared for me and my family, and that they didn't stay away because we are Christians. Most of these neighbors are very strong in their faith and part of a radical Islamic group. Our neighborhood is known as one intolerant to Christians. There are two Christian families near us that these neighbors won't have anything to do with. We praise the Lord that our neighbors have accepted us and come to us for counseling. Please pray for their salvation.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MINISTRY IN ACEH

By Samuel and Martha - Part 1



In 2005—2006 we went to Banda, Aceh to help the people with relief work in the province of Aceh that had been destroyed by the Tsunami. We helped cook for the relief workers, we helped clean up homes that were still standing, helped build houses, gave out medicine and counseled the people in trauma. It was a heart-wrenching situation; for weeks there were dead bodies beside the road and people looking for family members.

In 2007 we began to evangelize, we went from house to house getting acquainted with neighbors, helping them in whatever way we could. They knew we were Christians; at the beginning the people were open to us; they were in awe that we cared enough to help them. We worked with a team from West Papua (Irian Jaya). We began to pray for people that were sick, for some who had evil spirits. People were healed and evil spirits exorcized. Many people began to come for prayer. BUT the fanatic Muslims begin to forbid people from having anything to do with Christians and the people were afraid to go against them.

But Praise the Lord in the third year, three Acehnese became Christians. Fitri who had lost most of her family had the opportunity to go to a Christian college in Salatiga, Central Java; Said, a becak driver (rickshaw) studied in Bandung, West Java. They were baptized outside Aceh. People are afraid they will be murdered if they publicly become Christians. Zubaidah is still in Banda, but secretive about her Christianity. She reads her Bible faithfully and sometimes attends Christian meetings outside Banda.

In 2008 things became a little bit normal like they were before the Tsunami. The government leaders started enforcing Islamic law. All Christians were infidels and “haram” forbidden. Our neighbors distanced themselves. They refused gifts of food we took to them. At the beginning we sold jamu (health drinks), but then they quit buying from us when they found out we were Christian. The change was drastic. [\(to be continued next month's Indonesian Challenge\)](#)

PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAISES—Thank you, Lord

1. Evangelist Bintang - My family is well and we have a closer relationship with our neighbors through our bout with chickenpox.
2. ICM started the new year with all bills paid, impound accounts restored - church planting fund, publishing account and pension fund.
3. Bob & Jan - Our insurance is paying most of the mold remediation and rebuilding in our home, and we are also thankful for a gift from one of our supporting churches.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

1. A quick restoration of our house and our return to Indonesia.
2. Continued protection for Evangelists Samuel and Martha in Banda, Aceh.
3. Wisdom and protection for evangelists in West Java.
4. Ed Jones, ICM Board Chairman, who is struggling with macular degeneration.
5. Increased monthly income to meet monthly needs.

We are on track this year to be several thousand behind at the end of the year. This is not what we want. We are cutting expenses and looking for new support, monthly or one-time gifts to offset this shortage.

ICM GENERAL FUND INCOME

January	\$4,181.10
February	\$3,222.89
Average to date	\$3,702.60
March 8 & 14	\$2,942.83
Monthly budget needs	\$5,200.00