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Indonesian Challenge

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Man Proposes – God Disposes

“Therefore be patient brethren...strengthen your hearts...we count those blessed who endured.”

James 4:7, 8, 11

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Here are a few highlights we want to share with you, and Happy Fourth of July!

NEW BEGINNINGS IN CENTRAL JAVA – Praise God, months of work result in a successful move to Salatiga for co-workers (not named here by their request). The background of this move includes much that is not seen. They had to quit jobs and adjust their standard of living. Bible studies in Banten had to be given to others, and the list goes on. On June 20th they left from our house at midnight to begin a new ministry in Salatiga, Central Java. A couple of people have asked if that means they are no longer with ICM. No, this is the result of several months planning. Bob has made several trips to Salatiga this past year with the goal of starting village evangelism, implementing a T.E.E. program, and harnessing the energy of teenagers in three Salatiga area churches and work in a village now being opened by three Indonesian friends they will work with. They phoned at 8:30 a.m. on the 21st saying they arrived and were waiting for the moving truck to arrive. There is now a new toll road that shortened the 10 – 11 hr. trip to about 8. They have leased a small house for two years with permission to sublease it when they find a lot to build on or a larger house appropriate for ministry on the outskirts of town. In Indonesia a lease/contract means rent is paid in advance usually for two years!

MAN PROPOSES – Furthering the battle against HIV, Bob has been trying to set up follow-up meetings with the five major groups which held seminars recently and discovered life in the fast lane. One group leader could get only 50% commitment to a follow-up meeting in June. He decided to try an August date to allow enough time to get on everyone’s calendar. This is a group seriously involved with helping women and children including the sex trafficked, but they are simply very busy. When we wrote another group to say we needed to postpone their one day recap seminar in order to combine three group meetings into one trip, the reply was only a heartfelt “Praise God.” **So indeed man proposes, but God disposes.**

IN ANOTHER DISPOSITION – We have now twice optimistically told you our six-book study series on the book “Rencana Penebusan” (The Scheme of Redemption) was finished and ready for printing. Our editor ran into complications on book two after completing his work on the other five. So what should be much good news is now stalled in a confluence of mostly little issues conspiring together to bring everything to a halt for the next two weeks when everything is closed down for the Idul Fitri holidays. If you ever thought Satan had to bring Job-like major consequences into our lives to hinder our work, start thinking along the lines of Benjamin Franklin’s little rhyme/proverb “For Want of a Nail” - (1) Because our editor wasn’t satisfied with book two, we waited. (2) The cover is ready, but we wanted the books in a larger format so our editor had to recast his Pdf file. (3) Our secretary now pregnant with her second child, has spent most of June with terrible morning sickness. We are trying to get a bid on the actual printing, but we are face to face with the Idul Fitri holidays, and nothing will get done for two weeks. **Indeed man proposes, but God disposes. Pray God’s blessing that we discern and obey His Will.**



MAY, A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS - Jan asked to go to Central Java for her birthday, which is May 9. We went to Salatiga May 6 so we could attend Mountain View's end of the year concert, with our son Mike leading and four of our grandchildren singing. We had Saturday lunch with Jimo and Winarsih, their children and grandchildren (see below) and a special birthday dinner at Marwito and Triyani's. Then we had a delightful Mother's Day with Mike and Corrin, and our grandchildren, Tristan, Cosette, Cybelle, Jazz, and Ella. Jan's actual birthday was spent by the ocean in Jepara, Central Java.



BOYOLALI – We lived in the village of Randusari, Teras, Boyolali (a dairy town!) In the photos you see a huge cow; this is the new statue at the town square where they've built new offices, a beautiful mosque and a beautiful church. This is an area where Christians and Muslims live in harmony. The people in the photo are our Indonesian grandchildren and great grandchildren. We don't see them often, but it's always a joy. A special meal was served in honor of Jan's



birthday. Ana and her husband are Christians, but her sisters and husbands are not. Please pray for Ani and her husband, Indah and husband, also their parents, Jimo and Winarsih, that they will understand the need for Jesus in their lives.

BUKIT PROPERTY - We wrote in our last newsletter that our property here in Bukit Indah is for sale. We have almost an acre of land here so the potential buyers are developers; they plan to build houses or divide and sell lots. We've had several offers, but so far none that offered real money rather than plans.

FURLOUGH PLANS - We are now looking at the end of September because we would like to have a definite sale on the property before going to the states.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

PRAISES:

1. Seth and Dina had a safe and uneventful move to Salatiga

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for our co-workers as they begin a new ministry in Central Java.
2. Monthly giving is still about \$1,000 a month less than basic needs.
3. Pray that many Muslims will have dreams and/or visions of Jesus during their holy time.
5. Please pray we will find the right buyer for the property here.
6. As I write this, it's very quiet at our house; our workers and many neighbors have left for Central and East Java and Sumatra where their home villages are located. Ramadan, the month of fasting is almost over. The culmination of this is Idul Fitri, July 6 and 7. Most offices are closed for two weeks beginning July 1; even banks are closed for ten days. Please pray for God's leading as we share with our neighbors who will be staying home this holiday season.
7. Here are some people to pray for by name: Lester and Kokom, Yanti and Eko, Parno, Kas and Rahmat, Gimin and family. These have heard about Jesus, but have not committed to him.

God Bless You All,
Bob and Jan MacLean